



# SPORT AND RECREATION PLAN TO 2024

## SUPPORTING RESOURCES DOCUMENT



FEBRUARY 2019 (REVISED ACTIONS FEB 2020)



# OTIUM PLANNING GROUP PTY LTD



## Head Office:

Level 6  
60 Albert Road  
South Melbourne VIC 3205  
Phone: (03) 9698 7300  
Email: vic@otiumplanning.com.au  
Web: www.otiumplanning.com.au  
ABN: 30 605 962 169  
CAN: 605 962 169

## Local Office:

Address: 8/29 Mt Cotton Rd, Capalaba  
QLD 4157  
Contact: David Mason  
Phone: 07 3823 5688  
Email: qld@otiumplanning.com.au

Otium Planning Group has offices in:

- Brisbane
- Cairns
- Darwin
- Melbourne
- New Zealand
- Perth
- Sydney

**OPG, IVG and PTA Partnership** has offices in Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Shanghai and Beijing



Document Version	Date	Checked	Distribution	Recipient
Draft V6	08/02/2019	DM	LCC	JV
Final (Rev Actions)	24/2/2020	DM	LCC	JV; TD

© 2020 Otium Planning Group Pty. Ltd. This document may only be used for the purposes for which it was commissioned and in accordance with the terms of engagement for the commission.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1 PROJECT AIM AND SCOPE.....	1
1.2 PROJECT APPROACH .....	1
<b>2. NOTE TO READERS</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>3. STAGE 1 OVERVIEW</b> .....	<b>4</b>
3.1 IMPLEMENTATION OF SPORT AND RECREATION PLAN 2011-2021 .....	4
3.2 EXTERNAL FOCUS GROUPS .....	5
3.3 CONSULTATION WITH COUNCIL STAFF .....	11
3.4 KEY FOCUS AREAS FOR NEW SPORT AND RECREATION PLAN .....	11
3.5 COUNCILLORS .....	11
3.5.1 <i>Key Focus Areas</i> .....	11
<b>4. POPULATION PROFILE</b> .....	<b>13</b>
4.1 AGE .....	14
4.2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS .....	16
4.3 IMPLICATIONS FOR SPORT AND RECREATION PLANNING .....	16
<b>5. DOCUMENT REVIEW</b> .....	<b>17</b>
5.1 FUTURE PROJECTS .....	37
<b>6. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND HEALTH</b> .....	<b>40</b>
6.1 HEALTH IN LISMORE .....	40
6.2 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY - EVIDENCE FOR ACTION.....	41
6.2.1 <i>Australia's Health</i> .....	41
6.2.2 <i>The Cost of Physical Inactivity</i> .....	41
6.2.3 <i>National Physical Activity Guidelines</i> .....	42
6.2.4 <i>Physical Activity Intervention Learnings</i> .....	43
6.2.5 <i>Benefits of Local Physical Activity Programs</i> .....	43
6.2.6 <i>Benefits of Access to Nature</i> .....	44
<b>7. IMPORTANCE OF WALKING AND CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE</b> .....	<b>45</b>
7.1 ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF WALKING AND CYCLING .....	45
7.2 RAIL TRAILS .....	46
7.2.1 <i>Benefits of Rail Trails - The Evidence</i> .....	47
7.2.2 <i>Rail Trail Case Studies</i> .....	48
7.2.3 <i>Previous Rail Trail Benchmarking</i> .....	50
<b>8. CONSULTATION OUTCOMES</b> .....	<b>52</b>
8.1 SURVEY OF SPORT AND RECREATION ORGANISATIONS.....	52
8.1.1 <i>Membership and trends</i> .....	52
8.1.2 <i>Operating months and activities</i> .....	54
8.1.3 <i>Plans and priorities</i> .....	55
8.1.4 <i>Issues impacting on clubs</i> .....	56
8.1.5 <i>Club management workshops</i> .....	57
8.1.6 <i>Satisfaction with facilities, parks or venues</i> .....	58
8.1.7 <i>Summary of club responses</i> .....	59
8.2 COMMUNITY SURVEY .....	63
8.2.1 <i>Respondent characteristics</i> .....	64
8.2.2 <i>Facility Importance</i> .....	64
8.2.3 <i>Facility Performance</i> .....	65
8.2.4 <i>Club Membership</i> .....	67
8.2.5 <i>Barriers to Participation</i> .....	68



8.3	COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS .....	69
8.3.1	Clunes Workshop.....	69
8.3.2	Dunoon Workshop.....	70
8.3.3	Lismore.....	72
8.3.4	Nimbin.....	73
8.3.5	Disability Access & Inclusion Advisory Group.....	75
8.3.6	Service Organisations .....	75
8.4	OTHER KEY STAKEHOLDERS .....	76
8.4.1	Southern Cross University.....	76
8.4.2	North Coast Academy of Sport .....	78
8.4.3	NSW Office of Sport .....	78
8.4.4	NSW Department of Health - North Coast Area Health Service .....	78
8.4.5	U3A .....	79
8.4.6	Northern Rivers Mountain Bike Club.....	80
8.4.7	Richmond River Riders.....	80
8.4.8	Lismore Showgrounds .....	80
8.4.9	Lismore PCYC.....	80
8.4.10	GSAC and Memorial Baths.....	81
8.4.11	Northern Rivers Rail Trail Inc.....	81
<b>9.</b>	<b>CONSIDERATIONS AND FINDINGS .....</b>	<b>82</b>
9.1	STRATEGIC CONTEXT.....	82
9.2	KEY FINDINGS.....	82
9.2.1	LGA Profile .....	82
9.2.2	Financial Resources .....	82
9.2.3	Physical Inactivity .....	82
9.2.4	Walking and Cycling.....	83
9.2.5	Sports Facilities.....	83
9.2.6	Active Recreation.....	85
9.2.7	Barriers to Participation .....	86
9.2.8	Economic Development .....	86
<b>10.</b>	<b>STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK.....</b>	<b>87</b>
10.1	GUIDING PRINCIPLES .....	87
10.2	VISION.....	87
10.3	GOALS.....	88
<b>11.</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>89</b>
11.1	ENHANCE OUR COMMUNITIES .....	89
11.2	ACTIVATE OUR PEOPLE .....	90
11.3	GROW OUR ECONOMY .....	91
11.4	MAXIMISE OUR RESOURCES .....	92
<b>12.</b>	<b>WARRANTIES AND DISCLAIMERS .....</b>	<b>94</b>



---

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Project Aim and Scope

The aim of this project was to:

*“Develop a sport and recreation plan for Lismore City Council and prioritise current and projected needs to 2024.”*

The scope of the project involved a review of Council’s current Sport and Recreation Plan 2011-2021 and the development of a new Sport and Recreation Plan.

The key project objectives were:

- Conduct an independent review and outline the key findings of the current Sport and Recreation Plan 2011 to 2021.
- Provide recommendations in response to relevant sport and recreation trends, state and regional planning and local needs.
- Coordinate a comprehensive stakeholder and community engagement process to inform the preparation of the plan.
- Identify the adequacy of existing sport and recreation facilities to meet community demand and projected growth and determine the needs for new and upgraded facilities.
- Review any strategies (e.g. sale of pocket parks, grant opportunities, tourism) to fund the sport and recreation plan.
- As part of the sport and recreation plan, develop a priority list including estimated costs and an implementation plan.
- Ensure a precinct or hub approach to sport and recreation initiatives in Lismore.
- Draft a sport and recreation plan that aligns with Council’s current plans and with a theme-based approach.
- Consultation to at least state level will be required in most of Lismore’s major sports.

### 1.2 Project Approach

Lismore City Council undertook this project in partnership Otium Planning Group. Otium Planning Group conducted background research, consultation and data analysis. Lismore City Council assisted with community engagement. Strategic directions and recommendations were formulated as a collaborative effort between Council officers and Otium Planning Group’s consulting team.

An overview of the project methodology is illustrated at Figure 1, below.



Figure 1: Overview of Project Methodology



## 2. Note to Readers

This Supporting Resources Document was prepared in February 2019 providing background information in relation to the Draft Sport and Recreation Plan to 2024 - Vision and Directions Report (February 2019).

The Supporting Resources Document is based on background research and consultation undertaken in late 2017 and 2018. The review of background documents was completed in early 2018 and summaries of these documents were correct at that time. No updating of information summarised in these documents or review of new documents has been undertaken since that time. Stakeholder and community consultation was undertaken in 2017 and 2018 and summaries of the outcome of consultation were correct at that time and incorporated in this Supporting Resources Document. No additional consultation has been undertaken since that time, other than with Council officers.

Readers should therefore note that information reported in this document, while accurate at the time of collecting it, may have been overtaken by events or circumstances that have occurred in the intervening period to February 2020. Moreover, readers should also note that no audit of the accuracy of information provided by others has been undertaken.

The Strategic Framework, Guiding Principles, Goals, Recommendations and Priorities are outlined in the Draft Sport and Recreation Plan to 2024 - Vision and Directions report (February 2019) and were incorporated in this Supporting Resources Document. While the goals and recommendations remain unaltered, actions relating to them have been updated based on new information provided by Council officers in the intervening 12 months since the original document was prepared.



### 3. Stage 1 Overview

Stage 1 of the project involved a review of the Sport and Recreation Plan 2011-2021. This included:

- Internal consultation with Council officers and Councillors;
- Targeted consultation with external stakeholders;
- Analysis of the status of the 2011 Sport and Recreation Plan implementation; and
- Identification of key issues and direction to be considered in developing the new Sport and Recreation Plan.

#### 3.1 Implementation of Sport and Recreation Plan 2011-2021

A summary of key achievements related to the recommendations of the Sport and Recreation Plan 2011-2021 is provided below.

PRECINCT	PROJECT	STATUS
Central City Sports Precinct	Oakes Oval Redevelopment Stage 1 (\$2.8 million)	Completed
	Crozier field Stage 1 (\$150,000)	Completed
	Crozier Field Stage 2 (\$150,000)	Completed
	Crozier Field Stage3 (\$160,000)	Funded
	Oakes Oval Stage 2/ Crozier Field Stage 4 (\$6 million)	Funded
	Regional Netball Centre Stage 1 (\$150,000)	Completed
	Regional Netball Centre Stage 2 (\$290,000)	Funded
	Regional Tennis Centre Stage 1 (\$100,000)	Completed
	Marist Brothers Cricket Nets (\$110,000)	Underway
	Mortimer Oval Amenities & Pathway (\$488,000)	Underway
	Dawson Street Amenities (\$242,000)	Funded
Albert Park Precinct	Wilsons Walking Track - (\$250,000)	Completed
	International Baseball Centre Stage 1 (\$2 million)	Completed
	International Baseball Centre Stage 2 (\$4.95 million)	Underway
	Regional Basketball Centre (\$275,000)	Funded
Hepburn Park Precinct	Regional Hockey Centre (\$1.5 million)	Completed
	Goonellabah Cricket Nets (\$110,000)	Completed
	Hepburn Park Lighting (\$225,000)	Funded
	Regional Hockey Centre Grandstands (\$152,000)	Funded





PRECINCT	PROJECT	STATUS
Regional Parks	Kadina Park Stage 1 (\$221,000)	Funded
	Heritage Park Stage 1 (\$350,000)	Funded
Other Sport	Riverview Park Amenities (\$60,000)	Funded
	International Mountain Bike Track (\$269,000)	Funded
	Clifford Park Upgrade (\$1.68 million)	Completed
	Thistles Soccer Lighting (\$171,000)	Funded
Open Space	Rail Trail Business Case (\$90,000)	Underway
Villages	Balzer Park Playground (\$150,000)	Completed
	Nimbin Fitness Park (\$35,000)	Completed
	Nimbin Skate Park (485,000)	Completed
Other	NORPA Event sign (\$206,000)	Funded
	Sport and Recreation Fund Distribution (\$1 million+ since 2011)	Funded

### 3.2 External Focus Groups

Two external focus group meetings were held early in the study to present progress on recommendations from the previous Sport and Recreation Plan, identify unaddressed recommendations that remain a priority, and any other priority areas. A targeted group of external stakeholders were invited to these sessions including representatives from villages, clubs/ associations, other key organisations and the general community. A summary of discussions is outlined at Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Focus Group views on 2011 Sport & Recreation Plan recommendations and ongoing importance**

CATEGORY	2011 S&R PLAN RECOMMENDATION	ACHIEVEMENTS	FUTURE IMPORTANCE/ COMMENT
Walk/ Cycle Paths	Prioritise walk/cycle path linkages and circuits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$226k Wilsons Walking Track redevelopment - 2km walk/ cycle track near golf course</li> <li>Nesbitt Park circuit - 1km track</li> <li>Planning underway for paths in Lismore Park</li> <li>Bridge to bridge loop pathway identified in conceptual planning</li> <li>Plan to be undertaken to link Riverside Park to Wilsons Track</li> <li>Lismore Cycleway Plan to be updated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> <li>Connect to new land release areas (eg Caniaba, North Lismore Plateau)</li> </ul>
	Cycle path links from existing neighbourhoods to new land release areas		
	Investigate feasibility of reinstating/ new walking tracks		
	Ensure adequate budget to maintain existing/ future walk/ cycle paths		



CATEGORY	2011 S&R PLAN RECOMMENDATION	ACHIEVEMENTS	FUTURE IMPORTANCE/ COMMENT
Upgrade Lismore Park	Incorporate recreational elements in design eg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destination play space</li> <li>• Picnic shelters</li> <li>• Seats</li> <li>• Bbq's</li> <li>• Water features</li> <li>• Walk/ cycle paths</li> <li>• Exercise stations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council budget allocated for detailed planning to transform current sports fields to the south of Uralba St into major regional park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High priority, but be mindful of impacts of current sports (eg. centralised fields/ wickets)</li> <li>• Ensure no net loss of facilities</li> <li>• Flood impacts to be considered</li> </ul>
	Relocate hockey from Humby Oval to Hepburn Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hockey to be transferred to Hepburn Park when second synthetic completed in 2018</li> </ul>	
Active & Healthy Programs in Parks	Conduct free activity programs in Council parks to encourage residents to be more physically active and improve health outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No capacity at Council to undertake this work. Could partner with community to deliver</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low</li> <li>• Opportunities for further partnerships (eg University, commercial providers)</li> </ul>
Pocket Parks Divestment Strategy	Rationalise small parks with poor functionality provided there is another park within 500m radius of most residents Adopt recommended criteria for divestment Set up a dedicated fund to apply proceeds of sale toward upgrading existing parks, improving access, or acquiring land for parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks identified and public exhibition undertaken</li> <li>• Council adopted resolutions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sell some pocket parks</li> <li>○ Utilise proceeds for upgrading major parks in Lismore</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Unused park in Dunoon sold to create new \$130k playground and exercise area in Balzer Park</li> <li>• PDF contribution to Oakes Oval redevelopment</li> <li>• Applying for contribution from PPF toward upgrading of Kadina Park (external funding \$120k)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High</li> </ul>
Lismore Lake	Investigate options for maintaining viable water level at Lismore Lake at sustainable cost If viable, prepare a Master Plan possibly including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picnic tables/ shelters/ bbq's</li> <li>• Walk/ cycle paths</li> <li>• Boardwalk</li> <li>• Interpretive/ educational signage</li> <li>• Protection of environmental habitat (especially birds)</li> <li>• Management of aquatic weeds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On hold</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain</li> <li>• Requires rehabilitation of natural areas</li> <li>• Potential partnership opportunity with SCU, Greencorp</li> </ul>



CATEGORY	2011 S&R PLAN RECOMMENDATION	ACHIEVEMENTS	FUTURE IMPORTANCE/ COMMENT
Dog Exercise Areas	Expand existing dog exercise area at Riverside Park. Consider dog off-leash area at Clifford Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Riverside Park area not expanded as dog off-leash included in Lismore Park project</li> <li>New dog off-leash being developed at Hepburn Park in lieu of Clifford Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mixed views</li> </ul>
Parks Maintenance	Review maintenance allocation and regimes for maintenance of recreation parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewed annually as part of budget process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High priority</li> <li>Quality fields could be competitive advantage</li> <li>Investigate in similar context to roads maintenance budgeting</li> </ul>
People with Disabilities	Continue to develop Nesbitt Park as a destination park for people living with a disability When developing new/ upgraded equipment in parks integrate accessible play spaces where possible. Investigate options to improve access to Nimbin Pool for people with a disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$300k upgrade of Nesbitt Park including 1km walking/ jogging track, access friendly amenities, new car park, playground equipment upgrade</li> <li>Master Plan to constantly upgrade Nesbitt Park</li> <li>Disability access not feasible at Nimbin Pool due to bowl shape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue</li> <li>Audit of accessibility included in Disability Action Plan</li> <li>Nesbitt Park good model for accessibility, sport and recreation</li> <li>Examine provision other than just parks</li> <li>More shade generally</li> <li>Undertake further investigation into Nimbin Pool access</li> </ul>
Indigenous People	As part of Goonellabah Community Plan engage with residents and stakeholder groups to prepare Master Plan for Clifford Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1.68m grant funded upgrade of Clifford Park completed including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New playing surface/ drainage</li> <li>New lighting</li> <li>New amenities block</li> <li>Walking/ jogging track</li> <li>Playground</li> <li>Exercise equipment</li> <li>Car park</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/a</li> </ul>
Lismore Lake Pool	Consider the future of Lismore Lake Pool pending further reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be demolished in 2018/ 19</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examine potential to sell land and re-use proceeds for embellishments</li> </ul>
GSAC and Lismore Memorial Pool	Consider independent review of management arrangements at GSAC and Lismore Memorial Baths to ensure patronage and viability are maximised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of management arrangements completed internally</li> <li>Existing management arrangements retained</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain as priority to maximise usage and viability</li> </ul>
Improve use of River for Recreation	Identify opportunities to create a major riverside park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concept vision for both sides of the river between the two bridges completed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High. Support subject to addressing constraints</li> <li>Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flood impacts</li> <li>Safety</li> <li>River quality poor in parts</li> <li>Configuration of river</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



CATEGORY	2011 S&R PLAN RECOMMENDATION	ACHIEVEMENTS	FUTURE IMPORTANCE/ COMMENT
Rationalise Turf Cricket Pitches	<p>Discontinue maintaining the turf wicket at Nesbitt Park to competitive standards</p> <p>Review participation in cricket and reassess demand for synthetic and turf pitches over the life of this study. [Ensure no adverse impact on capacity to host regional, state, national carnivals]</p> <p>Work with Lismore Cricket Associations to maintain participation levels and maximise use of facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreement reached with Lismore Cricket to continue use of Nesbitt Park as one of 4 turf wickets</li> <li>Richards Oval turf wicket removed and replaced with new turf pitch at Mortimer Oval</li> <li>Ongoing engagement with cricket</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain current competitive advantage of number of turf cricket wickets</li> <li>Continue to monitor participation levels and encourage implementation of new strategies to increase participation</li> </ul>
Review Fees and Charges	<p>Re-validate fees and charges levied to clubs to ensure that they continue to reflect a recovery of 25% of actual maintenance costs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not completed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an equitable cost recovery model consistent with other Council services</li> <li>Calculate current cost recovery level and communicate real cost to users</li> <li>Consider relationship between fees and level of service</li> <li>Identify cost saving mechanisms in partnership with users</li> <li>Consider a tiered pricing approach</li> </ul>
	<p>Review Council policy on maintaining outdoor sporting areas to assess equity across sports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not completed</li> </ul>	
Review Tenure Arrangements	<p>Review current tenure arrangements for clubs on land owned or controlled by Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewed as leases expire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review prior to expiry dates</li> </ul>
Facility Development/ Review	<p>Ensure facilities which assist Lismore's ability to host major events are maintained at a satisfactory level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Master Plan and economic impact study for Oakes Oval upgrade completed.</li> <li>50% external funding secured for (\$2.8m) Oakes Oval redevelopment.</li> <li>50% external funding secured for \$300k upgrade of Crozier Field.</li> <li>Turf pitch at Richards Oval removed</li> <li>\$450k State Govt funding of new turf pitch and amenities building at Mortimer Oval for AFL/ cricket</li> <li>External funding secured for \$2m Stage 1 upgrade of Albert Park baseball</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to attract major events.</li> <li>Higher quality facilities will assist</li> <li>Ensure good standard of surface and car parking generally, particularly around Lismore Park</li> <li>Mortimer Oval amenities still poor standard - demolish and redevelop</li> <li>No car parking addressed at Mortimer Oval</li> <li>Incorporate flexibility in design to adapt to changing demand</li> <li>Incorporate disability planning</li> </ul>
	<p>Prior to any major upgrade of Oakes Oval and Crozier Field undertake a feasibility study to identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demand for, and viability of, likely events.</li> <li>Relocation of the Parks Depot.</li> </ul> <p>Remove turf wicket from Richards Oval to support year-round use for football (soccer)</p> <p>Replace concrete wicket at Mortimer Oval with turf wicket</p> <p>Investigate reconfiguring playing field at Mortimer Oval to full size AFL and improve drainage and other facilities</p> <p>Upgrade facilities at Albert Park</p>		



CATEGORY	2011 S&R PLAN RECOMMENDATION	ACHIEVEMENTS	FUTURE IMPORTANCE/ COMMENT
Facility Development/ Review (cont'd)	Investigate feasibility of an “all weather” sports facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Synthetic field, athletics track, Sports House and Indoor Stadium at SCU on hold pending consideration by SCU</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure community access to any sporting facilities at University</li> <li>Align completion of investigations with funding timing - shovel ready projects</li> </ul>
	Support Far North Coast Hockey Assoc to develop a second synthetic hockey field + improved parking and access at Hepburn Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1.5m external funding of second synthetic surface and replacement of existing surface at Hepburn Park</li> </ul>	
	Monitor athletics participation. If numbers increase, undertake a feasibility study for synthetic athletic track.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not completed</li> </ul>	
	Review findings of NCAS Sports House demand study. Seek State/ Fed funding to build and operate if demand exists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not completed</li> </ul>	
Outdoor Recreation Trails Strategy	Develop a Trails Strategy throughout the Lismore LGA to identify suitable multi-use trails for horse riding, mountain biking and/ or walking in hinterland areas and townships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.5km trail developed through Captain Rous Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> <li>Link to rail trails and existing plan for Nimbin trail</li> <li>Explore partnership opportunities and create better awareness of trail opportunities</li> </ul>
Villages (Clunes)	Investigate suitability of site proposed by the Clunes community for sporting fields If unsuitable, work with Clunes community to secure 2ha site for Village Sports Park Resolve any issues re access to oval and netball court at Clunes Public School Consider supporting the lighting of the netball court at Clunes Public School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigation undertaken - no suitable site for sporting field in Clunes</li> <li>Netball using school courts</li> <li>Lighting of courts netball not proceeded</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School access appears to be working well</li> </ul>
Villages (Nimbin)	Work with the Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) to master plan the area vacated by the old skate park in Peace Park and identify opportunities to secure additional land to extend the park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) to master plan the area vacated by the old skate park in Peace Park and identify opportunities to secure additional land to extend the park.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to work with Council to better utilise existing land (priority for public toilets)</li> <li>High tourism area</li> </ul>
Villages (Dunoon)	Secure land for a recreation park in Dunoon, preferably adjacent to Dunoon Sports Club Investigate the potential to locate a suitable skate facility in this recreation park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New \$130k playground and exercise area developed at Balzer Park</li> <li>Skatepark not proceeding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade car parking, surface and seating</li> </ul>



CATEGORY	2011 S&R PLAN RECOMMENDATION	ACHIEVEMENTS	FUTURE IMPORTANCE/ COMMENT
Regional Coordination	Continue to support the North Coast Local Government Sport and Recreation Forum to facilitate improved planning & communication and avoid future duplication of regional sporting opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Forum continuing</li> <li>Very successful</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue</li> </ul>
Standards of Service for Parks	Adopt Standards of Service for the provision of future land for sports parks and recreation parks in new residential developments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommended Standards adopted and used as guide by LCC planning staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue</li> </ul>
Sport & Recreation Fund	Provide funding for the Sport and Recreation Fund Amend eligibility guidelines to include clubs on Crown Land or freehold land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over \$1m allocated to projects since the 2011-2021 S&amp;R Plan was adopted</li> <li>Amended guidelines adopted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vital funding for clubs</li> </ul>
Funding Opportunities	Consider Council, state, federal and other external funding opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approx \$11.5m funding secured from state/ federal government, sporting organisations, and private sector since completion of 2011-2021 S&amp;R Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue</li> <li>Opportunity for Council to promote grants to clubs to increase awareness</li> </ul>
Criteria for Priorities	Adopt recommended criteria for ranking recommendations that have capital works implications Review the recommendations of the 2011 S&R Plan biannually Conduct a major review of the 2011 S&R Plan in years 5 and 10, including public consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Criteria for priorities adopted and plan reviewed regularly.</li> <li>Major review currently being undertaken</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue</li> </ul>

In summary, the main priorities to address for the future that emerged from the two focus group workshops comprised:

- Walk/ cycle paths - improve connectivity/ safety.
- Retain Lismore's competitive advantage for sport.
- Ensure multi-use of upgraded facilities.
- Community/ tourism benefit from Rail Trails.
- Potential for community partnership in maintaining Rail Trails.
- Other opportunities for outdoor recreation trails (e.g. Nimbin).
- Retain Lismore Park redevelopment as high priority.
- Retain Pocket Parks divestment.
- Assist community sport and recreation clubs (e.g. capacity building, retain Sport and Recreation Fund, Sports House)
- Equitable cost recovery for maintenance.
- Disability access to parks/ sporting facilities.



### 3.3 Consultation with Council Staff

A number of issues for consideration in the development of the Sport and Recreation Plan to 2024 were raised by Council staff. These included:

- Need for strategy-driven recommendations/ clear rationale.
- Sustainability of future developments - no new money for operational funding.
- Consider rationalisation of some facilities and/ or partnership opportunities (e.g. Southern Cross University).
- Community/ economic development opportunities (e.g. adventure sports, rail trails, Regional Sports Hub).
- Success of pocket parks divestment - generated approximately \$500,000. There are possible opportunities for further land sale.
- Lismore Park is a major recreation opportunity.
- Review maintenance regimes for different park types/ standards.
- Include discussion of cost implications for new/ upgraded facilities in community consultation.

### 3.4 Key Focus Areas for New Sport and Recreation Plan

Based on Stage 1 research and analysis, the following key focus areas emerged as potential priorities for consideration and development in the new Sport and Recreation Plan:

- Develop Lismore Park as a showpiece regional recreation park.
- Pursue community/ economic benefit opportunities that build on competitive advantage (e.g. rail trails).
- Outdoor recreation opportunities (e.g. multi-use trails, use of riverfront for recreation).
- Walk/ cycle paths (focus on connectivity and safety).
- Ensure sustainability of new developments.
- Pursue partnership opportunities (eg sports hubs).
- Avoid duplication.
- Precinct approach to improvements.
- Continue pocket parks divestment and reinvestment.
- Review maintenance regimes in parks - hierarchy.
- Review tenure arrangements and cost recovery policies - equity principles.

### 3.5 Councillors

During the first stage of this study a workshop with Councillors was held to discuss the status and themes from the 2011 Sport and Recreation Plan, views on proposed preliminary key focus areas that emerged from the focus group discussions, and any new priorities. The outcome of this discussion is summarised below.

#### 3.5.1 Key Focus Areas

KEY FOCUS AREAS	COMMENT
Lismore Park as major regional recreation precinct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Something for young families, adventure play, passive/active recreation, good location, naturalisation of creek, flood zone is a downside, agreed to proceed with development.</li> </ul>



KEY FOCUS AREAS	COMMENT
Sport & recreation opportunities that create community/ economic benefit (eg Rail Trails)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Resolution adopted on rail trails, recent announcements on rail trails create a good opportunity for Lismore, good economic opportunity as well as recreation usage, opportunities for other recreational activities (biking).</li></ul>
Other outdoor recreation opportunities (eg multi-use trails, recreation use of riverfront)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>River walking track a priority (Bridge to Bridge project), commercial opportunities.</li></ul>
Walk/ cycle paths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Commuting and a major form of exercise for the community, high priority, walkability a problem for Lismore, better connectivity in general, pick up on routes in previous plan and take action, incorporate in an Integrated Transport Plan, make cycle paths separate paths to footpaths.</li></ul>
Sustainability of new developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>General acceptance, more a principle than a focus area</li></ul>
Partnership opportunities (eg Sports Hubs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>General acceptance, prioritise opportunities for young people, invest in partnership opportunities that are of benefit to our community and not just opportunistic partnerships</li></ul>
Avoid duplication. Precinct approach to improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A lot more opportunities to diversify parks, what can happen in those parks is not always what has been planned</li></ul>
Continue pocket parks divestment and reinvestment of proceeds in S&R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>General acceptance</li></ul>
Review maintenance regimes in parks - hierarchy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>General acceptance</li></ul>
Review tenure arrangement and cost recovery policies - equity principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Important</li></ul>

### Other Issues

Councillors were asked to indicate if there were any gaps not addressed in the preliminary key focus areas outlined above. The following issues were highlighted:

- Villages
- Youth Focus (e.g. skaters)
- Natural experiences (Eco playscapes, 'Feel Blue, Touch Green' project)
- Lake Pool

### Vision

Councillors were asked to provide 'key words' that underpin their vision for sport and recreation in the Lismore LGA. Responses included:

- Youth
- Passive recreation
- Adventure experiences
- Safety
- Community expectations of regional city facilities that should be provided





## 4. Population Profile

The estimated resident population of Lismore City as at the 2016 census was 44,054<sup>1</sup>. This represents a slight decline of 294 persons since 2011. Profile.id estimates the 2017 population to be 43,816 which represents a decline of 238 persons since 2016.

Despite the recent evidence of a slightly declining population, the 2016 New South Wales State and Local Government Areas Population and Household Projections indicate that the population of Lismore is expected to grow to 49,350 by 2026 and 51,750 by 2036 as shown at Figure 2. However, it should be noted that these projections forecast a 2016 population of 46,200, which is 2,146 higher than the 2016 census results.

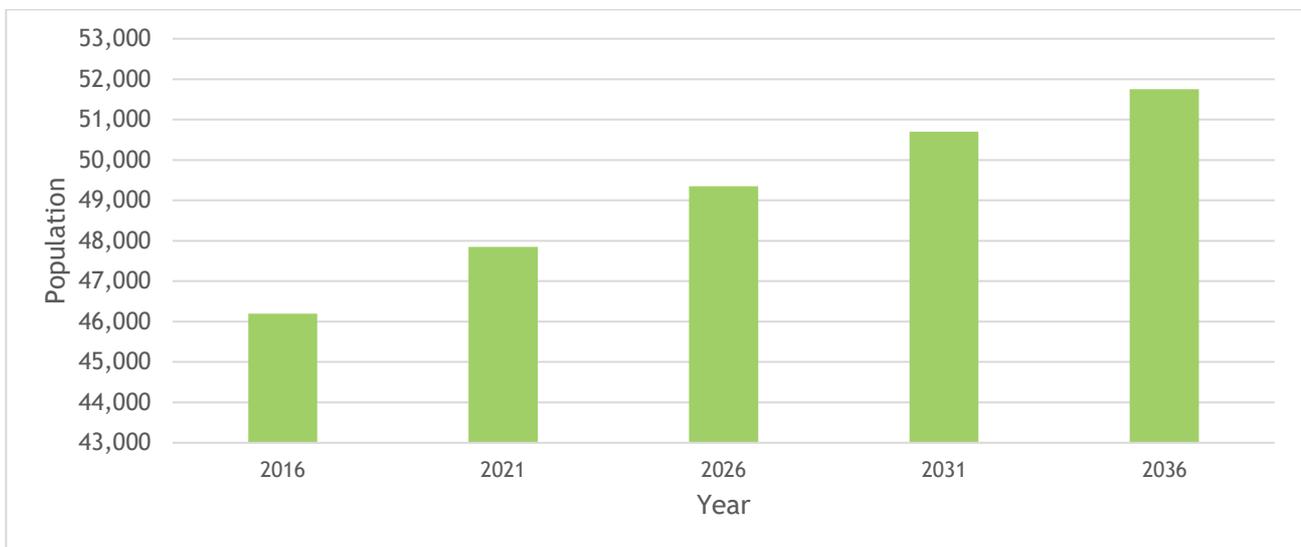


Figure 2: Population growth of Lismore City to 2036<sup>2</sup>

The current population and some key population characteristics relating to the Lismore City Council profile areas is shown below.

Table 2: Key demographic characteristics of Lismore City profile areas

Profile Area	2016 Population	Estimated 2017 Population	Change 2016-2017	Median Age	ATSI Population	Population Over 15 Years	Median Weekly Household Income	SEIFA Index of Disadvantage 2016
Clunes-Bexhill and District	2,449	2,468	+19	45	2.8%	82.5%	\$1,280	1,026
East Lismore	5,089	5,011	-78	40	5.2%	82.1%	\$988	914
Goonellabah North	3,656	3,615	-41	44	3.9%	83.5%	\$1,329	1,021
Goonellabah South - Chilcotts Grass	9,749	9,773	+24	38	7.7%	79.9%	\$997	941
Lismore-Girards Hill	4,997	4,936	-61	40	5.7%	84.2%	\$854	889
Lismore Heights	2,206	2,197	-9	40	5.4%	80.9%	\$1,123	970

<sup>1</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing, 2016. Accessed via ProfileID [www.profileid.com.au](http://www.profileid.com.au)

<sup>2</sup> NSW Department of Planning & Environment Population Projections, 2016



Profile Area	2016 Population	Estimated 2017 Population	Change 2016-2017	Median Age	ATSI Population	Population Over 15 Years	Median Weekly Household Income	SEIFA Index of Disadvantage 2016
Modanville - Dunoon and District	2,219	2,222	+3	44	2.9%	81.6%	\$1,139	1,003
Nimbin and District	2,362	2,348	-14	50	3.4%	83.5%	\$696	856
North Lismore	1,297	1,304	+7	44	4.7%	84.5%	\$941	944
Richmond Hill - Lindendale and District	2,273	2,305	+32	47	1.4%	83.1%	\$1,826	1,079
Rural North West	2,216	2,204	-12	46	3.5%	82.2%	\$1,008	974
Rural South	3,560	3,519	-41	45	3.1%	83.1%	\$1,278	1,017
South Lismore	1,919	1,877	-42	38	6.8%	81.1%	\$844	853
<b>Lismore City</b>	<b>44,054</b>	<b>43,816</b>	<b>-238</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>82.1%</b>	<b>\$1,062</b>	<b>954</b>

## 4.1 Age

The median age of the Lismore City population in 2016 was 43, which is in-line with Regional NSW (43), but higher than NSW as a whole (38).

Figure 3 below illustrates that compared to Regional NSW Lismore has:

- A lower proportion of children (aged under 15 years)
- A lower proportion of older adults (aged over 65 years).
- Higher proportions of people aged 15 to 19
- Higher proportions of people in the 35 to 64 age cohorts.

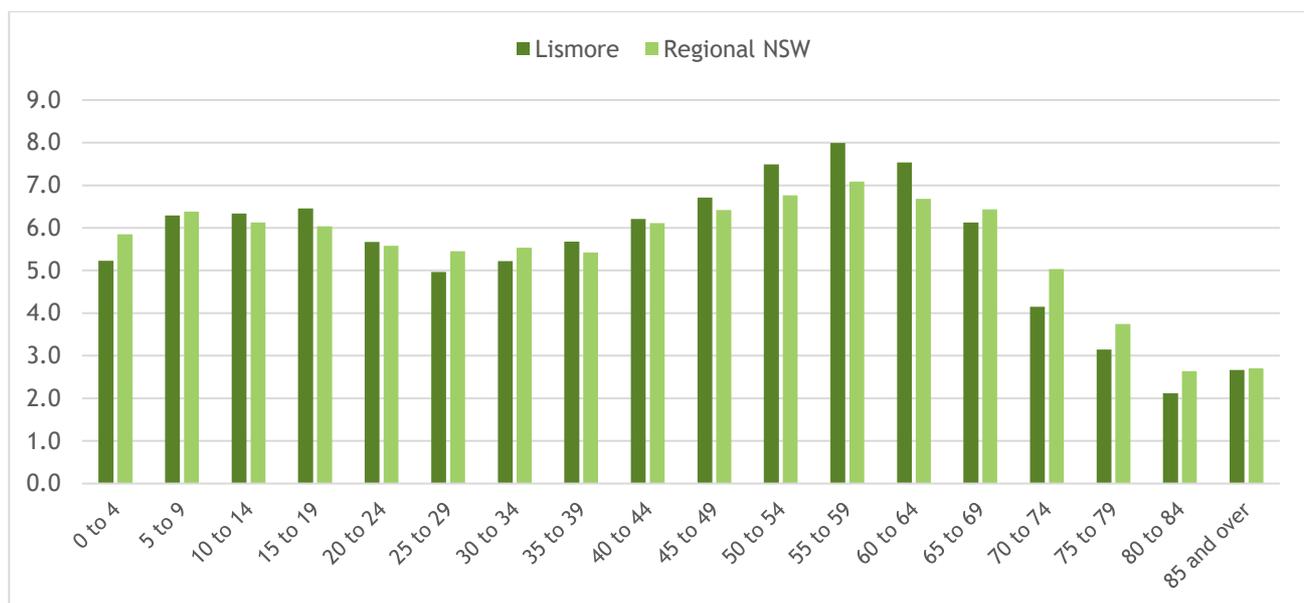


Figure 3: Age profile of Lismore City compared to Regional NSW (Source: ABS 2016 accessed via Profile ID)



Figure 4 shows the 2016 age profile of City of Lismore localities. It indicates that:

- Nimbin and District had the highest proportion of people aged 45 to 64 years (42% of the population) and the lowest number of young people aged 15 to 24 years.
- The largest numbers of young people aged 15 to 24 and under were located in East Lismore, South Lismore and Lismore - Girards Hill.
- Children aged 15 years and under were relatively consistent across all suburbs, except Nimbin and District and Lismore - Girards Hill, which had lower proportions of this age group.
- Although Goonellabah South - Chilcotts Grass had one of the lowest median ages in the LGA, it also has the highest proportion of people aged over 65 years.

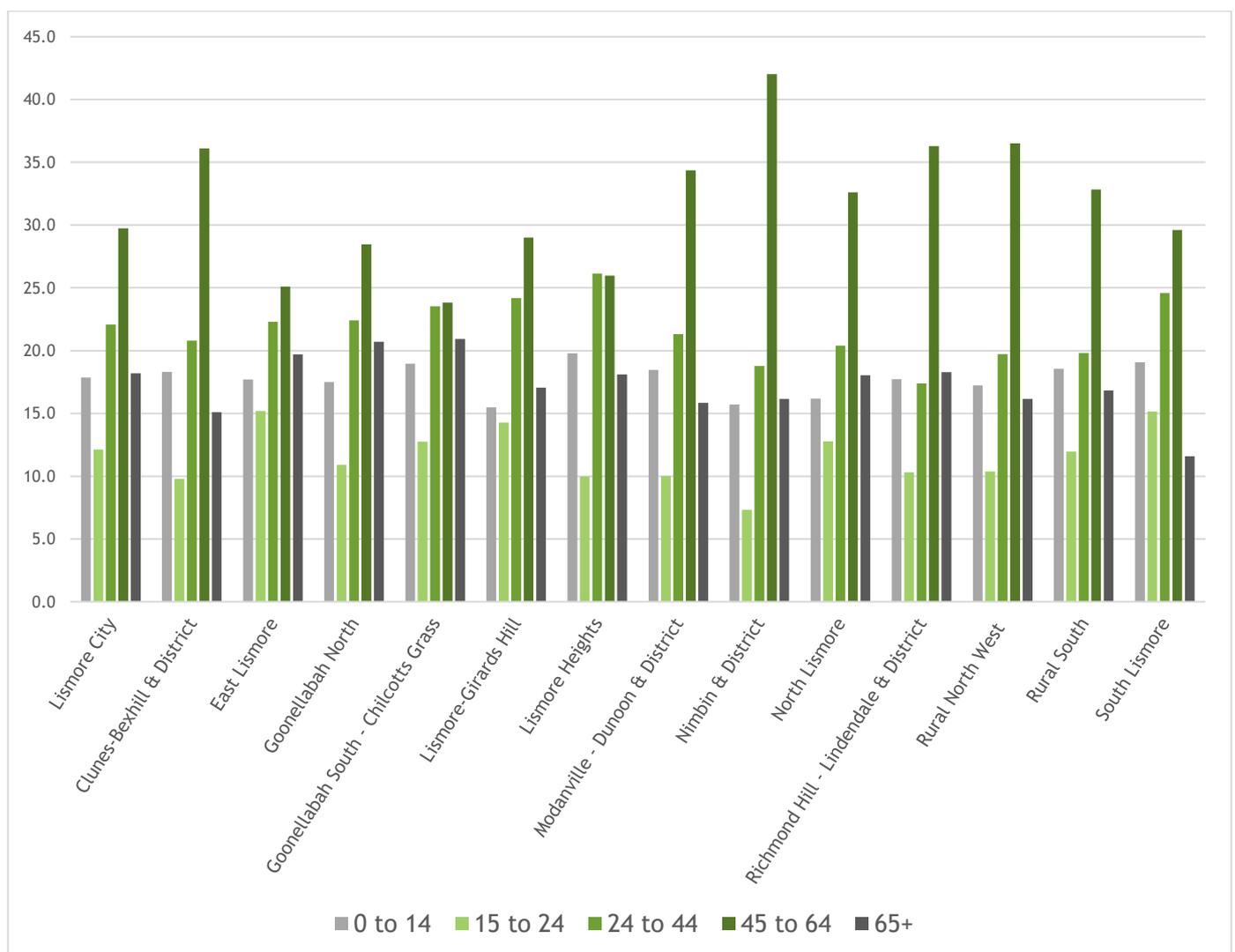


Figure 4: Age profile of Lismore by Locality (Source: ABS, 2016 accessed via Profile ID)



## 4.2 Socio-economic Characteristics

The following socio-economic characteristics of the Lismore population are relevant to sport and recreation planning.

- In 2016, the dominant household type in Lismore City was 'Lone Person Households' (27.1%). This compares with 25.5% for Regional NSW and has increased by 255 households since 2011. Compared to Regional NSW there was a lower proportion of couple families with children (22.9% compared to 25.4% for Regional NSW).
- The median weekly household income in 2016 in Lismore City was \$1,062. This compares to \$1,481 for NSW as a whole and \$1,166 for Regional NSW.
- Compared to NSW there was a smaller proportion of high-income households (> \$2,500 per week) and a higher proportion of low-income households (<\$650 per week) in Lismore City.
- The 2016 SEIFA<sup>3</sup> index of disadvantage for the Lismore LGA was 954, which indicates Lismore is more disadvantaged than Regional NSW (970) and New South Wales as whole (1,001).

## 4.3 Implications for Sport and Recreation Planning

In summary, the region has:

- A static population of around 44,000.
- A comparatively older population than New South Wales or Australia, but also a higher proportion of young people combined with notable variation between localities.
- Lower incomes and greater relative disadvantage.

The implications for sport and recreation could include:

- There are likely to be different preferences and requirements across the region due to varying age and income profiles.
- Low impact opportunities to suit an older population are important.
- Low cost sport and recreation opportunities are vital.

---

<sup>3</sup> The Socio-Economic Index for Age (SEIFA) is an index that measures an area's relative level of socio-economic disadvantage based on a range of Census characteristics such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations. The higher the score the lower the level of disadvantage.



## 5. Document Review

The following documents were reviewed in relation to sport and recreation planning in Lismore. Relevant information from each document is outlined in the table below.

- Imagine Lismore Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027.
- Imagine Lismore Operational Plan 2018-2019
- Lismore Partnering Strategy 2017-2020.
- Community Satisfaction Survey Research, 2016.
- Lismore Sport and Recreation Plan 2011 Executive Summary.
- The Lismore Prospectus: A guide to private and public sector investment in the heart of the northern rivers region of NSW.
- Lismore Regional Parkland, April 2017.
- Economic and Tourism Analysis for Lismore Regional Parkland, 2017.
- Sport and Recreation Core Asset Management Plan, March 2017.
- Lismore City Council Cycleway Plan 2011.
- Wilsons River Bridge to Bridge Vision Report, 2017.
- Goonellabah Community Plan.
- South Community Plan, 2016.
- West Community Plan, 2016.
- North East Community Plan, 2015
- East Community Plan, 2015
- North Central Community Plan, 2015
- South East Community Plan, 2015
- Draft Regional NSW Services & Infrastructure Plan.
- Lismore Tennis Club Development Proposal, 2018
- Reconciliation Action Plan, January 2017 - December 2018
- Rainbow Road Nimbin - A Feasibility into the Planning and Implementation of a Walking Track in the Village of Nimbin, 2017
- North Coast Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2018-2023
- Bridge to Bridge Pathway Project Summary
- Lismore Sports Precinct - Viability Assessment, October 2017

RELEVANT INFORMATION		SOURCE
<p>This strategy identifies a future direction for the region that respond to community priorities and aspirations for Lismore over a ten-year horizon. It is accompanied by a Delivery Program and an Operational Plan, and supported by a Resourcing Strategy.</p> <p>In this document, Council identifies its core responsibilities as a <u>service provider</u>, a <u>collaborator/partner</u> and an <u>advocate</u>.</p> <p>The strategy identifies a series of objectives and strategies within key priority areas. Those with most relevance to the development of a Sport and Recreation Plan for Lismore are detailed below.</p>		Imagine Lismore Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027
Key Priority Area	Objective	
A healthy and inclusive community	<p>Our community is safe, happy and healthy</p> <p>We recognise our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and cultures</p>	
	Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support community members to participate in healthy eating and active living.</li> <li>• Maintain public health, safety and amenity.</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to participate in community events and programs.</li> <li>• Conserve items, areas and places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance.</li> </ul>



RELEVANT INFORMATION			SOURCE						
	Our sporting facilities and recreational spaces encourage active and passive community participation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a major parkland that caters for the local and regional community while providing economic benefits to the CBD.</li> <li>• Provide high-quality open spaces, parks and reserves.</li> <li>• Provide high-quality sporting facilities to meet the diverse needs of the community.</li> <li>• Continued improvement of Lismore’s sport and recreation facilities.</li> </ul>							
	Our community is connected and convenient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide footpaths, cycle ways and pedestrian access that is safe and serviceable.</li> </ul>							
Leadership and participation	We communicate and engage with our community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate and initiate community engagement in Council activities and decision-making.</li> <li>• Engage with rural communities to encourage community involvement, connectedness and cohesion.</li> </ul>							
	We collaborate with other agencies to achieve great outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embrace a partnership approach to achieve community outcomes.</li> <li>• Build capacity of and provide support to community organisations and groups.</li> <li>• Facilitate programs and activities that celebrate young people, older people and multiculturalism.</li> </ul>							
<p>This Operational Plan is a subset of the Imagine Lismore Delivery Program 2017-2021. It provides projects, programs, services and activities Council will deliver in order to achieve the strategies outlined in the Delivery Program.</p>			Imagine Lismore Operational Plan 2018-2019						
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Strategies</th> <th>Actions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b><i>Our community is safe, happy and healthy</i></b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Support community members to participate in healthy eating and active living.</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work in collaboration with partners to deliver the ‘Feel Blue, Touch Green’ initiative, engaging people suffering depression and related disorders in supported nature-based activities in woodland environments.</li> <li>• Deliver Edible Streetscape Strategy</li> <li>• Deliver Learn-to-Swim programs to encourage water safety within the community from infants to adults.</li> <li>• Hold events and awareness activities during Water Safety Week.</li> <li>• Offer and promote a range of programs for seniors at the Goonellabah Sports &amp; Aquatic Centre including Aqua and Gentle Moves classes.</li> <li>• Operate a 24-hour gym facility with state-of-the-art equipment that offers a broad variety of fitness classes, personal training and small group training programs</li> <li>• Provide access to swimming, recreational and water safety facilities</li> <li>• Support and provide school groups with specific swim/fitness programs to suit all ages and abilities.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Strategies	Actions	<b><i>Our community is safe, happy and healthy</i></b>		Support community members to participate in healthy eating and active living.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work in collaboration with partners to deliver the ‘Feel Blue, Touch Green’ initiative, engaging people suffering depression and related disorders in supported nature-based activities in woodland environments.</li> <li>• Deliver Edible Streetscape Strategy</li> <li>• Deliver Learn-to-Swim programs to encourage water safety within the community from infants to adults.</li> <li>• Hold events and awareness activities during Water Safety Week.</li> <li>• Offer and promote a range of programs for seniors at the Goonellabah Sports &amp; Aquatic Centre including Aqua and Gentle Moves classes.</li> <li>• Operate a 24-hour gym facility with state-of-the-art equipment that offers a broad variety of fitness classes, personal training and small group training programs</li> <li>• Provide access to swimming, recreational and water safety facilities</li> <li>• Support and provide school groups with specific swim/fitness programs to suit all ages and abilities.</li> </ul>	
Strategies	Actions								
<b><i>Our community is safe, happy and healthy</i></b>									
Support community members to participate in healthy eating and active living.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work in collaboration with partners to deliver the ‘Feel Blue, Touch Green’ initiative, engaging people suffering depression and related disorders in supported nature-based activities in woodland environments.</li> <li>• Deliver Edible Streetscape Strategy</li> <li>• Deliver Learn-to-Swim programs to encourage water safety within the community from infants to adults.</li> <li>• Hold events and awareness activities during Water Safety Week.</li> <li>• Offer and promote a range of programs for seniors at the Goonellabah Sports &amp; Aquatic Centre including Aqua and Gentle Moves classes.</li> <li>• Operate a 24-hour gym facility with state-of-the-art equipment that offers a broad variety of fitness classes, personal training and small group training programs</li> <li>• Provide access to swimming, recreational and water safety facilities</li> <li>• Support and provide school groups with specific swim/fitness programs to suit all ages and abilities.</li> </ul>								



RELEVANT INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p><b><i>Our sporting facilities and recreational spaces encourage active and passive community participation</i></b></p>	
<p>Provide a major parkland that caters for the local and regional community while providing economic benefits to the CBD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue the development of a major regional recreation space, ‘Lismore Park’ that incorporates facilities for all ages including a free water play space, various playgrounds, exercise park, café/function building and plaza, pedestrian promenades, youth plaza and water features.</li> </ul>
<p>Provide high quality open spaces, parks and reserves</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain open spaces, parks and gardens.</li> <li>• Develop a plan for future passive recreational use and habitat management of the Lismore Lake precinct.</li> <li>• Provide support to the Lismore A&amp;I Society with the planning and design for upgrades to Lismore Showground.</li> <li>• Investigate feasibility and funding for Nimbin Walking Trail.</li> <li>• Plan and design a recreational Walking Trail throughout Lismore.</li> </ul>
<p>Provide high quality open spaces, parks and reserves</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to plan for and upgrade existing parks, reserves and recreational facilities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Upgrade Heritage Park</li> <li>○ Upgrade Nesbitt Park</li> <li>○ Upgrade Riverview Park amenities</li> <li>○ Upgrade Dawson Street amenities</li> <li>○ Improve walkways throughout Birdwing Butterfly Walk</li> <li>○ Upgrade Kadina Park recreational facilities</li> <li>○ Upgrade flood lighting at Hepburn Park</li> <li>○ Upgrade facilities at Hepburn Park off-leash dog area</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Provide high quality sporting facilities to meet the diverse needs of the community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operate the Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre and the Lismore Memorial Baths aquatic facilities.</li> <li>• Operate the Lismore, Goonellabah and Nimbin Skateparks.</li> <li>• Operate SWITCH 24-hour gym.</li> <li>• Upgrade the Roder Oval practice cricket facility including new netting, fencing, synthetic grass and storage facility.</li> <li>• Upgrade Mortimer Oval amenities block: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stage 1: Planning and design; and</li> <li>○ Stage 2: Remove existing amenities block and replace with new amenities block and shade structure with BBQ facility.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Redevelop Albert Park Baseball/Softball Complex into the leading high-performance training centre in Oceania through the redevelopment of both Albert Park and Baxter Field. <p>Redevelop Baxter Field:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stage 1: Master planning; and</li> <li>○ Stage 2: Develop Baxter Field into an international baseball stadium.</li> </ul> <p>Redevelop Albert Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stage 1: Master planning; and</li> <li>○ Stage 2: Developing Felds 2, 3 and 4 into an international facility.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Redevelop Oakes Oval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stage 2: Redevelop Gordon Pavilion, upgrade lighting, and construct additional grandstand and spectator plaza.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Upgrade Crozier Field: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stage 3a: Planning and design; and</li> <li>○ Stage 3b: Refurbish grandstand, player amenities, construct new toilet block and spectator plaza.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



RELEVANT INFORMATION		SOURCE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the feasibility of a regional sports hub incorporating a Winter Olympics facility.</li> </ul>	
Continue improvement of Lismore's sport and recreation facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and update the Sport and Recreation Plan.</li> <li>Preliminary planning and investigation of a 'Sports House' complementing existing soccer facility, as well as netball, artificial track and field facility and sports house.</li> </ul>	
<b><i>Our community is connected and convenient</i></b>		
Provide footpaths, cycleways and pedestrian access that is safe and serviceable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop annual capital works programs for cycleways.</li> <li>Implement Cycleway Strategy Plan.</li> <li>Undertake annual renewals of the footpath and cycleway network.</li> <li>Investigate a Rail Trail for the Northern Rivers.</li> <li>Undertake annual footpath/cycleway condition inspections to identify safety defects and hazards.</li> <li>Undertake annual footpath/cycleways maintenance programs and respond to community requests.</li> <li>Improve pedestrian access by upgrading existing facilities to meet current standards.</li> <li>Install rainbow painted road pavement treatment in Magellan Street.</li> </ul>	
<p>The Lismore Partnering Strategy provides a framework for forming partnerships to improve aspects of life in the region. The Strategy identifies a series of criteria that partnerships should meet in order to be given priority by Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A clear lead agency</li> <li>Funding available</li> <li>More than one agency</li> <li>Strategic alignment</li> <li>The right timing</li> <li>Signed agreement</li> <li>Steering group</li> </ul> <p>17 partnering strategy projects have been identified for priority. Those with relevance to sport and recreation in the region, and elements of particular interest are summarised below.</p> <p><u>Goonellabah Community Plan Emerging Partnership Project Emerging Partnership Project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Healthy communities</i> - A comprehensive asset-based community audit to be conducted by Southern Cross University in partnership with Goonellabah Community Plan stakeholders. The audit will focus on social infrastructure, public open spaces, quality employment, safety and security, plus social cohesion, connectivity and the built environment.</li> </ul> <p><u>Central Growth Corridor Strategy Emerging Partnership Project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Oakes Oval</i> - create a first-class contemporary regional sporting stadium</li> <li><i>Lismore Regional Parkland</i> - develop a regional 'destination' park for the local community with elements that will attract visitors and guarantee long-term usage.</li> </ul> <p><u>Quad Activation Emerging Partnership Project</u></p> <p>A new multipurpose outdoor public space in the heart of Lismore's CBD. Likely activities include day and night-time markets, open air concerts, exhibitions, festivals and community celebrations.</p> <p><u>Bridge to Bridge Emerging Partnership Project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The Loop</i> - A continuous walking and cycling circuit on both sides of the river for recreational use, which will help activate key access sites and attractions.</li> </ul>		Lismore Partnering Strategy 2017-2020



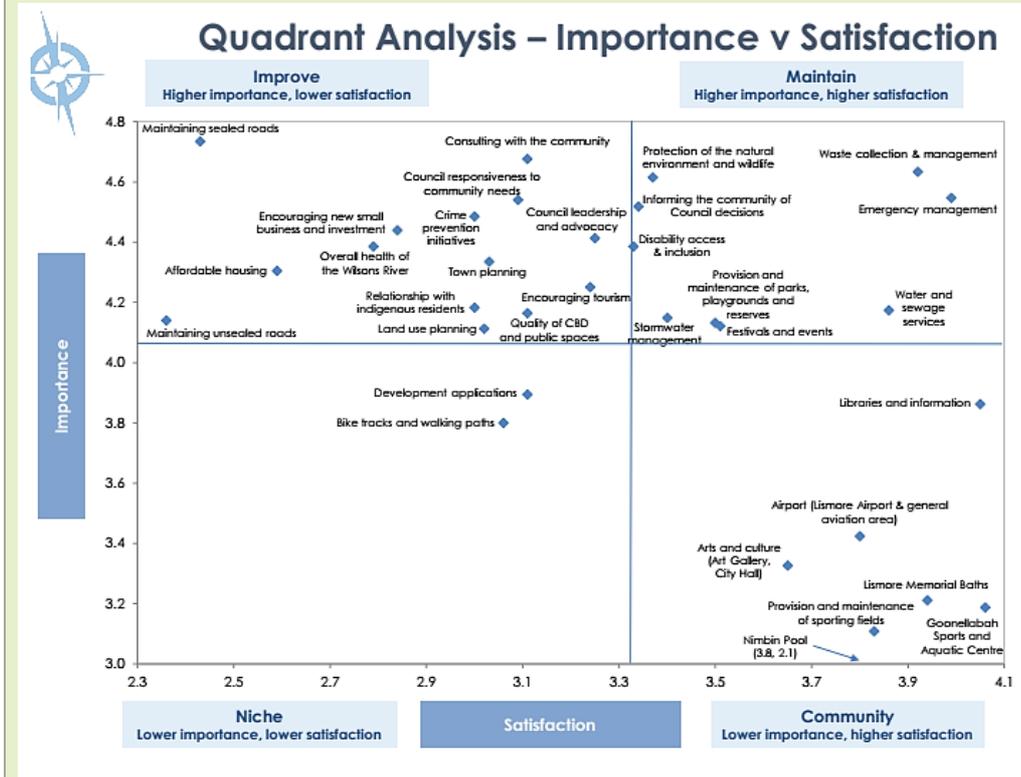


RELEVANT INFORMATION	SOURCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Community Precinct</i> - a rejuvenated Transit Centre courtyard, new gardens with natural materials, movable seating and more shade solutions, plus more activities and events in Spinks park.</li> </ul> <p><u>Lismore City Sports Hub Emerging Partnership Project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of the <i>Lismore Park Precinct Stage 1</i> - construction of Lismore Park.</li> <li>• <i>Lismore Park Precinct Stage 2</i> - Construction of three turf wickets, a jogging track and amenities block.</li> <li>• <i>Development of major sports facilities</i> - includes Albert Park regional baseball and hockey fields, the SCU Hub (tennis, athletics, netball and soccer), Oakes Oval Stages 1 and 2 upgrades, and Crozier Field Stage 3 improvements.</li> <li>• <i>Pocket Parks Strategy</i> - consisting of upgrades to Kadina Heritage, Wade and Balzer urban parks.</li> </ul>	
<p>This report summarises the findings of a community survey which sought to identify community attitudes and perceptions towards current and future services and facilities provided by Council. The survey sample comprised 502 residents. Key results in respect of sport and recreation include:</p> <p><u>Satisfaction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community satisfaction with the ‘provision and maintenance of parks, playgrounds and reserves’ was rated lower than a nominated LGA benchmark threshold, suggesting that community satisfaction is below what is considered acceptable.</li> <li>• Community satisfaction with the ‘Provision and maintenance of sporting fields’ rated lower, but close to the LGA benchmark, suggesting that community satisfaction is considered acceptable.</li> </ul> <p><u>Importance V Performance</u></p> <p><i>Provision of and maintenance of parks, playgrounds and reserves</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A gap is evident between the importance and Council’s performance in the provision of and maintenance of parks, playgrounds and reserves, although the gap is not as large as other services/facilities.</li> <li>• A quadrant analysis places this area in the ‘maintain’ quadrant and indicates this is one of Council’s core strengths and Council should seek to maintain or improve in this area as it is an influential area which addresses clear community needs.</li> </ul> <p><i>Provision and maintenance of sporting fields</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council’s performance scored higher than importance, suggesting that Council is doing well in this area.</li> <li>• A quadrant analysis places this area in the ‘Community’ quadrant and determines that this is an area of core strength, but not deemed as important than other directly obvious areas. However, occupants of this quadrant tend to be those services that deliver liveability.</li> </ul>	<p>Community Satisfaction Survey Research, 2016</p>



**RELEVANT INFORMATION** **SOURCE**

The results of the Importance v Satisfaction quadrant analysis are shown in the following figure from the report.



The 2011 Lismore Sport and Recreation Study sought to provide a 10 year planning framework for sport and recreation, and to provide strategies for the future uses and development of sport and recreation facilities, services and programs for Lismore City Council.

Lismore Sport and Recreation Plan 2011 Executive Summary

**Key findings:**

- Lismore's centrally located playing fields and regional standard sporting facilities position the city well to host regional and higher-level sporting tournaments and championships.
- Lismore City Council's Strategic Plan 2008-2018 acknowledges that Lismore is often referred to as the 'City of Sport' and the need to continue to develop Lismore as a regional hub for recreation and sporting activities.
- This study found strong community support for maintaining and developing facilities to continue Lismore's competitive advantage as a regional sporting hub for northern NSW.
- Lismore Park is a major asset to the region for sport, however there are opportunities to increase the recreational value to the broader community of this park.
- The majority of sports in Lismore are well catered for and this view was supported by the community. This is consistent with the 2007 Resident Satisfaction Survey which found high levels of satisfaction with sporting fields (90%).
- There is generally a more than adequate supply of land for sport.
- Numerous needs for facility upgrades and/ or maintenance improvements were identified by sport and recreation clubs. Notwithstanding this, most sports are satisfied with their facilities.
- Consistent with trends in similar studies elsewhere, a number of clubs reported a demand for evening competitions and social forms of participation.
- Council provides significant support to sport through the maintenance of playing areas, although some concerns were expressed about the equity of this support across the sporting spectrum (specifically the proportion of funding directed to the maintenance of turf and synthetic cricket pitches for cricket).



RELEVANT INFORMATION	SOURCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is strong community demand for more/ better connected/ better maintained/ better lit walk/ cycle paths in the Lismore City Council region. Walk/ cycle paths emerged as the number one priority in the consultation process.</li> <li>• Lismore City Council has made a very substantial investment in aquatic provision in recent years with the development of GSAC and the upgrade of Lismore Memorial Baths. These facilities operate in a highly competitive environment. The water licence at Lismore Lake no longer exists, raising doubts about the benefit of expanding recreational opportunities at this location.</li> <li>• There are a number of 'pocket parks' in Lismore. These small parks (generally &lt;1,000m2) usually have limited value for recreation purposes as they are too small to accommodate a range of uses, equipment and play experiences and their proliferation is less functional from a maintenance perspective.</li> <li>• The consultation process identified a desire for better parks – eg more playgrounds, BBQ's, shelters, shade and better maintenance. Residents of Lismore Heights and Richmond Hill appear to be less satisfied in general with the availability of a park with good facilities within walking distance of where they live.</li> <li>• The creation of Desired Standards of Service for the provision of recreation parks and sports parks in response to future residential development will allow Council to ensure land that is provided is functional and meets community expectations for quality.</li> <li>• Some villages (notably Clunes, Dunoon and Nimbin) are undersupplied in terms of recreation parkland. In addition, Clunes has no sports playing fields other than the small school oval.</li> <li>• Some parks need master planning (eg Clifford Park and Nesbitt Park). Others (eg upgrading of Oakes Oval and Crozier Field at Lismore Park), require further assessment of the viability of major upgrades.</li> <li>• The river and surrounds appear underutilised for recreation purposes and this view is supported by the consultation findings. There is a gap between the importance community members attach to opportunities for outdoor recreation and the adequacy of opportunities – this is particularly so for women and people aged 20 – 39 years.</li> <li>• Better lighting (of parks, walk/ cycle paths and sports fields) was identified as important in the consultation process.</li> <li>• Some clubs identified the need for improved drainage of some sports to maximise their use and functionality.</li> <li>• There is a perceived gap between the importance and adequacy of sport and recreation facilities or activities for people with disabilities, young people and older adults.</li> <li>• There may be opportunities for Council to partner with other organisations over the life of this study in terms of future facility provision and/ or maximising economic benefits from sport – principally Southern Cross University and the Asia Pacific Football Institute.</li> <li>• There is competition for Council and external resources for sport and recreation and this difficult funding environment is likely to continue over the 10 year life of this Plan. On this basis, investment priorities should focus on those facilities and services that are sustainable and provide the greatest community benefit.</li> </ul> <p>A series of recommendations were made in the report. The implementation status of the recommendations was reviewed in Stage 1 of this study. Key outcomes from that review are detailed in Section 3.1 of this report.</p>	
<p>The Lismore Prospectus is intended to list opportunities for private and public investment in the LGA. The document identifies a series of key regional strategic advantages, one of which includes Lismore positioning itself as the sporting capital of the Far North Coast.</p> <p>Key investment offers identified for the public sector for sport and recreation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lismore Park - major passive recreation area</li> <li>• Oakes Oval and Crozier field - major upgrades to football and cricket facilities.</li> <li>• Albert Park baseball complex development</li> <li>• Hepburn Park hockey fields upgrade</li> <li>• Parks, walkways and cycleways improvements.</li> </ul>	<p>The Lismore Prospectus: A guide to private and public sector investment in the heart of the northern rivers region of NSW.</p>



RELEVANT INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>This document details the development of the Lismore Regional Parkland, a key element of Lismore’s Central Growth Corridor. The parkland is conceived as a \$21 million project to be delivered in two stages between 2017 and 2019.</p> <p>Key sport and recreation elements of the parkland will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A multipurpose park pavilion incorporating café with outdoor dining, park administration office, rooftop terrace with views for functions.</li><li>• A youth plaza with skate park, BBQ zone, adventure climbing area</li><li>• Multi-purpose lawn and outdoor stage</li><li>• Dedicated exercise zone with outdoor exercise and recreation facilities.</li><li>• A network of extended pathways.</li></ul> <p>The master plan design is shown below.</p>  <p>Lismore Regional Parkland in the context of the broader central growth corridor is demonstrated in the image below.</p>	<p>Lismore Regional Parkland, April 2017</p>



RELEVANT INFORMATION	SOURCE
 <p>The Central Growth Corridor is a defined zone in the centre of the city which contains some of the most important places and spaces in the region, including Lismore Health Precinct, Lismore Base Hospital and University Centre for Rural Health, the region’s largest retail shopping centre, existing parks, playing fields and sporting facilities, The Quadrangle, the CBD, major arts and cultural facilities and the riverside precinct on both sides of the Wilson River.</p> <p>A key element of the Corridor is the creation of vibrant open spaces fully utilised by the community and visitors alike.</p> <p>Redevelopment of key sport and recreation elements within this Corridor (in addition to the Lismore Regional Parkland) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oakes Oval - \$2.4 million upgrade to become the finest sports facility in Northern New South Wales, capable of hosting premiership AFL, rugby League, soccer, rugby union and cricket.</li> <li>• Regional Cricket Centre - \$750,000; across from the Lismore Regional Parkland; will contain 3 turf wickets of Test Cricket standard, plus a training facility with practice wickets and amenities block and floodlighting.</li> </ul> <p>Other planned sport and recreation improvements outside of the Corridor include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$6.9 million redevelopment of the Albert Park sportsground aimed at creating a National Baseball Centre;</li> <li>• \$1.5 million upgrade of the Hepburn Park facilities to aid the development of hockey in the Northern Rivers; and</li> <li>• The creation of a series of recreational walkways and trail bike rides in the city centre and across the Lismore Urban Area.</li> </ul>	
<p>This report provides background data and information relating to economic and tourism benefits of the Lismore Regional Parkland. These are summarised below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased visitor numbers - predicted to increase overall tourism by 20%. This would attract an extra 120,000 visitors to the region, increasing the number of visitors from outside the LGA to 714,000.</li> <li>• Increase overall visitor expenditure from \$93m to \$112m per year.</li> <li>• Facilitates more spending in fan zones for sporting events and weekly craft markets.</li> <li>• Entice visitors to stay longer in the region. Although not specifically calculated, the report states that the average length of stay for domestic visitors is expected to increase from 2.6 nights to 3 nights.</li> <li>• Retention of locals who currently go outside Lismore to other regional towns for leisure experiences.</li> <li>• Revenue benefits to Council from ground hire for temporary events and functions.</li> <li>• Potential for the establishment of small business opportunities around the parkland (eg café, bike hire, food stalls, etc.).</li> </ul>	<p>Economic and Tourism Analysis for Lismore Regional Parkland, 2017</p>



RELEVANT INFORMATION		SOURCE												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An estimated increase of 214 jobs in Lismore City associated with the accommodation and food sectors.</li> </ul>														
<p>The Asset Management Plan outlines the cost required to operate maintain, renew and upgrade sport and recreation assets. The Plan is based on the actual estimates for the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) years 2016/17 to 2026/27.</p> <p>The plan identifies that <u>funding levels are insufficient</u> to continue to provide existing services at current levels in the medium term.</p> <p>The modelling provides three funding scenarios, shown in the table below.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Funding scenario</th> <th>Projected Costs (over 10 yrs &amp; avg/ yr)</th> <th>Avg. Funding shortfall /year</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Current actual LTFP budget figures, this is inclusive of 2% of current capital expenditure (\$2,599,742) being allocated to various sporting groups for new infrastructure.</td> <td>\$70,625,572 \$7,62,557/year.</td> <td>\$1,969,685</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Current LTFP budget figures allocated the current 72% of capital expenditure (\$2,599,742) being to renewal of existing infrastructure rather than being allocated to various sporting groups for new infrastructure.</td> <td>\$64,853,524 OR \$6,485,352/ year</td> <td>\$1,392,480</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Unconstrained Renew all parks &amp; recreation assets at condition 4 ensuring no condition 5 assets in 10 years.</td> <td>\$56,928,722 OR \$5,092,872/ year</td> <td>\$560,490</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Funding scenario	Projected Costs (over 10 yrs & avg/ yr)	Avg. Funding shortfall /year	1. Current actual LTFP budget figures, this is inclusive of 2% of current capital expenditure (\$2,599,742) being allocated to various sporting groups for new infrastructure.	\$70,625,572 \$7,62,557/year.	\$1,969,685	2. Current LTFP budget figures allocated the current 72% of capital expenditure (\$2,599,742) being to renewal of existing infrastructure rather than being allocated to various sporting groups for new infrastructure.	\$64,853,524 OR \$6,485,352/ year	\$1,392,480	3. Unconstrained Renew all parks & recreation assets at condition 4 ensuring no condition 5 assets in 10 years.	\$56,928,722 OR \$5,092,872/ year	\$560,490	<p>Sport and Recreation Core Asset Management Plan, March 2017</p>
Funding scenario	Projected Costs (over 10 yrs & avg/ yr)	Avg. Funding shortfall /year												
1. Current actual LTFP budget figures, this is inclusive of 2% of current capital expenditure (\$2,599,742) being allocated to various sporting groups for new infrastructure.	\$70,625,572 \$7,62,557/year.	\$1,969,685												
2. Current LTFP budget figures allocated the current 72% of capital expenditure (\$2,599,742) being to renewal of existing infrastructure rather than being allocated to various sporting groups for new infrastructure.	\$64,853,524 OR \$6,485,352/ year	\$1,392,480												
3. Unconstrained Renew all parks & recreation assets at condition 4 ensuring no condition 5 assets in 10 years.	\$56,928,722 OR \$5,092,872/ year	\$560,490												
<p>A number of actions are identified from the findings of this plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move towards service-driven asset management using a “bottom up” approach for gathering asset information that supports Council’s goal of optimising activities and meeting agreed service levels and define maintenance standards and levels of service that can be delivered at various funding levels.</li> <li>Prioritise renewal works based on risk.</li> <li>Continue to improve asset information and knowledge.</li> <li>Improve reporting of parks &amp; recreation assets.</li> </ul>														
<p>The Cycleway Plan is a review and update of a 2007 bicycle strategy for the City of Lismore and aimed to provide a single prioritised program of works outlining new cycleways to be constructed, giving clearer direction to Council works staff on where funds would be best allocated.</p> <p>The 2011 Lismore Sport and Recreation Plan made a number of recommendations in relation to walk/cycle paths. The following table lists these recommendations and indicates if these recommendations are addressed in the Cycleway Plan.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sport and Recreation Plan Recommendations</th> <th>Inclusion in Cycleway Plan</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <p>Prioritise the following walk/cycle path linkages and circuits and as referred to in the Lismore City Council Cycleway Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recreation Route 1 - Pathways within Lismore Park;</li> <li>Recreation Route 2 - Along Wilsons River - Market St to Orion St;</li> <li>Recreation Route 3 - Albert Park to Riverside Park;</li> <li>Recreation Route 4 - From the intersection of Ballina Rd and Kadina St along Kadina St up Oliver Ave along Holland St down Ballina Rd and back to the starting point; and Extension of existing Bird Wing Butterfly Walk beyond the current platypus viewing platform through to Holland St.</li> </ul> </td> <td> <p>Prioritised Works Program position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rec Route 1 - item 13.</li> <li>Rec Route 2 - item 17.</li> <li>Rec Route 3 - items 48, 49 and 50</li> <li>Rec Route 4 - item 46 and 51</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Sport and Recreation Plan Recommendations	Inclusion in Cycleway Plan	<p>Prioritise the following walk/cycle path linkages and circuits and as referred to in the Lismore City Council Cycleway Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recreation Route 1 - Pathways within Lismore Park;</li> <li>Recreation Route 2 - Along Wilsons River - Market St to Orion St;</li> <li>Recreation Route 3 - Albert Park to Riverside Park;</li> <li>Recreation Route 4 - From the intersection of Ballina Rd and Kadina St along Kadina St up Oliver Ave along Holland St down Ballina Rd and back to the starting point; and Extension of existing Bird Wing Butterfly Walk beyond the current platypus viewing platform through to Holland St.</li> </ul>	<p>Prioritised Works Program position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rec Route 1 - item 13.</li> <li>Rec Route 2 - item 17.</li> <li>Rec Route 3 - items 48, 49 and 50</li> <li>Rec Route 4 - item 46 and 51</li> </ul>	<p>Lismore City Council Cycleway Plan 2011</p>								
Sport and Recreation Plan Recommendations	Inclusion in Cycleway Plan													
<p>Prioritise the following walk/cycle path linkages and circuits and as referred to in the Lismore City Council Cycleway Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recreation Route 1 - Pathways within Lismore Park;</li> <li>Recreation Route 2 - Along Wilsons River - Market St to Orion St;</li> <li>Recreation Route 3 - Albert Park to Riverside Park;</li> <li>Recreation Route 4 - From the intersection of Ballina Rd and Kadina St along Kadina St up Oliver Ave along Holland St down Ballina Rd and back to the starting point; and Extension of existing Bird Wing Butterfly Walk beyond the current platypus viewing platform through to Holland St.</li> </ul>	<p>Prioritised Works Program position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rec Route 1 - item 13.</li> <li>Rec Route 2 - item 17.</li> <li>Rec Route 3 - items 48, 49 and 50</li> <li>Rec Route 4 - item 46 and 51</li> </ul>													



RELEVANT INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>Priority should be given to investigating cycle path links from existing neighbourhoods to new land release areas (as identified in the Lismore Urban Strategy), so that appropriate internal pathway links can be identified in the site specific ‘Development Control Plans’ (DCPs) for each site.</p>	
<p>The Bridge to Bridge area includes land between the two bridges to the south and north sides of Lismore and stretches adjacent to the river to Molesworth Street on the CBD side and Union Street on the South Lismore side.</p> <p>The Bridge to Bridge area includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A network of parks (Riverside Park, Heritage Park, Spinks Park);</li> <li>• Buildings and land occupied by businesses and community organisations;</li> <li>• NORPA and surrounding City Hall parkland; and</li> <li>• Sporting facilities (bowls club, croquet club, public pool, canoe club and skate park).</li> </ul> <p>This report contains the following vision and principles:</p> <p><b>Vision</b>  <i>“Reconnecting Lismore to river life; community, recreation and natural habitats.”</i></p> <p><b>Principles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valuing and celebrating our natural habitat and identity as a ‘River City’.</li> <li>• Connecting and activating the River Precinct.</li> <li>• Celebrating culture and community life.</li> <li>• Bringing Lismore stories to life.</li> </ul> <p>Five place-based opportunities are outlined. These and the key recreational aspects related to each are listed below.</p> <p>1. The Loop - Walking and Cycling circuit - a continuous pathway adjacent to the river between Ballina Road, Fawcett and Union Street bridges. Recommendations include:</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Widen path at narrow sections ie along both bridges, behind Lismore Memorial Baths and childcare facility on corner of Victoria Street and Market Street.</li> <li>• Increase visibility and safety - replace bamboo with native trees, shrubs and groundcovers to improve bank stabilisation.</li> <li>• Explore potential pedestrian bridge across river (from Magellan Street to South Lismore): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Maintenance of bank and weed reduction.</li> <li>○ Increase interpretive signage, wayfinding and seating along path.</li> <li>○ Lighting for night time safety.</li> <li>○ Increase access points to the loop path to increase useability, safety and visibility.</li> <li>○ Regular events, eg fun runs, historic bike tours and planting days.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Connect to cycle paths in greater Lismore.</li> <li>○ Create new shared path along the South Lismore bank considering access, erosion and other constraints.</li> </ul>	<p>Wilson's River Bridge to Bridge Vision Report, 2017</p>



RELEVANT INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>2. Revitalised Wharf Precinct, which includes, relevant to recreation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New riverside recreation park with decked or stepped area for performance use.</li> <li>○ Natural aquatic habitat and potential access for commercial water-based activities.</li> <li>○ Grassed picnic area.</li> <li>○ Improved connection to Spinks Park.</li> </ul> <p>3. Community Precinct connecting the CBD and revitalised wharf precinct. Key recommendations relevant to recreation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Programming of Spinks Park to include organised events and activities.</li> <li>○ Improved internal connection to Spinks Park.</li> <li>○ Re-use of former gallery building for community arts, culture, education, events, exhibits.</li> </ul> <p>4. Heritage Park, NORPA and City Hall, and Riverside Park - renewed pocket of parkland and contemporary play areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Riverside Park - tranquil park - retention of open space for passive recreation; increased quantity and quality of amenities such as drink fountains, BBQ areas and shade; free outdoor exercise equipment; meeting place for Park Run.</li> <li>○ Heritage Park - contemporary nature-based and adventure-based play elements including a small amount of water play; hireable space for parties, workshops etc; enhanced amenities such as lighting, change facilities, picnic tables, drink fountains.</li> <li>○ NORPA and City Hall - enhanced outdoor spaces through access to water, power, lighting, Wi-Fi.</li> </ul> <p>5. A new vision for South Lismore - increased activity around Wilsons River.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potential (long term) rail trail on former rail line easement between Byron Bay and Cubawee.</li> <li>○ Recreational Vehicle and caravan hub - including water, electricity, communal amenities - bathrooms, BBQs, woodfired pizza ovens.</li> <li>○ Outdoor space for events, markets, concerts and performing arts.</li> <li>○ New parkland adjacent to the river and new loop shared path.</li> </ul>	
<p>This document explores the possibilities for ‘The Loop’ Riverfront Shared Pathway identified in the Wilson’s River Bridge to Bridge Vision report. The objectives of the document were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify a continuous pathway adjacent to the river which activates surrounding key sites and improves visual connectivity to the river.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to extend this route beyond the “bridges” to support informal and organised recreational functions.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to utilise the rail corridor and the elevated viewing platform that this provides towards the river.</li> </ul> <p>Four options were identified and are shown below. The report does not indicate a preferred option.</p>	<p>Lismore _ ‘The Loop’ Riverfront Shared Pathway ‘Conversation Starter’, 26 June 2018.</p>





## RELEVANT INFORMATION

## SOURCE

### OPTION 1 ROUTE

#### OBJECTIVES:

- Maximise visual connectivity with the river.
- Connect existing and proposed recreational and cultural places of interest.
- Provide a 2.5m wide shared pathway along the entire length.
- Minimise the potential for conflict between pedestrians and motorists.

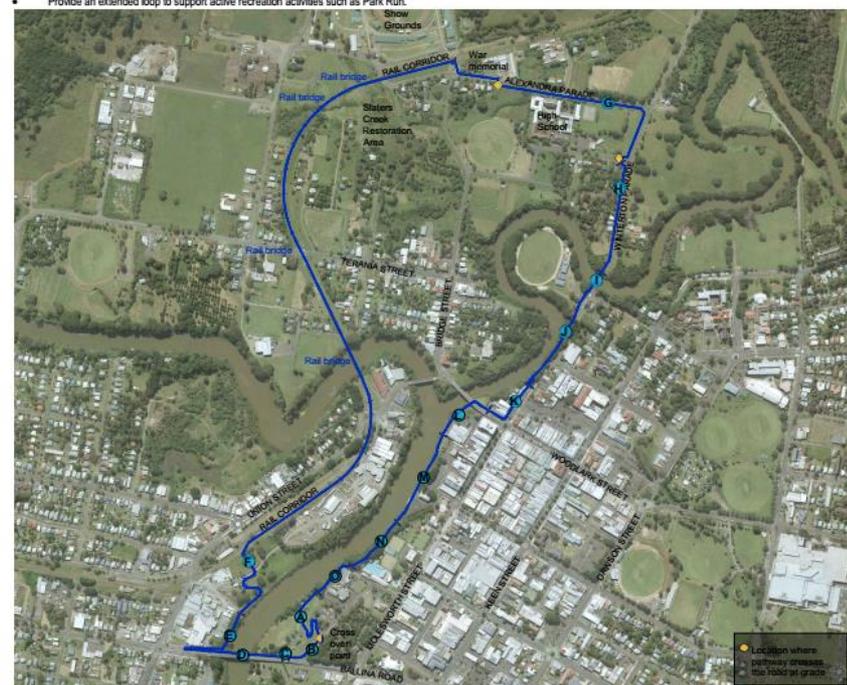


TOTAL LENGTH OF ROUTE - 3KM

### OPTION 2 ROUTE

#### OBJECTIVES:

- Maximise visual connectivity with the river.
- Connect existing and proposed recreational, educational and cultural places of interest.
- Provide a 2.5m wide shared pathway along the entire length.
- Minimise the potential for conflict between pedestrians and motorists.
- Provide an extended loop to support active recreation activities such as Park Run.



TOTAL LENGTH OF ROUTE - 5.66KM



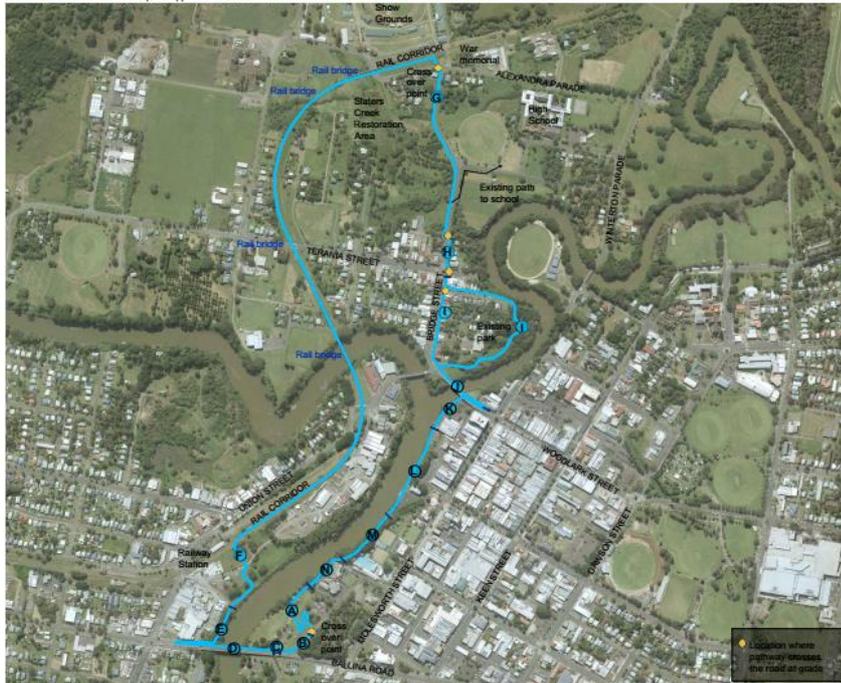
## RELEVANT INFORMATION

## SOURCE

### OPTION 3 ROUTE

#### OBJECTIVES:

- Maximise visual connectivity with the river.
- Connect existing and proposed recreational, educational and cultural places of interest.
- Provide a 2.5m wide shared pathway along the entire length.
- Minimise the potential for conflict between pedestrians and motorists.
- Provide an extended loop to support active recreation activities such as Park Run.



TOTAL LENGTH OF ROUTE - SHARED 5.4KM, URBAN PEDESTRIAN ONLY SHORTCUT ON BRIDGE STREET 5KM

### OPTION 4 ROUTE

#### OBJECTIVES:

- Maximise visual connectivity with the river.
- Connect existing and proposed recreational, educational and cultural places of interest.
- Provide a 2.5m wide shared pathway along the entire length.
- Minimise the potential for conflict between pedestrians and motorists.
- Provide an extended loop to support active recreation activities such as Park Run.
- Minimise the requirement to upgrade bridges



TOTAL LENGTH OF ROUTE - 5.36KM



RELEVANT INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>Sets out the key priorities for responding to the needs, challenges and opportunities of Goonellabah.</p> <p>Outlines a number of shared outcomes and partnership projects. Those projects most relevant to sport and recreation are summarised below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goonellabah Youth Protocol - set of guidelines for those who use public and private spaces. Includes the Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre.</li> <li>• Sports Event - to provide activities and mentoring, increase young people’s skills, improve health and physical activity and expand sporting opportunities to Aboriginal young people through sporting communities. Northern United Rugby League Football Club is listed as a project partner.</li> <li>• Youth and Community Space - Relocation of Youth Connections North Coast to Goonellabah and increased programming, opportunities, health outcomes and social enterprise projects. Northern United Rugby League Football Club is listed as a project partner.</li> <li>• Social Inclusion Events - reduce anti-social behaviour and crime, improve social inclusion and community safety. Northern United Rugby League Football Club is listed as a project partner.</li> <li>• Yoogumbah Boomleh and Tackling Violence Advertising Campaign - awareness of domestic violence impacts and the work being done by United Rugby League Football Club and Mirring Ngu Wanjarri (Aboriginal women Making Changes). Northern United Rugby League Football Club is listed as a project partner.</li> </ul>	<p>Goonellabah Community Plan</p>
<p>Council conducted community planning panels in rural areas in 2015 and key information was then incorporated into Community Plans. The areas are shown in the map adjacent. A summary of relevant sport and recreation projects/ goals for each area is provided below.</p> <p><b>South Community Plan, 2016</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade Ruthven Public Hall - revitalise and improve the hall and increase its usage as a significant community venue</li> <li>• Facilities and Open Spaces - Encourage greater recreational opportunities. Maintain existing infrastructure and make it affordable and accessible for the local community to utilise.</li> <li>• Key goals include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Establishing regular groups and activities including sporting, yoga, youth groups, playgroups; start an exercise program at the oval or in the hall; install a rubbish bin at the skatepark; upgrade sporting equipment - soccer goal posts, tennis nets; open canteen for cricket games.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Caniaba/ Spring Grove Hall - revitalise, improve and increase usage as a significant community venue.</li> </ul> <p><b>West Community Plan, 2016</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rejuvenation of public access areas - rejuvenate and improve access to public open spaces and create safe recreational areas for the whole community             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community clean up days for parks, reserves and open space</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Community Panel Community Plans</p>



RELEVANT INFORMATION	SOURCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Investigate creation of walking trails, horse riding trails, biking trails - exploring land availability, partnership opportunities and rail trail options on the disused railway line.</li> <li>○ Establish picnic areas</li> <li>○ Farm walks - walking tracks, water holes, canoe routes.</li> <li>● Community infrastructure - revitalise, improve and increase use of physical assets. Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Meeting places for Leycester and Boorie Creek.</li> <li>○ Upgrade toilet facilities.</li> <li>○ Promote hall utilisation.</li> <li>○ Explore safe areas for walking/ cycling on country roads.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Events, Arts and Cultural Activities - include regular community events utilising a variety of venues.</li> </ul> <p><b>North East Community Plan, 2015 (Version 4, Revised 2017)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● General maintenance of Sporting Facilities at Dunoon and Tullera.</li> <li>● Investigate an open amphitheatre in Dunoon.</li> <li>● Investigate the sale of pocket park in Cedar Drive, Dunoon for upgrading of playgrounds at Balzer and Tamarind Parks.</li> <li>● Balzer Park - new playground, outdoor gym, seating/picnic table, investigate feasibility of accessible toilets and continuous path, paint mural on toilet block.</li> <li>● Tamarind Park - landscaping, upgrade playground, new picnic tables, improve shade structure.</li> <li>● Promotion of community garden for Dunoon and food swap for Whian.</li> <li>● Investigate the installation of toilets and parking at the Whian Whian Falls.</li> <li>● Upgrade toilets and upgrade BBQs at Spinaze Park, Tullera.</li> <li>● Investigate a skate park in Dunoon.</li> <li>● Investigate Dunoon Village to Dorrobee Grasslands footpath/cycleway.</li> <li>● Investigate Dunoon Cemetery to Modanville School footpath/cycleway (with greenery for shade).</li> <li>● Investigate Dunoon Hall to soccer grounds footpath/cycleway.</li> <li>● Investigate a footpath from Whian.</li> <li>● Whian Hall to 'Pooh' corner (corner of Ashlin Road and Whian Whian Road).</li> <li>● Create walking tracks at parks with signage about kilometres walked.</li> </ul> <p><b>East Community Plan, 2015 (Version 3)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Investigate creating Clunes Park as a place for tourists to stop and for locals to meet - BBQ's/ picnic, playground, exercise equipment, games area.</li> <li>● Investigate the installation of composting toilets at Clunes Park.</li> <li>● Explore the installation of public art pieces at the Clunes Park.</li> <li>● Work in partnership with Clunes Progress Association to expand the community clean-up event at Clunes Park and investigate similar events at Rosebank Recreation Reserve and Johnstone Road.</li> <li>● Revitalise Rosebank Recreation Reserve including: BBQs, bins, signage, bridge to connect the two sides.</li> <li>● Maintenance group to clean-up verges and grow appropriate plants (rainforest trees).</li> <li>● Build an accessible ramp for toilets.</li> <li>● Create a community garden.</li> <li>● Plant rose banks (gardens and climbers) in Rosebank (opposite Rosebank shop on Rosebank Road and at village entrance sign).</li> <li>● Creation of a 'village pride team' that holds a community clean-up day, focusing on community parks and reserves.</li> <li>● Adopt a road - walk your dog and clean the roadside (adopt the 'Take 3' campaign of taking three pieces of rubbish away).</li> <li>● Rosebank Hall/Repentance Creek Hall walking and biking track.</li> <li>● Clunes/Eltham walking and biking track.</li> </ul>	



RELEVANT INFORMATION	SOURCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe pathways walking group.</li> <li>• Bike ride around Rosebank/Clunes (including mountain biking) - coffee shop touring.</li> </ul> <p><b>North Central Community Plan, 2015 (Version 2)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate the following at Coronation Park:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Events</li> <li>○ Create a youth hub- skate park, basketball court</li> <li>○ Investigate installation of exercise station; and</li> <li>○ Investigate installation of shade and wet weather protection.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Investigate the following walking/ cycling projects:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reconstruction and maintenance of The Channon walking trail with way-finding signage and a composting toilet</li> <li>○ Creation of a biking track - The Channon- Lismore- Nimbin-Keerrong-Tullera</li> <li>○ Creation of major walking trails - Lismore-Nimbin-Byron Bay; and</li> <li>○ Creation of horse riding trails.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Undertake beautification of the Channon Cannon, and plan events.</li> <li>• Restoration and deepening works for Junction Swimming Hole and installation of picnic tables.</li> </ul> <p><b>South East Community Plan, 2015 (Revised 2017, Version 4)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wyrallah Park - range of upgrades including playground, BBQ and picnic, amenities, shade, improved river access, viewing platform.</li> <li>• Install signage at Dungarubba Park.</li> <li>• Install electric BBQ's at Tregeagle Road Park.</li> <li>• Connor Road Corridor (walking track) - resurface walkway in gravel or bitumen, improve signage for school children, tree removal and mulching.</li> <li>• Develop walking and cycle tracks around the villages, in particularly Wyrallah and Tregeagle.</li> </ul>	
<p>This plan sets a 40-year vision for transport in Regional New South Wales to support liveable communities and productive economies. Lismore is identified as a major regional city.</p> <p>State-wide initiatives for investigation, relevant to this study include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate cycling and walking programs for regional cities and centre to complete missing links, create integrated transport networks and encourage sustainable travel.</li> <li>• Provide for all regional NSW customers (including pedestrians and cyclists) and for the future adaptability of emerging technologies and service models.</li> </ul> <p>Key movement and place principles for regional cities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separation of through movement (movement corridors) and reinforced place-based activity (places for people)</li> <li>• Prioritise access for freight, walking, cycling, public transport, interchange and manage parking demand</li> <li>• Focused investment on making more Place for People linked to key transport nodes</li> <li>• Integrating safety features.</li> </ul>	<p>Draft Regional NSW Services &amp; Infrastructure Plan</p>
<p>This document was prepared by Tennis NSW as a proposal for facility development. It recommends allowance of \$320,000 to upgrade the Lismore Tennis Club facilities to provide the community and club members with twelve courts of low maintenance and long life cycle. This comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synthetic grass resurface of six courts \$180,000</li> <li>• Clubhouse refurbishment (upgrade kitchen and bathrooms) \$50,000</li> <li>• Fencing (12 courts) \$80,000</li> <li>• Design fees \$10,000</li> </ul>	<p>Lismore Tennis Club Development Proposal, 2018</p>
<p>The Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2017 - 2018 was developed to build on reconciliation initiatives and lessons and encourage organisation and business to develop their own RAP. Actions and deliverables are provided under four areas of 'Relationships', 'Respect', 'Opportunities', and 'Tracking progress and reporting'. While no actions and deliverables related specifically to sport and recreation, the following may be relevant:</p>	<p>Reconciliation Action Plan, January 2017 - December 2018</p>



RELEVANT INFORMATION	SOURCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities and organisations to support positive outcomes.</li> <li>Provide opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to engage with their culture and communities by celebrating NAIDOC week.</li> </ul>	
<p>This report was prepared for a Nimbin resident project team with funding from Council and the state government. The Nimbin community Rainbow Road is a walking track around the village of Nimbin, which is planned to showcase the village culture, icons and surrounding features.</p> <p>The objectives of Rainbow Road are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop a high standard of regionally significant pedestrian open space corridor as an important facility which enhances local lifestyle factors, contributes to a sense of place for Nimbin and increases visitor appeal.</li> <li>To establish, manage and operate Rainbow Road in such a way as to conserve and interpret both the natural and cultural values of the walk, taking into account the broader locality of the village and its rural, mountain and forest settings.</li> <li>Provide accessible linkages between the attractions.</li> <li>Maximise the educational, cultural and recreational opportunities and experience that form the walk.</li> <li>Expand and improve the existing pedestrian circulation route between the village centre and adjacent accommodation, business and residential precincts.</li> </ul> <p>The project has been planned in stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stage 1: Starts at entry statement beside the Nimbin School of Arts and heads toward amphitheatre and rainforest creek area, then between the caravan park and soccer club. The trail continues across a flat grassy area and then provides the option to continue on to the Rainbow Power Company or Alternative Way or to walk south to Cecil Street and back to the village.</li> <li>Stage 2: Follows the creek line from Rainbow Power Company through the Aquarius Village Housing development.</li> <li>Stage 3: Continues up Cecil street to a planned ecovillage (Rivendell) and then towards Falls Road/ High Street and views of Nimbin Rocks and then returns to the village.</li> <li>Further stages: Consultation has included ideas for extension and further development in the future.</li> </ul>	<p>Rainbow Road Nimbin - A Feasibility into the Planning and Implementation of a Walking Track in the Village of Nimbin, 2017</p>



RELEVANT INFORMATION	SOURCE
----------------------	--------



The walk is intended to be for ‘walkers’ and not horse riders and cyclists.

The Feasibility Study examined the viability of Rainbow Road in terms of visitor experiences, sustainability, community benefit and authentic experiences.

It determined that the Rainbow Road is feasible because:

- It is different and authentic - providing what target markets are seeking;
- It builds on and links with existing attractions;
- The village of Nimbin averages between 500 and 550 visitors per day and more than 60% would take the walk and extend the length of their stay;
- It will add value to tourism experiences in the Northern rivers Region;
- It has the full community support and provides community amenity and facilities;
- It provides a safe and accessible path for young players and spectators to get to and from games and training (easy access from the main street and back);
- It promotes sport and health to locals and visitors;
- It has landowner support;
- It will create employment and attract investments;
- It will capitalise on emerging e-growth industries;
- There is early developer and business interest and curiosity;
- It links with the zeitgeist of the times - global science and environmental consciousness.

Stage 1 was costed at \$702,425. A Steering Committee was to be formed to guide the project.



RELEVANT INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>This document sets out a collaborative approach for planning and delivery of sport and recreation across the region. It contains the following vision:</p> <p><i>“People of all ages and abilities on the North Coast have diverse opportunities in people friendly spaces to participate in sport and active recreation.”</i></p> <p>Identifies six outcomes for the region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased participation;</li><li>• Improved access;</li><li>• Integrated performance pathways;</li><li>• Fit for purpose facilities;</li><li>• Valued regional sporting events;</li><li>• Effective collaboration.</li></ul> <p>Each outcome contains a number of strategies.</p> <p><u>Outcome 1 - Increased Participation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop a “Get off the couch together” program.</li><li>• Develop localised sport competitions.</li><li>• Promote modified formal for sport including walking sports.</li><li>• Promote the Active Kids Voucher Program.</li><li>• Plan for and promote child safe and child friendly environments.</li><li>• Support Councils to include and strengthen reference to sport and active recreation in their Community Strategic Plans.</li><li>• Support State Sporting Organisations to develop a regional participation strategy.</li><li>• Attract and retain new volunteers.</li></ul> <p><u>Outcome 2 - Improved Access</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engage non-active participants.</li><li>• Promote and develop school programs.</li><li>• Enhance the Sport and Recreation Centre at Lake Ainsworth as a place for children to experience sport and active recreation activities for the first time.</li><li>• Explore options for shared transport to sport and active recreation opportunities.</li><li>• Expand opportunities for active travel.</li><li>• Provide support to under-represented groups to access sport and active recreation opportunities.</li><li>• Develop a central information hub/ clearinghouse/ database/ portal for all sporting organisations and participants.</li><li>• Support sport and active recreation clubs to attract new participants.</li></ul> <p><u>Outcome 3 - Integrated Performance Pathways</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue with existing sport talent programs.</li><li>• Tailor delivery of sport and recreation to population groups.</li><li>• Embed the Foundation, Talent, Elite and Mastery (FTEM) pathway model established by the Australian Sports Commission in the region.</li><li>• Strengthen links between the North Coast Academy of Sport and other sector partners.</li><li>• Improve coaching and officiating standards in the North Coast region.</li></ul> <p><u>Outcome 4 - Fit for Purpose Facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establish Regional Sporting Hubs in Lismore and Coffs Harbour and explore locations for regional sub-hubs.</li><li>• Maintain and enhance regionally significant sports facilities.</li><li>• Develop a strategic infrastructure plan.</li><li>• Develop facilities master plan.</li><li>• Plan for female friendly sporting facilities.</li><li>• Gain access to school facilities.</li></ul>	<p>North Coast Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2018 - 2023</p>





RELEVANT INFORMATION	SOURCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine optimal uses for Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre.</li> </ul> <p><u>Outcome 5 - Valued Regional Events</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and enhance existing successful sporting events. The National Basketball Championships in Lismore is listed as a concept to consider.</li> <li>Establish a Gala day.</li> <li>Work with key stakeholders on events activation and legacy planning.</li> </ul> <p><u>Outcome 6 - Effective Collaboration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a North Coast sport and recreation taskforce.</li> <li>Employ regional sport and recreation officers.</li> <li>Promote more collaboration between schools and development officers.</li> </ul> <p>Within Outcome 4, the report provides an overview of Sports Hubs and their features. Key features include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A multi-sport facility, which may include a sport administration centre that supports participation and the community and pre-elite level.</li> <li>The capacity to host national, state and regional championships. The location of sports hubs may complement already established regionally significant sport facilities; that is, venues that are listed as Tier 3 facilities under the NSW Stadia Strategy.</li> <li>Could include broader community facilities such as aquatic and fitness facilities and other types of development such as a school or tertiary institution.</li> <li>A main site incorporating core sporting facilities and services, as well as supporting facilities and services.</li> </ul>	
<p>This report identifies six megatrends which are anticipated to shape the Australian sport sector over a 30 year horizon. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Perfect Fit - individualised activities are on the rise.</li> <li>From Extreme to Mainstream - A rise in lifestyle, adventure and alternative sports.</li> <li>More than Sport - the broader benefits of sport, including crime prevention and social development and inclusion, are being increasingly recognised.</li> <li>Everybody's Game - an ageing population, means that sports will need to cater for senior citizens.</li> <li>New Wealth, New Talent - sports business opportunities resulting from the rise in Asian economies.</li> <li>Tracksuits to Business suits - sport increasingly being run as a business, plus the rising cost of participation.</li> </ul>	<p>ASC Mega Trends The Future of Australian Sport: Megatrends shaping the sports sector over coming decades, Australian Sports Commission, 2013</p>

## 5.1 Future Projects

Lismore City Council has sought funding for a number of projects under the NSW Stronger Community Fund Round 2. Details of the projects are summarised below.

**Table 3: Projects submitted for funding under the Stronger Communities Fund - Round 2**

PROJECT TITLE	DETAIL	COMPLETION DATE	PROJECT COST	FUNDING REQUESTED
Walkway improvements to Birdwing Butterfly Walk	Enhance existing walkway that follows Tucki Tucki Creek from Kadina Street to the back of Hepburn Park to improve safety. Includes installation of concrete stairway, handrails and kickboards across culvert crossings, renewal of information kiosk, inclusion of new information and directional signage.	August 2020	\$239,117	\$239,117
Walkway bridge improvements through Birdwing Butterfly Walk	Refurbish existing infrastructure to improve functionality of the walking track, including renewing foot bridges, decks, rails, kickboards and resurface walking track with asphalt.	June 2019	\$366,722	\$390,000



PROJECT TITLE	DETAIL	COMPLETION DATE	PROJECT COST	FUNDING REQUESTED
Lismore Lake Precinct Pathway extension	Extension of existing pathway/ cycleway along the Bruxner Highway from the Lake Motel to and including the Lismore Lake Caravan Park to complete pathway/ cycleway linkage in this area of South Lismore.	July 2019	\$153,000	\$153,000
Heritage Park Recreational Facility Enhancements including waterplay, adventure and toddler equipment	Includes partial replacement of existing playground equipment with an adventure playground, installation of a new water-based adventure space, renewal of existing toddler playground equipment and renewal of perimeter safety fence and pergolas.	December 2019	\$350,000	\$250,000
Community and citywide information LED event signage	Installation of custom designed digital LED sign to promote local information including sporting, community and cultural events.	June 2019	\$206,000	\$131,000
Keen Street event infrastructure and footpath upgrade	Installation of 3 phase power for Keen Street between Woodlark and Magellan Street to support community open space events.	June 2019	\$1.506M	\$206,000
Riverview Park Amenities Upgrade	Major repairs to the change rooms to convert them to a covered area to improve social amenity and improve internal configuration of amenities.	June 2019	\$60,000	\$60,000
Ambient lighting in trees and laneways throughout Lismore CBD	Illumination of trees and laneways within the CBD to deliver placemaking opportunities for outdoor eventing events, markets and visitor city experiences.	April 2019	\$195,500	\$195,500
Lismore Basketball Stadium facility enhancement	Improvements to bring the facility to regional standard, including internal lining, new back boards, floor sanding and refurbishment, fencing, landscaping and car park resurfacing.	April 2019	\$274,058	\$254,058
Oakes Oval change room facilities enhancement	Provision of player lockers in the change rooms and portable player/ coaches benches.	February 2019	\$60,000	\$60,000
Crozier Field spectator mound installation including fencing and spectator pathways	Includes enclosure of the field with appropriate security fencing, installation of spectator concrete pathway, associated drainage and building and turfing of a spectator mound.	March 2019	\$160,000	\$160,000
10km International Standard Mountain Bike trail network - Stage 1	Construction of 10km of mountain buke trail as the foundation trail to the proposed International Standard Mountain Bike Trail network located at Southern Cross University.	July 2019	\$268,956	\$268,956
Clunes Tennis Court Refurbishment	Replacement of 3 synthetic grass tennis court surfaces and the net poles which will bring the 3 courts to meet Australian Standards. Improve drainage and landscaping of the entry bank off Walker Street.	March 2019	\$83,710	\$83,710
Lismore Netball Complex Redevelopment	Expand netball complex to include an additional 2 new hard courts, 4 junior grass courts, upgraded drainage, covered spectator grandstand seating, additional shelter structure with a concrete floor and new court lighting.	February 2019	\$240,069	\$290,069
East Lismore Tennis court enhancement	Installation of LED lights and grid connection solar system (including battery storage).	March 2019	\$116,852	\$116,852
Italo Stars Football Club facility enhancement	Installation of 12 new LED flood lights, replace a damaged fence, remove a hedge and install 3 tiered spectator seating.	March 2019	\$129,820	\$129,820



PROJECT TITLE	DETAIL	COMPLETION DATE	PROJECT COST	FUNDING REQUESTED
Regional Hockey Centre spectator grandstands	Construction of 5 mobile grandstands to bring the facility up to national standard.	February 2019	\$154,000	\$154,000



## 6. Physical Activity and Health

### 6.1 Health in Lismore

The Australian Health Policy Collaboration has released the Australian Health Tracker, which uses available information to provide rates and ratios for a range of health risk factors. The Health Tracker provides rates for children and adults in the following categories:

- People who are obese;
- People who are overweight and obese; and
- People who are physically inactive.

The data is separated in to geographical areas based on Australian Bureau of Statistics ‘Statistical Areas 2’ (SA2) or Local Government Areas (LAG). The Lismore LGA scores can be seen in Table 12.

The Age-Standardised Rate (ASR) per 100 score (which is a weighted average of the age specific rates) can be interpreted as a percentage. Furthermore, the SR score, which is the indirect aged-standard ratio (SR), indicates how close a location is to the National average. In this case, the National average will always score 100, as it is the known value.

Given this information, the critical points to make in relation to Lismore are that:

- 71.3% of the Lismore LGA were insufficiently physically active (compared to 56% of Australians<sup>4</sup>)
- Lismore LGA has 23% more obese residents (18+ years) then what the national average indicates should be present.

**Table 12: Health Risk Factor Scores for Lismore LGA**

Risk Factor	ASR per 100	Target Score ASR for 2025	SR Score
People who are Obese (2-17 years)	7.6	n/a	101
People who are Obese (18+ years)	34.4	24.6	<u>123</u>
People who are obese or overweight (2-17 years)	23.1	n/a	90
People who are Obese or overweight (18+ years)	67.8	61.1	107
People who are physically inactive (18+ years)	<u>71.3</u>	59.7	107

Furthermore, in the ‘Lismore Local Government Areas Health Check’ prepared by the North Coast Primary Health Network, the following additional points are noted for Lismore LGA:

- Higher rates of hospitalisations attributable to ‘high body mass’ compared to the North Coast region and NSW as a whole.
- Highlighted as a ‘suicide hotspot’ by the Blackdog Institute.
- Mental health issues are rated as the most serious health concern by the region’s residents (more than 60% of respondents).

These points reinforce the Australian Health Tracker findings identified above and also highlight the seriousness of mental health as a health concern for the region.

<sup>4</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016, cited in Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2018, ‘Australia’s Health 2018’, <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-health/australias-health-2018/contents/indicators-of-australias-health/physical-inactivity>, retrieved 11th October 2018.



## 6.2 Physical Activity - Evidence for Action

There is extensive scientific evidence linking physical inactivity with poor health outcomes. Furthermore, there is a growing trend amongst governments to promote and facilitate physical activity participation in a bid to improve health outcomes across populations. This section provides a very brief overview of the evidence for action on physical inactivity.

### 6.2.1 Australia's Health

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare released their most recent report on Australia's Health<sup>5</sup> in 2016. Key findings in this report include:

- Physical inactivity is the fourth greatest contributor to the burden of disease in Australia behind tobacco smoking, high blood pressure and overweight/ obesity.
- Almost 54% of Australians do not do enough physical activity to benefit their health.
- Residents of the most disadvantaged areas are less likely to undertake sufficient physical activity and more likely to be obese.
- Participation in sport and physical recreation has decreased in recent years with the largest decline for those aged 25-34 years.
- Examination of physical activity participation data shows that physical inactivity increased with age.
- Women are slightly more likely to be physically inactive than men.
- A sedentary lifestyle (including long hours of sitting) is increasingly recognised as being detrimental to health, including for those that adhere to national guidelines.
- Australia has one of the highest rates of obesity in OECD countries (5<sup>th</sup>).
- Over a quarter of Australian adults (28%) and 8% of children are obese.
- Physical inactivity is a risk factor for obesity, along with poor diet.

The Australian Health Survey reveals some other key statistics relating to physical activity inequities across population groups. Of note, the most significant factor based on inequality identified was that adults in the least disadvantaged quintile were 1.5 times more likely to have participated in sufficient physical activity compared with those in the most disadvantaged quintile.

### 6.2.2 The Cost of Physical Inactivity

In 2007, Medibank Private commissioned 'The cost of physical inactivity'<sup>6</sup>. This work calculated the direct health care costs of seven medical conditions known to have a strong relationship with physical inactivity, based on medical evidence. These are:

- Coronary heart disease;
- Stroke;
- Type 2 diabetes;
- Breast cancer;
- Colon cancer;
- Depression; and
- Falls.

---

<sup>5</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2016, Australia's Health 2016: The thirteenth biennial health report of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra.

<sup>6</sup> Econotech 2007, The cost of physical inactivity: What is the lack of participation in physical activity costing Australia?, Medibank Private Limited.



The report revealed that “17% of the total health cost of treating these seven conditions can be attributed to physical inactivity amongst Australian adults [defined as aged 18-75 years], equating to \$1.5 billion.” This amount refers to direct expenditure for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of conditions with a relationship to physical inactivity. The \$1.5 billion figure excludes indirect and intangible health costs associated with these conditions such as shorter life expectancy, impact on workforce participation, reduction in quality of life, or pain, disability, and anxiety due to these conditions. The report estimated the potential reduction in the prevalence of these seven medical conditions if the Australian adult population was sufficiently active. The potential reduction in prevalence is estimated as follows:

- |                          |      |                       |      |
|--------------------------|------|-----------------------|------|
| • Coronary Heart Disease | -18% | • Colon cancer        | -18% |
| • Stroke                 | -12% | • Depression symptoms | -12% |
| • Type 2 diabetes        | -20% | • Falls               | -21% |
| • Breast cancer          | -12% |                       |      |

### 6.2.3 National Physical Activity Guidelines

Evidence exists that physical activity is a requirement for health gains and disease prevention. In addition, a sedentary lifestyle (including long hours of sitting) is increasingly recognised as being detrimental to health, including for those that adhere to national guidelines<sup>7</sup>. The current National Guidelines for Physical Activity provide recommendations to achieve activity levels that will benefit health across age cohorts<sup>8</sup>. These are detailed below:

- Young People (13-17):
  - For health benefits, young people aged 13-17 years should accumulate at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity every day.
  - Young peoples’ physical activity should include a variety of aerobic activities, including some vigorous intensity activity.
  - On at least three days per week, young people should engage in activities that strengthen muscle and bone.
  - To achieve additional health benefits, young people should engage in more activity - up to several hours per day.
- Adults (18-64 years):
  - Doing any physical activity is better than doing none. If you currently do no physical activity, start by doing some, and gradually build up to the recommended amount.
  - Be active on most, preferably all, days every week.
  - Accumulate 150 to 300 minutes (2 ½ to 5 hours) of moderate intensity physical activity or 75 to 150 minutes (1 ¼ to 2 ½ hours) of vigorous intensity physical activity, or an equivalent combination of both moderate and vigorous activities, each week.
  - Do muscle strengthening activities on at least 2 days each week.
- Older Australians (65 years and older)
  - Being physically active for 30 minutes every day is achievable and even a slight increase in activity can make a difference to your health and wellbeing.

<sup>7</sup> Owen, N., Bauman, A., & Brown, W. 2009, ‘Too much sitting: a novel and important predictor of chronic disease risk?’, *British journal of sports medicine*, 43(2), 81-83.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/health-pubhlth-strateg-phys-act-guidelines#apaadult>



## Key Actions to Address Physical Inactivity

In 2014, the National Heart Foundation released the second instalment of ‘Blueprint for an Active Australia’<sup>9</sup>, a document which outlined key government and community actions that the Foundation believes are required to increase population physical activity levels. Key amongst the 14 actions areas include:

- Implement policies that create communities and neighbourhoods that support active living:
  - Provide federal funding to improve public transport infrastructure.
  - Provide federal funding to local government to maintain and enhance community infrastructure that promotes physical activity.
  - Develop open-space policies, standards and planning codes that ensure residents have access to a range of open spaces for both active and passive recreation within walking distance, accessible by pedestrian-friendly routes.
- Implement policies to promote sport and active recreation:
  - Fund local government to maintain, improve and expand local sporting and recreation facilities.
- Improve sport and recreational facilities:
  - Improve the quality and functions of public open spaces (e.g. aesthetics, facilities, amenities) to attract more user groups to sport and active recreation.

### 6.2.4 Physical Activity Intervention Learnings

Whilst there is no single approach to increase levels of physical activity participation, some of the most successful investments are in increasing population-based, community-wide, multi-sectoral, culturally appropriate programs that involve the community and partnerships in design and implementation, integrating community engagement and resources<sup>10</sup>.

From a health perspective, the provision of low cost or no cost physical activity programs have been introduced as one strategy with the specific purpose of providing access to structured physical activity programs that could not be afforded by some sub-groups of the population<sup>11</sup>. Research indicates that increasing access to physical activity opportunities, both structured and unstructured activities, along with information and support, can increase the physical activity levels of those that participate<sup>12</sup>. People are more likely to be active where opportunities for physical activity are accessible and convenient, including being free or low cost<sup>13</sup>.

### 6.2.5 Benefits of Local Physical Activity Programs

Whilst there are extensive reports on the benefits of being active to physical health and wellbeing, and these are often the focus of physical activity initiatives, there are also considerable social and mental health benefits derived from being physically active. Participation in local physical activity programs is likely to bring people together as an opportunity to create social networks. Likewise, providing opportunities for residents to socialize and develop relationships is likely to increase their participation in physical activity. This social connection can bring about a range of benefits including for individuals, for communities and for the image of local councils.

<sup>9</sup> National Heart Foundation 2014, Blueprint for an active Australia: Key government and community actions required to increase population levels of physical activity in Australia 2010 - 2013.

<sup>10</sup> Armstrong, T., Bauman, A., Bull, F., Candeias, V., Lewicka, M., Magnussen, C., Persson, A.I, Schoeppe, S 2007, A Guide for Population-Based Approaches to Increasing Levels of Physical Activity: Implementation of the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, World Health Organisation. <http://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/PA-promotionguide-2007.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Alberta Centre for Active Living 2010, Physical Activity for All, retrieved 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018, <http://www.centre4activeliving.ca/physical-activity-for-all/change/social-connections.html>.

<sup>12</sup> Centre for Disease Control and Prevention. Chapter 2: Physical Activity, The Guide to Community Preventive Services: What works to promote health?, retrieved 17th September 2013, <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/pa/Physical-Activity.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> Alberta Centre for Active Living 2003, Perceived Access to Physical Activity Facilities in Urban Areas, retrieved 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018, <http://www.centre4activeliving.ca/other/show-resource.cgi?id=331>.



Furthermore, having social support and being physically active with others is also a strong determinant of participation in physical activity. However, research indicates that social support is particularly important for women and older people<sup>14</sup>.

Physical activity encourages social connections by:

- Providing opportunities to socialize;
- Providing positive social support as practitioners affirm and encourage an individual's efforts;
- Encouraging people to spend quality time with friends and family;
- Creating a sense of belonging and connection to a community;
- Providing the opportunity to make new friends and to interact with peers; and
- Providing the opportunity to learn new skills from one another.

### 6.2.6 Benefits of Access to Nature

Exposure to nature has many benefits which are well documented. The following provides a summary of the benefits of accessing nature<sup>15</sup>:

- Positive impact on mental health, including reducing stress, anxiety and depression, and reducing negative emotions such as anger, fatigue and sadness.
- Improved recovery from illness and trauma.
- Can benefit children with specific health challenges such as obesity and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder.
- Promotes healthier social behaviour and lessens social dysfunction.
- Improves optimal psychological functioning.
- Positively impact on physical activity levels.

---

<sup>14</sup> Centre for Disease Control and Prevention. The Guide to Community Preventive Services: What works to promote health? Chapter 2: Physical Activity, Last Updated: 29/03/2012 <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/pa/Physical-Activity.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> Children & Nature Network, 2012, 'Health benefits to children from contact with the outdoors & nature', <https://www.natureplayqld.org.au/library/3/file/resources/HEALTH%20BENEFITS%20TO%20CHILDREN%20FROM%20CONTACT%20WITH%20THE%20OUTDOORS%20AND%20NATURE.pdf>





## 7. Importance of Walking and Cycling Infrastructure

### 7.1 Economic Benefits of Walking and Cycling

In addition to the obvious health benefits attributable to walking and cycling, they also offer a range of economic benefits for communities. A report commissioned by the Heart Foundation<sup>16</sup> found that enhancing the walkability and cyclability of streets resulted in:

- Increased rental values;
- Increased sale prices of nearby homes;
- Significantly increased pedestrian and cyclist activity;
- Generation of more business and stimulation to the economy; and
- Revitalisation of ‘drive-through’ districts into lively places that people want to visit.

It also found that:

- A high proportion of all retail expenditure comes from local residents and workers.
- Space allocated to bicycle parking can produce much higher levels of retail spend than the same space devoted to car parking.
- Many car-borne shoppers are ‘drive-through’ shoppers, stopping to pick up one item on the way to their eventual destination, rather than people for whom shopping is their main purpose for visiting the area.
- Retail vitality would be best served by traffic restraint, public transport improvements, and a range of measures to improve the walking and cycling environment.

Furthermore, increasing cycling participation delivers a range of benefits including employment of people in bike retail, repair and service, information production, as well as providing a cheap transport option and reducing roadway upkeep and parking costs<sup>17</sup>.

Economic benefits of cycle tourism are also evident. Cycle tourism is growing in Australia and is becoming a well defined product and key travel motivator.<sup>18</sup> In a study conducted by Tourism Research Australia, a survey found that 15% of tourist trips involved a cycling experience as the main reason for their trip (11% as a participant, 4% as a spectator), and that although the cycle market is small, those involved are highly engaged<sup>19</sup>. Mountain bike tourism has proven to deliver solid economic benefit.

Examples of economic benefit attributable to mountain biking in Australia and New Zealand include:

- Blue Derby, Tasmania - estimated annual net impact of \$15-\$18 million to the local economy.
- Smithfield Mountain Bike Park, Queensland - \$3.5 million benefit derived from a single UCI event<sup>20</sup>.

---

<sup>16</sup> Good for Business: The benefits for making streets more walking and cycling friendly Discussion Paper, Tolley, R., National Heart Foundation of Australia, 2011 ([http://www.victoriawalks.org.au/Assets/Files/HF\\_GoodforBusinessFINAL.pdf](http://www.victoriawalks.org.au/Assets/Files/HF_GoodforBusinessFINAL.pdf))

<sup>17</sup> Cycling and Transport Policy in NSW: Briefing Paper No 8/2010, Montoya, D., 2010 (<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/researchpapers/Documents/cycling-and-transport-policy-in-nsw/Cycling%20and%20Transport%20Policy%20in%20NSW%20Briefing%20Paper%208%202010.pdf>).

<sup>18</sup> Mountain biking: An opportunity to enhance economic development in Australian rural areas? Burgin, S., Hardiman, N., Faculty of Society and Design, Bond University, 2014. [https://publications.bond.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com.au/&httpsredir=1&article=1075&context=fsd\\_papers](https://publications.bond.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com.au/&httpsredir=1&article=1075&context=fsd_papers)

<sup>19</sup> Growing Cycling in Victoria, Tourism Research Australia, [https://www.tra.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/185/DVS\\_Growing\\_Cycling\\_Tourism\\_in\\_Victoria\\_FINAL.pdf.aspx?Embed=Y](https://www.tra.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/185/DVS_Growing_Cycling_Tourism_in_Victoria_FINAL.pdf.aspx?Embed=Y)

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.cairnspost.com.au/news/cairns/cairns-to-reap-over-35-million-in-benefits-from-mountain-bike-event/news-story/73706b0489587e0a8f6cff70ebfb22b> ; Queensland Cycling Strategy: <https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/queensland-cycling-strategy-2017-2027/resource/3f0c39d9-1df5-4fd5-a28a-9e3cfd7812f1>



- Rotorua Mountain Bike Trail Town - estimated rider expenditure in 2009 of \$8.6 million<sup>21</sup>; ‘Crankworx Rotorua’ event generated \$8 million in 2016<sup>22</sup>.

## 7.2 Rail Trails

The potential development of a rail trail utilising the disused rail line in the Lismore region has been flagged in a number of planning documents, including the *Imagine Lismore Combined Delivery Program 2017-2021 and Operational Plan 2017-2018*. The *Casino to Murwillumbah Transport Study 2013* identified a rail trail as an alternative use of the rail line and recommended that:

- Rail services remain suspended.
- Rail assets be maintained to a minimum standard for safety.
- A safety assessment be conducted on three bridges.
- Further work be undertaken as part of the Regional Transport Plan to determine future potential for a rail corridor to the Gold Coast via Tweed Heads.

In relation to the rail trail, the report noted that this use of the rail line could be suitable from several important perspectives:

- Existing ‘green/ active’ tourism base with which to build from.
- Attractive surroundings: e.g. highly vegetated, lush farmland, boutique tourism-based industries etc.
- Existing infrastructure, subject to appropriate modifications and upgrades can support other uses.

It was noted that sections of the existing rail line could be used for walking and cycling, utilising existing assets and contributing to the maintenance of the line, and that there is local stakeholder interest in undertaking a feasibility study on use of sections of the rail line as a rail trail.

A Business Case for the Casino to Eltham portion of the proposed trail is under way. It is understood that the status of this Business Case is as follows (provided by Northern Rivers Rail Trail Inc.):

- *Lismore City and Richmond Valley Councils have committed to supporting the business case with a \$15,000 contribution from each council. This enables the Business Case to proceed including reviewing the overall business case from Casino to Murwillumbah and then completing the section from Casino to Eltham. NRRT have corresponded with Byron Shire Council to update and engage with them.*
- *Base mapping is now complete from Casino to Crabbes Creek and this links with base mapping from Crabbes Creek to Murwillumbah completed by Tweed Shire. Field inspections of most of the major elements from Casino to Mullumbimby have been completed. The longer tunnel, over 300 metres, between Mullumbimby and Billinudgel has been inspected. Estimates of cost for Casino to Crabbes Creek are advanced. A joint site visit with Lismore City staff and consultant was undertaken in North Lismore to review options in that area. A meeting was held with the Dean of Engineering at Southern Cross University to discuss areas of possible collaboration.*
- *External Consultants have been engaged to complete analyses required, with the heritage analysis completed.*
- *Issues identified for consideration:*
  - *The heritage report has identified that some of the bridge section between Lismore Station and Alexandra Street are heritage listed. Issues identified in this area include low clearance rail bridges being hit by vehicles, deteriorated structures, and heritage considerations. Northern Rivers Rail Trail Inc. (NRRT) are working with Council staff on these issues.*
  - *NRRT have requested an update from Country Rail Network on their investigations into the bridges over Terania Street and Alexandra Parade. The environmental report has identified a*

<sup>21</sup> ‘Recreational Use and Economic Impact of Whakarewarewa Forest - 2009 Update’, APR Consultants Ltd, March 2010.

<sup>22</sup> ‘2016 Crankworx Rotorua: Economic Impact Assessment And Visitor Analysis Of The Event On Rotorua’ by Apr Consultants Ltd, June 2016.



large colony of bats in the Naughtons Gap tunnel. The concept stage proposal is to build a bypass within the corridor to leave the colony undisturbed.

- The proposed governance for the Tweed section is currently under discussion between Tweed Shire Council and the State Government. The remaining Councils will need to be involved in considerations of the overall governance and responsibilities for operation, maintenance and promotion of the trail.

These considerations will need to be developed before completion of the business case. A mechanism is required to oversee the business case and incorporate decisions by the Councils.

- **Recommendation:** A steering committee be set up to manage the business case. As a minimum, the steering committee to include representatives from Lismore City and Richmond Valley Councils as well as NRRT representatives. The committee will need to meet at least every month and report back to Councils and NRRT.

### 7.2.1 Benefits of Rail Trails - The Evidence

The Victorian Trail Strategy<sup>23</sup> noted that trails have great potential to boost regional economies and generate business opportunities and jobs if they are developed into quality, well-marketed tourism experiences. The following benefits were identified:

- Economic - nature-based tourism, trail-based events and commercial activities provide economic benefit through visitors, competitors and participants spending in local townships and through job creation.
- Environment and heritage - connecting users to heritage values and providing opportunities to experience a cultural and natural environment.
- Social - trails encourage social interaction, physical activity and improved health and provide opportunities for community and voluntary involvement in trail maintenance and conservation.
- Liveability - trails can enhance the liveability of an area through providing well-planned and connected active transport networks and providing inviting spaces and opportunities to connect with nature.

#### Health and Social Benefits of Rail Trails

Access to trails has been shown to be an important pathway to better physical and mental health for individuals and communities. Rail trails provide the opportunity for free recreational activities to be participated in as well as an alternative transportation route to work, schools or towns<sup>24</sup>. This is ever more important as an indoor-centred lifestyle has become increasingly prevalent in the 21st century<sup>25</sup>. Due to rail trails being developed over disused railway lines, this means the trails are generally flatter and more suitable for beginner hikers and cyclists as well as older and younger demographics<sup>26</sup>, providing opportunities for physical activity and socialising.

Studies have found that retention of large green spaces such as bushland and parks, containing walking trails, are positively associated with better physical function as living within close proximity to these spaces encourages users to be more physically active, thus lowering the risk of diseases such as cardiovascular disease<sup>25</sup>. Similarly, having an area that can be utilised for social interaction acts as a mediator to reduce feelings of loneliness and lack of social support. Perceptions of greenspaces as open and expansive, gives users of the space an alternative to a stressful life as they can escape the noise and busyness of everyday life.

<sup>23</sup> Victorian Government (July, 2014). Victoria's Trails Strategy 2014-24.

<sup>24</sup> Oswald Beiler, M., Burkhart, K., & Nicholson, M. (2015). Evaluating the Impact of Rail-Trails: A Methodology for Assessing Travel Demand and Economic Impacts. *International Journal of Sustainable Transportation*, 9(7), 509-519.

<sup>25</sup> Wolf, I., & Wohlfart, T. (2014) Walking, hiking and running in parks: A multidisciplinary assessment of health and well-being benefits. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 130, 89-103.

<sup>26</sup> Tamura, K., Wilson, J., Puett, R., Klenosky, D., Harper, W., & Troped, P. (2018). Accelerometer and GPS Analysis of Trail Use and Associations with Physical Activity. *Journal of Physical Activity and Health*, 15(7), 523-530.



## Economic Benefits of Rail Trails

Various studies have indicated that trails generate economic benefit for the communities in which they are located, and that local communities and businesses benefit directly from the development of rail trails. As rail trails follow disused railway lines, they pass through small towns and regional landscapes, giving rise to the trails being described as ‘destination trails’.

Many rail trails are longer than 40km and exhibit natural, rural and heritage characteristics that provide visitors with opportunities for physical challenge, social interaction, food and wine experiences and cultural or heritage appreciation<sup>27</sup>. These attributes attract large numbers of non-locals to the trails who are either day or overnight visitors. These tourists are encouraged to spend at the small towns along the trails either for food and beverages, cultural experiences such as winery tours and also for overnight accommodation, providing a new stream of income for local businesses along the trails as well as attracting new business to the area looking to benefit from the increase in tourism<sup>24</sup>, such as bike hire stores, shuttle services and cafes.

*Studies completed in Europe show that compared to other sporting facilities such as swimming pools, sports halls and football fields, the cost per use ratio for rail trails are up to 58% lower<sup>28</sup>. This research was based upon the number of users, how often the facilities were available and the cost of maintenance for the different facilities.*

The average spend per day of a visitor to Victorian rail trails is \$244 per visitor, and similarly, for every \$1 million invested into rail trail development and maintenance, this creates 11 to 14 jobs<sup>29</sup>.

### 7.2.2 Rail Trail Case Studies

#### Otago Central Rail Trail, New Zealand

The Otago Central Rail Trail was New Zealand’s first rail trail and opened in 2000. The trail covers 152km from Clyde to Middlemarch on New Zealand’s South Island.

The following key statistics from 2015 are available on the use and benefit of the trail<sup>30</sup>:

- 16,500 international visits annually
- International revenue estimated at \$1,245,600
- International spending estimated at \$274.28 per day
- Helped to revitalise the Central Otago economy following a 2010 recession
- The trail has traditionally attracted mostly domestic visitors, but an increase from around 20% to 40% in international tourists (mostly from Australia) occurred in 2015 that was possibly attributable to an Australia-based tourism campaign.

Analysis of a 2014-15 User Survey which both includes domestic and international users indicated that the total economic impact (direct and indirect benefits) of the Otago Central Rail Trail is estimated as follows<sup>31</sup>:

- \$10.4 million in economic output
- \$5.3 million contribution to Gross Domestic Product
- 102.4 FTE employees

<sup>27</sup> Taylor, P. (2015). What factors make rail trails successful as tourism attractions? Developing a conceptual framework from relevant literature. *Journal Of Outdoor Recreation And Tourism*, 12, 89-98.

<sup>28</sup> Palau, R., Forgas, S., Blasco, D., & Ferrer, B. (2012). An Analysis of Greenways from an Economic Perspective. *Tourism Planning & Development*, 9(1), 15-24. doi: 10.1080/21568316.2012.653477

<sup>29</sup> Ryan, C., Trinh, T., Sun, M., & Li, P. (2014). Assessing Usage of Rural Cycle Ways—Problems and Issues: A Case Study of the Hauraki Cycle Trail, North Island New Zealand. *Tourism Review International*, 18(1). doi: 10.3727/154427214x13990420684680

<sup>30</sup> Matilde Tayawa Figuracion 2016, ‘Nga Haerenga NZ Cycle Trail Evaluation Report’. Research and Evaluation Unit, Evidence, Monitoring and Governance, Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment, New Zealand Government.

<sup>31</sup> Central Otago District Council 2015, ‘Otago Central Rail Trail user Survey 2014-15’.



### Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail and Yarra Valley Trail

The Yarra Valley Trail is a 40km recreational trail following a historical rail line through the Yarra Valley from Lilydale to Warbuton. The Yarra Valley Trail Feasibility Study predicted that:

- The Yarra Valley Trail would attract 210,040 users each year.
- The trail would generate \$30,317,188 in economic benefit.
- The project would generate 222 jobs to the region.
- A per visit spend of \$250 to \$500 per day was predicted.
- A total of 98% of respondents to the survey indicated they would eat at cafes and restaurants along the trail.
- A range of events utilising the trail would generate strong revenues for the local economy.

The report noted that total project costs for construction of the trail were \$10,654,000 and total asset renewal, maintenance and staffing costs are estimated at \$503,000.

The Yarra Ranges Council budgets \$500,000 per annum for total asset renewal, maintenance and staffing costs of the trail. This includes \$192,000 towards maintenance costs (e.g. upkeep of vegetation, weed control, maintenance of connecting trails, infrastructure maintenance and slashing etc.) and \$151,000 towards asset renewal (i.e. resurfacing 6km of the trail annually and renewing bridges).

The annual operating cost is offset by lease and license fees for buildings, in kind contributions from schools and friends groups (i.e. planting days), and grant funding towards capital infrastructure improvements (i.e. bridge replacement and visitor node enhancements).

### Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail

The Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail is a 116km sealed bitumen trail from Wangaratta to Bright Victoria's High Country. The trail passes through the City of Wangaratta and Alpine Shire, which are responsible for their respective trail sections, while marketing and strategic planning for the trail is undertaken by Tourism North East Victoria.

The trail does not generate any direct revenue to the councils through trail usage, however a number of local graziers lease sections of the trail which results in approximately \$3,000 per annum in lease fees as well as savings in mowing costs due to grazing.

Counters on the trail have tracked 22,000 people in the City of Wangaratta and 60,500 in the Alpine Shire, with a scenic section attracting an average of 3,494 visits per month between June and August 2016.

The City of Wangaratta allocates \$40,000 per annum towards track maintenance while the Alpine Shire budgets \$18,000 in maintenance costs which includes resealing the bitumen surface, repairs, slashing trees and bridge maintenance. Both Councils indicated that the sealed surface is the recommended surface in terms of maintenance costs.

### Kingaroy to Kilkivan Rail Trail, Queensland

Constructed in 2017, the Kingaroy to Kilkivan Rail Trail is an 87km trail traversing three local governments. A 47km section of the trail is located in the South Burnett LGA and runs from Kingaroy to Murgon and through five rural townships. The trail is a sealed, dual use pathway suitable for walking, running and cycling. Due to the location of the trail crossing the cattle tick line, horses are not permitted on Kingaroy to Murgon section of the trail.

An economic assessment on the South Burnett section was undertaken in 2016<sup>32</sup> based on a generalised Cost Benefit Analysis framework that quantified and compared the direct infrastructure cost (capital and recurrent) with the change in economics value (benefits/ savings) generated with the project. The report noted that the trail had a capital expenditure component of approximately \$2.0 million during the

<sup>32</sup> Lawrence Consulting. Kingaroy to Kilkivan Rail Trail: Economic Assessment, March 2016



construction phase and maintenance costs of approximately \$200,000 per annum. The report estimated a gross annual stimulus to the region of \$1.2 million, which included expenditure on accommodation, food and beverage, transport, regional shopping and attractions.

It concluded that the rail trail offers significant societal benefits well in excess of costs, with net benefits of approximately \$33.7 million from the project. Counters were installed at two locations along the trail in February 2018 and show that between March and May 2018, there were 3,539 users counted at one counter and 5,615 at the other. Since the construction of the rail trail, there have been a number of additional benefits to the region, including:

- New bike shop.
- Increase in visitation to local communities along the trail.
- Establishment of a regular Parkrun, which attracts predominantly local users, but also travelling runners.
- Regular use by local running, mountain biking and sporting clubs.

### 7.2.3 Previous Rail Trail Benchmarking

Otium Planning Group has undertaken previous research and benchmarking of rail trails throughout Australia as part of several studies. Key findings from this research is summarised below:

- Rail trails realise significant economic, social, community and health benefits for communities where rail trails are located. As these communities are often small rural communities, the rail trails become an important feature, often contributing to the sustainability of small communities.
- Rail trail users spend money at local businesses in communities along the trails. Purchase types are varied and include food and drink, accommodation, entertainment, incidental purchases such as equipment purchases and repair etc.
- Trails and rail trails in Australia do not generally generate direct revenue for the local governments who have jurisdiction over the trails. The majority of Council’s benchmarked for previous studies believed that a trail is a community asset, similar to a park, and therefore is not managed for direct revenue generation.
- The significant economic, social, lifestyle and health benefits resulting from trails is considered by most Councils to far outweigh the need for Councils/ managing authorities to generate income from the trails.
- Income generation, although only a small proportion of overall costs, is possible through memberships to ‘friends of trail groups’, fees and charges for events on trails and fees and charges for commercial use of trails.
- Detail on trail visitation and events for a number of trails has been obtained, with key results summarised in Table 4.

**Table 4: Visitation and events on benchmarked trails**

Trail	Description	Usage	Events
Riesling Trail (SA)	54km, fine gravel surface with gentle gradient. North of Adelaide	52,547 visits in 2015	Annual half marathon Variety Bash Parkrun Charity events
Munda-Biddi Trail (WA)	600km in various sections. Compacted earth, coarse gravel, fine gravel and sealed surfaces. Flat and undulating terrain.	9,590 people (2010-11 study) averaging 2.74 days on the trail = 26,000visit days.	Bike events
Murray to the Mountains Rails Trail (Vic)	116km trail with sealed surface and mostly flat terrain.	22,000 p.a (City of Wangaratta section) 60,500 p.a (Alpine Shire)	Marathon (attracts 2,500 people).



Trail	Description	Usage	Events
		In scenic sections average 3,494 per month between June and August 2016.	Ned Kelly Chase - 100km, 50km, marathon, half marathon & bike riding.



## 8. Consultation Outcomes

### 8.1 Survey of Sport and Recreation Organisations

Sport and recreation clubs and associations are, in many communities, key providers of activities and opportunities. They can also face a range of challenges in providing their activity. All sport and recreation clubs in Lismore were given an opportunity to provide input into the plan through a survey. The aim of the survey was to identify the current membership, recent membership trends, club priorities (identified in business plans), issues impacting the club and future directions.

The final design, distribution, and follow up of surveys was undertaken by Lismore City Council. Only 15 clubs responded to the survey (refer Table 5 below).

**Table 5: Club survey respondents**

CLUB NAME
Richmond River Riders
Trinity Lismore Swimming Club
Lismore City United Physie
Lismore Model Flying Club
Summerland Racing Team Swimming Club
Glee Hockey Club
Lismore City Archers
Northern Rivers Dirty Wheels Mountain Bike Club
Lismore Croquet Club
Lismore Touch Association
Lismore Parkrun
Football Far North Coast
Lismore Basketball Association
Lismore City Bowling & Recreation Club
Lismore District Junior Cricket

#### 8.1.1 Membership and trends

Clubs were asked to provide junior and senior membership data, including the breakdown of female participation. Responses for clubs are detailed in Table 6.

Of the clubs that responded to the survey, those with the largest membership base included Parkrun, football (soccer), touch football, cricket and mountain biking.

**Table 6: Current club memberships**

CLUB NAME	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP						TOTAL MEMBERS
	JUNIORS			SENIORS			
	(FEMALE)	(MALE)	TOTAL	(FEMALE)	(MALE)	TOTAL	
Richmond River Riders	0	5	5	11	1	12	17
Trinity Lismore Swimming Club	50% (50)	50% (50)	100	50% (10)	50% (10)	20	120
Lismore City United Physie	22	0	22	10	0	10	32
Lismore Model Flying Club	-	-	3	-	-	51	54
Summerland Racing Team Swimming Club	11	13	24	0	0	0	24





CLUB NAME	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP						
	JUNIORS			SENIORS			TOTAL MEMBERS
	(FEMALE)	(MALE)	TOTAL	(FEMALE)	(MALE)	TOTAL	
Glee Hockey Club	6	0	6	21	0	21	27
Lismore City Archers Inc	2	3	5	4	17	21	26
Northern Rivers Dirty Wheels MTB Club	6	36	42	24	146	170	212
Lismore Croquet Club	0	0	0	25	6	31	31
Lismore Touch Association	111	233	344	154	266	420	764
Lismore Parkrun	240	160	400	1080	720	1,800	2,200
Football Far North Coast	-	-	1365	-	-	669	2,034
Lismore Basketball Association	30	70	120	10	90	100	220
Lismore City Bowling & Recreation Club	0	0	0	30	43	73	73
Lismore District Junior Cricket	17	303	320	0	0	0	320

Clubs were asked to indicate if they were aware of any trends in their sport or activity that may change future participation, and to comment on any significant changes in membership (refer Table 7 below).

**Table 7: Significant membership changes and trends over past three years as reported by clubs**

CLUB NAME	M'SHIP CHANGE	REASONS FOR SIGNIFICANT MEMBERSHIP CHANGE	TRENDS THAT MAY CHANGE FUTURE PARTICIPATION
Richmond River Riders	Yes	Increased participation in mountain biking within the community and an increased number of facilities within the region.	Mountain biking is a growing sport and recreational activity. Australia is finally catching up with the rest of the world and the popularity of this easily accessible sport is increasing.
Trinity Lismore Swimming Club	No	-	N/A
Lismore City United Physie	Yes	Word of mouth and a renewal of interest in our sport due to increased exposure	Yes, the revival of interest and perhaps the introduction of the Active Kids rebate
Lismore Model Flying Club	No	N/A	The growing array of model products readily available will contribute to club growth
Summerland Racing Team Swimming Club	Yes	Lack of an experienced higher level coach for an extended period.	-
Glee Hockey Club	No	-	The construction of the second synthetic hockey field in Goonellabah hopefully will encourage greater participation in hockey.
Lismore City Archers	No	-	There is a trend for archery on the world stage to be more spectator orientated, therefore Lismore City Archers plan on holding more events for members to gain qualifying scores to allow our members to compete at state, national & international events. In order to do this it is necessary for our club to host events that attract Archers from all over the country.
Lismore City Bowling & Recreation Club	Yes	Ageing membership and an inability to attract young people.	Fees that NSW Bowls takes from Clubs is reducing the numbers.
Lismore Croquet Club	No	-	Croquet players are increasingly playing more than just one form of the game. The sport is becoming multifaceted. This may lead to boarder appeal of the sport and its



CLUB NAME	M'SHIP CHANGE	REASONS FOR SIGNIFICANT MEMBERSHIP CHANGE	TRENDS THAT MAY CHANGE FUTURE PARTICIPATION
			promotion and an increase in the number of players, particularly younger players.
Northern Rivers Dirty Wheels MTB Club	Yes	Our membership has grown from less than 70 to 212 in less than 3 years. Our membership includes adaptive cyclists. Mountain biking in one of the most popular trending sports. It is an Olympic sport and more facilities are required to cater for increased demand. At monthly juniors rides we usually get between 30-50 riders. Many of them are non members as well.	There are large trail networks being built in other shires and states that attract huge numbers of people and which function as a destination for tourism. Such a facility locally has the potential to be a major tourist attraction. In Derby Tasmania the government invested \$3 million to build a world class trail network. That network now returns \$30 million annually to the state and has revitalised a dying village.
Lismore Touch Association	Yes	The junior program continues to grow, based in the family and community orientated competition and skills development	Nil.
Lismore Parkrun	Yes	There was no Parkrun prior to 2016. Parkrun has become a significant event in Lismore, providing a community based event in a free, welcoming environment. We meet many strategic plans of Council, creating an event that is free and open for all abilities and building connections and creating positive healthy outcomes.	Parkrun in Lismore is well supported by Parkrun Australia. We believe Parkrun Lismore will continue into the future.
Football Far North Coast	Yes	The popularity of soccer and because there is a professional structure in place to support grassroots participation.	More participation and more demand on facilities.
Lismore Basketball Association	No	-	Andrew Bogut spoke on ABC News this week of Basketball Australia working towards being the second strongest competition with USA as number 1. We have had a huge increase in Australians playing professional basketball and the profile of basketball has lifted. On the back of the Commonwealth Games interest has increased and the Active Kids Voucher program has increased our junior numbers.
Lismore District Junior Cricket	No	-	-

### 8.1.2 Operating months and activities

To gain a greater understanding of how clubs are operating, respondents were asked to provide their typical season, including activities outside of normal competition and training (see Table 8). Nine clubs indicated they operate all year round and a further five clubs with a set season indicated they have some out-of-season use.

These results align with trends elsewhere for many sports to extend beyond their regular season.



**Table 8: Operations and priorities**

CLUB NAME	REGULAR SEASON	OUT-OF-SEASON USE	
		Months	Type of use
Richmond River Riders Incorporated	All year	-	Training and competition
Trinity Lismore Swimming Club	All year	-	-
Lismore City United Physie	Feb-Nov	April (open day)	-
Lismore Model Flying Club	All year	-	-
Summerland Racing Team Swimming Club	Oct-Mar	Apr- Sept	Training, competitions, carnivals
Glee Hockey Club	Apr-Sep	Feb-Mar	Training
Lismore City Archers	All year	-	-
Northern Rivers Dirty Wheels MTB Club	All year	-	-
Lismore Croquet Club	Feb-Nov	Dec-Jan	Training
Lismore Touch Association	Dec-Mar & Sep-Oct		Training, out of season fixtures, open days & season extensions due to weather
Lismore Parkrun	All year	-	-
Football Far North Coast	All year	Oct-Feb	Training, competitions, carnivals, open days, presentation events, out of season fixtures, extended season due to weather
Lismore Basketball Association	All year	-	-
Lismore City Bowling & Recreation Club	All year	-	-
Lismore District Junior Cricket	Oct-Mar	April	Open days and presentation events in April. Season creep has become an issue in facility availability, particularly at Oakes Oval.

### 8.1.3 Plans and priorities

Clubs were asked to indicate if they have a Business Plan and to provide the top 3 priorities of that plan. Only four of the 15 clubs reported having a Business Plan. Three of the four clubs indicated that participation/membership was listed a top 3 priority in their Business Plan. Table 9 provides the top 3 priorities for the clubs that have a Business Plan.

**Table 9: Top 3 priorities identified in existing Club Business Plans**

Club Name	Summary
Trinity Lismore Swimming Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grow membership</li> <li>• Run excellent competitions</li> <li>• Financial stability</li> </ul>
Northern Rivers Dirty Wheels Mountain Bike Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for the creation of trail facilities within the Northern Rivers</li> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Junior Development</li> </ul>
Lismore Parkrun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Wellbeing</li> <li>• Participation</li> </ul>
Football Far North Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation</li> <li>• Governance</li> <li>• High-performance pathways for juniors</li> </ul>



### 8.1.4 Issues impacting on clubs

The survey provided clubs and associations an opportunity to identify issues that impact on club membership and participation. Respondents were provided with a list of issues and asked to select up to five (5) that had the most impact on their club or association. This list included the following issues:

- Declining membership
- Increasing membership
- Poor standard or condition of playing areas
- Cost of hiring/ leasing, or maintaining facilities
- Difficulty getting coaches/ instructors
- Compliance with regulations or duty of care responsibilities
- Increased peak body expectations
- Declining financial viability
- Affordability of registration fees for members
- Lack of skills to manage clubs (e.g. administration, maintenance)
- Insufficient land or playing fields
- Inability to access facilities at preferred times
- Accessibility of facilities (e.g. parking, disability access, proximity to public transport)

The issues selected by each club are identified in Table 10. ‘Affordability of registration fees for members’ and ‘cost of leasing/ hiring/ maintaining facilities’ were the most commonly identified issues for clubs (8 responses each), followed by ‘difficultly getting volunteers to administer affiliated clubs’ (7 responses).

**Table 10: Issues impacting clubs**

CLUB NAME	ISSUES IMPACTING ON CLUBS
Richmond River Riders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insufficient land or playing fields</li> <li>• Other: Lack of resources to explore future facility opportunities</li> </ul>
Trinity Lismore Swimming Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing membership</li> <li>• Affordability of registration fees for members</li> <li>• Other: Transitioning junior members to senior members</li> </ul>
Lismore City United	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost of leasing/ hiring or maintaining facilities</li> <li>• Increased peak body expectations</li> <li>• Affordability of registration fees for members</li> <li>• Inability to access facilities at preferred times</li> <li>• Accessibility of facilities (e.g. parking, disability access, proximity to public transport)</li> </ul>
Lismore Model Flying Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing membership</li> <li>• Poor standard or condition of playing areas</li> <li>• Cost of leasing/ hiring/ maintaining facilities</li> <li>• Difficultly getting volunteers to administer affiliated clubs</li> <li>• Declining financial viability</li> </ul>
Summerland Racing Team Swimming Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declining membership</li> <li>• Difficultly getting volunteers to administer affiliated clubs</li> <li>• Affordability of registration fees for members</li> <li>• Inability to access facilities at preferred time</li> </ul>
Glee Hockey Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficultly getting volunteers to administer affiliated clubs</li> <li>• Increased peak body expectations</li> <li>• Affordability of registration fees for members</li> <li>• Accessibility of facilities (e.g. parking, disability access, proximity to public transport)</li> </ul>
Lismore City Archers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor standard or condition of built facilities, including lighting</li> <li>• Cost of leasing/ hiring or maintaining facilities</li> <li>• Compliance with regulations or duty of care responsibilities</li> <li>• Increased peak body expectations</li> <li>• Lack of skills to manage club (e.g. administration, maintenance)</li> </ul>



CLUB NAME	ISSUES IMPACTING ON CLUBS
Lismore Croquet Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost of leasing/ hiring or maintaining facilities</li> <li>• Declining financial viability</li> <li>• Affordability of registration fees for members</li> <li>• Lack of skills to manage clubs (e.g. administration, maintenance)</li> <li>• Insufficient land or playing fields</li> </ul>
Northern Rivers Dirty Wheels Mountain Bike Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulty getting volunteers to administer affiliated clubs</li> <li>• Affordability of registration fees for members</li> <li>• Accessibility of facilities (e.g. parking, disability access, proximity to public transport)</li> </ul>
Lismore Touch Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing membership</li> <li>• Poor standard or condition of built facilities, including lighting</li> <li>• Cost of leasing/ hiring or maintaining facilities</li> <li>• Difficulty getting volunteers to administer affiliated clubs</li> <li>• Affordability of registration fees for members</li> </ul>
Lismore Parkrun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessibility of facilities (e.g. parking, disability access, proximity to public transport)</li> </ul>
Football Far North Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing membership</li> <li>• Poor standard or condition of built facilities, including lighting</li> <li>• Cost of leasing/ hiring or maintaining facilities</li> <li>• Difficulty getting volunteers to administer affiliated clubs</li> <li>• Lack of skills to manage clubs (e.g. administration, maintenance)</li> </ul>
Lismore Basketball Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost of leasing/ hiring or maintaining facilities</li> <li>• Difficulty getting coaches/ instructors</li> <li>• Compliance with regulations or duty of care responsibilities</li> <li>• Increased peak body expectations</li> <li>• Insufficient land or playing fields</li> </ul>
Lismore City Bowling & Recreation Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declining membership</li> <li>• Poor standard or condition of playing areas</li> <li>• Cost of hiring/ leasing or maintaining facilities</li> <li>• Declining financial viability</li> <li>• Affordability of registration fees for members</li> </ul>
Lismore District Junior Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor standard or condition of built facilities, including lighting.</li> <li>• Difficulty getting volunteers to administer affiliated clubs</li> <li>• Difficulty getting coaches/ instructors</li> <li>• Lack of skills to manage clubs (e.g. administration, maintenance)</li> </ul>

### 8.1.5 Club management workshops

In acknowledgement of the burden of volunteer management of clubs and associations and the skills required to do so effectively, clubs were asked to indicate if they would be willing to attend free workshops to assist with managing their organisation, and which specific topics from a selected list they would be interested in (see Table 11 below). Eight clubs indicated they would be willing to attend free workshops and seven indicated they would not.

Of those clubs that indicated they would like to attend workshops, ‘governance’ was the most commonly selected topic of interested (7 clubs), followed by ‘event management’ (6 clubs), then ‘financial management’ and ‘risk management’ (5 clubs each).



**Table 11: Club interest in management workshops**

Club Name	Workshop topics			
	Financial management	Risk management	Governance	Event Management
Richmond River Riders Incorporated	x	x	✓	✓
Trinity Lismore Swimming Club	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lismore City United Physie	x	x	x	✓
Lismore City Archers Inc	x	x	✓	x
Lismore Croquet Club Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lismore Touch Association	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lismore Basketball Association	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lismore City Bowling & Recreation Club	✓	✓	✓	x

### 8.1.6 Satisfaction with facilities, parks or venues

The survey asked clubs whether they currently used Council-owned facilities, parks or venues, and to then indicate their satisfaction with these. Twelve clubs reported use of Council-owned facilities, parks or venues, and overall these clubs were largely satisfied, with nine clubs indicating they were either satisfied (n=8) or very satisfied (n=1). Three clubs reported their level of satisfaction as ‘neutral’ and no clubs indicated they were dissatisfied.

Clubs were then asked to indicate the reason(s) for dissatisfaction with any of the facilities/ venues they used. ‘Access/ availability for activities’ and ‘maintenance and facility development/ upgrades’ were mentioned more than once across a number of venues. Responses are detailed in Table 12.

**Table 12: Summary of club satisfaction with facilities, parks or venues currently used**

CLUB NAME	VENUE	SATISFACTION AND REASON
Richmond River Riders	Captain Rous Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Captain Rous Park is maintained predominantly by our club, with Council mowing only the perimeter and playground area. Would be happy to do more to manage the maintenance side of the park, however there is too much red tape to enable us to do so.</li> </ul>
Lismore City United Physie	Mortimer oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very satisfied with the covered picnic area at Mortimer Oval and close surrounds</li> </ul>
Lismore Model Flying Club	Lismore Model Flying Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New location beside the clay target club is quite adequate though we have developed it to a very usable facility in a short time there is still more work to do and some council assistance certainly would expediate things.</li> </ul>
Summerland Racing Team Swimming Club	GSAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Satisfied in general with the GSAC pool and staff assistance with the club though dissatisfied with pool availability for our Club Race nights. Pool access for the club has been limited to monthly on Saturday afternoons only. Club nights need to be on a more regular basis!</li> <li>Believe this has resulted in lack of cohesion within the club and also commitment by club parents to club fundraising activities. Also, in part, contributing to lower membership numbers. This needs to be addressed to maintain and also try to increase membership in the club.</li> </ul>
Glee Hockey Club	Hepburn Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fitness training is conducted on the grass fields at Hepburn Park which are affected by weather conditions and at times competing with other groups or sports.</li> </ul>



CLUB NAME	VENUE	SATISFACTION AND REASON
Northern Rivers Dirty Wheels MTB Club	Captain Rous Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a great urban facility to support local use but it needs to be better connected to other recreation areas. This park may be difficult to maintain over time due to the soil type and surrounding grassland.</li> </ul>
Lismore Touch Association	Hepburn Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hepburn Park is a good location for our sport due to the areas that is grassed and prepared by Council for use by Touch, Oztag and Cricket.</li> </ul>
Lismore Croquet Club	Spinks Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The croquet lawns and club house are situated in Spinks Park. On the whole members are satisfied with the facility, however the cocos palms on the Molesworth Street boundary of the lawns cause some concern. The palms drop flowers, seeds and rubbish. They can be hazardous to play.</li> </ul>
Lismore Parkrun	Riverside Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Riverside park toilet facilities are old and are only open to Park runners on a Saturday. Would like to see a water bubbler near the Gazebo area for Park runners and walkers to access water when required.</li> </ul>
Football Far North Coast	Balzer Park Dunoon, Neilson Park East Lismore, Richards Oval, Nesbitt Park, Goonellabah FC Western Park, Italo Stars FC, Lismore Thistles, Nimbin Headers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistance is subject to terms of hire and the constraints of Council resources.</li> </ul>
Lismore District Junior Cricket	Mortimer Oval Rodger Davidson Oval McKenzie Park Neilson Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Toilets are extremely poor at Mortimer, Rodger, Davidson, McKenzie, Neilson which is becoming a growing issue with girls becoming more involved in cricket and mums who want to support their children.</li> </ul>

### 8.1.7 Summary of club responses

The following table provides a summary of responses for each club to show a consolidated representation of each club's situation and perspectives.

**Table 13: Response summary for the club survey**

CLUB NAME	RESPONSE SUMMARY
Richmond River Riders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current membership is approximately 5 juniors and 12 seniors in the Lismore area.</li> <li>The club indicated that the membership has changed significantly, due to MTB growing as a sport and recreation al activity.</li> <li>Club operates all months of the year.</li> <li>The club uses the facilities for training and competition.</li> <li>The club does not currently have a business plan.</li> <li>The club only identified 2 issues greatly impacting them, being a lack of insufficient land or playing fields, and lack of resources to explore future facility opportunities.</li> <li>The club would be willing to undertake more maintenance of Captain Rous Park, however, have indicated that the level of regulations is currently limiting these opportunities.</li> <li>The club would like to see Council identify suitable land for additional trails and allow the club to being developing those trails.</li> </ul>



CLUB NAME	RESPONSE SUMMARY
Trinity Lismore Swimming Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current membership is approximately 100 juniors and 20 seniors.</li> <li>• The club has not experienced any significant changes over the last 3 years.</li> <li>• The club indicated that the activity operates all months of the year.</li> <li>• The club does have a business plan, however, they nominate top club priorities to ‘Grow Membership’, ‘Run Excellent Competitions’, ‘Financial Stability’.</li> <li>• The top issues that are affecting the club are:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increasing membership;</li> <li>○ Affordability of registration fees for members; and</li> <li>○ Transitioning junior members to senior members.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The club would like to see more collaboration between clubs to increase participation.</li> </ul>
Lismore City United Physie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current membership is 22 junior female players and 20 senior female players</li> <li>• The club attributes significant changes in membership to increased word of mouth and interest in their sport.</li> <li>• The club indicated that they operated from February to November and hold an open day in April.</li> <li>• The top issues impacting the club are:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cost of leasing/ hiring/ maintaining facilities;</li> <li>○ Increased peak body expectations;</li> <li>○ Affordability of registration fees for members;</li> <li>○ Inability to access facilities at preferred time; and</li> <li>○ Accessibility of facilities (e.g. parking, disability access, proximity to public transport).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The club is currently very satisfied with the facilities provided.</li> </ul>
Lismore Model Flying Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current membership is 3 junior members and 51 senior members.</li> <li>• The club expects the growth of available models will contribute to club growth.</li> <li>• The club operates all year round.</li> <li>• The issues impacting on the club include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increasing membership;</li> <li>○ Poor standard or condition of playing areas;</li> <li>○ Cost of leasing/ hiring/ maintaining facilities;</li> <li>○ Difficultly getting volunteers to administer affiliated clubs; and</li> <li>○ Declining financial viability.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The club would like to see additional assistance from Council to continue developing their facility.</li> </ul>
Summerland Racing Team Swimming Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current membership is 24 juniors and no senior members.</li> <li>• The lack of an experienced higher-level coach for an extended period of time has significantly changed the membership.</li> <li>• The club operates from Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec.</li> <li>• The club also participates in training competitions and carnivals between Apr- Sept.</li> <li>• The issues of top priority for the club include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Declining membership;</li> <li>○ Difficultly getting volunteers to administer affiliated clubs;</li> <li>○ Affordability of registration fees for members; and</li> <li>○ Inability to access facilities at preferred time.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Although the club is satisfied with the GSAC facility itself, the limit of monthly race nights has had an impact on members, which also impacts club cohesion and fundraising potential.</li> </ul>





CLUB NAME	RESPONSE SUMMARY
Glee Hockey Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current membership is 6 juniors and 21 female members. The club believe the construction of a second synthetic field at Goonellabah will encourage greater participation in hockey.</li> <li>• The club is currently operating from April to September. However, they are also training in February and March. This is undertaken at Hepburn Park but the club is competing with other groups/ sports and weather conditions.</li> <li>• The issues of top priority for the club include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Difficultly getting volunteers to administer affiliated clubs;</li> <li>○ Increased peak body expectations;</li> <li>○ Affordability of registration fees for members; and</li> <li>○ Accessibility of facilities (e.g. parking, disability access, proximity to public transport).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The club expects the construction of the second turf to attract State and National Hockey events to Lismore.</li> </ul>
Lismore City Archers Inc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The club membership is currently 5 junior members and 21 senior members, the majority of which are male.</li> <li>• To allow members to attend higher level events the club intends to hold more events to allow members to gain qualifying scores.</li> <li>• The issues of top priority for the club include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Poor standard or condition of playing areas;</li> <li>○ Cost of leasing/ hiring/ maintaining facilities;</li> <li>○ Compliance with regulations or duty of care responsibilities;</li> <li>○ Increased peak body expectations; and</li> <li>○ Lack of skills to manage club.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Northern Rivers Dirty Wheels Mountain Bike Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current membership is 42 juniors and 170 seniors, the majority of which are male.</li> <li>• The increased popularity and exposure of MTB is driving membership growth.</li> <li>• The top priorities of the club's Business Plan are:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Advocate for the creation of trail facilities within the Northern Rivers;</li> <li>○ Training; and</li> <li>○ Junior Development.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The issues of top priority for the club include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Difficulty getting volunteers to administer affiliated clubs;</li> <li>○ Affordability of registration fees for members; and</li> <li>○ Accessibility of facilities (e.g. parking, disability access, proximity to public transport).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Although the club was not dissatisfied with the facilities at Captain Rous Park, they noted that it could be better connected to other recreation areas. The facilities at Nesbitt Park Jump track is made of the incorrect materials and would operate better as a quality pump track.</li> <li>• The club would like to see more investment into the trail networks as they believe it will offer an improved user experience and increase physical activity.</li> </ul>
Lismore Croquet Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current membership is 31 senior members, the majority of which are female.</li> <li>• The sport is becoming multifaceted which will lead to a broader appeal of the sport and aim to attract new members, particularly younger members.</li> <li>• The club is operating from Feb to Nov. However, the club also trains in January and December.</li> <li>• The issues of top priority for the club include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cost of leasing/ hiring/ maintaining facilities;</li> <li>○ Declining financial viability;</li> <li>○ Affordability of registration fees for members;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



CLUB NAME	RESPONSE SUMMARY
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lack of skills to manage clubs; and</li> <li>○ Insufficient land or playing fields.</li> <li>● Although the club is happy overall with the facility, there are some safety concerns with the trees on the Molesworth Street boundary.</li> <li>● The club would like to see an improved level of maintenance of all the sporting and recreation areas in Lismore.</li> </ul>
Lismore Touch Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The current membership includes 344 juniors and 420 seniors, with two-thirds being male.</li> <li>● The junior program continues to grow, based in the family and community orientated competition and skills development.</li> <li>● The club operates in two seasons, December to March and September to October.</li> <li>● Outside of these months, the Association also conducts training, out of season fixtures, open days and extensions of the season due to weather.</li> <li>● The issues impacting the club include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increasing membership;</li> <li>○ Poor standard or condition of built facilities, including lighting;</li> <li>○ Cost of leasing/ hiring/ maintaining facilities;</li> <li>○ Difficulty getting volunteers to administer affiliated clubs; and</li> <li>○ Affordability of registration fees for members.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● The club would like to see increased use of the fields at Hepburn Park, including Council taking control and using a booking system to increase field usage.</li> </ul>
Lismore Parkrun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The current membership comprises 400 juniors and 1800 seniors, split 60/40 females to males.</li> <li>● Parkrun has become a significant event since its inception in 2016. It meets many of Council's strategic plans and creates and opportunity for a healthier Lismore community.</li> <li>● The activity operates all year round, and the club's business plan prioritises health, wellbeing and participation.</li> <li>● The only issue identified by the club was the accessibility of facilities.</li> <li>● The club would like to see a bubbler near the Gazebo in Riverside Park and opening the toilets outside of the event times.</li> </ul>
Football Far North Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The current membership of the club is 1365 juniors (426 female members) and 669 seniors (315 female members).</li> <li>● The club believes that soccer is well placed for continued growth, which will create more demand for facilities.</li> <li>● Outside of normal competition the club also hosts carnivals, open days and presentation events.</li> <li>● Participation, governance and high performance pathways for junior players are the priorities of the club's business plan.</li> <li>● The issues impacting the club include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increasing membership</li> <li>○ Poor standard or condition of built facilities including lighting</li> <li>○ Cost of leasing/ hiring/ maintaining facilities</li> <li>○ Difficulty getting volunteers to administer affiliated clubs</li> <li>○ Lack of skills to manage clubs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● The club would like to see increased investment and maintenance of Council facilities as the outcomes extend beyond the participation in activities or results of a competition.</li> </ul>
Lismore Basketball Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The association has 120 junior members and 100 senior members, the majority of which are male.</li> </ul>



CLUB NAME	RESPONSE SUMMARY
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Active Kids program and the interest in basketball generally has increased participation in Basketball, especially juniors.</li><li>• The issues impacting the club include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Cost of leasing/ hiring/ maintaining facilities;</li><li>○ Difficulty getting coaches/ instructors;</li><li>○ Compliance with regulations or duty of care responsibilities;</li><li>○ Increased peak body expectations; and</li><li>○ Insufficient land or playing areas.</li></ul></li><li>• The club would like to work collaboratively with Council on the development of a 4-court indoor stadium, allowing them to host representative carnivals and continue to grow the North Coast Shield Competition.</li></ul>
Lismore City Bowling & Recreation Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The club has 73 senior members, with slightly more males than females.</li><li>• The club identified that the aging membership and the inability to attract younger members was having a significant impact on membership. This is increased by the increasing membership costs imposed by NSW Bowls.</li><li>• The main issues impacting the club include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Declining membership;</li><li>○ Poor condition of playing areas;</li><li>○ Cost of hiring/ leasing/ maintaining facilities;</li><li>○ Declining financial viability; and</li><li>○ Affordability of registration fees for members</li></ul></li><li>• The club identified that financial sustainability of the club is a problem.</li></ul>
Lismore District Junior Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The club only has junior members, 303 males and 17 females.</li><li>• Although the club is operating in a traditional summer season (October to March), they offer open days and presentation events in April. The club also indicated that season creep has become an issue in facility availability, particularly at Oakes Oval.</li><li>• The main issues that are impacting the club include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Poor condition of built facilities, including lighting;</li><li>○ Difficulty getting volunteers to administer affiliated clubs;</li><li>○ Difficulty getting coaches/ instructors; and</li><li>○ Lack of skills to manage clubs.</li></ul></li><li>• The club identified the change rooms for females and mothers (a growing area of the sport), are of poor quality at Mortimer, Rodger, Davidson, McKenzie and Neilson.</li></ul>

## 8.2 Community Survey

A community survey was administered through Council's on-line 'your say' engagement platform. Otium Planning Group contributed to the formulation of survey questions, however the final survey content and its administration was managed by Council. Overall, the survey ran from 30 November 2017 to 1 August 2018 and received 82 responses.

It is important to note that the survey methodology and low number of responses means that respondents' views are not necessarily reflective of the broader community. Respondents were self-selecting, which means a group (such as a particular sport or community) could mobilise their members to respond thereby skewing the results. The survey constitutes a single source of information and has not been relied on to generate recommendations. Despite the limitations of surveys of this nature, it is of interest to see if the findings are consistent with other consultation outcomes.



### 8.2.1 Respondent characteristics

Females accounted for almost two-thirds of the survey sample (64%) which is consistent with social research of this nature. The age group most represented in the sample was 60+ years, and the least represented was the 30-39 age group. The under 20 age group was well represented in the sample, an unusual result for surveys of this kind.

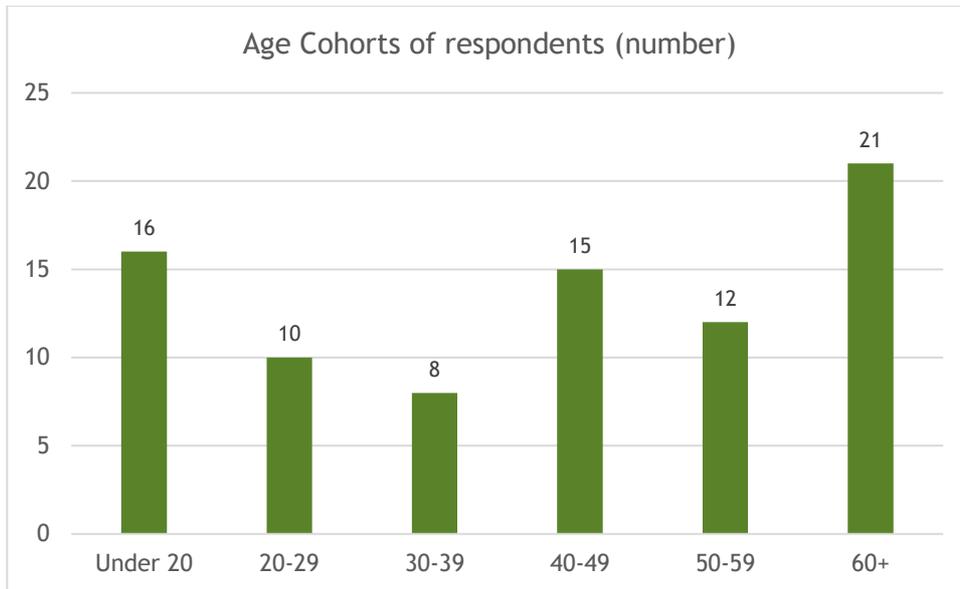


Figure 5: Age distribution of respondents

Almost half of respondents reported being a Lismore ratepayer (46%), with a further 35% identifying as a Lismore resident.

There were 16 different suburbs identified in respondent residential locations, however, respondents from Nimbin were the most represented (35%), followed by Goonellabah residents (22%). Given the small size of the Nimbin community, residents from this locality are considered to be over-represented in the survey sample compared to other localities. This suggests an activated community with a strong interest in sport and recreation issues.

Respondents were also asked to identify the areas of Council that they were most interested in based on a list of options. Parks, sport and recreation was the highest rated response, with 16% of all responses. The other areas of Council that were most popular were road, footpaths and cycleways (14%), Community and cultural activities and events (11%), and Community projects and engagement (11%).

### 8.2.2 Facility Importance

Respondents were asked to rank the importance of a range of facilities and services. Respondents were able to rank the identified facilities as either 'very important', 'somewhat important', or 'not important'. Those ranked highest in importance were as follows:

- Walking/ cycling paths (86%);
- Recreation Parks (81%);
- Off-road walk/cycle trails in Natural areas (75%);
- Active spaces/ activities for older youth (72%); and
- Low cost physical activity programs (62%).

Fenced dog off-leash areas were considered the least important (35%) followed by adventure sports (e.g. rock climbing, mountain biking) (24%).

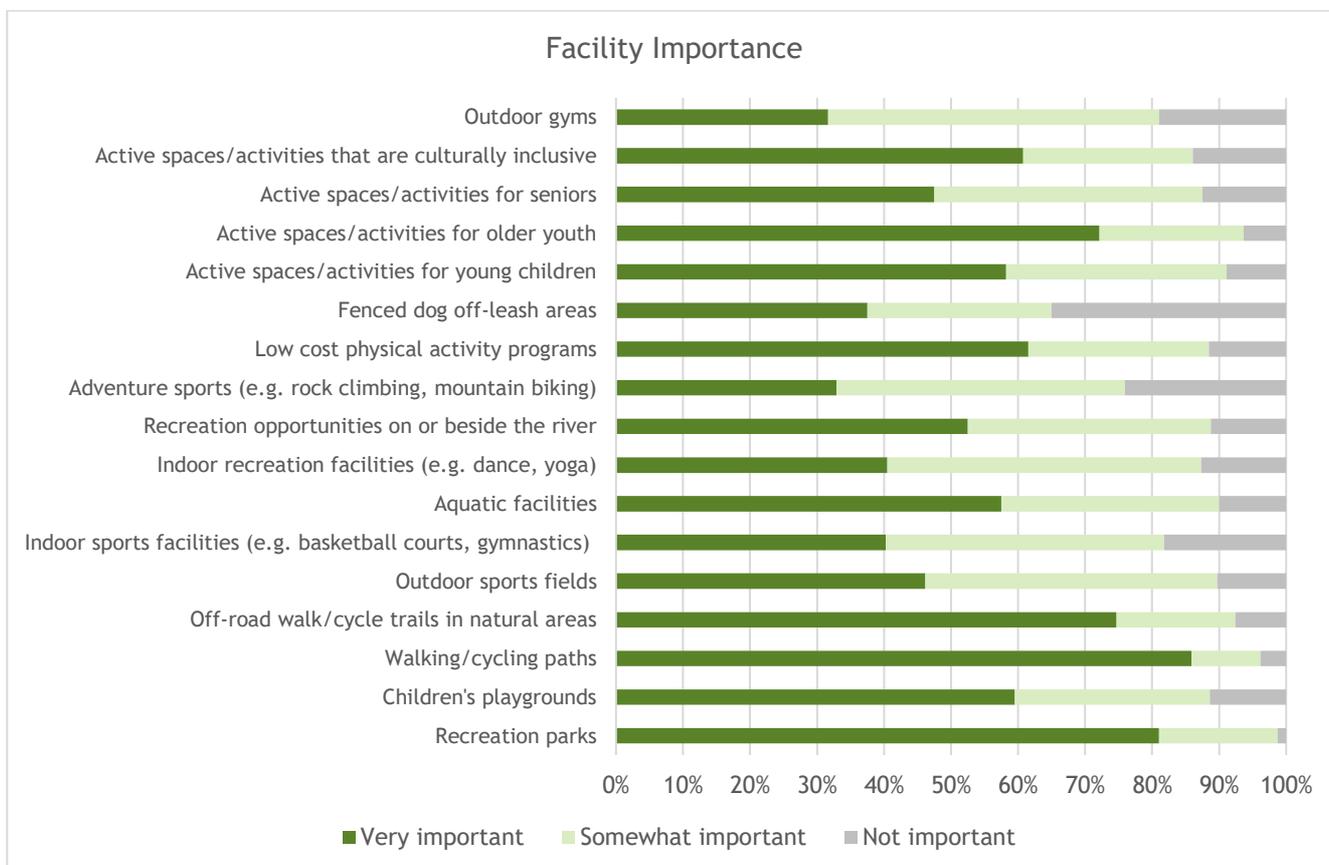


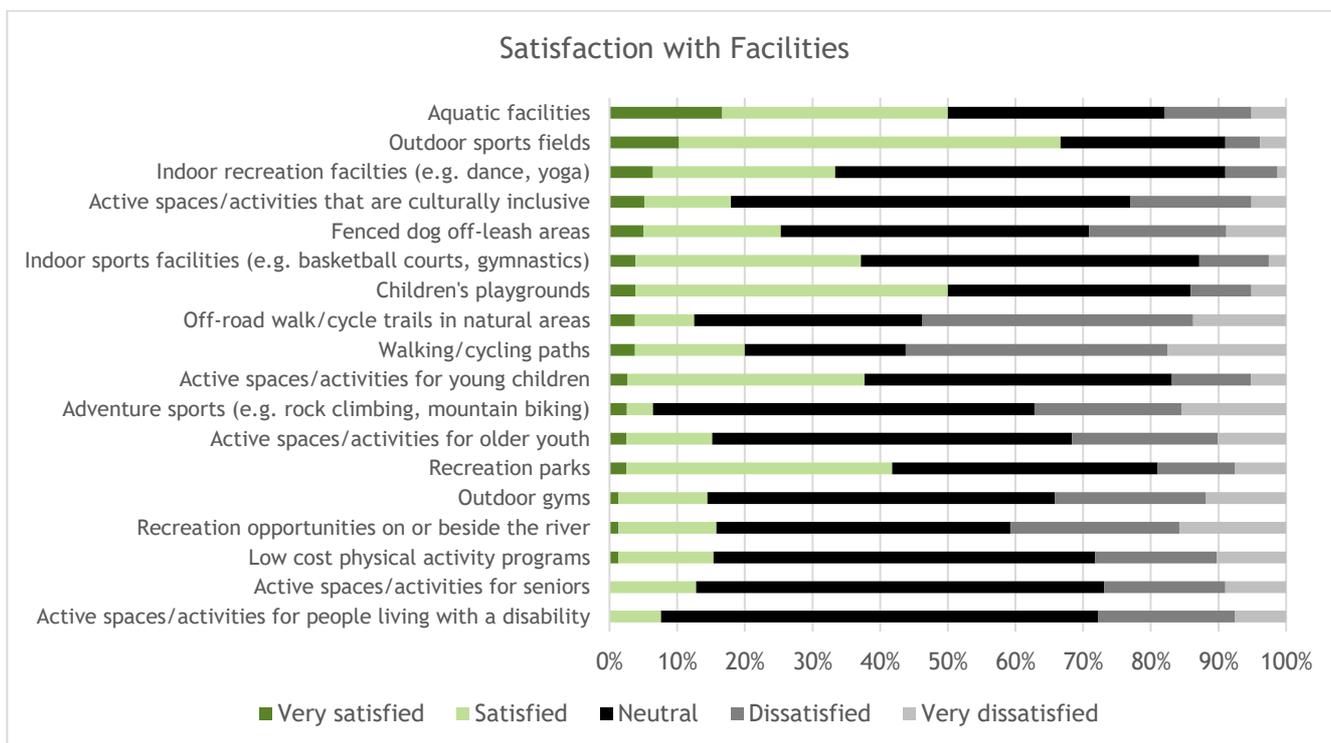
Figure 6: Importance of selected sport and recreation facilities

### 8.2.3 Facility Performance

Respondents were then asked to rate Council's performance in the provision of the listed sport and recreation facilities. The rating options provided included 'very satisfactory', 'satisfactory', 'neutral', 'dissatisfied', and 'very dissatisfied'. Results are presented in Figure 7. The facilities that respondents were most satisfied with (satisfied or very satisfied) comprised:

- Outdoor sports fields (67%)
- Aquatic facilities (50%) (also received highest proportion of 'very satisfied' responses)
- Children playgrounds (50%)

These were the only facilities to receive at least a 50% satisfactory rating. Two facility types registered a majority 'dissatisfied' rating (dissatisfied or very dissatisfied) - 'walking/ cycling paths' (56%) and 'off-road walk/ cycle trails in natural areas' (54%). Other facility types with notable levels of dissatisfaction included 'recreation opportunities on or beside the river' (41%), adventure sports (eg rock climbing, mountain biking)' (37%), and 'outdoor gyms' (35%).



**Figure 7: Council Performance - satisfaction with facilities**

When considering the performance versus importance of facilities, it is valuable to analyse the gap between the results. This enables identification of facility types that are important to the community, but Council is not performing well in, thereby highlighting areas for attention.

Neutral responses to this question accounted for a large portion of responses for all facility types. This can skew the results and therefore, neutral responses were removed from the importance-performance analysis.

The chart in Figure 8 indicates that respondents largely considered all facilities to be important, however, clear opportunities for improvement were evident. Those facilities considered to be most important but whose performance was considered to be inadequate comprised:

- Walking/ cycling paths;
- Off-road walk/ cycle trails in natural areas;
- Recreation opportunities on or beside the river;
- Active spaces/ activities for older youth; and
- Low cost physical activity programs.

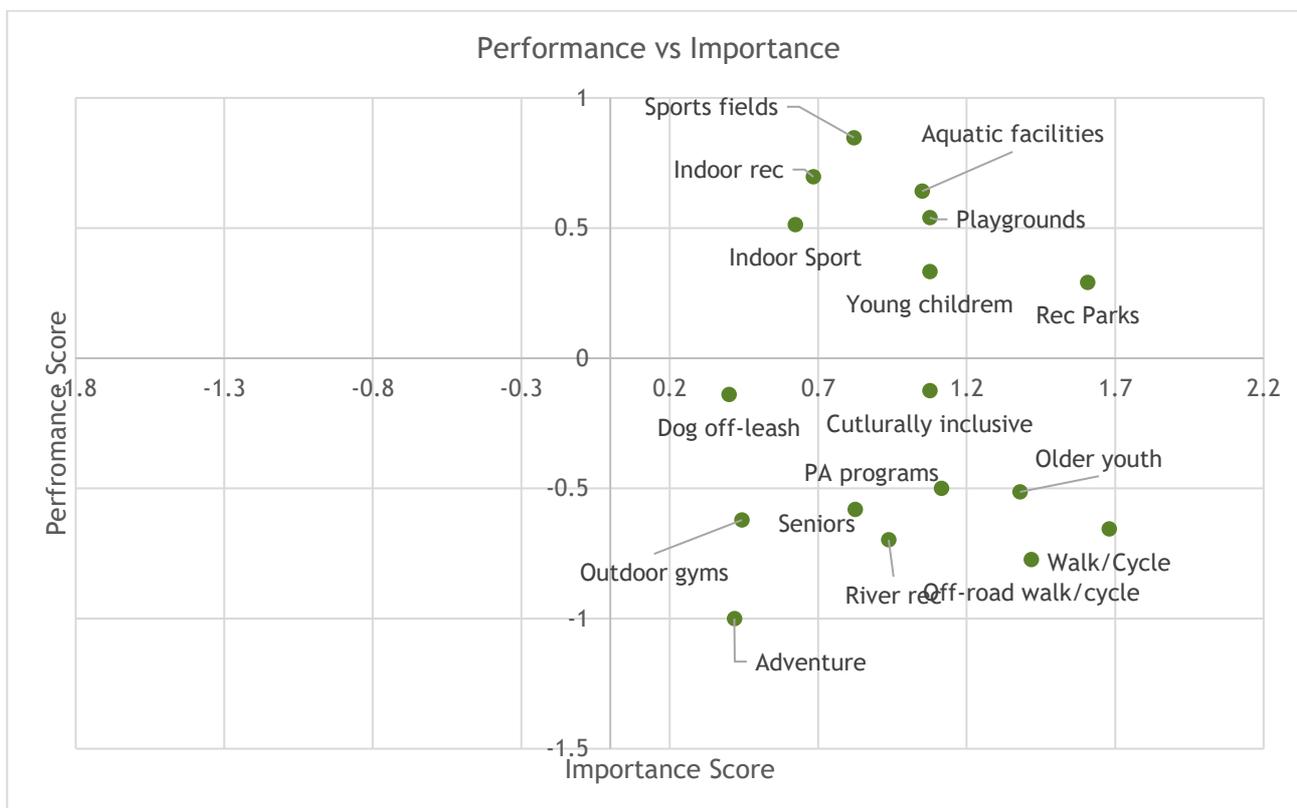


Figure 8: Importance-performance analysis of sport and recreation facilities

### 8.2.4 Club Membership

Respondents were also asked to identify if they were a member of a sport or recreation club in the Lismore LGA. Almost half of respondents (47%) indicated they were a member of a club, with the following clubs identified:

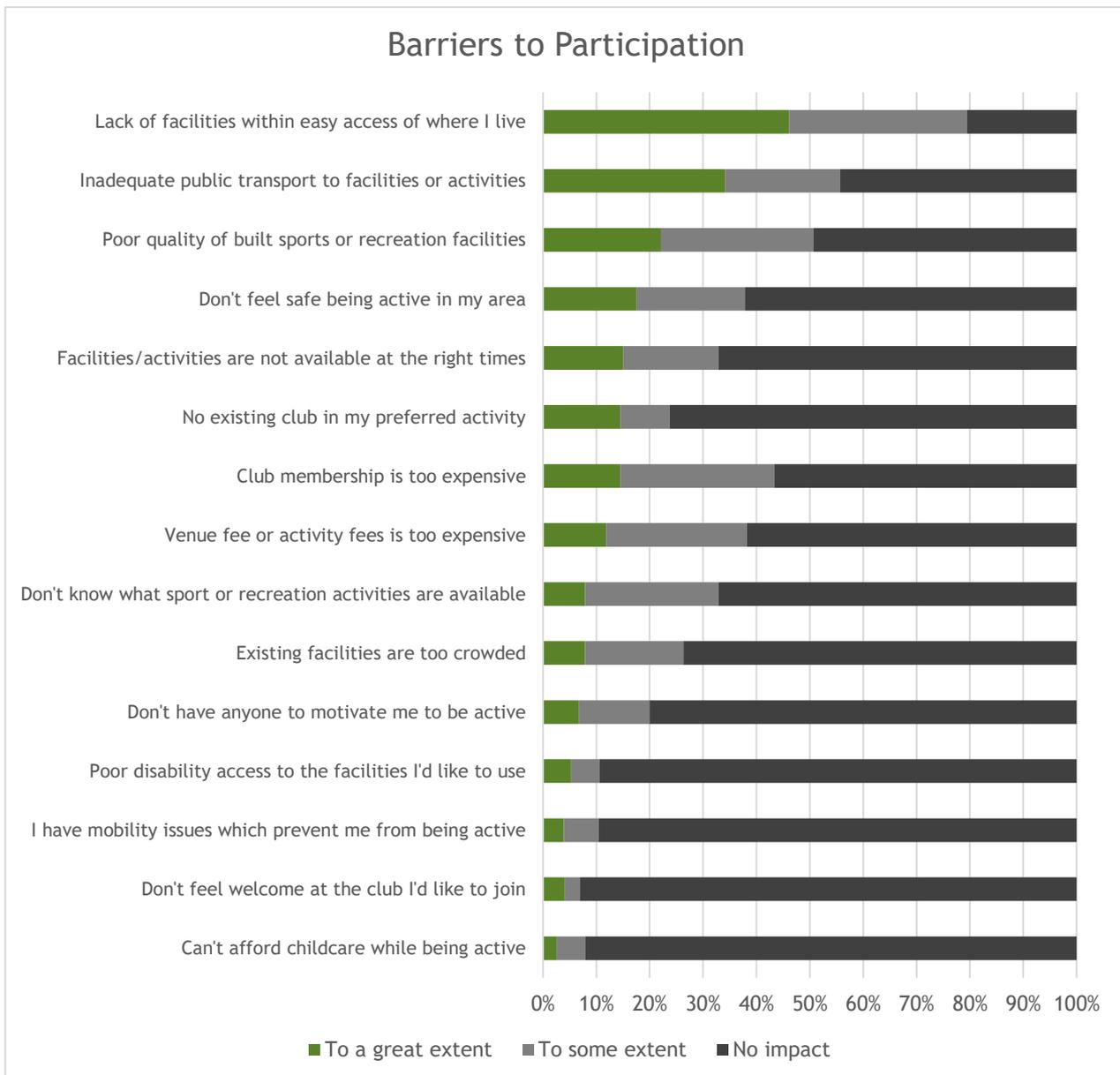
- Dirty Wheels
- Discover fitness Nimbin
- Dunoon Football Club
- Dunoon Sports Club
- Friends of Nimbin Pool
- GSAC
- GSAC Switch Gym
- Italo Stars FC
- LDCA
- Lismore Basketball Association
- Lismore Golf Club
- Lismore Workers Football Club
- Lismore Little Athletics
- Marist Brothers Cricket Club
- Memorial pool
- Nimbin Bowling and Recreation Club
- Nimbin Gym
- Nimbin Headers sports club INC
- North Coast Gymnastics
- North Lismore Cricket Club
- Northern Rivers Dirty Wheels
- Northern Rivers Roller Derby
- Parkrun
- PCYC
- Richmond River Riders Inc.
- Rovers
- SCU bouldering club
- South Lismore Football Club
- Southern Cross University Gym
- Southern Cross University Mountain Bikers
- Trinity Lismore Swimming Club
- Turntable circus
- Volleyball and Squash Centre
- Yoga studio



### 8.2.5 Barriers to Participation

Respondents were asked to provide details of barriers that prevented their participation in sport and recreation in the Lismore LGA. Respondents were given a list of options and asked to rate each statement on a scale of 'to a great extent', 'to some extent', and 'no impact'. The top three barriers identified by respondents were:

- Lack of facilities within easy access of where I live;
- Inadequate public transport to facilities or activities; and
- Poor quality of built sport or recreation facilities.







## 8.3 Community Workshops

### 8.3.1 Clunes Workshop

A daytime community meeting was held for the Clunes area, with four community members attending. Attendees represented a number of groups and interests including Clunes Progress Association, Clunes Clues Newspaper, and hockey.

Attendees were asked to identify sport and recreation elements that are being done well in the Clunes area and should continue. The following responses were provided:

- Tennis club is strong;
- Netball is strong (train in Clunes, play in Lismore);
- Enthusiastic community;
- Great halls; and
- Oval at Bex Hill is brilliant.

Attendees were asked to identify any barriers to participation in sport and recreation in the Clunes area, and possible solutions to address these barriers. Table 14 summarises the discussion.

**Table 14: Barriers to participation in sport and recreation in the Clunes area**

BARRIERS	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
Public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mini-bus service</li> <li>• Reopening of rail line</li> </ul>
Walking tracks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ lack of tracks;</li> <li>○ topography; and</li> <li>○ safety issues with roadside walking.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide walking opportunities as a part of road corridors.</li> <li>• Rail Trail - ensure there are paths linking from the Rail Trail into villages to ensure local residents benefit.</li> <li>• Explore possibility of retaining rail line and providing walking in a shared corridor.</li> </ul>
Cycling - topography	
Public toilets (the only toilets available are in the hall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Composting toilet in Clunes Village Park</li> </ul>

Key opportunities to address community needs as identified by attendees, in order of priority, included:

- Toilet in Clunes Village Park:
  - Composing, accessible, unisex design;
  - Council/ community partnership; and
  - MOU for community maintenance.
- Rural-based walking opportunities:
  - Roadside walking opportunities;
  - Route planning and assessment;
  - Council advocacy and negotiation, including for access to land for walking tracks;
  - Suitable and achievable road-side treatments;
  - Use of signage eg providing information on where residents can walk to ("this is a walking track road"); and
  - Council/ community partnerships and partnership with Landcare eg roadside vegetation program; in-kind assistance.



- Tennis club - upgrade of existing three courts (application for funding submitted).
- Clunes Park development (place for tourists to stop and locals to meet).

The group also indicated the needs identified in the Community Plan for the East Community Panel remained relevant. This document is reviewed in Section 5 of this report.

### 8.3.2 Dunoon Workshop

This workshop was hosted by Lismore City Council. Seven participants attended the workshop, six of them male and one female. Representatives comprised Dunoon United Football Club (3 attendees), General Practitioner, North East Community Panel Member, and Dunoon & District Sports Club.

While the main focus was on Dunoon, participants were asked to also think about other villages and the CBD. The group tended to focus on Dunoon, which was not unexpected. While supportive of walking/ cycling tracks in the CBD, there was a concern about the majority of Council funding being spent around the urban area and the villages being forgotten. Football were particularly concerned about being pushed out of Oakes Oval for AFL games.

It was noted in the current Sport and Recreation Plan that there were two recommendations relating to the Dunoon area (page 30). The relevance and status of these recommendations was discussed (refer Table 15).

**Table 15: Status of recommendations from 2011 Sport and Recreation Plan relating to Dunoon area**

PREVIOUS SPORT & RECREATION PLAN RECOMMENDATION	STATUS
Secure land for a recreation park in Dunoon, preferably adjacent to the Dunoon Sports Club, via a combination of S94 contributions and Council outlays. Address the Standards or Service for a recreation park at Appendix 2 in assessing site suitability.	Completed, Balzer Park Playground/Outdoor Gym. Although the finishes need to be completed i.e. picnic table installation (slab only), path, shade for exercise/playground equipment and solar lighting. Some money in budget for path and solar lighting, other finishes will need to be sourced through grants.
Investigate the potential to locate a suitable skate facility in this recreation park. If this is unsuitable, assist the Dunoon community to locate an appropriate site for the facility.	Not done. When pressed the group considered that broader community consultation, particularly with young people, was required to find out the need before progressing with this recommendation.

It was noted that the North East Community Plan included a number of sport and recreation recommendations relating to Dunoon (pages 17-18 & 22). The status of these recommendations was discussed (refer Table 16).

**Table 16: Summary of sport and recreation actions contained within the North East Community Plan**

NORTH EAST COMMUNITY PLAN ACTIONS	STATUS
Maintain sporting facilities at Dunoon and Tullera.	Arrangements need to be clarified at Dunoon and Tullera with Open Space Coordinator. Some issues about who is mowing and looking after plants at Balzer Park (volunteers at Club or maintenance team at Council).
Investigate an open amphitheatre in Balzer Park, Dunoon.	Council has provided \$3,000 grant to Panel to undertake investigative work. An architect has been engaged by club to look at concrete/grass seating. Seating could also be utilised for arena type events and steps could be used for outdoor boot camp classes.
Investigate the sale of pocket park in Cedar Drive, Dunoon for upgrading of playgrounds at Balzer and Tamarind Parks.	Completed - see 1. above. For Tamarind Park it was thought it should be made into a tourist stop with BBQs etc. The playground equipment may not be replaced and tourists could be directed with signage to Balzer Park.
Investigate the installation of toilets and parking at Whian Whian Falls picnic area.	Not done. Will need to work with Rous Water who manage the site.



NORTH EAST COMMUNITY PLAN ACTIONS	STATUS
Balzer Park - new playground and outdoor gym, landscaping, shade structure, picnic seating, accessible toilets and continuous path, mural on toilet block. Tamarind Park - landscaping, upgrade playground equipment, new picnic tables, improve existing shade structure.	See 1. above. Mural not done.
Upgrade toilets and BBQs at Spinaze Park, Tullera.	Not done.
Investigate skate park at Dunoon.	See above.
Investigate the following walking/ biking tracks with signage on how many kms walked: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dunoon village to Dorrobee Grassland</li> <li>• Dunoon cemetery, Dunoon village to Modanville school</li> <li>• Dunoon Hall to Balzer Park</li> <li>• Whian Whian Hall to 'Pooh' corner</li> </ul>	Not done. It was thought that the village could work with Council on design work (i.e. master planning) to connect infrastructure in their village and then apply for State or Federal funding to make these paths happen. Could also work with the local bike shop owner of 'What Watt Bikes' in Modanville.

Sport and recreation elements in the Dunoon area that participants considered are being done well comprised:

- Balzer Park - working with Council to get outdoor gym and playground equipment was great with Council allowing the village to have input into many aspects. This project should be used as a model for how to work together. There is a need to finish the job and have a clear understanding of who maintains what going forward.

A summary of discussion about barriers to participating in sport and recreation, and how these barriers could be realistically addressed, is set out below.

- This is a very active village but walking and cycling tracks are non-existent and people walk along rural roads which is dangerous. One person stated that they no longer cycle because of the danger. Safe paths to schools are also a concern if we want to encourage active living.
- Fix lighting at the tennis courts and at Balzer Park to extend their use over summer and winter.
- There is nowhere to do indoor yoga and gym classes as the local hall is often booked out or is too small to fit in the growing numbers. It has been proposed that one of the two tennis courts be covered to create a multipurpose exercise space as it is not currently used for tennis due to its poor surface area. It could be used by tennis, futsal, volleyball, gym, yoga studio. Some storage space could be incorporated working in with the Men's Shed and Sports Club.
- Better maintenance schedules on Council infrastructure could be arranged.
- Better support for the Sports Club from Council.
- Support from Council in master planning for the village and also in applying for State and Federal grants.

Priorities and opportunities to address community needs expressed by workshop participants included:

- Walking and cycling paths are important, particularly to connect local infrastructure and services. Walking trails throughout the local government area are also of interest.
- The Sports Club is a very important hub for the community.



- Soccer is big in the area and the club has a vision to expand the oval use for larger events. [The oval hosted major games when Oakes Oval was being redeveloped and signature events could bring an economic benefit to the Sports Club and the Dunoon village. Support would be needed to create the amphitheatre seating, electronic scoreboard, promotion of bigger soccer games, extension of clubhouse, new change/refs rooms, carpark extension and fixed camera for live streaming of games.]

### 8.3.3 Lismore

A community meeting was held in Lismore to discuss needs and opportunities for sport and recreation in the Lismore area. This meeting attracted only a very small number of attendees (possibly due to an entertainment event on the same evening). The issues discussed are summarised under the following sub-headings.

#### Sport and recreation elements that are being done well and should continue

Attendees were asked to identify sport and recreation elements that are being done well in Lismore and should continue. The following key points were made:

- High quality facilities for events
- Good lines of communication with Council
- Well maintained sports fields
- Concentration of turf cricket pitches in central area
- Albert Park Baseball facility
- Nesbitt Park
- Bi-annual masters games & other events and carnivals (but can do better)
- GSAC facility/staff are wonderful
- Pools great for mobility/injuries/social engagement
- Nimbin pool good facility (hardly any money spent on it).

#### Barriers to participation and possible solutions

Attendees were asked to identify any barriers to participation in sport and recreation in Lismore, and possible solutions to address these barriers. The following table summarises the points made.

**Table 17: Barriers to participation and solutions identified at the Lismore community meeting**

BARRIERS	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
Walking/ cycling provision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Walking opportunities and accessibility, especially by the river.</li> <li>○ Poorly lit walking tracks &amp; ancillary services e.g. duress alarms/ apps, bubblers, seating.</li> <li>○ Few all-access tracks e.g. steps, ramps, obstacles</li> <li>○ Poor connectivity of walking tracks.</li> <li>○ No information about walking tracks/routes.</li> <li>○ Condition of existing tracks e.g. Nesbitt Park - don't hold up to wet weather.</li> <li>○ Need for points of interest to encourage people to walk e.g. bush tucker &amp; fruit trails.</li> <li>○ Lack of safe cycling routes (off-road).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge-base, rating system so people can determine suitability for them</li> </ul>
Attracting younger members to maintain viability e.g. bowls, golf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modifying participation models e.g. barefoot bowls, compact game format</li> </ul>



BARRIERS	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
Lack of facilities to support events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide hardstands that can have temporary cover</li></ul>
Fear of becoming overcommitted in a volunteer role	
Availability of toilets	

### Opportunities to address community needs

- Concern about loss of Heaps Oval and a need for toilets to service fields/park.
- Rail trails - different views, but common view that they represent a tourist opportunity. Requires detailed feasibility study to examine options
- Deliver walking/ cycling tracks, connectivity and associated ancillary facilities
- Nimbin pool needs some maintenance/ heating
- Investigate equity across sports - access/tenure/fees. Why are some sports assisted by Council & not others (eg Bowls)
- Greater partnerships with University and schools (e.g. equipment and facilities)
- Facilities to support events (e.g. hardstands that can have temporary cover)
- Events team actively try to get large scale sports events to town
- Actively develop Lismore as a sports hub
- Actively support grant applications for large scale and smaller scale sports
- Find the balance between financially supporting large scale projects (i.e. Lismore Parklands) and assisting local sports
- Promote health and wellbeing.

#### 8.3.4 Nimbin

A community workshop was held in Nimbin to discuss needs and opportunities for sport and recreation in the Nimbin area. The meeting was well attended. The following information summarises these discussions.

As with other community workshops, attendees were asked to identify sport and recreation elements that are being done well in the Nimbin area and should continue. The following key points were made:

- Skate park - well managed, well run, community driven. Stands as one of the few facilities directed towards youth
- Nimbin Headers Sports Club - community driven, strong participation. 2 Tennis courts, soccer fields (separate locations)
- Swimming pool (still needs work)
- Showgrounds - gymnasium, strong female participation; fields (potential to host cricket); camping facilities
- Nimbin School of Arts - important hire space, event venue
- Nimbin Bowling Club
- Nimbin Community Centre - 2 casual hire spaces, yoga, dance
- School - indoor hall
- Children's playground, BBQ area, ½ court basketball court at Peace Park
- BBQ area, Allsop Park



Attendees were asked to identify any barriers to participating in sport and recreation, and consider how these barriers could be realistically addressed. The following table summarises the discussion.

**Table 18: Nimbin Community meeting - barriers to participation and possible solutions.**

BARRIERS	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
No disability access to the pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide disability access</li> </ul>
Ageing pool infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resurface swimming pool, forward planning to upgrade.</li> </ul>
Pool - one toilet/ change room (services pool and park). When not open, have to walk up to Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of expanded toilet block to service pool and park patrons.</li> </ul>
Pool - can't swim laps - no block to turn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible partnership with school or ANI to create lap swimming opportunity.</li> </ul>
Age of showground infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a master plan.</li> </ul>
The ability to access sufficient funding for infrastructure for community run sporting facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistance from Council to write grants.</li> </ul>
Access to safe pedestrian/cycling areas (village and rural).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integration with road verge crews.</li> <li>• Rainbow Road Project.</li> <li>• Connect showgrounds area with public park/pool.</li> </ul>
Public transport	
Parking, including disability parking, and access & compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation and planning with Council.</li> <li>• Incorporation into disability and access plans. Placement of disability car parks at road end of carpark (behind main street). Nimbin Parking Plan.</li> </ul>
Lack of airconditioned spaces	
Facilities for young children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repurposing part of old skate park in partnership with community.</li> </ul>
Access to private property, funding, maintenance (Rainbow Road Trail & Headers access)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council continue to investigate feasibility and partner with community.</li> </ul>
Access to funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership &amp; collaboration - Council, various community groups</li> </ul>

Attendees were asked to identify realistic opportunities and priorities to address community needs for sport and recreation in the Nimbin area. Opportunities identified were as follows.

- Nimbin Headers sports Club:
  - Training level lights (opportunity to secure lights from baseball field).
  - Need for drainage.
  - Tennis courts need to be resurfaced.
- Nimbin Road improvements
  - As these road improvements are made, concurrently deliver road verge treatments to cater for pedestrian & cyclist use.
- Repurposing of old skate park site in partnership with community.
- Investigate alternative solutions for land acquisition adjacent to showgrounds.
- Nimbin Pool - refurbishment of pool and adjacent park including toilet block.
- Rainbow Road Trail.
- Partnership funding approach (e.g. crowd funding).



*The largest number of attendees considered refurbishment of the Nimbin Pool and adjacent park (including toilet park) as the most important of these opportunities (9 attendees), followed by the Rainbow Rail Trail (5 attendees).*

### **8.3.5 Disability Access & Inclusion Advisory Group**

A focus group discussion was held with the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Group to understand key issues and opportunities. Key points from this discussion are summarised below.

- Indoor sport access is an inhibitor to participation. Key concerns include:
  - Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre - flooring is not suitable for wheelchair use;
  - Lismore Basketball Association - access and amenities are unsuitable; and
  - Trinity College indoor courts - unable to gain access.
- Wheelchair users are currently accessing the courts at Southern Cross University but would like to access other venues.
- There is a desire to play tennis, but access to the courts on Ballina Road is not suitable for wheelchair users:
  - Gates are too narrow
  - Back gate is wide enough, but it is rusting off its hinges and it is also important to provide entry for all uses via the front of the courts
  - There are no accessible toilets
  - Clubhouse is too narrow to permit entry; and
  - Storage is needed to support use.
- A Disability Access Audit prepared for Council would be useful for review under this project
- Netball - key access concerns are with toilets, parking and the clubhouse which has an upstairs canteen.
- Footpaths - key issues include:
  - Lack of footpaths;
  - Repairs needed to many;
  - Poor connectivity between paths;
  - Path/ road ramps are poorly designed/ constructed;
  - Largely unsuitable for vision impaired; and
  - Main roads are significant barriers - if participants can't get to where they want to get to safely, they just won't go.
- Nesbitt Park is the only accessible park in the LGA (has a liberty swing)
- Parks often don't have toilets. Existing toilets are closed or they are not accessible
- A lack of public toilets is a barrier to participation
- It is important to consider spectator access - if people with a disability are unable to access venues as a participant, it would be helpful to at least be able to watch
- Would like access at Albert Park Baseball Complex. There is a perception that people with disabilities don't play baseball, and they won't if they don't have access.

### **8.3.6 Service Organisations**

A focus group with community service organisations was held, with attendees representing Lismore Country Women's Association, Lismore Lions Club, Lismore Rotary Club, and Goonellabah Rotary Club. A summary of this discussion is contained within the following sub-sections.



Attendees were asked to indicate what issues acted as barriers to participation in sport and recreation, and suggest possible solutions. Table 19 summarises this discussion.

**Table 19: Service organisations - barriers to participation in sport and recreation**

BARRIERS	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
Safety, particularly around central Lismore. Homelessness and anti-social behaviour are particular concerns. Antisocial behaviour in rotunda in Spinks Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activating parks</li> </ul>
Strict no-alcohol policy -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would like to be able to have a permit system for events</li> </ul>
Parking around key locations eg Central Lismore, CWA hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase parking allocations</li> </ul>
Public transport - too infrequent, particularly an issue for classes/meetings with designated times.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invest in improved public transport service</li> </ul>
Current level of embellishment and activation of parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan for series of decent parks in Lismore, don't focus on small parks.</li> <li>• Smarter approaches to spreading resources eg selling pocket parks to fund larger recreation parks</li> <li>• Drop requirement for developers to provide small parks</li> <li>• Renewal and revitalisation program needed for parks.</li> <li>• Provide exercise equipment</li> <li>• Co-location of businesses in parks eg cafe</li> <li>• Heritage Park - would be good to have mobile food/ drinks van for weekends/ people periods (or possibility to combine with information centre).</li> <li>• Activate parks with dancing, children's events, cultural events, family days etc. Canvass community on what they want and can provide. Some parks are barely used for legitimate activities.</li> </ul>
Facilities for cyclists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CBD cycling is different to sport-based cycling;</li> <li>• Road widening is not a solution, particularly for recreational cyclists;</li> <li>• Highway upgrades have reduced space for cyclists;</li> <li>• Lismore is not a cycling-friendly town (older or recreational cyclists) due to topography.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose-built cycling infrastructure, particularly around central Lismore.</li> </ul>
Currently no volunteer/ organisational support system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support from Council</li> </ul>

Some concern was expressed about where major rugby league and soccer games will be held now that Oakes Oval has been redeveloped to provide for AFL.

## 8.4 Other Key Stakeholders

### 8.4.1 Southern Cross University

Discussions were held with representatives of Southern Cross University (SCU). Key matters to arise from these discussions are contained in the following sub-sections.

#### 8.4.1.1 SCU Facilities and Participation

An overview of SCU's existing facilities, their usage and trends is as follows:





- Three sports fields - two turf and one synthetic
- Two fields have lighting
- Facilities are used by various external groups eg schools, Far North Coast Rugby, Waratah Rugby Development, Football Far North Coast, and Relay for Life
- Liverpool Football Academy is the primary user of synthetic fields.
- Club participation is declining but SCU is noticing an increase in one-off participation eg Gold Coast Marathon, Byron Ocean Swim
- Social sport at SCU Lismore Campus is struggling
- SCU networks strongly with clubs to provide pathways e.g. hockey, soccer and netball
- SCU encourages students to become a part of community clubs rather than establishing/maintaining University clubs
- University student demographics are changing e.g. increasing numbers of mature age students (particularly women) resulting in growth in female sports and decline in others e.g. rugby union club.

#### 8.4.1.2 Sports Hub

A study commissioned by Southern Cross University (SCU) was undertaken in 2017 to assess the viability of committing to the development of a sports hub at SCU's Crawford Land Holdings and to determine whether SCU should pursue potential funding options with the Office of Sport.

The 2017 Lismore Sports Precinct Viability Assessment considered a wide range of possible sports facilities and infrastructure with the following seven facilities being identified for potential inclusion in the precinct:

- Aerial ski jump
- Gymnastics and trampoline training facilities
- Multi-use Indoor Courts (4)
- Multi-use outdoor courts (8)
- Synthetic athletics track
- Mountain biking trails; and
- Sports Administration Hub.

The report noted that most facilities would offer only modest potential to stimulate community participation and varying levels of interest across stakeholder groups. It identified a number of issues that would need to be addressed, including (but not limited to):

- Council funding and marketing support;
- Ongoing SCU operational support;
- Alternative uses for the land other than sport;
- Balancing the needs of elite athletes versus community use; and
- Potential constraints to other SCU resourcing priorities due to ongoing operational funding requirements.

From subsequent discussions with SCU, while they are happy to assist with activating facilities (eg via student involvement in programming) they do not want to be involved in operational management and maintenance of sports hub facilities on their land. They are supportive of the use of their land for mountain biking, but the demand drivers for other facilities (eg athletics, indoor courts, outdoor courts) do not warrant ongoing university operational support. If the aerial ski jump were to proceed, a more concentrated adventure-themed facility could be explored by opening it up to community use while athletes are competing overseas. At this stage, a final decision on the aerial ski jump facility has not been made.



#### 8.4.2 North Coast Academy of Sport

A meeting was held with representatives of North Coast Academy of Sport. A summary of this discussion is provided below.

- Delivering sports programs is a gap area of State Sporting Organisations which traditionally focus on high performance. There is a need to engage coaches and develop syllabus
- Accommodation is an issue in Lismore which impacts on the suitability of Lismore as a sports hub
- There are existing indoor sports courts at Trinity College (2), Lismore Basketball (2), Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre (2) and Southern Cross University (1)
- A four-court indoor stadium is needed for state/ regional events
- A four-court stadium is currently being built at Ballina Coast Sports High - 2 school courts, 2 community with easy access between
- There is no synthetic athletics track between Newcastle and Gold Coast
- Existing athletics track floods.
- A synthetic athletics track is needed to develop Lismore as a Sports Hub.
- A synthetic athletics track would be used by schools.

#### 8.4.3 NSW Office of Sport

A meeting was held with a representative of the NSW Office of Sport. A summary of this discussion is provided below.

- Recently released Regional Sport and Active Recreation Plan - North Coast
- Increasing participation is the key priority e.g. walking, cycling, unstructured participation
- Walking/ cycling is a key priority for Lismore:
  - On-road cycle lanes are not suitable in some instances
  - There are limited footpaths and poor lighting
  - There is a need for destinations where people can ride and feel comfortable.
  - Active transport needs to be accommodated - walk/ cycle to work/ school.
- Rail Trail opportunity is notable (Office of Sport involvement is led by their Infrastructure Group).
- There has been a general decline in sports participation in Lismore.
- A number of sporting clubs in Lismore appear to be struggling with a decline in volunteerism.

#### 8.4.4 NSW Department of Health - North Coast Area Health Service

A meeting was held with a representative of the Northern NSW Local Health District to obtain views on sport and recreation in the Lismore LGA from a preventative health perspective. The following key points summarise this discussion:

- It is important to ensure there is emphasis on general physical activity promotion, rather than just sport
- There is a need to enhance environments to encourage physical activity:
  - The opportunity exists to tap into natural assets, including around Nimbin, walks along rivers and creeks. These are environments where people want to be so effort should be put into making them appealing places to exercise
  - Emphasise points of interest e.g. historical, natural etc
  - Shade throughout walking/ cycling network
  - Availability of drinking water



- Accessibility - some walking tracks are unsuitable for prams/ wheelchairs
- Improving safety including lighting
- End of trip facilities eg hub for tourism transport.
- Opportunities in Nimbin to increase walk / cycle focus
- Use recreation as a catalyst for economic development/ overnight tourism
- Council has a role in active transport which includes advocacy
- Networks/ resources:
  - There is no local network for active and healthy living
  - Health Built Environment Network (statewide)
  - Community Health Education Groups (CHEGS) - run some gentle exercise programs; low cost; are attracting older people
  - Department conducted and audit of outdoor gym equipment to understand compliance with standards
  - “Get healthy”: free phone support service; health coaching; 10 free sessions a month via phone
  - Healthy Urban Checklist (University of New South Wales); and
  - Healthy Environments Officer - led audit of outdoor gyms (2 in Lismore are good facilities); 4-week course on design.
- Need for greater partnering with Council and other stakeholders e.g. Gold Coast Council model

#### 8.4.5 U3A

A focus group meeting was held with representatives of University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age (U3A). Barriers to participation in sport and recreation and possible solutions were discussed and are summarised at Table 20.

**Table 20: U3A - barriers to participation in sport and recreation and possible solutions**

BARRIERS	SOLUTIONS
Public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Improve transport services</li> </ul>
Lack of a single venue for U3A activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Currently use various venues</li> <li>● Key venue is Workers Club, but place is not guaranteed</li> <li>● Storage is an old vault provided by Council, but equipment has to be transported to various venues for activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Single, centrally located venue dedicated for U3A use with large activity space, kitchenette, storage etc.</li> </ul>
Lack of parking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Important for older people.</li> <li>● Particularly around Heritage Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase the number of disability car parks</li> </ul>

Other issues raised were as follows:

- An aging population means that U3A is becoming more important
- U3A members are “bright minds”, many from a professional background, who can provide assistance to Council and the community
- U3A class leaders/ tutors are all volunteers and are an enormous resource for the community.



#### 8.4.6 Northern Rivers Mountain Bike Club

The club has 218 members (an increase from 50 members 3 years ago) and has developed tracks at New Italy (State Forest land) and Duck Creek (Council-owned land at Alstonville).

There is an opportunity for Northern Rivers to be established as a mountain bike hub and for linkages to the proposed Rail Trail as possible transport to the competition venue. An urban based track in Lismore would add to the overall network. But would need to be at least 10-12km.

The club's New Italy venue attracts 11,000 visits per annum, and is used exclusively for mountain biking. It comprises 30kms of tracks and is all ability rated, although some tracks are awaiting formal rating. It is a key venue for junior riders catering for a catchment stretching from Yamba to Northern Rivers, Tweed and Gold Coast. The venue is well set up for spectator parking and viewing, and the club has applied for a National Club Event at this venue.

The club's Duck Creek venue is currently in the process of being built by trail workers. It comprises 8km of more difficult, technical, high quality trails with unique soils and spectacular scenery. It is expected to attract visitors for recreational mountain biking. The tracks are maintained by Northern Rivers MTB Club.

#### 8.4.7 Richmond River Riders

The club has submitted a proposal to Southern Cross University to develop trails on University land in six stages. The University is understood to have granted approval.

The club is seeking to develop a \$2M (ballpark) facility aimed at major events, comprising a 10km loop in Stage 1 followed by an enduro trail and skills park at a later stage. Their aim is to develop an international standard track and host major events.

At this stage the club has only 20 members and it is seeking Council support for construction and maintenance of trails. The club is supportive of the proposed Rail Trail.

#### 8.4.8 Lismore Showgrounds

- Speedway lease to be renewed - has approval for up to 16 events per annum
- Uses/ events:
  - Farmer's Market every second Saturday
  - Show in October
  - Gem Club fair in May
  - Hack Show Equestrian Event
  - 4wd (caravan/ 4WD/ outdoor living expo in July)
  - Go Kart Club - lease land (self-contained)
- Master Plan - funding application to prepare has been submitted to Federal Government. The Master Plan would identify improvements - possibly including a covered equestrian arena, stables, yards, and rodeo facility.
- No approaches from other motorsports or BMX.

#### 8.4.9 Lismore PCYC

A meeting was held with a representative of Lismore PCYC. Key points to emerge were as follows:

- Lismore PCYC is being refurbished after 2017 floods
- Memberships solid at approximately 1,500 prior to floods
- Must be PCYC member - joining fee is \$10 junior, \$20 senior + fee for activity (approx \$7 per visit)



- Facility is on two levels:
  - Downstairs - gym, martial arts, boxing, kickboxing, meeting room
  - Upstairs - multi-use timber floor (3/4 basketball court size) used for recreational gymnastics, martial arts, full kitchen.
- High drop out at age 15
- Trend towards more women in martial arts/ boxing activities
- Capacity for partnership with Council for active and healthy programs. Would be interested in an interagency network.
- Would like to expand into surrounding space, which would increase the building by approx one third.

#### **8.4.10 GSAC and Memorial Baths**

A meeting was held with management of Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre (GSAC) and Memorial Baths. Issues of relevance to this study are as follows

- Major increase in patronage due to intensive customer service training and the Fitness Passport project which targets teachers, police, NSW Health staff, and paramedics
- Patronage is now the highest since inception
- Change in branding has led to a 26% increase in memberships especially 18-25 year olds
- Peak times for the two indoor sports courts are 4.00-7.00pm on Monday to Thursdays, during which time they run at about 75% capacity.
- Courts have substantial spare capacity, especially after 7.00pm Mon-Thurs, and all day Friday and Sunday. Minimal basketball use occurs as courts have a synthetic (not timber) surface.
- Most usage of indoor courts is by Futsal, dance and cheerleaders groups, and holiday programs. The centre also runs a social netball competition
- Boxing ring at the centre is very heavily used.
- Potential exists to investigate rock climbing walls or bounce centre.
- Adjacent stakepark experiences antisocial behavior on occasions. Needs lighting and activating.

#### **8.4.11 Northern Rivers Rail Trail Inc.**

Lismore City council has adopted a resolution to support the Rail Trail project. A Casino to Murwillumbah Rail Trail Study was undertaken by ARUP in 2015). Northern Rivers Rail Trail Inc are working with Lismore and Richmond Valley councils to put together a business case for a rail trail from Casino to Eltham. Funding of \$15,000 from each Council was provided and an additional \$75,000 in crowd funding was obtained to undertake the study. The Business Case was due for completion by December 2018 and will include economic modelling. Environmental and heritage impact studies have already been completed. These did not identify any major impediments. The impact of the Otago Rail (NZ) on the local economy was noted.



## 9. Considerations and Findings

### 9.1 Strategic Context

There are six key factors which underpin the preparation of the Plan.

1. The Sport & Recreation Plan is an extension of the existing 2011 Sport and Recreation Plan. It is not a new long-term plan. The plan has a 5-year timeframe 2019 - 2024.
2. Council's Asset Management Plan for sport and recreation indicates that funding levels are insufficient to continue to maintain existing services at current levels in the medium term.
3. Lismore City Council's demographic profile is characterised by modest population growth, higher median age, lower socio-economic status, and a health profile which includes higher levels of physical inactivity and obesity, higher rates of suicide and significant mental health concerns.
4. Historic, recent and imminent investment in sporting facilities (Albert Park, Oakes Oval, Crozier Field and Hepburn Park) has positioned Lismore as a Sports Hub for regional events in a number of sports, notably baseball, cricket, AFL, hockey, rugby league, rugby union and football.
5. There are nation-wide trends toward more individualised, self-directed, and social forms of participation in sport and physical activity, and increasing interest in adventure and alternative sports.
6. The Lismore LGA has significant natural advantages which could provide opportunities for participation in outdoor recreation and generate economic benefits.

### 9.2 Key Findings

The research and consultation for this project undertaken in conjunction with Lismore City Council revealed a number of key issues which provide a foundation for a renewed framework for sport and recreation to 2024. Key findings are summarised in the following sub-sections.

#### 9.2.1 LGA Profile

The estimated population of the Lismore LGA as at the 2016 Census was 44,054 which is a decline of 294 people since 2011, however modest growth is projected to 2026. The LGA has a median age of 43 which is the same as regional NSW but higher than the state as a whole (38). Nimbin (50) has a much higher median age than the LGA as a whole. The LGA has a higher level of disadvantage and lower household incomes compared to both regional NSW and the state as a whole. This suggests a high level of price sensitivity and incidence of adverse health outcomes.

#### 9.2.2 Financial Resources

Like many Councils, Lismore City Council experiences multiple demands which puts pressure on limited resources. Council's Asset Management Plan indicates that funding levels are insufficient to continue to provide existing sport and recreation services at current levels in the medium term. In this environment it is important that Council ensures that future capital development projects are sustainable, based on sound planning, and maximise external funding opportunities.

#### 9.2.3 Physical Inactivity

Section 6 of this report provides detail on the evidence for action on physical inactivity in Australia. In summary, physical inactivity in Australia results in considerable social and health costs. In Lismore, it is estimated that 71.3% of residents in the LGA are physically inactive and that there are 23% more obese adults in the LGA compared to the national average. Furthermore, Lismore LGA is identified as a 'suicide hotspot' and mental health is nominated by residents as the most serious health concern. This means that the health, social and economic costs resulting from physical inactivity will be relatively greater in Lismore.



Physical activity can improve physical and mental health. A desire for improved physical activity opportunity was raised in various settings throughout the study, including in stakeholder/community meetings and in the community survey (low cost physical activity programming was considered among the most important opportunities and it was also one of the elements with the largest gap between importance and performance of Council in delivering the opportunity). In addition, the overwhelming interest in increased walking/ cycling opportunities also suggests a general demand for increased physical activity opportunities given it is the most popular physical activity Australia-wide.

Furthermore, the benefits of accessing nature are extensive (discussed in detail in Section 6.2.6 of this report). In addition to having a positive impact on mental health and increasing physical activity levels, access to nature also improves recovery from illness and trauma and promotes healthier social behaviour.

A healthy community is already highlighted as a goal in Council's Community Plan. Increasing participation and improving access to engage non-active people are both highlighted as priorities in the NSW Office of Sport's North Coast Sport & Active Recreation Plan. It is clear that physical activity is already on this agenda, however more can be done. There is little evidence of coordination between key stakeholders in the region on reducing physical inactivity, and although Council is not likely to be in a financial position to embark on large scale active living programs, there are opportunities for partnering with other agencies to deliver meaningful outcomes with limited resource allocation.

#### **9.2.4 Walking and Cycling**

Providing more opportunities for walking and cycling was by far the strongest theme to emerge from consultation throughout the study. This is not a surprising result as it aligns with national sport and recreation trends for unstructured and self-driven participation. Moreover, walking is a low-cost and easily accessible physical activity and has consistently been identified in national surveys as the most popular exercise, recreation or sport activity of Australians.

A desire for more walking and cycling opportunities emerged in all four community meetings and in targeted focus groups and stakeholder meetings. Walking and cycling provision also featured strongly in the community survey as the most important sport and recreation opportunity to respondents and also with largest gap between importance of facilities and Council's performance in delivering those facilities.

Walking and cycling are not only good for the health and wellbeing of residents, but they also have potential to generate economic benefit. Section 7.2 of this report provides evidence of some of the key economic benefits of walking and cycling from both tourism and resident participation perspectives. Enhancing the walkability/ cyclability of streets is critical to the success of business centre revitalisation and has been known to result in increased property rental values and sale prices, generate more business and stimulate the economy, and revitalise 'drive-through' districts into lively places.

National and international research has shown there is substantial economic benefit to be gained from conversion of disused rail lines into Rail Trails. Northern Rivers Rail Trail Inc. is leading the preparation of a Business Case for the Casino to Eltham Rail Trail in partnership with Lismore City Council and Richmond Valley Council. There appears to be significant community support for the development of Rail Trails judging by the fact that \$75,000 was raised via crowd funding to help finance the Business Case.

Improving the provision of walking and cycling opportunities therefore has the dual potential of both responding to community needs and contributing to economic development.

#### **9.2.5 Sports Facilities**

Historically, Council has supported the promotion of Lismore as a regional sports hub for a number of Activities. This has been further strengthened through recent investment by Council, Government and sport in the upgrading of Albert Park, Hepburn Park, Oakes Oval and Crozier Field. These venues provide an enhanced opportunity to attract events and provide economic benefit for the region. Opportunities for both spectator events and large participation events, which capitalise on recent investment in facilities and/ or other built or natural environment advantages, should be pursued.



Research for this study did not identify a need for the development of other major new or upgraded sporting facilities within the life of this plan. Some sports (eg gymnastics and basketball) indicated a need for new facilities for events, however local demand was not evidenced. To maximise capital and operational viability of a major new venue for indoor court sports and gymnastics, a partnership with Southern Cross University (SCU) should logically be pursued.

It should be noted that SCU commissioned a study in 2017 to assess the viability of committing to the development of a sports hub on its land and to determine whether the University should pursue potential funding options with the NSW Office of Sport. The study included gymnastics and trampoline training facilities, multi-use indoor courts, multi-use outdoor courts, synthetic athletics track, mountain biking trails, and sports administration hub. SCU is supportive of the use of its land for mountain biking, but does not support operational management and maintenance of other new sporting facilities on its land.

An overview of findings in respect of specific sport facility types is as follows:

### Aquatic Facilities

The LGA is considered to be well serviced by quality aquatic facilities which meet community needs. Indeed, aquatic facilities were among the highest satisfaction ratings in the 2016 Community Satisfaction Survey. However, the Nimbin community has expressed a desire for the Nimbin Swimming Pool to be replaced, citing age and poor condition, as part of the broader upgrading of the adjacent park. This was highlighted as the number one priority for residents who attended the Community Forum in Nimbin. Investigations into the project should be undertaken within life of this plan, but funding is likely to be beyond this time frame.

### Indoor Facilities

There was some demand for a new four-court indoor facility in Lismore expressed by Council staff, North Coast Academy of Sport and Lismore Basketball. However, a new facility is not considered warranted within the life of this plan for the following reasons:

- Existing indoor courts at GSAC and Lismore Basketball have spare peak time capacity
- Basketball have relatively low membership numbers in Lismore
- Basketball NSW's State Facilities Strategic Plan does not identify a need for any additional indoor courts in the region.
- Netball NSW offered in-principle support for an indoor sport facility associated with a Regional Sporting Hub, but did not indicate a pressing need for indoor court provision for netball
- A new 4-court indoor facility is currently being constructed in Ballina in a joint Education NSW/ Ballina Shire Council project. This facility is likely to meet event demand in the broader region.

Gymnastics NSW have identified the development of a high-performance centre for gymnastics as a component of a Lismore Regional Sports Hub as its third top priority for regional facility provision in NSW. The proposed facility would be a Far North Coast Region Hub for Gymnastics and would become an Aerobic Gymnastics National Performance Centre. The proposed facility is described as a *“Far North Coast region hub for events, education and disability in men's and women's artistic, tramp, aerobics, acrobatics and rhythmic for the following LGA's: Kempsey, Nambucca, Bellingen, Coffs Harbour, Clarence Valley, Tenterfield, Richmond Valley, Kyogle, Lismore, Ballina, Byron, and Tweed.”*

### Outdoor Courts

Lismore Council officers raised the following matters pertaining to outdoor sports courts:

- The condition and underuse of the region's main tennis facilities
- A desire to undertake a Regional Netball Centre upgrade.

Local netball stakeholders did not engage in the study to raise this or other needs. Netball NSW advised that the existing outdoor netball courts can adequately expand capacity into the future to meet growing demands.





There are nine tennis clubs in the Lismore LGA with a total of 1,102 members (2016/2017). This represents a participation rate of 3%, which although lower than Ausplay participation figures for New South Wales (all participation in tennis, not just club memberships), is higher than the NSW participation rate based on memberships (2.05%). This suggests that tennis participation in the region is relatively strong.

A proposal for redevelopment of Lismore Tennis Club's facility incorporating resurfacing six courts, refurbishing the clubhouse, and fencing of all 12 courts was prepared by Tennis NSW. However, Council has concerns that some facilities are underutilised. These factors make it difficult to demonstrate a firm need to recommend redevelopment of these outdoor court facilities, within the time frame of this study.

### Sportsfields

Community satisfaction with the provision and maintenance of sportsfields received a high rating in the 2016 Community Satisfaction Survey. Few issues were raised in community engagement activities for this project in relation to sportsfields. The overall supply of sportsfields across the LGA is considered adequate.

### Regional Sports Hub

Significant historical and recent investment has been made in various sports field venues across the LGA, including Albert Park, Oakes Oval, Crozier Field and Hepburn Park. Moreover, Council has recently been granted \$4.5 million by the NSW Government to undertake upgrades to Oakes Oval and Crozier Field to further enhance these venues. These venues are in an excellent position to service local participation and offer a competitive advantage to attract major events.

Council has flagged a synthetic athletics track as a possible component of further recognition of Lismore as a Sports Hub. Although supported by North Coast Academy of Sport, the development of a synthetic track is not included in a list of state-wide priorities of Athletics NSW (although a new facility plan is being undertaken). The development of a synthetic athletics track at SCU is not supported by the university (refer sections 8.4.1 and 9.2.5) and is not recommended within the time frame of this study. Similarly, the development of multi-purpose indoor sports courts and outdoor sports courts on SCU land is not supported by the University and they were not identified as priorities in the research for this study.

The further development of Lismore as a regional sports hub cannot be based on SCU as a provider/ manager/ operator of facilities, although it is supportive of mountain bike facilities. Given SCU's position in relation to future sports facilities on its land, and Council's asset management planning indicating that funding levels are insufficient to continue to maintain existing sport and recreation services at current levels in the medium term it, detailed feasibility studies will be required for any future sports hub facilities. Further investigation of sports hub facilities in Lismore should focus initially on mountain biking and gymnastics.

#### 9.2.6 Active Recreation

The research undertaken during this study suggests there is considerable demand for improved active recreation opportunities in the community.

Council's 2016 Community Satisfaction Survey found that the community's satisfaction with the provision and maintenance of parks, playgrounds and reserves was considered below an acceptable level, and a need to maintain or improve performance in this area was highlighted. The Community Survey for this study, albeit based on a small sample size with accompanying constraints (refer section 8.2), found that recreation parks ranked high in importance; off-road walk/ cycle, river recreation, adventure sports, and outdoor gyms were amongst the lowest rating elements for satisfaction; and older youth active spaces, river recreation, and seniors active space had among the largest gaps between their level of importance to respondents and satisfaction with Councils performance in delivering them.

Various community engagement activities and desktop research for this study also noted demand for improved river recreation opportunities, park enhancements (particularly in villages), and outdoor recreation activities including mountain biking.

It appears that residents are enthusiastic about active recreation and it should hold an important place in planning for sport and recreation.



### 9.2.7 Barriers to Participation

During engagement activities conducted for this study, the following items were raised as key barriers to participation in sport and recreation:

- Lack of access for people with disability - The Disability Access & Inclusion Advisory Group indicated there are few sport and recreation facilities with adequate access for people with a disability. This limits the opportunity for people with a disability to participate in sport and recreation either as a player/ participant or as a spectator.
- Lack of public toilets - A lack of access public toilets was raised in a number of forums as a barrier to participation, particularly in public parks. Concerns raised are a mix of a complete absence of toilets and toilets being locked.
- Safety in parks - The safety of parks, particularly in Central Lismore was raised as a barrier to participation, particularly for older residents.
- Public transport - Lack of transport options was highlighted as a major barrier to participation, particularly for older residents who no longer drive. It is also likely to be a barrier for younger people.

### 9.2.8 Economic Development

Economic development of the region is a priority goal for Lismore City Council. It features throughout Council's existing strategic framework and is a critical theme of this plan. Several opportunities for economic development through sport and recreation are evident.

- The region has an existing competitive advantage to attract major events at a number of venues and the sports they service due to recent, historic and imminent facility investment. These include Albert Park, Oakes Oval, Crozier Field and Hepburn Park which service the sports of hockey, baseball, cricket, AFL, soccer, rugby league and rugby union.
- Existing proposals to pursue Rail Trails may present excellent economic development potential. Industry research suggests that Rail Trails can be tremendous economic generators (refer section 7.2) and the Lismore region has an aesthetic landscape which offers real possibility. Furthermore, the region's proximity to the tourism hub of Byron Bay and existing unique tourism profile (particularly Nimbin) are favourable factors.
- Walking and cycling generally also offer economic development possibilities, both through enhancing the walkability/ cyclability of centres and neighbourhoods to increase trade, and through the provision of walking and cycling trails for tourism. Mountain Biking specifically can be a promising economic development generator through mountain bike tourism and events, with numerous Australian and international examples of economic returns quickly exceeding capital investment. As discussed earlier, a desire for increased walking and cycling opportunities was the strongest theme to emerge across all consultation activities for this plan. Therefore, enhancing walking and cycling opportunities through targeted approaches will have the dual benefit of providing for local demand and generating economic development.



## 10. Strategic Framework

### 10.1 Guiding Principles

A series of principles are proposed to provide guidance for Council's actions on sport and recreation. These principles underpin the strategic direction proposed in the Lismore Sport and Recreation Plan to 2024.

#### Strategic alignment

Council will ensure decisions and actions on sport and recreation align with other key Council plans in order to contribute to a cohesive Council direction and garner broad support.

#### Sustainability

Council will aim to deliver sport and recreation facilities and services that are financially and environmentally sustainable within its budget framework.

#### Contribute to economic development

Council will use sport and recreation as a tool for economic development (including tourism).

#### Access & equity

Council will work towards ensuring all members of the community have access to sport and recreation opportunities regardless of age, gender, physical ability, socioeconomic status or cultural identity.

#### Diversity of opportunity

Council will aim to provide a variety of formal and informal sport and recreation opportunities that are appropriate to urban, village and rural settings.

#### Support active lifestyles

Council acknowledges the individual and community benefits of a physically active community and commits to encouraging all residents to be physically active in partnership with other stakeholders who have a role in supporting active lifestyles.

#### Partnerships

Council will facilitate and maintain partnerships to maximise sport and recreation opportunities for its residents.

### 10.2 Vision

The following statement sets out the proposed vision for sport and recreation in the Lismore region over the next five years:

*Lismore City Council will foster a diverse range of sustainable sport and recreation opportunities, which respond to identified community needs, and provide economic benefits where possible by capitalising on the unique strengths of the region.*



## 10.3 Goals

Four goal areas and associated goals have been identified which respond to the research findings during this study.

- 1 Enhance our communities**  
Develop or upgrade sport and recreation facilities that improve resident's quality of life.
- 2 Activate our people**  
Raise the level of physical activity participation by residents of Lismore region to at least the national level by 2024.
- 3 Grow our economy**  
Increase economic growth through sport and recreation.
- 4 Maximise our resources**  
Improve the planning and sustainability of facilities and resources.



## 11. Recommendations

The recommendations contained within this plan build on the strategic context, guiding principles, and research findings. Following receipt of information and advice from Council, actions contained in the original Supporting Resources Document (Feb 2019) were updated in Feb 2020. Delivery of all recommendations contained in this report would be beyond the capacity of Council to fund in its own right. To that end, external funding and partnerships with other agencies/ organisations may need to be sought to implement some recommendations.

### 11.1 Enhance our Communities

GOAL AREA 1: ENHANCE OUR COMMUNITIES		
DEVELOP OR UPGRADE SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES THAT IMPROVE RESIDENT'S QUALITY OF LIFE		
RECOMMENDATIONS		
Reference	Action	Priority
1.1	<p>Implement the Oakes/ Crozier Field redevelopment strategy to deliver a Central City Sports Precinct by 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proceed with implementation of improvements which have already had funding of \$12.4m secured.</li> </ul>	Short Term
1.2	<p>Implement the Lismore Parklands Master Plan to provide a Destination Park for the City by 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek external funding opportunities and incorporate staged master plan drawings in funding applications</li> <li>Complete the revised Plan of Management.</li> </ul>	Short Term
1.3	<p>Develop an Open Space Strategy to enhance the provision and maintenance of Lismore's parks network within the next two years. The Strategy should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide strategic direction for the future provision of recreation parks in accordance with State Government planning legislation</li> <li>Recommend the distribution and standard of open space appropriate to Council's population, projected growth, corporate priorities and emerging community needs</li> <li>Review existing Desired Standards of Service (DSS) for the provision of public open space</li> </ul> <p>Specifically the Open Space Strategy should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake an audit of park embellishments and maintenance regimes against the DSS</li> <li>Review the location and classification of sites within the park hierarchy</li> <li>Identify priorities for acquisition, upgrading, redevelopment or disposal (as per the Pocket Parks Divestment Strategy)</li> <li>Audit the accessibility of parks for people with a disability</li> <li>Investigate walk/ cycle linkages and connectivity including river-based opportunities (refer recommendation 1.5)</li> <li>Include access to nature and nature play opportunities.</li> </ul>	Short Term and Ongoing
1.4	<p>Enhance sport and recreation within villages, particularly walking/ cycling, park improvements and Nimbin pool. Incorporate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walking and cycling within, around and between villages</li> <li>Walking and cycling connections to future Rail Trails for both local participation and economic benefit</li> <li>New or embellished local parks to respond to resident and visitor needs (priorities to be identified in the Open Space Strategy, refer recommendation 1.3)</li> <li>Work with the Nimbin community to investigate viable options for redeveloping the Nimbin swimming pool and adjacent park.</li> </ul>	Ongoing



## GOAL AREA 1: ENHANCE OUR COMMUNITIES

DEVELOP OR UPGRADE SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES THAT IMPROVE RESIDENT'S QUALITY OF LIFE

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Reference	Action	Priority
1.5	<p>Create a riverside open space network as a hub for recreation. Incorporate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the Bridge to Bridge development project and linkages identified in the Open Space Strategy (refer recommendation 1.3)</li> <li>• Investigation of launch points and trail heads for paddle sports</li> <li>• Consider preparation of a Master Plan for Lismore Lake</li> </ul>	Medium Term



## 11.2 Activate our People

### GOAL AREA 2: ACTIVATE OUR PEOPLE

RAISE THE LEVEL OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION BY RESIDENTS OF LISMORE REGION TO AT LEAST THE NATIONAL LEVEL BY 2024

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Reference	Action	Priority
2.1	<p>Prepare a Walking and Cycling Strategy to encourage increased participation in walking and cycling for recreation, commuting and fitness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake as an early priority of the Sport &amp; Recreation Plan to 2024</li> <li>• The Strategy should consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Links to the existing Cycleway Plan 2011 which focusses on commuter cycling</li> <li>○ Opportunities for recreational walk/ cycle paths, including riverside paths</li> <li>○ Network connectivity to key generators such as shopping centres, schools, major parks, public transport nodes</li> <li>○ Connectivity to new residential areas and linkages to and within villages</li> <li>○ Connectivity to nature based recreation opportunities such as trail heads, rail trails, mountain bike trails</li> <li>○ Hierarchy of walk/ cycle paths within the network</li> <li>○ High level consideration of disability access, safety (CPTED principles), lighting, shade, seating, water bubblers, and signage</li> <li>○ Mapping of priority new developments and linkages</li> <li>○ Cost estimates</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Immediate - Short Term (planning) Medium - Long Term (construction)</p>
2.2	<p>Partner with other agencies to establish an 'Active and Healthy Lismore Task Force' to increase physical activity and reduce obesity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key partners should include the Northern Rivers Health Promotion Unit (NSW Health), NSW Government Office of Sport, Southern Cross University, Disability Agencies, PCYC and GSAC</li> <li>• Convene the Task Force in 2021 and establish Terms of Reference.</li> </ul>	Short Term
2.3	<p>Continue to deliver active infrastructure in public spaces including sports facilities, exercise equipment and playgrounds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate relevant elements of existing master plans and any specific priorities identified in the Open Space Strategy</li> </ul>	Ongoing



## GOAL AREA 2: ACTIVATE OUR PEOPLE

RAISE THE LEVEL OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION BY RESIDENTS OF LISMORE REGION TO AT LEAST THE NATIONAL LEVEL BY 2024

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Reference	Action	Priority
2.4	<p>Play an advocacy role to encourage active lifestyles through marketing and promotion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involve the Active and Healthy Lismore Task Force in developing a marketing and promotion campaign to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Encourage residents to be active in public spaces and facilities</li> <li>○ Encourage residents to participate in physical activity programs</li> <li>○ Promote access to natural settings both in urban/village areas and across the region</li> <li>○ Encourage residents to join sporting clubs</li> <li>○ Encourage sporting clubs to deliver modified activities to offer less formal participation opportunities eg 'pay, play, away' activities, fitness classes, social competitions</li> <li>○ Encourage other organisations to deliver physical activity programs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Seek 'champions' of active living among Councillors and community leaders and encourage them to promote active living.</li> </ul>	Short term and ongoing
2.5	<p>Deliver or support programs which stimulate participation in physical activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate delivery and promotion of physical activity programs as a key element of the Terms of Reference for the Active and Healthy Task Force</li> <li>• Provide an on-line directory of facilities and programs provided by Council, community, education, health and private sectors.</li> <li>• Continuing to deliver physical activity programs at GSAC.</li> <li>• Seek out funding for targeted programs to fill gaps, particularly for target groups ie youth, older adults and Indigenous people.</li> </ul>	Short term and ongoing



## 11.3 Grow our Economy

### GOAL AREA 3: GROW OUR ECONOMY

DELIVER ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH SPORT AND RECREATION

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Reference	Action	Priority
3.1	<p>Clearly identify the contribution of sport and recreation to the Lismore economy and grow that by 5% per annum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop processes to measure and monitor the value of sport and recreation to Lismore's economy</li> </ul>	Short term and ongoing
3.2	<p>Capitalise on recent investment and continue to develop Lismore as a Sports Hub for spectator events or mass participation events (where facility developments are sustainable).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify events in sports where Lismore has a competitive advantage and develop a strategy to pursue and/ or retain those events</li> <li>• In cooperation with sporting codes, seek high level spectator events at the Oakes/ Crozier facility</li> <li>• Investigate the feasibility of creating space for the North Coast Academy of Sport at one of Lismore's major facilities</li> </ul>	Ongoing



GOAL AREA 3: GROW OUR ECONOMY		
DELIVER ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH SPORT AND RECREATION		
RECOMMENDATIONS		
Reference	Action	Priority
3.3	<p>Support planning and development of the Casino to Eltham Rail Trail as a high priority for economic development, participation in walking and cycling, and generation of associated business opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to support the Northern Rivers Rail Trail Inc</li> <li>Support and facilitate external funding opportunities</li> <li>Council should undertake a study tour of successful rail trail developments in order to assist in planning and management (refer section 7.2).</li> </ul>	Short - Medium Term
3.4	<p>Assist Northern Rivers Rail Trail Inc. to develop a sustainable management and operational model for the Casino to Eltham Rail Trail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liaise with neighbouring Councils (Tweed and Richmond Valley) regarding management and operational arrangements for rail trails in their Shires</li> <li>Investigate management and maintenance models for rail trails elsewhere in Australia and overseas and work with Northern Rivers Rail Trails Inc and other stakeholders to ensure a sustainable approach</li> </ul>	Short Term
3.5	<p>Deliver economic benefit by improving the walkability and cyclability of the CBD and villages (actions to be identified in the Walking and Cycling Strategy - refer section 11.2, recommendation 2.1) .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a Walking and Cycling Strategy as an early priority of the Sport &amp; Recreation Plan to 2024</li> </ul>	Short Term and ongoing
3.6	<p>Capitalise on the region's natural characteristics by facilitating greater access to outdoor recreation opportunities. In particular, develop a Mountain Bike Strategy to explore the potential for positioning the Northern Rivers as a mountain bike hub for events, tourism and recreational riding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate mountain bike trail developments in neighbouring Richmond Valley Council to ensure the most effective type/ hieracchy of mountain bike trails and avoid duplication</li> <li>The strategy should consider opportunities to align mountain bike routes with Rail Trail development.</li> <li>Major trail developments targeting tourism/ major events should be subject to additional feasibility analysis.</li> </ul>	Short - Medium Term



## 11.4 Maximise our Resources

GOAL AREA 4: MAXIMISE OUR RESOURCES		
IMPROVE THE PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY OF FACILITIES AND RESOURCES		
RECOMMENDATIONS		
Reference	Action	Priority
4.1	<p>Ensure that development of new facilities is evidence-based, affordable and sustainable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Sport and Recreation Core Asset Management Plan, March 2017 (refer section 5) identifies that funding levels are insufficient to continue to provide existing services at current levels in the medium term. Any new facility development(s) should therefore be subject to rigorous feasibility studies/ business cases to ensure their capital and operational viability.</li> </ul>	Ongoing





GOAL AREA 4: MAXIMISE OUR RESOURCES		
IMPROVE THE PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY OF FACILITIES AND RESOURCES		
RECOMMENDATIONS		
Reference	Action	Priority
4.2	<p>Target a minimum peak time occupancy rate of 80% for indoor sports courts at the Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peak time occupancy (commonly accepted as 4-10pm weekdays and 9am-5pm week-ends for indoor centres) is well below 50%.</li> <li>Promote internal (centre-managed) social competitions in court sports during peak times</li> <li>Investigate the feasibility of converting the synthetic floor to timber to attract greater basketball usage</li> </ul>	Medium Term
4.3	<p>Review Council's fees and charges policy for sports facilities to improve equity and deliver a more strategy cost recovery regime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise the review of fees and charges</li> </ul>	Short Term
4.4	<p>As leases expire, review tenure arrangements for clubs on land owned or controlled by Council to ensure consistency and equity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a register of Council sport and recreation land/ facilities over which some form of tenure is provided</li> <li>Ensure that all occupants of sport and recreation land/ facilities provided by Council are subject to Council's tenure policy</li> </ul>	Short Term
4.5	<p>Help clubs to be more resilient and self-reliant by providing support such as training, networking and mentoring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with NSW Office of Sport and State Sporting Organisations to provide support</li> </ul>	Short term and Ongoing
4.6	<p>Develop an 'Adopt a Park' program which encourages residents to help care for parks, open spaces and paths/trails in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involve Council's Community Engagement Team in developing the program. Incorporate the following elements:</li> <li>Volunteer register</li> <li>Community education and basic volunteer skills development program (delivered by Council's maintenance team initially, and then by volunteer leaders)</li> <li>Partnership with organisations that may be able to assist to organise and skill volunteers eg Volunteering NSW, Landcare</li> <li>Marketing and promotion</li> <li>Monitoring and evaluation to gauge success</li> </ul>	Medium Term
4.7	<p>Ensure adequate staffing to implement this plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to assess staffing levels and workloads in the sport and recreation area in conjunction with Council's HR area</li> </ul>	Short Term and Ongoing
4.8	<p>Pursue creative funding strategies, partnerships, and community capacity building to maximise available resources and outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to pursue external grant funding</li> <li>Partner with sports, where appropriate, to reduce capital and/ or operational outlays</li> <li>Where appropriate, encourage community involvement in the maintenance of open space/ paths (refer recommendation 4.7)</li> <li>Continue to apply proceeds from the Pocket Parks Divestment Strategy to sport and recreation land/ facilities</li> </ul>	Ongoing
4.9	<p>Investigate a special rate levy (SRV) to support implementation of this plan. When various strategies outlined in this plan are completed, quantify associated costs and determine the need for an SRV</p>	Medium Term



---

## 12. Warranties and Disclaimers

The information contained in this report is provided in good faith. While Otium Planning Group has applied its experience to the task, it has relied upon information supplied by other persons and organisations. We have not conducted an audit of the information provided by others but have accepted it in good faith.

Readers should pay particular attention to the contents of the “Note to Readers” contained at section 2 of this document which describes timing issues relating to the preparation of this document.

Community engagement and the preparation of recommendations was undertaken as a collaborative exercise with Lismore City Council. Readers should be aware that the preparation of this report may have necessitated projections of the future that are inherently uncertain and that our opinion is based on the information provided and underlying representations, assumptions and projections detailed in this report.

Accordingly, neither Otium Planning Group, nor any member or employee of Otium Planning Group, undertakes responsibility arising in any way whatsoever to any persons other than client in respect of this report, for any errors or omissions herein, arising through negligence or otherwise however caused.