

Sport and Active Recreation Strategy

Council provides a number of sporting and recreational facilities for the community. These assets are capital intensive and generally have long lives. In recognition of the value and life of these facilities Council developed a Sport and Active Recreation Strategy for the next 25 years. The Sport and Active Recreation Strategy provides a robust guide to the current and future provision of sporting facilities and services in Clarence. The Strategy reviewed:

- Demographics and other leisure related statistics;
- Key trends in sport and recreation;
- Sustainability;
- Comparison of Australian and Tasmanian sport and recreation participation trends; and
- Current Council facilities and management practices and stakeholder consultation.

This review provided Council with demographic information, recreational trends and stakeholder views that taken in context with the Council's Strategic Plan outcomes and strategies gave guidance on the direction Council and its community should head. The Guiding Principles relevant to Sport and Active Recreation are:

- Council responds to the needs of its community;
- Our Community's health and well-being are important;
- Council will provide for the future needs for public open space and recreation facilities; and
- Council will provide equitable access and pricing policies for services in the context of the community's capacity to pay.

These Guiding Principles set the direction, policy and associated actions for Council to work through over the 25 year time frame of the Strategy.

Council Decision - 5 May 2014

A. That Council adopts the following Guiding Principles as the basis for the strategies and actions associated with the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy.

- Council responds to the needs of our community;
- our community's health and well-being are important;
- Council will provide for the future needs for public open space and recreation facilities; and
- Council will provide equitable access and pricing policies for services in the context of the community's capacity to pay.

B. Based on the above Guiding Principles, Council will implement actions for the following categories:

- Future Facilities;
- Lease and Hire Review;
- Governance and Policy;
- Strategic Alliances and
- Operational Matters.

C. That Council adopts the following actions for the Future Facilities category of strategic actions:

- a. monitor trends in sport and active recreation to stay informed of changing needs;
- b. assess the viability of a new multi-purpose indoor stadium;

c. Council's preferred strategy for future facility development should focus on non-exclusive leases or licenses which encourages sharing of facilities by multiple user groups before investing in the development of any new facilities; and

d. adopt a demand management approach for sporting facilities that includes:

- develop Management Plans for each Sport and Active Recreation holding in accordance with Council's Open Space Strategy Principles;
- assess synthetic surfaces for sporting codes to encourage extended usage;
- improve lighting facilities to encourage extended usage;
- investigate opportunities for sharing of existing under-utilised facilities held in other tenures and;
- assess viability of new multi-use facilities for a variety of shared users and uses such as pre-season training season facilities for AFL, Soccer and Cricket.

D. That Council adopts the following actions for the Lease and Hire Review category of strategic actions.

a. Review Council's Lease Policy:

- to include provision for new leases and lease renewals for exclusive use facilities to be based on equity contribution; and
- to ensure equitable pricing for lease rents, licences and hire rates taking into account equity and exclusive use benefits.

b. To encourage participation and ensure fees are set at an affordable and sustainable level.

c. That a component of lease rent from exclusive occupancy and use be set aside in a future facility development fund to support the future development or redevelopment of additional multi-use/shared community facilities.

E. That Council adopts the following actions for the Governance and Policy category of strategic actions.

a. Provide support for administrators of sporting clubs and associations to ensure their long term viability by:

- Council and Sport and Recreation Tasmania encouraging local clubs and State Sporting Organisations to develop 10 year strategic plans that will be considered in conjunction with Council's Management Plans for each sport and active recreation holding in accordance with Council's Open Space Strategy Principles; and
- in partnership with Sport and Recreation Tasmania support volunteer administrator training.

b. Individual sporting clubs request for assistance, funding or allocation of additional land or resources will need to show how their proposal is supported by the respective State Sporting Organisation, including where the request or submission sits according to that State Sporting Organisation's regional or state planning priorities and how the State Sporting Organisation and local club will partner with Council in financing the request.

F. That Council adopts the following actions for the Strategic Alliances Policy category of strategic actions.

a. Encourage planning and funding partnerships with local clubs, State Sporting Organisations, other Councils and State Government for new sporting facilities.

b. Explore opportunities to plan and partner in multi-sport/recreational developments with local clubs, National and State Sporting Organisations, other Councils, other tiers of government and/or in commercially built complexes.

G. That Council adopts the following actions for the Operational Matters category of strategic actions.

a. A mandatory “no use period” to be built in lease and hire arrangements to allow adequate renovation of sporting grounds.

b. Given the large amount of additional work to implement the short/medium term strategies over the next decade it is recommended that Council consider the creation and appointment of 1 additional Public Open Space Sport and Recreation Co-ordinating Officer position as part of the 2015-2016 Annual Plan.

H. That Council authorise the General Manager to commence the implementation of the Guiding Principles and the strategies and actions associated with the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy.

I. It is recommended that Council hold over all licences and leases pending the Lease and Hire Review to ensure there is certainty and transparency for licensees and lessees.