



Flinders Shire Council



Sport and Recreation Plan



Final Report



STRATEGIC LEISURE GROUP
Leisure Planning + Management Consultants

December 2007

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- Cr Brendan McNamara, Mayor of Flinders Shire
- Mr Steve McCartney CEO
- Cr Kathy Eagan
- Cr Jodie Coward
- Cr Sean O'Neill

Many groups provided valuable input into the study including sport and recreation clubs, community organisations, schools, young people, government agencies, facility operators, police and district health service staff. In addition many residents took the time to attend community forums or contact the consulting team directly. We are also grateful to these groups and individuals.

The project received funding under the Queensland Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation's Local Sport and Recreation Program.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this project was to "...plan for integrated development of sport and recreation across Flinders Shire."

OBJECTIVES

The objectives outlined in the study brief were as follows:

- Definition of facilities, functions and users within the Flinders Shire
- Integrated determination of redevelopment opportunities and future requirements
- Integrated site planning incorporating present and future facilities and uses
- Identification of priority projects for implementation

STUDY APPROACH

The background research included an analysis of existing sport and recreation facilities, parks and open space in Flinders Shire; analysis of population profile; review of existing documentation; and a review of trends in sport and recreation. This was complemented by a comprehensive consultation program which included meetings with Councillors and Council officers; Community Forums in Hughenden, Prairie, Torrens Creek, Kooroorinya and Stamford; surveys/ meetings with sport & recreation clubs; separate focus group meetings primary and high school students; surveys/ meetings with schools; meetings/ discussions with other stakeholders such as Police, District Health Service, Disability Services, HACC, swimming pool lessee and QGAP government agencies. In addition, press releases invited public input via a 1300 (local call) number or dedicated email address (flinders@strategicleisure.com.au).

Progress reports and discussions with the Project Steering Committee were held during the course of the study. The Draft Report was made available for public comment.

POPULATION PROFILE AND GROWTH

As at the 2006 Census the estimated resident population of Flinders Shire was 1,794 people. This represents a decline of 393 persons over the last decade. The Shire's population is predicted to decline by a further 15% over the next decade (refer section 6.1). The population of the Shire is characterised by:

- A significantly higher proportion of young people (aged 0 – 9 years) than Qld as a whole
- A much lower proportion of people aged 20 – 29 years
- A much lower proportion of people on high incomes and a higher proportion of people on lower incomes compared to Queensland as a whole
- At 8.1% the proportion of Indigenous people is almost 2½ times the average for Qld as a whole

This profile suggests a likely demand for low cost, easily accessible activities, organised activities/ programs for young people and family based facilities and programs.

STATEWIDE SPORT AND RECREATION TRENDS

Walking, aerobics/ fitness and swimming are the most popular exercise, recreation and sport activities of Queenslanders aged 15 years and over (refer section 7). However there are significant differences between males and females in activity preferences and participation levels. A number of trends observed by Strategic Leisure are impacting on sport and recreation throughout the state, such as:

- Growing demand for walk/ cycle paths
- Growing demand for social forms of participation in sport
- Increasing demand for floodlit sporting facilities
- Getting or retaining volunteers
- Availability and/ or cost of insurance
- Young people working part time has impacted on participation numbers
- Traditional Council swimming pools, typically built in the 1960's/ 70's, are nearing the end of their useful life and face decisions about demolition, upgrading or replacement

CURRENT FORMS OF ASSISTANCE TO SPORT AND RECREATION

Flinders Shire Council currently supports a range of facilities and parks in all the Shire's communities. In addition to direct maintenance of many areas the shire also provides in-kind and financial support to clubs and groups managing their own facilities. Council also operates a grants program to assist clubs in developing or improving their facilities as well as considerable in-kind and financial support for events and competitions held in the Shire. Key issues facing Council in the coming years, especially given its declining population, include:

- Providing more effective support for clubs and groups and their volunteers
- Ageing infrastructure in some locations and the high cost of replacement or refurbishment
- Ensuring capital investment provides maximum value in terms of community use and benefit

LOCAL SPORT AND RECREATION CLUBS

All 29 sport and recreation clubs in Flinders Shire were surveyed. Of the 17 clubs that responded:

- Most indicated static or declining membership over the last three years (mostly attributed to declining population or retirements)
- The main issues impacting on them are:
 - Cost/ availability of public liability insurance
 - Declining membership
 - Difficulty getting volunteers to administer the club
- Only five had a business or development plan in place
- Most are aware of external funding sources but relatively few clubs had applied.

Sport and recreation clubs expressed a need for a wide range of facility improvements. These included resurfacing or new playing areas, maintenance equipment, external lighting, storage, internal improvements (such as air-conditioning, toilets and floor coverings), shade, fencing, and power supply upgrades. Many of these demands would be beyond the responsibility or capacity of Council to fund.

Council needs a process for determining which club demands it should financially support and/ or seek external funding on behalf of clubs (refer Recommendation 3.1.4). Some desired improvements should be pursued directly by clubs via applications to external funding agencies.

COMMUNITY FORUMS

A range of local needs were expressed at the five Community Forums held in Hughenden, Prairie, Torrens Creek, Kooroorinya and Stamford (refer section 8.4). The main sport and recreation priorities identified by residents who attended these forums were as follows:

Hughenden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create a youth worker position ▪ Implement the Showgrounds Master Plan ▪ Establish club grounds for motorcycle sports ▪ Develop a dam/ recreational water
Prairie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improvements to the Community Hall ▪ Master Plan for the race track ▪ Bbq and playground at Lions Park
Torrens Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community park with playground and toilet ▪ Upgrading of old tennis court ▪ “Clean up” Royal Flying Doctor Service shed ▪ Access to White Mountain National Park
Kooroorinya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shade over the outdoor dining area. ▪ Fencing
Stamford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resurfacing of tennis courts and multi-marking for tennis, basketball, netball ▪ Upgrading of toilets at race club ▪ Upgrading of school oval for field sports

OTHER FINDINGS

Key themes that emerged from other consultation undertaken for this study included:

- Need for organisation of activities/ programs for older youth. A Youth Development Officer was frequently suggested
- Need for health and fitness facilities
- Need an area for motorcycle sports
- More/ better playground equipment
- Need for recreational water area
- Upgrading of Showgrounds to suit multiple activities
- Maintenance and expansion of walk paths
- Improvements to the pool (eg heating, water slide)

3. RECOMMENDATIONS


Recommendations have been assigned the following priorities.




- Immediate (Within next 12 months)
- Short term (1 – 3 years)
- Medium term (4 – 6 years)
- Long term (7 – 10 years)
- Ongoing

Recommendations are grouped into the following categories:

1. Shire wide
2. Hughenden
3. Prairie
4. Torrens Creek
5. Stamford
6. Administration and Funding

3.1. SHIRE WIDE

3.1.1. DIGGERS ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE	Priority = Short term
RECOMMENDATION	
<p>Council should consider becoming a member of the Northern Australian Regional Performing Arts Centres Association (NARPACA) in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better promote awareness of Diggers Entertainment Centre, especially among event promoters ▪ Better position Council to access touring shows at Diggers Entertainment Centre ▪ Provide Council with access to a network of venue management professionals ▪ Access professional advice on booking fees and contract negotiation with promoters, ticket prices, refund and exchange policies, standardised venue hiring agreement and terms and conditions of hire, standards of acceptable patron behaviour etc <p>Attend the next NARPACA annual conference to be held from 20 – 22 February 2008 at the Gold Coast Arts Centre, to meet with other venue managers throughout Queensland, NSW and Northern Territory in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assess at first hand the benefits of membership ▪ Gain an understanding of the type of touring shows potentially able to be booked during 2009 by attending the Showcase Day, and ▪ Seek ideas on how to obtain viable events at Diggers Entertainment Centre <p>Provide an annual entrepreneurial budget for underwriting of touring shows (eg \$5,000) if membership is pursued</p>	
RATIONALE	
	
<p>While a popular resource with Flinders Shire residents, Diggers Entertainment Centre could stage a greater number of entertainment events benefiting the Shire as a whole. One avenue for pursuing touring shows that might 'gel' with local residents is through membership of the Northern Australian Regional Performing Arts Centres Association (NARPACA).</p> <p>NARPACA is primarily an administrative support group, focused on the activities and requirements of owners and administrators of performing arts centres throughout northern Australia. Its objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain an effective network of performing arts centres in northern Australia ▪ Provide performing arts touring through the effective and efficient development, coordination and management of the circuit ▪ Support members in their role of providing for the cultural development of their communities ▪ Advocate the needs of national performing arts, particularly in the northern Australian context ▪ Foster the ongoing development of the association particularly in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Product development ○ Audience development ○ Personal professional development of members ○ Self-sufficiency, sustainability and independence ▪ To provide leadership in arts industry development through research and innovation ▪ To initiate creative and business partnerships at a regional, national and international level <p>A number of smaller performing arts centres in rural and regional Queensland are members of NARPACA (eg The World Theatre at Charters Towers, Capella Cultural Centre - refer www.narpaca.asn.au). Full membership costs \$1,320 (incl GST) per annum. The potential could exist to 'piggy back' off other touring shows, given Diggers Entertainment Centres' strategic location between Charters Towers and Mount Isa (both of which have performance venues that are members of NARPACA).</p>	

<p>3.1.2. OUTDOOR RECREATION AND ECO-TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES</p>	<p>Priority = Ongoing</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION</p>	
<p>1. Pursue the development of outdoor recreation/ eco-tourism opportunities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continuing efforts to resolve public access to White Mt National Park ▪ Working with Oakley Amateur Picnic Race Club to develop informal walking tracks, new fencing and a few tables/ seats adjacent to the water course at Kooroorinya Reserve ▪ Continuing to work with QPWS and Hughenden Lions Club to implement the Master Plan for Porcupine Gorge and develop additional walking tracks ▪ Considering further enhancements by way of park furniture, circuit walking track, and possible short stay camping at Mt Walker 	
<p>RATIONALE</p>	
<p>The shire has significant outdoor recreation assets. Porcupine Gorge already has international recognition and the potential exists to further develop the eco-tourism product by providing a range of day trip options thereby encouraging longer term visitation by tourists.</p>	
	
<p>The addition of White Mt as a destination would complement the other key features of the Shire (eg Porcupine Gorge and Kooroorinya Reserve) and create the potential for multi-day stays in the shire as well as the further development of an ecotourism industry.</p>	
<p>It needs to be acknowledged that the local community at Kooroorinya have reservations about encouraging over-use of the Reserve and destroying its uniqueness. However, a caretaker is already employed by Oakley Amateur Picnic Race Club and this should mitigate inappropriate use. It would be anticipated that the main beneficiaries of any enhancements at this location would be local residents and the 'grey nomad' market.</p>	
	
<p>As a longer term objective, Torrens Creek could become a focal point for development of an accommodation and tours industry based on White Mt National Park and the diverse opportunities at that location. If QPWS is reluctant to develop public access they may consider a partnership model such as a Savannah Guides Station or other private provider model.</p>	

<p>3.1.3. CLUB DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p><u>Priority</u></p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION</p>	<p>Training workshops = Short term Annual dinner/ awards = Medium term</p>
<p>1. Assist sport and recreation clubs to manage their affairs by seeking funding from Queensland Government's Sport, Recreation and Racing (Local Sport and Recreation Program) for the conduct of club training workshops. Topics could include management of volunteers, insurance requirements and access options, meeting procedures, facility planning etc.</p> <p>Plan these training workshops to coincide with annual (or possibly twice yearly) club forums. The purpose of these forums could be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Address specific training topics identified by clubs ▪ Provide opportunities to discuss common issues ▪ Provide information on Council, government and other funding schemes ▪ Discuss realistic opportunities for Council assistance with maintenance, or opportunities for shared use of club-owned maintenance equipment (eg mowing) <p>Consider holding an evening dinner and sports awards or similar event which celebrates the efforts of clubs, volunteers and individual or team competitive achievements. This could possibly be held in conjunction with another event (eg race day).</p>	
<p>RATIONALE</p>	
<p>Like most other clubs throughout the state, the issues of most concern to sport and recreation clubs in Flinders Shire are the cost/ availability of public liability insurance and difficulty getting volunteers to administer their club.</p> <p>Only five out of the 17 sport and recreation clubs that responded to a survey had a business or development plan in place. This may result in less than desirable financial management and risk management practices, impede a clubs ability to obtain external funding, and put additional pressure on already stretched volunteers due to undocumented priorities not being understood by other club members.</p> <p>The Club Development Program administered by Qld Govt Sport, Recreation and Racing aims to increase participation and improve the management and administration of organisations providing sport and physically active recreation opportunities. Fully funded training courses which would assist club administrators on a range topics can be accessed via Sport, Recreation and Racing.</p> <p>When asked what forms of assistance would most benefit their club, the predominant response from sport and recreation organisations related to assistance with maintenance. There may be opportunities for Council assistance or shared use of equipment.</p> <p>Awareness of Council's Community Small Grants Scheme was quite high. Awareness of external funding schemes was generally good, however only just over half of the clubs that responded to the survey were aware of the Breakwater Casino Community Benefit Fund. This funding scheme could potentially address some of the equipment needs identified by clubs.</p> <p>Annual or twice yearly forums could be offered as 1 day events and provide an opportunity for Council to hear from all clubs at once and for clubs to discuss issues and concerns. A 2-3 hour training session could be offered on a topic chosen by the clubs by agreement. Such forums could provide an ideal opportunity for Qld Sport, Recreation and Racing or other agencies to meet all the clubs at once and provide information and advice. Timing of the forums should reflect beginnings of sports seasons.</p>	



3.1.4. SUPPORT FOR UPGRADING OF CLUB FACILITIES	<u>Priority</u>
RECOMMENDATION	Assessment Criteria = Immediate External funding = Ongoing
<p>1. Adopt the following criteria to determine priorities for providing Council assistance and/ or seeking external funding assistance in respect of priority facility improvements identified by clubs (refer section 8.1.4, p35).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is the club's membership level and historic growth? ▪ Is the facility used regularly or predominantly for one-off events? ▪ Is the proposed improvement likely to significantly increase the use of the facility? ▪ Does the proposal address risk management/ Australian Standards issues? ▪ Is cash or in-kind assistance proposed by the club? ▪ Is the facility the primary recreation opportunity for a small community? ▪ Does the proposal have the capacity to benefit multiple user groups? ▪ Does the proposal address health issues or emerging trends (eg safety, shade, lighting)? ▪ Is the proposed improvement consistent with business/ strategic plan of the club? ▪ Is the proposal consistent with the findings of this Sport and Recreation Plan? <p>2. For identified priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seek funding in respect of 'eligible' items from external funding schemes ▪ Where co-funding is required by external funding schemes, consider providing a Council financial contribution toward eligible items, or providing financial or in-kind support toward ineligible items <p>3. Encourage or assist clubs to apply directly to funding agencies in respect of facility improvements that Council elects not to support financially or in-kind</p>	
RATIONALE	
<p>Sport and recreation clubs are seeking a wide range of facility improvements such as resurfacing of playing areas, maintenance equipment, new playing areas, external lighting, storage, internal improvements (such as air-conditioning, toilets and floor coverings), shade, fencing, and power supply upgrades. Many of these are beyond the capacity or responsibility of Council to fund. Council could apply to external funding agencies on behalf of clubs and provide some financial or in-kind assistance for priority improvements.</p> <p>There is a need to adopt criteria against which Council can assess the merit of providing financial or in-kind support and/ or making application to external funding bodies. Council is likely to receive ongoing requests for financial or in-kind assistance from sport and recreation clubs and the adoption of criteria will assist Council to assess competing demands.</p>	





3.1.5. RECREATIONAL DAM	<u>Priority</u> = Ongoing
RECOMMENDATION	
<p>1. Continue to investigate realistic options for the provision of a large dam able to support "on-water" recreation.</p>	
RATIONALE	
<p>The issue of a dam or recreational lake was raised at several community meetings. The neighbouring shire of Richmond has developed a dam and Charters Towers Council is seeking to undertake further studies to determine the feasibility of a recreational dam. There is considerable community support to investigate the potential of a dam for Flinders Shire.</p> <p>The feasibility and planning of such a project requires significant investigation and is well beyond the scope of this study. However we are aware that Council is considering a project that would provide for agricultural and recreational uses. Any proposal would need to carefully consider the water quality issues associated with larger dams and the resources required to maintain the infrastructure.</p>	



<p>3.1.6. SUPPORT FOR YOUTH ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>Priority = Short term</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Task the yet to be appointed Chaplaincy position in Hughenden with facilitating and coordinating recreation and entertainment activities for young people. 2. Consider providing a small budget to support these activities. 3. Encourage the development of a youth activities council or similar group who can work with the Chaplain and Council to plan and stage events and activities. 	
<p>RATIONALE</p>	
<p>The consultation process for this study revealed that organisation of activities, rather than provision of facilities, was the main concern in respect of young people. This was raised by Hughenden State School, attendees at the Hughenden Community Forum and in focus group discussions with young people. It was clear from several meetings that the existing volunteers who have been coordinating events and activities have limited “energy” left after several years hard work. New resources need to be found to support this need. The creation of a dedicated position responsible for organisation of activities for young people was suggested. It is unlikely that a dedicated position funded solely by Council would be affordable.</p> <p>Flinders Shire Council has contributed to Federal Government funding of a Chaplaincy position at Hughenden State School. The responsibilities of this position could include facilitation and coordination of activities for young people. Young people should be engaged in determining any activities/ programs/ events. From feedback during the consultation process these could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Movie nights ▪ Dances/ Band nights ▪ Skate and BMX Freestyle competitions ▪ School holiday programs <p>Diggers Entertainment Centre would be a logical venue for many activities.</p>	

3.2. HUGHENDEN

<p>3.2.1. SWIMMING POOL</p>	<p><u>Priority</u></p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION</p>	<p>Lease documentation = Short term Shade = Medium term</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When tenders are invited for the next swimming pool lease period, include a clause seeking an operator with the minimum qualifications necessary to supervise the operation of gym equipment (ie Certificate IV in Fitness, plus current First Aid and CPR Certification) 2. Alternatively, include a clause asking tenderers to indicate their preparedness to obtain min qualifications within 12 mths 3. Budget to subsidise the cost of an operator completing a Certificate IV in Fitness (approx \$2,000 – course fees only) 4. If a tenderer holds, or is prepared to obtain, minimum qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Include a clause in the lease document requiring the lessee to supervise the operation of a future gym at agreed times ▪ Construct a separate clubroom for the swim club and refurbish the existing storage/ swim club weights area opposite the kiosk for use as a future public gym ▪ Seek external funding for the cost of developing, equipping and air-conditioning the gym area ▪ Seek external funding for the development of a small separate building for the swim club 5. Provide additional shade in the pool grounds 	
<p>RATIONALE</p>	
	
	
<p>The need for a gym in Hughenden was frequently expressed during the consultation process. This is not surprising given the growing emphasis on the role of physical activity in public health and the fact aerobics/ fitness activities consistently rank as the second most frequently participated in exercise, sport or physical activity among Queenslanders (refer section 7, p26).</p> <p>The difficulty for a community the size of Hughenden is that a stand-alone gym would not be commercially viable. The only realistic opportunity to establish a gym would be to co-locate it as part of the pool, where supervision by a qualified person could be accessed. From discussions with Fitness Queensland, the minimum qualifications required are a Certificate IV in Fitness (Personal Trainer, Older Adults Trainer, Children’s Trainer), current First Aid and CPR certification. The latter two should be pre-requisites for operation of a swimming pool and therefore would be held by anyone tendering for a future lease of the pool.</p> <p>A future lessee may hold the appropriate qualifications, or be prepared to obtain them if subsidised by Council to do so. If this can be successfully negotiated with the next lessee, Council could seek external funding to establish a gym at the pool. The most appropriate location appears to be the existing storage/ swim club room opposite the kiosk. This would require the establishment of a separate small separate building for the swim club.</p> <p>The pool grounds lack shade and landscaping of the grounds with appropriate species (ie good shade canopy without excessive leaf fall) should be undertaken to provide more natural shade.</p>	

3.2.2. FEATURE PLAYGROUND	<u>Priority</u>
RECOMMENDATION	Feature playground = Short term Landscaping = Ongoing

1. Establish a feature playground with shade cover at Robert Gray Park, to the east of the existing amenities block
2. Undertake further landscaping to provide additional natural shade and covered shelters throughout the park

RATIONALE



Flinders Shire Council has done a very good job of developing Robert Gray Park and linking it to the showgrounds and township via walking paths. This park, with its vistas along the river bank has become the feature park for the town.

There is no park with contemporary playground equipment. The consultation process (especially young people) identified a demand for a feature playground in Hughenden. Robert Gray Park is the most appropriate location as this park has already become a destination park and is easily accessible.

A feature playground should incorporate a shade cover and as a destination site should provide for a range of ages. Council may wish to consider inclusion of outdoor exercise equipment as part of the development.¹



3.2.3. MOTORCYCLE VENUE	<u>Priority</u> = Short term
RECOMMENDATION	

1. Support the establishment of a motorcycle track and associated facilities on DNRW land adjacent to the airport.
2. Provide in-kind assistance where possible and/ or assist the club to seek external funding to help this new club get established.

RATIONALE

A motorcycle club has recently formed and has 35 members. The existing area near the Showgrounds is unsuitable for motor sports because of its proximity to the township and the newly formed club has approached DNRW to lease some land designated as Road Reserve near the airport for their headquarters.

The need for a venue for motor sports was expressed by young people and others during the consultation for this study.

1. Forpark have released a range of outdoor exercise equipment that provides "gym-like" work out options. (see http://www.forparkaust.com.au/outdoor_gym_equipment.asp)

3.2.4. SKATEPARK/ BMX VENUE	<u>Priority</u> = Short term
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RECOMMENDATION
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Install additional shade at the skatepark 2. Consult with local youth to assess the need for further enhancement of the BMX track and the site in general.

RATIONALE



While good shade cover exists over part of the skatepark, a substantial portion of the facility has no shade cover. This is considered to be essential given the shire’s climate.

Young people expressed a desire for extensions/ enhancements of the BMX track. When the Chaplaincy position at Hughenden State School is finalised (refer Recommendation 0) seek a meeting with young people to determine what improvements to the bmx area and the site in general would best meet the needs of young people.







3.2.5. SHADE AT SCHOOL OVAL	<u>Priority</u> = Medium
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RECOMMENDATION
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support Hughenden State School to implement additional shade around the school oval.

RATIONALE

The oval at Hughenden State School is used for athletics and other community activities. There is relatively little shade around the oval and more shade will be of benefit to community users of this facility.

3.3. PRAIRIE

3.3.1. IMPROVEMENTS TO COMMUNITY HALL	Priority
RECOMMENDATION	Sink/ lights = Short term Fencing = Medium term
<p>1. Undertake improvements to the Community Hall. Key priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Install sink upstairs ▪ Lights in toilet ▪ Fencing 	
RATIONALE	
	
	
<p>The Community Hall at Prairie is used for meetings, seminars, workshops, school purposes and funeral services. There is a strong desire by the community to retain the hall for existing uses but it requires upgrading. The condition of the upstairs area is poor. There is only one sink which is on the ground floor level and no lights in the toilet. The venue is seen as too close to the highway for functions and for this reason requires fencing.</p>	



3.3.2. LIONS PARK - PRAIRIE	Priority = Medium term
RECOMMENDATION	

1. Install a BBQ and playground at Lions Park

RATIONALE



Prairie has no public playground and a small playspace and BBQ at Lions Park would improve the presentation and use of this park.

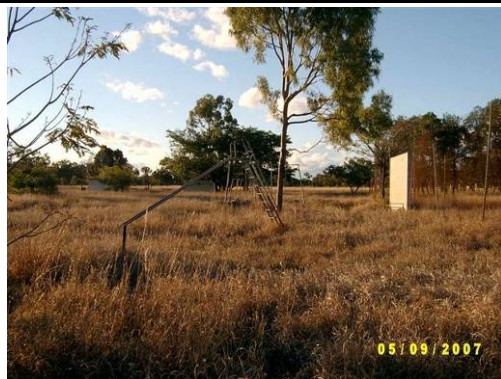


3.4. TORRENS CREEK

3.4.1. LOCAL PARK DEVELOPMENT	Priority = Short term
RECOMMENDATION	

1. Plan for the development of a community park and community focus area to serve Torrens Creek and surrounding properties. This park should be developed on the old park area adjacent to the tennis club with toilets provided as part of the park or as part of an upgrade to the old Royal Flying Doctor Service room.

RATIONALE



There is currently no local park to serve the local community and it is reasonable that every community should have a minimum level of provision. A proposal exists to develop a toilet block adjacent to the existing rest shelter (next to railway station and opposite the pub). The local community does not feel the proposal provides a very desirable or safe rest stop as it is on the main road, unfenced and very narrow. There is also no room to enhance the site as a park for the local community.

The preference would be to develop a local park with a toilet where it can be used by residents as well as the travelling public and represents better value for the community. Simple signage on the main road pointing down the street to the park 2 blocks away would be sufficient to direct tourists to the park.

In addition the Royal Flying Doctor Service rooms, old park and tennis courts are opposite the police station and residence and would therefore be expected to have better security than other locations.

3.4.2. COMMUNITY MEETING SPACE	<u>Priority</u> = Long term
RECOMMENDATION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with the local community to resolve ownership and control of the old Royal Flying Doctor Service rooms with a view to refurbishing the rooms as a community meeting space and group meeting area. 	
RATIONALE	
<p>Refurbishment of this room/ area could be quite basic with indoor and outdoor sheltered space and provision of public toilets which could also serve the proposed park area, possible resurfaced tennis courts and as toilets for the travelling public. The community currently has no focal point (except the pub) and has no school or other community facility. The old Royal Flying Doctor Service rooms provide a good opportunity to economically provide a meeting and community space that is not in a licensed venue and not covered by the range of licensing restrictions that impact on the pub's beer garden.</p> <p>During the consultation process it was observed by local residents that all other communities have some form of community facility or meeting space.</p>	



3.4.3. TENNIS COURT UPGRADE	<u>Priority</u> = Medium term
RECOMMENDATION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If the community can form a group willing to manage the facility and demonstrate likely use, then Council consider providing funding assistance and/ or helping the group to obtain external funding by applying the criteria set out at Recommendation 3.1.4. 2. Support the efforts of the local community in seeking external funding to refurbish the tennis court for social play 	
RATIONALE	
<p>Combined with the development of a local park and the refurbishment of the Royal Flying Doctor Service room this would help to create a multi-use community focus precinct catering to a range of needs. The tennis court should not proceed however if there is insufficient community support to form a management group and apply for funding, or if the group is unable to demonstrate community use.</p>	



3.5. STAMFORD

3.5.1. TENNIS COURTS	<u>Priority</u> = Short to Medium term
RECOMMENDATION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seek external funding for the resurfacing of the tennis courts including multi-marking for other court sports 	
RATIONALE	
<p>The focal point of the Stamford community for sport and recreation are the tennis courts situated adjacent to Stamford State School. There are two courts, a small clubhouse and adjacent playground equipment. The courts form part of the Stamford Sports Club which has some 65 financial members.</p> <p>The tennis courts are used by residents throughout the surrounding community on the first Saturday of each month. The adjacent school also uses the courts once or twice a week. The clubhouse area is used for meetings. The court surface is in poor condition and needs replacement to ensure that this community continues to have access to a centrally located recreation area.</p>	

3.6. ADMINISTRATION AND FUNDING

3.6.1. FUNDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS	Priority = Ongoing
RECOMMENDATION	
<p>1. Seek external funding for implementation of recommendations outlined in this study. In particular the Queensland Government Sport, Recreation and Racing (Local Sport and Recreation Program) should be targeted in respect of eligible items. Go to http://www.sportrec.qld.gov.au/zone_files/Funding_-_combined_06/dlg_23408_guidelines_local.pdf for a description of eligible items.</p>	
RATIONALE	
<p>Under the guidelines for the Local Sport and Recreation Program, Councils with a population of less than 2,500 can be eligible to receive up to 90% of the cost of eligible items under this program. In respect of demands expressed by individual clubs (refer Section 8.1.4) Council should apply the criteria set out at Recommendation 3.1.4 to determine priorities to be supported.</p> <p>Council should facilitate or encourage clubs to apply for other sources of external funding, particularly those administered by Queensland Government Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation or Gambling Benefit funds.</p>	



3.6.2. IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW	Priority = Medium term
RECOMMENDATION	
<p>1. Review the recommendations of the Sport and Recreation Plan annually with a major review, including public consultation, in year five.</p>	
RATIONALE	
<p>To maximise the effectiveness of the Sport and Recreation Plan it should be reviewed regularly to adapt to changing circumstances.</p>	

4. STUDY FRAMEWORK

4.1. PURPOSE

The main purpose of the project as outlined in the brief was to:

“Plan for integrated development of Sport and Recreation across Flinders Shire.”

The project brief outlined the following objectives:

- Definition of facilities, functions and users within the Flinders Shire
- Integrated determination of redevelopment opportunities and future requirements
- Integrated site planning incorporating present and future facilities and uses
- Identification of priority projects for implementation

The study aimed to build on previous planning to continue to provide and maintain sport and recreation facilities in line with community needs and leisure trends. Direction was sought in relation to:

- The sustainable development, redevelopment, extension or destruction of built facilities
- Existing and potential use of sport and recreation facilities, including mechanisms to facilitate continued growth of sport and recreation
- Delivery of sport and recreation to the community, and
- Priority projects.

The Plan was also expected to dovetail with other planning, management and budgetary frameworks, to generate an integrated and coordinated response to the community's sport, recreation and physical activity needs.

It was expected that the study would play an important role in:

- Providing staged, achievable and sustainable strategies, that provide Council with direction in delivering quality sport and recreation choices
- Achieving more cost effective expenditure, focussing on priorities and linking recommendations to funding sources
- Achieving more effective provision and avoiding duplication of facilities and services
- Recognising sport and recreation as integral features of the Shire's future
- Providing benefits to the community, including social, health and lifestyle outcomes
- Strengthening the club sector and partnerships opportunities.

4.2. METHODOLOGY

The study methodology comprised the following:

STAGE 1: BACKGROUND RESEARCH AND INTERNAL CONSULTATION

- Inception Meeting

- Collection and Review of Background Information
- Meetings with the Mayor, Council Officers and Steering Committee
- Review of Population Profile and Growth
- Progress Report 1

STAGE 2: ANALYSIS OF SUPPLY

- Review of Sport and Recreation Facilities

STAGE 3: ANALYSIS OF NEEDS (EXTERNAL CONSULTATION)

- Awareness raising by way of press release to promote the study and advertise consultation schedule and opportunity to provide input via dedicated '1300' number
- Survey sent to all known sport and recreation organisations
- Community Forums in Hughenden, Prairie, Kooroorinya, Stamford and Torrens Creek
- Survey of community organisations
- Focus group meetings with primary and high school students
- Survey of all schools
- Meetings/ discussions with key stakeholders including Police, District Health Service, Disability Services, HACC, swimming pool lessee, school principals and QGAP
- Progress Reports 2 and 3

STAGE 4: INFORMATION ANALYSIS

- Assessment of Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Needs
- Conference call workshop with Steering Committee

STAGE 5: REPORT PREPARATION

- Draft Report
- Community and Stakeholder Feedback
- Study Finalisation

A database of individuals who provided input was maintained throughout the study.

5. LITERATURE REVIEW

5.1. HUGHENDEN SHOWGROUNDS MASTER PLAN (2007)

This study examined the long term need for upgrading or new facilities at Hughenden Showgrounds. The Master Plan was developed in consultation with all user groups, various members of the community and Council officers. Public feedback on the plan was sought. The Master Plan focussed on four main areas:

1. Identification of existing site issues which restrict multi-use of the facility such as the shared use conflicts between field sport and equestrian sport
2. Finding solutions to these issues
3. Identifying the best location for the proposed covered arena, and
4. Determining what facilities are needed on the site and replacement or removal of old buildings.

Proposed improvements included:

- Expansion and reconfiguration of the main arena to allow for a better sport field layout and a Campdraft area that minimises impact on the sports field
- Changing the main vehicle entry point (this requires some additional land)
- Creating a pedestrian only area in front of the Gym pavilion and the proposed Main pavilion
- Developing a new covered arena to host horse and cattle events and to replace the sheep pavilion
- Replacing the old dining room and craft pavilion with a new multi- purpose pavilion providing display area, storage, new kitchen, verandah dining and Secretary's office.
- Developing a play space on the location of the old sheep pavilion

5.2. FLINDERS SHIRE CORPORATE PLAN (2007 – 2012)

Local and regional issues identified in the Corporate Plan that are relevant to this study include 'Environmental Management', Public Health Management' and 'Community Development.'

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Priority areas of activity include:

- Development and promotion of nature based attractions through implementation of a Nature Based Tourism Strategy
- Management of State-owned reserves through individual Land Management Plans
- Collaboration with natural resource management organisations for local projects and promotion

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Priority areas of activity include:

- Development of the Flinders Shire Community Small Grants Scheme
- Active consultation in the provision and management of quality community infrastructure

- Implementation of the Hughenden Showgrounds Master Plan in partnership with the Hughenden Showgrounds Coordination Group

PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Priority areas of activity include:

- Facilitation of the Health Forum – an information and networking meeting of health and related professions in Hughenden
- Support for provision and promotion of health services

5.3. H25 – A VISION FOR HUGHENDEN IN 2025 (2005)

This community visioning project undertaken by Council in partnership with the community culminated in the development of a discussion paper which then sought community feedback. The Draft Vision identified five themes one of which described Hughenden in 2025 as...

Active – a range of passive and recreational facilities and sporting competitions. An active and integrated aged population with appropriate facilities

Community feedback from the discussion paper of relevance to this project included:

- Need for a dam
- More attractions, activities and sporting facilities
- Need for gym
- Extension of pool opening hours

5.4. FLINDERS SHIRE COUNCIL – PLANNING SCHEME (2005)

The Desired Environmental Outcomes of Council's Planning Scheme are DEO 1 and DEO 3. DEO 1 (Character) states that:

The Shire's valuable natural and cultural features, built environment and land use patterns create a distinct sense of place and local identity, and are vibrant, safe and healthy, with access to community and cultural facilities and services.

DEO 3 (Land Use Patterns) states that:

The Shire's land use patterns create cohesive communities that balance economic, social and environmental considerations.

Strategies to achieve this outcome include:

- a. Providing levels of physical and social infrastructure services...are commensurate with the requirements of the population and demands of land use development throughout the Shire

- b. Consolidating the role and identity of Hughenden as the main business and community centre of the Shire

5.5. FLINDERS SHIRE SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES STUDY (1997)

This study was undertaken by Strategic Leisure. It examined sport and recreation facility needs and included facility mix options, site analysis, concept plans, financial projections, funding sources and management arrangements for a multi-purpose indoor facility (which was the precursor to the development of Diggers Entertainment Centre).

Strategic directions and recommendations (most of which were implemented) included:

MULTI-PURPOSE INDOOR FACILITY

- Examine the estimated capital and recurrent costs of an indoor facility outlined in the report and determine the level of financial support Council is able to provide; then decide on the most appropriate facility mix, design, location and management structure from the relevant options presented in the report

OPEN SPACE

- Landscaping and development of Robert Gray Memorial Park (including memorial, informal kick-about space, new play space, picnic and rest stop facilities, tourist information)
- Prepare a Master Plan for the proposed park on Cnr Swanston Street and Flinders Highway (including possible irrigation from treated effluent, focus on trees and planted beds, central water feature, picnic/ bbq/ toilets facilities, walk/ cycle path)
- Develop a skate/ roller blade park adjacent to the pool
- Small memorial/ interpretive park (focus on the Walker-Landsborough tree and the history of the town and region)
- Gradual landscaping and improvement of plantings between Showgrounds and Station Creek corridor. In line with exploration theme, a path together with some cultural/ interpretive sites could become a main feature of the town's linked open space system
- Create an open space circuit linking the proposed park at Swanston St to the river, Station Creek and the Showgrounds enhance by plantings, signage and minor facilities (eg tables/ seats) as resources permit

TOURISM LINKAGES

- Develop an integrated cultural tourism and historical interpretation package for the Shire (eg walk through)
- Explore the development of a local museum
- Upgrade and expand facilities eg access tracks, interpretation and short stay facilities (joint funded with Department of Environment)

OTHER FACILITIES

- Training level lighting of Hughenden State School field and upgrading of playing surface (turf and levelling) in partnership with the school

- Upgrade toilet, changerooms and spectator amenities at Showgrounds as funds permit
- Develop the caravan park and pool as an integrated site. High priorities to include:
 - Landscaping to buffer noise and visual impacts of road
 - Joint promotion with lessee
 - Encourage lessee development of a small gym for community use
 - Consider upgrade of kiosk/ change rooms and pool filter plant
 - Additional on-site vans
- Long term lease of pool/ caravan park could offer potential for partnership with Council in development and promotion

6. POPULATION PROFILE

6.1. CURRENT AND PROJECTED POPULATION

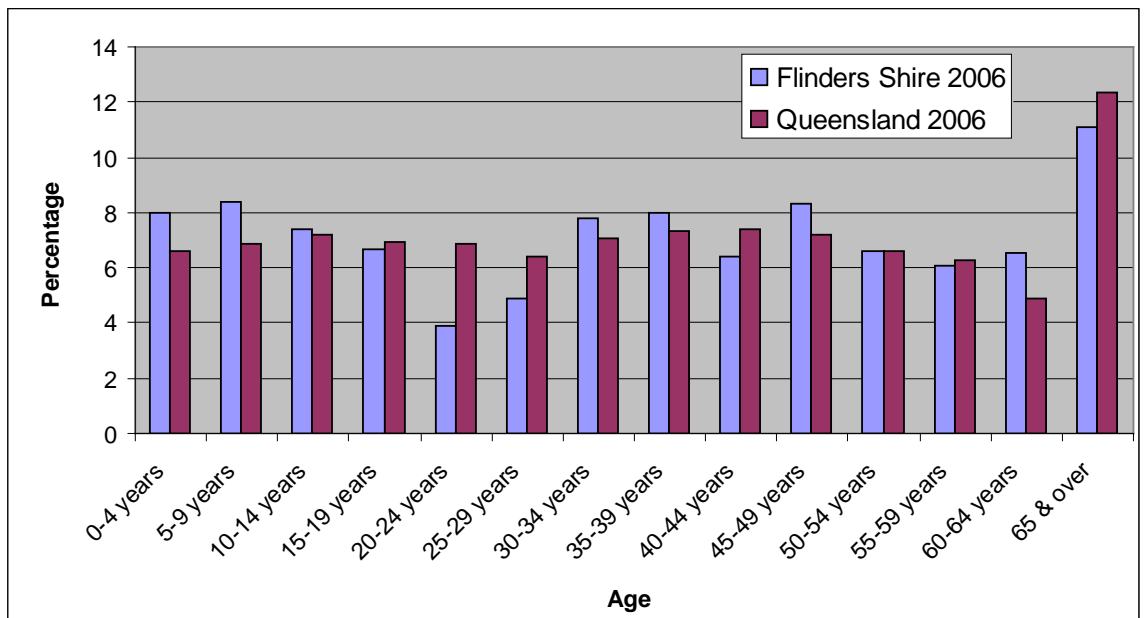
From ABS Census data the estimated population of Flinders Shire in 2006 was 1,794 people². This represents a decline of 393 persons since the 1996 Census. Data prepared by the Queensland Government Department of Infrastructure and Planning (PIFU)³ estimate the 2006 population of the Shire at 1,907 – a decline of 327 since 1996. Whichever population estimate is adopted, the consistent observation is that the shire's population has declined by somewhere between 14.6% and 18% over the last decade. Medium series projections of PIFU estimate the population to decline by a further 15.4% over the next decade (ie from 1,907 to 1,613).

6.2. AGE

Flinders Shire has a significantly higher proportion of young people (aged 0 – 9 years) than Queensland as a whole (refer Figure 1). As at the 2006 Census, 16.3% of Flinders Shire residents were aged between 0 – 9 years compared to 13.4% for Queensland as a whole. The shire has a much lower proportion of people aged 20 – 29 years (8.8% compared to 13.3% for Queensland as a whole). This is presumably due to this age group seeking due to these age cohorts seeking education and employment opportunities elsewhere. There are fewer older adults (65+) than the state average.

At 37 the median age of Flinders Shire residents is slightly lower than that for Queensland as a whole (36), but over the next 20 years the median age is predicted to be slightly lower than for Queensland as a whole (39 compared to 41).⁴

Figure 1: Age comparison between Flinders Shire and Queensland as a whole as at 2006 Census



Source: 2006 ABS Census

2. 2006 ABS Census. Usual Place of Residence.
 3. Based on Estimated Resident Population. Planning, Information and Forecasting Unit (PIFU) – Queensland Government Department of Infrastructure and Planning. Population and Housing Fact Sheet, Flinders Shire, October 2007.
 4. PIFU. *ibid*

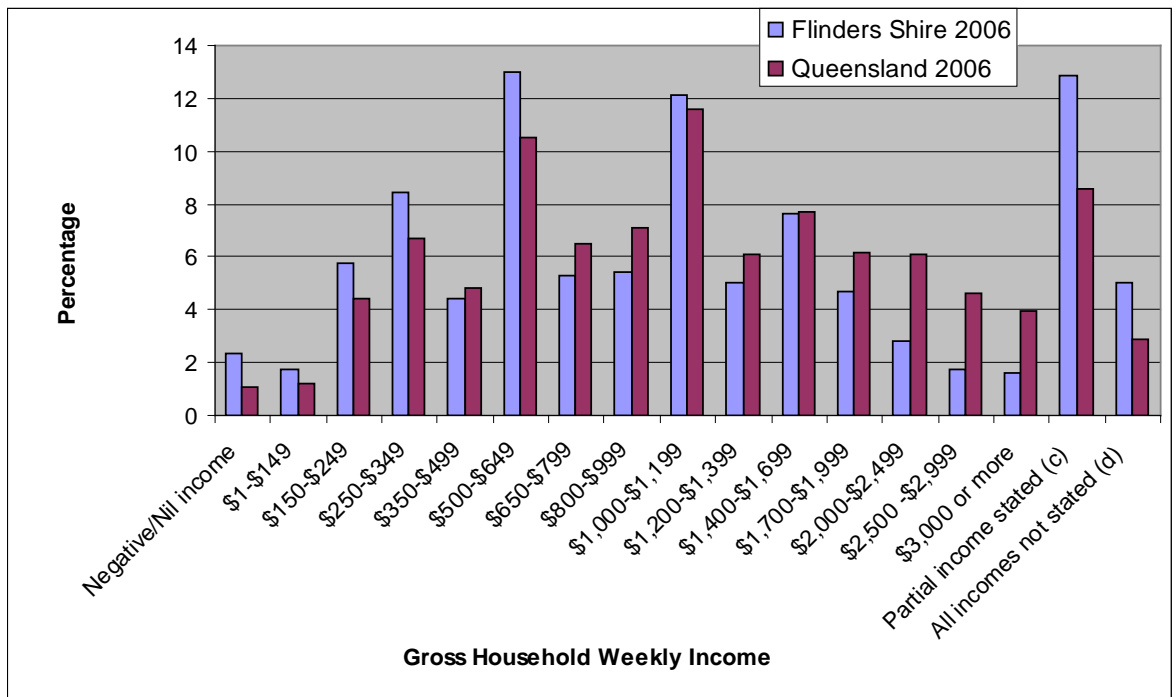
6.3. INDIGENOUS POPULATION

The proportion of Indigenous people in Flinders Shire at the 2006 Census was 8.1% which is almost 2½ times the average for Queensland as a whole (3.3%).

6.4. INCOME

The gross household weekly income of Flinders Shire residents as at the 2006 Census shows a much lower proportion of people on high incomes and a higher proportion of people on lower incomes compared to Queensland as a whole (refer Figure 2).

Figure 2: Comparison of gross household income – Flinders Shire vs Queensland as a whole as at 2006 Census



Source: 2006 ABS Census

6.5. IMPLICATIONS FOR RECREATION PLANNING

Based on the profile of the Flinders Shire population, the following implications for sport and recreation planning could be expected.

- Likely demand for organised activities/ programs for young people
- Likely demand for low cost, easily accessible sport or recreation activities/ programs
- Likely demand for family based facilities and services (eg parks, playgrounds, walk/ cycle paths, swimming etc)

7. TREND ANALYSIS

7.1. NATIONAL PARTICIPATION DATA

From Australian Sports Commission data⁵, by far the most popular exercise, recreation and sport activities of Queenslanders aged 15 years and over is **walking** (36.1%). This is followed by aerobics/fitness (17.7%) and swimming (13.7%)

There are significant differences between males and females in the activities most frequently participated in. For Queensland males aged 15 years and over the top 7 activities are:

- Walking (other than bushwalking) (27.3%)
- Aerobics/ fitness (13.4%)
- Swimming (11.2%)
- Cycling (10.9%)
- Golf (9.3%)
- Running (7.5%)
- Tennis (5.6%)

For Queensland females aged 15 years and over the activities most frequently participated in are:

- Walking (other than bushwalking) (44.8%)
- Aerobics/ fitness (21.9%)
- Swimming (16.1%)
- Cycling (6.6%)
- Tennis (5.8%)
- Netball (5.2%)
- Running (5.0%)

Women have much higher rates of participation than men in walking, swimming, aerobics/ fitness, netball and yoga; whereas men have significantly higher rates of participation than women in golf, cycling, fishing and field sports.

7.2. OTHER TRENDS IDENTIFIED BY STRATEGIC LEISURE

The Strategic Leisure Group, through studies undertaken for various local governments and independent research, has identified a number of other trends that are influencing participation in sport and recreation activities. These include:

- Local and state governments are recognising the importance of planning and providing for active lifestyles in terms of community health

5. Australian Sports Commission. Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport (SCORS). Participation in Exercise, Recreation & Sport. Survey – 2006 Annual Report.

- There is a growing demand for walk/ cycle paths. People are seeking pathways which are safe, aesthetically pleasing, easily accessible, and well connected to community amenities such as schools, shops, parks, sporting facilities and other pathway networks
- There is a growing demand for social forms of participation in sport. Strategic Leisure surveys of sporting clubs undertaken as part of the preparation of Sport and Recreation Plans for local authorities across Queensland consistently show participants in a wide range of sports seeking social competitions.
- For many, the leisure experience is constrained by limited time and an expectation of “instant gratification”. This is evidenced by a desire for participants to “turn up and play” with no or minimal organisational commitments
- There is an increasing demand for floodlit sporting facilities, either for reasons of convenience (eg to free up time to fulfil other demands in people’s lives) or, especially in tropical and inland regions, to reduce exposure to the sun.
- Demand for indoor multi-use sport and recreation facilities remains fairly high for reasons of convenience, comfort, year-round access or higher quality playing surfaces
- Traditional Council swimming pools, typically built in the 1960’s/ 70’s, are nearing the end of their useful life. Many such pools have static or declining patronage, absorb significant operating subsidies and face decisions about upgrading or redevelopment to make them more viable and/ or responsive to community demands (eg heating, enclosure, leisure water, ancillary amenities such as gym or child care, shade, socialising areas, ramp access etc)
- Getting or retaining volunteers is proving difficult for many sport and recreation organisations. This could result in the decline of some clubs as volunteers are unable to be replaced, or participants increasingly paying for sport services that were once provided voluntarily. Research into the attitudes of Generation X and Generation Y toward volunteering appears inconclusive, and perhaps a resurgence of volunteering may emerge. However, Strategic Leisure experience suggests the traditional volunteer management model is under pressure.
- There may be a need for a different approach in the future to the planning and/ or management of sporting facilities which reduces the pressure on volunteers (eg umbrella management bodies for multi-sport facilities).
- Availability and/ or cost of insurance have impacted on clubs in recent years resulting in pressure on costs of participation
- There is an awareness by local authorities of the importance of “risk management” and the need for a “whole-of-life” approach to facility development and asset management
- Noisy sports or sports requiring large land areas, which were once located on the outskirts of urban environments, now increasingly face relocation as urban footprints expand
- Increasingly, young people are engaged in part time work which is having an impact on participation numbers
- A recent Senate enquiry into women’s participation in sport and recreation found:
 - The lack of appropriate facilities and access to regular and affordable childcare options are among the key barriers to women’s participation in sport & recreation activities
 - The fitness sector, comprising fitness centre businesses and personal training studios, is an important part of women’s sport and recreation experience. The industry estimates that around 900,000 women in Australia use fitness businesses, and comprise around 55 per

cent of all fitness centre clients. The industry is growing fast, with the largest player, Fitness First Australia, reporting a growth rate of around 30 per cent per annum

- The fitness sector's high rate of female participation may reflect a preference for more informal and less competitive forms of physical activity

8. CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

8.1. SURVEY OF SPORT AND RECREATION CLUBS

Twenty-nine (29) known sport and recreation clubs listed in Council's database were sent a questionnaire. Over half (17) responded prior to the development of the draft report. All organisations were followed up by telephone and/ or email at least once in an endeavour to maximise survey returns. A summary of survey responses is set out at Table 1.

Table 1: Responses to survey of sport and recreation clubs

SURVEYS RETURNED	ORGANISATION	SURVEYS RETURNED	ORGANISATION
√	Authentic Tae Kwon Do	√	Hughenden Motorcycle Club
X	Corfield Amateur Race Club	√	Hughenden Netball Association
X	Flinders Hack and Pony Club	√	Hughenden Pony Club Inc
X	Flinders Tennis Club	√	Hughenden Railway Social Club
√	Guides Queensland	X	Hughenden Rodeo Association
X	Hughenden Amateur Swimming Club	X	Hughenden Show Society
X	Hughenden and District Athletics Club	√	Hughenden Social Dance Group
√	Hughenden Bowls Club	√	Oakley Amateur Picnic Race Club
X	Hughenden Bulls Rugby League	X	Prairie Jockey Club
√	Hughenden Campdrafters Association	√	Prema Yoga Experience
√	Hughenden Golf Club	√	Sporting Shooters Association
X	Hughenden Gymnastics Club	√	Stamford Sports Club
√	Hughenden Jockey Club	√	Stamford Race Club Inc
X	Hughenden Joeyes, Cubs and Scouts	X	Torrens Creek Golf Club
√	Hughenden Junior Rugby League		

8.1.1. CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Sport and recreation clubs were asked to record their past and current membership (active playing members), reasons for variations and any trends in their activity. This is summarised at Table 2.

Most clubs indicated static or declining membership over the last three years. This was mostly attributed to declining population of retirements. Some clubs however increased their membership over the last three years, namely Hughenden Junior Rugby League, Hughenden Pony Club, Prema Yoga Experience, Stamford Race Club and S.S.A.A. Qld Inc Hughenden. This was mostly attributed to better management, promotion or improved facilities. One club, Hughenden Motorcycle Club, has only recently formed and has 35 members.

Table 2: Membership details and trends in activity

CLUB	MEMBER TYPE	M'SHIP AS AT 3 YRS AGO	CURRENT M'SHIP	GAIN/LOSS	% CHANGE	REASON FOR VARIATION	TRENDS IN ACTIVITY
Authentic Tae Kwon Do	Senior	5	1	-4	-80%	Population is decreasing in town, cost of fuel for out of town students is too expensive, insurance costs have got out of control, thus has to reflect in fee payment.	People are becoming more lazy as adults and this effects the children's activity level.
	Junior	20	11	-9	-55%		
Guides Queensland	Senior	1	1	0	0%	Decrease due to families leaving the district due to work.	No response
	Junior	21	11	-10	-47%		
Hughenden Bowls Club	Senior	30	29	-1	-3%	Little change.	Social events such as community mercantile, are usually well attended with up to 64 players attending.
	Junior	2	1	-1	-50%		
Hughenden Campdrafters Association	Senior	n/a	30	-	-	About the same.	The sport of campdrafting as a whole is increasing every year.
	Junior	n/a	10	-	-		
Hughenden Golf Club	Senior	35	25	-10	-28%	Several long term members have retired/ transferred and fewer replacements.	Social events held by club during the year are well supported, but less interest in competition golf.
	Junior	4	3	-1	-25%		
Hughenden Jockey Club	Senior	15	10	-5	-33%	Migration of people from the community	Less and less racehorse owners.
	Junior	-	-	-	-		
Hughenden Netball Association	Senior	Not supplied	60	Not supplied	-	Membership has increased this year for the first time in five years due to increased fees from Netball Queensland and insurance.	Numbers have stayed about the same. Numbers of male players has decreased.
	Junior	Not supplied	40	Not supplied	-		
Hughenden Junior Rugby League	Senior	-	-	-	-	Change of committee, more pro-active and increase in promotion introduced incentives eg win football jersey on sign on day, attending more carnivals regularly. Increase club spirit by getting more parental involvement and having fun break up.	Nil
	Junior	59	84	+25	+42%		

CLUB	MEMBER TYPE	M'SHIP AS AT 3 YRS AGO	CURRENT M'SHIP	GAIN/LOSS	% CHANGE	REASON FOR VARIATION	TRENDS IN ACTIVITY
Hughenden Pony Club	Senior	10	20	+10	+100%	Improved facilities helped with grant funding. New instructors working co-operatively with committee, program planning for rallies, competitions and workshops (funding helps PCAP school).	Opening instruction to polocrosse and Western pleasure – the riders enjoy the different challenges other than showjumping, dressage and sporting etc.
Hughenden Railway Social Club	Seniors	n/a	n/a	-	-	We are a venue only used by local sporting groups for them to play their various sports.	Junior Rugby League use our grounds on a regular basis.
	Juniors	n/a	n/a	-	-		
Prema Yoga Experience	Senior	6	10	+4	+66%	Began children's classes.	None identified
	Junior	0	5	+5	-		
Stamford Sports Club	Senior	25-30 families	25 – 30 families	0	0%	The membership has stayed the same and probably will be stable for years to come.	None identified
	Junior	-	-	-	-		
Stamford Race Club	Senior	48	55	+7	+14%	Word of mouth. Good event getting better advertising.	More helpers. More grey nomads are being attracted to our event. Kids are now growing into adults but are still attending the event because of the great entertainment.
	Junior	-	-	-	-		
Hughenden Social Dance Group	Senior	Not supplied	Not supplied	-	-	No response	No response
	Junior	-	-	-	-		
Hughenden Motorcycle Club	Senior	n/a	35	+35	n/a	New club	New club
	Junior	n/a	-	-	n/a		
Oakley Amateur Picnic Race Club	Senior	120	120	0	0%	n/a	Younger people are becoming involved at our race meeting at a social level. Horse racing is the strongest it has ever been (usually 40 odd horses each meeting).
	Junior	-	-	-	-		

CLUB	MEMBER TYPE	M'SHIP AS AT 3 YRS AGO	CURRENT M'SHIP	GAIN/LOSS	% CHANGE	REASON FOR VARIATION	TRENDS IN ACTIVITY
S.S.A.A. Qld Inc Hughenden	Senior	23	28	+5	+21%	Senior membership has increased due to new residents moving into the area.	
	Junior	-	-	-	-		

8.1.2. FACILITY USAGE AND SATISFACTION

Usage of existing facilities, levels of satisfaction, and reasons for dissatisfaction (if any) are reported at Table 3. All clubs that responded to the survey reported satisfaction with their facilities with the exception of Hughenden Jockey Club, Oakley Amateur Picnic Race Club and S.S.A.A Qld Inc Hughenden.

Table 3: Summary of facility usage and satisfaction

CLUB/ ORGANISATION	FACILITY NAME	SATISFACTION	REASON FOR DISSATISFACTION	SEASON	FREQUENCY OF USAGE	TYPE OF USE	APPROXIMATE NO ATTENDING
Authentic Tae Kwon Do	Diggers Entertainment Centre	Very satisfied		February to December	Tuesdays and Thursdays 6.00 – 7.30pm	Training	12
Guides Queensland	Guide Hut	Satisfied		January to December School terms	Mondays 5.00 – 6.30	Club meetings	12
Hughenden Bowls Club Inc.	Lawn Bowls Club Little Avenue Hughenden	Satisfied	Volunteer work in maintenance a good quality lawn bowls surface.	February to December	Sunday afternoons	Competitions	20
					Once a year	Tournaments	64
					3 per year	Intertown competitions	16
					Weekends	Club events	20
					Saturday evenings	Social events	64

CLUB/ ORGANISATION	FACILITY NAME	SATISFACTION	REASON FOR DISSATISFACTION	SEASON	FREQUENCY OF USAGE	TYPE OF USE	APPROXIMATE NO ATTENDING
Hughenden Campdrafters Association	Showgrounds	Very satisfied	After 15 years of running the facilities are exactly how we have worked to achieve them.		Annually for 3 days competition generally one week after Easter.	Competition	300
					Periodically	Training days/courses	
Hughenden Golf Club	Golf Club	Satisfied	Golf Club has invested to install bore and related infrastructure to water areas and club grounds, when Shire implemented water metres.	All year	Throughout week Key dates Wed	3.30 – 6.00pm	10-15
					Saturday and Sunday	11.30am - 7.00pm	10 - 20
Hughenden Jockey Club	Racecourse	Dissatisfied	Needs new running rail, needs serious repairs to grandstand/jockey and stewards tea room.	Train all year	Daily 4.00am to 7.00pm	Training	2
					2 Saturdays	Racing	300
					Daily	Specing racehorses	
Hughenden Netball Association	Diggers Entertainment Centre	Satisfied	Floor still has a wax on it from a function (in April) making it unsafe. Post holes continually full of dirt and rubbish making them hard to put in and unsafe. (they need covers on them).	March to October	Tuesday 3.30 – 5.00pm	Junior and training	30 juniors
					Wednesday 5.30 – 9.30pm	Seniors competitions	60 +
Hughenden Junior Rugby League	Railway Social Club Oval	Satisfied		March to September	Tuesday and Thursday 4.00 – 5.30pm	Training	80
					Saturday	Competition (home games)	150
Hughenden Railway Social Club	Hughenden Railway Social Club Ground	Satisfied		n/a	Tuesdays and Thursdays	Training	70-80
					Saturdays	Junior Rugby League Carnivals	150-250

CLUB/ ORGANISATION	FACILITY NAME	SATISFACTION	REASON FOR DISSATISFACTION	SEASON	FREQUENCY OF USAGE	TYPE OF USE	APPROXIMATE NO ATTENDING
Prema Yoga Experience	Diggers Entertainment Centre Meeting room	Very satisfied		School terms	Thursdays 4.30 - 7.30pm	Classes	15
Stamford Sports Club	Club	Satisfied	Tennis courts need resurfacing	1 st Saturday of each month	Stamford State School children use the tennis courts once a week in the winter months.	Social tennis	20 to 30 children
					Couple of times per year	Tennis activities	11 children
						Meetings by Fire Board, Stamford Race Club.	5+
Stamford Race Club	Stamford Racecourse Reserve	Very satisfied			First Saturday of July each year. 10.00am until Sunday afternoon.	Race meeting	400+
Hughenden Social Dance Group	No information supplied						
Hughenden Motorcycle Club	New club. No venue as yet						
Oakley Amateur Picnic Raceclub	Kooroorinya Reserve	Dissatisfied	The need for extra shade & 240 volt powered sites. Presently 110volts overhead lines in bad repair.	Mid April to end of May for racing, all Winter for tourism.	2 nd weekend in May	Day Picnic Race meeting	300
					The Winter months	Tourist camping	200
S.S.A Old Inc Hughenden	Rifle Range	Dissatisfied	Lack of support from local council eg access road improvement.	All year round	Saturdays and Sundays (daylight hours)	Live firing eg. Target shooting	Approx 10

8.1.3. UNDERUTILISED FACILITIES

Clubs were asked to comment on any existing land areas/ facilities that they felt are underutilised and how better use could be made of them. Responses are summarised at Table 4.

Table 4: Underutilised facilities and suggestions for improving usage

NAME OF FACILITY	SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING USE
Diggers Entertainment Centre	Indoor cricket to be run by Council
Old basketball court at showgrounds	Make into an outdoor netball court. There are sports lights there already for night games. Providing a second court would allow for more regional comps here.
Showgrounds	Feasibility study undertaken by FSC resulted in plan to improve these facilities benefiting all clubs
	Upgrade facilities, currently have to work around campdraft.
Skate park	Clubs could run fundraising days/ fund days at this venue to remind people its there. No actual organised skate/ bike events or club so its just if the kids think to go there.
Swimming Pool	Revive venue for parties and break ups, it used to happen.
Stamford Race Club	Hire for school and social events, house sports events etc
Kooroorinya Campsite	The installation of powered sites would make this camping area a place that could be used by families and grey nomads all year round.
Rifle Range	Members to take more activity participants in sport.

8.1.4. ESSENTIAL FACILITY NEEDS

Clubs were asked to indicate what new or upgraded facilities they regarded as essential to meet their needs over the next 5 – 10 years, and the reasons why they are seen as essential. Clubs were also asked to indicate, what other forms of assistance (if available) would most benefit the day to running of their club. Responses are outlined at Table 5.

Table 5: Essential facility needs and other forms of assistance desired by clubs

CLUB NAME	ESSENTIAL NEW/ UPGRADED FACILITIES	RATIONALE	OTHER ASSISTANCE THAT WOULD BENEFIT CLUB
Authentic Tae Kwon Do	Not required		Encouragement for people to be more active.
Guides Queensland	Air conditioning	Too hot	Up keep of grounds.
Hughenden Bowls Club	Replace surface with synthetic outdoor carpet	Volunteers and cost to maintain lawn playing area. Create more options for events at different times throughout the week, ie no need to water and cut etc.	New surface, synthetic create more year round playing, less cost once installed.
Hughenden Campdrafters	Increase size of showgrounds	To accommodate both football and campdraft to ensure a safe surface for both sports.	We as a club would like to put in some more watering and electrical power boxes for camping.

CLUB NAME	ESSENTIAL NEW/ UPGRADED FACILITIES	RATIONALE	OTHER ASSISTANCE THAT WOULD BENEFIT CLUB
Hughenden Golf Club	Upgrade to clubhouse facilities	Floor coverings need replacement.	
	Replacement of Kubota (mid-sized tractor) and several lawn mowers.	Unlike many other sports grounds in town, our club is responsible for our own machinery to maintain the course (18 holes) and club grounds. This is a major concern for a small rural club. (neighbouring shires provide machinery from shire tractors for Golf Club work).	Our major costs are insurance and rates, added to machine maintenance – maintenance can be covered at times by members/ volunteers, however insurance and rates are 'dead' costs for a club providing a facility for community with lots of volunteer time.
Hughenden Jockey Club	Running rail and grandstand facilities	Dangerous	Funding to replace running rail is the most urgent. Grandstand could be pulled down and flat shed put up on mound of dirt.
Hughenden Netball Association	A 2 nd netball court (could be on the side of Diggers, vertical to road.	To enable us to hold regional competitions here.	
Hughenden Junior Rugby League	None.		Funding for own bus travel assistance.
Hughenden Pony Club	Upgrade facility with arena lights.	Protection from sun and would extend our pony club season and usage throughout the hot summer months	
	Build a cross country course.	Prepare and train riders for competitions and state championships each year. No facility available at present.	Maintenance, automatic watering system, administration – business development plan.
Hughenden Railway Social Club	Improve the playing area with better grass coverage and a more level playing surface.	This will ensure safety to the players if there is a better grass coverage and a level playing surface will reduce ankle, knee, leg injuries.	Maintenance money to upgrade oval area.
Prema Yoga Experience	Improved storage space near meeting room.		Communal public liability insurance.
Stamford Sports Club	Resurfacing tennis courts with synthetic grass.	Current bitumen is 10 years old. Large cracks in bitumen. Areas broken up to 60cm across in diameter. Bounce of ball is erratic. Ten years from now tennis will not be able to be played at all. Stamford Sports Club is over 30 years old with very healthy numbers attending the monthly social tennis meetings. Resurfacing of courts would be a terrific asset for the future of the community. This will encourage new members and give people heart to participate in tennis and netball, benefiting general health among young and old in the community.	

CLUB NAME	ESSENTIAL NEW/ UPGRADED FACILITIES	RATIONALE	OTHER ASSISTANCE THAT WOULD BENEFIT CLUB
Stamford Race Club	New toilets/ upgrade of kitchen	Current facility inadequate for the crowd we now get.	Seasonal maintenance. Painting of buildings.
	Power supply for campers.	At present the campers hook into existing outlets and need to shift on day of races.	Assistance with landscaping and ongoing care.
Oakley Amateur Picnic Race Club	Powered campsites	To make the site more viable to tourism and also for the benefit of our race meeting. The old 110v wiring is past its use by date and is a hazard.	Need help funding the two projects.
	Shade between hall and eatery	Tourists and racegoers alike use the area to eat and it has no shade cover through the day.	
	Fence between campsite area and water course	Risk management concern if young people wander away from the campsite	
S.S.A.A Old Inc Hughenden	Lease application in progress for land behind Pistol Club, for safety zone. Progress has taken 2 years.	For safety zone.	Assistance with access road maintenance.

8.1.5. CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Of the 17 clubs responding to the survey, only five organisations indicated that they had a business or development plan in place.

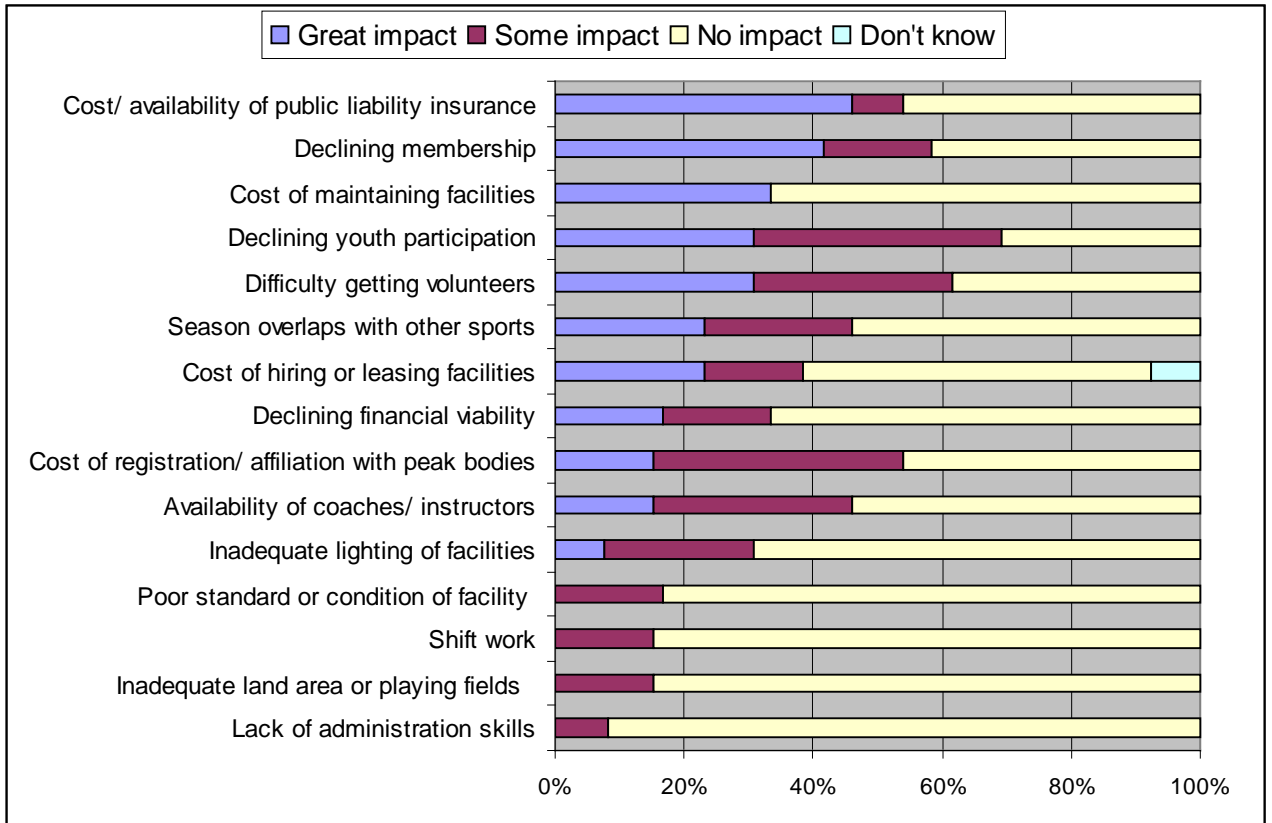
Sport and recreation clubs in Flinders Shire were asked to comment on the extent to which a range of issues were impacting on them (refer Figure 3). Of the clubs that responded to the survey, the issues having 'great impact' on them are:

- Cost/ availability of public liability insurance, and
- Declining membership

However, when issues having 'great impact' or 'some impact' on clubs are combined, the two main themes emerging are:

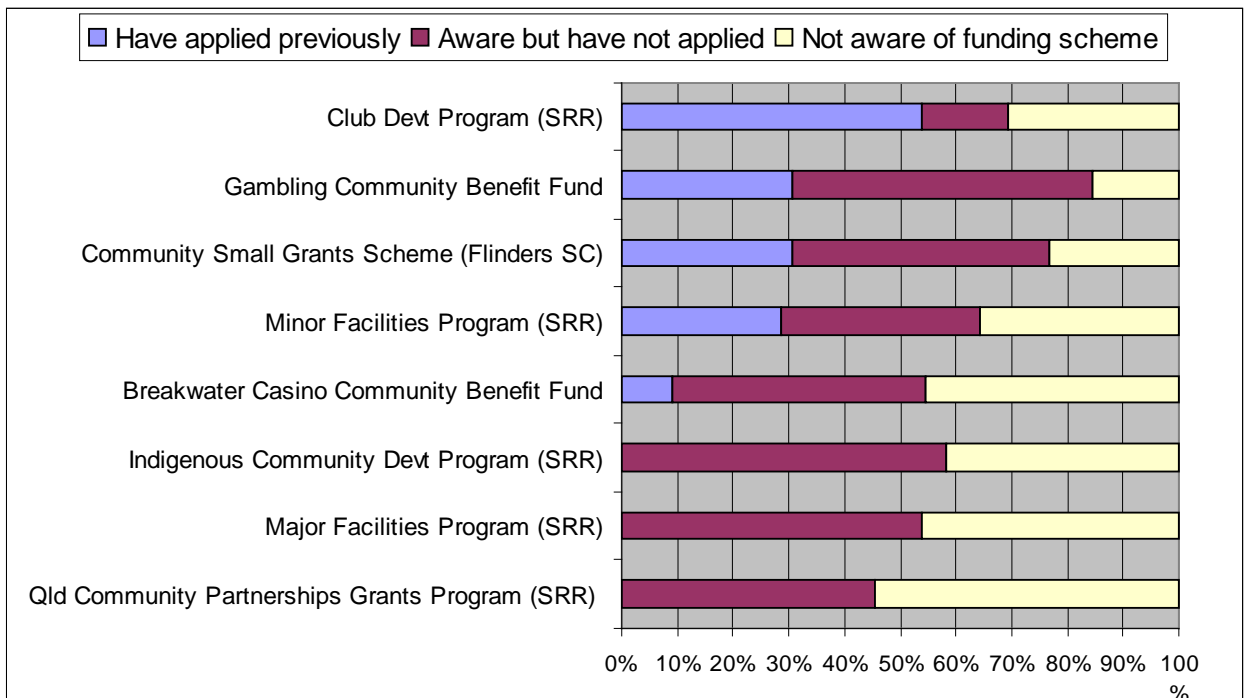
- Declining youth membership
- Difficulty getting volunteers to administer the club

Figure 3: Issues impacting on sport and recreation clubs



Finally, clubs were also asked to indicate their awareness of a range of external funding sources and whether or not they had applied in the past. Of the clubs responding to this survey, more than half were aware of external funding sources but relatively few clubs had applied. The awareness of the Breakwater Casino Community Benefit Fund could be improved (refer Figure 4).

Figure 4: Awareness and utilisation of external funding sources



8.1.6. OTHER COMMENTS

Clubs were asked to comment on any other matters relating to sport and recreation participation in Flinders Shire. A summary of the matters raised is as follows:

- Venue hire costs must be kept at affordable levels
- More facilities needed for young children at pool
- A recreational dam to provide a different type of sport/ recreation for our town
- Sporting groups work together for funding
- Increase planting of trees and shrubs, walking tracks including areas of interest

8.2. SURVEY OF COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Community organisations in Flinders Shire were asked to comment about sport and recreation facilities and services in the Shire. A brief questionnaire was posted along with an explanatory cover letter to community organisations. The following organisations responded to the survey:

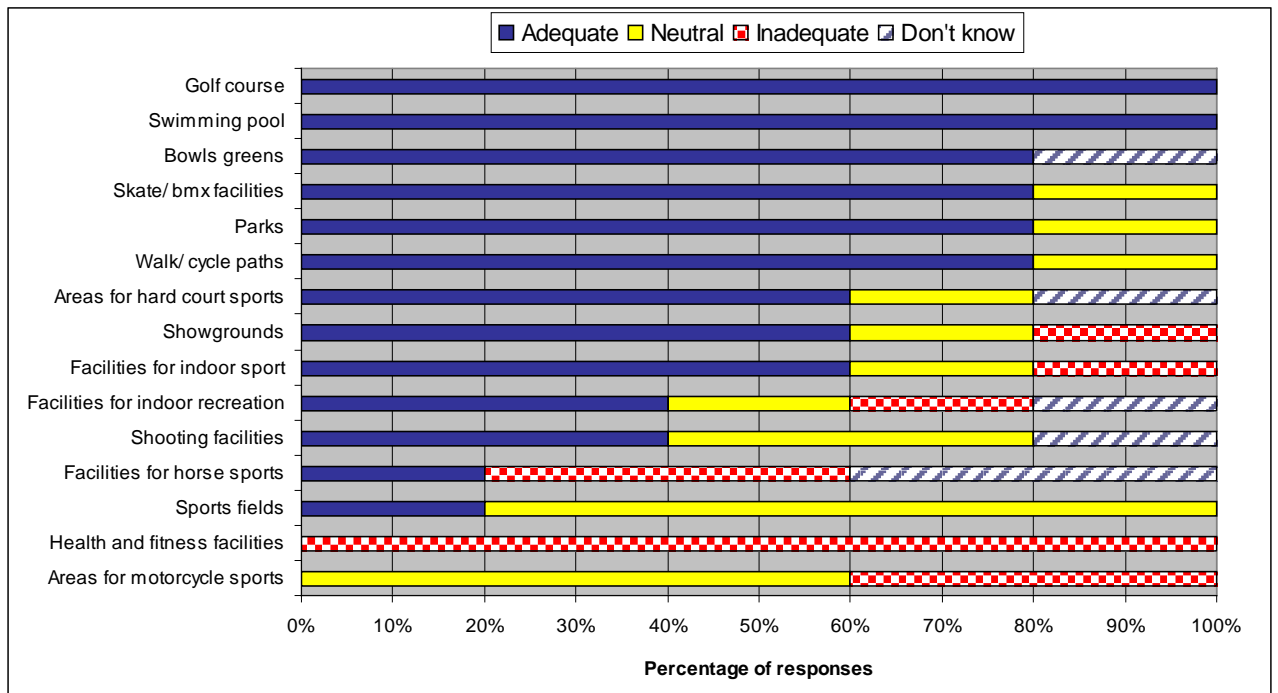
- St Vincent De Paul
- Hughenden Health Centre
- QGAP
- Flinders Disability Support
- Learning Network Qld
- Priority Country Area Program

8.2.1. SATISFACTION WITH FACILITIES

Most community organisations ranked existing sport and recreation facilities as adequate or neutral. Health and fitness facilities were ranked as inadequate by all respondents. Areas for motorcycle sports and facilities for horse sports were also seen as inadequate (although the latter had a high proportion of 'don't know' responses).

Figure 5 illustrates how the community organisations that responded to the survey feel about the adequacy of existing sport and recreation facilities.

Figure 5: Assessment of adequacy of sport and recreation facilities by Community organisations



Where dissatisfaction with any facilities was expressed, or if comments about a particular facility were made, these are outlined in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Reasons for dissatisfaction or general comments on sport and recreation facilities

FACILITY TYPE	REASON FOR DISSATISFACTION OR GENERAL COMMENT
Walk/ cycle paths	Current footpaths are dangerous and more are required.
Parks	More playground equipment needed.
Swimming pool	Disabled access into large pool and more shade.
Sports fields	Football field needs to be levelled and sports fields open on holidays.
Facilities for indoor sport	Nil
Areas for motorcycle sports	Venue needed badly
Shooting facilities	Nil
Skate/ BMX facilities	Nil
Health and fitness facilities	There are no facilities, community gym needed.
Facilities for indoor recreation	Need for roller skating and indoor cricket.
Golf course	Nil
Showgrounds	Needs work and disabled access
Facilities for horse sports	Require campdraft area
Areas for hard court sports	Nil
Bowls greens	Nil

8.2.2. SATISFACTION WITH RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The following comments about the availability of recreation programs and services were made:

- Good array of programs
- Programs are very important for the community
- Severe lack of community interest in some programs
- A community noticeboard monitored by Council in the main street would be ideal, a “What’s on this week” theme.
- Availability of programs depends on available expertise

8.2.3. PRIORITIES FOR SPORT AND RECREATION

Community organisations were asked to indicate what they considered to be the top three priorities for this Sport and Recreation Plan, however no single priority emerged (refer Table 7).

Table 7: Community organisation priorities for the Sport and Recreation Plan

PRIORITY ISSUE	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	NO OF MENTIONS
Water area	Recreational water area, tourist attraction and youth area.	1
Movies	Family movie nights and keep youth occupied.	1
Showgrounds	Change to suit multiple activities	2
Indoor recreation area	Open for the public with equipment	1
Communal area	Supervised area with pool tables, games, movies, table tennis, computers, painting, arts and crafts.	1
Health and Fitness centre	None available	1
Walk/ cycle paths	Provide more and repair current paths	2
Motorcycle venue	None provided	1
Sport and Recreation Officer		1
Aquatic Centre	Year round swimming	1
Community Notice Board	To inform the community	1

8.2.4. OTHER COMMENTS

Some community organisations that responded to the survey took the opportunity to make additional comments about sport and recreation opportunities in Flinders Shire.

- The elderly would like Croquet
- Keep families here and make Hughenden a great place to live
- More sporting opportunities rather than football and netball.
- More promotion and assistance to build state level events
- Great improvements have been made, need to keep up the momentum

8.3. CONSULTATION WITH SCHOOLS

All schools in Flinders Shire were sent a questionnaire to determine:

- School usage of community sport & recreation facilities and how adequately these facilities meet their needs
- School facilities available for community use
- Plans for new/ upgraded school facilities and whether or not they will be available for community use

While only two schools responded, separate discussions were held with school representatives during other consultation for this study. Key issues to emerge from these discussions/ surveys were:

1. Prairie State School has been successful in obtaining \$100,000 funding from the Invest in our Schools program for the development of a multi-purpose outdoor sports court suitable for basketball/ netball etc. The facility will be floodlit and is due for completion in the 2007/ 08 financial year. It will be available for community use.
2. Stamford State School would benefit from the resurfacing of the adjacent Stamford Sports Club tennis courts which are in poor condition. The school oval also needs upgrading.
3. Hughenden State School uses a range of community facilities which meet the school's needs adequately. The school's facilities are used by the wider community. The oval is auto-irrigated and used by the athletics club and other community groups. The covered sports court and playground equipment are available for hire by clubs and community groups. The school would like to extend shaded areas, athletics facilities and playground areas as funds become available. A suggestion to engage a Youth Activity Development Officer who would be responsible for coordinating afternoon/ weekend activities; assisting sport and recreation clubs; and running courses to accredit parents/ community members in Level 0 or Level 1 coaching courses.
4. Cameron Downs State School uses the Hughenden Swimming pool which adequately meets its needs. The quality of the Hughenden-Muttaborra Road determines when and what facilities are accessed. The school was recently given funding to build a multi-purpose outdoor court which will be available for community use.

8.4. COMMUNITY FORUMS

Five Community Forums were held – in Hughenden, Prairie, Torrens Creek, Kooroorinya and Stamford. The purpose of these forums was to identify and discuss:

- The 'good' and 'bad' of sport and recreation facilities, services and programs in the Shire
- Constraints to participation in sport and recreation
- Ways to improve usage of facilities or participation in sport and recreation
- Unmet needs for residents and visitors, and
- Ideas and future priorities.

8.4.1. PRAIRIE COMMUNITY FORUM

This Forum was held on 5th September 2007 and was attended by nine (9) community members. Key issues and discussion points to emerge from this meeting were as follows:

- Estimated local population is about 50 with 150 – 200 in the surrounding district
- Former tennis courts have been dismantled
- Cricket playing fields are no longer used. Power has been disconnected.
- Prairie State School has been successful in obtaining funding (\$100,000) from the Invest in our Schools Program for a multi-use outdoor court. To be installed in 2007/ 08 financial year.
- Race track is used for New Years Eve event and annual race meeting which occurs 1st Sat in August (TAB accredited) with 300 – 400 patrons
- There is a query on the long term viability of improvements if the annual race meeting is no longer sanctioned
- Community Hall is well used (eg meetings, seminars, workshops, school, funeral services)
- Strong desire to retain the hall for existing uses but requires upgrading. Venue is seen as too close to the highway for functions (not fenced)

Priorities identified by Prairie Community Forum attendees were:

1. Improvements to the Community Hall
 - Install sink upstairs
 - Lights in toilet
 - Fencing
2. Prepare a Club Development Plan for Prairie Jockey Club and Master Plan for the race track. This should consider the following:
 - Upgrade of access road
 - Bar upgrade (serving areas)
 - Extend bookies stand area and install concrete floor
 - Possibly one building to replace existing sheds
 - Potential as overnight stay area
3. Install a bbq and playground at Lions Park

8.4.2. KOOROORINYA COMMUNITY FORUM

This Forum was held on 5th September 2007 and was attended by only two community representatives. Key issues and discussion points to emerge from this meeting were as follows:

- Oakley Amateur Race Meeting is held 2nd weekend in May each year. Approximately 150 on Friday and 250 on Saturday. [From subsequent discussions DNRW, this facility comprises 251.7ha and is leased to the Race Club to 2024]
- Overnight stay camping is permitted (\$3.00 per vehicle). Caretaker maintains the area and collects fees
- There is a strong desire not to encourage over-use of the adjacent water course

The main priority is shade over the outdoor dining area

8.4.3. TORRENS CREEK COMMUNITY FORUM

This Forum was held on 6th September 2007 and was attended by five community members. Key issues and discussion points to emerge from this meeting were as follows:

- Torrens Creek is a small community with no school
- Lack of a focal area for the community (eg park with playground and meeting space)
- No public toilet
- Have old tennis club/ court, small playground and junior field area adjacent to the golf course
- Old Royal Flying Doctor Service clinic shed is sometimes used for community group meetings over the road from the old tennis court
- Golf course is a dry course with 5 members doing most of the work
- Torrens Creek is still a social hub for surrounding stations
- Increased traffic is anticipated when the road to Aramac is sealed.

Priorities identified by Torrens Creek Community Forum attendees were:

1. Develop a community park with a playground and a toilet. Council is currently proposing a toilet on the main road adjacent to rail station. [Community would prefer more value from a toilet as part of community area with playground.]
2. Propose that the old tennis court be upgraded (resurfacing and fence) and the adjacent area be cleaned up for development as public park and toilet block (this area could service travellers as well as the community)
3. Would like to “clean up” the Royal Flying Doctor Service shed and maybe put a shelter there so it could act as part of the community hub (park area and tennis court). Royal Flying Doctor Service shed could also become the community meeting or visiting agency rooms
4. Would like to see access to White Mountain National Park and development/ promotion of Kooroorinya, White Mountain and Porcupine Gorge as key destination areas for the Shire.

8.4.4. HUGHENDEN COMMUNITY FORUM

The Hughenden Community Forum was held on 6th September 2007 and was attended by nine residents. The main elements identified by participants as positives were:

- Robert Gray Park
- Mt Walker
- Diggers Entertainment Centre
- Showgrounds Planning
- Bikeway/ walkways
- Railway Social Club
- Choice of sports
- Junior/ Senior Rugby League
- Flinders Poppy - Art and Craft
- Kids Disco - every fortnight

- SES cadets (needs variety/)
- HACC

A number of concerns were identified, namely:

- Facilities not being used to full potential (eg skate park/ Robert Gray Park)
- Insufficient shade at the pool (grassed area/ concourse)
- Need to implement the Showgrounds Master Plan
- Need for a motor cycle facility
- Racecourse facilities in need of upgrade
- No youth activity area
- Lack of vacation care programs/ activities
- No-one to facilitate youth activities/ programs (especially teenagers)
- Tennis club coach to be lost
- There is a lack of volunteers/ committee members
- Lack of arts/ music programs

A range of improvements were discussed including:

- Youth worker/ sport and recreation worker (could be combined with the school chaplaincy)
- Showgrounds – extend and review master plan if the stock route is closed
- Recreational dam for skiing, fishing, camping etc
- More interaction between groups – better cooperation, co-ordination, sharing of resources
- Sport and recreation forums – possibly two per year
- Training for community to use the sound and video equipment at Diggers Entertainment Centre
- Replace sound gear at Diggers Entertainment Centre
- Run movie nights – cost issue of copyright needs resolving
- Establish club grounds for motor cycle
- Establish an arts centre/ gallery space (above the library) possibly co-located with youth space

The key priorities identified by the meeting were as follows:

1. Create a youth worker position
2. Implement the Showgrounds Master Plan
3. Establish club grounds for motorcycle sports
4. Develop a dam/ recreational water

8.4.5. STAMFORD COMMUNITY FORUM

This Forum was held on 6th September 2007 and was attended by 10 community members. Key issues and discussion points to emerge from this meeting were as follows:

- Estimated population of the surrounding district 150
- Stamford Sports Club has 65 financial members and services the entire district
- Tennis courts are used on the first Saturday of each month plus school uses once or twice a week (court surface in poor condition)
- Meetings are held in clubhouse area. Sports Club is installing clear plastic blinds facing tennis courts for weather protection
- Race course is used about 6 times a year for socials/ meetings plus annual race meeting (TAB accredited) which attracts about 400 patrons
- Race course toilets are in poor condition (especially womens)

The key priorities identified by the meeting were as follows:

1. Resurfacing of tennis courts and multi-marking for tennis, basketball, netball
2. Upgrading of toilets at race club
3. Public toilet (possibly at the existing railway building if line is decommissioned). Would require Council assistance for maintenance and/ or arrangement with operators of Roadhouse
4. Upgrading of school oval for field sports

8.5. YOUTH FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Separate discussions were held with students in Grades 7 and 11 at Hughenden State School to seek their views about the 'good' and 'bad' of sport and recreation provision in Flinders Shire and priorities for improvement. The outcomes of these discussions was as follows:

OLDER YOUTH (GRADE 11)

- Main concern was lack of activities and programs for older youth
- Believe that facilities are ok – but there is a need for organised activities
- Would like more events, music, bands, movies etc
- Would like more diversity in social sport competitions – eg perhaps shorter seasons and more sports
- Could do more at Mt Walker
- Trial lazer tag or paintball

The key priorities identified by Grade 11 students were as follows:

1. Motorcycle track
2. Youth officer
3. Youth space/ place for youth programs
4. Activities for older youth
5. Gym

YOUNGER YOUTH (GRADE 7)

In order of priority, the main improvements sought by Grade 7 students were:

1. Water slide into pool
2. Playground at Robert Gray Park (include a spider climbing frame)
3. Larger BMX dirt jump area
4. Start up touch football, and include girls
5. Area for trail bikes close to town and motocross area
6. More horse trails

8.6. OTHER CONSULTATION

Meetings/ discussions were held with a range of other stakeholders including Police, District Health Service, Disability Services, HACC, swimming pool lessee, and government agencies. The main issues to arise from these meetings are summarised below. One resident also responded to the dedicated email address (flinders@strategicleisure.com.au) which was set up for this study and publicised in press releases.

- Native Title claim over all Crown land within Flinders Shire townships (Yirandali people)
- DNRW is assisting the motorcycle club to obtain land near airport
- Need for activities and programs for older kids (eg movie nights at Diggers, dances, school holiday programs)
- Need for a Sport and Recreation Officer to coordinate activities and liaise with clubs
- Need for a Gym in Hughenden
- Exercise stations/ outdoor fitness stations could be installed
- Little preventative health actions are occurring
- A feature playground (preferably at Robert Gray Park) is required
- Need to develop skills in the community (sport and recreation administration, club operations, coaching etc)
- An annual sports forum to provide access to training and other skill development was suggested

9. POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

A summary of potential funding sources that may assist in the implementation of a number of recommendations is set out at Table 8 below. Please note, as grant schemes are reviewed on a regular basis this information should be checked for currency before consideration of lodging an application.

Table 8: Potential funding sources

GRANT AGENCY	GRANT SCHEME	TYPE OF PROJECTS FUNDED	MAXIMUM AMOUNT AVAILABLE	CO-CONTRIBUTION REQUIRED
Department of Local Government Planning Sport and Recreation	Local Sport and Recreation Program	<p>There are four categories of funding (planning, education and training, participation, and places). Projects must fall into one of these three categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning studies such as open space plans, trail plans, and general and specific recreation plans; 2. Education and training projects that increase the knowledge and skills of club members; 3. Participation projects that enhance participation in sport and recreation such as walking groups, participation or come-and-try programs; 4. Under the "places" category infrastructure such as cycleways, walkways, walking trails, skate facilities, shade structures, disabled access and upgrades to fields, courts and pools are eligible. 	Total eligible project cost is \$200,000	<p>Level of funding is primarily determined by the LGA's population:</p> <p>Up to 2,500 = up to 90%</p> <p>2,501 to 5,000 = up to 75%</p> <p>5,001 & 10,000 = up to 60%</p> <p>Over 10,000 = up to 50%</p> <p>Councils with <10,000 can apply at above percentages for up to 2 projects (one in 'Places' category and one in any other category). Applic must include justification as to why a higher funding percentage should be considered.</p> <p>Under the "Participation" category Council's can receive 100% of eligible project costs up to a max of \$,7,500 for one project only</p>

GRANT AGENCY	GRANT SCHEME	TYPE OF PROJECTS FUNDED	MAXIMUM AMOUNT AVAILABLE	CO-CONTRIBUTION REQUIRED
Department of Local Government Planning Sport and Recreation	Club Development Program	The program aims to increase participation and improve the management and administration of organisations providing sport and physically active recreation opportunities.	Max funding is \$4,000 with min eligible project cost of \$500. Rural and regional areas can receive up to \$5,000. Up to \$500 can be included in application to recognise or reward volunteers.	Nil
Department of Local Government Planning Sport and Recreation	Minor Facilities Program	Funding to undertake minor works to sport and recreation facilities to increase participation in sport and active recreation. Focused on small scale building works. Assistance available to not-for-profit sport and recreation, community or Indigenous organisations: Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Councils.	The total eligible project cost is between \$10,000 and \$200,000. Can receive a maximum of two thirds of the eligible project cost up to a maximum \$100,000.	Organisation is required to provide the balance of the cost of the works.
Department of Local Government Planning Sport and Recreation	Major Facilities Program	The major facilities program now incorporates the former National Standard Facilities Program. The program provides financial assistance to eligible organisations to build, extend, upgrade or develop venues for regional sporting competition and training and for communities to participate in sport and recreation or to conduct state and national sporting competition and international levels of training. Examples of eligible projects include indoor sport centres, multi-sport playing fields and walking trails.	A maximum of 50% of the total eligible cost of the project. Projects must be valued between \$200,000 and \$1,500,000.	Council is required to provide the balance of the funds which will be a minimum of 50%. (Less is available if the project is on education land).
Department of Local Government Planning Sport and Recreation	Indigenous Community Development Program	Provides financial assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community councils and organisations for sport and active recreation plans, events, education and training programs and employment of local recreation officers.	Varies depending on the category. Up to two thirds of the total eligible costs (a minimum of \$7,500 and a maximum of \$50,000). In the participation category, 100% of eligible project costs up to \$7,500 for one project and 67% for projects above this threshold.	Organisation is required to provide the balance of the funds based on the total project cost.

GRANT AGENCY	GRANT SCHEME	TYPE OF PROJECTS FUNDED	MAXIMUM AMOUNT AVAILABLE	CO-CONTRIBUTION REQUIRED
Department of Local Government Planning Sport and Recreation	Regional Centres Program	<p>The guidelines list the following activities as “generally considered to be eligible”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CBD revitalisation ▪ Tourist Infrastructure or Facilities ▪ Social and/or Community Facilities ▪ Streetscaping ▪ Recreation Facilities ▪ Foreshore Development <p>Planning and feasibility studies may be assisted provided that the project has a reasonable chance of implementation.</p>	<p>There is no prescribed upper limit though local governments considering applying for more than \$2.5m for a single project are advised to consult the Department.</p> <p>Funding will generally be on a dollar-for-dollar basis but can be lower at the Minister’s discretion.</p>	<p>Generally 50% unless the Minister funds at a lower level.</p>
Department of Local Government Planning Sport and Recreation	Water and Sewerage Program	<p>This program provides funding for capital works such as effluent re-use.</p>	<p>Subsidies up to 50% of total eligible capital costs are available. Funding for this program is uncapped.</p>	<p>A minimum of 50% of project costs.</p>
Department of Local Government Planning Sport and Recreation	Security Improvement Program	<p>Provides expenditure on security measures in existing public places. Projects such as lighting, modifications to public facilities and upgrading street lighting are eligible for funding. It is important to note that projects must be aimed at enhancing existing public spaces.</p>	<p>Subsidies of up to 60% of the total project cost are available.</p>	<p>At least 40% of total project costs.</p>
Department of Local Government Planning Sport and Recreation	Landfill Remediation Assessment Program	<p>The aim is stated as “...identifying local government owned/ controlled contaminated sites and determining levels of risks and cost of remedial work”.</p> <p>Note: the actual costs of remedial works are not subsidised through this Program. All sites need to have ceased operations prior to 1 July 1998.</p>	<p>Subsidies to 50% are available but may be scaled back if the level of requests exceeds the available budget (\$7.5m)</p>	<p>The balance of project costs (at least 50%)</p>

GRANT AGENCY	GRANT SCHEME	TYPE OF PROJECTS FUNDED	MAXIMUM AMOUNT AVAILABLE	CO-CONTRIBUTION REQUIRED
<p>Australian Government – Department of Transport and Regional Services [Area Consultative Committees]</p>	<p>Regional Partnerships Program</p>	<p>The regional partnerships program focuses on four key areas and to be eligible for funding a project must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen growth and opportunities - by investing in projects that strengthen and provide greater opportunities for economic and social participation in the community (eg community or cultural centres, community halls and sporting facilities); ▪ Improve access to services - by investing in projects that, in a cost effective and suitable way, support communities to access services. It will give priority to communities to access services. It will give priority to communities in regional Australia with a population of less than 5000; ▪ Support planning - by investing in projects that assist communities to identify and explore opportunities and to develop strategies for action; and ▪ Assist structural adjustment - by investing in projects that assist specifically identified communities and regions adjust to major economic, social or environmental change. <p>Private sector applicants are not excluded unless for planning, studies or research. Commercial activities will normally require at least 60% (cash, including borrowings) contribution to a project. A ranking of the strength of an application for commercial project partnerships is provided (percentages relate to cash co-funding amounts).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Weak = Less than 60% partnerships ▪ Adequate = 60% up to 69.9% partnerships ▪ Good = 70% up to 79.9% partnerships ▪ Excellent = 80% and over partnerships 	<p>No maximum limit set.</p> <p>Under \$5,000 minimum of one written quote</p> <p>\$5,000 - \$80,000 minimum of three written quotes</p> <p>More than \$80,000 a formal open tender process is required or limited tender in a particularly specialised market. Applicants would normally be required to conduct an open tender process following project approval.</p>	<p>Nil</p>

GRANT AGENCY	GRANT SCHEME	TYPE OF PROJECTS FUNDED	MAXIMUM AMOUNT AVAILABLE	CO-CONTRIBUTION REQUIRED
Breakwater Island Casino Community Benefit Fund	Breakwater Island Casino	<p>Provides grants to non-profit community organisations in North Queensland which provide facilities or services to the community at large; this includes new buildings, or alterations and additions to existing buildings.</p> <p>Applications are restricted to capital expenditure projects or items (e.g. equipment).</p>	Grants usually do not exceed \$5,000	Not required
Queensland Treasury	Gambling Community Benefit Fund	<p>Fund assists not-for-profit community groups to provide services and activities through the provision of a one-off grant.</p> <p>Funding may be provided for the following purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organisational infrastructure ▪ Equipment needed to carry out activities ▪ Special one-off events ▪ Community and organisational development projects ▪ Minor capital works ▪ Upgrades to community facilities ▪ Motor vehicle purchase costs 	Applications for up to \$30,000 are encouraged, but applications for larger grants will be considered.	Nil
Australian Sports Commission	Active After-school Communities Program	This initiative is aimed at improving the health and well-being of young people (of primary school age) through structured physical activities.	Amount not defined	Nil

GRANT AGENCY	GRANT SCHEME	TYPE OF PROJECTS FUNDED	MAXIMUM AMOUNT AVAILABLE	CO-CONTRIBUTION REQUIRED
<p>Australian Government Water Fund</p>	<p>Community Water Grants</p>	<p>The Australian Governments Community Water Grants is jointly administered by the Australian Government Departments of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Environment and Heritage. Grants are available to LGA's, schools, Indigenous organisations & community groups such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental groups Rural organisations Sporting associations and social clubs Community-care sector such as hospitals, nursing homes and childcare centres Regional natural resource management bodies <p>Grants are available for stormwater reuse, grey water reuse, installation of water saving devices eg irrigation or other equipment/infrastructure.</p> <p>Assessment Criteria are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the applicant acquitted all previous project funding from programmes such as the Natural Heritage Trust, as required? 2. Will the project promote water savings and water conservation through community engagement and awareness raising? 3. Will the project incorporate best practice management, innovative solutions and on-ground activities appropriate to local issues? 4. Does the project represent good value for taxpayers' money? 5. Is the project feasible, technically sound and safe for human health? 6. Is the project something for which the applicant would normally be responsible, or something that someone else should be paying for? 7. Does the project align with the natural resource management plan for the region or is it part of an existing plan for sustainable management of the environment in the local area? 8. Does the project align with the natural resource management plan for the region or is it part of an existing plan for sustainable management of the environment in the local area? 	<p>Not stated</p> <p>www.communitywatergrants.gov.au</p>	<p>Applicants are expected to contribute towards the cost of the project in cash and/or in-kind.</p> <p>In-kind contributions should be costed at the same rate as items or services that must be bought.</p> <p>Exception is volunteer labour which should be costed at \$20 per hour (GST inclusive).</p>

GRANT AGENCY	GRANT SCHEME	TYPE OF PROJECTS FUNDED	MAXIMUM AMOUNT AVAILABLE	CO-CONTRIBUTION REQUIRED
Australian Sports Foundation	Community Benefit Program	<p>The project must “benefit the community by aiming to increase opportunities for Australians to participate in sport activities or to excel in sports performance”. The types of projects that may be eligible are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facility development or refurbishment ▪ Facility feasibility studies ▪ Equipment ▪ Travel ▪ Major events ▪ Sports development 	<p>Minimum \$500 to \$1,000,000+</p> <p>Up to \$50,000 for feasibility studies.</p>	Nil
Department of Employment and Training (Queensland)	Community Jobs Plan	<p>The Community Jobs Plan funds organisations to provide unemployed Queenslanders with paid work and job experience on community based projects for three to six months.</p> <p>To be eligible for funding, projects and proposals need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be community based and result in public benefit ▪ Provide a diverse range of work experiences ▪ Provide opportunities for training and skills acquisition ▪ Be delivered at no cost to participants ▪ Have the potential to lead to further employment opportunities for participants. 	Not defined.	Council will generally need to meet all costs except the labour costs of the employed workers

GRANT AGENCY	GRANT SCHEME	TYPE OF PROJECTS FUNDED	MAXIMUM AMOUNT AVAILABLE	CO-CONTRIBUTION REQUIRED
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme	<p>Local Governments and eligible community groups are able to apply for grants for projects such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capital work such as improvements to existing boat ramps ▪ Enhancing boating safety measures ▪ Establishing and upgrading volunteer marine rescue associations to provide safety for anglers ▪ Activities to protect, preserve, and enhance fish habitats, including re-snagging rivers and waterways ▪ Activities of local fish restocking groups ▪ Pest animal and plant control to protect common recreational fish species or ecological communities ▪ Enhancing angler training 	Grants up to \$100,000 (GST inclusive)	
Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs	Living in Harmony Community Grants Program	<p>The overall aim of the community grants program is to develop projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote harmony between people and groups from different cultural, racial, religious or social backgrounds in the local community; and ▪ Build on positive values held by many people in the community - social harmony, acceptance of others, commitment to Australia, helping in times of crisis, fairness and equality. <p>Applications will be considered for activities directed at the following areas - young people, law/justice, media/arts, school/education, sporting organisation; and workplaces.</p>	Between \$5,000 and \$50,000	Nil
Department of Main Roads	Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme	This Scheme provides funding for a range of road-based projects but also cycleway and access programs. Of interest to Council will be projects that “improve access to national parks and recreation areas” and “development of bikeway networks”.	Contact local Regional Officer for details	Contact local Regional Officer for details