



Sport and Recreation Infrastructure and Strategic Plan 2018-2028



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Foreword

The Sport and Recreation Infrastructure and Strategic Plan is an exciting milestone for the North Burnett Regional Council - being the first Council-wide sport and recreation planning project undertaken since amalgamation.

The Plan is a product of extensive community engagement and provides a clear direction forward for the next 10 years. It is a guideline of how Council and the community can continue to work together in delivering quality sport and recreation services. It also identifies areas for advancement and improvement. Finally, it endeavours to keep operational costs manageable while delivering facilities that can enhance community well-being.

Importantly, the Plan highlights cross-council collaboration opportunities that aim to ensure activities and facilities complement, rather than compete, with existing opportunities.

Council is proud to deliver this Plan and excited to use it as a key guiding tool to ensure quality sport and recreation outcomes for the community.

This Plan has been part-funded by the Queensland Government's Get Planning Places funding program.

Version control

Version	Date	Document	Author	Reviewer	Recipient
V01	25.05.18	DRAFT Sport and Recreation Plan	Dion Collins	Emily Wagon	Lucas Bell
V02	11.06.18	Revised draft	Dion Collins		Lucas Bell
V03	14.06.18	Revised draft	Dion Collins		Lucas Bell
V04	03.08.18	Final draft	Dion Collins		Lucas Bell
V05	14.08.18	Final	Dion Collins		Lucas Bell
V06	13.09.18	Final (revised)	Dion Collins		Lucas Bell

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This report has been prepared by:

ROSS Planning Pty Ltd
ABN 32 508 029 959
Upper floor, 63 Bay Terrace
Wynnum QLD 4178

PO Box 5660
Manly QLD 4179

Telephone: (07) 3901 0730



Contents

Beiers Park, Biggenden



Introduction and background	1
Purpose	1
Defining key terms	2
Benefits of physical activity	3
The North Burnett community	4
Engagement summary	5
Recreation and sport in North Burnett	6
Understanding Council's role	6
Current supply	7
Key issues with the current network	9
Demand for recreation and sport	11
Open space and recreation trends	11
Sporting trends	12
Recreation and sport analysis	14
Sport and recreation analysis methods	14
Recreation analysis	15
Outdoor recreation analysis	19
Sport analysis	21
Biggenden	25
Eidsvold	31
Gayndah	37
Monto	47
Mount Perry	53
Mundubbera	59
Additional locations	67
Local government collaboration	69
Implementation plan	70



Introduction and background

Purpose

North Burnett is a region of picturesque environments with an abundance of natural resources that support a diverse range of recreation and sporting activities, creating a healthy country lifestyle. The area includes a range of lakes and dams, national parks and the rural setting supports equine activities.

North Burnett Regional Council has sought to develop a Sport and Recreation Infrastructure and Strategic Plan (the Plan) to ensure the region continues to create a sense of place that encourages and creates opportunities for the community to live an active and healthy lifestyle, now and into the future.

The Plan provides a current status of the region's sport and recreation facilities and presents actions to sustainably deliver diverse opportunities for the community and visitors. Additionally, the Plan will reflect recent trends, changing community needs and demographics. A successful open space network with quality sport and recreation facilities requires considerable planning and an understanding of local influences (recreation preferences and demographics).

This Plan aims to create a region:

- » where the sport and recreation environment and infrastructure improve the livability of the community.

The Plan will assist Council in preparing future budgets, in quickly evaluating community requests and in ensuring shovel-ready projects for when funding becomes available. Additionally, it will provide data and direction to ensure that Council and the community are making informed decisions with a strategic focus. It is important to note, however, that the Plan reflects Council's limited financial and human resources and looks to provide directions that align with resource realities.

Approach

The methodology used in the development of this Plan has been broken down into different stages and included:

- » background research
- » sport and recreation site audits
- » community consultation
- » demand analysis
- » draft development and presentation
- » review and finalisation.

The information gathered and generated throughout this process provides the various outputs required to produce a robust quality Plan.

Scope

The Plan focuses on Council owned and/or managed public open space (community land, Crown land under Council control and road reserve). However, natural areas (including State Forests and National and Conservation Parks), have been considered for their role in providing for nature-based recreation and tourism while privately-owned sport facilities have also been included given the pressure they take off Council for provision.

This Plan does not provide detailed analysis of each individual Council reserve nor operational actions. However, it provides strategic guidance on key identified issues from the network and includes actions to encourage opportunities for increased participation in sport and recreation by a broad cross-section of the community.

Information contained within this Plan is based on an audit and assessment of the Council's open space network and recreation facilities, and is a snapshot in time only. This information is accurate as at February 2018. Any facility developments or data updates since this time may not have been taken into account.

Wide-ranging engagement was undertaken to ensure community and Council perception and preference assisted to identify demand. Summaries of the engagement strategy and key outcomes are included throughout the Plan.

Additional input

The Plan reflects demand identified through engagement and analysis. Where individual sporting organisations did not engage in the consultation process, current and future infrastructure requirements may not have been identified. Potentially, these groups may have requirements that can be added directly to the Plan at its regular reviews.

Defining key terms

For ease of reference, the terms described below have been split between activities (what is undertaken) and spaces (where activities are undertaken).

Activities

Sport 	a range of structured activities capable of achieving a result requiring physical exertion and/or skill, that is competitive or training for competition. Sport is considered to be an 'organised' activity.
Passive recreation 	a range of unstructured activities and social interactions undertaken for enjoyment, relaxation and mental health, with limited physical exertion. Passive recreation can be undertaken at all forms of open space and may include reading, meditation and relaxing in nature.
Active recreation 	refers to recreation activities that require physical exertion but are unstructured, such as parkrun events and charity bike rides. These recreation types are also known as 'drop-in drop-out' and 'fast food' activities.
Outdoor recreation 	a range of largely unstructured activities undertaken in more natural settings that are not reliant on built infrastructure. Typical activities include mountain biking, bushwalking, fishing and kayaking/canoeing.

Spaces

Open space 	Council-managed land and water bodies that are broadly available for public recreation, pedestrian and cycle movement, sport or for nature conservation purposes. Open space is the over-arching term for sports parks and recreation parks.
Sports parks 	designed to primarily support a range of formal structured sport activities such as competitions, physical skill development and training. These parks are designed to accommodate the playing surface and infrastructure requirements of specific sports. Free, unrestricted access to the community is provided at times when formal sporting activities are not being conducted.
Recreation parks 	settings for informal recreation and social activities that enhance physical and mental health through activity that provides relaxation, amusement or stimulation. Recreation parks provide a range of embellishments such as play equipment, kick-about areas, picnic facilities, formalised walks, gardens, landscaped areas, access to water bodies and car parking.
Reserves 	Crown Land managed as open space. May include sports parks, recreation parks and showgrounds.

Benefits of physical activity

Regular physical activity is one of the most important influences on personal health. Physical activity levels directly affect physical and mental health as well as contributing to social, economic and environmental benefits. The natural areas and open space network in North Burnett influences physical activity levels of residents and visitors by encouraging recreation in parks and public places.



Physical benefits

- » reduced risk of chronic disease
- » reduced risk of developing and dying from a variety of cancers
- » prevention of weight gain when coupled with healthy nutrition and improved weight management
- » reduced risk of osteoporosis and osteoarthritis
- » increased energy
- » improved sleep quality
- » improved mobility flexibility and functional ability
- » reduced risk of falling and fracturing bones



Mental benefits

- » prevention and treatment of anxiety and depression
- » stress reduction
- » improved mood and sense of well-being
- » improved concentration, enhanced memory and learning and better performance
- » increased vitality, psychological well-being and improved body image
- » improved cognitive functioning including motor function, cognitive speed, auditory and visual attention



Social benefits

- » improved family and community connectedness
- » development of communication, interpersonal, leadership and cooperation skills
- » creation of friendships
- » lessons on how to deal with winning and losing
- » better concentration at school and improved academic performance
- » reduction in unhealthy behaviours (such as tobacco smoking, drug use)
- » prolonged, independent living



Economic benefits

- » creation of employment in the sport, recreation, fitness and tourism industries
- » attraction of tourism through destination marketing and recreation activities
- » reduction in household expenditure when choosing active transport options (walking and cycling)
- » support for local businesses when pedestrian and cyclist activity is improved through creation of spaces and places encouraging physical activity



Environmental benefits

- » reduced stormwater runoff through onsite capture in open spaces
- » lower daytime temperatures in large shaded parks compared with surrounding streets
- » reduced air pollution and greenhouse gases through fewer cars on the road
- » reduced impacts of road infrastructure when short trips are walked or cycled instead of driven
- » improved local neighbourhood amenity when traffic is reduced.

The North Burnett community

An individual's preference to participate in sport or recreation activities is often influenced by their stage in life. Understanding the region's demographic variations, such as age and household composition is fundamental to responding to, and planning for the future provision of the region's sport and recreation facilities and programs.

Demographic considerations

In 2016, the North Burnett Regional Council area had a population of almost 10,500¹. With a median age of 46 years (well above the State average of 37 years), the population base has a high proportion of older adults (and a corresponding lower proportion of young people). Further in Eidsvold, Gayndah and Mundubbera, 1,000-2,000 seasonal workers (from throughout Europe, Tonga, Korea, Papua New Guinea and Sudan) increase local population significantly. Some of these workers look to join local sporting teams, while others prefer informal participation. Additionally, the Region provides recreation opportunities (such as fishing) to visitors and tourists.

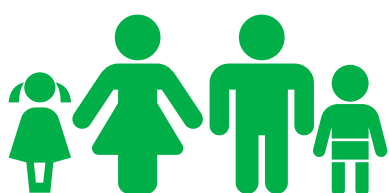
It is also important to note that significant population decreases are forecast for the area² (projected 2036 population of 9,726). In fact, the number of young people 0-44 years (the key ages competing in formal sport and enjoying informal play) are expected to decrease by more than 1,100 between 2015 and 2036. A decreasing and aging population base highlights the importance of strategic decision-making with regard to sport and recreation facility and services planning and development. Older individuals are more likely to be seeking informal recreation opportunities such as walking, bushwalking, cycling and relaxation in park settings.

¹ 2016 Census QuickStats, Australian Bureau of Statistics

² Queensland Government Population Projections, 2015 edition: Australian Bureau of Statistics - Projected population (medium series) by local government area Queensland

Population.....

10,478



Median age **46...** Qld median age = 37

less than 14 years

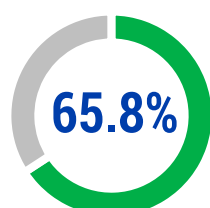
15 to 24 years

25 to 44 years

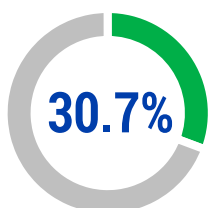
45 to 64 years

65 years plus

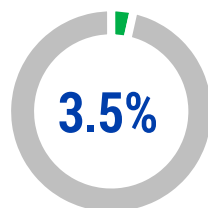
Household.....



family household



single household



group household

Vehicle.....

Access to 1 or more motor vehicles

88.8%



Internet.....

Households with access to the internet

66.2%



Demographics - what this means for North Burnett

In terms of impacts for the future planning and development of sport and recreation opportunities, these demographic considerations suggest:

- » sports clubs are unlikely to experience significant membership increases
- » a range of recreation opportunities that are attractive across the ages (and nationalities) should continue to be made available across the parks network
- » increasing demand for passive recreation pursuits such as walking, bushwalking, cycling and relaxation (and the ancillary facilities that support these activities such as shaded seating and water bubblers)
- » many users will continue to drive to access recreation and sport
- » email and internet-based communication should not be solely relied upon to promote facilities and activities available across the network.

Engagement summary

Community engagement

A wide ranging community engagement strategy was adopted during the development of the Plan to gain an understanding of the role recreation and sport play in the social fabric of the community.

A range of tools and techniques were used to engage target groups and the general community, ensuring all interested people had multiple opportunities to comment during the development of the Plan. Engagement involved a number of key methods:

- » community workshops
- » community survey
- » sport and recreation club survey
- » school classroom workshops in primary and secondary schools (where they exist) in Biggenden, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Monto, Mount Perry and Mundubbera
- » additional community engagement activities included intercept surveys at recreation and sport parks and phone interviews with key stakeholders.

These engagement processes were advertised via Council's website, Council-driven social media platforms, Council's community newsletter, local newspapers and radio, direct email and phone calls.

Council engagement

Council engagement activities included small group and individual interviews with both Council officers and Councillors.



Biggenden Sports Complex






Recreation and sport in North Burnett

Understanding Council's role

North Burnett Regional Council is committed to supporting the community to be healthy and active. This Plan reconfirms Council's endeavours to work in partnership with community organisations, private providers and government agencies to achieve shared goals.

It is important for Council to be clear about its role and the role of other organisations in the provision of recreation and sport to the community. Council's role is explored in more detail below.

<p>A Provider</p> 	<p>Council delivers services to meet community, recreation and sport club's needs by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » undertaking community consultation to inform strategic direction and policy position » providing quality sporting grounds that are under lease, licence or user agreements with Council » providing a range of recreation parks catering for all age groups across the local government area (LGA) » providing outdoor recreation facilities, opportunities and events
<p>A Partner</p> 	<p>Collaboration, co-operation and forming strategic partnerships with government, business and community sectors to support the provision of recreation and sport including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » identifying key stakeholders » encouraging and supporting community organisations » supporting funding applications by organisations that are consistent with Council's strategic direction » developing strong relationships with state and federal government departments including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Department of Public Works and Housing – Queensland Health – Department of Transport and Main Roads – Department of Education
<p>A Funder</p> 	<p>Council provides strategically targeted funding opportunities to community organisations and individuals to support the provision of recreation and sport including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » community and regionally significant event sponsorship » physical and healthy programs and activities sponsorship » provision of equipment and resources via in-kind sponsorship » unique projects or programs aimed at building capacity to deliver services activities and programs
<p>Strategic direction</p> 	<p>Council's role is to take a long-term view to planning sustainably for the provision of recreation opportunities through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » planning scheme and Local Government Infrastructure Plan provisions » strategic planning and partnership development » policy development » master planning for open space, active transport, infrastructure and facilities » sustainable asset management practices » research and trend identification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – social planning and demographics – community specific research

Current supply

Council has an in-depth knowledge of its individual communities and can influence recreation and sport participation outcomes through its role as a strategic and land-use planning authority, a provider and manager of facilities and services, and a community leader.

Open space network (parks and sport)

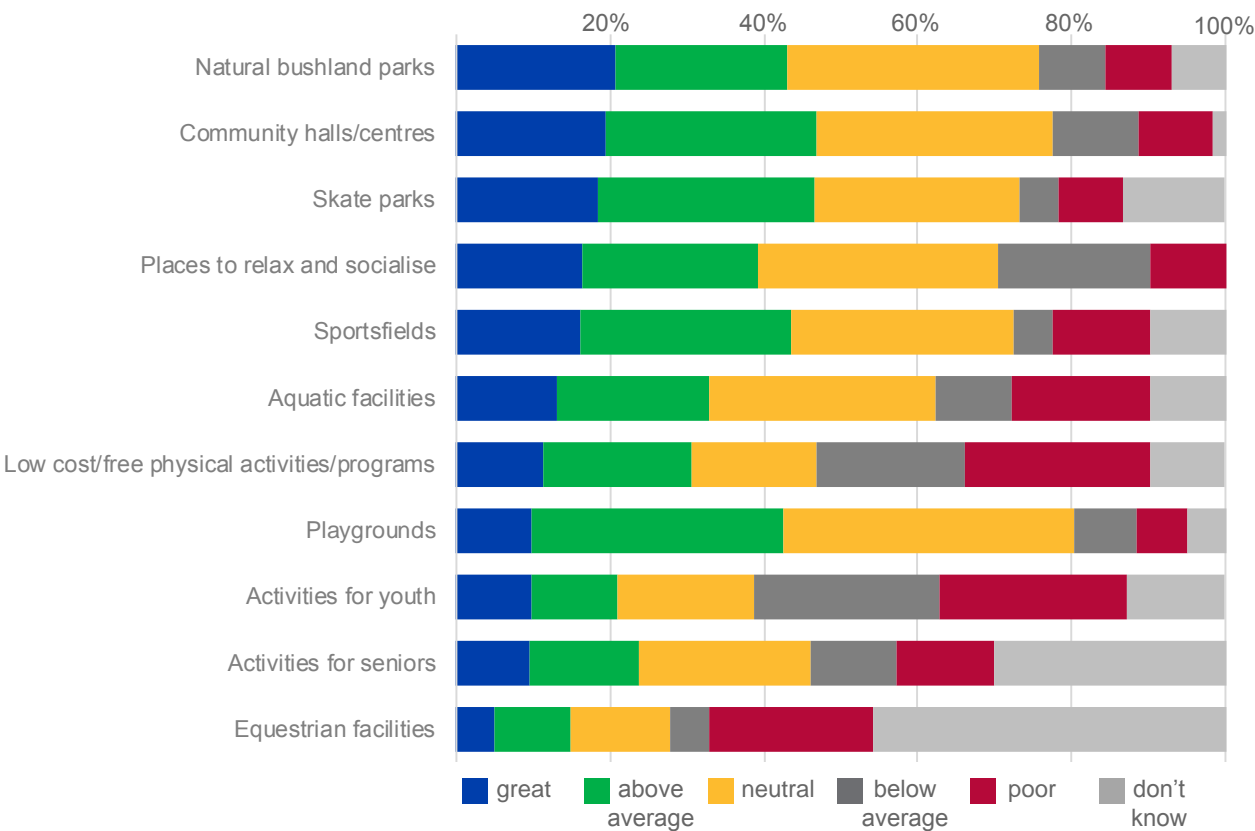
One of the methods of community engagement was a community survey. Survey responses revealed that Council has created an environment where:

- » 56% of respondents visit the open space network twice a week or more
- » 72% of respondents view open space as very important
- » 62% of respondents perceive recreation, sport and open space as a high or very high priority for Council .

As part of the survey, residents were asked to rate the overall quality of the recreation and open space opportunities/facilities in the region. While the results above note that the open space network is well-used and is considered an important priority, respondents indicated mixed satisfaction in quality.

Community halls/centre and skate parks received the highest combined satisfaction rating of great and above average. Natural bushland parks, playground and sportsfields also received high combined satisfaction ratings (see graph below). However, respondents were generally displeased with the region’s activities for youth and low cost/free activities. It is important to critically analyse these results as they represent expressed opinions and may not accurately reflect the provision of facilities and activities.

How would you rate the overall quality of recreation and sporting opportunities?



Outdoor recreation

In addition to the network of recreation and sport parks available to the community and visitors, there are lakes; dams; waterways; and national, state and conservation parks providing a range of outdoor recreation opportunities.

The natural setting of these assets and the opportunities they provide for interaction with the natural environment is highly valued by three quarters of residents that completed the community survey. Council has an opportunity to leverage these natural assets, in addition to the open space network it manages directly, to extend the recreation, nature-based and ecotourism opportunities available to the community and visitors.

Lakes, dams and waterways

Within the region there are dams and waterways providing extensive outdoor recreation opportunities including nature appreciation, camping, swimming, canoe/kayaking, fishing and motorised boating activities (for example tubing and skiing). The Water Trails of the Wide Bay Burnett brochure promotes the region's inland freshwater rivers and creeks, dams and weirs including:

- » Auburn River National Park
- » Claude Wharton Weir
- » Jones Weir
- » Kirar Weir
- » Lake Cania
- » Lake Wuruma
- » Mingo Crossing
- » Paradise Dam.

Access to the region's waterways, supporting infrastructure and facilities at the sites were identified as an issue during community consultation. Just over a third (37%) of respondents would like to see Council prioritise the improvement of the facilities along the rivers, creeks and dams.

This Plan examines the available water-based recreation opportunities within the region and provides strategic recommendations including:

- » the development of master plans for popular sites to ensure suitable community access and quality facilities to support the desired water-based recreation activities
- » increased promotion of sites both locally and as tourism destinations.



National, state and conservation parks

The region's undulating terrain and relatively undeveloped National Parks offer a wilderness experience and scenic vistas. With many towns within easy access to State Forests, National and Conservation Parks, there are numerous opportunities for locals and visitors to participate in outdoor recreation activities.

Natural areas within the region that offer outdoor recreation experiences include:

- » Auburn River National Park
- » Cania Gorge National Park
- » Coalstoun Lakes National Park
- » Goodnight Scrub National Park
- » Kalpowar State Forest
- » Coongara Rock and falls
- » Mount Debateable
- » Mount Gayndah
- » Mount Perry
- » Mount Walsh
- » Mount Woowoonga.

The increasing trend in unstructured activities compared with traditional activities such as sport, is leading more people to explore natural areas and 'get back to nature'. North Burnett's location within easy driving distance from South East Queensland provides an opportunity to 'package' the diversity of recreation opportunities on offer for promotion locally and to visitors for either weekend getaways or longer stays. The formation of partnerships and commitment to a collaborative approach with relevant land managers will be required to maximise outdoor recreation opportunities and benefits while protecting natural area ecological and biodiversity values.



Key issues with the current network

Below is a summary of the key issues that arose from the engagement process regarding North Burnett's existing sport and recreation network.

Ageing infrastructure and resource realities

Just under 90% of the community survey respondents believe that recreation, sport and open space should be a high or very high priority for Council, especially considering the many social, economic and health benefits associated with a quality network.

However, 40% of survey respondents that experienced a barrier to access the open space network expressed dissatisfaction with the standard of maintenance being undertaken in parks, along pathways and aquatic facilities. Field and facility maintenance at sports parks was also highlighted by a number of sporting clubs, some expressing safety concern for their players. Interestingly, when respondents were asked what they valued about the open space network 42% valued their cleanliness and high level of maintenance.

While the region's swimming pools, bushwalking tracks and footpaths were popular locations to recreate, many survey respondents felt they were too run-down and/or outdated. A similar trend was observed during site inspections of the region's playgrounds and sports facilities.

The size, geographic spread and amount of land making up Council's open space network creates a significant maintenance schedule of vegetation control (slashing, mowing, trimming), facility inspection, cleaning and maintenance. Council needs to either decrease the level of service (number of parks and/or maintenance standard) for open spaces or increase dedicated resources (staff and operational budget).

As previously noted, Council has limited financial and human resources to spread across a range of competing objectives. To ensure affordability, many of the recommendations included in the Plan will require support from user groups, State and Federal Governments. Importantly, the Plan has identified little demand for any new or expanded facilities. Rather, focus should be on ensuring that existing infrastructure is of a quality that reflects relevant expectations and standards (e.g. that canteens meet necessary food safety requirements, that field lighting levels reflect the relevant Australian Standards).

Lack of supporting infrastructure

Despite an ageing community, increasing participation numbers in walking and access to existing natural scenery; the open space network is significantly lacking infrastructure that allows users to relax and enjoy the serenity. Additional walk/cycleways are required to link and loop these key assets, especially those located along the Burnett River. Further, bench seats and water bubblers along the walk/cycleways would create a more comfortable environment for users.

Lack of connectivity between pathways to key destinations was identified by 25% of respondents. With an ageing community and schools in close proximity to residential areas, provision of walk and cycle pathways can impact recreation participation significantly.

The lack of ancillary facilities was also identified as an ongoing issue at sports parks. Many clubs noted that simple upgrades such as spectator areas, shade covers and bench seats would improve their facility.

The lack of shade throughout the open space network was a common theme identified throughout community engagement. Indeed, shade was a barrier to open space use for 28% of survey respondents (and was the second highest barrier identified). Natural shade from well-selected trees can be a more sustainable alternative than shade structures where planting is appropriate.

Activities and programs

Council has previously conducted the Healthy North Burnett program throughout Eidsvold, Mundubbera and Gayndah to increase participation. The program has been dormant for a number of years. However, in early 2018 Council was successful in attracting State Government funding to deliver a 12-week program to encourage women and girls to engage in active lifestyles by using private providers.

The reality is that Council simply does not currently have the resources to provide programs in-house. Rather, the Plan recommends Council continues to seek funding to enable private providers to run free (or low cost) activities in the parks under a revamped Healthy North Burnett 'banner'.

Natural settings are highly valued

One of the opened-ended questions included in the survey asked respondents to identify their favourite open space/ park. It is important to recognise that a number of the most common responses relate to areas with key natural areas including:

- » Burnett River
- » Cania Gorge
- » Mingo Crossing
- » rail trails.

Many survey respondents noted that they like the interaction with nature and the green, quiet spaces they provide.

These findings are reinforced by:

- » just under 30% of all activities participated in by community survey respondents occur in natural areas
- » the natural setting being the most valued aspect of open space, following by the interaction with the natural environment (third)
- » improved facilities at water bodies being highlighted as the second highest priority for Council.

Access to rivers and lakes

Quality camping and fishing facilities have been developed at a number of the dams in the region. These venues are popular with locals and also draw visitors to the area. In contrast the Burnett River is yet to be well-activated.

The Burnett River is a key feature for the region running through Gayndah and Mundubbera, near to Eidsvold and between Biggenden and Mount Perry. The river provides attractive views yet, with steep banks, it has yet to be well-activated as a site for recreation. The Plan provides a number of relatively simple actions to provide greater river access.

Opportunities for rail trails

Developing disused rail corridors as sites for walking, cycling and horse riding is becoming a common process to increase physical activity (and nature-based tourism). A group of keen rail trail enthusiasts have been espousing opportunities for a Burnett River Rail Trail for a number of years. While the State Government has recently announced funding for planning and developing rail trails through the Queensland Cycling Action Plan, Council is reluctant to commit to the Burnett River Rail Trail given prohibitive costs associated with establishment and maintenance. Regardless, in collaboration with Gladstone Regional Council, an Inland Rail Trail feasibility study will be completed by early-2019.



Slab Creek Bridge (disused),
between Philpott and Humphery

Demand for recreation and sport

Participation patterns in recreation are changing at a community level. Factors such as a move toward non-organised structured sport, increased use of technology, and increased time pressures have all had a significant impact on how people recreate. Understanding these trends (and their impacts) is important as Council looks to develop strategies, programs and facilities to encourage people to engage in recreation activities.

Open space and recreation trends



Challenge parks with nature play elements

Challenge parks, featuring elements of nature play, are an emerging type of park. They generally feature multiple play nodes to cater for different ages, gardens, water play areas and lagoons, large open grassy spaces, shady picnic spots with quality facilities, ponds and water features, areas of natural woodland and vegetation and kilometres of shared paths and boardwalks to explore. High tree house structures, sky walks and natural elements are introducing risk back into play, enabling children to develop an awareness of limits and boundaries.

Council has recently developed recreation facilities at RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre, Eidsvold which offer a variety of play elements, including nature play and a flying fox, for people of all ages.



Move towards informal recreation

National participation rates in organised sport have been declining for a number of years as participants move toward Participation patterns in recreation are changing at a community level. Factors such as a move toward non-organised structured sport, increased use of technology, and increased time pressures have all had a significant impact on how people recreate. Understanding these trends (and their impacts) is important as Council looks to develop strategies, programs and facilities to encourage people to engage in recreation activities.



Ageing community

North Burnett is an ageing community, with a median age of 46 years (higher than the State with a median age of 37 years) .

An ageing community requires:

- » greater emphasis on low impact physical activity
- » access to community infrastructure that will require wider pathways, improved wheelchair/disabled access/ parking, more lighting, shaded seats for resting along pathways and wider hallways
- » increased use of mobility scooters as a convenient method of transportation.



Impacts of technology

Technology remains one of the main contributors towards decreased physical activity and increased sedentary behaviour. However, many councils are now using technology within recreation areas including WiFi access in key parks, promoting existing geocaching and by using digital tools for information and marketing on tracks and signage.

Technology is also bringing about an increasing divergence of outdoor recreation activities. Participants are able to map their route, record their times and upload digital images of their experience. This allows them to compete and compare results with past and/or future users (Strava, Map My Ride etc). Growth in these activities has encouraged research into more refined technologies to engender wider participation in activities such as geocaching and mountain biking.

Rationalisations

Where open space parcels are undeveloped, are poorly located, are attracting regular anti-social behaviour and/or are not providing recreation opportunities desired by the nearby catchment (and are thus sitting idle), opportunities may exist to rationalise the land. Depending on the land tenure, this may include re-purposing as an alternate use, 'planting out' with trees to reduce maintenance, sale of the land or returning the land to the State.

Councils are becoming more cognisant of not retaining (and maintaining) open space that does not serve a community recreation function.

The majority of community survey respondents could not identify any unnecessary open spaces or facilities across the region, but believed a number were of poor quality and needed upgrading.

Tourism – cultural and nature appreciation

It is estimated that the market for nature-based tourism is increasing at six times the rate of tourism overall. Some of the factors that have contributed to this growing trend in nature-based tourism are that people are looking for new experiences, adding diversity to their experiences, combining business travel with holidays, and looking to “get back to nature”.

The number of nature-based visitors to Queensland National Parks reached 51 million from domestic travellers and 7.9 million visits from international travellers in 2012 .

Interestingly, three of the top five most popular nature-based experiences that visitors seek are readily available in North Burnett:

- » visit national parks/state forests
- » bushwalking/rainforest walks
- » cultural heritage experiences.

Sporting trends

Field sharing

With many sports extending the lengths of pre-season and season fixtures, sharing of field space is becoming more difficult. Additionally, there is a trend toward year-round sport with a number of codes also providing alternate opportunities in the off-season (e.g. small-sided football conducted in the summer sporting season).

North Burnett Regional Council has developed centralised sports parks in each town, where both ancillary and playing facilities are shared.

Field and court quality

Facility providers face an increasing trend to develop and re-develop sporting fields and courts to a higher level in order to increase carrying capacity. Upgrades, such as lighting and field irrigation, allow training and competition times to be extended and increases the ability of turf playing fields to cope with the resulting wear and tear. Further, to achieve ongoing field quality, fields need 'rest periods' (of up to four weeks) where necessary maintenance can be undertaken.

The playing fields in Gayndah and Mundubbera are in appropriate condition while the facilities in Monto, Eidsvold and Biggenden require irrigation and surface upgrades to provide a safe and level playing facility.

Volunteer sport organisations

The rate of volunteering in sport and recreation clubs has been declining for many years. Often, the responsibility for running clubs falls to one or two key personnel. To address this issue, there is a move toward amalgamations, with multi-sport clubs becoming more common. In other cases, organisations may become aligned to larger licensed clubs that take over some or all of the volunteers' roles as well as asset management responsibilities.

It is vital to note that 87% of the clubs that responded to the club survey indicated that the same people volunteering/no new volunteers was a high or medium issue for their club. Similarly declining number of volunteers was identified as a high (33%) or medium (53%) issue.



Participation trends

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducted a nation-wide Children's (5 to 14 years) Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities Survey every three years between 2000 and 2012. Overall, participation in organised sport has not changed significantly across these years with rates of between 59% and 64%, identified across the five surveys (2000, 2003, 2006, 2009 and 2012). For those children involved in organised sport, 32% are only involved in one sport.

At a national-level, the reduction in available leisure time has resulted in a trend for adults to move away from organised sport toward physical activity and non-organised (social) sport. The ABS has conducted a nation-wide Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation Survey for adults over 15 years of age in 2005/06, 2009/10 and 2011/12. The survey shows that participation in organised sport reduced slightly while non-organised sport reported increases.

Participation trends in organised sport in North Burnett is mixed depending on the location, level of promotion and type of activity (structured/social).

Limited population growth projected in North Burnett is a contributing factor to steady (or declining) membership numbers. Club survey responses indicate that approximately half of the clubs expect their membership numbers to remain the same over the next three years. Two thirds of clubs find it difficult to attract new members, while half identified falling membership numbers as a high or medium issue.



Monto Sports Complex

Emerging trends - what this means for North Burnett

Open space and recreation

- » need for more creative, challenging and natural play elements
- » continue to develop recreation facilities attractive to all ages and abilities
- » establish quality walk/cycle loops at key locations
- » recognise a move away from traditional sport
- » in addition to traditional sport planning and development, investigate opportunities to assist residents and visitors seeking outdoor recreation experiences (even where these may be on land outside Council's direct control)

Sport

- » consider the need to irrigate and upgrade playing fields to meet higher-level facility expectations



Eidsvold Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve

This section presents an overall assessment of open space, recreation and physical activity, outdoor recreation and sport at a whole-of-Council level. It forms the precursor to the individual location analyses and actions in the following section.

Sport and recreation analysis methods

Standards-based approach

Desired standards of service

It is important to develop open spaces that meet the existing and projected future needs of the community. It can also be important that development reflects desired standards of service (DSS) for provision. These standards articulate the preferred directions that Council strives to provide. DSS for open space are, generally, categorised under three broad measures:

- » quantity of land for open space
- » access to open space
- » level of embellishment.

The *quantity standard* identifies the recommended minimum standards for the provision of land for open space. Standards are generally presented as hectares/1,000 (population).

The *access standard* refers to preferred maximum distances between residential areas and each open space type.

The *level of embellishment* standard indicates preferred facilities and activities within each open space type.

The access and quantity standards are, traditionally, the two primary measures used to assess and plan for open space land demands. However, for a number of key reasons (outlined in the adjoining discussion) this 'traditional' approach to open space planning is not preferred for North Burnett Regional Council.

Needs-based approach

The standards-based approach (DSS) to open space planning is most effectively used in greenfield situations where significant population growth is forecast. However, in a number of instances, this approach is not necessarily the only approach for consideration. Alternate approaches may be appropriate when:

- » infill development (rather than greenfield development) is planned
- » limited population growth is expected
- » planning areas consist of a number of separate smaller towns and villages.

North Burnett is typified by:

- » limited expectations of growth over the next 20 years
- » small villages and towns distributed across the LGA
- » generally larger residential block sizes.

Given these aspects of the LGA, the analysis presented in the Plan is a needs-based approach to open space planning as it relates to the provision of recreation and sport. The standards-based approach outcomes for access and embellishment have generally been considered for each planning area - to ensure there are appropriately located parks offering quality facilities. However, more weight is given to the planning area 'needs' as it considers the social, demographic and environmental characteristics of an area for which open space is needed and/or the type of embellishment required in an open space. Not only does the needs-based approach consider the number of people living in the area (more akin to standards-based planning), but importantly it also takes into account recreation preferences, demographic changes and impacts from existing facilities.

Recreation analysis

Informal recreation and physical activity

While participation rates in organised sport appearing to be steady (or declining) for adults across the LGA, participation in informal recreation activities is increasing. Consistent with national and state sporting trends, walking is the most popular activity that residents enjoy. Council recognises the importance of connectivity and active transport and has established quality walking (and cycling) opportunities in most of the larger towns. Additionally, works are currently underway for further links in Mount Perry and Gayndah.

With an ageing population and desire to continue to attract visitors, it is important that the network includes complementing infrastructure, such as bench seats, water bubblers and bike racks to allow users to rest. Directional and information signage should promote areas of recreation, scenic and/or cultural importance.

Play

There are many simple 'climb and slide' style playgrounds spread across the LGA. Many of these facilities are at the ends of their useful life. Classroom workshops identified that both younger and older children viewed these areas as somewhat 'boring'. Children are seeking more challenging play experiences such as flying foxes, climbing nets and giant slides. Additionally, more natural play (such as that recently established at the RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre) is preferred over the traditional 'blue, red and yellow' plastic play equipment.

Council's recently prepared Asset Management Plan (Parks and Open Spaces) identifies the higher-level parks across the LGA. The Plan highlights that continued development of these parks should include consideration for more modern and stimulating play opportunities. Further, it has identified the importance of replacing (or removing) playgrounds at the ends of their useful life.

In the smaller towns and villages, opportunities for community access to the high quality play opportunities within local state schools has been recommended for further investigation. The clear reality is that school facilities often include a sports oval, cricket practice nets and a range of quality formal play areas. While there may be perception of issues surrounding insurance (and potential injuries) and vandalism, these can be overcome through a memorandum of understanding between the Council and the Department of Education. As an example of the importance of community access to school facilities, the New South Wales State Government has recently announced the *Share our Space* program that provides \$5,000 for schools to open their playgrounds and outdoor sports facilities during the school holidays. Eighty schools participated during the recent Easter school holiday period following a highly successful trial over the Christmas/New Year school holidays.



Apex Park, Eidsvold



Memorial Park, Mount Perry



Monto Swimming Pool

Role of pools

There are five community pools located across the Council area. All of these pools are aging and a structural investigation (asset condition audit) has been recommended for each.

It is important to note that these pools have been established as venues for formal swimming and exercise and for learn-to-swim classes. Other than the water play elements at the Biggenden and Eidsvold facilities, none of the pools encourage water play, areas for socialisation or opportunities for additional recreation (such as kick-about space, playgrounds or picnicking). Interestingly, classroom workshops highlighted clearly that many young people do not view the pools as key sites for recreation and they are not popular.

The Plan highlights opportunities to further activate the pools through opening up the pool enclosures (relocating fencing), structured holiday programs and the provision of water activities. It may be possible for Council to acquire (purchase or hire) a number of inflatable activity structures that can be shared around the pools across the peak holiday period. While it would be 'easy' for the Plan to simply recommend construction of zero depth (and shallow) water play elements at each of the pools, this is not a feasible approach as it would be a very costly exercise (and in many cases would require a complete redesign of the facility).

Whilst further activating the pools will result in greater patronage, the overall condition of the pools requires assessment. All of Council's pools (and many of the ancillary structures supporting pools such as toilets and kiosks) are aging. Council should undertake a detailed asset condition audit (structural integrity investigations) to identify remaining life and any remedial work that can be undertaken to extend the life of assets.

Physical activity programs

Council has previously conducted a Healthy North Burnett physical activity program (that has been dormant for a number of years). Council has recently commenced a physical activity program for women and girls (after the survey was completed by the community). It is, therefore, not surprising that the two areas highlighted in survey responses being of poorest quality were activities for youth and low cost or free activities and programs.

With limited staff resources it is unlikely that Council will have an opportunity to formally 'conduct' programs of this nature. However, there is potential to continue to attract funding for Council to support local private providers and/or attract Healthy North Burnett volunteers to offer free (or low cost) activities for the community as is the case with the 2018 program. A number of providers are already conducting programs and Council's role could simply be to re-establish the Healthy North Burnett branded approach where it distributes funds in order to further activate the open space areas (and the community).



Archer Lookout, Gayndah

Resource realities and asset management planning

With a small population, Council has a limited rates base to draw upon for operational matters and capital works projects. Further exacerbating these stretched resources is the significant distances between a number of the towns and the expectation to provide a base level of facilities in each as a community service obligation.

This is not to say that Council needs to necessarily reduce the provision of these key assets rather to highlight the vast number of facilities Council is maintaining and the resource realities that need to be recognised. However, the Plan has identified two types of assets - toilets and barbecues - that require a re-think from a provision perspective.

In essence, local parks are smaller parks with fewer embellishments located within a short walk (or ride) from a residential area. They are designed for short stays of up to an hour and can be viewed as a simple open space retreat from one's backyard. Council's Asset Management Plan (Parks and Open Spaces) classifies each open space parcel and identifies that local parks should include "at least one of...playgrounds, toilet blocks, barbecues, shelters, tables/chairs, paths". This Plan does not suggest a review of this explanation of embellishments for local parks. However, it does suggest that in many instances there are too many local parks with too many of these assets. In many cases, local parks do not require barbecues - long stay activities such as family events and picnics requiring barbecues should be focussed on the district-level parks. Additionally, it costs Council approximately \$5,000 per annum per pedestal to maintain toilet blocks. There are a number of local parks that simply do not require a toilet block. Given that the catchment of local parks is nearby residents, the expectation can be made that the majority of park users have the ability to go home to use a toilet.

It is recognised that many of the park facilities in the Council area have been designed to meet the needs of travellers. However, asset planning should more clearly define those local parks specifically designed for residents and those with a role of providing for travellers (where the provision of toilets and barbecue may be more appropriate).

The Plan has recommended monitoring the use of a number of barbecues with potential for removal (or relocation) where they receive limited use. Additionally, a public toilet audit has been recommended at a Council-wide level.



Dowsett Park, Gayndah

Future directions for recreation and physical activity

Our vision for recreation and physical activity is:

"Residents and visitors are aware of and have access to a diverse range of affordable recreation and physical activity opportunities for all ages and abilities"

The vision reflects the community's and Council's desires to have residents and visitors engaged in recreation opportunities by providing facilities and programs that activate parks. From playgrounds for toddlers to more challenging nature play for children, to skate parks and bike tracks, from simple shaded areas to unwind to large picnic nodes for group gatherings - exciting opportunities will be provided to participants of all ages.

Guiding principles:

- » engaging facilities are provided in line with the needs of the community and identified target groups
- » there is a diversity in the function, type and setting of recreation facilities (the same play and picnic nodes are simply not repeated across every park and locality across the Council area)
- » appropriate embellishments are provided within open space to encourage physical activity
- » recreation nodes are collocated with sports, community buildings and other public spaces where possible
- » regular activation and programming of open space is encouraged and facilitated.

Priority actions

Liaise with Department of Education regional officers and local principals to understand the feasibility of 'activating' (outside school hours) the sport and play opportunities available at schools in smaller towns for local residents

Conduct a detailed audit of the number and location of public toilets throughout the LGA

Undertake a structural investigation of Council-owned public swimming pools

Conduct an information session for Councillors, the executive team and senior officers regarding modern play opportunities (consider undertaking site visits of modern play nodes in nearby councils)

Adopt a playground provision approach that reflects Council's desire for a diverse range of opportunities reflecting demand (rather than play duplication across parks) and with focussed development on one (or two) feature play parks within each town

Re-activate the Healthy North Burnett program to activate parks and increase opportunities for physical activity. Seek State Government funding in order to fund local providers and ensure free (or low cost) opportunities for participants

Investigate opportunities to further activate pools by incorporating additional areas for recreation, play and socialisation and providing stimulating water play elements such as inflatable activities



Biggenden Sports Complex

Outdoor recreation analysis

Embracing outdoor recreation

The North Burnett Regional Council area includes a wide range of natural open space assets. The Burnett River is a key feature along with dams, State Forests and National Parks. Together, these areas have the potential to provide an array of outdoor recreation experiences. However, many of these areas are not connected to the open space network and/or have not been promoted or targeted as quality places for recreation. As a result, the Plan highlights the opportunity to embrace outdoor recreation as a key form of recreation that is becoming increasingly popular yet remains largely 'untapped'.

As support for the importance of outdoor recreation and engaging with the outdoors, when asked what was valued about open space in the Council area, by far the most common response in the community survey was - the natural setting (73%). Interaction with the natural environment was also the third highest response (50%).

It is no surprise that four of the top five most popular activities can be categorised as outdoor recreation. The top activities were:

- » walking
- » swimming for recreation
- » bushwalking
- » gardening
- » fishing.

Similarly, three of the top four preferred locations encourage outdoor recreation. The top four responses were:

- » at home
- » swimming pool
- » rivers/creeks/dams
- » bushwalking tracks.

Burnett River Rail Trail

Rail trails are shared-use paths recycled from abandoned railway corridors. They can be used for walking, cycling and horse riding. They are generally long flat routes that, once established, often prove very popular for locals and visitors.

Rail trails can link country towns and villages and may run past features of historical significance (such as architectural rail bridges and tunnels). They can also provide access to important flora and fauna.

These trails can be either gravel, dirt, grass or sealed surfaces depending on the target user groups.

A number of popular rail trails exist in southern Queensland. The Brisbane Valley Rail Trail is a well-established 162km route running from Ipswich to Yarraman that attracts cyclists, walkers and horse riders alike. The Kilkivan to Kingaroy Rail Trail was only opened in mid-2017 and is already attracting high levels of use.

A keen group of trail enthusiasts have been promoting the potential for a Burnett River Rail Trail between Gayndah and Mundubbera for a number of years. This 37km trail would provide views and links with the Burnett River, opportunities to engage with flora and fauna and access to historic rail bridges.

Dams and river activation

As key sites for outdoor recreation, the dams and rivers are popular for both locals and visitors. The Plan has identified the need to provide further access for pedestrians and simple non-powered watercraft launch points to local rivers. Additionally, opportunities exist to develop further walking and water-based opportunities at dams through the provision of master plans (and the implementation of the approved master plan for Mingo Crossing).

Cania Gorge National Park rock climbing

Analysis undertaken in the recent Wide Bay Burnett Regional Sport and Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Study has highlighted the high quality rock climbing opportunities that exist within the Cania Gorge National Park. While these areas currently receive limited use, with nearby accommodation opportunities and access to the dam, further management and promotion is expected to see this area attract climbers from across Australia and abroad. Well-planned development and promotion will be required to ensure the environmental and cultural significance of the area can be preserved (and embraced).

Future directions for outdoor recreation

Our vision for outdoor recreation is:

"Natural settings across the North Burnett provide an integrated network of sustainable outdoor recreation experiences where our community, visitors and environment are in harmony"

The following guiding principles have been developed to assist the future provision and management of outdoor recreation and to balance recreation and conservation values that ensure sustainability of the natural environment:

- » conservation of natural areas should be considered in determining appropriate levels of activity
- » determine the carrying capacity of each natural area to host sustainable outdoor recreation activities prior to permitting the activity (including the identification of restricted sensitive areas)
- » outdoor recreation activities should primarily include only low maintenance infrastructure
- » outdoor recreation should utilise previously disturbed areas/bushland reserves where possible to prevent further impact.

Priority actions

Ensure continued liaison with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services and outdoor recreation groups to promote and activate existing outdoor recreation opportunities. Undertake a specific project focussing on activating the rock climbing opportunities at the Cania Gorge National Park.

Prepare master plans for Kirar Weir, Wuruma Dam and Paradise Dam. Continue to implement the Mingo Crossing Master Plan



Paradise Dam

Sport analysis

Council currently manages sports parks in towns and villages that provide a variety of formal sporting opportunities. Additionally, in sports such as golf, bowls, shooting and motorsports, individual organisations are managing the delivery of opportunities for the local community (and visitors).

Membership

Less than half of the community survey respondents participated in organised sport. Within the North Burnett, there are some formal sports that are particularly popular in individual towns (e.g. volleyball and netball in Mundubbera, netball in Monto) and may reflect quality coaching and/or quality facilities. However, in many instances the local population base is the key factor impacting participation.

As noted previously, a significant decrease in the number of young people (under the age of 45) is projected for the Council area. This reduction is expected to be more than 1,100 for this age grouping by 2036. Reflecting these population losses, only one third of the club survey respondents expect to achieve membership increases.

Quality sports parks

Seventy two percent of community survey respondents rate the quality of sportfields as either average, above average or great. This was also reflected by the sporting club survey where only canteen facilities and seating/water/shade were not considered suitable to meet club requirements.

Clubs were provided with a list of facilities most commonly found at the Council's sports parks and asked to indicate whether the facilities that they used were suitable for their requirements. In Council-wide type analyses (such as this Plan) it is common for clubs to report their primary issue to be a lack of fields/ovals/courts available for use. However, in a positive outcome for Council, most respondents indicated that the number of playing fields/ovals was suitable. The main concerns for clubs were themed around ancillary facilities such as:

- » shade, seating and water
- » canteen facilities
- » storage
- » building maintenance.

Current and future desired facility improvements (provided in survey responses) were also focussed on ancillary facilities. Simple improvements and/or new infrastructure requests included:

- » shade for players and officials
- » storage facilities
- » basic clubhouse upgrades (including first aid/officials' rooms).

	Exceeds needs	Suitable	Not suitable	Not required
Number of playing fields/ovals/courts	0%	62.5%	37.5%	0%
Clubhouse	0%	56.3%	25.0%	18.8%
Lighting standards	6.3%	62.5%	18.8%	12.5%
Public toilets	0%	87.5%	12.5%	0%
Change rooms	0%	56.3%	25.0%	18.8%
Canteen facilities	0%	37.5%	50.0%	12.5%
Storage areas	0%	50.0%	43.8%	6.3%
Access and circulation	0%	68.8%	31.3%	0%
Car parking	0%	87.5%	12.5%	0%
Spectator area	0%	50.0%	37.5%	12.5%
Maintenance of buildings	0%	50.0%	43.8%	6.3%
Seating/shade/water	0%	31.3%	68.8%	0%
Facilities provided (e.g. chairs/tables/stage)	0%	50.0%	37.5%	12.5%

Club development plans

Of real concern, only one of the 16 sporting clubs that responded to the survey has a current development plan. Of further concern is the fact that of the rest that do not have a plan, only three were interested in developing one.

A Club Development Plan (or Business Plan) is a key tool to guide future planning for clubs. Any club that is serious about sustainability and future development should have a blueprint that shows the direction that it wishes to take. The plan should also justify why new and/or upgraded infrastructure is required and how the club plans to contribute financially to the development.

Without a Club Development Plan (or similar) the organisation is likely to lurch in different directions as volunteers change over time. To prevent future ad-hoc development, Council should encourage clubs to prepare development plans, with assistance provided by Council and regular workshops conducted by the State Government. Importantly, Club Development Plans are key tools to successfully attracting grant funding

Master plans

Master plans (or simple facility layout plans) are important tools to guide facility decision-making. They are particularly important for sports facilities where changes in club officials can alter former preferred directions.

Simple master plans (and master plan reviews) are proposed for the Gayndah Sports Complex, Lions Park (Gayndah), Wuruma Dam, Paradise Dam, Kirar Weir and a number of showgrounds. Importantly, the master planning of these sites can be completed quickly and inexpensively provided extensive user group consultation and site analysis are the cornerstone for these planning activities.

Equestrian activities

The North Burnett region is well-known as an area for equine (and cattle) activities. This is also reflected in formal sport and events where successful events and long-standing clubs (e.g. pony clubs) continue to provide quality opportunities to locals and visitors. Many of these activities are hosted at local showgrounds facilities. Facility inspections have highlighted that many of the facilities (embellishments) within the showground sites spread across the Region are aging. Additionally, the majority of the showgrounds are largely under-utilised. The Plan has highlighted the need for master plans at a number of sites (with a focus on facility upgrade and replacement) and for seeking additional uses where possible (e.g. potential rugby league opportunities at the Biggenden Showgrounds).

Attracting events

Engagement has highlighted that a number of sporting club representatives have a desire to attract more frequent high-level events and carnivals to the LGA. Depending on infrastructure requirements (and potential need to hire in additional facilities), economic benefits can be gained from hosting events of this nature. However, the Plan highlights that seeking to attract events for traditional sports is not a preferred directive. State sporting organisations indicate that there are currently no traditional sports with a high enough level of infrastructure to attract carnivals. Additionally, the proximity of the LGA to larger centres nearer to the coast (Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Maryborough and Gympie) make it unlikely for traditional sports to hold regional- and state-level events in the LGA. With no clubs experiencing significant membership growth, there is little demand for higher levels of infrastructure (particularly if this is only being sought in an effort to attract events). Rather, the Plan recommends that Council supports non-traditional groups (mountain climbing community, campdraft and rodeo committees and Paradise Stocking Association etc) that have suitable existing facilities and are seeking to attract (or to continue hosting) higher-level events.

Eidsvold Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve



Future directions for sport

Our vision for sport is:

"We are a Council of sporting opportunity, with diverse and quality facilities that reflect demand for an active and healthy community and a desire for increasing liveability"

Guiding principles:

- » base decision-making on sound data, demand and sustainable outcomes
- » master planning of key sports parks and showgrounds to ensure there is a demonstrated need for infrastructure upgrades
- » provide ongoing support and education to sport and recreation clubs
- » ensure ancillary facilities reflect the needs of participants, officials and spectators.

Priority actions

Liaise with Department of Education regional officers and local principals to understand the feasibility of 'activating' (outside school hours) the sport and play opportunities available at schools in smaller towns for local residents

Support and encourage sport clubs to compile Club Development Plans detailing governance, membership, participation, land tenure and facility development goals

Develop simple master plans (and master plan reviews) for the Gayndah Sports Complex, Wuruma Dam, Paradise Dam, Kirar Weir, Eidsvold Showgrounds, Mundubbera Showgrounds and Gayndah Showgrounds (facility replacement and upgrade schedule)

Focus on the development and upgrade of sports facilities to meet local demand. Where there are existing (or clear potential for) quality events, liaise with organisers to ensure Council support where it is beneficial

Archer Park, Mundubbera





Gayndah Sports Complex



Mulgildie Showgrounds



Tennis courts, Apostolic Church Binjour

Overview

Biggenden is located toward the south-east corner of the LGA. The town has a population¹ of 845. With a median age of 55, the town is far older than the Council area as a whole (with a median age of 46). It is interesting to note that the median age of residents has increased by more than six years in just the last 10 years alone and this aging trend is expected to continue alongside slight population decreases.

This significant aging and potential population decreases must be closely considered in terms of sport and recreation planning. Whilst not to discount the needs of existing children and young adults seeking play and formal sporting opportunities, facilities that are likely to become increasing attractive to residents include sealed walk/cycle paths, attractive landscaped settings and shaded seating.

Biggenden residents and visitors have access to a range of functional recreation parks offering a variety of experiences (from barbecues and relaxation in landscaped settings, to shaded infant play, to challenging youth activities). Formal sporting opportunities also exist in touch football, rugby league, golf, shooting, tennis, swimming, equestrian activities and bowls. Finally, with Mount Walsh National Park looming largely to the south of the town and Paradise Dam located a short drive to the north, a range of outdoor recreation and nature appreciation activities are readily available.

Snapshot¹

Current population (2016)	845
0 - 14 years	15.4%
15 - 24 years	8.2%
25 - 34 years	6.0%
35 - 44 years	7.2%
45 - 54 years	11.7%
55 - 64 years	14.2%
65 years and over	37.4%
Median age	55
Do not have a motor vehicle	7.1%
Do not have private internet access	35.0%

1 2016 Census QuickStats, Australian Bureau of Statistics



Population note:

The populations provided in the snapshots for the six key towns are from the *state suburb* analysis provided in the Census. This catchment includes consideration of the township and its nearby surrounds.

The combined population of these six catchments is approximately 4,000 residents short of the entire LGA population (and there is no Census analysis provided at a level between *state suburb* and *LGA*).

Importantly, it is recognised that these residents living outside the key towns create demand on Council's facilities and services. As a result, analysis has reflected on both the LGA-wide demographic considerations and the smaller town catchments.

Sport and recreation demand

A range of engagement options were undertaken with the Biggenden community to ascertain current and future demand.

Community survey

Five survey responses were received from the Biggenden community. These respondents:

- » enjoy swimming, exercise in the park and walking (with most undertaking these activities at least weekly)
- » consider key facility upgrades are needed at the sports complex (canteen facilities) and bowls club (additional shade required)
- » value the social interaction and whole family appeal provided by open space
- » consider the need exists for additional activities for youth and low cost physical activity programs
- » outline that improved sportsgrounds/ovals/courts should be a key priority for Council *and* opportunity may also exist for more community events in parks.

Classroom workshops

Discussions with older students (42 in total across years 7 to 10) highlighted very limited local formal sporting opportunities. Four boys played in the local touch competition and one was involved in the local rifle club. Other boys travelled to Gayndah or Bundaberg to play rugby league, while the only girls involved in formal sport travelled to Bundaberg to play netball.

It was clear that this group of students preferred outdoor recreation activities and challenges. More than half enjoyed fishing and playing in local creeks and bushwalking. Many rode motorbikes and almost one third rode horses on local properties. Participation in the PCYC Emergency Services Cadet Program was also popular. In contrast, only six spent time regularly at the pool (with suggestions from the group that it was 'too expensive' and 'boring') and only two were regular users of the skate facility.

When asked what sport and recreation facilities were missing in town that the students would find beneficial, overwhelming support was highlighted for:

- » a low price gym with machine weights and cardio room (potentially developed in conjunction with the school)
- » a park location 'just to hang'. Further discussions suggested such a facility might include a covered gazebo or shaded grass area with a power point (to plug in phones for music), access to bubblers and nearby toilets
- » a community motocross track.

Of the younger students (years 5 and 6), the only local sport participation was touch football, while boys travelled to Bundaberg for rugby league and cricket.

Like the older students, there was a preference for unstructured play at creeks and dams. However, the younger students also enjoyed playing at the shaded playground at Briers Park and playing at the pool. Almost one third of these students also visited the skate park.

Key options the younger students would like to see in town included:

- » formal sport (rugby league, cricket and netball)
- » community motocross track
- » more water play and grass play areas at the pool.



Community workshop

Key issues identified at the community workshop include:

- » existing parks seem to work well and attract regular use
- » given the population base the community does not expect high-level sporting facilities - just a base level of suitable provision (e.g. functional tennis courts, sportsground with working canteen and public pool)
- » perception of very limited support from Council for formal sport in recent years (e.g. assistance with grants, assistance with facility planning and development)
- » opportunity to form a combined sports association to oversee governance of a number of the formal sporting groups (e.g. touch football, rugby league, little athletics and tennis), rather than further stretch the limited number of volunteers to hold committee positions for multiple sports
- » community gym is likely to prove popular with both younger and older residents
- » Paradise Dam needs to be activated more as a key water-based recreation site. The school has a trailer filled with brand new kayaks that largely sits unused in a shed
- » area is well-situated to host noisy sports such as motorsport (carnocross, off-road racing etc).

Additional engagement

Discussions with Council staff highlighted a number of common directions:

- » there are a number of motivated individuals driving sport in Biggenden (but a small population base will continue to be a limiting factor).

Previous planning

A Sport and Recreation Plan was developed for the former Biggenden Shire in 2006. Key recommendations noted in this document and the status of these recommendations include:

- » implement the Paradise Dam master plan
 - discussions with Council officers and the current Paradise Dam Caravan Park management team failed to identify a master plan being developed
- » develop a skate park adjacent to the pool
 - this facility has been developed
- » support club applications for external funding
 - golf club equipment - status unknown
 - upgrade cricket practice nets - not achieved
 - cover the outdoor sports courts at Biggenden State School - complete
- » liaise with QPWS regarding the potential to develop a camping area at Mt Walsh National Park
 - remote bush camping is allowed at the park .



Analysis of sport and recreation opportunities

Access to recreation opportunities

There are a number of formal recreation parks available in Biggenden. Importantly, these parks have been developed and embellished to provide largely different functions. For instance, Rollinson Park is a landscaped entry park, Beiers Park is a district-level facility for travellers and local outdoor events, Apex Park is a youth activity park while Lions Park is a play and picnic facility. Council should be commended for developing the parks according to function rather than using a cookie cutter approach and repeating opportunities at each facility.

Consultation has indicated that the outdoor exercise equipment at Apex Park is quite well-used despite the stations being located out in the open and in highly visible locations along busy roads. The exercise stations are aged and due for replacement. As the town's 'activity' park it is appropriate for outdoor exercise equipment to remain in the park. However, it should be developed into a grouped node and re-established slightly further into the park (ideally under natural shade). The skate park and learn-to-ride loop are well-designed and in good condition. This area requires shaded bench seating and a water point nearby to enhance the experience for users and spectators. With barbecues available at both Beiers and Lions Park, there may be scope to remove the barbecue at Apex Park if it is not being regularly used.

There are a wide range of embellishments in Lions Park providing for both travellers and locals. It is important that these facilities continue to be maintained and then re-evaluated at the end of their useful life. For example, there may be an opportunity to reduce the maintenance burden at this site by removing at least one of the uncovered picnic tables once the table is due for replacement. Additionally, the play facilities will require close attention to ensure they continue to be appropriate. At the time of developing this Plan, the swing seats were in need of replacement.

The 6-lane 25m pool is well-developed as a training and local competition pool with shaded tiered seating and shaded marshalling area. However, without leisure water space nor inviting open grass areas within the pool fence, there are limited opportunities for attendees to socialise with friends and 'play' in the pool. Given the busy and embellished nature of Apex Park it would be difficult to expand the pool fenced area to include additional grassed space. Rather, the pool could be further activated as a recreation node through activities such as holiday programs and inflatable activities.

Community demand exists for a gym to be established within town. Importantly, for such an exercise to prove successful, it would need to be viewed by locals as a community asset rather than a commercial activity. Close collaboration between Council, local enthusiasts and the school could highlight whether an opportunity may exist for such a facility to be established at the school.

Mount Walsh National Park

Mount Walsh National Park is an attractive natural asset located directly south of Biggenden. It provides a stunning 'back drop' to town and is popular with both locals and visitors. However, the main access road to the park from Maryborough-Biggenden Road requires an upgrade to ensure the primary day use area at the foot of the mountain is accessible for all vehicle types. Similarly, Mount Woowoonga National Park (located north of Biggenden) is a rugged area popular for Kokoda Track training.

Paradise Dam is located 25km north-east of Biggenden. The dam is a SunWater asset and is a key component of the Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme. The Dam is a popular venue for waterskiing (with approximately 25km of skiable areas), paddling, fishing, birdwatching, fossicking for gold, camping, day visits and picnics. The caravan park is the hub for recreational activities as it includes the location for camping, boat ramp, picnic area and kiosk. The caravan park is becoming popular as the Dam becomes recognised as a quality water-based recreation venue. However, the infrastructure originally developed at the site was not constructed with high levels of recreation use in mind. For example, the top caravan park is somewhat unattractive given that the ground becomes boggy after even small amounts of rain (yet is too hard to drive in pegs when it is dry), there are no nearby amenities and no lighting (even inside the covered barbecue area). Similarly, the amenities servicing the water-side camping area are not equipped to handle the loads they attract. Finally, the boat ramp needs to be extended so that boat access to the dam is maintained throughout dry periods. A master plan needs to be developed for the recreation (and caravan park) facilities at the Dam to guide decision-making.



Access to sporting opportunities

*Tennis facility,
Biggenden*

There are two multi-sport sites within town - the sports complex and showgrounds. The sports complex is home to touch football and rugby league. It also includes two cricket ovals and two cricket practice nets. However, the cricket club has folded. Touch football is well-established and popular, whilst the senior men's rugby league team was re-established in 2017. The main playing field surface is in fair condition and would benefit significantly from an irrigation system. The grandstand is functional and an attractive venue for spectators. The key facility issues at the complex are the lack of a suitable area for food preparation on match days and the need for significant upgrades to the amenities. It is important to note that the venue sits within the floodplain area resulting in the need for careful consideration for any future facility development. Indeed, it is likely that Council would only approve a two-storey facility with the majority of infrastructure on the upper level (or a single-storey facility on a significantly raised pad) should a new building be sought.



The showgrounds is a large facility currently used for the annual show, campdraft and pony club. Two of the key features at the facility are the show ring and show hall with adjoining canteen and bar. The hall is a large attractive building with views across the show ring. A number of uncovered grandstands are also located overlooking the show ring. The showgrounds is also home to pony club, a rodeo arena, covered and uncovered day yards, poultry pavilion and amenities blocks. Unlike many showgrounds, this large area includes a number of undeveloped open spaces creating natural breaks between elements. The facility functions very well as a showgrounds and there appears to be scope for additional uses. With the infrastructure issues at the sports complex, it would appear possible for the showgrounds to be further developed as the town's touch football and rugby league venue. The only obvious facility upgrades required would be field lighting (that would then be advantageous for the annual show and additional activities hosted at the showgrounds) and show ring turf upgrades. With the annual show conducted during the rugby league season, close communication between event organisers would be important to avoid clashes.

The little athletics facility established at the school includes a quality 8-lane grass track (with 10-lane straight), two grass shot put circles, two concrete discus circles, javelin area and long/triple jump pit. The facility is maintained by the school and is an attractive venue. From the 2019 season, little athletics will be conducted in the winter (rather than summer) sporting season.

The golf club has been actively seeking grants for facility upgrades by commissioning a professional grant writer. This process has allowed the club to enhance the facilities without necessarily relying on club fundraising nor Council support. The course is well-established and includes quality irrigated greens. To ensure a solid membership base can be maintained, the club is actively targeting junior players by conducting an ongoing junior come-and-try program.

The bowls club facility previously included two greens, however, the facility has been 'downsized' to include one quality lit green with retractable perimeter shade. The green is serviced by a clubhouse and on-street car parking.

The rifle club maintains a quality facility that includes 900 yard range and covered firing lines. The club hosts full bore and small bore shoots two times each month with additional practice shoots also conducted on occasion. The pistol club works in conjunction with the rifle club hosting shoots on the same days at the range.

A group of committed locals has re-ignited tennis in Biggenden. The three lit synthetic grass courts are in fair condition, however, the ancillary facilities are in poor condition and would benefit from replacement. Additionally, one of the existing courts will be redeveloped as a multi-use court (e.g. include netball linemarking).

There are currently no motorsport venues near to Biggenden. Given the large undeveloped open spaces in the area, opportunity may exist to further investigate potential development of a motorsport facility. Such a facility need not necessarily require a large venue. Carnocross (for example) facilities could be developed at a 2ha largely cleared flat site. A small group of local motorsport enthusiasts have begun investigating suitable land parcels for this development.

Activation

During the school term, many young people from the Biggenden area are away at boarding school. Additionally, more than 50 students travel daily to schools outside of town returning late each afternoon. However, during the school holidays youth are seeking activities. A holiday program that included outdoor activities such as paddling at Paradise Dam, guided hikes and overnight stays at Mount Walsh, orienteering and fishing is likely to prove popular. Further, opportunities for 'play' at the pool could be achieved through provision of inflatable elements such as an obstacle course.

Biggenden priority actions

Town-wide	
B1	Investigate opportunities to fund a holiday activities program for youth
B2	Investigate the feasibility of establishing a community gym in town
Apex Park	
B3	Replace the exercise equipment and establish a new node under natural shade slightly more centrally within the Park
B4	Provide shaded bench seats and a water point near the skate park
B5	Remove the barbecue
Beiers Park	
B6	Continue to maintain as a district-level facility
Lions Park	
B7	Review demand for each park embellishment as it reaches the end of its useful life
Motorsport	
B8	Collaborate with CAMS (Confederation of Australian Motor Sport) and local motorsport enthusiasts to investigate the feasibility of developing a venue near to Biggenden



Biggenden Showgrounds

Mount Walsh National Park	
B9	Liaise with the Department of Environment and Science to seek upgrades to the access road to the Park from Maryborough-Biggenden Road
Paradise Dam	
B10	<p>Liaise with SunWater, Department of Transport and Main Roads and the caravan park managers to develop a recreation master plan for the site. Key items for consideration include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » relocating the toilet block near the playground to the top caravan park area » relocating the standalone barbecue to the top caravan park » developing pathways around the top caravan park, covered barbecue node and playground area » providing outdoor lighting at the top caravan park and barbecue node and the lower camping area » extending the boat ramp
Pool	
B11	Provide additional play elements during the school holiday period (such as an inflatable obstacle course)
Showgrounds and sports complex	
B12	Install irrigation at the main field at the Sports Complex
B13	<p>Investigate opportunities to relocate the sports currently based at the sports complex to the showgrounds. Items for consideration include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » provision of field lighting (and requirements for power upgrades) » locating fields within the show ring (and potential need for expanding the show ring area) » maintaining a quality field surface (for sport) following horse and cattle events » scheduling and potential event clashes
Tennis (and netball)	
B14	Investigate opportunities to replace the ancillary infrastructure (storage, amenities and covered area) at the tennis facility

Overview

Located centrally within the local government area, Eidsvold is recognised as a key beef cattle production area. With a population¹ of 574, the town is one of the smaller 'key' service areas.

Overall, the Eidsvold community is generally reflective of the rest of the Council area, with a median age of 45 (just one year younger than the whole of Council's median age).

Similar to the Council population trend, Eidsvold's population is ageing, with limited growth predicted. However, the future planning of open space and recreation in the town will need to continue to cater for both the youth and elderly, two different niches. The youth will require access to higher impact activities such as organised sports, interesting play elements that cater for a variety of ages and hang out spaces. The older population will prefer low impact activities such as walking and supporting infrastructure (bench seating, shade and formalised paths).

Eidsvold offers a variety of recreation and sporting opportunities for residents and visitors. The town enjoys a sports oval, sports courts, polocrosse fields, bowls club, landscaped parks, playgrounds (including a recently developed feature play node at the RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre), skate park, swimming pool, showgrounds, golf course, shooting range and walking paths.

Snapshot¹

Current population (2016)	574
0 - 14 years	20.5%
15 - 24 years	7.2%
25 - 34 years	9.9%
35 - 44 years	11.3%
45 - 54 years	14.7%
55 - 64 years	14.5%
65 years and over	22.3%
Median age	45
Do not have a motor vehicle	10.9%
Do not have private internet access	37.1%

¹ 2016 Census QuickStats, Australian Bureau of Statistics



Sport and recreation demand

The Eidsvold community indicated:

- » preference for regular bushwalking, canoeing/kayaking and horse riding in natural areas such as tracks and trails and rivers/creeks.

Classroom workshops

Classroom discussions¹ with the older students (years 7 and 8) identified that none were involved in formal sport. It would appear that the only formal opportunities for juniors in town are in swimming, pony club and golf. The following key issues were also raised:

- » there were few outdoor spaces in town where it was comfortable just to 'hang' (with a preference to visit friends at the library)
- » ideally, the students would like to see the skate park area upgraded with shade, seating, water points and natural play
- » it is important that opportunities are provided for both younger and older children at the same venue as the older children are regularly required to look after their siblings
- » it is recognised that with limited children in town that the delivery of formal sporting opportunities may not be practical. However, the potential for organised after school and holiday activity programs would be beneficial.

Approximately one third of the younger students (years Prep to 4) involved in their classroom workshop were involved in formal sport. Students were involved in the local swimming and pony clubs while others travelled to towns such as Mundubbera, Gayndah and Monto to play netball, rugby league and football (soccer). Participation was notably higher for boys than girls.

These students enjoyed playing on the playground at Apex Park and in the 'drain' at Joyce Park. They also enjoyed 'playing footy' at the oval and playing basketball on the outdoor courts. Few used the skate park nor the nearby exercise equipment.

Further issues raised by the younger children:

- » need for more activities at the pool
- » more challenging play
- » shade, seating and bubblers at the skate park
- » informal bmx track.

¹ It is important to note that the new play node at the RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre had not been constructed at the time of these discussions



Joyce Park, Eidsvold

Additional engagement

Discussions with Council staff, the Divisional Councillor and community workshop attendee highlighted a number of common directions:

- » Eidsvold has a range of existing opportunities (given the limited population base). Realistic expectations are important given Council's resource realities
- » equine recreation activities are important for the town (pony club conducts regular events, while an annual campdraft, team penning events, cattle drive and rodeo and polocrosse events are all popular)
- » the recently completed gym and boxing area will provide an additional recreation outlet for both children and adults
- » the town pool is a focus for activity
- » it will be important that the town's walk/cycle network is extended through to the RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre to provide ease of access to the new play node
- » need to further investigate opportunities to develop a boat ramp and suitable public access to the Kirar Weir.

The Eidsvold resident that completed the community survey was a keen outdoor recreation enthusiast undertaking horse riding, bushwalking and/or canoeing on most days.

It should also be noted that written correspondence from one resident also noted a desire for a covered equestrian arena. The residents suggests that such a facility would prove useful for a wide range of equestrian- and cattle-related activities. This demand was not highlighted through any other engagement.

Previous planning

A Sport and Recreation Plan was developed for the former Eidsvold Shire in 2006. Key recommendations noted in this document and the status of these recommendations include:

- » upgrade boat access to Kirar Weir and develop a master plan for the site
 - no public boat access exists at the weir and no master plan has been developed to date
- » develop a master plan for Wuruma Dam
 - not undertaken
- » develop a master plan and feasibility for the Showground and Recreation Reserve
 - not undertaken
- » install retractable shade over the main pool
 - shade has been constructed over the starting blocks and marshalling area and the wet play area is covered.



Analysis of sport and recreation opportunities

Access to recreation opportunities

Overall, Eidsvold residents are well supplied with land for recreation open space. As identified in Council's Asset Management Plan¹ (Parks and Open Spaces), residents have access to formal district-level parks, a range of small local parks, formal landscaped areas, a pool and sealed walk/cycle opportunities.

The outdoor exercise equipment node has been developed in a highly visual open area (near the highway) and appears largely under-utilised. Many people are not comfortable exercising in full public view. It is likely to attract greater use if it were in a more attractive (and somewhat more secluded) location such as in a shaded area toward the rear of Joyce Park. This location would also create better synergies with the new boxing and gym facility and create an indoor-outdoor fitness node.

The skate facility in Harkness Boundary Park is located near the highway ensuring suitable passive surveillance. However, the facility is under-utilised. The site has no shade for participants nor spectators, very limited seating and no water points - vastly limiting its attractiveness as a site for potential users. With close links to the central business district and being located on the route to the Showgrounds-Recreation Reserve and RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre, this could be a key facility for older youth. The walk/cycle path extension through to the Centre will provide suitable access to this inviting and challenging play and picnic node.

As the key feature park for infant play and for tourist rest stops, higher-levels of maintenance should be continued in Apex Park.

It appears that Ray Pownall Drive Park and Quinn Park are both under-utilised. Opportunity may exist to undertake selective clearing in order to enhance the views from Ray Pownall Drive Park. However, if this is not achievable this park provides little benefit to the open space network. Quinn Park is located only 200m from Harkness Boundary Park and includes only a covered picnic table. There is little demand for this park and, as such, rationalisation is proposed.

Kirar Weir continues to be a key location for residents undertaking water-based recreation. As identified in previous planning, suitable public boat access to this area requires further investigation. Similarly, the development of a master plan for Wuruma Dam will help to ensure a sustainable facility balancing the needs of the facility as a water supply dam, day trippers and overnight campers. This master plan process should be a joint initiative undertaken by Council and SunWater.

The pool is an attractive and well established key community venue offering both covered leisure water and a partly covered 8-lane 25m lap pool. The manager has implemented a number of activities and programs (e.g. junior lifeguards skills and aqua poles) to try to further increase patronage, however, none have proven particularly successful. It is suggested that local residents are not keen to commit to regular planned activities. Rather, they prefer a more sporadic and social approach to activity provision.



Eidsvold Swimming Pool



Apex Park, Eidsvold

Access to sporting opportunities

The limited range of formal sporting opportunities available in Eidsvold, reflects the small population base. A number of sports are located at the Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve. This multi-sport venue is well-located on the highway and very near to the central business district. The 'front' of the facility includes the Showgrounds and a number of facilities to support sports such as campdraft, rodeo, team penning and pony club (e.g. yards, stables, arenas, raised commentator's box, storage and amenities). These facilities should continue to be maintained to a suitable condition. The disused netball facility in this section of the Reserve is beyond repair and should be removed. The 'rear' of the facility includes the town's formal sports oval and polocrosse fields. While the polocrosse fields are well grassed and provide a quality surface for the annual 2-day carnival conducted each year, the sports oval is not irrigated, is uneven and has a poor grass covering. Investigations regarding the feasibility of a potential covered equestrian arena may also indicate future facility opportunities.

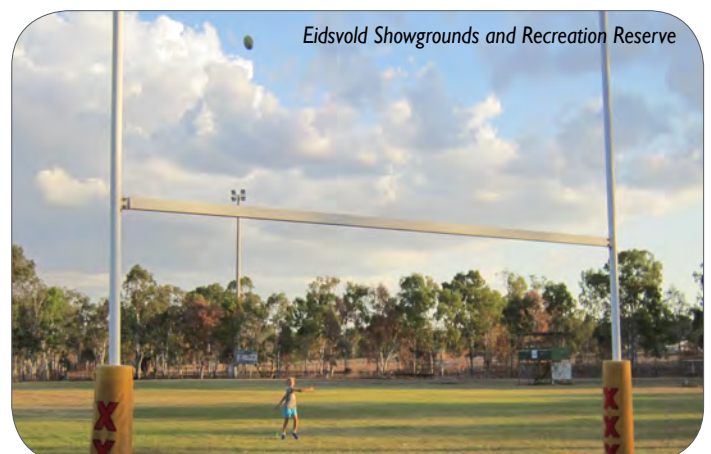
The oval has previously been home to rugby league, little athletics and cricket. Rugby league is the only current active club, however, it has struggled to maintain a suitable playing base for its senior men's team in recent times. Two thirds of the 2018 team are seasonal workers based in Mundubbera. It is difficult to recommend any significant facility upgrades for the sports oval given the limited use it hosts (two training sessions each week during the winter playing season and approximately eight home games). The playing surface would be improved if irrigation was provided and the disused cricket pitch was removed. The clubhouse located between the sports oval and polocrosse fields provides a quality hub for activities. Finally, the showgrounds and sports committee note the need for upgrade to the power supply across the facility. The actions highlighted above should all be considered in the development of a master plan for the Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve. It will be important that this planning approach is not merely a facilities 'wish-list', rather it is a sustainable approach to providing ongoing opportunities for the existing formal user groups and local residents.

The bowls facility and the golf club are quality venues and will continue to prove attractive for both locals and visitors (particularly given their location within walking distance of the caravan park). The golf club has identified a number of planned infrastructure upgrades including a bridge on the 7th fairway, practice green, buggy paths, tee retaining wall replacements, irrigation, car parking and buggy shed upgrades. The Sporting Shooters Association of Australia facility is also well-located near to town and includes covered firing lines and quality range facilities.

The tennis and outdoor basketball facility is well-located and highly accessible. While there are no formal uses of the site, children enjoy using the facility for regular social basketball. However, the facilities are poor and given the venue's popularity for unstructured use by youth, upgrades are required. The building should be investigated to ensure structural integrity. Additionally, the facility has two ant bed tennis courts and a hard court in poor condition. The ant bed courts are no longer a preferred surface for community tennis (given the maintenance requirements). Complete redevelopment as a single multi-use hard court would provide a more beneficial facility for the community.

Activation

There are a number of sport and recreation facilities available in Eidsvold, however, limited population makes it difficult to provide formal sporting opportunities (particularly for juniors). While it would be ideal to see the cricket club and little athletics centre re-established, it is simply not a viable option with very few competitors and limited volunteers. Consultation has highlighted the need for activation and programming activities to further engage the local community. Opportunities may exist to establish a school holiday (and after-school) activity program and to further activate the pool through initiatives such as occasionally providing an inflatable activity (that could be shared across the Council area). Council would need to be the lead agency driving these changes in close collaboration with the local community.



Eidsvold priority actions

Town-wide	
E1	Investigate opportunities to fund an activities program for youth outside school hours
Apex Park	
E2	Continue to maintain as a district-level facility
Golf Club	
E3	Repair and replace the tee block retaining walls
E4	Upgrade the buggy shed (extend and connect power)
E5	Install fairway and green irrigation
E6	Construct a practice putting green
E7	Construct a car park
Harkness Boundary Park	
E8	Relocate (or replace) the outdoor exercise equipment to a shaded central location within Joyce Park
E9	Upgrade the skate park node - install a covered picnic table and benches - install a bubbler (water point)
Joyce Park	
E8	Relocate (or replace) the outdoor exercise equipment to a shaded central location within Joyce Park
Kirar Weir	
E10	In conjunction with SunWater investigate opportunities to improve the access to Kirar Weir for water-based recreation. If this can be achieved, develop a master plan for the site
Pool	
E11	Provide additional play elements during the school holiday period (such as an inflatable obstacle course)
Quinn Park	
E12	Investigate opportunities to rationalise this land parcel
Ray Pownall Drive Park	
E13	Investigate opportunities to clear around the park to enhance views. If this is not possible, consider rationalisation of this land parcel
Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve	
E14	Remove the disused netball court
E15	Investigate opportunities to irrigate the playing field
E16	Remove the disused cricket pitch from the playing field
E17	Remove the toilet block near to the rugby league/polocrosse clubhouse
E18	Upgrade the stables
E19	Upgrade the power supply to the site
E20	Develop a master plan for the venue
Tennis/basketball facility	
E21	Re-develop as a single multi-use hard court
E22	Assess the structural integrity of the building servicing the courts
Walk/cycle opportunities	
E23	Extend the existing walk/cycle path network past the Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve and through to the RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre
Wuruma Dam	
E24	In conjunction with SunWater, investigate development of a master plan for the site

Overview

Gayndah is located on the Burnett River toward the southern end of the Council area. Like Mundubbera, the area is well known for its citrus (and other fruit) orchards. The town is the largest population base in the Region with 1,981 residents¹. Large numbers of seasonal workers also come in and out of the area each year.

Gayndah's age profile largely reflects the Council as a whole with a median age of 45 (similar to the Council at 46 years). Like all areas across Council, Gayndah is an aging community. In the ten years between 2006 and 2016, the median age increased notably from 39 to 45 years. Since 2006, the proportion of the population aged 65 years and above increased from 18.0% to 22.7% - mirrored by a decrease in the proportion of children (0 to 14 years) from 20.2% to 16.0%.

With changes in the census statistical area boundaries used for analysis, it is somewhat difficult to track population changes since 2006. However, with only 89 new houses constructed since 2008, the residential population base appears steady (potentially slight population increases have been achieved).

Being a key service centre and having the largest population, it is not surprising that a wide range of sport and recreation opportunities exist in Gayndah for residents and visitors. For recreation, opportunities range from the incredible views from atop Mount Archer Lookout, to activities for young and old alike in Lions Park, to formal picnics at Jaycee Park and the Claude Wharton Weir Recreation Area. An attractive travellers' 'stop-over' is also available at Zonhoven Park. Formal sporting options exist for little athletics, cricket, touch, rugby league, tennis, netball, shooting disciplines, field archery, golf, bowls, equestrian activities, fishing and skiing on the river.

Snapshot¹

Current population (2016)	1,981
0 - 14 years	16.0%
15 - 24 years	12.4%
25 - 34 years	11.6%
35 - 44 years	9.4%
45 - 54 years	13.6%
55 - 64 years	14.0%
65 years and over	22.7%
Median age	45
Do not have a motor vehicle	5.9%
Do not have private internet access	28.0%

1 2016 Census QuickStats, Australian Bureau of Statistics



Sport and recreation demand

A range of engagement activities were undertaken with the Gayndah community to ascertain current and future demand.

Community survey

Thirteen survey responses were received from the Gayndah community. Key findings include:

- » most popular activities: walking (62%), swimming for exercise (54%), bushwalking (38%) and playing in the park (38%)
- » popular sites for recreation: rivers/creeks (62%), at home (54%), local footpaths (46%), Mingo Crossing (46%), sportsground or court (46%)
- » all respondents noted visiting an open space area at least weekly
- » areas identified as requiring upgrade: skate park and play opportunities for older children, weir area, access to a gym
- » the community value: the natural setting (54%), they provide me with a place to unwind/rest/relax (46%), a place to spend time with friends (46%)
- » key barriers to participation: poorly maintained and/or unclean (46%), lack of variety/boring (46%)
- » the sportsfields and skate park are considered of high quality
- » aquatic facilities, places to relax and socialise, activities for youth and low cost/free activities and programs are all considered of low quality
- » key priorities for Council should be: improved facilities along river, creeks, dams and/or lakes (69%); improved access to rivers, dams, creeks or lakes (54%); new/upgraded walk/cycle paths (37%); new/upgraded playgrounds (31%); improved quality of sportsgrounds/ovals/courts (31%).

Club survey

Survey responses were received from Gayndah Touch and Gayndah Little Athletics. Key considerations highlighted in these responses include:

- » no expectation of membership increases
- » Sports Complex upgrades required:
 - field upgrades (surface is uneven, has holes and is too hard)
 - spectator seating and shade
 - access to water bubblers
 - canteen reconfiguration and upgrades
 - additional storage
- » high impact of no new members
- » high impact of limited volunteers and coaches
- » neither club has a club development plan or business plan.

These clubs also noted their relationship with Council as either good or very good.

Classroom workshops

Most of the older students (years 8 to 10) were involved in formal club sport outside the school system. Popular sports for males included rugby league, touch, cricket and tennis, while for females participation was highest in touch and netball.

The older youth enjoyed playing and socialising at the river. The skate facility at Lions Park was also a popular place to 'hang' and was considered a safe area for young people. Only the younger male students tended to actually use the skate facility. Finally, the pool was frequented on hot days during the school holidays but there does not tend to be "much to do there".

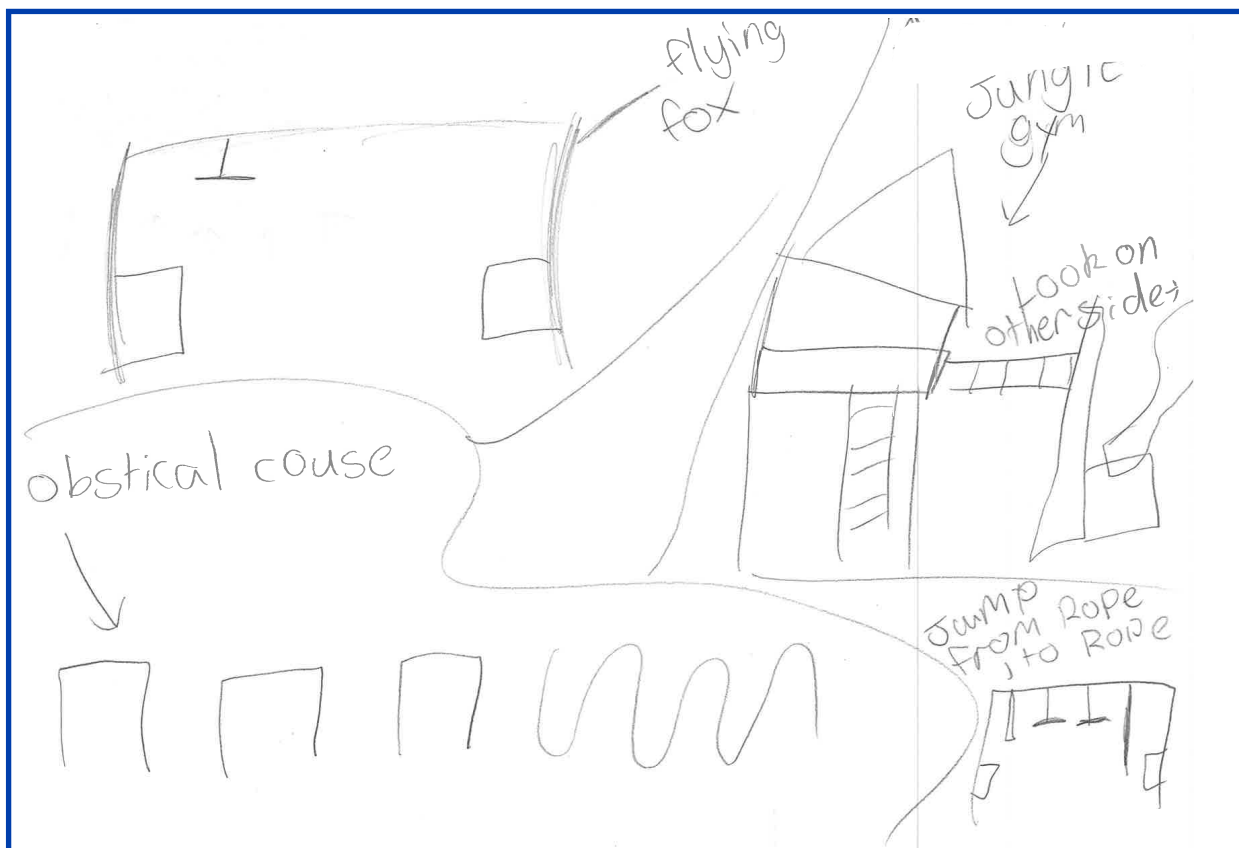
Opportunities to develop recreation elements such as water play and areas for socialising at the pool would be highly valued. Access to electricity at Lions Park would also improve this location as a site for recreation for older youth.

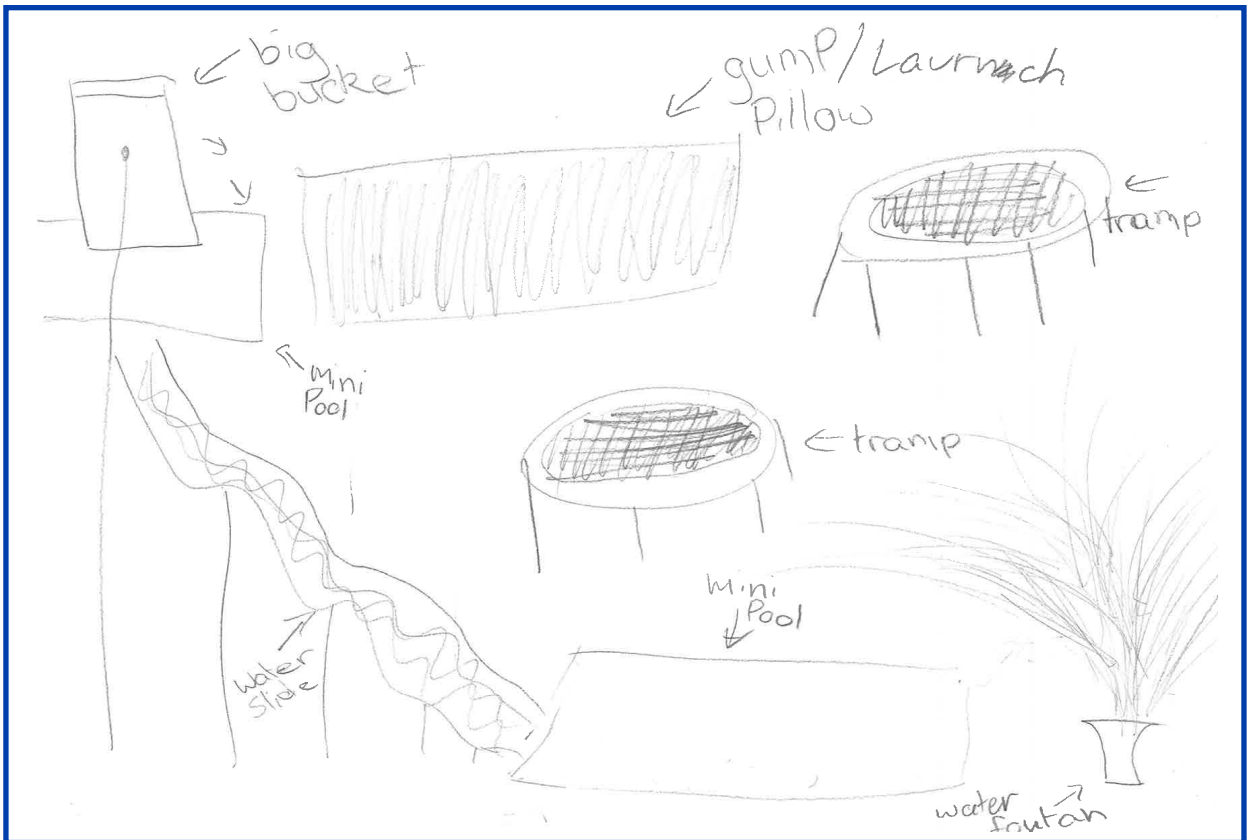
These students would like to see water play elements included at the pool, an indoor sports centre and expansion of the gym.

70% of the younger children (year 5) were actively involved in club sport. The range of sports participated in was exceptional. Touch, rugby league and little athletics were the most popular sports for boys with additional participation in, cricket, netball, tennis, swimming, pony club, dance, tae kwon do, motocross (in Mundubbera), football (soccer in Bundaberg) and karate (in Childers). For girls, the most popular sports were touch, netball and swimming. Girls were also involved in rugby league, football (soccer), cricket and dance.

The younger students clearly enjoy play at the river in activities such as fishing, paddling, swimming, tubing and climbing trees. Less than half of the students regularly visited the pool, with the students noting that the only fun thing to do there is "dive off the starting blocks". The skate park is only a popular destination for a small number of boys whilst all the students indicated that the existing parks are "boring".

Younger students are seeking more play opportunities at the pool (such as construction of a water slide, features with moving water and trampoline area) and more challenging play elements within Lions Park (such as a dirt bmx track, climbing wall and obstacle course, flying fox, giant slide and giant swings). In fact, after the classroom workshop the class chose to further explore what they would like to see in a new park or pool for Gayndah. The students were tasked with developing their own designs for new park elements. These designs were then forwarded to the project team and a number have been included on the following pages.





Community workshop

A successful community workshop highlighted a range of key issues for further consideration:

- » perception that there are too many parks within town. Many receiving very little use. Preference for two quality venues (Lions Park and Jaycee Park)
- » the town provides a range of formal sport opportunities. But it is difficult to maintain membership without 'robbing' participants from other sports
- » the pool needs to be redeveloped as a family-friendly venue rather than merely a site for lap swimming
- » showgrounds is largely under-utilised given the range of infrastructure
- » perception that it is difficult to find one consistent contact person within Council to discuss sports facility maintenance and development with. While the Sport and Recreation Officer role has now been created, ultimately this is not the staff member that will be undertaking the maintenance at the facilities. The maintenance staff need to understand the nuances of different sports and the need for careful timing of maintenance given fixtures and carnivals
- » real opportunity to develop a quality river walk. This would be popular with both the growing band of walkers in town and with visitors. Importantly, this walk does not need to be on a sealed concrete path (like Mundubbera). Preference is for a natural mown grass walk more in line with the river-side environment
- » a Burnett River Rail Trail has been mooted for some time. Gayndah is well-positioned to leverage off this rail trail if it was to be established and become popular (as expected)
- » at present the river is largely something to "look at" other than for boaters and adventurous youth who scamper down the river banks. The river needs to be further activated by providing safe walking and boat launching access points



Burnett River, Gayndah



Gayndah Swimming Pool



Gayndah Sports Complex

Additional engagement

Discussions with Council staff and the Divisional Councillor highlighted a number of common directions:

- » the weir is a popular site that requires further infrastructure to support recreation
- » showgrounds includes a range of facilities and is managed in a self-sufficient manner (the Show Society leases the site from Council)
- » golf club, pistol and archery ranges and tennis club are all attractive facilities and well-supported
- » bowls club is a quality venue but suffering from ongoing membership decreases
- » continued facility upgrade and development is required at the Sports Complex. The user groups are very proactive seeking grants and this reduces the resource burden for Council
- » need a walk/cycle link to the hospital and consider options for a river walk
- » pool is well-used for carnivals, training and older adults exercise. Not really a popular spot for families and young people
- » opportunity to activate the river for uses such as paddling and stand up paddleboarding
- » important that the community recognises Council's finite resources
- » the need for different levels of maintenance at various types of facilities.

Previous planning

A Sport and Recreation Plan was developed for the former Gayndah Shire in 2006. Key recommendations noted in this document and the status of these recommendations include:

- » support the development of a burn-out pad south of Gayndah
 - not commenced
- » upgrade the Combined Sports Oval (upgrade the playing surface, install irrigation)
 - irrigation has been installed, however, field quality remains an ongoing concern at the venue
- » implement the Lions Park master plan (irrigation, new playground equipment, path links, half court basketball, skate park, bmx jumps)
 - an updated master plan was established in 2016
 - developments undertaken include construction of the skate facility, learn-to-ride facility and shelters
- » support the development of new facilities at the YMCA
 - this facility has since closed
- » support the construction of a fourth court at the tennis centre
 - the centre has developed well and now includes six courts and two hot shot courts.



Claude Wharton Park, Gayndah

Access to recreation opportunities

As noted previously, there a range of recreation parks available in Gayndah.

Council's Asset Management Plan (Parks and Open Spaces) has identified Zonhoven Park as the sole district-level recreation park in the area. The park provides quality views to the Burnett River and includes an amenities block with both toilets and showers, covered and uncovered picnic areas, dump point and sealed parking areas. With free overnight stays of up to 20 hours allowed at this site, the park is popular with travellers.



Whilst Zonhoven Park provides well for travellers, it is not a popular location for locals. The key recreation park for locals is Lions Park. This quality park is heavily embellished with a learn-to-ride track, skate park, infants play node, three covered picnic shelters, barbecue, five station exercise equipment, landscaping and interpretive signage. Additionally, park users enjoy quality shade from mature trees. While Council's preference for only one district-level facility in each town is an appropriate approach to ensure suitable resource allocation, Lions Park is already being planned and developed far in advance of a local-level. As such, it should also be designated (and continue to be maintained and managed) as a district-level park. In accord with the 2016 Master Plan and community preferences, the development of more challenging play elements (such as the proposed flying fox, strategic additions to the existing play nodes and informal bmx facility) are all supported. Additionally, the identified half court basketball court is supported with the opportunity to further activate the court by including a rebound wall (at the opposite end of the basketball backboard and hoop). Finally, opportunity to develop a walking loop within the park remains a priority. The picnic table and chair setting within the learn-to-ride facility is in poor condition and should be replaced.



Jaycee Park is a highly embellished local park located on the edge of the central business district. It includes covered picnic areas with uncovered barbecue, toilets and shaded modern play. The use of the barbecue should be monitored. If it is not being regularly used there may be scope to remove it to a more family-oriented 'longer stay' park - Lions Park. The flood-related interpretive signage is in poor condition and needs to be replaced. The Council regulatory signage in this park is large and somewhat 'too prominent' for a small park of this nature. Opportunity to reduce (or soften) this signage should be considered as it detracts from the quality of the venue.

In essence, Rotary Park forms an open space break between the main road (Burnett Highway) and the entrance to the pool. The two covered picnic shelters may be removed if they are not regularly used as there are more appropriate sites within town for residents and travellers looking to 'rest' within an open space area.

Cullen Park adjoins the pool facility and is somewhat hidden at the end of a short no-through road. Despite this, it is an attractive shady area with mature trees, uncovered picnic setting, bench seating, aged playground and old-style wood barbecue. Opportunity may exist to replace the barbecue and play node and then realign the pool fencing to include the park within the pool complex. Further, Council is seeking funding to develop water play within this area to further activate the pool by broadening the scope of recreation elements available to pool users.

There are two highly attractive lookouts in the Gayndah area. Archer Lookout is located on the south-west side of town, while Mount Debatable Lookout is a short drive to the west of Gayndah. Both provide stunning views of the surrounding landscape and the town layout, with Mount Debatable Lookout also providing attractive vistas along the Burnett River. These two sites should continue to be promoted to residents and visitors.

Evelyn Grimsone Park and Anzac Parade Park are undeveloped greenspaces providing drainage functions. There is no demand for these areas to be further developed.

The Gayndah Swimming Pool is a 6-lane 50m facility with a covered infant pool. The main pool includes a large covered area and covered grandstand seating. Two covered grass areas are also included within the pool enclosure. Like all of the pools in the Council area, the facility is popular for carnivals, formal swimming and learn-to-swim classes. However, it lacks opportunities for recreation and water play. As noted above, opportunity may exist to incorporate Cullen Park within the pool area. This would provide a range of kick-about, play and social spaces within the pool facility and lengthen the stay of pool visitors. Additionally, the provision of water play elements (such as inflatable opportunities) should be considered for the school holiday period. Finally, if Council is successful attracting funds to develop a water play feature the combined pool and park area will become a favourite for locals and visitors.

Pineapple Street Park is located in the heart of the central business district. The 'park' is located within the median strip of Pineapple Street. It includes aging benches and picnic tables under the shade of mature fig trees and is a popular stopping location for travellers. There is also a 'feature' toilet block in this park. However, there are also two additional sets of toilets available in Pineapple Street very nearby (less than 50m away at the Council building and approximately 200m away in Lions Park). As the Pineapple Street Park toilet nears the end of its useful life, the need for three toilet facilities so close to one another should be reviewed.

There are two recreation parks on the northern side of the river in the Gayndah township. Dowsett Park is a small 'play' park with an aging play node without shade and an uncovered picnic setting. This park also has a toilet block that suffers from vandalism given the park is set back off the road and has limited passive surveillance. It is recommended that the play node be redeveloped under the shade of the two existing mature trees (where the swing set is currently located). While the large sealed car park and toilets may be useful for passing travellers it would be preferable if this stop was undertaken in the central business district. As such, the toilets may be considered for removal at the end of its useful life (or at least redeveloped with more hardy materials to reduce vandalism impacts).

The second park on the northern side of the river is Claude Wharton Park (Claude Wharton Weir Recreation Area). This site is a popular boat ramp access point and can be busy when there are multiple boats on the water. In addition to the boat ramp, the park also includes toilets and five covered picnic facilities. The addition of formalised allocation for car and trailer parking would assist users and increase the number of parking opportunities. Further, a play node at this site would provide for children too young to enjoy boating activities or for children waiting for their turn on the river. Potentially, there may be scope to acquire access to adjoining land parcels (lease or acquisition) to provide a larger area to meet demand for activating this site.

Pioneer Place (Botanic Gardens) is a large area of land located approximately 3.5km to the east of Gayndah on the Burnett Highway. The land was donated to Council in trust as botanic gardens. However, the site has become overgrown (likely because it is too large for Council's resources to maintain as a feature park area). At present, the site appears to function as another stopping opportunity for travellers and with well-maintained Zonhoven Park located on the same side of the Highway and closer to the central business district the demand for the facility is unclear. As a site held in trust there will be an emotional 'attachment' to this facility and Council will need to determine its position on the future direction for the site.

Being located directly 'on' the Burnett River, there are many locations in Gayndah offering attractive vistas. These areas lend themselves to further development of walking opportunities. Council has proposed a sealed path between the bridge and Meyer Street (along the existing unformed track). Ultimately, there may be scope to continue this path through to the Cullen Park/pool area. This path is expected to prove popular with both locals and visitors (assuming suitable directional signage is provided from the Highway). In addition to this path, a grass track is also required down to the river bed to ensure this area is suitably activated. Otherwise, even with the sealed path running along the top of the river bank, the river will continue to be something to 'look at' rather than to go down and engage with for water play, fishing and paddling. A simple paddle boat launch point (grass or sand launch) should be developed at the end of this grass track (on the downstream side of the weir).

The potential benefits of a Burnett River Rail Trail have been discussed by keen locals for many years. The proposed trail has also been raised with various levels of government without (seemingly) getting the incentive for 'approval' and establishment. The proposed rail trail is 37km long linking Gayndah and Mundubbera and would provide views of the Burnett River, opportunities to engage with local flora and fauna and opportunities to view many historic bridges. Rail trails are becoming increasingly popular sites for physical activity and wellbeing as they can provide for walkers, horse riders and mountain bike riders. Additionally, well-planned rail trails can help attract visitors to the area assisting to stimulate economic benefit. However, Given the resources required to establish and maintain the potential rail trail, Council has determined that it will not pursue this project further in the short- to medium-term.

Access to sporting opportunities

As the most populated town in the North Burnett, it is not surprising that there are a range of formal sporting opportunities available in Gayndah.

The Sports Complex is a primary location for formal field and court sports. The facility hosts little athletics, rugby league, touch, cricket and netball. While the facility is well-embellished with modern lighting, quality netball courts, cricket practice nets, single-storey clubhouse, storage sheds, playground and perimeter fencing, there are ongoing issues related to the quality of the turf playing surfaces. As a busy facility used year-round, careful field maintenance planning is required to ensure that important maintenance and upgrades are undertaken without unnecessary impacts on sporting user groups. Council needs to maintain close communication with the existing users to ensure that all parties are aware of when maintenance is required and whether this may impact on commencement of seasons and the scheduling of key events such as carnivals and finals.

Continued upgrade to the field surfaces are required at the Sports Complex. Ensuring a quality surface is particularly important given that the facility is used for little athletics and for touch (where players regularly run backwards). The little athletics centre is also seeking a grant to construct synthetic approaches for the long jump/triple jump pits to ensure a quality (safe) surface.

A small storage facility is required in the south-west corner of the site to provide for the netball club. Additionally, opportunities to develop shaded seating around the Complex should be investigated. Currently, there is no seating away from the clubhouse. Finally, the provision of water bubblers and a tap for filling water bottles near the clubhouse should be investigated.

Clearly, the development of a simple facility master plan for the Gayndah Sports Complex would assist to guide Council and the user groups in future decision-making.

The Gayndah Tennis facility is located diagonally across Queens Street from the Sports Complex. This attractive well-maintained facility includes six lit synthetic grass courts and two recently constructed hard court hot shots courts. The courts are serviced by a single-storey clubhouse with two awning extensions, amenities, hit-up wall and small storage shed. The Tennis Association should be encouraged to continue to fundraise and budget (through a sinking fund) for court surface replacement as required.

The North Burnett Field Archers Club and Burnett River Pistol Club are collocated at a facility on the western side of town. The venue includes a 50m pistol range, 50m archery range and extensive field archery course. Competitors (and visitors attending an annual archery event) have access to covered firing lines for each range. The amenities at this venue require significant upgrade and the provision of water collection and storage and an additional covered area would be well-received.

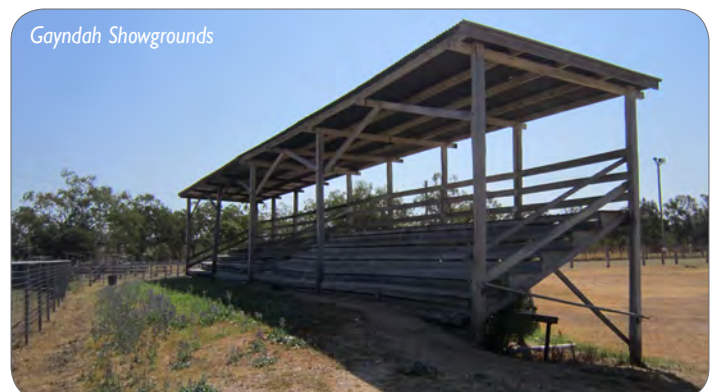
The bowls facility is attractive and includes a large single-storey clubhouse overlooking a lit green with retractable shade. Unfortunately, despite the facility being located on the main road, it has been developed such that the green is hidden from passing traffic by the large car park and clubhouse. This may be stifling opportunities for club growth.

The 9-hole golf course has quality fairways and attractive grass greens. It is well-located near to town and is popular with both locals and visitors. The club notes demand for irrigation upgrades, buggy shed construction and amenities upgrades.

The Gayndah Showgrounds is a large site directly to the south-west of the Sports Complex. It is a quality local-level facility providing a range of arenas, covered and uncovered yards, parade rings, powered camp sites and spectator areas. The recently constructed canteen and bar with large awning extension is a prominent central structure. There are a number of timber facilities in the Showgrounds that require upgrade (or replacement) such as the grandstand overlooking the main arena and the rodeo arena yards toward the 'front' of the site.

Activation

The Gayndah Swimming Pool would be attractive to a wider range of users if it included additional areas for socialising and recreation. Opportunity may exist to 'encapsulate' Cullen Park within the pool enclosure to provide shaded grassed areas for relaxing, kick-about, play and potentially barbecues. Further, options for water play should be considered such as use of inflatable activities during peak times.



Gayndah priority actions

Claude Wharton Park	
G1	Investigate opportunities to acquire additional land adjoining Claude Wharton Park to allow for facility expansion
G2	Formalise the existing car and trailer parking with linemarking and appropriate signage
G3	Develop a simple shaded play node
Cullen Park	
G4	Investigate opportunities to incorporate Cullen Park within the pool area
G5	Establish a water play facility within the combined park and pool area
G6	Replace the barbecue and play node
Dowsett Park	
G7	Develop a new play node under the shade of the existing mature trees
G8	Consider design opportunities to decrease vandalism of the toilets (e.g. replace sheeted walls with block walls, improve lighting)
Golf club	
G9	Upgrade the irrigation and amenities
Jaycee Park	
G10	Monitor the use of the barbecue. If it is sparingly used relocate it to Lions Park
G11	Replace the flood-related interpretive signage
G12	'Soften' the regulatory signage in the park
G13	Plant additional shade trees
Lions Park	
G14	Review and update the master plan for Lions Park. Ensure this review reflects lifting the park to a district level and include this new classification in the Asset Management Plan (Parks and Open Spaces)
G15	In the master plan review consider embellishment upgrades: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » replacement of the picnic table inside the learn-to-ride facility » provision of challenge play node » provision of power in the gazebo closest to the skate facility » construction of an informal bmx track » construction of a half court with rebound wall » development of a walk/cycle loop
Lookouts	
G16	Promote more widely the Mount Debatable and Archer Lookouts
G17	Establish directional signage to the lookouts
G18	Upgrade the walking track and hand rails at Archer Lookout

North Burnett Archery and Burnett River Pistol facility	
G19	Upgrade the amenities and construct an additional shade structure
Pineapple Street Park	
G20	Replace the seating and picnic tables
Pioneer Place	
G21	Establish a preferred direction for this open space area (designated Botanic Garden)
Pool	
G4	Investigate opportunities to incorporate Cullen Park within the pool area
G5	Establish a water play facility within the combined park and pool area
G22	Provide additional play elements during the holiday period (such as inflatable activities)
Rotary Park	
G23	Remove the picnic tables and plant additional shade trees
Showgrounds	
G24	Prepare a facility replacement and upgrade schedule (focussing on timber structures such as the grandstand that appear past the end of their useful lives)
Sports Complex	
G25	Develop a simple master plan for the Sports Complex and seek suitable funding
G26	Include in the master plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » agreed maintenance regime » agreed communication practices between the user groups and Council » focus on improving field turf quality » construction of a small storage shed for netball » addition of covered spectator seating » provision of bubblers and water tap » support Little Athletics seeking funding for the development of synthetic approaches for the long/triple jump pits
Toilets	
G27	As the public toilets near the end of their useful lives, review demand within the central business district (e.g. Jaycee Park, Pineapple Street Park, Lions Park and Council Chambers)
Walk/cycle opportunities	
G28	Construct a sealed walk/cycle path along the top of the river bank between the bridge and Meyer Street. Investigate opportunities to continue this path through to Cullen Park
G29	Construct a grass track from the new sealed path down to the river. Provide a simple paddle boat launch area at the end of this track

Overview

Monto is the key service hub for the northern section of the local government area. The town is older¹ than the Council area as a whole with a median age of 50 (compared to Council-wide at 46). It is important to note, that the population in the town is decreasing. In 2006, the population was 1,362. In the ten years that followed, the population has declined by almost 13% to 1,189. Additionally, across this timespan the community aged significantly from a median age of 44 to 50 (indeed the number of young people aged 0-14 years decreased by almost 30% in these ten years).

If this population decline continues, local sporting clubs (that are attractive to youth and young adults) are likely to continue to have difficulty maintaining stable membership bases. Additionally, demand for paths and more passive recreation elements may increase.

A range of sport and recreation opportunities are available in Monto. Recreation parks range from highly embellished and landscaped parks such as Lister Street Park and Memorial Park, through to a more adventure-style play facility at Jaycee Park, parks designed with travellers in mind (e.g. Lions Park) and green entries to town (e.g. Don McInnes Park). Additionally, formal sporting options include shooting sports, pony club, polocrosse, showgrounds activities, swimming, tennis, little athletics, golf, bowls, football, netball, touch football and rugby league. Additionally, Monto is the 'gateway' town to the Cania Gorge National Park.

Snapshot¹

Current population (2016)	1,189
0 - 14 years	16.6%
15 - 24 years	8.6%
25 - 34 years	8.3%
35 - 44 years	9.6%
45 - 54 years	12.3%
55 - 64 years	14.7%
65 years and over	29.9%
Median age	50
Do not have a motor vehicle	7.1%
Do not have private internet access	33.0%

¹ 2016 Census QuickStats, Australian Bureau of Statistics



Sport and recreation demand

A range of engagement activities were undertaken with the Monto community to ascertain current and future demand.

Community survey

Fourteen survey responses were received from the Monto community. Key findings include:

- » most popular activities: walking (77%), bushwalking (62%) and gardening (46%)
- » 71% of respondents visit an open space, park or sports ground at least twice each week
- » Cania Gorge National Park is a preferred location for walking
- » respondents value the natural setting (93%), interaction with the natural environment (71%) and a place to exercise (57%)
- » the need exists for additional activities for youth and low cost physical activity programs
- » key priorities for Council should be improved access to rivers, creeks and dams (43%) and new/upgraded walk/cycle paths (36%).

Club survey

Surveys responses were received from the Monto Hack and Pony Club and Monto Netball Association. Important issues identified by each group are discussed in the assessment of formal sporting opportunities.

Classroom workshops

There are limited formal sporting opportunities for juniors in Monto. From discussions with older students (years 9 and 10), boys were involved in local football (soccer) and tennis, while girls participated in netball, swimming and pony club.

The pool and skate park are popular venues for older youth to 'hang', despite the fact that very few actually entered the water at the pool and only one student used the skate facility. A large group of secondary-aged youth also play social basketball at the primary school outside school hours.

The students are seeking an inviting location with challenging elements where they can also socialise around shaded seating, have access to power, bubblers and a toilet. Importantly, this space needs to be an area where the youth feel safe - not frowned upon by passers-by.

For the younger students (years 4 and 5), boys were involved in football, little athletics and swimming, whilst one boy travelled to Biloela to play rugby league. Three girls participated in football, little athletics and netball.

The younger students enjoyed spending time at the pool, at Memorial Park and Jaycee Park. Cania Gorge National Park was also a popular venue for family outings. These children are seeking a park with more adventurous play elements (flying fox, learn-to-ride track, bmx dirt jumps etc). Additionally, the provision of more play options at the pool (a water park) was also highlighted.

Community workshop

Key issues identified at the community workshop include:

- » the Youth Shed will provide a quality venue for children
- » in addition to being a venue for learn-to-swim, squad swimming and exercise; the pool needs to be somewhere where both children and adults can have fun and relax
- » Cania Gorge National Park is the biggest attractant for tourists and is popular for locals on weekends
- » it is important to recognise that there are simply not enough children in the area for every sporting club to be planning for growth (planning for ongoing viability appears more practical)
- » Jaycee Park should be developed as the feature play park and include power and WiFi
- » an additional walk/cycle path connection is needed for the western side of town.

Additional engagement

Discussions with Council staff and the Divisional Councillor highlighted a number of common directions:

- » the sports complex is a flexible area with scope for further development
 - a grant has been received to develop a new netball facility within the complex
 - lighting the oval for little athletics would allow for late afternoon/early evening participation
- » formal sport tends to rely on one or two keen individuals. If these people leave town or lose interest the sports can simply fall over
- » the pool functions well as a venue for learn-to-swim, school lessons, aqua aerobics classes and training.

Previous planning

A Sport and Recreation Plan was developed for the former Monto Shire in 2006. Key recommendations noted in this document and the status of these recommendations include:

- » install shade over the play equipment in Memorial Park
 - play node remains uncovered
- » complete a feasibility study for redevelopment of the swimming pool
 - not undertaken
- » install shade over the skate park at Jaycee Park
 - not undertaken
- » provide new play equipment with shade cover, landscaping and seating in Apex Park
 - modern play has been installed
- » develop master plans for Monto and Mulgildie Showgrounds
 - no plans have been identified for either venue.

Analysis of sport and recreation opportunities

Access to recreation opportunities

Locals and visitors are well-supplied for recreation parkland in Monto. Parks such as Memorial Park, Jaycee Park and Lions Park are popular and well-used. In contrast, both Apex Park and Rotary Park are large open space parcels that receive limited use.

Memorial Park is the feature infant play and formal events open space for town. It has attractive landscaping and is well-located near to the central business district. The exercise equipment has been grouped into a node and is slightly set back in the park to provide users a little privacy. The mature trees and shrubs provide cool areas and opportunities for adventure play. However, as a key location for young children play, the formal play node should be covered to provide a more pleasant play experience.

The skate park is located at Jaycee Park. The park also includes a toilet block, picnic tables in gazebos, barbecues and kick-about space with concrete cricket wicket. The park has a direct walk/cycle path connection with the primary and secondary schools. The visitor information booth located in the park is unattractive and appears to not have been updated in some time. The development of Lister Park and Lions Park as key rest areas for visitors may indicate that this booth can be removed. Both the younger and older students highlighted a desire for a park providing more challenging play elements. Jaycee Park could be further developed in this manner to complement the skate facility and kick-about space. Development initiatives such as a flying fox (taking advantage of the natural slope), rebound wall with basketball hoop and simple dirt mounds for bike riding may further activate this park. Additionally, to further embed this facility as a key gathering space for young people, a water bubbler and power should be provided at the gazebo. Finally, this park requires prominent naming signage.

Lions Park and Lister Street Park have both largely been developed as attractive stops for travellers. The high levels of maintenance at these sites should continue as they also provide additional quality open spaces for locals.

Apex Park is a large recreation park. The park includes uncovered play, covered picnic node, toilets, mature trees and large kick-about area. Consultation and inspections suggests that the park receives limited use. It is located only 400m from popular Lions Park (albeit across the highway) and has been designed in a somewhat odd manner. The play equipment is uncovered and in an open area meaning it would be very hot throughout the warmer months. Yet, there is a section of the park with a stand of mature trees that create a shaded area. This is not a feature venue that residents or visitors would drive to for long stays and picnics. As a result, at the end of its useful life the toilet block should be removed. Further, as the playground and picnic facility age, Council could consider rationalisation of this park.



Lister Street Park, Monto

Rotary Park is a large open space parcel on the eastern side of town. The park is undeveloped other than the water tower that is located on the western side of the park. With the park being located just over 200m from Memorial Park, future opportunity may exist to rationalise the eastern portion of the park (leaving a small open space parcel around the water tower).

Monto also enjoys an extensive path network with walk/cycle paths linking key parks, the schools and a number of residential areas. This network could be further enhanced by extending the existing path on the northern side of Flinders Street from Hume Street through to Burke Street. This would provide a direct connection for residents (and Blue Care) with the central business district.

As has been previously noted the 6-lane 25m pool is well-developed as a training, learn-to-swim, exercise program and local school competition pool. Almost one quarter of the main pool has shading while shaded spectator seating and a shaded toddler pool are also provided. What appears to be missing at this facility is opportunities for youth play. There is almost no grass within the pool enclosure and there are no water play elements such as sprinklers and falling water. Opportunity may exist to install water play elements within the existing toddler pool and to expand the pool enclosure footprint to the south-west to include additional grass areas for play and socialisation.

Cania Gorge National Park is a popular destination for both residents and visitors. The park is popular for bushwalking, bird watching and nature appreciation. While the dam is well-known as a location for fishing, paddling and skiing, opportunity exists to further activate the dam area through facilities such as a quality play node and fish cleaning tables. More recently, the cliffs throughout the National Park are being recognised for their outstanding rock climbing and abseiling attributes. Council should liaise closely with the State Government, Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation and representatives from the Australian Climbing Association of Queensland to ensure that these rock climbing pursuits can be managed, developed and promoted in a sustainable fashion.



Jaycee Park, Monto



Lions Park, Monto



Cania Gorge National Park

Access to sporting opportunities

With a declining population base, a number of formal sporting groups have struggled in recent years. Cricket and junior rugby league have not been available for some time and more recently senior rugby league has also had difficulty fielding a team. As highlighted, the number of young people living in the area is expected to continue to decrease. This is likely to see junior sports such as little athletics facing ongoing membership pressure, while a shift toward sports for adults (social touch football and social netball) and older adults (golf and bowls) may be observed.

Centennial Park (the sports complex) is a hub for field sports. It is also home to netball and cadets. The facility is well-serviced by a sealed car park and large pavilion. Additionally, a central raised clubhouse has recently been developed between the two sets of fields. There are a number of unused elements and embellishments in disrepair that reduce the attractiveness of the site. The site screens, damaged cricket practice nets, shade 'frame' and timber barbecue should all be removed. Additionally, the concrete cricket pitch on the eastern field is dangerous. While formal cricket is no longer played at the site, the pitch remains available for social play. The grass along the western side of the pitch has fallen markedly away from the pitch creating an uneven trip hazard. The pitch surrounds need to be raised to create a level playing surface.

The existing netball courts are in poor condition and do not meet requirements for run-offs. Fortunately, the club was recently successful in securing a grant to develop a new netball hub on the eastern side of the complex. The new facility will ultimately include two lit courts, shared storage shed and canteen facility. This will be an exciting advancement for this club.

The little athletics facilities require ongoing maintenance. The running track is very hard (and suffers from limited grass cover). This field would benefit greatly from an irrigation system. Additionally, the centre intends re-marking the track as a full 400m facility. This change can be accommodated within the existing footprint of the eastern field. The throws circles are in good condition and well-located (although the discus landing area will be reduced with the proposed track realignment). The long/triple jump sand should be replaced by 'softer' finer grained sand.

The western fields at the sports complex host football (and formerly hosted cricket). The fields are in poor condition and require re-levelling and irrigation. The synthetic cricket wicket is in poor condition and is dangerous. With no formal cricket currently being undertaken, Council may prefer to remove the wicket.

The premier rectangular field at the sports complex was recently lit to 100 lux. Two of the former light poles were re-aimed toward the eastern fields, while the two poles that were removed will be relocated to the far eastern end of the complex. This will result in all of the fields on the eastern side of the precinct being lit (at least for training purposes) and provide for touch football, football (soccer), little athletics and netball carnivals.

The tennis club was recently successful attracting a grant for complete resurface and lighting of the six hard courts. This facility is a key location for both informal social play and for formal training and fixtures. Similarly, both the go kart facility and golf club provide avenues for either social or formal pursuits.

With two quality greens (one being lit) and perimeter shade, the bowls club is an inviting venue. Additionally, the club has erected prominent signage. The club has identified a number of infrastructure upgrades including retractable shade for players, clubhouse air conditioning, laser levelling green 2 and upgrading lighting.

The showgrounds is a busy and attractive venue. As the 'centrepiece' to the facility, the lit main arena includes a quality surface, perimeter fencing and spectator seating in the shade of mature trees. Indeed, the mature trees that remain across the facility and provide shaded areas are one of the more endearing features of the site. While the pavilions and yards are aging somewhat they remain functional for their current uses. The hack and pony club note a desire for their own standalone shed within the showgrounds. This would alleviate the current need to move equipment offsite whenever a large event is hosted at the showgrounds.

The Monto Shooting Complex is a quality local-level facility. With a 4-target 700 yard range, 25m pistol range with covered firing line and 50m pistol range with uncovered firing line, the facility is attractive for a number of disciplines.

Activation

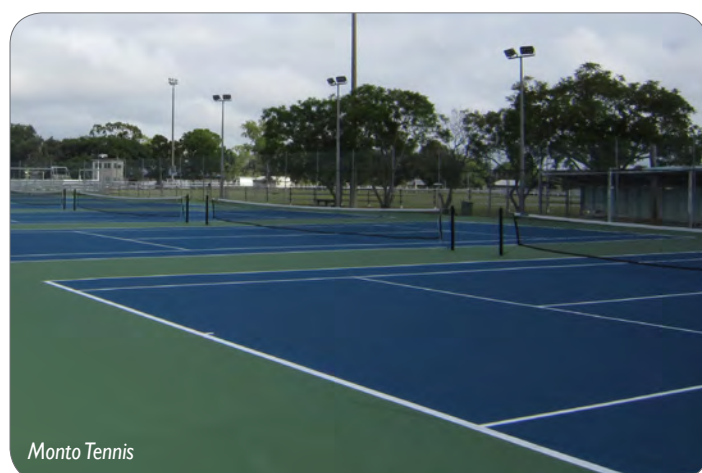
Like a number of towns across the Council area, the Monto pool has been developed as a formal swimming venue and provides limited opportunities for unstructured play. The venue may become a more attractive option for children (particularly older children) if it provided alternate activities across the school holidays such as inflatable activities or holiday activity program (e.g. lifesaver skills, children's aqua aerobics, water polo and underwater hockey). The recently opened Youth Shed may also prove to be a popular outlet for both unstructured children's activities and formal programming.

Monto priority actions

Apex Park	
M1	Remove the toilet block at the end of its useful life
M2	Consider rationalisation of the playground and picnic node at the end of their useful lives
Bowls Club	
M3	Investigate opportunities to provide retractable shade over one green
M4	Seek funding to air condition the clubhouse
Cania Gorge National Park	
M5	Construct a quality play node and fish cleaning tables in the recreation area near the boat ramp
M6	Liaise closely with the State Government, Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation and representatives from the Australian Climbing Association of Queensland to ensure that these rock climbing pursuits can be managed, developed and promoted in a sustainable fashion



Monto Sports Complex



Monto Tennis

Centennial Park (sports complex)	
M7	Remove the site screens, damaged cricket practice nets, shade frame and timber barbecue
M8	Upgrade the kitchen facility within the clubhouse
M9	Eastern fields: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » investigate irrigation opportunities » extend the athletics track to 400m » replace the sand in the long/triple jump pit » install synthetic long/triple jump approaches » continue to support netball to develop a new 'home'
M10	Western fields: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » re-level the playing fields and investigate opportunities for irrigation
Jaycee Park	
M11	Remove the visitor information booth
M12	Develop the park as the town's feature challenge park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » construct a flying fox, rebound wall with basketball hoop and dirt mounds for bmx riding » provide water bubblers and access to power » erect prominent park naming signage
Memorial Park	
M13	Provide a shade cover over the formal infant play node
Pool	
M14	Provide additional play elements and programming during the school holiday period (such as an inflatable obstacle course and activities program)
Rotary Park	
M15	Consider rationalisation of the eastern portion of the park
Showgrounds	
M16	Review demand for an additional storage shed for the hack and pony club
Walk/cycle opportunities	
M17	Extend the existing path on the northern side of Flinders Street from Hume Street through to Burke Street.

Overview

Mount Perry is located on the far eastern side of the local government area. It is the smallest of the recognised 'towns' with 538 residents¹. With a median age of 51, there are limited young people living in the town. Interestingly, since 2006, the town is one of the few areas in the Council that has experienced any notable growth. Nearby mining activity has seen the construction of 73 new houses since 2008. However, with only one new house built in the last two years, there has been suggestion of mining activities winding down resulting in future population decreases.

The limited sport and recreation opportunities available in Mount Perry reflect the small population base. There are very few formal sporting clubs in town. Opportunities exist for equine activities associated with the annual show and rodeo, community activities such as indoor bowls at the Community Complex and golf at the club on the south-west side of town. Memorial Park and Maynard Park provide play opportunities for both younger and older children, while Normanby Range Lookout provides views across to Mount Perry (and the surrounding range).

Snapshot¹

Current population (2016)	538
0 - 14 years	17.4%
15 - 24 years	6.6%
25 - 34 years	8.1%
35 - 44 years	10.4%
45 - 54 years	11.3%
55 - 64 years	17.8%
65 years and over	28.5%
Median age	51
Do not have a motor vehicle	5.3%
Do not have private internet access	25.0%

1 2016 Census QuickStats, Australian Bureau of Statistics



Sport and recreation demand

A range of engagement activities were undertaken with the Mount Perry community to ascertain current and future demand.

Community survey

Seven survey responses were received from the Mount Perry community. Key findings include:

- » most popular activities: arts and craft, gardening, walking, swimming and playing in the park
- » Memorial Park and Maynard Park are both popular sites for children's play
- » respondents value a place to spend time with friends (71%) and encourage social interaction with the community (57%)
- » the need exists for additional activities for youth and low cost physical activity programs
- » key priorities for Council should be new/upgraded playgrounds, provision of places/facilities for young people and more community events in public parks.

Club survey

A survey response was received from the Mount Perry Sport and Recreation Club. The key considerations highlighted in this response include:

- » the need for re-surfacing of the indoor court
- » the need for roof repairs (and facility damage being evidenced from leaks)
- » high impact of decreasing youth participation
- » high impact of limited volunteers (and poor parent support).

Classroom workshops

With limited access to formal sporting opportunities, it is not surprising that formal participation was very limited amongst the younger students (years 5 and 6). Travelling to Gin Gin, two girls participated in little athletics and one boy in tae kwon do. Whilst a boy and a girl competed in swimming in Bundaberg.

Almost three quarters of the class group lived on properties outside Mount Perry. As a result, preference was for activities such as motorbike and quad bike riding rather than for using the playgrounds or skate facility within town. The Community Centre, however, was popular for informal activity such as basketball, indoor soccer and obstacle courses. It is also important to note, that more than half of the children also indicated use of the school playgrounds and oval outside school hours. As one student noted - "the school oval is the only flat mown grass in town where you can kick a footy".

When asked what they thought was missing in town from a sport and recreation perspective, the top three responses were:

- » a pool
- » a sports field
- » a formal sporting team the children can participate in.



Memorial Park, Mount Perry



Maynard Park, Mount Perry



Memorial Park, Mount Perry

Stakeholder teleconference

A teleconference was conducted with key stakeholders who are actively involved in providing sport and recreation opportunities in Mount Perry. Key issues identified through this process include:

- » Memorial Park
 - well maintained park
 - popular and attracts two weekly playgroup visits and a weekly mother's gathering
 - additional play elements such as a swing and slide would be valued
 - solar light would be beneficial
- » Maynard Park
 - skate park receives regular use
 - requires shade over the skate area
 - requires barbecue and picnic node and additional landscaping
- » Community Complex
 - hub for local sport and recreation activity attracting use on most days
 - requires roof repairs and indoor court replacement
 - additional Council assistance with maintenance would be beneficial
- » Golf Club
 - attracts regular use and well-maintained by local volunteers
 - chasing a deck extension to create a meals area
- » Showgrounds
 - well-maintained venue that hosts a small number of annual events
 - quality facilities have been developed through actively seeking grants
 - would like the main arena lit for night activities (poles have been erected but require light fittings and wiring)
- » Community Hall
 - central location that hosts line dancing twice each week
- » Walk/cycle opportunities
 - Council is currently constructing a sealed link along Heusman Street south-east past the cemetery
 - opportunity exists to develop an internal walk/cycle path within Maynard Park
 - investigate opportunities to develop a link with Normanby Range Lookout
- » Swimming Pool
 - the development of a public pool within Mount Perry has long been discussed
 - potentially more feasible to establish a facility at Mingo Crossing
- » Wolca Reserve
 - was formerly a busy site for mountain biking and community activities (such as Australia Day celebrations)
 - now a largely under-utilised facility
- » Mingo Crossing
 - highly valued facility
 - continued implementation of the master plan is essential
 - consider opportunities for formalising a swimming area with pontoons
 - significant opportunities to develop walking trails.



Mingo Crossing Caravan and Recreation Park

Additional engagement

Discussions with Council staff and the Divisional Councillor highlighted a number of common directions:

- » while the development of a pool has been considered for many years, there simply is not a large enough local population base or visitor numbers to sustain a facility
- » families that live in Mount Perry 'acknowledge' that they will need to travel for formal sport and swimming lessons
- » Memorial Park and Maynard Park are popular spots for both locals and visitors
- » Showgrounds is being progressively upgraded and developed by a committed group of volunteers
- » Community Complex attracts regular use but is starting to show signs of aging (floor upgrades and leaking roof).

Analysis of sport and recreation opportunities

Access to recreation opportunities

Memorial Park is the town feature park. It is located centrally on the town's main street and near to the general store and Council's administration building. The park includes shaded play nodes; large picnic and barbecue node; additional covered seating; interpretive signage and historical display and amenities with toilets, showers and laundry. It is a popular location for locals and visitors. Playgroups visit the site regularly. Additional lighting is required to ensure safe access to the amenities and barbecue area at night.

Directly across the road from Memorial Park is Maynard Park - location of the skate facility and outdoor exercise equipment. This park also has shaded seating and historical display (army tank). The area becomes very hot during the warmer months and would benefit from shade over the skate area and additional landscaping.

Normanby Range Lookout provides an area with views across to the nearby Range (just 5km east of town). The park also includes a covered picnic node and uncovered barbecue. It appears that this facility receives limited use.

Interestingly, the highest quality play opportunities are located at the school. Three separate play nodes provide a range of challenging options for all ages and ability levels. Additionally, the school grounds include an attractive synthetic surface play area marked with handball courts and a basketball hoop. As previously identified, a number of children use the play facilities at the school outside school hours.



Access to sporting opportunities

With a limited number of young people and a somewhat transient population base of adults, it is not surprising that there are few formal sporting opportunities in Mount Perry. There are only three areas providing avenues for sport.

The Community Complex (the 'green shed') is a single court indoor facility with breakout rooms providing areas for weights gym, cardio room, youth space and learning centre. The complex also includes an outdoor bitumen tennis court. In addition to the gym activities, the venue also hosts regular indoor bowls, unstructured play such as basketball and indoor soccer and school sport activities. The indoor court surface is in need of replacement. However, before this can be undertaken, the leaks in the roof should be repaired. Opportunities may exist to remove an internal wall between the weights area and youth space to create a more open gymnasium area.

The golf club is a 9-hole venue with sand greens. It is located on the south-west side of the town in a raised location that provides views across town. As a small community-run course, the facility is well-maintained and hosts a number of successful community and corporate events each year. Opportunity to develop a covered deck area to provide a gathering space at the venue, clubhouse painting and continued green upgrades could all be considered.

The showgrounds is a hub for community equine-related activity. The site is well-located near to town, with an attractive backdrop and quality views from its raised position. The wide range of embellishments at the showgrounds have been well-maintained and are inviting for users. These embellishments include main arena, additional smaller arenas, main pavilion with amenities and administration areas, covered and uncovered spectator seating, large covered gathering area and yards. The venue hosts a successful rodeo and show annually. Additional activities include campdraft, barrel racing and car shows. Finally, the showgrounds is also a recognised overnight camping area for travellers. The committee has recently erected light posts to provide for nighttime activities. Light fittings and wiring are required to complete this project, while upgraded cattle yards and additional seating would also be beneficial.

While the children identified the development of a sporting field and formal junior sporting team as a priority, the reality is that there are not enough young people in town to sustain a team (even if a suitable venue was available). Rather than Council and the community looking to develop additional facilities in town, outside school hours access to the school facilities should be investigated.

Activation

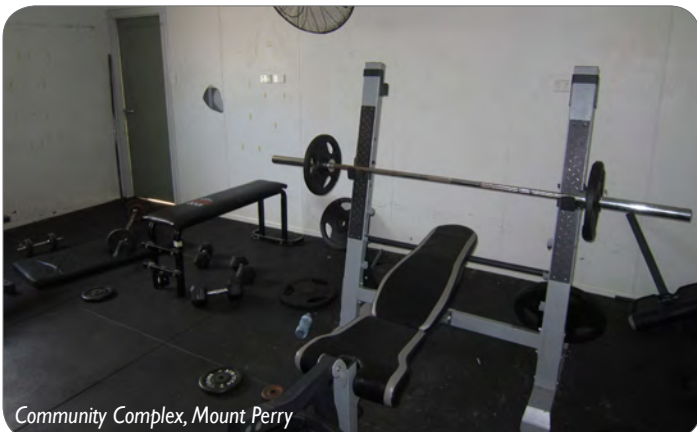
Opportunity exists to further encourage youth use of the Community Complex. Funding can be sought to conduct a formal school holiday program to actively engage young people and to increase the range of activities provided at the venue. Increased patronage (such as this) may assist to fast-track the necessary facility upgrades.



Community Complex, Mount Perry



Community Complex, Mount Perry



Community Complex, Mount Perry



Mount Perry Golf Club

Mount Perry priority actions

Community Complex	
MP1	Repair the leaking roof
MP2	Replace the indoor court floor surface
MP3	Establish a clear facility maintenance agreement between Council and the Complex Management Committee
MP4	Investigate opportunities to attract funding to conduct a school holiday activity program
Golf Club	
MP5	Construct a deck area to provide a gathering space
MP6	Paint the clubhouse
MP7	Continue to undertake upgrades to the greens
Maynard Park	
MP8	Install a barbecue near the shaded seating area
MP9	Construct a shade structure over the skate facility
MP10	Develop additional landscaped seating areas near to the skate facility
Memorial Park	
MP11	Provide a swing set (with infant swing) as an additional play element
MP12	Provide solar lighting to provide safe access to the amenities and barbecue node after hours
Mingo Crossing	
MP13	Continue to seek funds to implement the master plan
MP14	Investigate opportunities to develop a swimming 'enclosure' with pontoons
MP15	Plan and develop natural walking trails around the dam (using the campground as the trailhead)
Norman Range Lookout	
MP16	Monitor use of the uncovered barbecue and remove if warranted
School facilities	
MP17	Liaise with Department of Education regional officers and local principals to 'activate' (outside school hours) the sport and play opportunities available at schools in smaller towns for local residents
Showgrounds	
MP18	Assist the committee to complete the lighting project at the main arena
MP19	Upgrade the cattle yards
MP20	Install additional seating around the main arena
Wolca Reserve	
MP21	Monitor the condition of the buildings and structures located in the Reserve. Rationalise the facilities at the end of their useful lives



Mount Perry Showgrounds

Overview

Mundubbera is located on the Burnett River midway between Gayndah and Eidsvold. The area is well known for its citrus orchards and blueberry farm (and other fruit orchards) and the town is the second largest population base in the Council area with 1,261 residents¹. It should be recognised that large numbers of seasonal workers also come in and out of the area each year.

Mundubbera is a young town with a median age of 38 years - notably younger than the whole of Council at 46 years. Since 2006, the proportion of the population aged 65 years and above has increased only slightly from 18.1% to 20.1%. With changes in the census statistical area boundaries used for analysis, it is somewhat difficult to track population changes since 2006. However, with only 55 new houses constructed since 2008, the residential population base appears steady.

There are a wide range of sport and recreation opportunities available in Mundubbera ensuring that the town is an attractive activities hub. From a recreation perspective, locals and visitors have access to an appealing river-side node at Bicentennial Park and the adjoining Arthur Dagg River Walk, can enjoy play in parks such as Archer Park and Halfpenny Park or can visit at the local pool. Sports enthusiasts also have access to a wide range of choices from formal field and court sports at Archer Park (and at Mundubbera State School), to activities located at the showgrounds, to motor sports, shooting sports and fishing and skiing on the river.

Snapshot¹

Current population (2016)	1,261
0 - 14 years	17.8%
15 - 24 years	11.4%
25 - 34 years	17.6%
35 - 44 years	10.5%
45 - 54 years	11.0%
55 - 64 years	11.4%
65 years and over	20.1%
Median age	38
Do not have a motor vehicle	9.0%
Do not have private internet access	30.1%

1 2016 Census QuickStats, Australian Bureau of Statistics



Sport and recreation demand

A range of engagement activities were undertaken with the Mundubbera community to ascertain current and future demand.

Community survey

Twenty-one survey responses were received from the Mundubbera community. Key findings include:

- » most popular activities: walking (81%), swimming for exercise (62%), and exercise in the park (48%)
- » popular sites for recreation: at home (75%), local footpaths (70%), sportsground or court (60%), swimming pool (60%)
- » preferred sport and recreation areas include Bicentennial Park and the riverside walk, Martin Love Oval at Archer Park and Apex Ski Park
- » Halfpenny Park has been identified as an area requiring upgrade
- » the community value: the natural setting (86%), I feel safe when I visit (86%) and the views they provide to the river/lake (71.4%)
- » the sportsfields, playgrounds and natural bushland areas are all considered of high quality
- » key priorities for Council should be provision of places (43%), improved facilities along rivers, creeks, dams and/or lakes (38%).

Club survey

Survey responses were received from four Mundubbera clubs (all based at Archer Park) - Mundubbera Touch, Mundubbera Junior Cricket, Mundubbera Rugby League and Mundubbera Netball. Common considerations highlighted in these responses include:

- » no expectation of membership increases
- » need for canteen upgrades, additional storage and spectator shade at Archer Park
- » high impact of no new members
- » high impact of limited volunteers, coaches and coach training opportunities
- » no clubs with a club development plan/business plan.

Classroom workshops

More than half of the older students (year 9) were involved in formal club sport outside the school system. Of particular note was the large variety of sports that females participated in including touch football, cricket, netball, tennis, swimming, pony club, volleyball and tae kwon do.

The two preferred recreation activities for the older students were playing by the river and social basketball games at the outdoor courts. Very few students were regular pool visitors, noting that there is little to do there other than swim laps. The skate park is also not popular as it has not been expanded since it was first built and the shelter is too small for more than just a few people to sit together.

These students would like to see water play elements included at the pool, an indoor sports centre and expansion of the gym.

It is pleasing to note that almost 70% of the younger children (years 4 and 5) were actively involved in club sport. Both boys and girls played a range of sports with boys preferring rugby league, cricket, swimming and motocross. (Six boys also played local soccer before the club folded¹). For girls, club sport interests include cricket, netball, tennis, swimming and pony club.

Key recreation activities that the younger students enjoy include riding bikes on local roads and paths, playing by the river and playing at the 'train park' (Bicentennial Park). Like the older students, few noted either the pool or skate park as preferred places for activity.

Younger students are seeking more play opportunities at the pool (such as construction of a water slide) and more challenging play elements within the parks (such as a rock climbing wall).

1

the club has been re-established for the 2018 season



Community workshop

A successful community workshop highlighted a range of key issues for further consideration:

- » the gym can get very busy and uninviting for young people and women. It requires supervision to enhance perceptions of safety and extension would be beneficial
- » the pool is not an attractive venue for young people nor families. Additional play and picnic elements are required. The grandstands are also in need of replacement
- » Archer Park is an attractive sporting venue, however, development as an oval restricts opportunities for multiple rectangular fields
- » walking opportunities in town are a highlight and could be further built upon through activation of a rail trail through to Gayndah (and beyond)
- » Apex Ski Park is a popular site. However, the picnic and toilet facilities all need to be upgraded (or replaced)
- » Bicentennial Park is an important asset and is well utilised. However, a single access point is required that links down to the river bed
- » important to provide flexible sports facilities that can be re-purposed as sports wax and wane
- » regular instances of poor communication between Council and formal sporting groups

Additional engagement

Discussions with Council staff and the Divisional Councillor highlighted a number of common directions:

- » availability of a wide range of formal sports creates competition for field and court space and for members
- » important to consider walking trail development as a key element for locals and visitors to Mundubbera
- » Apex Ski Park requires significant facility upgrades
- » motocross track is popular and well-located in a natural area
- » shooting sports have strong membership bases
- » 7-a-side cricket carnival is a key fundraiser for local sport
- » showgrounds host an annual show (incorporating a campdraft and rodeo). Looking to establish additional lighting around the main arena
- » tennis facilities (building and courts) require upgrade
- » social volleyball is based at the school and is growing well.

Previous planning

A Sport and Recreation Plan was developed for the former Mundubbera Shire in 2006. Key recommendations noted in this document and the status of these recommendations include:

- » examine the feasibility of upgrading the outdoor courts at the school
 - the courts have new synthetic surfaces and one of the two courts has been enclosed. An indoor facility has also been established
- » install shade over the play equipment at Archer Park
 - complete
- » review play elements in Halfpenny Park
 - the play opportunities in Halfpenny Park remain uninviting
- » install additional shade at Mundubbera Pool
 - shade exists at the far south-east end of the facility, over the 'marshalling' area at the shallow end of the pool and above a small grandstand
- » encourage the Bowls Club to develop retractable shade over the green
 - retractable shade is only available for bowlers and spectators around the perimeter of the green
- » develop a pontoon and new barbecue at Apex Ski Park
 - no pontoon has been installed and all of the picnic facilities require review and upgrade
- » master plan (and develop) the Scampers Ground to provide for improved cricket facilities, relocation of soccer and potential future use by softball
 - very limited upgrades have been achieved at the facility
 - soccer (football) has only just re-formed and softball has not been established
 - the facility is only used one day each year for the annual 7-a-side event
- » provide power to the motocross, Scampers Ground and Small Bore Rifle Club
 - not achieved
- » support the development of cricket practice nets at Archer Park
 - these nets have recently been constructed
- » encourage the Mundubbera Show Society to undertake priority upgrades
 - while the cattle yards were recently upgraded, a number of the pavilions and day yards appear near to the end of their useful lives.



Archer Park, Mundubbera



Pioneer Park, Mundubbera



Archer Park, Mundubbera

Analysis of sport and recreation opportunities

Access to recreation opportunities

Residents and visitors to Mundubbera enjoy a wide range of recreation opportunities. These range from undeveloped greenspace in parks such as Olympic Park and Kalla Park, to local parks with simple embellishments such as Jaycee Park and Halfpenny Park through to Bicentennial Park - an attractive district-level venue.

Bicentennial Park is well-regarded and popular for locals (and travellers). The large site includes playgrounds (well-located under mature shade trees), large covered barbecue node, amenities, uncovered picnic tables, sealed walking opportunities (Arthur Dagg Riverside Walk), learn-to-ride facility, unsealed walk/cycle opportunities (Holleran's Walk and Cycle Way), outdoor exercise stations, public art and interpretive elements. While the park and walk are popular, a number of the features are beginning to age. If the park is to remain the key feature park for the town, embellishments such as the play nodes and exercise equipment need to be considered for upgrading. Additionally, much of the signage is in poor condition. The water rot in the timber bollards near the barbecue node is also not conducive of a district-level facility. While the Arthur Dagg Riverside Walk provides an attractive opportunity 'along' the river bank, access to the river bed remains an issue. The river is a preferred location for recreation. One low maintenance walking track should be developed from the Riverside Walk down to the river bed.

In addition to a wide range of sporting opportunities (detailed in the following section), Archer Memorial Park (Archer Park) also includes a large playground, skate facility and gym. The covered playground includes a number of play elements. With some elements designed for older children, this play node is attractive to a range of ages. However, the shelter is in very poor condition. With a large picnic shelter located nearby in the Centenary Memorial Gardens, this shelter should be removed and replaced with additional bench seating located in the shaded areas nearer to the play nodes. The skate park is located in the far south-east corner of the park. (Unfortunately, this location is well away from the other recreation elements at the site). While the facility is small, it is well-designed and in good condition and has a picnic shelter, access to water and a barbecue. The use of the barbecue should be monitored. If it is not regularly used it can be removed (barbecues are rarely provided adjoining skate facilities unless they form a larger recreation node). When the skate facility begins to near the end of its useful life (well beyond the life of this Plan), opportunity to re-develop it nearer to the other recreation elements in the park should be considered (e.g. on Bauer Street between the play node and the pool). The gym at Archer Park is located in the covered court facility. It is heavily used in the afternoons and early evenings. Residents indicate that the gym can become overcrowded, messy and uninviting at peak times. Supervision is required at these times to ensure a positive experience for gym users.



Arthur Dagg Riverside Walk, Mundubbera

The town pool (War Memorial Swimming Pool) is located in Archer Park near to the Centenary Memorial Gardens. It is in a quality location, facing a busy street and adjoining the CBD. Like many of the pools in the Council area, it provides opportunities for formal swimming and learn-to-swim with limited elements and areas for recreation. A small shaded infants wading pool is attractive for young users, however, there are limited additional areas for kick-about, chasing games or socialising. Indeed, the pool was not identified by either the younger or older students as a preferred recreation site to visit. Opportunities to provide additional play and recreation elements at the pool (particularly during the summer school holidays) should be investigated. As a 6-lane 50m pool with covered grandstands, the pool is popular for school and club swimming events and for local lap swimmers. The grandstands are in poor condition and should be replaced.

Centenary Memorial Gardens adjoins Archer Park directly to the north. This small park is heavily embellished and includes a large picnic and barbecue shelter, formal gardens, flood-related interpretive signage and acknowledgment wall. The snakes and ladders game and checkers/chess board painted onto the floor of the shelter are a novel recreation opportunity and balance well with the more active pursuits available in Archer Park.

Many of the sport and recreation opportunities are located on the southern side of town. So, it is appropriate that Halfpenny Park (a large local-level recreation park) is located on the northern side of the town in a residential area. The park is well-located with full length road frontage across three sides providing passive surveillance (and pleasant views for nearby residents). It includes a large kick-about space (with a junior-size cricket pitch), two uncovered play nodes, barbecue and picnic shelter, amenities and a stand of mature trees. Until later in the afternoon, the two play nodes would be largely unshaded. It is uncommon to have two separate play nodes in a local park, particularly when the two areas are targeted at children of the same age (infants to young children). If the play elements were brought together in one node, opportunity may exist to provide a shade cover. As has previously been outlined in this Plan, it is not necessary to provide amenities (toilets) in local parks located in residential areas. The toilets in this park are aging and could be considered for removal at the end of their useful lives. Finally, the picnic and barbecue shelter has solid brick walls on the two sides that could provide views out to the play nodes. This reduces the ability of carers to use the shelter while young children are playing (as they would be largely out of sight). As a better block building, this structure still has significant remaining life. However, opportunity to provides openings in the two side walls should be investigated as it would improve its functionality.

Jaycee Park (the Black Stump) is a town entry park designed for travellers. The park includes landscaping, amenities, driver reviver area, covered play and picnic shelter and should continue to attract suitable maintenance.

Town Hall Park and Pioneer Park provide amenity in the main street and in the administrative area of town. They should continue to receive high levels of maintenance.

Wilson Avenue Reserve, Leichhardt Street Reserve and Kalla Park all provide open space with drainage functions, while Olympic Park is a natural area providing a memorial for a local olympian.

Located just a short drive from town, the Apex Ski Park is a popular location for locals and visitors. The site includes a boat launch facility, jetty, amenities and covered barbecue and picnic areas. This area floods regularly and the picnic facilities are in need of replacement with more 'hardy' options. The access road into the site (Kerles Road) requires an upgrade given the popularity of the Ski Park. Opportunity to upgrade the point where the creek crosses this entry road should be investigated.

As previously noted, Mundubbera provides quality walking opportunities along the river. It is worth investigating the feasibility of building upon these walking opportunities and extending the Arthur Dagg walk west to the Apex Ski Park and east to Red Gully Bridge using the former rail corridor (and Kerles Road) .



Centenary Memorial Gardens, Mundubbera



Halfpenny Park, Mundubbera

Access to sporting opportunities

With a steady population base, opportunities for formal sports have fluctuated somewhat in recent years. While soccer (football) had not operated in 2017 it has re-established in 2018. Additionally, volleyball conducted at the School is garnering strong support.

The key location for multi-sport activity in the town is Archer Park - local home of rugby league, cricket, touch football, netball, tennis and the town's gym, skate facility and pool.

The facility has been progressively developed over many years and in 2017 hosted a round of the Intrust Super Cup (rugby league). It includes a lit oval with synthetic cricket wicket, single storey clubhouse (with raised commentator's area), covered court with gym area, grass and sealed multi-use courts, tennis courts and cricket practice nets.

The clubhouse at Archer Park is well-located in a central area. However, the canteen requires significant upgrade to ensure that it meets relevant health and safety requirements and a first aid/officials' room is also necessary. An additional storage shed near to the clubhouse would provide substantial benefit to all users. An updated PA system and electronic scoreboard would also benefit many of the user groups.

While the oval and practice nets are in good condition, the court areas require significant upgrade. The two hard surface multi-use courts are in poor condition (with areas of significant cracking and subsidence) and have inappropriate run-offs. The two synthetic tennis courts are used for junior tennis coaching and matches and are nearing the end of their useful life. If all four courts were to be replaced, opportunity may exist to develop them all as dual netball/tennis courts. This would provide both sports access to four quality hard courts and broaden scope for hosting district events. While the tennis building provides a functional shaded area with storage, the timber and iron structure is not in keeping with a town feature sporting facility. Additionally, the building provides a disconnect between the hard court area, grass netball court and covered court. This building could be replaced by a smaller facility nearer to either the south-west or south-east corners of the facility.

Options for increased shaded spectator areas near the clubhouse at Archer Park should be investigated. The 'hill' areas to the north and south of the clubhouse could be further developed with permanent shade structures constructed over tiered seating (or grass terraces).

The showgrounds is a heavily embellished site (owned by the Show Society). It hosts a two-day annual Show and two-day campdraft. The Horse and Pony Club was re-established in 2016 and now hosts a range of clinics and events. While the layout of the venue is conducive to events, many of the yards and pavilions at the facility appear to be nearing the end of their useful lives. Additionally, facilities such as the Pony Club shed require upgrades (e.g. power and water, basic kitchen, further

storage, shaded gathering space). Significant funds will be required to replace/upgrade each of these elements in a progressive manner. A detailed master plan (including facility replacement and upgrade schedule) would assist the Show Society (and member groups such as the Horse and Pony Club) in future planning.

The Central Burnett Motorcycle Club facility is well regarded for its natural setting. The 'amphitheatre-style' setting provides quality viewing opportunities for spectators, however, additional shaded grandstand seating and connection to mains power is required. Additionally, the aged tunnel requires replacement given its poor condition and safety concerns.

The 7-a-side cricket event has been conducted for 34 years and is a feature in Mundubbera's annual sporting calendar. It is also a key fundraiser for local sport development. The vast majority of matches are played at the Scampers Ground (Katzorke Park). While the fields and buildings at this facility are all in poor condition - this actually adds to the relaxed 'country feel' of this event. However, the facility requires an amenities block and power to meet demand for the event (and potentially attract new uses).

The Small Bore Rifle Club facility includes covered firing lines and ranges up to 50m. The golf course is an attractive 9-hole venue with grass greens that has been developed around two dams. The bowls club includes a single lit green with retractable shade for bowlers and spectators and a large clubhouse. Each of these three venues provide quality opportunities for residents and visitors.

The School is becoming a second 'hub' in the town for multi-sport activity. It has a range of outdoor, covered and indoor facilities and now hosts two Saturday cricket matches four times each year, weekly senior netball fixtures, martial arts and regular volleyball. The School leaders should be praised for making their facilities available for community activity.

Activation

Opportunities to encourage recreation use of the pool should be further investigated. Holiday activities such as the provision of inflatable activities may prove attractive. Additionally, it may be possible to move either the eastern or western fence lines back somewhat to provide a larger shaded grass area for recreation.

Residents noted difficulty in gaining access to the tennis courts for social play. The courts are locked and the people identified for gaining a key are not always contactable. Just as Martin Love Oval is available for social play when not being formally used for training or competition, opportunities should exist for social tennis play. Council could trial opening the two courts up during daylight hours to allow ready access for local residents (and visitors). It should be noted that synthetic grass courts are more susceptible to vandalism and damage from inappropriate use compared with the hard courts proposed in the Plan.

Mundubbera priority actions

Apex Ski Park	
MU1	Install a pontoon and a sand launch area
MU2	Upgrade the access road (Kerle Road) and ensure suitable treatment where the creek crosses this road
Archer Park	
MU3	Develop a storage shed central to the clubhouse
MU4	Develop additional shaded spectator seating (or grass terraces) on the hills directly to the north and south of the clubhouse
MU5	Upgrade the canteen to ensure it meets relevant health and safety expectations and construct a first aid/officials' room
MU6	Redevelop the tennis and multi-purpose courts as four tennis/netball hard courts with a new smaller club building
MU7	Replace the shelter directly to the north of the play node and include additional bench seating in shaded areas around the play elements
MU8	Monitor the use of the barbecue near the skate facility. Remove the barbecue if it is not being used. Long term - relocate the skate facility to form a larger recreation node near to Bauer Street
MU9	Investigate opportunities to provide supervision at the gym during peak times
MU10	Consider options to expand the gym area to the south of the current facility
MU11	Replace the fencing directly in front of the clubhouse with a more aesthetically pleasing fence type
MU12	Install an electronic scoreboard to service the main field
MU13	Investigate opportunities to provide improved access for social tennis play. Trial opening the courts during daylight hours
Bicentennial Park	
MU14	Upgrade the play equipment to include more modern and challenging play elements
MU15	Upgrade the outdoor exercise equipment
MU16	Review (and replace) the signage throughout the park and along the Arthur Dagg Riverside Walk
MU17	Develop a simple access leading from the river walk path to the river bed

Central Burnett Motorcycle Club facility	
MU18	Establish additional shaded spectator seating
MU19	Establish electricity at the venue
MU20	Redevelop the tunnel given safety concerns
Halfpenny Park	
MU21	Upgrade the play elements and re-develop as one play node with shading
MU22	Investigate opportunities to remove sections of the block walls on the ends of the picnic shelter to allow views out to the play nodes
MU23	Remove the toilet block at the end of its useful life
Pool	
MU24	Replace the grandstands
MU25	Provide additional play elements during the school holiday period (such as an inflatable obstacle course)
MU26	Investigate opportunities to expand recreation opportunities (e.g. volleyball court, yoga and/or barbecue and picnic node)
Scampers Grounds	
MU27	Construct a central amenities building
MU28	Establish electricity at the venue
Showgrounds	
MU29	Prepare a master plan for the Showgrounds that includes a facility replacement and upgrade schedule (e.g. consider opportunities to light the main ring and provide upgraded facilities for the Horse and Pony Club)
Walk/cycle opportunities	
MU30	Continue the Arthur Dagg Riverside Walk to the Apex Ski Park using the disused rail corridor
MU31	Connect the Arthur Dagg Riverside Walk to the east (toward Red Gully Bridge) using the disused rail corridor

Additional locations

In addition to the six key service centres, there are a number of small villages and hamlets spread across the Council area. Some of these areas include a general store and small school while others are simply a cluster of homes.

Some of these locations include a simple rest stop for travellers with picnic facilities and potentially a toilet. Others may include a small playground, recreation reserve or showgrounds. As identified in the Asset Management Plan (Parks and Open Spaces), Council should continue to maintain and upgrade identified facilities so that they remain functional.

Locations where key actions are recommended are highlighted below.

Bancroft Showgrounds

The venue includes a show ring with raised commentary booth, loading ramp and yards, toilets and showers and a shed. The facility was badly damaged in the most recent major flooding event. While it formerly held an annual rodeo and campdraft, the facility now largely sits idle.

Since the flood event, a number of the facilities appear somewhat dangerous. As Council manages this facility, it should ensure removal of any facilities that present a potential of harm for people entering the site. If there is no potential for the rodeo committee to re-establish regular events at the site, Council may prefer to relinquish the facility.

Dallarnil Sports Club

The Dallarnil Sports Club hosts a range of events at the Hall and Sports Ground. Events include the annual Sports Day - a day largely filled with horse-related events and a rodeo but can also include wood chopping and athletics-style events; cutting events and regular club practices.

The facilities at the venue include public toilets, hall, main sports ground with uncovered grandstands, canteen and bar area, secretary's office and rodeo area with yards.

This Club works hard to maintain the facilities and provide opportunities for locals (and visitors). Council should continue to support the group as it looks to develop a toilet and shower facility and to light both the sports ground and rodeo area to allow for larger night-time events.

Mulgildie Showgrounds

The Mulgildie Showgrounds is located directly off the Burnett Highway and includes a show ring with steel rail fencing and raised commentary booth, loading ramp and yards, amenities, covered spectator area, canteen and bar. The facility hosts a popular two-day annual campdraft.

As a well-located and attractive site hosting a large annual event, Council should continue to support the Mulgildie Campdraft and Rodeo Association as they continue to seek opportunities to upgrade the facility.



Bancroft Showgrounds



Dallarnil Hall and Sports Ground



Mulgildie Showgrounds

Additional priority actions

Bancroft showgrounds	
BA1	Remove any facilities that present a potential of harm for people entering the site. If there is no potential for the rodeo committee to re-establish regular events at the site, consider relinquishing the facility
Dallarnil	
D1	Support the Dallarnil Sports Club as it looks to develop a toilet and shower facility and to light both the sports ground and rodeo area to allow for larger night-time events
Mulgildie Showgrounds	
MUL1	Support the Mulgildie Campdraft and Rodeo Association as they continue to seek opportunities to upgrade the facility



Dallarnil Hall and Sports Ground



Local government collaboration

North Burnett Regional Council shares its boundaries with seven separate local government areas. With stretched human and financial resources, opportunities for cross-council collaboration can assist to 'share the load' in developing and promoting quality sport and recreation products for residents and visitors.

The area has been proactive in networking and discussing sport and recreation issues and opportunities through the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils' Sport and Recreation Committee. As key outcomes, this group has prepared the Water Trails of the Wide Bay Burnett brochure and interactive webpage and led the development of the Wide Bay Burnett Sport and Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Strategy. Given this cross-council collaboration has proven successful in recent years, it augurs well for potential sub-regional collaboration between North Burnett Regional Council, South Burnett Regional Council and Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council (that are all concurrently undertaking council-wide sport and recreation planning activities),

Preference for collaborative projects focuses on those sports and recreation activities where:

- » there is already one key feature facility located between the three councils (and no demand for duplication)
- » opportunity exists to attract regular patronage from outside the region.

The list of sports and recreation activities included below is not restrictive. As community sport and recreation preferences change, or as funding becomes available through additional sources, officers from the three councils can discuss potential additional opportunities.

Boxing

The Eidsvold Boxing Club has recently been re-formed with the development of a quality training facility. In a collaborative approach, the Club is being registered through Murgon PCYC and the intention is for boxers to be able to train from the two venues. Further opportunity may exist for training and fights to also include the Gayndah Amateur Boxing Club and the recently established boxing group in Cherbourg.

Gliding

The Kingaroy Soaring Club is considered one of only three high-level gliding fields in Queensland suitable for hosting State and National Championships. Any future interest or expressed demand for additional gliding facilities in the Burnett area should be re-directed to the Kingaroy facility.

Motocross

The Central Burnett Motorcycle Club facility (located in Mundubbera) is a well regarded venue in a natural setting. The facility hosts regular motocross training and successful events and is centrally located within the Burnett area. The development of any additional facility for motocross is not supported.

Rail trails and mountain biking

Clear cross-council collaboration exists where trails travel from one council to another. The development of the Kilkivan to Kingaroy Rail Trail is an example of a quality joint project between South Burnett Regional Council and Gympie Regional Council. Similarly, North Burnett Regional Council is partnering in an investigation of a potential Inland Rail Trail in a project being led by Gladstone Regional Council.

Whilst not focussed on collaborations between the three Burnett councils, further opportunity exists to investigate a rail trail between Bundaberg Regional Council and North Burnett Regional Council (North Bundaberg to Mount Perry) and for extension of the Kilkivan to Kingaroy Rail Trail.

Mountain bikers are key users of rail trails. Where mountain bike parks (natural areas where mountain bike trails are planned and developed) can be established adjoining (or near to) rail trails there is clear scope for high levels of usage. The works undertaken by South Burnett Regional Council and the South Burnett Mountain Bike Club in the McEuan State Forest should be further encouraged and are expected to see this facility become a popular venue for training and events.

As new mountain bike facilities are developed in the area, the councils should take a collaborative approach to ensure that these mountain bike opportunities are included in the relevant promotional publications updated regularly by Organised Grime.

Speedway

The Kingaroy Speedway (located within the Showgrounds) is a high-quality venue that hosts Australia's largest modified sedans race each year - a 3-day event attracting up to 150 competitors. There are no other speedway facilities in the Burnett area. With the popularity of the Kingaroy facility, the development of any new speedway facilities is not supported.

Additional considerations

Opportunities for cross-council collaboration extend beyond the planning and development of new facilities.

Reduced rates and subsidies

There is potential for councils to offer each other reduced rates (or subsidies) for asset usage where it is appropriate to do so. For instance, there is no public pool within Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council. However, a quality pool is located in Murgon (only 6km from Cherbourg yet owned by South Burnett Regional Council). As recognition of the popularity of this pool for Cherbourg residents, the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council has made annual contributions toward the maintenance of the Murgon facility. Similarly, if (for example) South Burnett Regional Council was due to host a swimming event and all of its 50m pool were out-of-action for some reason, North Burnett Regional Council may make the Mundubbera or Gayndah pools available at a significantly reduced rate.

Joint sponsorship

Councils may consider joint sponsorship of activities and events that have potential for economic benefit across the Burnett area. For example, Bicycle Queensland conducts a number of multi-day cycle touring events. There may be potential to attract (or establish) an event within the Burnett (or Wide Bay Burnett) Region if a collaborative approach including joint sponsorship arrangements was undertaken.

Similar to the manner in which the Australian Campdraft Association conduct 'The Big 3' with events conducted on three consecutive weekends in Warwick, Condamine and Chinchilla, scope may exist to conduct fishing or skiing events across a number of locations throughout the Burnett area on consecutive weekends. Here again, would be an opportunity for joint collaboration and sponsorship that creates economic benefit across council areas.

Travel distances

While the Plan highlights key facilities that should not be duplicated and potential opportunities for facility-sharing, the reality is that the area covered by the three councils is particularly large. There is more than 5 hours drive time between the southern and northern ends of the North and South Burnett Regional Council boundaries. While it may seem a little inequitable that a gliding enthusiast in Biggenden is encouraged to travel to Kingaroy, limited resources dictate the importance of careful planning and development.



Eidsvold Boxing Club facility

Implementation plan

This Sport and Recreation Plan represents an opportunity for Council (and the community) to maintain and build upon the quality of sporting infrastructure and recreation opportunities through clear planning and considered decision-making. Implementation of the actions included in the Plan will require strong leadership, appropriate resources and a commitment to making some difficult decisions.

The key direction that became clear through engagement processes and subsequent analysis was the need to maintain the existing range of infrastructure without unnecessarily focusing on new facilities. Acknowledging Council and the community's resource realities has helped to guide the development of key actions. There is limited population growth forecast for the North Burnett, thus population-driven demand for additional facilities is not expected. In essence, the focus of the Plan is to ensure ongoing quality of the facilities that Council and the community have achieved to-date and to further activate sport and recreation parks through programming and tailored facility upgrades.

Recommendations are presented in the following table and are grouped by planning area - Council-wide actions first followed by each of the key localities. This allows interested readers easy access to those actions most directly related to them.

Priorities are assigned for each action. A high priority recommendation should be undertaken as soon as resources allow while medium (within 5 years) and low priorities (in the next 5-10 years) have longer timeframes attached to them. The information provided is designed as a flexible guide - changes in user priorities or earlier opportunities for funding may alter implementation. While the Plan presents a guiding vision for Council and the community, the underlying issue will be the capacity to resource it. Ultimate project timing will clearly be dependent on the availability of necessary funding (from local clubs, Council, State and Federal Government). Clubs and Council have a strong track-record of attracting grants and this will need to continue to achieve a number of the key actions.

A project leader is assigned for each action. Given that this is a Council-driven project it is not surprising that Council is the project leader on the majority of actions. For the more involved actions, the project leader will be responsible for forming a project team and driving the project through to successful completion. For some actions it will be necessary for the project leader to include community groups and individuals for assistance and support to achieve quality outcomes.

Eidsvold Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve



Action No.	Action	Priority	Project lead	Council's role
COUNCIL-WIDE				
Operational matters				
OP1	<p>Conduct a detailed audit of the number and location of public toilets throughout the LGA to determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » adequate provision of public toilets » the location minimises anti-social behaviour » cost effectiveness to provide and maintain » the needs of users are being met. <p>Consider using a ranking system to assist to prioritise refurbishment/upgrade or rationalising including: environmental sustainable design, crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED), accessibility, efficiency, maintenance and features</p>	High	Council	Provider Strategic direction
OP2	Undertake a structural investigation of Council-owned public swimming pools to gather information on the current asset condition, remaining life and potential remedial work that can be undertaken to extend the life of assets in the short-medium term. Use the report as evidence-based information to guide Council decision-making.	High	Council	Provider Strategic direction
OP3	Prepare master plans for Kirar Weir, Wuruma Dam and Paradise Dam. Continue to implement the Mingo Crossing Master Plan	<p>High (Mingo Crossing, Paradise Dam)</p> <p>Medium (Kirar Weir, Wuruma Dam)</p>	SunWater Council	Partner
OP4	Develop simple master plans (and master plan reviews) for the Gayndah Sports Complex, Eidsvold Showgrounds, Mundubbera Showgrounds and Gayndah Showgrounds (facility replacement and upgrade schedule)	High	Council Community	Provider Partner Strategic direction
OP5	Undertake an internal review and update of the Plan within two years of adoption	High	Council	Strategic direction
OP6	Adopt a playground provision approach that reflects Council's desire for a diverse range of opportunities reflecting demand (rather than play duplication across parks) and with focussed development on one (or two) feature play parks within each town	High	Council	Provider
OP7	Conduct an information session for councillors, the executive team and senior officers regarding modern play opportunities (consider undertaking site visits of modern play nodes in nearby councils)	Medium	Council	Provider

Action No.	Action	Priority	Project lead	Council's role
COUNCIL-WIDE (cont.)				
Community, partnerships and activation				
CP1	Liaise with Department of Education regional officers and local principals to understand the feasibility of 'activating' (outside school hours) the sport and play opportunities available at schools in smaller towns for local residents	High	Council Dept Ed	Partner
CP2	Investigate opportunities to further activate pools by incorporating additional areas for recreation, play and socialisation and providing stimulating water play elements such as inflatable activities	High	Council	Provider
CP3	Focus on the development and upgrade of sports facilities to meet local demand. Where there are existing (or clear potential for) quality events, liaise with organisers to ensure Council support where it is beneficial	Medium	Council Community	Provider Funder
CP4	Re-activate the Healthy North Burnett program to activate parks and increase opportunities for physical activity. Continue to seek State Government funding in order to fund local providers and ensure free (or low cost) opportunities for participants	Medium	Council Community	Partner Funder
CP5	Ensure continued liaison with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services and outdoor recreation groups to promote and activate existing outdoor recreation opportunities. (Undertake a specific project focussing on activating the rock climbing opportunities at the Cania Gorge National Park)	Medium	Council QPWS QORF	Partner
CP6	Support and encourage sport clubs to compile Club Development Plans detailing governance, membership, participation, land tenure and facility development goals	Medium	Council Community	Partner Funder

Action No.	Action	Priority	Project lead	Council's role
BIGGENDEN				
Town-wide				
B1	Investigate opportunities to fund a holiday activities program for youth	High	Council Community	Funder
B2	Investigate the feasibility of establishing a community gym in town	High	Council Community	Provider Partner Strategic direction
Apex Park				
B3	Replace the exercise equipment and establish a new node under natural shade slightly more centrally within the Park	High	Council	Provider
B4	Provide shaded bench seats and a water point near the skate park	High	Council	Provider
B5	Remove the barbecue	Low	Council	Provider
Beiers Park				
B6	Continue to maintain as a district-level facility	Ongoing	Council	Provider
Lions Park				
B7	Review demand for each park embellishment as it reaches the end of its useful life	Ongoing	Council	Provider
Motorsport				
B8	Collaborate with CAMS (Confederation of Australian Motor Sport) and local motorsport enthusiasts to investigate the feasibility of developing a venue near to Biggenden	Medium	Council Community	Provider Partner Strategic direction
Mount Walsh National Park				
B9	Liaise with the Department of Environment and Science to seek upgrades to the access road to the Park from Maryborough-Biggenden Road	Medium	Council Dept E&S	Partner
Paradise Dam				
B10	<p>Liaise with SunWater, Department of Transport and Main Roads and the caravan park managers to develop a recreation master plan for the site. Key items for consideration include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » relocating the toilet block near the playground to the top caravan park area » relocating the standalone barbecue to the top caravan park » developing pathways around the top caravan park, covered barbecue node and playground area » providing outdoor lighting at the top caravan park and barbecue node and the lower camping area » extending the boat ramp 	High	Council Facility Managers SunWater	Provider Partner Funder
Pool				
B11	Provide additional play elements during the school holiday period (such as an inflatable obstacle course)	High	Council	Provider

Action No.	Action	Priority	Project lead	Council's role
BIGGENDEN (cont.)				
Showgrounds and sports complex				
B12	Install irrigation at the main field at the Sports Complex	High	Council	Provider
B13	Investigate opportunities to relocate the sports currently based at the sports complex to the showgrounds. Items for consideration include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » provision of field lighting (and requirements for power upgrades) » locating fields within the show ring (and potential need for expanding the show ring area) » maintaining a quality field surface (for sport) following horse and cattle events » scheduling and potential event clashes 	High	Council Community	Provider Strategic direction
Tennis (and netball)				
B14	Investigate opportunities to replace the ancillary infrastructure (storage, amenities and covered area) at the tennis facility	High	Council Community	Provider Partner

Action No.	Action	Priority	Project lead	Council's role
EIDSVOLD				
Town-wide				
E1	Investigate opportunities to fund outside school hours activity programs	High	Council	Funder
Apex Park				
E2	Continue to maintain as a district-level facility	Ongoing	Council	Provider
Golf Club				
E3	Repair and replace the tee block retaining walls	Medium	Community	
E4	Upgrade the buggy shed (extend and connect power)	Medium	Community	
E5	Install fairway and green irrigation	High	Community	
E6	Construct a practice putting green	Medium	Community	
E7	Construct a car park	Low	Community	
Harkness Boundary Park				
E8	Relocate (or replace) the outdoor exercise equipment to a shaded central location within Joyce Park	Medium	Council	Provider
E9	Upgrade the skate park node (install a covered picnic table, benches and a bubbler (water point))	High	Council	Provider
Joyce Park				
E8	Relocate (or replace) the outdoor exercise equipment to a shaded central location within Joyce Park	Medium	Council	Provider
Kirar Weir				
E10	With SunWater, investigate opportunities to improve access to Kirar Weir for water-based recreation. Develop a master plan for the site	Medium	Council SunWater	Partner
Pool				
E11	Provide additional play elements during the school holiday period	High	Council	Provider
Quinn Park				
E12	Investigate opportunities to rationalise this land parcel	Medium	Council	Provider
Ray Pownall Drive Park				
E13	Investigate opportunities to clear around the park to enhance views. If this is not possible, consider rationalisation of this land parcel	Low	Council	Strategic direction
Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve				
E14	Remove the disused netball court	High	Council	Provider
E15	Investigate opportunities to irrigate the playing field	High	Council Community	Partner
E16	Remove the disused cricket pitch from the playing field	Medium	Council	Provider
E17	Remove the toilet block near to the rugby league/polocrosse clubhouse	Medium	Council	Partner
E18	Upgrade the stables	Medium	Council Community	Provider Partner
E19	Upgrade the power supply to the site	High	Council	Provider
E20	Develop a master plan for the site	High	Council	Provide
Tennis/basketball facility				
E16	Re-develop as a single multi-use hard court	High	Council	Provider
E17	Assess the structural integrity of the building servicing the courts	High	Council	Provider
Walk/cycle opportunities				
E21	Extend the walk/cycle path network past the Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve and through to the RM Williams ABLC	High	Council	Provider
Wuruma Dam				
E19	In conjunction with SunWater, investigate development of a master plan for the site	Medium	Council SunWater	Partner

Action No.	Action	Priority	Project lead	Council's role
GAYNDAH				
Claude Wharton Park				
G1	Investigate opportunities to acquire additional land adjoining Claude Wharton Park to allow for facility expansion	Medium	Council	Provider Strategic Direction
G2	Formalise the existing car and trailer parking with linemarking and appropriate signage	High	Council	Provider
G3	Develop a simple shaded play node	Medium	Council	Provider
Cullen Park				
G4	Investigate opportunities to incorporate Cullen Park within the pool area	High	Council	Provider Strategic direction
G5	Establish a water play facility within the combined park and pool area	High	Council	Provider
G6	Replace the barbecue and play node	High	Council	Provider
Dowsett Park				
G7	Develop a new play node under the shade of the existing mature trees	Medium	Council	Provider
G8	Consider design opportunities to decrease vandalism of the toilets (e.g. replace sheeted walls with block walls, improve lighting)	High	Council	Provider
Golf club				
G9	Upgrade the irrigation and amenities	High	Community	Provider
Jaycee Park				
G10	Monitor the use of the barbecue. If it is sparingly used relocate it to Lions Park	Medium	Council	Provider
G11	Replace the flood-related interpretive signage	High	Council	Provider
G12	'Soften' the regulatory signage in the park	High	Council	Provider
G13	Plant additional shade trees	Medium	Council	Provider
Lions Park				
G14	Review and update the master plan for Lions Park. Ensure this review reflects lifting the park to a district level and include this new classification in the Asset Management Plan (Parks and Open Spaces)	High	Council	Provider Strategic direction
G15	In the master plan review consider embellishment upgrades: » replacement of the picnic table inside the learn-to-ride facility » provision of challenge play node » provision of power in the gazebo closest to the skate facility » construction of an informal bmx track » construction of a half court with rebound wall » development of a walk/cycle loop	High High High Medium Medium Medium	Council	Provider
Lookouts				
G16	Promote more widely the Mount Debatable and Archer Lookouts	Medium	Council	Provider
G17	Establish suitable directional signage to the two lookouts	Medium	Council	Provider
G18	Upgrade the walking track and hand rails at Archer Lookout	High	Council	Provider
North Burnett Archery and Burnett River Pistol facility				
G19	Investigate amenities upgrade opportunities and construct an additional shade structure	Medium	Council Community	Partner Funder
Pineapple Street Park				
G20	Replace the seating and picnic tables	Medium	Council	Provider

Action No.	Action	Priority	Project lead	Council's role
GAYNDAH (cont.)				
Pioneer Place				
G21	Establish a preferred direction for this open space area (designated Botanic Garden)	High	Council Community	Provider Strategic direction
Pool				
G4	Investigate opportunities to incorporate Cullen Park within the pool area	High	Council	Provider Strategic direction
G5	Establish a water play facility within the combined park and pool area	High	Council	Provider
G22	Provide additional play elements during the school holiday period (such as inflatable activities)	High	Council	Provider
Rotary Park				
G23	Remove the picnic tables and plant additional shade trees	Low	Council	Provider
Showgrounds				
G24	Prepare a facility replacement and upgrade schedule (focussing on timber structures such as the grandstand that appear past the end of their useful lives)	High	Council Community	Partner
Sports Complex				
G25	Develop a simple master plan for the Sports Complex and seek suitable funding for facility development	High	Council Community	Provider Partner Strategic direction
G26	Include in the master plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » agreed maintenance regime » agreed communication practices between the user groups and Council » focus on improving field turf quality » construction of a small storage shed for netball » addition of covered spectator seating » provision of bubblers and water tap » support Little Athletics seeking funding for the development of synthetic approaches for the long/triple jump pits 	High High High Medium High High Medium	Council Community	Provider Partner Funder
Toilets				
G27	As the public toilets near the end of their useful lives, review demand within the central business district (e.g. Jaycee Park, Pineapple Street Park, Lions Park and Council Chambers)	Ongoing	Council	Provider Strategic direction
Walk/cycle opportunities				
G28	Construct a sealed walk/cycle path along the top of the river bank between the bridge and Meyer Street. Investigate opportunities to continue this path through to Cullen Park	High	Council	Provider
G29	Construct a grass track from the new sealed path down to the river. Provide a simple paddle boat launch area at the end of this track	High	Council	Provider

Action No.	Action	Priority	Project lead	Council's role
MONTO				
Apex Park				
M1	Remove the toilet block at the end of its useful life	Ongoing	Council	Provider
M2	Consider rationalisation of the playground and picnic node at the end of their useful lives	Low	Council	Provider
Bowls Club				
M3	Investigate opportunities to provide retractable shade over one green	Medium	Community	
M4	Seek funding to air condition the clubhouse	Medium	Community	
Cania Gorge National Park				
M5	Construct a quality play node and fish cleaning tables in the recreation area near the boat ramp	High	Council QPWS	Provider Partner
M6	Liaise closely with the State Government, Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation and representatives from the Australian Climbing Association of Queensland to ensure that these rock climbing pursuits can be managed, developed and promoted in a sustainable fashion	High	Council QPWS ACAQ QORF	Partner Strategic direction
Centennial Park (sports complex)				
M7	Remove the site screens, damaged cricket practice nets, shade frame and timber barbecue	High	Council	Provider
M8	Upgrade the kitchen facility within the clubhouse	Medium	Council Community	Provider Partner
M9	Eastern fields: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » investigate irrigation opportunities » extend the athletics track to 400m » replace the sand in the long/triple jump pit » install synthetic long/triple jump approaches » continue to support netball to develop a new 'home' 	High High High High High	Council Community	Provider Partner
M10	Western fields: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » re-level the playing fields and investigate opportunities for irrigation 	High	Council Community	Provider Partner
Jaycee Park				
M11	Remove the visitor information booth	Medium	Council	Provider
M12	Develop the park as the town's feature challenge park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » construct a flying fox, rebound wall with basketball hoop and dirt mounds for bmx riding » provide water bubblers and access to power » erect prominent park naming signage 	High High Medium	Council	Provider
Memorial Park				
M13	Provide a shade cover over the formal infant play node	High	Council	Provider
Pool				
M14	Provide additional play elements and programming during the school holidays (such as an inflatable obstacle course and activities program)	High	Council	Provider
Rotary Park				
M15	Consider rationalisation of the eastern portion of the park	Medium	Council	Provider
Showgrounds				
M16	Review demand for an additional storage shed for the hack and pony club	Medium	Council Community	Partner
Walk/cycle opportunities				
M17	Extend the existing path on the northern side of Flinders Street from Hume Street through to Burke Street.	Medium	Council	Provider

Action No.	Action	Priority	Project lead	Council's role
MOUNT PERRY				
Community Complex				
MP1	Repair the leaking roof	High	Council	Provider
MP2	Replace the indoor court floor surface	High	Council Community	Provider Partner
MP3	Establish a clear facility maintenance agreement between Council and the Complex Management Committee	High	Council Community	Provider Partner
MP4	Investigate opportunities to attract funding to conduct a school holiday activity program	High	Council Community	Provider Partner
Golf Club				
MP5	Construct a deck area to provide a gathering space	Medium	Community	
MP6	Paint the clubhouse	Medium	Community	
MP7	Continue to undertake upgrades to the greens	Ongoing	Community	
Maynard Park				
MP8	Install a barbecue near the shaded seating area	High	Council	Provider
MP9	Construct a shade structure over the skate facility	High	Council	Provider
MP10	Develop additional landscaped seating areas near to the skate facility	Medium	Council	Provider
Memorial Park				
MP11	Provide a swing set (with infant swing) as an additional play element	Medium	Council	Provider
MP12	Provide solar lighting to provide safe access to the amenities and barbecue node after hours	Medium	Council	Provider
Mingo Crossing				
MP13	Continue to seek funds to implement the master plan	High	Council	Provider
MP14	Investigate opportunities to develop a swimming 'enclosure' with pontoons	High	Council	Provider
MP15	Plan and develop natural walking trails around the dam (using the campground as the trailhead)	Medium	Council	Provider
Norman Range Lookout				
MP16	Monitor use of the uncovered barbecue and remove if warranted	Ongoing	Council	Provider
School facilities				
MP17	Liaise with Department of Education regional officers and local principals to understand the feasibility of 'activating' (outside school hours) the sport and play opportunities available at schools in smaller towns for local residents	High	Council Dept Ed	Partner
Showgrounds				
MP18	Assist the committee to complete the lighting project at the main arena	High	Council Community	Partner
MP19	Upgrade the cattle yards	Medium	Council Community	Partner
MP20	Install additional seating around the main arena	Medium	Council Community	Partner
Wolca Reserve				
MP21	Monitor the condition of the buildings and structures located in the Reserve. Rationalise the facilities at the end of their useful lives	Ongoing	Council	Provider

Action No.	Action	Priority	Project lead	Council's role
MUNDUBBERA				
Apex Ski Park				
MU1	Install a pontoon and a sand launch area	Medium	Council	Provider
MU2	Upgrade the access road (Kerle Road) and ensure suitable treatment where the creek crosses this road	Medium	Council	Provider
Archer Park				
MU3	Develop a storage shed central to the clubhouse	High	Council Community	Provider Partner
MU4	Develop additional shaded spectator seating (or grass terraces) on the hills directly to the north and south of the clubhouse	Medium	Council Community	Provider Partner
MU5	Upgrade the canteen to ensure it meets relevant health and safety expectations and construct a first aid/officials' room	High	Council Community	Provider Partner
MU6	Redevelop the tennis and multi-purpose courts as four tennis/netball hard courts with a new smaller club building	High	Council Community	Provider Partner
MU7	Replace the shelter directly to the north of the play node and include additional bench seating in shaded areas around the play elements	Medium	Council	Provider
MU8	Monitor the use of the barbecue near the skate facility. Remove the barbecue if it is not being used. Long term - relocate the skate facility to form a larger recreation node near to Bauer Street	Low	Council	Provider Strategic direction
MU9	Investigate opportunities to provide supervision at the gym during peak times	High	Council Community	Provider Partner
MU10	Consider options to expand the gym area to the south of the current facility	Medium	Council	Provider
MU11	Replace the fencing directly in front of the clubhouse with a more aesthetically pleasing fence type	Medium	Council	Provider
MU12	Install an electronic scoreboard to service the main field	Medium	Council Community	Partner Funder
MU13	Investigate opportunities to provide improved access for social tennis play. Trial opening the courts during daylight hours	High	Council Community	Provider Partner
Bicentennial Park				
MU14	Upgrade the play equipment to include more modern and challenging play elements	High	Council	Provider
MU15	Upgrade the outdoor exercise equipment	Medium	Council	Provider
MU16	Review (and replace) the signage throughout the park and along the Arthur Dagg Riverside Walk	High	Council	Provider
MU17	Develop a simple access leading from the river walk path to the river bed	High	Council	Provider
Central Burnett Motorcycle Club facility				
MU18	Establish additional shaded spectator seating	High	Council Community	Funder Partner
MU19	Establish electricity at the venue	High	Council Community	Funder Partner
MU20	Redevelop the tunnel given safety concerns	High	Council Community	Funder Partner
Halfpenny Park				
MU21	Upgrade the play elements and re-develop as one play node with shading	High	Council	Provider
MU22	Investigate opportunities to remove sections of the block walls on the ends of the picnic shelter to allow views out to the play nodes	High	Council	Provider
MU23	Remove the toilet block at the end of its useful life	Ongoing	Council	Provider

Action No.	Action	Priority	Project lead	Council's role
MUNDUBBERA (cont.)				
Pool				
MU24	Replace the grandstands	High	Council	Provider
MU25	Provide additional play elements during the school holiday period (such as an inflatable obstacle course)	High	Council	Provider
MU26	Investigate opportunities to expand recreation opportunities (e.g. volleyball court, yoga and/or barbecue and picnic node)	High	Council	Provider Strategic direction
Scampers Grounds				
MU27	Construct a central amenities building	High	Council Community	Provider Funder Partner
MU28	Establish electricity at the venue	Medium	Council Community	Provider Funder Partner
Showgrounds				
MU29	Prepare a master plan for the Showgrounds that includes a facility replacement and upgrade schedule (e.g. consider opportunities to light the main ring and provide upgraded facilities for the Horse and Pony Club)	High	Council Community	Partner
Walk/cycle opportunities				
MU30	Continue the Arthur Dagg Riverside Walk to the Apex Ski Park using the disused rail corridor	High	Council	Provider
MU31	Connect the Arthur Dagg Riverside Walk to the east (toward Red Gully Bridge) using the disused rail corridor	Low	Council	Provider

Action No.	Action	Priority	Project lead	Council's role
ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS				
Bancroft showgrounds				
BA1	Remove any facilities that present a potential of harm for people entering the site. If there is no potential for the rodeo committee to re-establish regular events at the site, consider relinquishing the facility	High	Council Community	Provider Strategic direction
Dallarnil sports ground				
D1	Support the Dallarnil Sports Club as it looks to develop a toilet and shower facility and to light both the sports ground and rodeo area to allow for larger night-time events	High	Council Community	Partner
Mulgildie Showgrounds				
MUL1	Support the Mulgildie Campdraft and Rodeo Association as they continue to seek opportunities to upgrade the facility	High	Council	Partner



recreation
open space
and sport
specialists



ROSS Planning Pty Ltd

ABN 32 508 029 959

PO Box 5660
Manly QLD 4179

Telephone: (07) 3901 0730
Fax: (07) 3893 0593