

RECREATION & OPEN SPACE STRATEGY (2005 - 2015)

Prepared for Wagga Wagga City Council



*Final Report
March 2005*

Prepared by Stratcorp Consulting Pty Ltd
stratcorp@stratcorp.com.au
www.stratcorp.com.au

© Stratcorp Consulting Pty Ltd, 2005

strat **CORP**
consulting

melbourne . sydney . brisbane

DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

The information contained in this report is intended for the specific use of the within named party to which it is addressed ("the Stratcorp Consulting client") only. All recommendations by Stratcorp Consulting are based on information provided by or on behalf of the Stratcorp Consulting client and Stratcorp Consulting has relied on such information being correct at the time this report is prepared.

All recommendations contained herein must be adhered to without variation, unless otherwise agreed in writing by Stratcorp Consulting. Stratcorp Consulting shall take no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to the Stratcorp Consulting client or to any third party whether direct or consequential as a result of or in any way arising from any unauthorised use of this report or any recommendations contained herein.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1.	City Description and Context	1
1.2.	Background.....	1
1.3.	Scope and Study Outcomes.....	2
1.4.	Acknowledgements.....	2
2.	BENEFITS OF RECREATION, SPORT AND OPEN SPACE.....	3
2.1.	Mental Health	3
2.2.	Well-Being Through Open Space.....	3
2.3.	Anti-Social Behaviour and Recreation Participation	4
2.4.	Social.....	4
2.5.	Emotional.....	4
2.6.	Environmental.....	5
2.7.	Vocational.....	5
2.8.	Implications	5
3.	POLICY CONTEXT.....	6
3.1.	<i>Draft</i> Wagga Wagga Vision 21 (2002)	6
3.2.	Wagga Wagga Social Plan (2004).....	7
3.3.	Strategic Plan for Recreation in Wagga Wagga (1998)	7
3.4.	Wagga Wagga Bikeway Plan (1998).....	8
3.5.	Bolton Park Recreation Reserve Master Plan (2000).....	8
3.6.	Murrumbidgee River Urban Interface – Plan of Management (2001)	9
3.7.	Wiradjuri Reserve – Plan of Management (2000).....	9
3.8.	Other Reports.....	10
4.	PROPOSED OPEN SPACE AND SPORTS FACILITIES HIERARCHY.....	11
4.1.	Overview	11
4.2.	Sports Grounds	12
4.2.1.	State/National	12
4.2.2.	Regional	12
4.2.3.	District.....	12
4.2.4.	Local.....	12
4.3.	Parks.....	13
4.3.1.	Regional Park.....	14
4.3.2.	District Park	14
4.3.3.	Local Park.....	14
4.3.4.	Ornamental/Utility Park	15
4.3.5.	Undeveloped Open Space.....	15
4.4.	General Community Use Areas	15
4.5.	Culturally Significant Areas	15
4.6.	Natural Areas (bushland, escarpment, wetland, watercourse, foreshore).....	15
4.7.	Summary.....	16
5.	EXISTING PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE.....	17
6.	EXISTING PROVISION OF SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES	20
6.1.	Council Sports and Recreation Reserves.....	20
6.2.	Council Sport & Recreation Facilities	21
6.2.1.	Regional Aquatic and Sports Centres.....	21

6.2.2.	Major Sports Facilities	21
6.2.3.	Other Recreation Facilities	21
6.3.	Other Public and Privately Owned/Operated Recreation Facilities and Spaces	22
6.3.1.	Sports and Recreation Reserves	22
6.3.2.	Sports and Recreation Facilities	22
6.4.	Overall Summary of Available Sporting Facilities	23
6.5.	Adequacy of Current Sports Facility Provision	24
6.6.	Education Facilities	26
6.7.	Analysis and Summary of Existing Sports and Recreation Facilities	27
7.	SPORTS CLUB MEMBERSHIP	29
7.1.	Wagga Wagga Sports Participation	29
8.	DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF WAGGA WAGGA LGA.....	31
8.1.	Wagga Wagga LGA.....	31
8.2.	Age Profiles.....	31
8.3.	Country of Birth	32
8.4.	Household Type.....	32
8.5.	Employment Status.....	33
8.6.	Income Levels	33
8.7.	Number of Motor Vehicles per Household.....	33
8.8.	Wagga Wagga LGA Rural Areas	34
8.9.	Implications of Demographics.....	34
9.	SUMMARY OF RELEVANT TRENDS	36
9.1.	Trends in Open Space Planning and Use.....	36
9.2.	General Leisure Participation Trends	36
9.3.	Sports Participation Trends - Children.....	38
9.4.	Participation Trends Based on <i>Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey</i>	39
9.4.1.	Adult Participation	39
9.4.2.	Organised and Non-Organised Participation	41
9.5.	Sports Trends	41
10.	COMMUNITY CONSULTATION OVERVIEW	43
10.1.	Process.....	43
11.	CONSULTATION - HOUSEHOLD TELEPHONE SURVEY	44
11.1.	Data Collection	44
11.2.	Profile of Respondents.....	44
11.3.	Distribution of Respondents	45
11.4.	Sport and Recreation Participation.....	46
11.5.	Popular Sport and Recreation Activities	47
11.6.	Organised Participation.....	47
11.7.	Frequency of Participation.....	48
11.8.	Reasons for Non-Participation	48
11.9.	Sport and Recreation Facilities	49
11.10.	Possible Future Activities.....	50
11.11.	Leisure Statements.....	50
11.12.	Current Use of Parks and Open Space.....	51
11.13.	Current Use of Community Halls	52
12.	CONSULTATION – OTHER BROAD COMMUNITY INPUT	54
12.1.	Cultural and Open Space Forum	54

12.2.	Community Submissions.....	54
12.3.	Private Recreation Facility Operators.....	56
13.	CONSULTATION – COUNCIL PERSONNEL AND TARGET GROUPS.....	57
13.1.	Council Staff.....	57
13.2.	Indigenous People.....	58
13.3.	People with a Disability (and Carer)	58
13.4.	Youth Families	58
13.5.	Older Adults	59
13.6.	School Students.....	59
14.	CONSULTATION – SPORTING GROUPS.....	61
14.1.	Sports Group Survey	61
14.2.	Sports Group Forum.....	62
14.3.	Sports Wagga Wagga	63
15.	POLICY/GUIDELINES REVIEW.....	64
15.1.	Sports Grounds Fees and Charges	64
15.1.1.	Background.....	64
15.1.2.	Recommended Policy Framework.....	65
15.2.	Conditions For Use of Council Sports Grounds	75
15.2.1.	Background.....	75
15.2.2.	Proposed Additions/Alterations	75
15.3.	Community Grants.....	77
15.3.1.	Background.....	77
15.3.2.	Proposed Additions/Alterations	77
15.4.	Exercise For Dogs In Public Areas	79
15.4.1.	Recommended Policy Framework.....	79
16.	KEY ISSUES / OPPORTUNITIES.....	81
17.	OPEN SPACE PROVISION.....	84
17.1.	Proposed Minimum Levels of Provision of Open Space.....	84
17.2.	Proposed Open Space System	84
17.3.	Objectives.....	85
17.4.	Guiding Principles	85
17.4.1.	General Principles for Open Space Provision.....	85
17.4.2.	Principles for the Development of Sports Grounds	86
17.4.3.	Principles for the Development of Regional and District Parks	87
17.4.4.	Principles for the Development of Local Parks	89
17.4.5.	Principles for the Development of Natural Areas.....	89
18.	RECREATION & OPEN SPACE STRATEGY	92
18.1.	Policy Statement.....	92
18.2.	Principles	92
18.3.	Key Goals	93
18.4.	Strategy Development Criteria.....	93
18.5.	Strategic Objective # 1	94
18.6.	Strategic Objective # 2	97
18.7.	Strategic Objective # 3	99
18.8.	Strategic Objective # 4	101
18.9.	Strategic Objective # 5	103
18.10.	Strategic Objective # 6	104

18.11. Strategic Objective # 7	107
19. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	109
19.1. Active Recreation and Sport	109
19.2. Passive Recreation & Open Space	109
19.3. Detailed Grants Information for External Programs	110
19.4. Developer Contributions Plan	115
20. STRATEGY REVIEW AND EVALUATION	117
21. CONCLUSION	118

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 – LGA Open Space Provision - Current (2001) vs Projected Scenario (2015)
- Appendix 2 – Sports Reserve Inventory
- Appendix 3 – Schools Sports Facility Inventory
- Appendix 4 – Sports Club Membership Data
- Appendix 5 – Consultation with Private Facility Managers
- Appendix 6 - Summary of Sports Clubs' Surveys
- Appendix 7 – Cost Estimates for Proposed Strategic Projects

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. City Description and Context

The City of Wagga Wagga is located in the Riverina Region of NSW midway between Sydney and Melbourne. It is a city of mixed interests and diverse functions, with several major industries, the Charles Sturt University, Defence Force bases, and is the location for many regional offices for NSW Government Departments. The City has a strong and proud tradition of sports participation, and currently features a diverse range of visual and performing arts facilities and events.

Wagga Wagga is the largest inland city in NSW and supports a regional catchment population of over 150,000 people. The City of Wagga Wagga has a total population of 56,722 people, with almost 91% (or 51,104 people) residing in the Wagga Wagga urban area. It is projected that the LGA's population will rise to 68,500 people by 2020, with most of this increase occurring within the Wagga Wagga urban area.

The Murrumbidgee River is the City's most important and prominent natural feature, and winds its way through the heart of the City. To the south and west of the Central Business District, undulating hills with preserved ridgelines and hilltops provide important recreational and wildlife habitat corridors.

As well as the Wagga Wagga urban area, the LGA comprises the rural villages of Collingullie, Currawarna, Humula, Ladysmith, Tarcutta, Uranquinty, Oura, Mangoplah, and Galore.

1.2. Background

Wagga Wagga City Council takes a lead role in the planning and provision of recreation and cultural facilities and activities for the Wagga Wagga LGA, and the Riverina Region, in general. In order to effectively support this leadership role, Council requires an understanding of what it currently provides and to whom, community aspirations and needs in relation to recreation and cultural facilities and services, and strategies to match these needs for future facility and service provision.

Two planning processes were undertaken in parallel during 2004 to ensure the necessary policy framework is in place for the delivery of recreation and cultural services to 2015, and beyond:

1. *Wagga Wagga Recreation & Open Space Strategy (2005 – 2015).*
2. *Wagga Wagga Cultural Strategy (2005 – 2010).*

This integrated approach to the future provision of recreation and cultural services will provide the future direction for:

1. Council's role in the provision of recreation and cultural facilities.
2. The development of Objectives to identify priorities for the provision of recreation and cultural facilities.
3. Strategies and Actions to address these Objectives.
4. A framework for which Council can monitor it's success.

This report is the *Wagga Wagga Recreation & Open Space Strategy (2005 – 2015).*

The adoption and implementation of the recommendations contained in this Strategy have significant implications for human, infrastructure and financial resources, which need to be carefully considered before adopting all or some recommendations.

1.3. Scope and Study Outcomes

For the purposes of the study, “open space” means that land which is *public* open space, inclusive of all areas owned/managed by Council, such as parks, playgrounds, sports grounds, reserves, gardens, rivers, lakes, bushland and other areas including urban open space (malls/public squares).

The Study Outcomes as identified in the Study Brief were:

1. The study is required to achieve a process of consultation, research and analysis that is founded upon:
 - A sound knowledge of current and future community needs impacting on or impacted by the provision of recreation and cultural facilities and open space.
 - Development of a shared vision between Council and the community to enable a future policy to be formulated by Council for recreation and cultural facilities and open space provision within the LGA.
 - Integrated planning within the context of Council’s corporate goals, policy directions, financial strategy and community service obligations.
 - Provision of data, analysis and recommendations for Council to develop clear and achievable strategies.
2. The study is required to produce a planning document that includes the following:
 - Analysis of current and future needs for open space, recreation and cultural facilities.
 - Policy and the likely expenditure implications for Council’s Management Plan, the Developer Agreements, and subsequent implementation programs for Council.
 - Integration into Council’s existing LEP’s, DCP’s, Social Plan, plans of management and engineering development standards.

1.4. Acknowledgements

Stratcorp Consulting would like to acknowledge the contribution of the Project Steering Committee for their ongoing input into the preparation of the *Wagga Wagga Recreation & Open Space Strategy (2005 – 2015)*. In addition, other Council staff and stakeholder representatives provided advice and information where required, and the involvement of those residents who participated in various community surveys and forums is acknowledged.

The day-to-day administration for the study was undertaken by Robert Knight, Council's Manager Recreation and Cultural Services.

2. BENEFITS OF RECREATION, SPORT AND OPEN SPACE

The health and fitness benefits attained through regular participation in sport and recreation activities have been well researched and documented. A key benefit from regular participation in physical activity is a reduction in the onset of cardiovascular disease, which is a major health and economic burden for Australia, and is the country's greatest health problem (*Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2000*). Recent estimates of annual costs to the health system from cardiovascular disease were at \$3.7 billion, accounting for approximately 40% of deaths in 1998 (*Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2000*).

Recently, recreation participation has also been linked to the prevention and treatment of other physical and mental illnesses, and as a useful intervention strategy in reducing anti-social behaviour.

2.1. Mental Health

At any one time, mental health problems will affect one in four Australians. Particularly at risk are the young and old, the socially isolated and new mothers. Each of these population sub-groups is evident in the City of Wagga Wagga.

It is estimated that \$1.31 billion is spent annually in Australia on specialised mental health services and that each year about 2.9% of Australians experience a serious mental illness (approximately 500,000 Australians) and up to 22% of the adult population experience some form of mental health problem within any one year. At least 10-15% of young people are affected at any one time¹.

Research into mental health continues to link physical health with mental health. Participation in sport or recreational programs provides opportunities for socialising, building friendship networks, reducing social isolation and enhancing community well being. This ultimately leads to improved physical and mental health².

Civic participation (or volunteerism) has also been shown to be equally as important as participation in activities and recreational pursuits in promoting improved wellbeing. Volunteers stand out from other workers in having the highest levels of well-being. Mostly aged over 55 years, they enjoy high levels of satisfaction with their lives, work and leisure, health, sense of community connection and religion or spirituality. Many opportunities are available for volunteerism through the provision of recreation services³.

2.2. Well-Being Through Open Space

Around the world there is a growing acceptance of the strong link between a healthy parks system that is accessible to everybody, and a healthy society. It has been documented that people need encouragement to see easy options that will contribute to their well-being. Along with the obvious benefits of open space for organised physical pursuits (e.g. sport), parks are also refuges from urban stress, places for families to get together for picnics, spots for people to enjoy numerous outdoor activities, and for children to safely explore the natural environment. Almost everyone's physical and mental well-being is improved by visiting a park⁴.

¹ Source: VicHealth publications, 2003.

² Source: "Together We Do Better" website.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Source: Parks Victoria publications, 2003.

Parks Victoria recently instigated an extensive promotional campaign espousing the benefits of regularly visiting and utilising parks. The clear and simple slogan *Healthy Parks Healthy People* implies that the environmental health of parks results in a healthy community and that spending active recreation time in a well cared for park environment leads to greater health and fitness of both individuals and society. Parks and nature have enormous untapped health potential as they provide an opportunity for people to re-establish and maintain their health in a holistic manner.

2.3. Anti-Social Behaviour and Recreation Participation

Sport and physical activity programs provide an effective vehicle through which personal and social development in young people can be positively affected. Sport has been shown to be an effective intervention strategy in reducing anti-social behaviour in some young people, with the key aspects being to:

- Reduce boredom in youth; and
- Decrease the amount of unsupervised leisure time.

Preventing and reducing boredom is important due to its reported links to depression, distractibility and loneliness⁵.

2.4. Social

Participation in sport and recreation activities can provide the following social benefits:

- Improving interpersonal skills.
- Establishing and nurturing satisfying relationships.
- Greater acceptance of, and respect for, differences in others.
- Becoming more adaptable and attuned to social change.
- An enhanced sense of belonging to a community.

Socially aware and confident people add to a community's social capital, which underpins community members' ability to deal confidently with difficulties and support fellow residents.

2.5. Emotional

Emotional benefits gained through participation in sport and recreation activities can include the following:

- Enhanced self-esteem.
- Greater confidence in unfamiliar situations.
- Positive changes in attitude and mood.
- A willingness to express personal feelings, ideas and concerns.
- A heightened sense of belonging, which enhances people's ability to trust and form meaningful relationships.

⁵ Source: *Sport, Physical Activity and Anti-Social Behaviour in Youth*, published by Australian Institute of Criminology, April 2003.

2.6. Environmental

Participation in sport and recreation activities, and use of parks and open spaces can provide the following environmental benefits:

- Gaining a heightened appreciation of the natural and built environments.
- Understanding the pivotal role people play in preserving, protecting and improving environmental conditions.

2.7. Vocational

Vocational benefits from participation in sport and recreation activities can include:

- Improved fitness and work capacity.
- Clearer thinking and better problem-solving abilities.
- Better team skills.
- Better able to manage stress.
- Expanded networking and career development opportunities.
- Being more adaptable to change.

2.8. Implications

The implications from the above review of the benefits of participation in and use of recreation and open space on the *Recreation & Open Space Strategy* are as follows:

1. The health and well-being of the community is an important factor for consideration of recreation and open space provision.
2. Social interaction and community development are outcomes from participation and involvement by residents in recreation activities, e.g. volunteers.
3. Use of open space areas for recreation pursuits (passive or active) will provide emotional, social and physical benefits for whole-of-life.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

A review of current Council strategic planning documents and previous research was completed to identify key issues and recommendations relevant to the study.

3.1. **Draft Wagga Wagga Vision 21 (2002)**

Vision 21 is a strategic planning document which outlines a future direction for the growth, development and style for the City of Wagga Wagga by planning for the future form, shape and land use arrangements for the City and surrounds. Key issues and future directions identified through the planning process important for the *Recreation & Open Space Strategy* include:

- There has been poor provision of open space in areas developed in the past 20 years where accepted allocations have included non-developable parcels of land, such as drainage corridors and transmission line easements.
- In respect of open space, the aims of Vision 21 are:
 - To provide clear direction towards the future growth of the City of Wagga Wagga.
 - To provide guidelines as to the provision of open space and the role of open space in the preservation of the natural environment of the City.
 - The provision of recreational and sporting opportunities for residents.
 - To provide useable spaces both passive and active that reflect the needs of the community.
- The current standard for the Wagga Wagga City Council for open space provision is 4 hectares per 1,000 persons. The previous standard (for the period prior to 1993) was 2.28ha/1,000, which is reflected today in the relative low provision for open space in established suburbs of Mt Austin and Turvey Park.
- Specific Actions identified in Vision 21 for open space provision and planning include:
 - Ensure that every neighbourhood has access to areas specifically for active and passive open space, not just spaces used for utility corridors, buffers or drainage easements.
 - Ensure the overall size and width of open space is adequate for its intended purpose and is economical to maintain.
 - Ensure that the majority of park land fronts main roads and can be easily viewed.
 - Future parks are to be no less than 0.5 hectare in size unless they are being created as part of infill development.
 - Review the current standard for the dedication of open space land in the City.
 - The changing demographics of the City's population be recognised as a factor in the determination of open space needs.
 - Planning required and development of a regionally significant area of open space to the north of the City.
 - Strategic planning for and development of the Riverfront to recognise its cultural, recreational, tourism and environmental value.

- Provide linear open space links in rural residential areas for pedestrian, horse and bike trails.
- Long term planning of district and regional sized useable open space areas.

3.2. Wagga Wagga Social Plan (2004)

Council has prepared a *Social Plan*, and the key issues identified during the public consultation and research phases of the planning process, which are relevant for the *Recreation & Open Space Strategy* include:

- All age groups regarded “recreation” as important, and the age groups of 25 years plus indicated that improved recreational opportunities for young people were very important.
- There is a current trend away from organised sporting activities to non-formal leisure pursuits, whilst at the same time there is a demand for higher quality sporting facilities at a local level as competition becomes more sophisticated.
- Existing parks and reserves are highly valued, with specific praise given to Willans Hill Botanic Gardens, the Zoo, BBQ area and the bush reserve, the Victory Memorial Gardens, and Lake Albert walking track.
- There was a strong demand for improved maintenance of parks and reserves, improved playground equipment, provision of shade over equipment, development of older age playgrounds, provision of hard court areas and seating.
- The Murrumbidgee River and Lake Albert were regularly mentioned indicating that these features are a critical part of the sense of local identity. Specific mention for improved maintenance and development was made of the River beach, the levee bank walkway, other river reserves, Lake Albert walking track and foreshore parks.
- Walkways and bikeways were mentioned specifically for improvement, both as means of transport and for their recreational value. Issues related to extension of the existing network, and to surface improvements.
- A desire for local opportunities for leisure was strongly identified as a need during the general community consultation with regard to both facilities and activities. Suggestions included skate parks, playgrounds for older children and young people, park improvements, hard court areas for hand tennis and other ball games, swimming pools and venues for playgroups and other community activities.
- Recent programs of community events were highly valued, and there was a strong desire expressed for family friendly, affordable and alcohol free events.
- For people from rural villages, issues are a need for improved maintenance of existing recreational infrastructure, development of youth-focused infrastructure, and transport to the urban area.

The Plan contains a series of Strategies and Actions that were considered during the preparation of the *Recreation & Open Space Strategy (2005 – 2015)*.

3.3. Strategic Plan for Recreation in Wagga Wagga (1998)

This Plan was prepared by *Mandis Roberts Consultants* to set a long-term direction for Council to plan and provide for the future recreation needs of residents and visitors in the next 20 years. The strategic directions to achieve the “20 year recreation vision” identified in the plan include:

1. Range of recreation opportunities.

2. Quality recreation settings.
3. Access to recreation opportunities.
4. Environmental sustainability.
5. Community participation and involvement.
6. Best practice management.

A progress report has been prepared by recreation staff on the status of the implementation of the various Strategies and Actions contained within the Plan. Strategies and Actions not yet implemented have been considered for inclusion into the *Recreation & Open Space Strategy (2005 – 2015)*, where deemed still relevant and valid through this planning process.

3.4. Wagga Wagga Bikeway Plan (1998)

This Plan was prepared in-house by Council's *Transport Planning and Management Branch* and is a strategic plan for the development of a network of bikeways to provide for safer cycle use in the urban area. The strategy used a number of research techniques including observation surveys of key routes used by cyclists, consultation with the broad community and stakeholder groups, and identification of missing links and bicycle trip generators.

The 15 main routes forming the Bikeway Network have built on the routes identified in the previous Bikeway Plan (1992), with their prioritisation and order of implementation being divided into 5 stages.

Discussions with Council staff responsible for the implementation of the Bikeway Plan, indicated that a combination of on-road and off-road cycle paths have been completed which link North Wagga Wagga with Lake Albert in the south, using the key linkages of the River levee and Koorinal Road. In addition, several urban routes have been completed to link key destination points to residential areas.

Key directions from the Bikeway Plan not yet implemented are incorporated into the *Recreation & Open Space Strategy (2005 – 2015)*, where they were deemed still relevant and valid through this planning process, including the provision of a continuous foreshore circuit around Lake Albert.

3.5. Bolton Park Recreation Reserve Master Plan (2000)

This Plan was prepared by *Michael King and Associates* to provide a master plan that allows for the integrated development of active and passive recreational and sporting areas across the Park. The need for the master plan was to assess the impact and resolve specific planning issues from a number of development proposals for various locations within the Park. These included:

1. Development of a proposed new (at the time) regional indoor aquatic centre adjacent to the indoor stadium.
2. Major upgrade of Robertson Oval to meet AFL and State cricket event needs.
3. Development of a proposed new (at the time) skate park adjacent to the indoor stadium and netball courts.
4. Relocation of netball to another site.
5. Possible modification and use of the open space areas to meet drainage retention needs.

Three site development options were prepared as the basis for discussion and review, which were then refined to create a new master plan for Bolton Park. The key elements of the master plan are:

- Redevelopment of Robertson Oval to create a State standard playing venue for AFL, State cricket and other regional sporting events.
- Redevelopment of the outdoor pool complex into an indoor aquatic centre (completed).
- Retention of the Wagga Croquet Club and the South Wagga Bowling Club.
- Repositioning of a number of the tennis courts Bolton Park Tennis Complex to allow for the expansion of Robertson Oval.
- Upgraded playing fields and picnic areas.
- Development of a new skate park on at the Park (completed).

3.6. Murrumbidgee River Urban Interface – Plan of Management (2001)

This Plan of Management was prepared by *Alexandra Dalglish Landscape Architect* to guide Council for the future management of the Murrumbidgee Riverbank Reserve (west side) between Wiradjuri Bridge and the Association of Riverina Cultural Clubs building (1.7km length). Key directions in the Plan important for the *Recreation & Open Space Strategy* include:

- The natural elements of this length of the River, such as the riverbanks and associated vegetation, are recognised as significant habitat zones.
- Opportunities exist along this length to promote the River for both recreational and scientific purposes.
- Provide a balance between organised sport and informal recreation opportunities, recognising that informal recreation will continue to be preferred over active sport.
- Improve existing and provides new picnic tables, seats, bins, BBQs, shelters and lighting along the riverbank.
- Investigate plausible soil erosion control measures to the Wagga Wagga Beach frontage (possible constructed elements).
- To manage the Wiradjuri Walking Track as a useable and safe pedestrian network and to promote the use of the levee by cyclists.

3.7. Wiradjuri Reserve – Plan of Management (2000)

This Plan of Management was prepared by *Alexandra Dalglish Landscape Architect* to guide Council for the future management of the Wiradjuri Reserve, a 24 hectare open space area north of Wagga Wagga City on the west side of the Murrumbidgee River. Key directions in the Plan important for the *Recreation & Open Space Strategy* include:

- Promote Wiradjuri Reserve as a possible starting point for walking loops of the Wiradjuri Walking Track.
- Promote Wiradjuri Reserve as a possible starting point for a loop bike ride from Hampden Bridge.
- Promote the existing vehicular system as a shared cycling route.
- Continually monitor and remove snags from within the designated swimming area.

- Discourage boat launching from Wiradjuri Reserve into the River (preferred location is the boat ramp in North Wagga Wagga). Hand held launching of canoes and small water craft is acceptable from Wiradjuri Reserve.
- Retain and continue to maintain the three cricket wickets and sports ground.

3.8. Other Reports

Other reports reviewed include:

- *Draft Wagga Wagga Residential Land and Housing Strategy & Review (2002).*
- *Strategic Plan for the Management of Public Land in the City of Wagga Wagga (1995).*
- *Application of Section 94 Funds to Recreation & Community Facilities (1987).*
- *Recreation Study of the City of Wagga Wagga (1984).*
- *Various documents and reports relating to the Equex Exhibition Centre.*

4. PROPOSED OPEN SPACE AND SPORTS FACILITIES HIERARCHY

4.1. Overview

The *Local Government Act (1993)* requires that all land vested in a Local Government Authority must be classified as either "Operational" or "Community". *Operational Land* would ordinarily comprise land held as a temporary asset or as an investment, land which facilitates the carrying out by a council of its function, or land which may not be open to the general public.

Community Land would ordinarily comprise land such as a public park, and may be further classified into the following categories, in accordance with the *Local Government (Community Land Planning) Amendment Act (1999)*:

1. Sports Ground.
2. Park.
3. General Community Use.
4. Culturally Significant Area.
5. Natural Area (bushland, escarpment, wetland, watercourse, foreshore).

The Wagga Wagga City Council has classified its open space areas into a framework which generally reflects the above categories. It is proposed through this strategy planning process that all active sporting areas (both indoor and outdoor facilities) currently collectively classified as "Sports Ground" be further broken down into categories based on their usage, size, quality and catchment area, as either:

- State/National.
- Regional.
- District.
- Local.

Further, it is also proposed that a hierarchy of open space be established for all open space areas currently classified as "Park". This approach will enable Council to more accurately group together open space areas which have similar characteristics, values and/or functions, but which presently are collectively called "Parks".

The categories within the hierarchy of open space for "Parks" are proposed to be:

- Regional Park.
- District Park.
- Local Park.
- Ornamental/Utility Park.
- Undeveloped.

By establishing a more comprehensive classification for sporting facilities and parks, Council will have a framework by which it can deliver a more consistent approach to the management, development and maintenance of sports facilities and open space areas which are similar in scale, scope and function. It will also enable Council to plan for a suite of sporting facilities and open spaces areas which provide diversity for the community, and which are distributed in a pattern throughout the LGA which minimises duplication of like spaces and facilities within neighbourhoods and districts.

(The following information should be read in conjunction with an expanded description of the proposed new policy for Open Space Provision – refer Section 17).

4.2. Sports Grounds

Includes all open space areas which have spaces and facilities dedicated to sporting use, such as ovals and fields, outdoor court areas (e.g. bowls, tennis) and indoor court sports. Some outdoor sports grounds and court areas are restricted for use by club members at all times, while others are available for general community use. Most types of playing fields can also be used for unstructured recreation activities outside the times set aside for organised competition.

Sports Grounds are further categorised into a Sports Grounds Hierarchy depending on their size, catchment area, and level of sport played (relates to scale and standard of facilities).

The suggested classifications within the proposed Sports Grounds Hierarchy and their respective definitions are as follows.

4.2.1. State/National

State/National standard facilities are specialised facilities built to specific requirements and standards to enable elite level competition and events to take place. Such facilities have a large catchment area and are generally designed for exclusive use for elite level competition, and for also staging other large audience events.

4.2.2. Regional

Regional standard facilities are specialised facilities that have a large catchment area beyond the Wagga Wagga LGA to remain viable and may require users to travel long distances. Regional facilities cater primarily for adult training and competition, and generally have a range of recreation / social areas and support facilities built to a high standard. Regional facilities should also be capable of hosting a major recreation or sporting event / tournament, such as country championships.

4.2.3. District

District standard facilities generally attract people from within the Wagga Wagga LGA. District sports facilities cater for training and competition, and are normally the “headquarter” ground or centre for clubs, with additional playing facilities (if required) being accessed from Local sports facilities. Sporting reserves in rural villages are generally provided to a standard which is commensurate with a District facility classification.

4.2.4. Local

Local sports facilities primarily cater for junior training and competition, except in rural villages where they will typically cater for both senior and junior training and competition requirements. Local sports facilities are generally built and maintained to a lower level when compared to District facilities. Local sports facilities are generally used by clubs identified with a particular suburb.

Some Sports Grounds in the Wagga Wagga LGA have little or no informal or passive spaces as part of their setting. They are lacking in landscape development and therefore, also in amenity for visitors. In some instances, it will be strategically important to “de-sport” some Sports Grounds as the existing sports reserve is also the primary open space area for local residents to utilise for passive recreation outcomes, despite a lack of appropriate facilities and settings. In other instances, the co-location of sporting facilities and passive recreation facilities may provide an opportunity for Council to rationalise the provision of small Local Parks located around dual purpose reserves which might contain poor quality playground and landscape provision.

Community feedback during this study, and in other recreation needs surveys, has identified the preference of many people for the development of dual purpose recreation reserves. People’s perception of such reserves is that they are safer (due to the higher number of people using them), they are more dynamic, they generally have a better standard of facility and service provision, and they are better able to meet the diverse recreational and sporting needs of a family(s). Some examples of sports reserves in the Wagga Wagga LGA which appear to have successfully combined passive recreation and sporting facilities at the same site, include Bolton Park and Lake Albert Reserve/Apex Park precinct. Most village recreation reserves, Ashmont Oval, Henwood Park, Rawlings Park Sports Grounds, and Anderson Oval have the foundation from which a high quality dual purpose reserve could be developed, but which currently lack useable passive recreation facilities and/or good landscape design to integrate existing facilities.

Some examples of sports reserves which lack any real passive recreation features include the Cricket Ground, McPherson Oval, Duke of Kent Sports Ground, Allen Staunton Memorial Park (leased by Council), French Fields and Jubilee Park.

It is recommended that the following reserves be master planned for future landscape upgrade to incorporate a more appropriate response to plantings, connectivity and passive use opportunities:

- Ashmont Oval.
- Henwood Park.
- Rawlings Park Sports Grounds.
- Andersons Oval.
- Cricket Ground.
- McPherson Oval.
- Duke of Kent Sports Ground.
- Allen Staunton Memorial Park (under lease by Council).
- French Fields.
- Jubilee Park.
- Collungullie Oval.
- Uranquinty Sports Ground.

4.3. Parks

Includes open space areas dedicated primarily to informal recreation as opposed to formal organised sports activities. The landscape of Parks will feature irregular spaces, rather than sports fields, with variety in planting and ground surfaces.

“Parks” are further categorised into a Parks Hierarchy depending on their size, catchment area, and prime function of use.

4.3.1. Regional Park

A Regional Park will comprise an area typically greater than 3.0 hectares that provides for a wide range of recreational experiences for individuals and groups. The catchment area is typically the LGA and beyond.

A Regional Park typically includes major car parking infrastructure, is accessible by public transport, and has toilet and change room facilities which may be associated with formal sports facilities. Regional Parks will have good provision of visitor facilities, such as BBQ's and picnic furniture, access to power for lighting infrastructure, attractive landscaped areas, shade structures where natural shade is not available, and a major all-age playground (possibly an access-for-all playground system). Recreation areas and facilities that cater for a range of age groups will also be available, such as a range of pedestrian and cycleway systems, and informal areas for sports / recreation.

A Regional Park is maintained at a higher standard than other open space areas.

4.3.2. District Park

A District Park will comprise an area up to 3.0 hectares, and has a catchment area of more than one suburb area (in the case of the Wagga Wagga urban area). This park will generally include limited parking areas, comprise lighting, attractive landscaped areas, a range of pedestrian and cycle way systems, playground structures, a public toilet, natural shade, and picnic / visitor facilities. A District Park could include a sports field suitable for children's use (training and competition) and other low level formal or informal (non-competitive) recreation areas. A District Park will generally be the Town Park in a rural village, and the size of the village will determine the scale and scope of facilities.

Medium to high level of maintenance.

4.3.3. Local Park

A Local Park will comprise an area of 0.25 to 2.0 hectares that predominantly serves a suburb, or area within a 400m - 1.5km radius. This park will be typically serviced by on-street parking, and may comprise a mixture of landscape treatments, natural shade, park benches / seating, a basic level playground area but no toilet facilities.

However, smaller sized Local Parks might contain only limited facilities, such as seats or 1-2 small items of play equipment, and be generally undeveloped, featuring at most, a scattering of unrelated tree species but often no more than mown grass.

Medium to low level of maintenance.

Where smaller Local Parks consist merely of undeveloped residential blocks, they are generally of little community value and could be sold with the resulting revenue used to develop local space of more appropriate size and character. Where this is not appropriate, or where Local Parks are of adequate size, but have not been developed, the improvement of the open space should give consideration to the following guidelines:

- Thematic tree planting should be provided, which relates to the surrounding streets.

- The park should at least have connections with footpaths, and preferably with the off-road cycle network.
- There should be adequate provision of basic site amenities, including seats and litter bins.
- Local recreation facilities should be provided where there is sufficient space, including playgrounds, basketball half courts and tennis rebound walls.
- Signage should be provided directing users to the cycle network and to other nearby open space areas (e.g. District and Regional Parks), where appropriate.

4.3.4. Ornamental/Utility Park

An Ornamental Park will be a well developed, formal and highly maintained park with a specific theme, and will generally provide for individuals and small groups seeking solitude and a cathartic experience.

4.3.5. Undeveloped Open Space

Undeveloped Open Space is parkland zoned for public purposes but yet to be developed.

4.4. General Community Use Areas

Includes open space areas which are set aside for a specific purpose in supporting the local area infrastructure, such as flood management (drainage easements and retarding basins), fire control, road development and utilities' easements. Only limited capacity exists for the development of these spaces for improved recreational value, which shall vary depending upon what is permissible in the context of the primary use.

4.5. Culturally Significant Areas

Includes open space areas which could be natural or developed, and have specific cultural values and/or historical significance which warrant conservation and protection ahead of their use for other purposes. The main purpose of Culturally Significant Areas is to protect and restore open space resources which have cultural significance. Such areas may be developed in order to support visitations, and where possible, should feature interpretive signage and educational opportunities. The provision of other infrastructure and amenities will depend upon the predominant nature and purpose of each site and other nearby land uses.

4.6. Natural Areas (bushland, escarpment, wetland, watercourse, foreshore)

Includes open space areas defined as primarily "natural" in character, providing wildlife habitat, and for nature based recreation pursuits such as walking, jogging, cycling, nature observation, and perhaps picnics.

Typically, Natural Areas provide the basis for developing a linear park system throughout a township and adjoining areas, through the use of shared paths.

While many waterway reserves and nature reserves within the Wagga Wagga LGA perform a regional role (such as the Murrumbidgee River and environs, and Willans Hill), Wagga Wagga City and some of the rural villages also contain a number of smaller creeks / waterways and linear reserves which can also perform a more local role, connecting to local attractions and destinations. It will be important to ensure that the design of new subdivisions provides for adequate pedestrian and cycle access along these corridors so that these important connections can be achieved.

4.7. Summary

In summary, the Wagga Wagga Open Space System is proposed to incorporate the following layers and categories:

- **Sports Grounds**
 - State/National.
 - Regional.
 - District.
 - Local.
- **Parks**
 - Regional Park.
 - District Park.
 - Local Park.
 - Ornamental/Utility Park.
 - Undeveloped.
- **General Community Use Areas**
- **Culturally Significant Areas**
- **Natural Areas**

5. EXISTING PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE

The current standard for the provision of open space used by Wagga Wagga City Council is 4Ha/1,000 people⁶, which is consistent with the current planning ratios being applied by other rural local government authorities for new subdivisions. (The *Recreation & Open Space Strategy* has identified a variation and extension to this ratio, which is proposed to become the new Council policy for provision - refer Section 17).

An assessment of the current provision of open space within the Wagga Wagga LGA was undertaken through the application of the 4Ha planning standard. The assessment was carried out by:

- Field review and analysis.
- Desktop review of Council's open space inventory.
- Desktop review of planning maps showing existing "Community Lands".

An analysis was undertaken comparing the current provision of open space across the LGA against the benchmark of 4Ha/1,000 people (see Appendix 1). This analysis was undertaken using the 2001 estimated population figures for the Wagga Wagga urban area and selected rural villages, and also the projected populations for 2015⁷. The key findings from the analysis were:

- There is an estimated 1,508Ha of zoned public open space available within the Wagga Wagga urban area, and nine selected villages⁸.
- The open space allocation across these areas is 26.68Ha/1,000 people, well in excess of the minimum standard of 4Ha.
- The average provision of open space per 1,000 people in the Wagga Wagga urban area is 26.68Ha, and for people in the nine selected villages rises to 102.94Ha/1,000 people, again well in excess of the minimum standard.
- The following data shows that the allocation by planning precinct also is in excess of the 4Ha standard:

– North of the River Precinct	28.77Ha
– River to Railway Precinct	49.61Ha
– West of Willans Hill Precinct	15.61Ha
– East of Willans Hill Precinct ⁹	20.65Ha

- Of individual suburb areas, Estella (4.57Ha/1,000 people), Koorungal (5.48Ha), and Forest Hill/Kapooka (2.87Ha) are just above or below the planning standard.
- Of the nine main rural villages, all have in excess of the 4Ha standard, except Uranquinty which is below the standard at 3.78Ha (this allocation is principally the Uranquinty Sports Ground).
- When the projected population increase to 2015 is factored against the current open space provision, there is no significant change to the 2001 situation, except for the suburb of Lloyd, which falls from a 2001 provision of 25.89Ha people to 3.36Ha.

⁶ Source: Draft Wagga Wagga Vision 21 (2002).

⁷ Source: Community Profile 2004 – Wagga Wagga LGA. Projected population figures based on 1% growth to 2015.

⁸ Collungullie, Currawarna, Galore, Humula, Ladysmith, Mangoplah, Oura, Tarcutta and Uranquinty.

⁹ Includes Gumly Gumly, and Forest Hill/Kapooka.

The information available to the consultant team during the study did not distinguish between the open space provision for outdoor recreation (parks) and sporting facilities, however, the number of parks, playgrounds, BBQ/Picnic facilities, and sports reserves in each planning precinct are identified in the following table.

Planning Precinct	Parks	Playgrounds	BBQ/Picnic	Sports Reserves
North of the River	3	2	2	1
River to Railway	18	16	3	7
West of Willans Hill	17	22	4	8
East of Willans Hill	24	21	3	6

The above table shows that relative to current populations in each precinct, there is good provision of parks, playgrounds and sports reserves, but low provision for BBQs and formal picnic facilities.

The distribution of public open space in the River to Railway Precinct provides some limitations for residents in that a majority of the open space and sports reserves are located on the periphery of the Precinct (along the River to the east, and adjacent to the Olympic Highway to the west). The urban spaces around the Lagoon (including Memorial Gardens and the Civic Precinct), and the foreshore area along the River all provide large areas of open space, however, the settings, spaces and facilities available are similar.

The provision of open space in the rural villages typically comprises a public recreation reserve and a Town Park. This level of provision is adequate and is consistent with the planning standard being recommended as part of this strategy (see Section 17).

The scope of the study did not allow a comprehensive analysis of playground provision and distribution, however, field surveys¹⁰ indicated that:

- There appears to be a relatively even distribution of playgrounds throughout the Wagga Wagga urban area.
- There is little diversity in the range of play equipment, that is, most offer similar experiences and cater for a limited age group, i.e. pre-primary (2 – 4 years) and young primary aged children (4 - 7 years).
- Play opportunities are not provided for older primary (7 – 12 years) and teenagers.
- There does not appear to be a hierarchy of playgrounds that provides for the local, district and regional needs of the community.
- General maintenance of playgrounds appears satisfactory.

A local government area of the size of the City of Wagga Wagga warrants consideration for the provision of an “all abilities” playground. These playgrounds are of a large-scale and offer a range of play spaces and experiences for children of all ages and abilities, and are specifically designed to cater for people with poor mobility, such as people with a disability (wheelchair bound) and older adults who might have mobility constraints but wish to supervise children on playgrounds.

¹⁰ Excludes playgrounds located in non-Council areas, such as schools, which might also be available for general community use.

It is recommended that Council undertake a comprehensive Playgrounds Strategy to provide Council with a strategic approach to the provision of playgrounds:

- *To meet the changing needs of residents.*
- *To meet new demand as the population increases.*
- *To provide a more diverse suite of playgrounds for the LGA, in scale, design, equipment choice and materials (including new regional “all abilities” playground).*
- *To ensure compliance of all play equipment with Australian Standards for Playground Construction.*
- *To prioritise actions in relation to replacement, upgrade and decommissioning of playgrounds.*
- *To enable Council to forward plan its resource commitment to the provision of playgrounds.*

6. EXISTING PROVISION OF SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

In relation to the provision of sport and recreation facilities, the Wagga Wagga LGA offers a large range of facilities for residents and visitors, including but not limited to athletics, Australian football, baseball, basketball, cricket, equestrian, golf, netball, rugby league/union, soccer, softball, swimming and tennis. There are over 100 community sports and recreation clubs which utilise grounds and facilities directly managed by Council, private sports clubs, sporting associations/leagues, Trusts, Committees of Management, or the private sector.

This section provides an overview of the key sport and recreation facilities predominantly owned/managed by Council.

6.1. Council Sports and Recreation Reserves

There are 22 Council owned/managed sports reserves comprising outdoor sports fields in the Wagga Wagga LGA, including the following 5 major recreation reserves:

- **McPherson Oval Complex (North of River Precinct)** – is the main public sporting facility in North Wagga Wagga, and comprises of 1 Australian football/cricket oval (turf wicket), 1 netball court and modern social club facilities.
- **Bolton Park (River to Railway Precinct)** – is a large sports and parkland area just south of the main commercial and retail area of the Wagga Wagga urban area. It comprises of 3 multipurpose playing fields and the City's premier Australian football/cricket oval (Robertson Oval), a 21 court tennis complex (Jim Elphick Tennis Centre), 2 turf bowling greens, 2 croquet greens, a regional skate park, Oasis Aquatic Centre, Bolton Park Stadium, and good provision of family recreation facilities i.e. playground, picnic area, BBQ, seats and public toilets).
- **Jubilee Park (West of Willans Hill Precinct)** – is a large sporting precinct in the south-west area of the Wagga Wagga Urban area, and comprises of 3 rugby fields, 2 baseball fields, 13 Touch fields, 1 grass athletics track, and 2 synthetic hockey fields.
- **Rawlings Park Sports Grounds (East of Willans Hill Precinct)** – is a large unfenced open space sports field area which abuts a bush reserve, and comprises of 2 senior and 7 junior sized soccer fields, 2 cricket ovals (1 turf), and a scout hall.
- **Equex Exhibition Centre (East of Willans Hill Precinct)** – is a large open space area on the eastern fringe of the Wagga Wagga urban area which is being progressively developed as a major public equestrian facility in Wagga Wagga. The Park comprises of 2 multipurpose grassed fields, a sand arena and dressage ring and 17 netball courts (Wagga Wagga Netball Association).

Council has recently reviewed the management structures associated with the Equex Exhibition Centre with a view to engaging broader community involvement to optimise the potential benefits of the facility).

A comprehensive audit of facilities and services available at sports reserves is available in Appendix 2.

6.2. Council Sport & Recreation Facilities

6.2.1. Regional Aquatic and Sports Centres

Wagga Wagga City Council owns and manages one regional aquatic centre and a regional indoor sporting centre:

- Oasis Regional Aquatic Centre.
- Bolton Park Stadium.

The **Oasis Regional Aquatic Centre**, located in Morgan Street just south of the main commercial and retail precinct of the Wagga Wagga urban area. The Centre was opened in 2003, and is the major regional centre servicing the Riverina region. The Centre is open all year round and comprises of an indoor 25m x 10 lane swimming pool, a program pool, extensive leisure water (including a turbo pool and wave ball), outdoor 50m x 10 lane swimming pool (to FINA standards), and café. A Council-owned but privately operated health & fitness gymnasium adjoins the Centre.

The **Bolton Park Stadium**, located in Morgan Street adjacent to the Oasis Regional Aquatic Centre was opened in 1977, and is the major public indoor sports centre in the Wagga Wagga LGA. The Centre comprises of two multipurpose indoor courts, spectator viewing areas, meeting rooms and canteen area, and accommodates basketball, badminton, volleyball activities. A dedicated gymnastics centre adjoins the Stadium at the rear.

6.2.2. Major Sports Facilities

The City of Wagga Wagga also has other sports facilities built on Council-owned land that could be classified as “regional” facilities as they service a catchment that extends beyond the municipality and/or they have been developed to a standard beyond local municipal needs. These facilities include:

- Robertson Oval, Bolton Park (Australian football and cricket).
- Wagga Wagga Cycle Track, The Cricket Ground).
- Hockey Complex, Jubilee Park (2 synthetic fields).
- Gymnastic Centre, Bolton Park Stadium.
- Jim Elphick Tennis Centre, Bolton Park (21 courts).
- Wagga Wagga Netball Complex, Equex Exhibition Centre (17 courts).
- Connolly Park, Jubilee Park (rugby union).
- Wagga Wagga Touch Complex, Jubilee Park (13 touch fields).

6.2.3. Other Recreation Facilities

Other Council-owned/managed facilities and open space areas that provide residents and visitors with a variety of recreational experiences and opportunities include:

- Scout and Guide Halls.
- 17 Community Halls.
- 2 Community / Neighbourhood Centres (Glenfield Park and Uranquinty, and one proposed for Estella).
- Cycle paths.

- Murrumbidgee River and Lake Albert (triathlon, fishing and boating).
- Equex Exhibition Centre.
- Various Bush Reserves (Willans Hill, River foreshore, Wiradjuri Reserve).
- Wiradjuri Golf Centre (18 hole par 3 course, driving range).
- Greyhound Training Track (450m), Wiradjuri Reserve.
- 1 Skate Park.
- 2 croquet greens.

6.3. Other Public and Privately Owned/Operated Recreation Facilities and Spaces

The following other recreation reserves, facilities and public open space areas are available in the City of Wagga Wagga, but are owned and/or managed by other public agencies, Committees of Management, or the private sector.

6.3.1. Sports and Recreation Reserves

- Collingullie Oval.
- Gumly Gumly Reserve.
- Humula Sports Complex.
- Mangoplah Sports Complex.
- Oura Reserve.
- Braeden Sports Ground (Tarcutta).
- Eric Weissel Oval (Wagga Wagga).
- Australian Rules Club - Maher Oval (Glenfield Park).

6.3.2. Sports and Recreation Facilities

- Australian Clay Target Centre (East Wagga Wagga).
- Downside Clay Target Shooting Centre (Downside).
- Wagga Wagga City Pistol Centre (East Wagga Wagga).
- Pulletop Pistol Club.
- 8 lawn bowling greens (South Wagga Bowling Club, Wagga Wagga Womens Bowling Club, RSL, Rules Club Bowling Club, and Wagga City Leagues Bowling Club).
- Murrumbidgee Turf Club Racecourse.
- Harness Racing Track and Greyhound Track (Wagga Wagga Showgrounds).
- Equine Centre, Charles Sturt University.
- 3 Public Golf Courses (Wagga Wagga Golf Club, Wagga Wagga Country Club, Humula Golf Club).
- 2 Defence Land Golf Courses (access constraints) at Kapooka and the RAAF Base.
- Wagga Wagga Kart Circuit.
- Wagga Wagga International Raceway.

- Tolland Squash Centre (4 courts).
- Borambula Sport & Recreation Centre.
- 4 Private Health & Fitness Centres (Xceler8 H&FC, Flex-It Gymnasium, Workout Wagga, Health Temple International).
- Nagle Street Indoor Cricket Centre (Wagga Wagga).
- Indoor Putt Putt Centre (Wagga Wagga).
- Wagga Wagga Police & Community Youth Club.
- Hopwood Park/Grandview Tennis Clubs – 6 courts (Turvey Park).

6.4. Overall Summary of Available Sporting Facilities

The following list summarises the provision of the popular sporting facilities available in the City of Wagga Wagga which are available for community use, irrespective of which organisation, agency or private sector group owns and/or manages the facility. The list does not include those facilities built on primary and secondary school land, or at the Charles Sturt University.

- 32 cricket ovals.
- 35 Australian football ovals (these include the 31 cricket ovals above).
- 22 soccer fields.
- 76 tennis courts (at 15 separate facilities, including 21 courts at the Jim Elphick Tennis Centre, 8 courts at the South Wagga Tennis Courts, 6 courts at the Mangoplah Sports Complex – *not currently in use*).
- 23 netball courts.
- 16 rugby fields.
- 13 touch fields.
- 8 lawn bowling greens.
- 2 synthetic hockey fields.
- 2 baseball fields.
- 1 softball field.
- 3 public golf courses.
- 1 athletic track.
- 2 croquet greens.
- 1 cycling track.
- 1 skate park.
- 2 indoor sports courts (basketball/badminton/volleyball).
- 4 shooting facilities.
- 1 horse racing track, harness track and greyhound track.
- 4 squash courts.
- 4 fitness gymnasiums.
- 1 aquatic centre (indoor/outdoor pool space).

6.5. Adequacy of Current Sports Facility Provision

Stratcorp Consulting undertook an assessment of the adequacy of the current number of sports facilities available in the Wagga Wagga LGA for the main (or popular) sports, based on a benchmark per thousand people. The benchmark was established using the following inputs:

1. The estimated 2001 population for the Wagga Wagga LGA of 56,722 people.
2. Existing facility provision within the LGA.
3. The NSW participation rate for the nominated sports (refer Section 9.4).
4. The estimated capacity of a typical municipal level sports ground/facility for the nominated sports.

Adequacy of Provision of Selected Sports Facilities (2001) - Wagga Wagga LGA

Activity	Existing No. in Wagga Wagga LGA	Benchmark	2001 Ratio #	Required No. 2001	Difference
Rugby League Field	13	1:7000	4,363	8	-5
Cricket Oval	32	1:4000	1,773	14	-18
Basketball/Netball Court (indoor multi-purpose)	2	1:10000	28,361	6	4
Lawn Bowls Green	8	1:10000	7,090	6	-2
Soccer Field	22	1:3000	2,578	19	-3
Tennis Court	76	1:1500	746	38	-38

Estimated 2001 population of:

56,722

Please note that the outcome of this benchmarking process was used as **a guide only** to assessing current and future facility needs in the Wagga Wagga LGA.

The results of the benchmarking process identified that there is an oversupply of facilities for a population of 57,000 people in all of the sports other than indoor court sports (basketball and netball). There appears to be a significant oversupply of cricket ovals and tennis courts, whilst the supply of rugby league fields, lawn bowls and soccer fields is adequate. This outcome needs to be assessed with caution, as it does not take into account the fact that the City of Wagga Wagga is a municipality where locally based facilities are provided in most of the larger rural villages which have total populations significantly less than the benchmarks.

The table on the following page provides the same analysis for the Wagga Wagga urban area only, i.e. excludes facilities and residents not located within the urban area.

Adequacy of Provision of Selected Sports Facilities (2001) - Wagga Wagga Urban Area

Activity	Existing No. in Wagga Wagga Urban	Benchmark	2001 Ratio #	Required No. 2001	Difference
Rugby League Field	11	1:7000	4,682	7	-4
Cricket Oval	24	1:4000	2,146	13	-11
Basketball/Netball Court (indoor multi-purpose)	2	1:10000	25,752	5	3
Lawn Bowls Green	8	1:10000	6,438	5	-3
Soccer Field	21	1:3000	2,453	17	-4
Tennis Court	42	1:1500	1,226	34	-8

Estimated 2001 population of:

51,504

The analysis shows a different result for some sports, and validates the previous comments about how the application of the benchmarks across the whole LGA may present a skewed result due to the need to provide recreation facilities at a local level in small communities, despite the “benchmarked need” not having been reached. The current provision of cricket ovals and tennis courts in the urban area is considered satisfactory for its population base, and are in fact not oversupplied as the previous LGA-wide assessment suggested.

The present provision of two multipurpose indoor courts is inadequate to service a population base of over 50,000 people, and which increases to over 100,000 people when the regional catchment is considered. Not only is basketball one of the most popular activities for children and adults according to National and NSW participation rates, but volleyball also has a low but stable base of participation. In Wagga Wagga, there has been an increase in player registration for basketball in the past 3 years (700 to 900 players), and membership for volleyball has remained stable for the same period. As well as assisting basketball and volleyball participants, the provision of additional courts will provide opportunity to introduce new activities (or expand existing) for the sports of badminton, table tennis, indoor soccer, indoor ladies/mixed netball (social centre-base competitions), European handball, and a range of martial arts and group fitness activities.

It is recommended that Council undertake an *Indoor Sports Facility Feasibility Study* to further investigate demand, need, facility options, site options, management options, and financial viability. Included in the scope should be an investigation to incorporate gymnastics activities.

The number of soccer fields currently available across the LGA (22) includes both senior sized and junior sized fields. Should the retention rates of players during the transition from junior ranks to senior ranks be higher than average in the future, or should the emergence of womens teams continue to grow, there may be a shortage of senior sized fields in the future. Having said that, there are some sports grounds which could accommodate senior sized soccer fields which are not currently being used for soccer matches. These include Ashmont Oval, Henwood Park, and sports fields at the rural villages of Ladysmith, San Isidore and Tarcutta (similar to how Uranquinty Sports Ground is now accommodating soccer matches). Other options exist to further accommodate local soccer needs, these being the development of the ‘green field’ site at the northern end of Rawlings Park Sports Grounds, formalising the continued use of

one of the multipurpose fields at Equex Exhibition Centre, or upgrading the sub-surface infrastructure, change amenities and ground lighting at Duke of Kent Sports Ground to enable an increased intensity of use to occur.

It is recommended that a Soccer Development Strategy be prepared to carry out a more detailed assessment of the growth and participation in soccer (focus on increasing the participation of women and residents in the rural villages), assessment of available and potential new fields, and minimum standard of facilities required.

An issue emerging from a comparison of the data in the previous two tables with the club membership data (see Section 7) and sports participation trends data (see Section 9), is the decline in tennis court usage versus the current provision of facilities. Whilst the impact of the drought and lack of availability of water to irrigate courts has been a recent issue, many courts, particularly in the rural communities, are not being used and are effectively closed. This year also, it has come to be that the viability of the Jim Elphick Tennis Centre has come under question due to a reduction in playing interest.

Participation in tennis has declined in the LGA – both in the rural areas and the urban area, yet Nationally it enjoys growth, and the current participation rate in NSW is higher than the National rate. In the household telephone survey conducted for this study (see Section 11), tennis participation in the LGA was under the current NSW rate, however, the activity was nominated as the 4th most popular activity that residents would like to participate in the future.

It is recommended that a Tennis Participation Strategy be prepared to assess in more detail the issues affecting interest and participation in tennis, and to identify promotional, programming and recruitment strategies to increase participation in tennis and use of courts. Given that there is extensive infrastructure currently in place across the LGA, and the sport is a “whole-of-life” activity, it would be an economically sustainable option to increase broad participation in tennis to support a broad objective to increase the number of residents engaging in physical activity.

6.6. Education Facilities

Most schools and the Charles Sturt University have sport and recreation facilities which are available for community use, including sports fields and outdoor sports courts.

The table in Appendix 3 shows the number and type of sports and recreation facilities provided on education land, and where these facilities are/aren't available for community use. The audit was undertaken by a telephone survey in March and April 2004.

The key information from this research shows that:

- Most schools have a sports ground, cricket nets and some multipurpose outdoor hard courts (basketball/netball/tennis).
- Generally, public/primary schools have facilities which are available for community use, but which generally are not of sufficient standard or dimensions to meet minimum requirements for formal sports use, i.e. cricket ovals are too small. The exceptions are Koorinal PS, Lutheran PS, South Wagga PS and Sturt PS which have cricket groups using practice nets and/or ovals.
- Secondary schools also have a good range of outdoor sports and recreation facilities, but are divided in their willingness to allow external community club use. Where schools have a policy of not allowing external use, this is invariably based on poor past experiences with clubs, poor provision of toilet/change facilities to

service external users, and/or the school has a desire to retain their facilities to a high standard for student use.

- The following schools permit their facilities to be utilised by external community groups, however, do not currently have groups using them. Some of these facilities might be suitable for future use by clubs/associations, pending a more detailed assessment of size, quality and condition of facilities, and the associated support infrastructure (i.e. car parking, access to toilets, shade):
 - Holy Trinity PS
 - South Wagga PS
 - St Josephs PS
 - Tolland PS
 - Turvey Park PS
 - Uranquinty PS
 - Kildare Catholic College
 - Mater Dei College
 - Wagga High School
 - Charles Sturt University
- The following schools have a policy of not permitting their facilities to be utilised by community groups, however, may have facilities which might be suitable for use by clubs, pending a more detailed assessment of size, quality and condition of facilities, and the associated support infrastructure (i.e. car parking, access to toilets, shade):
 - Ladysmith PS
 - Willans Hill Special School
 - Mt Austin High School
 - Wagga Christian College

6.7. Analysis and Summary of Existing Sports and Recreation Facilities

General observations across all facilities are:

- There is a diversity of sports and recreation facilities available in the Wagga Wagga LGA, from traditional outdoor field sports, to water-based facilities/settings, to motor sports and shooting.
- Most sports reserves present well, and at the time of inspection the condition of the playing surface on most grounds was satisfactory (given the effects of the drought).
- Most sports reserves and facilities present to the same standard in relation to quality of facilities and supporting infrastructure. There is a need to establish a hierarchy of grounds and facilities to ensure Council resources are appropriately targeted, and to facilitate sports development within the LGA and beyond. (Suggested approach to hierarchy outlined in Section 17).
- The condition of some sports pavilions is poor and/or they are inadequate in accommodating all needs of existing users, particularly where there are multiple teams or large numbers of players, or where womens change rooms are required for referees and players. Some examples include the Cricket Ground, the athletics area at Jubilee Park, Robertson Oval, Duke of Kent Sports Ground, Wiradjuri Reserve, the northern pavilion at Rawlings Park Sports Grounds, Ladysmith Sports Complex, Braeden Sports Ground (Tarcutta), and Uranquinty Sports Ground.

- The playing surface of some hard courts (tennis and netball) is poor (e.g. some courts at the Wagga Wagga Netball Centre, Collingullie Oval, and many rural tennis courts).
- A number of sports reserves only have one sport being played on them each year, which is not maximising the usage and multipurpose nature of the grounds. Examples include Allen Staunton Memorial Park, Bolton Park outdoor fields (winter competition), Wiradjuri Reserve, Gissing Oval, Connolly Oval, Kessler Park, Forest Hill Sports Ground, Norman Duck Oval, Humula Sports Complex, Mangoplah Sports Complex and Collingullie Oval.
- An assessment of the distribution of sports reserves and facilities by Planning Precincts indicates that there is relatively even distribution of rugby fields, cricket ovals, soccer fields and tennis courts throughout all precincts.
- Benchmarking has identified that there is adequate facility provision in the Wagga Wagga urban area for the popular sports of rugby, cricket, lawn bowls, and tennis. There may be a need in the future to provide additional soccer fields, however, there are options available to Council for the re-use of existing sports grounds and/or construct new fields from green field sites.
- Benchmarking has identified that there is inadequate facility provision for indoor sports (especially basketball).
- Benchmarking has identified that there is a current oversupply of tennis facilities in the rural villages.
- The Oasis Regional Aquatic Centre is located centrally within the municipality and comprises a number of different pool spaces to ensure good provision for the broad community and for regional events (50m outdoor pool conforms with FINA standards).
- Elite (Regional) facility provision currently exists for the following selected sports: swimming, hockey, netball, rugby union, rugby league, AFL (partially), clay target shooting, tennis and the racing codes. In keeping with the key strategic direction identified in the previous *Strategic Plan for Recreation in Wagga Wagga (1998)*, of "Providing one first-class competition venue for each sporting code", Council should work in partnership with relevant stakeholders to provide higher standard facilities for athletics, gymnastics, basketball, soccer, track cycling and lawn bowls.
- Education sites in the Wagga Wagga LGA generally have good provision of sporting and recreation facilities. Some of the schools make available their facilities for community use outside of school hours, whilst others have a policy of not permitting external use. There appears to be some capacity for increased use of selected school facilities by external sporting groups, if the demand is unable to be met from Council grounds.

7. SPORTS CLUB MEMBERSHIP

The table in Appendix 4 shows membership trends for the past three years (2001 – 2003) for Wagga Wagga-based sports clubs and those sports associations whose membership primarily resides in the City of Wagga Wagga. The data has been collated from a combination of information sources, including the club survey administered as part of this study¹¹, follow-up telephone interviews to clubs which did not return a survey, and membership data collected from associations. In all, data has been collected from 118 sports clubs and 15 sports associations.

Membership numbers reflect “active” members only, not “social/associate” members. In some cases club membership was only available for 2003, and in these instances the same membership number has been used for the 2001 and 2002 to enable a comparative analysis to be made for the past 3 years.

7.1. Wagga Wagga Sports Participation

The key information from the club membership data is:

- An estimated 16,457 people were active members of Wagga Wagga sports and recreation clubs and associations in 2003.
- The overall increase in active membership in the past 3 years was 654 (or 4%).
- The most popular sports by active membership (500+ members) in 2003 were:
 - Netball (2,000 members).
 - Soccer (1,780).
 - Cricket (1,443).
 - Australian football (1,391).
 - Golf (1,310).
 - Rugby League (934).
 - Basketball (900).
 - Swimming / Aquatic (684).
 - Lawn Bowling (598).
 - Equestrian (577).
 - Softball (557).
- There was relatively stable active membership in most sports during the period 2001 - 2003.
- There was growth (> 10%) in the number of active sports club members in basketball, cycling, and soccer.
- There was a decline (> 10%) in the number of active sports club members in baseball, hockey, swimming / aquatics, and tennis.
- In relation to individual clubs/associations with more than 50 members, the greatest variance (> 10%) in the past 3 years was recorded for:
 - Bicycle Wagga Wagga (+ 52%).
 - Kyeamba Kennel & Training Club (+ 39%).
 - Wagga Athletics Club (+ 39%).
 - Turvey Park Rugby League Club (+ 34%).
 - Hopwood Park Tennis Club (-32%).
 - Wagga Basketball Association (+ 28%).

¹¹ Refer Section 12 for background on the administering of the club survey.

- Wagga Wagga Water Polo Club (- 28%).
 - Wagga Dressage Club (+ 25%).
 - Wagga Wagga & District Tennis Assoc (- 23%).
 - Wagga Wagga & District Amateur Soccer Assoc (+ 19%).
 - Koorinal Athletics Club (- 12%).
 - M-C-E United Football & Netball Club (+ 12%).
 - Wagga Wagga Combined Hockey Association (- 10%).
- Males made up 62% (or 9,458) of the total club membership, whilst females comprised 38% (or 5,777) of the membership.
 - Juniors (U/18 years) made up 55% (or 8,274) of the total club membership, whilst Seniors (over 18 years) comprised 45% (or 6,768) of the membership.

8. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF WAGGA WAGGA LGA

The demographic profile of the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area (LGA) was reviewed to identify population characteristics and trends important when assessing possible future directions for the LGA’s Recreation & Open Space Strategy.

The data was sourced from a combination of:

- Basic Community Profile, 2001 ABS Census (Source: www.abs.gov.au).
- Community Profile 2004 – Wagga Wagga LGA.
- Draft Wagga Wagga Vision 21 (May 2002).

The results of this analysis are contained herein.

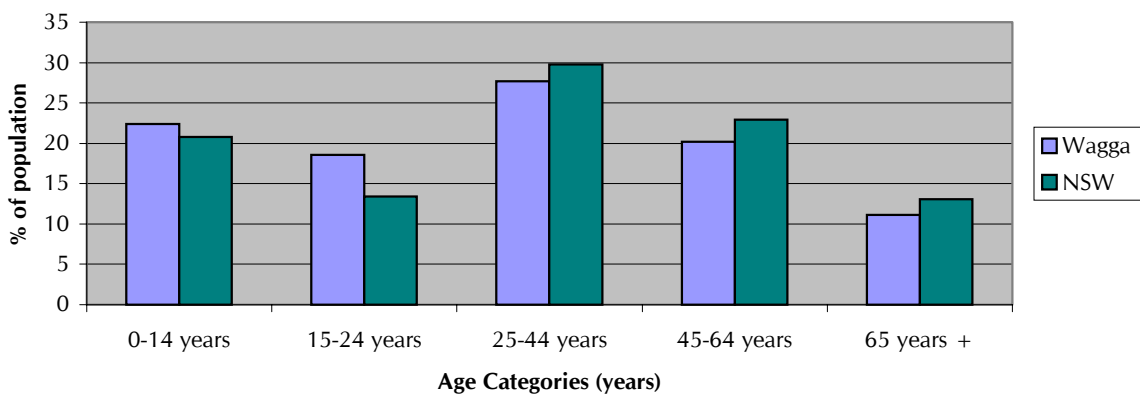
8.1. Wagga Wagga LGA

ABS census data collected in August 2001 identified a total population in the Wagga Wagga LGA of 56,722 people. Of the total population, 90.8% (or 51,504 people) reside in the Wagga Wagga urban area, and 9.2% (5,218) in the rural village and surrounding areas.

The Wagga Wagga LGA population increased only marginally by 642 people (or 1.1%) since the 1996 census. This percentage increase is less than that experienced for all of NSW, which had growth of 5.5% for the same period. The LGA-wide population is predicted to increase to 64,594 by 2015, with the urban population increasing to approximately 59,200 people¹². The likely growth areas are in the north (Estella, Boorooma and Cartwrights Hill), and the south west (Glenfield Park, Bourkelands, Lloyd and Tatton).

8.2. Age Profiles

The highest proportion of people living in the Wagga Wagga LGA are aged 25 - 44 years (27.7%), followed by the 0 - 14 age cohort (22.4%) and the 45 - 64 age cohort (20.2%). When compared to the age structure profile for all of NSW, the Wagga Wagga LGA has a “younger” community profile, that is, there are higher proportions of the population aged below 25 years, particularly in the 15 – 24 years cohort. (See following graph)



Age Profile Wagga Wagga vs NSW (2001)

¹² Source: Based on 1% growth scenario (Community Profile 2004 – Wagga Wagga).

The median age of the population in 2001 was 31 years. This has increased since 1996, when the median age was 29 years. The median age for all of NSW was 35 years in 2001, which further emphasises the “young” profile of the population. The higher proportion of young adults and children in the Wagga Wagga LGA can be largely attributed to the presence of the Charles Sturt University, and the Defence Forces training bases at Kapooka and the RAAF Base. These institutions typically attract large numbers of young people.

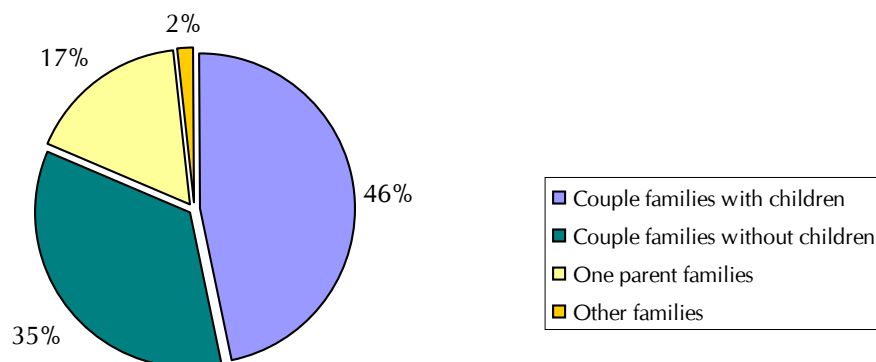
Gender distribution across all age categories is generally even, with the exception of the 65+ years age group, where there are significantly more females than males.

8.3. Country of Birth

A majority (93.5%) of Wagga Wagga LGA residents were Australian-born. This proportion of residents Australian-born is significantly higher than for all of NSW at 75.1%. Of the people born overseas, no one particular country of birth is dominant. People born in the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and the Netherlands are the dominant cultural clusters.

In 2001, there were 1,767 Indigenous people (or 3.2% of the LGA population), which is higher than for all of NSW at 1.9%. This is an increase of 331 people since 1996.

8.4. Household Type



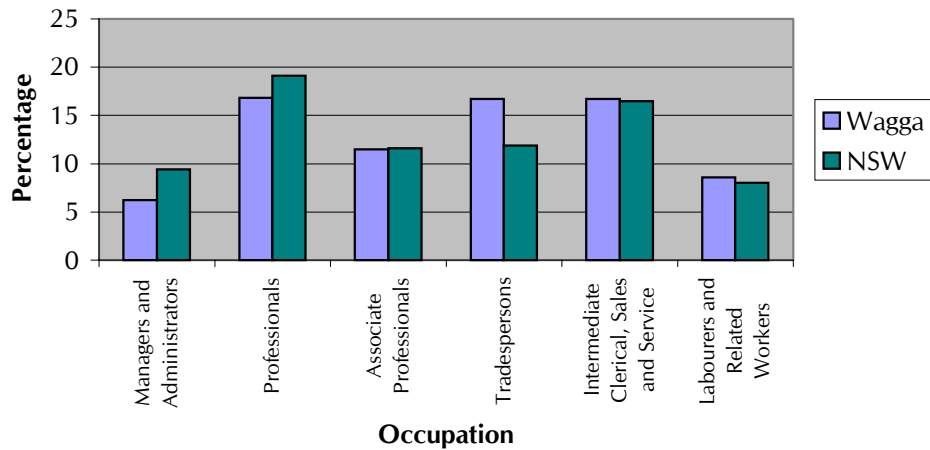
A majority (46%) of the “family” households in the Wagga Wagga LGA comprise of “couple families with children”, followed by “couple families without children” (35%). 17% of families were “one parent families”. There is no significant difference between the proportion of family types in Wagga Wagga and all of NSW.

The proportion of “family” households as a percentage of all households in Wagga Wagga (71.9%) is marginally less than for all of NSW (72.8%), whilst the proportion of “lone person” households is similar (23.6% in Wagga Wagga to 23.4% in NSW).

8.5. Employment Status

In the Wagga Wagga LGA, 92.4% of people in the workforce were employed on a full-time or part-time basis, with 7.6% being unemployed.

The following table shows the primary occupations of those people in the work force. It indicates that there is a higher percentage (16.7%) of the workforce working as tradespersons than NSW as a whole (11.9%). As well as tradespeople, the other high employment areas are “professionals” and “clerical/sales”, which is consistent with the importance of Wagga Wagga being a major regional centre providing services to a large catchment of people.



Occupation Type in Wagga Wagga LGA vs NSW (2001)

8.6. Income Levels

The median weekly individual income for people aged 15 years and over in the Wagga Wagga LGA is \$300 - \$399. This is the same figure recorded for all of NSW.

8.7. Number of Motor Vehicles per Household

The following table indicates a total of 73.3% of households had one or two vehicles, slightly higher than for all of NSW (70%), and a further 12.4% of Wagga Wagga LGA households had three or more vehicles compared to 10.8% for all of NSW.

No. of Motor Vehicles	Wagga Wagga		NSW
	No. of Households	% of Households	% of Households
No motor vehicles	1,821	9.2%	12.0%
One motor vehicle	7,551	38.2%	39.8%
Two motor vehicles	6,946	35.1%	30.2%
Three or more motor vehicles	2,462	12.4%	10.8%
Not Stated	1,003	5.1%	7.3%
<i>Total</i>	<i>19,783</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>

Motor Vehicles per Household (2001)

8.8. Wagga Wagga LGA Rural Areas

The total number of people in the Wagga Wagga LGA that live in villages or other rural areas is 5,223 (or 9.2% of the total population). The table below shows the breakdown of rural and village populations.

Rural Village	Number	Percentage
Collingullie	151	3%
Currawarna	104	2%
Humula	109	2%
Ladysmith	198	4%
Mangoplah	95	2%
Oura	132	3%
Tarcutta	263	5%
Uranquinty	637	12%
Total Villages	1,700	33%
Rural - General	3,523	67%
Total	5,223	100%

Rural and Village Populations (2001)

8.9. Implications of Demographics

The Wagga Wagga LGA demographics have the following likely implications for sport and recreation provision across the municipality.

- The Wagga Wagga LGA population is increasing (estimated additional 8,000 people in the next 10 years), which will require Council to continue make investment in new/improved open space and recreation facilities in the future. It will be important for the Recreation Unit to have input into the assessment of Development Plans to ensure community recreational needs and preferences are adequately catered for during the planning process.
- Just under half the Wagga Wagga LGA population is aged between 10 - 40 years, a range which includes the most active age cohorts in relation to participation in formal sporting activities.
- There is a low proportion of people born overseas compared to all of NSW, which suggests the highest sporting needs will continue to be traditional Anglo sports.
- Level of income and employment provide a good indication of the socio-economic status of a population. The population of Wagga Wagga LGA is "on par" with the levels recorded for all NSW. Past research has shown that people with a medium to high socio-economic status are more likely to engage in physical and health & fitness activities than people with a lower socio-economic status, and their propensity to pay for services is arguably higher.

Notwithstanding this, it is acknowledged that there are pockets of low income earners within the Wagga Wagga LGA, especially in the urban area, and the needs of these people have to be carefully considered in both the provision of free or low cost recreation opportunities. This may include the provision of informal recreation

facilities, such as tennis rebound walls, skate parks, golf practice cages, bask/netball half-courts, and cycleways, which can provide a legitimate opportunity for the community to engage in recreation/sport, without the high costs associated with club membership or admittance charges.

- As there is overall ageing of the population, there will be an increasing need to provide for passive recreation activities and services at a local level, such as walking and places for people to meet for social or group activities.
- There will also be an increasing need for development of safe and accessible places for recreation, that is, develop facilities and spaces with adjoining car parks, good security lighting, and sealed and accessible paths for people with poor mobility.
- In relation to services and facilities for people with a disability, provision of good quality open space areas to support informal, unstructured and free recreation should continue to be provided/facilitated/advocated by Council.

9. SUMMARY OF RELEVANT TRENDS

For the purpose of informing this study, Stratcorp Consulting undertook an assessment of relevant open space and recreation trends. The following section outlines the results of this assessment and highlights issues considered during the strategy development process.

The section includes an overview of general trends in open space planning and use, leisure participation, some sports-specific participation data, and National/State physical activity participation trends as identified through the annual *Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey*, (ERASS), Australian Sports Commission.

9.1. Trends in Open Space Planning and Use

Some trends from a planning perspective include:

- A strong and increasing focus on planning that reflects community needs and aspirations.
- Action to ensure that the planning process contributes to a greater diversity of open space types and a greater diversity of use opportunities.
- Action to achieve a more equitable balance between recreational and other purposes in the reservation and design of open spaces.
- A focus on larger and more diverse sites.
- A recognition that people enjoy built, modified and restored open spaces and do not always desire or require pristine rural environments.
- Recognition that sensitive natural areas need to be conserved for ecological and educational benefits and as uses in their own right.
- Recognition that recreation settings need to be sustainable ecologically.

Some key trends in the use of open spaces for recreation include:

- A growing user preference for sites which offer different experiences and benefits at different times of the day, week and year, and different experiences for different users.
- Greater interest in sites which offer opportunities for participative and interpretive experiences.
- A strong preference for sites which allow linked family use.
- A strong preference for sites which offer quality amenities and a clear sense of personal security.
- A substantive growth in informal but active use of open space.

9.2. General Leisure Participation Trends

Factors regarded as the catalysts for change in leisure participation include the following:

- Change in the size and structure of a population.
- The substantial rise in long-term unemployment and under-employment.
- Increasing recognition of the strong links between recreational involvement and good health, and the development of appropriate activities and services which cater for this.

- The demand by people for a greater diversity of recreational activities.
- Increasing expectations of people for higher standards in facility provision and of quality programming, servicing and management.
- Greater reliance on locally accessed and lower cost opportunities by those without the resources to travel or pay for more expensive pursuits.
- A greater emphasis on non-competitive, cultural and passive leisure opportunities at the expense of participation and involvement in organised recreation activities (i.e. sport).
- More flexible opening hours of facilities and of programming, including week day, evening and weekend time-slots.
- An increasing demand for indoor facilities to facilitate this programming and to provide protection from poor weather and exposure to the sun.

Most people have a core of activities that remain central throughout life. These include watching television, reading, socialising with family and friends, walking, home based projects and playing with children. These are all low cost, easy access activities not requiring any special planning or skills.

Amongst the significant trends has been the substantial growth in recent years of the provision of indoor sport and recreation facilities, and health & fitness centres. This was reflected in an indoor facility provision 'boom' throughout Australia in the 1990's and the growth in popularity of indoor sports, particularly basketball and health & fitness activities.

This trend was accompanied by a swing from involvement with outdoor team sports to individual fitness and social sport and aquatic activities. Swimming and aerobics increased in popularity as attractive year round aquatic/leisure centres became more widely available, particular through the redevelopment of outdoor cold water pools.

While there is evidence of recent declines in attendance rates for some of the activities that utilise indoor centres, including basketball, the demands are still substantial and require an appropriate provision and distribution of suitable facilities.

Other significant trends include a gradual decline in sports participation by young people (14 – 20 year olds), possibly because of increased emphasis on academic achievement and greater involvement in the workforce with the introduction of extended shopping hours. Another possible reason identified through recent National research¹³ is the prevalence of children's use of electronic games, computers, TVs and videos. The research found that within the total population of children aged 5-14 years (2,647,500), more children now play electronic or computer games (71%) than play organised sport (62%). This decline in sports participation has resulted in decreasing involvement by young people in 'structured' sporting activities.

Notwithstanding the previously described trend, overall participation in organised sport and physical activities remains highest amongst young people and declines steadily with age. In 1999-2000, 45.3% of all 18-24 year olds in Australia were involved in organised sport and physical activities. However, among 25-34 years olds, the participation rate had dropped to below 37.2%, and for people aged over 45 years to 20.4%¹⁴.

¹³ *Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities April 2003, ABS.*

¹⁴ *Participation on Sport and Physical Activity 1999-2000, ABS.*

A particularly significant, but yet to be confirmed trend concerns increasing participation rates amongst older people. Government programs (such as *Active Australia*) and the continued high media exposure of the Masters Games and older adult athlete role models¹⁵ are collectively having the result of increasingly encouraging older people to participate in sport and regular physical exercise. If these programs and promotions continue to be successful, and if people over 50 years engage in recreation activities more than their predecessors did, then the use of public recreation facilities may not decline significantly as the population grows older.

9.3. Sports Participation Trends - Children

A recent survey of children's participation in sport¹⁶ found that:

- Of children aged 5-14 years in 2003, 62% had participated in sport outside of school hours, which had been organised by a school, club or association (up from 59% in 2000).
- Across all age groups, boys had a higher participation rate (69%) in organised sport than girls (54%). Both rates of participation in 2003 were up from 2000 levels: boys (66%) and girls (52%).
- Participation for boys increased between 2000 and 2003 in the following sports:
 - Soccer: 265,000 to 301,000.
 - Swimming: 177,000 to 213,600.
 - Australian football: 170,000 to 184,200.
 - Tennis: 125,000 to 128,300...... but decreased for:
 - Cricket: 134,000 to 124,200.
 - Basketball: 120,000 to 116,100.
- Participation for girls increased between 2000 and 2003 in the following sports:
 - Swimming: 203,000 to 225,500.
 - Tennis: 99,000 to 100,100.
 - Basketball: 81,000 to 88,900...... but decreased for:
 - Netball: 235,000 to 233,200.
- Just as netball is still the undisputed favourite sport played by girls, the popularity of soccer over Australian football and cricket is widening.
- Other sports growing in popularity are martial arts, rugby and soccer for girls, whilst athletics and softball continue to lose favour.
- In relation to selected recreation activities:
 - There was a decrease in National participation in skate boarding/rollerblading from 2000 (31%) to 2003 (23%).
 - There was a decrease in recreational bike riding from 2000 (64%) to 2003 (62%).

¹⁵ Invariably former champion players who are still actively involved in training/competition for fitness and social outcomes.

¹⁶ *Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities April 2003, ABS.*

9.4. Participation Trends Based on *Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey*

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) conducted its third annual *Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey* (ERASS) in 2003 to measure Australians' participation in physical activity for exercise, recreation and sport. The results from the third survey have been recently released and are reported in the following sections.

One of the advantages with the ERASS data is that reports are available annually, as opposed to the physical participation reports generated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census once every five years. The benefit therefore is the opportunity to access research data on an annual basis.

The methodology for the ERASS is that every 12 months four surveys are carried out throughout Australia (quarterly) with the sample size each quarter being 3,410 of people aged 15 years and over. The total annual sample is 13,640. AC Nielson undertakes the fieldwork survey by telephone on behalf of the ASC.

The results from the third survey are reported as follows.

9.4.1. Adult Participation

The ERASS identified a National participation rate in exercise, recreation and sport for adults of 82.5% in 2003 (an increase of 4.7% since 2002). The following table identifies the most popular activities undertaken by all Australians, which were walking, aerobic/fitness and swimming and shows comparisons between 2002 and 2003.

Rank	Activity	% Participation (2003)	% Participation Change from 2002
1	Walking (other)	37.9%	7.1%
2	Aerobics/Fitness	16.0%	1.1%
3	Swimming	15.3%	0.4%
4	Cycling	9.4%	0.1%
5	Tennis	9.0%	0.8%
6	Golf	8.2%	-0.5%
7	Running	7.6%	Nil
8	Walking (bush)	5.8%	0.2%
9	Soccer (outdoor)	4.3%	-0.2%
10	Netball	3.9%	-0.2%

Participation 2002/2003 (National)

In NSW, 81.5% of the population participated in exercise, recreation and sport with the breakdown of males and females being 83.2% and 79.8%, respectively. The most popular activities in NSW have a moderate correlation with the most popular activities Nationally.

The table on the following page shows the direct comparison of participation rates between NSW and Nationally, and shows that for swimming, aerobics/fitness, tennis, golf, walking (bush) and soccer, there is a higher participation rate in NSW than Nationally.

For other activities, such as walking (other), cycling, running, netball (3.9% compared to 2.8%), basketball (3.6% to 3.3%) and cricket (3.3% to 2.6%), the rate of participation is lower in NSW than Nationally.

Rank	Activity	National Participation (2003)	NSW Participation (2003)
1	Walking (other)	37.9%	36.0%
2	Aerobics/Fitness	16.0%	16.2%
3	Swimming	15.3%	17.5%
4	Cycling	9.4%	7.7%
5	Tennis	9.0%	9.8%
6	Golf	8.2%	8.4%
7	Running	7.6%	7.1%
8	Walking (bush)	5.8%	6.8%
9	Soccer (outdoor)	4.3%	5.3%
10	Netball	3.9%	2.8%

Comparison of Activity Participation between National and NSW (2003)

The table below shows the comparison between male and female participation in exercise, sport and recreation in NSW. Female participation in walking is significantly higher than males, and is also higher for aerobics/fitness. Conversely, male participation in golf, cycling and running is significantly higher than females.

Rank	Activity	Male Participation (2003)	Activity	Female Participation (2003)
1	Walking (other)	26.1%	Walking	45.7%
2	Swimming	16.7%	Aerobics/Fitness	19.9%
3	Golf	14.1%	Swimming	18.4%
4	Aerobics/Fitness	12.4%	Tennis	8.7%
5	Cycling	11.4%	Walking (bush)	6.4%
6	Tennis	10.9%	Yoga	5.3%
7	Running	10.5%	Netball	5.3%
8	Soccer (outdoor)	8.4%	Cycling	4.2%
9	Walking (bush)	7.2%	Dancing	3.9%
10	Surf Sports	5.2%	Running	3.7%

Comparison of Activity Participation in NSW between Males and Females (2003)

9.4.2. Organised and Non-Organised Participation

The ERASS defined participation as being "organised" if the survey respondent reported that his or her participation was "organised in full or in part by a club, association or other type of organisation".

In Australia, more than six and a half million people aged 15 years and over participated in at least one organised activity, which represents a participation rate of 42.8% (compared 40.9% for 2002). It also represents over half (51.8%) of the 12.9 million persons who participated in sport or physical activity. Those people who participated in organised sport or physical activity undertook an average of 1.7 sessions of organised activity per week.

In NSW, 41.6% of all people aged over 15 years participated in organised activities. In relation to participation in organised sport by age, the table on the following page shows that participation in organised sport declines rapidly with age.

Organised participation rates in NSW are highest in the 15-24 years age group (60.6%), and declined to 31.5% for persons aged 45-54 years. There was a higher rate of participation in NSW than Nationally for the 55-64 age group (by 3.6%), however, a lower level (by 4.6%) in the 15-24 years age group.

Age Groups	Organised Participation (New South Wales)	Organised Participation (National)
15-24 years	60.6%	65.2%
25-34 years	47.0%	48.5%
35-44 years	39.5%	40.6%
45-54 years	31.5%	33.6%
55-64 years	35.2%	31.6%
65+ years	32.5%	31.6%
Average	41.6%	42.8%

Comparison of Organised Participation Between New South Wales and National (2003)

9.5. Sports Trends

Specific trends for basketball, netball, soccer and netball participation are as follows:

Basketball

- Over 33% of basketballers participate in one additional sport or physical activity, of which netball is by far the most popular¹⁷.
- Basketball tends to be dominated by younger people, with 74.6% of participants under the age of 35. However, participation declines markedly after the age of 24 years.
- Basketball participants are more likely to be Australian-born.

¹⁷ Source: *The Numbers Game*, March 2000, Australian Sports Commission.

Netball

- Whilst South Australia and ACT have the highest relative participation rates of 3.3% and 3.2% respectively, the majority of netballers come from Victoria, NSW and Queensland¹⁸.
- Netballers generally demonstrate a younger age profile than participants in other sports and activities – 80.4% of netballers are less than 35 years of age.
- Netball participants are more likely to be Australian born.

Soccer

- Continued growth at the grass roots level, with a particular focus on juniors, women and social teams.
- Statistics supplied by Soccer NSW show that:
 - Soccer NSW experienced an 8.8% growth in the total number of soccer player registrations from 157,872 (2002) to 171,759 (2003).
 - There was male senior growth of 8%, male junior growth of 5.6%, female senior growth of 25%, and female junior growth of 30.5%.
 - The Wagga Wagga & District Amateur Soccer Association (WWDASA) was the 23rd largest Soccer Association in NSW of the 33 affiliate bodies, in 2003.
 - The WWDASA had an increase of 9% in the number of registered players between 2002 (1,880 players) and 2003 (2,050 players), and a 9% increase in the number of teams.
 - The number of female soccer players in the WWDASA increased by 35% between 2002 and 2003, whilst the number of male players increased by 5%.

Tennis

- Tennis showed the largest increase in participation between 1999 and 2000¹⁹ for boys at the expense of cricket and basketball.
- Tennis is the highest participation sport at National and State levels across all age groups.

Australian Football

Statistics supplied by the Australian Football League (NSW/ACT) Commission show that for the NSW/ACT region:

- AusKick registrations increased almost ten fold in 5 years, from 2,115 registrations in 1997 to 26,000 in 2003.
- From 1997 to 2003, the number of junior AFL clubs has almost doubled to 232.
- The number of junior AFL teams (up to and including U/12) has increased by nearly 200% to 485 in 2003, and youth teams (U13 – U18) have increased just over 150% to 407 in 2003.
- There were 264 senior teams in 2003.

¹⁸ Source: *The Numbers Game*, March 2000, Australian Sports Commission.

¹⁹ Source: *ABS Participation in Sport and Physical Activity (1999/00)*.

10. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

10.1. Process

Stratcorp Consulting organised and facilitated a series of consultation processes with residents from the Wagga Wagga LGA and other key stakeholders during the period March – August 2004.

A comprehensive approach was adopted for the consultation and incorporated a number of different techniques to interact with residents, organised groups and peak body organisations. This was designed to ensure that a wide cross section of people and interested parties were given an opportunity to provide input into the future planning for recreation, culture and open space for the Wagga Wagga LGA.

In addition, it was important to liaise with relevant Council staff and Councillors during the study to not only receive ideas and input, but to also “test” scenarios and potential opportunities.

Target Group	Consultative Technique	Date	No. Responses / Interviews
Broad Community	Random Tele Survey	Mar 2004	350
	Cultural & O/S Forum	June 2004	13
	Community Submissions	Ongoing	8
Sports & Recreation Groups	Club Survey	April 2004	27/47
	Sports Group Meeting	June 2004	29
	Sports Wagga Wagga	Aug 2004	10
Cultural Groups	Cultural Advisory Group	June 2004	10
Target Population Groups	Indigenous – Meeting	April 2004	5
	Disability – Meeting	April 2004	5
	Young Families – Meeting	April 2004	7
	Older Adults - Meeting	April 2004	4
	Young People – Meeting	June 2004	45
Schools/Tertiary	Interviews	Mar/April 2004	31
Peak Bodies	Interviews	Ongoing	5
Cultural & Sports Facility Managers	Council – Meeting	April 2004	7
	Private - Interviews	May 2004	9
Council Groups' Meetings	Recreation & O/S Staff	June 2004	5
	Cultural Staff	June 2004	8
	Councillors	Aug 2004	13
	Executive Group	Aug 2004	5

Sections 11 – 14 outline the results of the consultation process.

11. CONSULTATION - HOUSEHOLD TELEPHONE SURVEY

11.1. Data Collection

The results from this survey were obtained from a stratified random telephone survey of 350 residents who reside within the Wagga Wagga LGA. The interviews took place between the period 27th March – 4th April 2004.

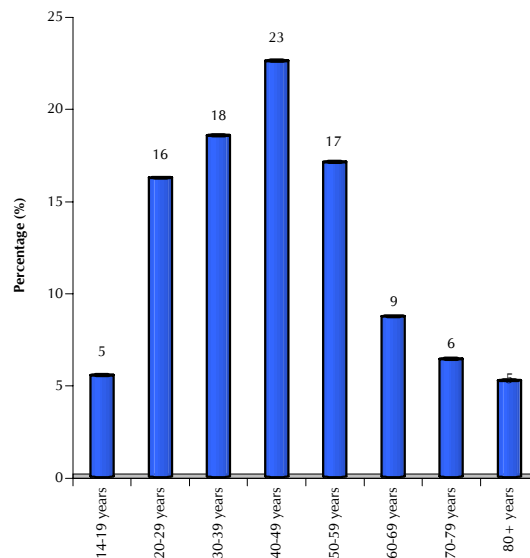
There were some limitations to the survey that should be taken into account in the interpretation of the data collected. The limitations were:

- The survey was conducted on weekends between 10.00am and 6.00pm and weeknights between 5.00pm and 8.30pm.
- Only persons aged 15 years or above were interviewed.

11.2. Profile of Respondents

The key demographic characteristics of the survey sample are described below. They generally are consistent with the actual demographic profile of the City of Wagga Wagga, meaning data can be used with confidence that it reflects the broader community. Where appropriate, these characteristics have been used as the basis for cross tabulations in the data analysis.

- The majority of respondents were female (58%).
- The highest proportion of respondents were aged 40 – 49 years (23%), followed by those 30 – 39 years (18%) and 50 – 59 years (17%).



Age Structure

- 91% of respondents were Australian born. Of the respondents not born in Australia (9%), the majority were born in the UK, Sri Lanka, Italy, USA and New Zealand.

11.3. Distribution of Respondents

Due to the high proportion of the population of the Wagga Wagga LGA which reside in the Wagga Wagga urban area versus the rural villages, it was agreed that the survey sample should not be stratified exactly according to the distribution of the population across the LGA (i.e. only 10% of all calls, or 35 calls, would have been made to rural communities if the actual stratification of calls was to have occurred).

As a means to ensure the results from the rural communities would be more statistically relevant, it was agreed that a total of 100 calls would be made to rural communities, with the remaining 250 calls being stratified according to the distribution of the City-based population across the suburbs which make up the Wagga Wagga urban area.

The table below shows how the survey sample was stratified after having taken into account the imbalance between the number of people residing within the Wagga Wagga urban area and those within the rural villages.

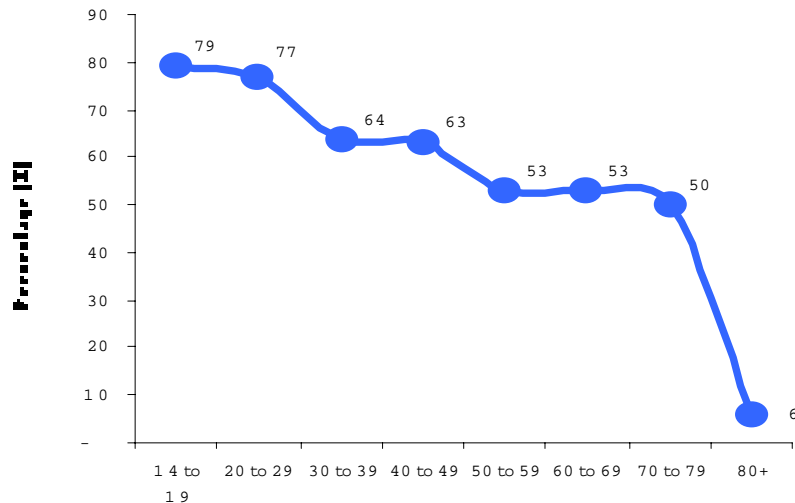
Wagga Wagga Township Suburbs	No. of Respondents
Ashmont	20
Bourkelands/Lloyd	10
Estella	10
Forest Hill	10
Gumly Gumly	3
Glenfield Park	20
Kapooka Military Area	4
Koorringal	35
Lake Albert	25
Mount Austin	20
North Wagga Wagga	5
San Isidore	5
Springvale	5
Tatton	4
Tolland	17
Turvey Park	17
Wagga Wagga Central	40
Total	250
Rural Villages	
Collingullie	15
Currawarna	5
Humula	5
Ladysmith	15
Mangoplah	10
Tarcutta	25
Uranquinty	25
Total	100

Place of Residence of Respondents

11.4. Sport and Recreation Participation

A total of 60% of respondents had participated in activities for exercise, recreation or sport purposes in the past 12 months, which is lower than the NSW average (81.5%) identified in 2003.²⁰

The graph shows the proportion of each age sector that participated in activities. The highest participating age sector is the 14-19 age group (79%), with the level of participation then declining with age.



Sport and Recreation Participation

Cross tabulations revealed:

- Males (64%) had a higher rate of participation than females (57%), rates which are both lower than NSW averages (2003), being males at 83.2% and females at 79.8%.
- Participation in sport and recreation activities is higher amongst those who live in the Wagga Wagga urban area (63%) compared to those who live in rural villages (53%).

²⁰ Source: Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (2003), Australian Sports Commission.

11.5. Popular Sport and Recreation Activities

The following table shows that the three most popular sporting or health & fitness activities in the past 12 months were walking, swimming and golf.

The top ten participated activities in the City of Wagga are generally in line with the NSW top ten activities, with the exception of Gym/Weights (lower in Wagga), Cycling (lower in Wagga) and Australian Rules (higher in Wagga). The two activities not included in the Wagga Wagga top ten but which are in the NSW top ten activities are Bushwalking (6.8%) and Touch (3.6%).

Activity	No.	%	NSW (03)
Walking	80	23%	36.0%
Swimming	37	11%	17.5%
Golf	25	7%	8.4%
Aerobic/Fitness	22	6%	16.2%
Tennis	22	6%	9.8%
Running	15	4%	7.1%
Soccer	12	3%	5.3%
Cycling	11	3%	7.7%
Australian Rules	9	3%	1.0%
Netball	9	3%	2.8% %

Top 10 Sport and Recreation Activities

11.6. Organised Participation

36% of respondents who had participated in a sporting or health & fitness activity did so in an activity organised by a club or association, which is just less than the NSW rate of 41.6% people.

Cross tabulations revealed:

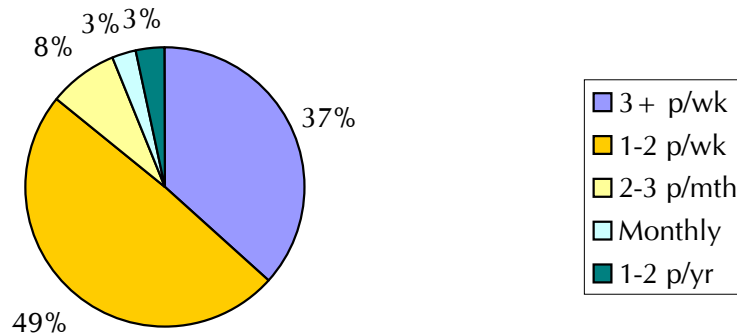
- Club involvement was similar for both males and females.
- There is no difference in the level of club-based participation between the urban area and rural areas.

11.7. Frequency of Participation

86% of respondents who had participated in a sporting or health & fitness activity took part on a regular basis, i.e. at least 1-2 times per week.

Cross tabulations revealed:

- More females (43%) participated more regularly (3 + times per week) than males (29%).



Frequency of Participation

11.8. Reasons for Non-Participation

Respondents were asked what restricted them from (further) participating in sporting or health & fitness activities. The following table shows that 45% of people identified that lack of time, followed by physical constraints (19%) and age (18%) were the main reasons for non-participation.

Significantly, the reasons for non-participation which Council can have some influence over (such as 'too expensive' and 'lack of facilities available') were not identified as major disincentives by respondents.

Rank	Reason/Constraint	No.	%
1	Lack of time (family/work/study commitments)	157	45%
2	Physical constraints (injury/illness/disability)	66	19%
3	My Age (too young/old)	63	18%
4	Nothing, not interested	60	17%
5	Lack of motivation	25	7%
6	Too expensive	23	7%
7	Need child care/babysitter	20	6%
8	Lack of facilities available	13	4%
9	Lack of public transport	8	2%
10	No-one to participate with	6	2%

Note: More than one response was accepted

Top 10 Reasons for Non-Participation

The responses for this question about non-participation differed for those who lived in Rural Village areas. The main reason for non-participation for those in Rural Villages was “lack of public transport” (94%), followed by “lack of facilities available” (89%).

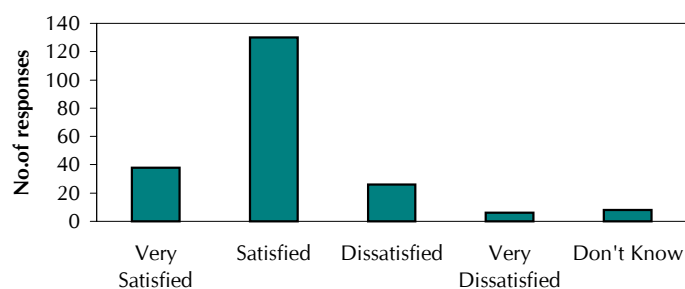
11.9. Sport and Recreation Facilities

The following table represents the most popular venues/facilities used to participate in activities for exercise, recreation or sport purposes.

Rank	Facility/Venue	No.	%
1	In local streets/footpaths	50	16%
2	Oasis Regional Aquatic Centre	27	8%
3	Jubilee Park	17	5%
4	Bolton Park	12	4%
5	Country Golf Club	12	4%
6	At home	9	3%
7	In local area	9	3%
8	Indoor Cricket Centre	7	2%
9	Lake Albert Park	6	2%
10	French Fields	6	2%
11	Xceler8	5	2%
12	Nagel St Indoor Tennis Centre	5	2%
13	University Pool	5	2%
14	Willans Hill - Botanical Gardens	5	2%
15	Workout Wagga	5	2%
16	Forest Hill Sportsground	4	1%
17	Gissing Oval	4	1%
18	Various Bowling Clubs	4	1%
19	Bike tracks	3	1%
20	City Golf Club	3	1%

Top 20 Venues/Facilities Used for Activities

Of the 208 people who responded to this question, most respondents (82%) were either ‘very satisfied’ or ‘satisfied’ with the quality of sporting and health & fitness facilities in Wagga Wagga LGA. 15% of respondents were either ‘dissatisfied’ or ‘very dissatisfied’.



Satisfaction with Facilities

11.10. Possible Future Activities

Respondents were asked if there are any activities that they might participate in the future. The desired future activities were gym/weights (13%), swimming (9%), netball (8%), tennis (6%).

11.11. Leisure Statements

All respondents were asked 12 statements relating to the provision of recreation and leisure in Wagga Wagga LGA, and the importance of recreation to them. Respondents could use a scale from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree' when responding to the statements.

Statement	SA	A	N	D	SD	DK
	%	%	%	%	%	%
I am satisfied with my access to sport and recreation facilities in Wagga LGA.	7	76	5	6	0	6
Sport is important to me or my family.	20	56	10	13	0	1
The sport and recreation facilities in Wagga LGA are generally well maintained.	6	59	11	9	1	14
I am satisfied with my access to parks and open space in Wagga.	12	75	6	5	1	2
It is better to have fewer, but larger open space areas that are maintained to a high standard, than many smaller open space areas spread throughout the LGA but which might not be maintained to as higher standard.	12	55	11	16	1	4
Within the Wagga LGA there is a large range of sport and recreation activities for people to choose from.	13	64	8	6	0	9
Council should collect a rental fee from sports and recreation groups which regularly use facilities and reserves.	5	35	14	32	8	6
It is too expensive to use many of the sports and recreation facilities in the Wagga LGA.	5	28	18	29	1	19
It is easy for me to find out about what sports and recreation activities are available.	4	62	11	10	1	12
I am satisfied with the quality and condition of parks and open space in Wagga LGA	6	68	9	14	2	1
There are enough sport and recreation facilities available within the Wagga LGA, they just need to be better utilised.	8	66	10	5	1	10
Clubs and groups which regularly use sport and recreation facilities should contribute to the cost of their upgrade and development.	6	45	10	26	3	10

Leisure Statements

Key results include:

- High community interest in and importance placed on sport.
- Satisfaction with access, range, quantity and condition of sport and recreation facilities.
- Division on issues such as club contributions towards annual rentals and capital upgrades, affordability of sport, condition of parks and open space, and whether fewer but better quality parks are better than more but maintained to a lower standard

11.12. Current Use of Parks and Open Space

Respondents were asked to comment on their current use of parks and open space areas within the Wagga Wagga LGA. Of those surveyed, the majority (58%) did visit a particular park and open space area on a regular basis (at least once per month).

The following tables shows the Top 10 parks and open space areas that respondents visited, and the main activities/reasons for their visits.

Rank	Park Name	No.	%
1	Botanic Gardens	108	32%
2	Jubilee Park	32	9%
3	Victory Memorial Gardens/Park	22	6%
4	Bolton Park	20	6%
5	Collins Park	14	4%
6	Rawlings Park	11	3%
7	Lagoon	10	3%
8	Willans Hill	7	2%
9	Henwood Park	7	2%
10	Lake Albert Park	7	2%

Top 10 Most Visited Parks and Open Spaces in Wagga Wagga LGA

Rank	Main Activity	No.	%
1	Walking	26	14%
2	Picnic	18	10%
3	Use of playground	16	9%
4	Play with children	10	6%
5	Spectator	10	6%
6	Play Sport	9	5%
7	Walk the dog	9	5%
8	Feed animals, walk around	8	4%
9	Football	7	4%
10	Socialise	7	4%

Activities/Reasons for Visiting Park or Open Space

Cross tabulations revealed:

- Those who live in Rural Villages are more inclined to visit parks and open space areas at least once per month (64%) compared with those who live in the Wagga Wagga urban area (34%).

11.13. Current Use of Community Halls

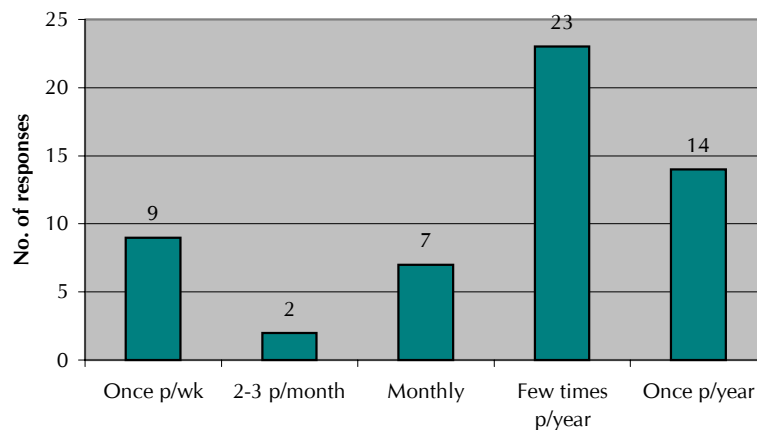
Respondents were asked about their use of Community Halls located in the Wagga Wagga LGA. Of those surveyed, very few (66 people, or 19% of the sample) had used a Community Hall in the past 12 months.

The following table shows the Top 10 Community Halls that were used by respondents in the previous 12 months.

Rank	Hall	No	%
1	Mangoplah Public Hall	7	10%
2	Collingullie Hall	6	9%
3	Tarcutta Hall	6	9%
4	Seniors Citizens CC	5	7%
5	Ladysmith Memorial Hall	4	6%
6	Lake Albert Hall	4	6%
7	Apex Hall	2	3%
8	Brucedale Hall	2	3%
9	Downside Hall	2	3%
10	Euberta Public Hall	2	3%

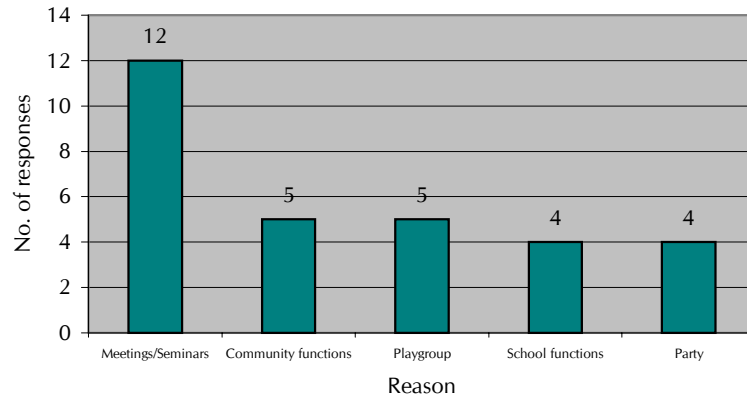
Top 10 Community Halls Used

Of those who had used a Community Hall in the past 12 months, the majority (67%) used a Hall once or a few times per year.



Frequency of Use of Halls

The main reason respondents used a Community Hall in the past 12 months was for meetings/seminars.



Main Reason for Use of Halls

12. CONSULTATION – OTHER BROAD COMMUNITY INPUT

Other input into open space, sports and recreation planning for the LGA was received via:

- Cultural and Open Forum.
- Community Submissions.
- Interviews with private recreation facility operators.

The results from these processes are reported below.

12.1. Cultural and Open Space Forum

A Forum was held to identify and discuss key issues relating to the provision and management of cultural and open space services in the Wagga Wagga LGA. Thirteen people attended the Forum held on 9th June 2004.

A summary of the key themes from the Forum that relate to open and recreation are as follows:

Please Note that the information reported below is a summary of the comments, views and opinions of submitters, and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Wagga Wagga LGA community.

- Open space provision not adequate.
- Key sites under utilised are the River, Wagga Beach, lagoons.
- “Friends of” groups not receiving the support they desire (funding, management plans, advice, project management) and this is beginning to negatively effect community involvement.
- Facilities in parks are scattered, and there is poor signage. Support for improving the cycleway (surface, linkages).
- Lack of diversity in parks, that is, introduce different planting themes, landscape treatments, equipment, village greens.
- “Great facilities in Wagga – but no soul”.
- Too much emphasis on sport.

12.2. Community Submissions

Eight submissions relating to open space and recreation were received, with the key points raised being summarised below. The order in which the submissions are presented is not intended to reflect or imply priority.

Please Note that the information reported below is a summary of the comments, views and opinions of submitters, and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Wagga Wagga LGA community.

Submission 1: Wagga Wagga Resident

- The submission recommended the relocation of the Wagga Beach Caravan Park to a more suitable location, to allow greater public access and frontage to Wagga Beach. Facilities at Wagga Beach should be upgraded for public benefit.

Submission 2: Koorungal Resident

- Request for improved tree planting and/or inclusion of shade sails over playground equipment.

Submission 3: Mount Austin Resident

- Request for improvements to the Apex Park Hall (Lake Albert) including heating and painting.

Submission 4: Wagga Wagga Resident

- Request for development of more cycle paths and linear open space corridors across the municipality, including investigations into the feasibility of establishing the Tumbarumba Rail Trail for walkers and cyclists.
- Suggest the establishment of a shared path corridor along the Willans Hill ridgeline.
- Request the upgrading of the River Bikeway along the Murrumbidgee River/City interface and completion of the Lake Albert shared trail.

Submission 5: Wagga Wagga Resident

- Concerned about the loss of sporting venues and activities previously available to the community such as learn to swim facilities, roller skating, ten pin bowling etc.
- Concerned about Wagga Wagga's ability to successfully attract major sporting events, possibly as a result of poor facility provision or standard.
- Encourages Council to support community sport and recreation, including new and emerging sporting activities or events.
- Supports and acknowledges the need for multi-use facilities and sharing of resources.
- Need to upgrade and improve the City's passive open space areas and parks.

Submission 6: Disability Advocacy Network

- Need to provide opportunities for inclusive participation by all members of the community, including those with physical and intellectual disabilities.
- Participation needs to be on an equal basis and not tokenistic.
- Public awareness and education could be improved regarding positive attitudes to those with disabilities.
- Physical access to and around City facilities needs to improve, e.g. curb heights, etc.
- Use of the hydrotherapy pool at the Oasis should be restricted to those using it for rehabilitation or therapeutic purposes, and not as a general play pool.
- Cost of accessing services and opportunities can be a barrier to those on limited incomes, including pensioners.

Submission 7: The Older Men: New Ideas Group

- A range of recreation participation opportunities are already available, including fishing, Senior Citizens Centre, the Shed, and library.
- Key issues affecting the Older Men: New Ideas Group, include mobility, health and access to facilities, such as a lack of public transport.
- The Oasis hydrotherapy pool is not considered warm enough.

- Improved provision of seating, shade, public toilets and walking paths is encouraged in public open space areas.

Submission 8: Defence Community Organisation

- More resources and facilities required in local parks and open spaces to cater for, or which are suitable for, older children/youth, e.g. basketball half-courts, cricket nets, etc.
- Coffee shop with internet access and big screen TV would provide a safe place for young people to “hang out”.
- Key issue affecting young people’s access to and participation in recreation is poorly provided and timetabled public transport.
- Improved safety and better maintenance of existing park facilities would encourage more people into Wagga Wagga parks and open spaces.
- Wagga Wagga lacks a large conference centre which is multipurpose, affordable, safe, and has the capacity to accommodate large numbers of people.

12.3. Private Recreation Facility Operators

Telephone interviews were conducted with the operators of the following 9 private facilities:

1. Tolland Squash Centre.
2. Xceler8 Fitness Centre.
3. Flex It Gymnasium.
4. Workout Wagga.
5. Nagle Street Indoor Cricket Centre.
6. Vertical Reality.
7. Indoor Putt Putt.
8. Wagga Show Society.
9. Borambula Sport & Recreation Centre.

A detailed summary of information collected from these interviews is contained in Appendix 5, however, the key outcomes were:

- There has been a general increase in membership and use of health & fitness centres.
- Most enterprises reported an increase in patronage in the past 3 years, with increased school’s use being a contributing factor.
- All Centres and facilities reported that they have little interaction with Council, but would be interested in strengthening the relationship, where possible (mainly promotion/awareness).

13. CONSULTATION – COUNCIL PERSONNEL AND TARGET GROUPS

Relevant Council staff and several population groups within the broad community were targeted for consultation.

The Council staff were from departments responsible for recreation and sports planning, parks management, asset management, and strategic planning, and included a member of staff from Bolton Park Stadium. The targeted population groups were:

- Indigenous People.
- People with Disability (and Carers of).
- Young Families.
- Older Adults.
- Young People (Secondary School Students).

Please Note that the information reported below is a summary of the comments, views and opinions of attendees, and may not necessarily reflect the views of Council or other people from within the same target population groups which were consulted.

13.1. Council Staff

April 2004, 7 staff

- The main residential development is occurring in the southwest area of the Wagga Wagga urban area, being Lloyd, Glenfield Park, Bourkelands and Tatton.
- Affordability is high in Forest Hill and Uranquinty.
- There are no benchmarks for open space provision in new developments.
- Some of the identified weaknesses of the current provision of recreation, sport and open space in Wagga Wagga include:
 - Income vs Expenditure (\$93K v \$1.3M).
 - Lack of adequate provision of indoor courts.
 - Lack of maintenance for most facilities and playing surfaces.
 - High cost to Council to maintain current assets.
 - Bikeways are poor in quality.
 - Lack of shade provision.
- Issues requiring resolution in the short-term include:
 - Increased multi-use, joint-use and shared-use of sporting facilities.
 - Partnership developments.
 - Use of school facilities.
 - Provision of strategic linkages within the cycleway network.
 - Full and complete access around Lake Albert (walkway).
 - Provision of camping facilities.
 - Introduction of more realistic user pays philosophy.
- Issues in relation to Bolton Park Stadium include:
 - At capacity in peak periods, unable to cater for any more users in relation to training space.
 - Increased maintenance due to age of facility.

- It was identified that the water level of Lake Albert has been significantly impacted for several years by reduced run-off. The reduction in the volume in water flowing into Lake Albert is impacting on the quality of the Lake as a suitable venue and destination for a variety of aquatic recreation activities, such as boating and fishing. The reduced run-off can be traced to increased diversion of water from its catchment into private dams, and the effects of the drought.

Council is currently exploring options to increase the flow of water into the Lake, including diverting storm water from other areas.

13.2. Indigenous People

April 2004, 5 people

The key outcomes from the Workshop were:

- Some integration into existing clubs/groups is occurring.
- Some target-specific programming, but is funding dependent.
- Key issues affecting, or likely to affect, the ability and capacity of indigenous people to participate in recreational activities, include:
 - Financial constraints.
 - Transport services.
 - Attitude.
 - Transience of Indigenous people.
 - Communication/awareness of “whats on”.
 - Poor River amenities.
 - Require funding for Indigenous Officer.
- Suggestions for new/improved open space and recreation services included:
 - Better connection of bike paths.
 - Improved transport.
 - Provision of shade.
 - Improved maintenance of parks, and facilities along the River.

13.3. People with a Disability (and Carer)

April 2004, 4 people

The key outcomes from the Workshop were:

- Good provision of services/programs/facilities for people with a disability/carers.
- Key issues for PWD include:
 - Transport services (particularly from rural areas).
 - Accessibility of some facilities or associated outdoor areas (parking, ramps, toilets).
 - Arranging respite for carers.
 - Poor communication/awareness of “whats on”.
- Few examples of successful integration of PWD into “main stream” recreation/sport – requires a major program of awareness.

13.4. Youth Families

April 2004, 7 people

The key outcomes from the Workshop were:

- Good provision of facilities and spaces for young families, and a range of services and organised groups.
- In rural areas, the quality and condition of facilities and spaces is typically below the standard available in the urban area.
- Key issues affecting, or likely to affect, the ability and capacity of young families to participate in recreational activities, include:
 - Lack of transport services.
 - Geographic and social isolation.
 - Cost.
 - Decline in the availability of commercial/public recreational services on weekends.
 - Safety.
 - Transient population (Uni, Defence Forces).
 - Poor community attitudes to young people.
- Suggestions for new/improved open space and recreation services included:
 - Responsible alcohol policy.
 - More shade in public places.
 - Stroller-friendly facilities.
 - Increased provision/connection of shared paths.

13.5. Older Adults

April 2004, 4 people

The key outcomes from the Workshop were:

- Good provision of facilities and spaces for older adults, and a range of services and organised groups (both public and private).
- Key issues for this group include:
 - Improved transport services.
 - Access to Senior Citizens Centre (too busy).
 - Affordability (for some).
 - Awareness of what is available (poor communication and promotion).
- Suggestions for new/improved open space and recreation services included:
 - Improved amenities in parks.
 - More shade/shelter in parks.

13.6. School Students

Two forums were held with students in years 10, 11 and 12 from two high schools within the Wagga Wagga LGA (Koorinal High School and Mt Austin High School). The purpose of the Forums was to identify and discuss key issues relating to the provision and management of recreation and cultural facilities in Wagga Wagga. In all, 45 students participated in the Forums, held in June 2004.

The key outcomes from the Forums are summarised below:

- Strong view that Wagga Beach should be retained and needs to be upgraded, i.e. provision of lifeguards, sand, improve toilets and provision of a power source.

- Oasis is valued but should have improved opportunities for “teenage” space/activities.
- Strong view that street-style skate parks need to be provided in the suburbs, to improve accessibility and to improve diversity.
- Personal safety in parks is an issue.
- The young people identified the following new facilities/services for Wagga Wagga:
 - Evening functions and events (discos, bands, foam parties) in a quality venue such as the Leagues Club.
 - Ten Pin Bowling.
 - Drive In/Outdoor Movies.
 - Video Arcade e.g. Intensity, Time Zone.
 - Performance space for local bands.
 - Internet Café.
 - Facilities for girls
- Key issues affecting the ability and capacity of young people to participate or engage in recreation activities include:
 - Transport – especially of an evening and on Sunday’s. The transport network is not extensive enough and does not service the new residential areas well.
 - Cost to use facilities, e.g. Cinema.
 - Awareness of events – promotion through community noticeboards, radio, Council webpage.

14. CONSULTATION – SPORTING GROUPS

Sports groups were consulted in three main ways:

- Sports Group Survey.
- Sports Group Meeting.
- Sports Wagga Wagga.

The results from these consultative processes are outlined below.

14.1. Sports Group Survey

All known sporting clubs and sports associations (total of 47) were mailed a Club Survey in April 2004. In all, 27 completed surveys were returned. The response rate (57%) was below expectations despite several written and telephone follow-up reminders.

As a means to obtain meaningful sports participation and club membership data, Stratcorp Consulting telephoned all clubs which did not return a completed survey to obtain the up-to-date membership profile of the respective clubs. Other clubs and groups not on Council's database which had been identified through feedback from Council staff and other individuals were also telephoned to obtain club membership information. This has enabled trends and issues in relation to Club Membership and sports participation generally within the Wagga Wagga LGA to be reported (refer Section 7).

Clubs and associations which responded to the Sports Group Survey had an opportunity to put forward their suggestions as to what they believed to be the priority areas to be addressed in relation to the provision of sport and recreation services, and any key issues affecting their viability.

Priority areas and issues identified by groups included:

- Poor standard pavilion facilities – both in relation to size and condition (change room and storage areas).
- Funding support required for sports clubs to undertake minor improvements to facilities.
- Equal treatment across all sports.
- Promotion of local sporting clubs and opportunities.
- Provision of flood lighting.
- Confusion about the wet weather ground closure procedures.
- Improved communication between Council and clubs.
- Lack of (and decreasing) voluntary support, and recognition of local volunteers.
- Improved ground/court maintenance (although effect of drought is acknowledged).
- Improved provision of spectator facilities, such as seats, bins, shade and shelter.

See Appendix 6 for a summary of club data and feedback.

14.2. Sports Group Forum

A forum was held with representatives from various sports groups from with the Wagga Wagga LGA to identify and discuss key issues relating to the provision and management of recreation services in Wagga Wagga. Twenty-nine people attended the Forum held on 9th June 2004.

The key outcomes from the Forum are summarised below:

Please Note that the information reported below is a summary of the comments, views and opinions of attendees, and may not necessarily reflect the views of all sports groups within the Wagga Wagga LGA.

Sports Group representatives were asked if access and availability of sports facilities is adequate across the LGA. Responses included:

- Need to consider diversity of facilities.
- Crossover between sports is difficult – sharing?
- Drought has impacted upon irrigation and turf.
- There is a need for free facilities – river, paths, ½ courts, ovals.
- Need to restrict access to sports grounds by the public for casual use (schools, groups).
- Enforcement of permit/tenancy agreements.
- Need better security of tenancy when clubs invest in facilities (appropriate use).
- Security may result in higher fees.
- Lack of understanding/knowledge of who to contact for assistance.
- Classify grounds/facilities in sports hierarchy.

Sports Group representatives were asked if existing sports facilities were meeting their needs. Responses included:

- Inadequate spectator facilities (e.g. bins, seats, car park, toilets, etc).
- Many changerooms and pavilion buildings are spartan.
- LGA lacks a major stadium venue.
- General standard of outdoor facilities poor.
- Poor provision for indoor sports – Bolton Park Stadium does not adequately cater for all needs/sports.

Sports Group representatives were asked what existing sports facilities need improving. Responses included:

- Boat ramp – lack of river fishing and skiing opportunities. Existing ramp at Wilks Park is accessible only during high water. Need to form a proper ramp.
- Lack of parking at many venues, e.g. at boat ramp, at sports grounds, at parks, etc.
- Bikeways over intersections, lack of connections, lack of sealed paths (if sealed could improve opportunity for people with poor mobility to walk/exercise).

- There is only provision of basic amenities at “new” venues.
- Need a consistent signage strategy (both directional and functional signage).

Sports Group representatives were asked what new or emerging sports are not being catered for. Responses included:

- Womens soccer.
- Provision of equine infrastructure (e.g. polo cross, rodeo, camp drafting facility, etc).
- Season creep – off season matches and competitions are impacting upon shared facilities.
- Canoe facilities to support growth/interest.

Sports Group representatives were asked what the key issues are in relation to Council’s delivery of sports services. Responses included:

- Method of allocation of resources – how are priorities established?
- Acknowledgement of club/association contribution towards facility developments and upgrade (e.g. polo cross club, athletics venue, etc).
- Club equipment being used by hirers (liability, damage, theft/loss).
- Council’s Facility Improvement Grants Scheme (low \$\$’s available, inequity in distribution).
- Transparency of maintenance/development of fields.
- Backlog of asset maintenance.
- Rationalisation/reduction of staff.
- Self-help schemes – utilise expertise/skills of club members.
- Lack of funding contingency in annual budget – may be missing sports opportunities.
- Impact of decreased volunteerism.
- Poor communication between Council and clubs.
- Private /Trust facilities and their lack of ability to access funding opportunities.

14.3. Sports Wagga Wagga

A meeting was held in August 2004 with 9 members of the Sports Wagga Wagga committee. Attendees reinforced many of the issues previously raised at the Sports Group Forum, and the meeting was an opportunity to discuss these issues in more detail.

Key issues for this committee were the need for improved maintenance of sports facilities, the need to review the Council’s *Facility Improvement Grants* process (dollar amount available and assessment procedures), and the future role and status of the Sports Wagga Wagga.

15. POLICY/GUIDELINES REVIEW

This section reviews selected Council recreation policies/guidelines, and makes recommendations where such documents should be amended, and where new policies/guidelines may be required.

The following recreation policies/guidelines have been reviewed:

1. Sports Grounds Fees and Charges.
2. Conditions of Use of Council Sports Grounds.
3. Community Grants Guide.

15.1. Sports Grounds Fees and Charges

15.1.1. Background

Wagga Wagga City Council each year adopts a schedule of fees of charges payable by groups/individuals which use Council-owned/managed sports grounds for organised sporting and recreation activities. There are no fees payable by individual members of the public for the use of grounds for unstructured, informal activities.

In the main, sporting clubs and associations are the groups to whom the fees and charges schedule is most commonly applied, and from whom the bulk of the annual fees are raised. For this reason, the following review of fees and charges will focus on the paid use of sports grounds by clubs and associations for organised sporting use.

For the past four years, Council has collected between \$75,000 - \$93,000 per annum in sports ground fees. This compares to an annual estimated cost to Council of \$1.3M²¹ to maintain the sports grounds. Using this annual estimated cost (\$1.3M) and the total revenue from sports ground fees budgeted for 2004/05 (\$81,800), the expense recovery for the cost of maintenance of sports grounds from user groups is around 6.3%. This figure is significantly lower than the 15% - 25% expense recovery typically aimed for by local government authorities.

Notwithstanding the role Council has in ensuring that there is adequate provision of good quality and well maintained facilities available for sporting use, it is not unreasonable to expect that regular user groups should contribute to the cost to maintain sports grounds in return for the privilege of being able to exclusively use them for training and match day activities. In addition, Council's capacity to fund its recurrent maintenance responsibilities is continually being challenged due to increasing costs and rate pegging legislation (and further exacerbated when Council's historically low rate base is considered). A further pressure on Council is the gradual shift in people's preference for participation in passive recreation activities from organised sport, and the need for Council to fund and maintain these places and spaces (such as parks, walking/bike paths, nature-based recreation, etc.).

Historically, Wagga Wagga City Council has charged seasonal user groups a fee which is based on the number of registered members using a particular ground in any given season. (For 2004/05, the senior fee is \$9.90, incl GST, and the

²¹ The estimated \$1.3M is based on the \$1.0M expenditure for sports ground maintenance in 2001/02, plus 30% to allow for increased charges since 2001/02.

junior fee \$6.60, incl GST). Feedback from Council staff, and our own assessment of this method of fee setting, has identified the following constraints:

- There is no framework, formula or policy position upon which the annual fee is based, that is, the principle of user pays does not appear to be linked in any way to the cost of providing the service.
- The annual fee does not take into account the different standard between grounds, nor the different costs associated with the maintenance of grounds.
- The present system does not take into account the fact that the cost of maintaining any given sports ground is more or less fixed, irrespective of how much use is generated by a user group which is allocated the ground.
- Fees from user groups are not able to be collected until membership and registration figures are submitted by user groups, this date typically being well into a season. The impact on Council is that most fees are paid near the conclusion of a season, or following its completion.
- Council relies on the honesty and integrity of user groups to submit accurate numbers of registered members using a ground, for the purpose of preparing invoices.
- There is little scope for discounting fees in the present system of fee setting to encourage increased participation by targeted sections of the community. However, the present system does offer a discount rate for juniors.

The following recommended fees and charges system attempts to provide Council with a more transparent, equitable and strategic system. Any additional revenue raised should be used to fund:

1. Improved maintenance regimes on sporting grounds.
2. Improving the number and quality of passive recreation infrastructure, and its ongoing maintenance.
3. Reduction in Council's overall net cost for maintaining sports grounds.

15.1.2. Recommended Policy Framework

Whilst the following policy framework is recommended to the Wagga Wagga City Council as a new method for setting annual sports ground fees and charges, some additional work needs to be carried out, such as confirming the actual cost to maintain specific sports grounds, determining what the possible scenarios might be in relation to total revenue raised from fees, and to assess the likely impact on current user groups of any new policy, including their capacity to pay any likely increase in fees.

Objectives

The following objectives provide a basis for the establishment of a new fees and charges policy for the use of Council owned/managed community sports grounds and pavilions.

- Provides a fair and equitable framework for allocating and charging for the use of sports grounds and pavilions.
- Ensures consistency and transparency in decision-making.
- Encourages efficient and effective use of Council resources.
- Facilitates increased participation in physical activities.

- Allows Council to pro-actively manage sports grounds in order to prevent over-use and/or inappropriate uses, thereby ensuring the long-term sustainability of playing fields.
- Allows allocation of grounds appropriate to the level of competition being played.
- Promotes positive user attitudes and responsibility towards facilities.
- Allows Council to recover up to 20%²² of the facility maintenance costs from direct users.
- Ensures fees and charges reflect the standard of the facilities being provided.

Principles

The following Principles will underpin the use of Council owned/managed community sports grounds and pavilions.

- **Access to Facilities**
As the owner/manager of sport grounds and pavilions, Council can encourage greater utilisation of facilities by effectively managing the allocation and use of these resources. This will be aided by clearly defining roles, responsibilities and expectation of all parties involved (that is, Council, seasonal users, casual users and school users) through conditions specified in usage permits.
- **Administrative Efficiency**
The administration of the charging and allocation system will be simple and easy for clubs and community groups to understand, and will result in time and financial efficiencies for Council and for user groups.
- **Encourage Access For All**
Council's pricing and allocation process must recognise the need for equitable access by all members of the community by allowing price adjustments and positive discrimination for specific target groups, such as juniors, older adults, women, and non-traditional users of facilities.
- **Facility Classification**
Sport operates on a tiered system of competition from elite level through to local/mass participation. A diversity of playing fields and associated facilities is therefore required to address the differing needs of participants. The grade or standard of facilities provided may vary in accordance with the level of competition being played at each respective venue.
- **Ground and Pavilion Allocation**
All users will be required to complete an application process that outlines details regarding roles, responsibilities and expectations/obligations for all parties associated with the particular use, i.e. Council, seasonal users, casual users and school users.
- **Fees and Charges**
There are considerable costs associated with the provision of Council sports grounds and pavilions, including capital development, ongoing maintenance, repairs and improvements. Council recognises the community, social and health benefits associated with the provision of these facilities and therefore does not

²² A range of 15% – 25% expense recovery is a target typically aimed for by local government authorities.

attempt to recover the full cost of providing these facilities. However, in the interests of responsible financial management, Council will seek to recover up to 20% of the annual maintenance/operating costs for these facilities. Therefore, facility users will pay appropriate fees based on the standard of facilities provided (as it relates to maintenance requirements) and their level/frequency of use.

Sports Ground Classification

Variations exist in the standard of sports grounds and supporting facilities at Council owned/managed reserves. To assist consistency, equity and fairness in decision-making, sports grounds are recommended to be classified into a hierarchy of facilities, which reflects their standard of provision and condition, and which allows a range of fees to be levied which are commensurate with each level within the hierarchy (refer Section 4.2). The standard of facilities provided will usually reflect the level of ongoing maintenance required.

The classification of each sports ground will form the basis on which fees will be determined. The criteria for classification will include (but may not be limited to):

- Existing soil profile and availability of sub-surface infrastructure, i.e. irrigation and drainage, etc.
- Playing surface quality.
- Availability of associated facilities, such as flood lighting, car parking (un/sealed), sports field fencing, spectator seating and cover, etc.
- Capacity to charge an entry fee, i.e. availability of reserve perimeter fencing.

The classification of existing reserves will need to be periodically reassessed to take into account major improvements, upgrades, capital developments, or other changes that may influence the ongoing maintenance requirements.

Pavilion Classification

Similar to sports grounds, the pavilion classification system has been developed as the basis for determining user fees and charges. The proposed criteria outlined below takes into account the different standard and quality of pavilions provided at reserves, and structures fees accordingly. Each of the following criteria could be rated on a scale of 1 - 5 to help determine at what level in the hierarchy a pavilion will be classified.

- Change and shower facilities (M & F).
- Kitchen and catering facilities (e.g. kitchenette or full kitchen, kiosk, canteen, etc).
- Covered viewing areas.
- Location of toilets (inside or outside).
- Referee/Umpire change facilities (M & F).
- Storage areas.

It is suggested that a 3-tiered classification system be developed (e.g. Category A, Category B, and Category C). The classification of existing pavilions will need to be periodically reassessed to take into account facility improvements, upgrades, capital developments or other changes that may influence the ongoing maintenance requirements.

Sports Ground Allocations

Council will allocate sports grounds using four types of agreements:

1. Lease.
2. Seasonal allocation.
3. School use.
4. Casual permit.

Lease

Lease agreements with sports clubs and associations for use of sports grounds or pavilions will generally not be favoured, as long-term occupation by single tenants may lead to 'capture' of facilities at the expense of broad community access. However, where leases are developed, clubs/associations will be required to demonstrate long-term planning and club/association viability, and the arrangements for community access to facilities as criteria for lease negotiation. Lease periods will be subject to negotiation, although generally a five to ten year period would be expected.

Seasonal Allocation

Seasonal sports ground allocations will be made on a six monthly basis.

A minimum three week 'change-over' period should be set aside between allocations to permit Council to undertake routine ground maintenance and top dressing. More extensive ground renovations may require ground closure for an extended period.

Allocation of specific grounds should generally be made for both training and match play purposes, although allocation of separate grounds for each purpose may be possible where supply allows, which can assist preventing over-use of key sports grounds.

In allocating sports grounds, Council should give consideration to:

- History of use of facilities by the club/association.
- Preference for Wagga Wagga LGA based teams.
- User's previous record, that is, fees paid on time, responsible use of facilities, promotion of community access/participation, etc.
- Receipt of completed application form.
- Club/Association compliance with OH&S, risk management, insurance cover and other policies consistent with Council objectives.
- Maximising use of facilities, whilst not over-using playing surfaces.
- Providing opportunities for non-traditional sports and specific target groups, such as women, juniors, older adults (masters), etc.
- Matching the standard of facility with the level of competition to be played.

Notwithstanding the historical use of certain facilities, Council should reserve the right to allocate grounds as required in order to best meet community demand on a seasonal basis. Seasonal allocations can assist Council to pro-actively manage the condition of playing surfaces and help prevent over-use.

Schools Use of Sports Fields

Use of sports fields by schools will be subject to an appropriate booking and fee being charged. The following points will be considered in relation to schools' use of sports grounds:

- Term bookings will apply when there is more than six uses within a school term.
- For Term use, schools will be required to apply to Council at least ten days prior to the conclusion the preceding school term.
- For casual use, schools will make application to Council at least ten days prior to the intended use to enable co-ordination of maintenance works.
- Schools wishing to conduct events or competitions on Council grounds will be required to make an application for use.
- Council may reserve the right to reject any application based on the previous record of the applicant, and having due regard to the condition of grounds (preventing over-use).
- Schools are responsible for the removal of all rubbish associated with their activities.
- A security deposit should be lodged with Council, this may be an agreed amount prior to each term based on likely usage levels, which is to be used to remedy any damage or rubbish removal generated as a result of the school activity.

Council may withdraw the right to a school's use of any particular sport ground in order to protect the playing surface or to undertake capital or substantive maintenance works.

(These conditions of use apply equally to any schools' association wishing to utilise grounds for the purpose of regional competitions, or other formal use).

Casual Use:

Casual permits should be issued for the temporary use of Council facilities for an agreed period of time outside of the hours the facilities may be being used by seasonal or school users.

Organisations and incorporated bodies must submit evidence of appropriate public liability insurance cover (say, \$10,000,000).

On-Hire and Sub-Letting

Clubs/Associations which have been allocated sports grounds will not be permitted to on-hire or sub-lease them. All requests received by clubs/associations for use of sports grounds should be directed to Council.

The assessment of such requests by Council will take into consideration the existing use of the ground by the approved tenant group, the condition of the sports ground, and the purpose of use by the applicant group. This process will ensure any inconvenience to the approved tenant group is minimised, and will reduce any likelihood of ground over use.

Pavilion Allocations

Council will allocate sports pavilions using two types of agreements:

1. Seasonal allocation.
2. Lease for part of a pavilion.

Pavilions will only be available for casual use through negotiation with the approved tenant group.

Seasonal Pavilion Allocations

The application process will be similar to that for sports ground allocations. In allocating pavilions, the Council will consider:

- History of use.
- User's previous record.
- Any capital investment that clubs/associations may have made in a pavilion.
- Current and proposed planning and operation of the club/association.
- Availability of the pavilion for other community users.
- Receipt of completed application form and insurance requirements.

Lease Agreements

Where clubs/associations have made significant capital contributions to upgrading a pavilion, Council may enter into a lease agreement for an agreed period for those parts of the pavilion upgraded to guarantee return on investment. Such agreements will be subject to conditions encouraging community access and club development, including strategic planning.

Casual Permits

Casual use and school use of sports grounds does not automatically include pavilion usage. Pavilions that are subject to a lease or seasonal allocation may only be made available for casual use and school use after direct negotiation with the tenant group. In all instances where the request for the use of a pavilion by a casual/school user is for purposes considered reasonable (i.e. changing and toilet access), it is expected that such a request will be approved by the tenant group.

In these instances, a fee for use may be negotiated between the parties, and it will be payable to the tenant group.

Sports Grounds Fees

Lease

The quantum of fee for sports grounds which are leased (that is, exclusive use is approved to the club/association) will be subject to negotiation between the Council and the club/association, having regard to:

- Standard and quality of ground and associated facilities.
- Level of community access to the ground.
- Council maintenance requirements.
- Proposed use of the ground.
- The ability to charge an entry fee.

Where a lease agreement for a facility will result in little or no public access or use by external community groups, it would be expected that the negotiated lease fee would reflect such incidence of “alienation” of public open space.

All costs associated with establishing the lease will be charged to the applicant.

Seasonal Allocation

Fees should be calculated to recover a percentage of the direct expense to Council of maintaining all sports grounds in the LGA for which it is responsible. A target up to 20% expense recovery is recommended, thereby providing an estimated 80% subsidy to the community for the provision and use of these facilities. The estimated total costs to be recovered will be divided according to the sports grounds classification. This ensures an equitable balance between the fees charged and the quality of facilities being allocated to clubs/associations. The following guidelines should apply:

- A sliding fee scale will be applied in accordance with the level/standard of sports grounds (the higher the standard, the greater the maintenance requirements, therefore the higher the fee).
- No differentiation between summer or winter users.
- No differentiation in fees for the use of grounds for training or competition.
- No differentiation will be applied to clubs which play home and away fixtures, that is, a club which plays at home only every second week will receive no discount off the total fee for the use of the ground.
- The number of teams that actually use a sports ground will have no bearing.
- Where two groups share the use of a ground during a particular six month season, each will be charged 50% of the seasonal fee (or any alternative split agreed to based on the level of use by both groups).
- The expense recovery target will be applied to all seasonal applicants regardless of their level of use of facilities.
- A phasing-in period for any new user fees will be provided, particularly where user fees are projected to increase by an amount considered “out of reach” of a user group in a 12 month period.
- Council may choose to align fees and charges (and any discounts) with target groups identified in Council’s Social Plan.

Fees for Schools' Use of Grounds

For schools which use a sports ground for a minimum of six days in one term ("Term Booking"), a Term Fee shall apply. The fee will be paid to Council and recognises:

- The additional cost to maintain and manage sports grounds from regular use by schools.
- A more equitable distribution of the responsibility to contribute to the cost of maintaining and managing sports grounds by all groups which utilise sports grounds.

The Term Fee payable by a school for use of a sports ground will not be discounted from the seasonal allocation fee payable by the approved seasonal tenant at that sports ground.

The Term Fee will be set annually by Council.

Casual Use of Sports Fields

Fees for casual users should consider the nature of the intended use and potential community benefit. For example, commercial uses should be charged at a higher rate than community groups unless substantial community benefit can be demonstrated, and fees for casual use by schools should be set at a lower rate than community groups and commercial groups.

Casual fees will be set annually by Council.

Pavilion Fees

As with sports grounds, Council will subsidise the annual cost to maintain pavilions by 80%. Fees for seasonal use of pavilions will reflect the three categories of pavilion classifications to provide a balance between fees and standard of facilities. A 50% discount off the total pavilion fee will apply to target groups which are allocated pavilions, such as juniors, women and masters.

Charges for casual use of pavilions will be negotiated directly with the approved tenant group, and should generally reflect the approximate utilities' charges associated with the use of the pavilion by the hire group. Commercial uses should be charged a higher rate than community groups. Council should establish guidelines and recommended fees for casual use of pavilions to assist clubs/associations allocated pavilions.

Maintenance

Council needs to develop a comprehensive maintenance guide which identifies the roles and responsibilities of Council and of user groups for the maintenance of buildings and other assets allocated through the sports ground and pavilion allocation process.

Such a guide should cover the following items. A recommended approach for Council has been incorporated in the following table.

Item	Council Responsibility	Club / Association Responsibility
Grass cutting of ground	✓	X
Fertiliser application	✓	X
Oval topdressing	✓	X
In-ground irrigation installation	✓	X
In-ground irrigation maintenance	✓	X
Public Toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning of attached/detached external public toilets. • Maintenance or repairs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening and closing of attached/detached external public toilets during sports competitions. • All external toilets should be locked unless in use by the club and/or public.
Internal Toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance or repairs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning and consumables costs.
Grading of unmade entrance roads and car parks.	✓	X
Tree planting and watering	✓	X
Rubbish collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly emptying of rubbish bins. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picking up of rubbish around the ground and pavilion surrounds.
Maintenance of equipment that has been added to ground/pavilion at club/s cost.	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All maintenance and repair/replacement costs.
Placement and removal of permanent goal posts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council will inspect installation of goal posts prior to use of grounds. 	✓
Line marking of sports fields	X	✓
Flood Lighting installation and maintenance (including globe replacement)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding contribution towards installation of new infrastructure • Develop guidelines and standards. • Approval of design and installation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation and maintenance. • Funding.
Installation and maintenance of synthetic cricket pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation and replacement of concrete pad. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation and maintenance of synthetic surface.
Covering and uncovering of cricket pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply of soil to ground. • Removal and levelling of soil when wicket uncovered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Un/cover synthetic topped wickets. • Notify Council re un/cover request.
Maintenance of turf wickets	X	✓
Scoreboards	X	✓
Coaches boxes	X	✓
Sports ground fencing	✓	X
Building Alterations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing all requests submitted and if approved by Council, ensuring satisfactory completion of work, even when totally funded by user groups or Committee of Management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To determine and document the specific requirements of projects.
Building External	✓	X
Electric wiring and fittings in building.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All building wiring from the main supply to and including the switchboard, power to 	X

Item	Council Responsibility	Club / Association Responsibility
	outlets and switches and light fittings.	
Fire Extinguishers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial installation only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arranging maintenance and replacement if required.
Utility costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsibility only where there is no seasonal tenant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsibility for period of tenancy.
Keys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance/purchase of all locks. Issue of 4 sets of keys to tenant club. All pavilions will be fitted with Council locks and made accessible to Council officers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsibility for all keys issued by Council, key register to be kept up to date. No locks to be fitted or additional keys cut without Council approval.
Glass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement when due to external vandalism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep clean and replace if broken by user group.
Light Globes (internal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair faulty fittings only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace globes/lamps.
Security lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance and replacement, when required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utility cost during tenancy.
Painting of ceilings, walls and other surfaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal/external painting of previously painted surfaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular cleaning and repair cost due to tenant misuse.
Plumbing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep clear of foreign objects.
Stoves and cooking equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial installation of basic equipment only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep clean and maintain in operable condition. Payment of repairs.
Exhaust fans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial installation of basic equipment only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep clean and maintain in operable condition. Payment of repairs.
Vandalism (internal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment of repairs to Council owned fixtures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report to Council and police - responsible for non-Council fixtures.
Vandalism (external)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repairs as determined by Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report to Council and police.

15.2. Conditions For Use of Council Sports Grounds

15.2.1. Background

Council has developed a document, *Conditions For Use of Council Sports Grounds*, that requires all seasonally allocated sports clubs/associations to agree to and to abide by as part of their tenancy agreement. Upon review, the document is reasonably comprehensive and covers most of the key areas of responsibility of both Council and the tenant group.

15.2.2. Proposed Additions/Alterations

The following additions/alterations are recommended to the *Conditions For Use of Council Sports Grounds*. (Please note that the numbering below correlates with the numbering in the current *Conditions of Use* document).

(Note: Some of the proposed additions and alterations will be dependent on Council adopting all or part of the recommended fees and charges system outlined in Section 15.1).

1. Duration of Season

The current document in its definition of the “summer” and “winter” seasons allows for a 2 week period in April where no user group is allocated sports grounds. Presumably, this time is used by Council’s outdoor Parks team to undertake ground maintenance.

It is suggested that a period of no less than 3 weeks be set aside in September for ground maintenance, particularly as this is the time of the year when it can be reasonably expected that most ground repairs will need to be made (i.e. following winter sport). Further, clubs/associations requiring grounds in September for finals matches or for training for finals matches, should have to apply for their use separately to the allocation of the ground for the “home and away” season (April – August).

3. Sub Letting

It is recommended that clubs/associations allocated grounds not be permitted to on-hire or sub-let grounds, and that all requests for use of allocated grounds be managed by Council (as per recommendations in “On-Hire and Sub-Letting” in Section 15.1).

4. Deposits

It is recommended that a security deposit be collected for each sports ground allocated, with the amount dependent upon the level within the hierarchy that the ground is classified. This deposit to be held as security against damage to assets and/or costs which may be incurred by Council for cleaning up litter.

7. Marking of Playing Fields

All marking of playing fields shall be [insert] *the responsibility of the user group. Line markings must be made with an approved water based product – no weed herbicides or chemicals are permitted.*

9. Keys to Grounds and Buildings

It is noted that the document prescribes a deposit amount of \$10.00, however, the Council’s 2004/05 Fees and Charges Schedule nominates a key deposit amount of \$63.00 (incl GST).

11(a). Damages

The user shall be responsible for any damage [insert] (*other than for normal wear and tear*) done to ~~fences, gates, buildings, seats, plant material, scoreboards and any other~~ Council property [insert] *resulting from the action of members of the club/association, visiting teams and/or supporters* which occurs repairing the damage.

28. Charges

There will be various changes to this sub-section, pending Council's assessment of the recommended fees and charges system outlined in Section 15.1.

Other Areas to be Considered:

- Sports Ground and Pavilion Inspections.
- Selling of Goods (other than liquor).
- Smoke Free Policy.
- Control of Disorderly Behaviour and Noise.
- Erection of Tents and Marquees.
- Process for Submitting Requests for Facility Modifications.

15.3. Community Grants

15.3.1. Background

Council has an annual program of Community Grants to which community groups and individuals may apply for funding assistance towards a range of facility, program and service initiatives. There are currently five categories of grants:

1. Neighbourhood Association Grants.
2. Community Development Grants.
3. Crow Awards.
4. Section 356 Donations Grants.
5. Facility Improvement Grants.

The *Community Development Grants* and the *Facility Improvement Grants* are the two main Council grant schemes that sporting and recreation groups can apply for funds. There does not appear to be any category which might support activities and initiatives by "Friends" Groups, such as maintenance and/or upgrade of public open space areas.

The following section summarises key issues and opportunities in relation to the Council's community's grants scheme following a review of available data, and input from Council staff.

15.3.2. Proposed Additions/Alterations

Community Development Grants

Program and service initiatives identified by sporting and recreation groups to increase the community's participation in physical activity could be funded under the *Community Development Grants* category, according to the current criteria outlined in the Grants Guide. This could be financial support towards new equipment costs, operating costs, and promotional costs. The funding range of a minimum \$500 to a maximum of \$3,000 appears adequate.

Facility Improvement Grants

Facility improvement projects identified by both user groups and Council are currently supported by this grant category and also by Council's annual Capital Improvement Program. The *Facility Improvement Grant* program has typically supported minor building projects, both new works and replacement/renewal of existing. The criteria and conditions for this category as outlined in the Grants Guide generally appear satisfactory. The current maximum grant allocation is \$7,500 to any one applicant, and the total annual funding available has been capped at \$30,000 since 1991.

Two key concerns with the *Facility Improvement Grant* program were identified by clubs and groups during the consultation undertaken for this planning study. The first one was the lack of funds available to meet all requests, and the second was the apparent lack of transparency in the grants approval process.

There appears to be a case to support an increase in the funds available - the grant total has not increased for 3 years despite the cost of building projects having risen in this time, and the quantum of money requested for new/improved works always exceeding the funds available. Notwithstanding the general financial constraints faced by Council, the fact that approved grants

need to be supported by a contribution from the applicant group of a minimum of 50% of the total project cost, any increase in Council's budget allocation will be returned in "double" as improved works.

It is recommended that the funding allocation for the grant be increased to \$45,000 in 2005/06 (and capped for 3 years), and the percentage contribution from applicant groups be increased to a minimum 66% (or two-thirds) of the total project cost. The maximum grant allocated should remain at \$7,500.

In relation to the transparency of the approvals process, the Grant Guidelines state that the " ... *Facility Improvement Grant* applications assessment will be undertaken by a recognised peak advisory group". We understand that this group is the sports representative committee, *Sports Wagga Wagga*, and that it does have an active role in the assessment of applications. Suitable checks and balances do appear to be in place.

A review of the successful applications in the past 2 years has identified that a variety of different sports and initiatives were successful (across both female and male sports), including Wagga Wagga Softball Association (\$6,000), Wagga Wagga & District Cricket Association (\$18,000), Koorringal-Wagga Athletics Club (\$2,000), Equestrian (\$4,500), Raceview Tennis Club (\$918), Wagga Bidgee Canoe Club (\$4,120), Wagga Womens Bowling Club (\$2,035), Wagga Hockey Association (\$5,945), and the Wagga Pistol Club (\$7,500).groups.

Council could review *Sports Wagga Wagga's* role in the grants review process to give them a greater responsibility in the assessment of applications, and could also utilise their experience in assisting Council officers to undertake a more extensive review of the current criteria for the grant category, and the assessment process.

In relation to the community management of public open space, it is recommended that a new annual community grant be established to support minor projects being undertaken by "Friends" Groups, especially where management plans have been approved by Council and recognised community groups are in place. The grant could be managed through either the Asset Management Division (Parks Department) or the External Services Division (Environmental Services Department), and is recommended to have a total allocation of \$7,500, with a maximum annual grant to any one group of \$1,500. This will facilitate the commencement and ongoing delivery of small-scale projects, such as re-vegetation projects, weed control, path/trail management and nature-based education initiatives.

15.4. Exercise For Dogs In Public Areas

15.4.1. Recommended Policy Framework

The following information has been provided as background information for the preparation of a new Council policy dealing with exercising dogs in public places.

Context

Animal management has changed dramatically over the last decade, including changes to the way municipalities carry out their animal management functions. Principally, this has meant a move away from relying only on enforcement to secure responsible pet ownership - education is now a vital component of the animal management function.

Some of the reasons why Councils now believe it is an “essential” requirement to provide free running (or off-leash) areas for dogs, include²³:

1. The popularity of dog ownership - in Australia 42% of households own one or more dogs.
2. Dogs need to be socialised around other dogs and humans.
3. Exercise and outings play a part in alleviating unwanted behaviours in the home, such as excessive barking and some forms of aggression.
4. There are benefits for humans - exercise, socialising with other dog owners, and the fact that for some people a dog is their main form of recreation.
5. To avoid concentration of free running activity in one or a small number of areas.
6. As a compliance tool - by providing reasonable free running opportunities, Council can expect and appeal for compliance with leash requirements in other areas.

Proposed Policy Principles

It is important that new policies are based on sound principles, especially in an area like animal management which has changed dramatically in the last decade. The following policy principles are suggested:

- Dogs and their owners are legitimate users of public open space

For many people, a dog is their main form of recreation and an important inducement to exercising. We therefore need to consider the question of dogs in public places as more than just an enforcement issue although that is important.

- Striking a balance

Council recognises that most dog owners are responsible, however, some dog owners are unaware of or are unwilling to comply with their responsibilities. Council also recognises that some people are frightened of or don't like being near other people's unleashed dogs. There are also safety and environmental issues to consider. Council needs to balance the legitimate needs of dogs and their owners for access to public places against the needs of other users and interests.

²³ Source: *Public Open Space and Dogs (1995)*.

- Enforceable and fair
The provisions relating to dogs in public places need to be enforceable and fair.
- A diversity of opportunities
A range of opportunities should be available for dogs both on-leash and free running. The objective should be to encourage people to take their dog out with them as much as possible.
- Siting and design
Priority should be given, where possible, to using siting and design to overcome conflicts between dogs and their owners with other users of the public realm.
- Responsible pet ownership
Enforcement and education priorities should focus on long-term voluntary changes in human behaviour, i.e. a move towards responsible pet ownership.

Criteria for Inappropriate Locations

A set of criteria is suggested below for locations where it is considered inappropriate for dogs to be off leash. They are:

- Conservation areas.
- Within 30 metres of Children's Play areas.
- In the vicinity of BBQs and outdoor eating areas.
- During formal sports events (nominating specific times of events).
- In the vicinity of informal sports or social events.
- Within 5 metres of a walking or bike path.
- Where there may be heavy pedestrian traffic to or from a school, or other popular places of congregation.

16. KEY ISSUES / OPPORTUNITIES

This section summarises the key open space and recreational issues and opportunities identified through the research and consultation undertaken during the *Recreation & Open Space Strategy*, including site visits, surveys, meetings and interviews. The issues have been classified according to:

- Open Space.
- Sport.
- Recreation.
- General.

Open Space

1. Improve the diversity of open space areas.
2. Community desire for improved interface between the City and the River foreshore, i.e. pedestrian/cyclist access, quality of spaces, provision of visitor facilities, and signage.
3. Strong support for the retention of the Wagga Beach in its current location.
4. Improve personal security in open space areas (e.g. lighting, appropriate planting schedules, location and lighting of car parks).
5. Total provision of open space across the LGA is in excess of proposed planning ratios.
6. Residents value highly their access to well maintained and well located parks.
7. Community perception that there is a lack of “family recreation facilities” in parks.
8. Sustainable turf management and maintenance practices will become increasingly more important for Council and clubs.
9. Need for new classification (hierarchy) and standards for open space provision in new subdivisions to guide future negotiations with Developers and to assist Council with resource allocation.
10. Need for more sustainable community management of public places/spaces.
11. Where possible, link development of open space to history of Wagga.
12. Consider theming parks, outdoor spaces and playgrounds through design, artworks and plantings (link to cultural development).
13. Need for ‘hang-out’ space to be provided in selected open space areas (particularly for young people).

Sport

14. No current or likely future shortage of sports facilities identified, other than indoor court space.
15. Need to consolidate the use, condition and sustainability of existing sporting facilities, including possible upgrades to selected facilities to enable elite, regional facility provision to be possible in Wagga Wagga for most sporting codes.

16. A need to establish a hierarchy of sports facilities, i.e. State/National level to Local level.
17. Fees and Charges policy review.
18. Flood Lighting review.
19. Review of user agreements and tenancy arrangements.
20. Need for review of use of grounds by schools.
21. General lack of sharing of resources across sports reserves where co-tenants exist.
22. Funding issue: review of grants schemes to ensure equity and opportunity for user groups to access funds for capital improvements to facilities, and for program development.
23. There appears to be an over supply of tennis facilities in rural villages.
24. There is a relatively even distribution of facilities across the Wagga Wagga urban area, and across the LGA generally, for the main (popular) selected sports.
25. Schools in the LGA generally have good provision of sporting and recreation facilities, with some currently being used by external sports clubs, and others with capacity to be used.
26. The capacity of Council, clubs and associations to maintain and develop sports infrastructure is becoming increasingly difficult, particularly the maintenance and upgrade of sports pavilions and associated sporting infrastructure.
27. There was an overall increase of 4% in sports club memberships between 2001 – 2003.
28. There was growth (above 10%) in the number of active sports club members in basketball, cycling and soccer in the Wagga Wagga LGA.
29. 62% of active club members in the Wagga Wagga LGA are males, 38% are females.
30. 55% of all active club members in the Wagga Wagga LGA are junior (U/18 years), 45% are adults.
31. Improvements to sports facilities which have general consensus amongst clubs, include upgraded change pavilions, increased flood lighting and improved provision of spectator facilities (seating and shade).
32. Ground closure procedures are causing angst and confusion amongst some sports clubs.

Recreation

33. The cycleway network lacks connection and a sense of destination - residents are not readily associating with it.
34. Need for better connections (shared paths) between neighbourhoods.
35. Improved linkages/signage/surfaces for cycle paths.
36. Young people have an increasing interest in participating in unstructured recreation as an alternative to club-based and formal sporting participation.
37. Strong view in the community that the provision of informal and unstructured recreation facilities for young people are not well provided for, especially in the south western and south eastern areas of the Wagga Wagga urban area, where

constraints in the availability and affordability of public transport are impacting on people's capacity to access centrally located facilities, e.g. skate park, swimming facilities and cinemas.

38. There is strong advocacy in the community for improved provision of recreational facilities in the outlying suburbs suitable for young people, such as skate facilities, half-courts, and informal indoor areas.

General

39. The population of the Wagga Wagga LGA is projected to increase from 57,000 people (2001) to more than 64,000 people by 2015, with the greatest proportion of this increase occurring in the Wagga Wagga urban area (not the rural areas).
40. The likely population growth areas in the Wagga Wagga urban area, are in the north (Estella, Boorooma and Cartwrights Hill), and the south west (Glenfield Park, Bourkelands, Lloyd and Tatton).
41. Affordability, mobility and ageing are characteristics of the demographic profile of the Wagga Wagga LGA population, which may need to be responded to through additional provision of recreational programs and services at a more local level.
42. Research indicates that there is average participation by Wagga Wagga LGA residents in physical activity (both structured and unstructured).
43. Research indicates that there is broad satisfaction by residents in the overall range, quality and distribution of sporting and health & fitness facilities across the LGA.
44. There is high community interest in and importance placed on sport.
45. There is increased community participation in unstructured recreation.
46. Need for an improved and integrated signage system for all Council recreation facilities and open space areas (includes directional signage, identification signage and functional/operations signage).
47. Provision of recreational services and programs will become increasingly more important for Council to provide – not just facilities.
48. There is decreasing volunteer involvement in the administration and management of sports clubs/associations.
49. There is increasing community awareness of the health & well-being benefits obtained through regular participation in active/passive recreation.
50. Importance of sports tourism for specific clubs and the City as a whole.

17. OPEN SPACE PROVISION

This section provides recommendations for the provision and development of open space in the Wagga Wagga LGA (expands on the information outlined in Section 4). It is proposed that a different ratio for provision be established for the Wagga Wagga urban area and for the rural villages, based on the premise that community demand for recreational open space in rural areas is mostly accommodated within the larger private properties.

In addition, a list of planning objectives and principles for the provision of open space have been prepared, and should be used during the detailed planning for the provision of open space across the LGA, and for the design of specific reserves, parks and spaces.

17.1. Proposed Minimum Levels of Provision of Open Space

The current standard applied by Wagga Wagga City Council for the provision of open space is 4.0Ha/1,000 people²⁴, and is consistent with the current planning ratios being applied by other rural local government authorities for new urban subdivisions²⁵. In order to provide for minimum levels of recreation and sporting areas, this 4.0Ha/1,000 people ratio should be divided into 2.5Ha for outdoor recreation facilities and 1.5Ha for sporting facilities in the Wagga Wagga urban area, and 1.0Ha for outdoor recreation facilities and 3.0Ha for sporting facilities in the rural areas.

The differences in the above ratios for both the urban area and the rural areas allows for:

- The likely reduced community demand for recreational open space in rural areas.
- The need for the allocation for sports facility provision in the rural areas to provide for some diversity in facility provision (e.g. sports field and tennis court facility) despite a reduced population base.

Note: These figures include provision to cater for average community and visitor requirements, and do not allow for the provision of regional open space areas or facilities, nor the provision of land for environmental or conservation related purposes.

For local outdoor recreation area development, a minimum size of 1.0Ha is recommended, whilst for outdoor sports facility development, a minimum area of 2.0Ha is recommended (which allows for 1 sports ground and associated areas), however, where possible both areas should be combined to create a large multipurpose recreation node, featuring a number of design and functional experiences.

17.2. Proposed Open Space System

The Wagga Wagga Open Space System is proposed to incorporate the following layers and categories:

- **Sports Grounds**
 - State/National.
 - Regional.
 - District.
 - Local.

²⁴ Source: Draft Wagga Wagga Vision 21 (2002).

²⁵ Source: Planning Guide for Urban Open Space, Ministry for Planning & Environment (Vic), and is based on the open space needs for an average Residential 1 zone type development with a population density of approximately 25 people per hectare.

- **Parks**
 - Regional Park.
 - District Park.
 - Local Park.
 - Ornamental/Utility Park.
 - Undeveloped.
- **General Community Use Areas**
- **Culturally Significant Areas**
- **Natural Areas**

17.3. Objectives

The proposed key objectives for the provision of open space are:

1. To ensure sufficient land is reserved to meet the open space needs of current and future residents.
2. To ensure adequate provision is made to accommodate expansion of open space areas to cater for predicted population levels.
3. To enhance the total environment quality of the LGA.
4. To ensure residents have the opportunity to participate in outdoor recreation and sporting activities of their choice.
5. To ensure there is a diversity of open space provided which provides a range of different experiences and opportunities for both active and passive recreation.
6. To preserve and identify significant landscape elements so as to enhance their character for the benefit of residents.
7. To encourage and facilitate access to the foreshores of the Murrumbidgee River, Lake Albert and Lagoons for aquatic recreational activities and scenic benefit.
8. To provide opportunities for the development of private recreation facilities.

17.4. Guiding Principles

The following principles are recommended to guide the detailed design and provision of public open space for recreational purposes.

17.4.1. General Principles for Open Space Provision

General Principles applicable to all settings are identified below.

<i>Principle</i>	<i>Description</i>
Balance with Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To achieve a balanced and diverse provision of quality open space with capacity to accommodate leisure opportunities responsive to the needs of residents and within the financial resources of Council.
Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that residents and visitors can participate in a variety of open space activities of their choice.

Principle	Description
Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that the open space needs of all sectors of the future community are treated fairly and equitably. To recognise and give special consideration to those sectors of the community who have special needs (e.g. older adults, people who have visual, mobility or intellectual impairments, and people from culturally diverse backgrounds).
Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide open space areas based on an assessment of the existing supply outside of the study area, which will ensure all residents shall have reasonable access to an appropriate range of areas.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide safe and convenient access between residences and open space areas, and ensure that all areas are accessible to people with mobility problems.
Safety and Liability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To give consideration to public safety in the design and location of all open space areas and facilities.
Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage planners to explore innovative ways to address open space related issues and opportunities in the most cost effective manner.
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that all Council funded open space areas and facilities are attractively designed and located, and comply with Australian design standards.
Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that the provision of open space opportunities is in accordance with an appropriate planning framework and is integrated with other local and regional open space plans.
Sustainable Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that the type and level of open space activity proposed is compatible with the sustained use and management of the values of the area.
Private Sector Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage private sector involvement in the funding, provision and management of open space areas and facilities, services and programs where it is effective and efficient to do so.

17.4.2. Principles for the Development of Sports Grounds

The landscape and amenity development of Sports Grounds should be guided by the following principles:

- SG1 An integrated perimeter tree planting strategy should be implemented in Sports Grounds to provide an overall landscape framework.

- SG2 Planting should be provided in all car parks within Sports Grounds to provide shade and shelter for vehicles, and to contribute to an improved landscape character and setting. Trees should be planted to avoid loss of parking spaces, be surrounded by low growing species planted around their base, and be protected from low speed vehicle impacts at the base by low fencing or other appropriate 'bumpers'.
- SG3 Trees should be planted along shared paths within Sports Grounds to provide shade for path users, improved definition of circulation around the reserve, and locations for seating. Planting should consist of canopy trees to maintain views along and across the paths, and to also enhance a sense of personal security for park users.
- SG4 Tree planting should be provided to the perimeter of playing fields and outdoor hard court areas, to provide additional shade for spectators and to further improve the visual character of the reserve. Care should be taken in the selection of the species and placement of these trees to ensure they do not adversely affect the condition of the playing surface or overhang to a level where disruption 'to the game' may occur.
- SG5 Where appropriate, circulation within the reserve should connect directly with broader neighbourhood and regional trails, particularly the shared paths associated with Nature Reserves.
- SG6 Facilities including playgrounds, tables, seats, BBQs, drinking fountains, litterbins, and bicycle parking facilities should be provided at points of public focus. The precise siting of each of these facilities will be determined on a site by site basis, but are to meet the following criteria:
- Grouping of facilities.
 - Use of existing access and pavements.
 - Association with existing buildings, to reduce visual prominence.
 - No removal of indigenous vegetation.
 - Association with existing parking where possible.
 - Sited to take advantage of the shade and shelter provided by existing vegetation.

17.4.3. Principles for the Development of Regional and District Parks

The development of the landscape of Regional and District Parks should be guided by the following principles:

- RDP1 An integrated tree planting strategy should be implemented throughout Regional and District Parks to:
- Provide an overall landscape framework.
 - Increase amenity through shade and wind protection.
 - Form landscape spaces.
 - Improve habitat values.
- Trees should be located to integrate with facilities, such as picnic shelters, seats and tables.
- RDP2 Planting should be provided in all car parks within Regional and District Parks to provide shade and shelter for vehicles, and to contribute to an improved landscape character and setting. Trees should be planted to avoid loss of parking spaces, should be surrounded by low growing species planted around their base, and

- should be protected from low speed vehicle impacts at their base by low fencing, or other appropriate 'bumpers'.
- RDP3 Trees should be planted along shared paths within Regional and District Parks to provide shade for path users, improved definition of circulation around the park, and locations for seating. Planting should consist of canopy trees, to maintain views along and across the paths, and to also enhance a sense of personal security for park users.
- RDP4 Areas of low level indigenous planting should be added at appropriate locations throughout Regional and District Parks, to create a variety of informal park spaces and a varied landscaper character. Care should be taken, however, in the selection of species to avoid the creation of personal security issues through reduced sight lines.
- RDP5 Some planting should to be provided along park edges adjoining perimeter roads, to create an attractive public interface, and in some cases, as a buffer between the road and the park. This planting should be generally low, to maintain views into the parkland, with occasional canopy trees.
- RDP6 Where appropriate, circulation within the park should connect directly with broader neighbourhood and regional trails, particularly the shared paths associated with Nature Reserves.
- RDP7 Pedestrian access from residential streets should be provided through the construction of paths linking with the end of streets, as well as improved signage.
- RDP8 Clear and direct links should be made between park spaces to encourage use of the entire park, rather than just localised areas. This could be achieved through manipulation of views, landform and planting, as well as formed paths.
- RDP9 As with Sports Grounds, general park facilities, including tables, seats, BBQs, drinking fountains, litterbins, and bicycle parking facilities should be provided at points of public focus. The precise siting of each of these facilities will be determined on a site by site basis, but are to meet the following criteria:
- Grouping of facilities.
 - Use of existing access and pavements.
 - Association with existing buildings, to reduce visual prominence.
 - No removal of indigenous vegetation.
 - Association with existing parking where possible.
 - Taking advantage of the shade and shelter provided by existing vegetation.
- RDP10 Tables and seats should be located to take advantage of key views, particularly to activity areas, playgrounds etc. Tables and seats should be of robust construction, of heavy section timber, and of a standard detail, to allow for easy and inexpensive replacement.
- RDP11 The setting of buildings and structures within Regional and District Parks should be planned to maximise integrated vehicle and pedestrian pavements and planting (using indigenous species).

17.4.4. Principles for the Development of Local Parks

In relation to future provision, the development of new subdivisions should avoid the reservation of inappropriate parcels of land (such as escarpments, and low lying flood-prone land) as part of compulsory Land Developer Contributions. This will go some way to avoid the mistakes of the past. Rather, the design of subdivisions should consider the provision of Local Parks as integral components of new neighbourhoods.

Key principles should include:

- LP1 Local Parks should be sited on the cycle network (and, therefore, often in relation to Nature Reserves).
- LP2 Local Parks should have an adequate size and shape. Ideally, Local Parks should be more square than linear in shape, in order to provide for a variety of uses.
- LP3 Local Parks should not cater for a single use, but rather should be flexible and multi-functional in character.
- LP4 Local Parks should have high visibility, preferably being open on at least two sides, to provide for improved personal security through passive surveillance. Ideally, a Local Park should be designed with residential blocks facing onto it, rather than backing onto it.
- LP5 Where there are sites of heritage or environmental significance, these should be incorporated into the open space system, but not to the detriment of the provision of usable "recreational" local open space.
- LP6 As a key principle, all residential blocks should be within approximately 400m – 1.5km of a Local Park.
- LP7 Where local commercial facilities are provided within a subdivision, these should be provided in conjunction with a Local Park.
- LP8 Where a subdivision provides more than one Local Park, the setting and function of those parks should be different, but complementary. The provision of Local Parks should be seen in the context of the overall open space system, and in the provision of a diverse range of recreation opportunities and landscape settings.

17.4.5. Principles for the Development of Natural Areas

The physical development of creeks and other nature reserves within the Wagga Wagga LGA should be guided by the following principles:

- NA1 All existing areas of remnant and planted indigenous vegetation should be protected from degrading process such as weed invasion and foot traffic. Existing creek vegetation creates useful habitat, provides banks stability and contributes to a "natural" appearance within the creek corridor.
- NA2 Bio-diversity and wildlife habitat should be increased through planting of additional indigenous vegetation. Gaps in indigenous vegetation cover should be revegetated using indigenous species in order to extend and connect the habitat provided by existing indigenous vegetation. All revegetation will aim to recreate the structure and species mix of the vegetation community relevant to the site.

- NA3 Environmental weed species should be managed to control their spread, reduce competition, and be gradually replaced by appropriate indigenous species. Environmental weed management priorities should be based on working from better quality areas towards lower quality areas.
- NA4 Lawn areas should be minimised, unless the reserve is of appropriate size and topography to provide an open relatively flat lawn area of at least 400m², sufficient to function as a useable space in its own right.
- NA5 Shared paths should be provided along both sides of sections of creeks where possible, in order to create a circuit, rather than a single lineal system.
- NA6 Paths should be constructed of reinforced concrete, in order to resist the impacts of expansive soils, and should preferably be coloured to integrate with the “parent” landscape. In more remote, less utilised areas, paths may be unsealed or constructed of a consolidated gravel.
- NA7 Paths through Nature Areas could be developed with managed landscape edges. This ‘landscape edge treatment’ should reduce the need for regular pruning of overhanging shrubs and trees, and improve user’s perception of safety. The ‘landscape edge treatment’ should:
- Comprise densely-planted, low growing species only (no more than 1.5 metres high at maturity);
 - Extend to a width of approximately 2 metres from the path edge;
 - Protect new plantings with temporary fencing as required until well established; and
 - Be managed to maintain a high quality appearance through regular weed control and litter removal.
- (Managed landscape edge treatments may not be appropriate for those Natural Areas where it is deemed important for the user to have an immediate connection with the Natural Area, and not be buffered by artificial treatments, e.g. Willans Hill).
- NA8 New subdivision design should allow for adequate space along creek reserves for the provision of a 2500mm wide shared path.
- NA9 Seating/rest stops should be provided along the shared paths, and be located to take advantage of shade and desirable views wherever possible.
- NA10 Facilities including seats, shelters, and where appropriate, BBQs and picnic facilities should be provided at key viewing points and points of public focus.
- NA11 Interpretative signage is recommended at seating / lookout points. Interpretive signage should provide community education about such points of interest, for example:
- Geomorphological processes and features;
 - The creek habitat corridor and its component flora, fauna, and habitat elements;
 - Occupation / use of the creeks by indigenous communities; and
 - Historical aspects related to the settlement of the Wagga Wagga and relevant rural areas.

- NA12 Directional signage is recommended along shared paths to provide direction and distance to attractions and facilities, such as toilets, playgrounds, suburbs/townships, schools and other community facilities.
- NA13 *New Natural Areas* which may be created through subdivision of land should, where possible, be located around areas of existing native vegetation, be linked to existing natural and open space areas, and be as wide as possible to provide core habitat and minimise edge effects.

18. RECREATION & OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

From issues raised and research conducted, the *Wagga Wagga Recreation & Open Space Strategy (2005 - 2015)* has been prepared utilising the following planning elements:

1. Policy Statement (or 'Vision').
2. Principles.
3. Key Goals.
4. Strategies.

The details for each element follow.

18.1. Policy Statement

The **Policy** for the provision and delivery of open space and recreation services in the City of Wagga Wagga is

"Wagga Wagga City Council shall contribute to residents achieving a high level of physical and mental well-being by ensuring there are equitable and accessible opportunities for residents of all ages, cultures and abilities to participate in and enjoy a diverse range of open space settings, and sporting and recreational pursuits".

18.2. Principles

The following **Principles** underpin the *Wagga Wagga Recreation & Open Space Strategy (2005 - 2015)*:

1. Council's role and responsibility in the development and provision of open space and recreation opportunities shall be clearly defined.
2. Council will aim to provide a diverse range of accessible open space settings, and sport and recreation facilities and services available across the Wagga Wagga LGA.
3. Priority will be given to supporting the provision of sport and recreation facilities and services that cater for both LGA-wide and local level needs.
4. The provision and allocation of sport and recreation facilities and services will be equitable according to age, gender, cultural background and ability.
5. Council will endeavour to encourage the community into recreational activities for the health, well-being and social benefits they provide.
6. Open space settings, and recreation facilities and services will provide safe and supportive environments for participants.
7. The provision of sport and recreation facilities will maximise shared usage and flexibility to meet changing community needs and aspirations.
8. A collaborative and partnership approach with community groups, government agencies and the private sector will drive the provision of sport and recreation facilities and services, and the provision of open space.

The final Principle is important for the implementation of the strategies as it supports a "community development approach" to the planning and execution of proposed directions.

18.3. Key Goals

The following seven **Key Goals** have been recommended to form the basis for the provision of open space and recreation resources in the Wagga Wagga LGA for the next 10 years:

1. *Provide a Diversity of Open Space Settings and Recreation Facilities and Opportunities.*
2. *Provide Well Used and Relevant Open Space Settings and Recreation Facilities.*
3. *Consolidate Recreation and Sports Facility Provision and Use.*
4. *Encourage and Support Community Involvement in Sustainable Open Space and Club Management and Development.*
5. *Maximise Opportunities for Economic Development Through Recreation and Leisure.*
6. *Facilitate Diverse Recreation Program Development.*
7. *Provide Effective Management, Support and Resources.*

Each Key Objective comprises of a number of **Strategies** for action and implementation over the period of the *Wagga Wagga Recreation & Open Space Strategy (2005 - 2015)*.

Each **Strategy** has been allocated the following characteristics to assist with implementation:

- A nominated group(s) responsible for implementing the particular Strategy.
- A timeframe for implementation, where:
 - **High Priority** = 1 – 3 years.
 - **Medium Priority** = 4 - 7 years.
 - **Low Priority** = 8 years +.

Note: The allocation of responsibilities and timeframes will be completed following the placement of the draft Report on Public Exhibition, to enable input and feedback to be received in relation to priorities.

(Some preliminary cost estimates for selected new/improved recreational facilities and services were provided to Council in October 2004, for inclusion in Council's Long-Term Financial Plan – see Appendix 7).

18.4. Strategy Development Criteria

Strategies and recommendations identified in the following Action Plan have been assessed against the following criteria for eligibility:

- Fits with other Council policy or endorsed direction.
- Has capacity to increase the community's participation and involvement in recreation activity for social, personal, economic and environmental benefits.
- Has capacity to complement other Council activities and be supported by areas of Council other than the Recreation & Cultural Services Department.
- Response to health & safety risk, or legislative requirements.
- Has capacity to receive non-Council funding.

18.5. Strategic Objective # 1

Provide a Diversity of Open Space Settings and Recreation Facilities and Opportunities

Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt as Policy the minimum levels of provision of open space, being 4 Hectares / 1,000 people. 2. Implement the Open Space System recommended in this strategy. (Refer Section 17). 3. Categorise all open space assets according to the different classifications within the Open Space System. (Refer Section 17). 4. Plan for new open space areas in newly developing suburbs which is consistent with the recommended Open Space Policy and Open Space System. 5. Ensure that proposed new open space areas within newly developing suburbs are integrated with and linked to the open space network. 6. Categorise all sports facilities according to the different classifications within the Open Space System. (Refer Section 4.2). 7. Prepare a Sports Facility Strategy which shall research and identify the minimum levels of provision and facility standards at each level within the hierarchy. 8. Continue to assess the feasibility of either upgrading existing sports facilities (or providing new) in partnership with local clubs/regional associations to enable each mainstream sporting code to have a regional facility capable of regularly attracting regional/State competitions. <i>(Sports with existing facilities fulfilling this aim include swimming, hockey, netball, rugby union, rugby league, AFL, clay target shooting, tennis and the racing codes. Sports with facilities which could be provided to higher standard (elite) facilities include athletics, gymnastics, basketball, soccer, track cycling and lawn bowls).</i> 9. Plan for new sports facility development where existing facility provision does not meet current and future demand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Undertake an Indoor Sports Facility Feasibility Study. <i>(Study shall assess the current provision of indoor court space in the LGA, quantify existing and likely future demand for indoor sports, and identify an appropriate strategic approach for the future provision of indoor facilities. The study will also assess the future needs for gymnastics).</i> – Commence redevelopment of Robertson Oval into a State/National level venue for Australian football and 		

Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
<p>cricket, in accordance with the directions of the <i>Bolton Park Recreation Reserve Master Plan</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Stage 1: Review outcomes and directions and commence design development. ◇ Stage 2: Construction. ◇ Stage 3: Construction. <p>– Continue implementation of the Equex Exhibition Centre Master Plan to provide high quality equestrian facilities. (Staged program of works).</p> <p>10. Provide for emerging sports and activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Investigate the feasibility of developing the Duke of Kent Sports Ground into the premier junior soccer reserve (District standard) for use by the Wagga Wagga & Districts Amateur Soccer Association. – Identify an appropriate location for a new bocce court (possible sites could be Bolton Park, Memorial Gardens and Ashmont Oval at the site of the former tennis courts). <p>11. Improve the provision and quality of existing passive recreation facilities and open space to encourage increased use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Progressively build upon the existing network of cycleways, as identified in the <i>Wagga Wagga Bikeways Plan</i>. (Staged program of works). – Consider sealing those off-road sections of the cycleway which are considered primary routes, i.e. along the River. – Review the <i>Wagga Wagga Bikeways Plan</i> to assess the impact of changing community needs and preferences, Government policy, development of new “destinations” (e.g. Glenfield Park Shopping Centre and Oasis Regional Aquatic Centre). – Continue to negotiate with the Wagga Country Club to secure access around the Lake Albert foreshore required to complete the Lake Albert Walking Path and Bikeway. – Enhance interpretation of trails and park features through signage and education to foster appreciation of specific open space areas. – Provide interpretive signage at appropriate locations in Nature Reserves to provide information in relation to the environmental and heritage values of sites. – Utilise public art to increase the visual and other sensory experiences for park users. <p>12. Prepare a management plan for the upgrade, maintenance, use and promotion of the Wiradjuri Walking Track.</p> <p>13. Prepare a Playground Strategy, which will consider the provision of a hierarchy of play spaces, increased diversity of play equipment, and equitable distribution</p>		

<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
across the LGA. (Refer Section 5). 14. Construct an new regional “all abilities” playground for the LGA, having consideration of location, design, management and cost. (Refer Section 5).		

18.6. Strategic Objective # 2

Provide Well Used and Relevant Open Space Settings and Recreation Facilities

Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
<p>15. Prepare new (or review existing) master plans for the large Town Parks in rural villages and key passive parklands in the Wagga Wagga urban area to ensure there is adequate provision of family recreation facilities (i.e. seats, tables, BBQs, picnic facilities, shelters, and paths).</p> <p>16. Commence implementation of the key directions of the <i>Murrumbidgee River Urban Interface – Plan of Management</i> to ensure there is progressive improvement to the conservation and environmental values of the river corridor, and there is improved recreational provision. (Staged program of works).</p> <p>17. Commence implementation of the key directions of the <i>Wiradjuri Reserve - Plan of Management</i> to ensure environmental, social and cultural objectives are achieved, and assess a possible location for establishing a new public swimming beach to replace the existing Wagga Beach.</p> <p>18. Review provision of boat ramp facilities for access to the Murrumbidgee River.</p> <p>19. Prepare a master plan for Lake Albert, incorporating improved provision for land-based passive and informal recreation activities, for improved water flow into the Lake, and for improved provision for water-based sporting and recreation activities.</p> <p>20. Adopt a formal process for assessment of potential surplus open space for sale, including a community consultation process.</p> <p>21. Undertake a Tennis Participation Strategy. <i>(Strategy to investigate the comparatively low level of participation in tennis by Wagga Wagga LGA residents, to develop programs to increase participation, to assess the effectiveness of the current tennis facilities' management model, and to assess the current quality of tennis courts/facilities).</i></p> <p>22. Undertake a Soccer Development Strategy. <i>(Strategy to quantify the current and likely increased participation in soccer, especially by girls/women and residents in rural villages, and to assess the optimum provision of facilities to support the growth).</i></p> <p>23. Assist relevant clubs/associations to promote sport to females.</p> <p>24. Establish a annual program to upgrade/replace sports ...</p>		

Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
<p>pavilions. (Priority should be given to pavilions located at the Cricket Ground, Uranquinty Sports Ground, northern pavilion at Rawlings Park Sports Grounds, the athletics area at Jubilee Park, Robertson Oval, Duke of Kent Sports Ground, and Wiradjuri Reserve).</p> <p>25. Investigate a new system for the management of flood lighting on Council grounds, which reduces Council staff involvement, and provides greater flexibility of use for clubs/associations. (Recommended supplier E-State Automation which has developed a system called "PlayState" whereby Council staff and nominated club personnel can access and manually override flood lighting controls from remote locations using SMS text messaging).</p> <p>26. Install flood lights at sports facilities where improved ground management and use will be achieved, and/or increased participation will result.</p> <p>27. Continue the upgrade of existing flood lighting to meet Australian Standards.</p> <p>28. Ensure affordable options are provided for people to participate in recreation activities, such as provision of free (unstructured) active recreation facilities in selected parks and open space areas, such as basketball half-courts, tennis rebound walls, pedestrian paths, and golf practice cages. (Staged program of works).</p> <p>29. Advocate the benefits to older adults of engaging in active lifestyles, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Undertaking a promotional and awareness campaign informing older adults of the benefits of participating in an active lifestyle. - Informing medical practitioners and other key stakeholders as to the availability of health and fitness facilities and other "active" programs which might be suitable as options for treating/preventing some medical conditions of patients. <p>30. Investigate the viability of Council coordinating the introduction of a student sports discount card as a means of linking young people with local leisure venues, such as the Oasis Regional Aquatic Centre, Bolton Park Stadium, golf courses, and local cinemas.</p>		

18.7. Strategic Objective # 3

Consolidate Recreation and Sports Facility Provision and Use

Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
<p>31. Re-use or remove unused sporting facilities where their continued existence may be a potential safety risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Disused pavilion at Braeden Sports Ground (Tarcutta). – Disused pavilion at Ladysmith Sports Complex. – Some or all of the tennis courts at Mangoplah Sports Complex. <p>32. “De-sport” selected sports reserves to increase their attractiveness for passive recreational use by providing/upgrading informal recreation facilities (e.g. internal walking paths, seats, plantings, BBQ/picnic areas, playgrounds). This will allow a possible rationalisation of selected local parks and/or playgrounds to occur. Such reserves may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ashmont Oval. – Henwood Park. – Rawlings Park Sports Grounds. – Andersons Oval. – Cricket Ground. – McPherson Oval. – Duke of Kent Sports Ground. – Allen Staunton Memorial Park. – French Fields. – Jubilee Park. – Collungullie Oval. – Uranquinty Sports Ground. <p>33. Investigate the feasibility of formalising sports fields at the following reserves to create multiple playing fields for the same sport code, thereby, potentially reducing the actual number of sports reserves required to be maintained to a standard that supports training/competition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – French Fields (softball/soccer). – Kessler Park (Australian football/soccer/rugby). – Henwood Park (soccer/rugby). <p>34. Have input into the planning phase for new recreation facility developments located on education sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Establish links with schools and the Charles Sturt University for the purpose of information sharing about current and future sporting and recreation facility developments both at and outside of education sites. – Offer the recreational planning expertise available in-house at Council, and the willingness of Council officers to become involved in the future planning for new recreational facility developments on education sites. 		

<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
35. Advocate on behalf of sports clubs/associations for access to appropriate new/upgraded sporting and recreation facilities on education sites.		
36. Investigate opportunities to increase the use of school facilities by sports clubs/associations. (Refer Section 6.6)		

18.8. Strategic Objective # 4

Encourage and Support Community Involvement in Sustainable Open Space and Club Management and Development

Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
<p>37. Consider options for improved support for “Friends” groups and other voluntary management groups, and collaborative arrangements for open space management, particularly for main parks, Lagoons, waterways, trails and botanic gardens. (See also Strategy No. 67)</p> <p>38. Support and assist in grant applications and skill development of community groups involved in open space management and monitoring.</p> <p>39. Consolidate the viability of existing sports clubs and associations, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Encouraging all groups to prepare strategic business plans (or review existing ones). – Providing and facilitating club training and education opportunities in ‘best practice’ club administration. – Engaging stakeholders in a process to identify initiatives to improve the transition of members from junior to senior ranks. <p>40. Establishing a target of at least one “junior” representative (U/18 years) to be an active member on the general committee of those clubs whose membership typically includes young people (junior clubs).</p> <p>41. Increase the number of sports development programs and initiatives across in the LGA, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Develop a “Schools-Clubs Link Program” whereby sports club personnel are available to local schools to conduct coaching clinics in schools. (Refer Strategy No. 49) – Identify leading (successful) club administrators in the LGA, and enlist their support to participate in a “Club Administrator Mentoring Program”. – Facilitate the organisation of coaching and umpire accreditation courses. <p>42. Increase voluntary involvement in the administration and management of sports clubs and reserves, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Promoting volunteerism in sports management through a one-off promotional campaign. – Initiating a regular (say once monthly) information article in the local media introducing a club/association/reserve committee volunteer and describing his/her contribution and how the involvement has been mutually beneficial to both volunteer and club/association/reserve committee. – Assisting clubs to have in place appropriate 		

<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
management structures to ensure all of the work is not left to a small few, and to ensure appropriate succession planning considerations are in place (should be incorporated into a Club Business Plan). – Continuing the annual recognition program for club volunteers and administrators.		

18.9. Strategic Objective # 5

Maximise Opportunities for Economic Development Through Recreation

<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
<p>43. Identify existing sporting facilities across the City of Wagga Wagga (public and private), which have the capacity to host Regional, State and National championships, and also those facilities which have the capacity to be upgraded to meet necessary standards. (Examples include Equex Exhibition Centre (netball and equestrian), Jubilee Park (hockey, baseball, touch, rugby), Robertson Oval, Allen Staunton Memorial Park, Wagga velodrome, Rawlings Park Sports Grounds (soccer), Australian Rules Club, Wagga Wagga International Raceway, Showgrounds, and Eric Weissel Oval).</p> <p>44. Identify which sports are sufficiently “geared up” to host Regional, State and National events.</p> <p>45. Conduct a forum for all sports associations and relevant stakeholders in the Riverina Region to develop a regional approach to bidding for sports tourism events.</p> <p>46. Support sports clubs and associations in their conduct of major sporting events, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Conducting training courses and seminars on events-related topics, such as event management, sponsorship and promotion. – Providing logistics support, such as promotion, media campaigns, litter collection services, and traffic management support. – Preparing and distributing information packages to visitors and tourists who come to Wagga Wagga with events. 		

18.10. Strategic Objective # 6

Facilitate Diverse Recreation Program Development

Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
<p>47. Ensure appropriate recreational programs and services are available for people with a disability, and/or their carers by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Supporting initiatives from Regional Agencies for the development and implementation of programs for people with a disability, particularly where access might be required to Council-owned/managed buildings or outdoor areas to conduct such programs. – Preparing and implementing a new policy (an “Inclusive Charter”) to encourage and support clubs/associations to provide inclusive recreation participation opportunities. – Facilitating improved linkages between disabilities’ service providers, facility managers (e.g. Oasis, Bolton Park Stadium) and sports club representatives. – Facilitating training and education sessions for facility managers, staff, and club/association administrators in the area of dealing with people with a disability. <p>48. Increase the participation of culturally diverse groups in sport and recreation by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Undertaking research and consultation with diverse communities to identify current/emerging/future recreational needs and aspirations. – Ensuring appropriate provision is made to encourage diverse communities to apply for seed funding from Council’s annual grants scheme for recreation program development. <p>49. Assist with the development of a “Schools-Sports Club Link Program”. <i>(This program is founded on sports club personnel being available to local schools to conduct coaching clinics in schools, with the end benefit to the sports club being that the school children become familiar with, and then aligned with, their local club (from where the coach belongs).</i></p> <p>50. Facilitate increased opportunities for older adults to access sport and recreation facilities and programs, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Assisting existing locally based walking programs to expand, and by establishing neighbourhood walking programs in areas of the LGA where they do not currently exist. – Encouraging new, low impact health and well-being recreational activities (such as Tai Chi) in areas of the LGA where they do not currently exist. – Ensuring key recreation facilities are safe and secure for older adults (security lighting, car park 		

Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
<p>provision, access into and around facilities).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By encouraging Community Hall Committees to accommodate older adult groups for informal recreation activities at affordable costs. - Encouraging sporting clubs/associations to start-up “masters, seniors or veterans” teams and competitions. - Encouraging sporting clubs/associations to market spectator opportunities to elderly residents who live around the club’s main venue, as a means to include them in the community and to provide a social outlet (e.g. offer free admittance, free first cup of coffee/tea, etc.). <p>51. Increase the range of recreation facilities and activities available for young people by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing to consult with young people. - Developing a Youth Recreation Facilities Strategy that will consider such issues as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Options for unstructured activities, such as basketball half-courts, tennis rebound walls, and “hang-out” spaces. ◇ Possible venues for unstructured recreation facilities. ◇ Management options for unstructured recreation facilities. ◇ Risk management. - Reviewing the current strategic direction for the provision of skate facilities (currently one centralised major facility), and investigating options for providing low-cost skate facilities (such as integrating low-scale “street-style” activity nodes within path networks in parks, or the use of mobile skate facilities) in outlying suburbs, such as Glenfield Park, Mt Austin, and Koorinal, and in rural villages. <p>52. Increase participation of indigenous people in sport and recreation activities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continually liaising with and consulting with the Indigenous community. - Providing training and education to administrators involved with clubs/associations which support the intake of aboriginal people - Providing the opportunity for clubs and service providers to receive some funding assistance in instances where the group might be subsidising the cost of supporting an aboriginal player(s). (Especially where such subsidy might be covering transport costs, equipment, uniform and player registration/admittance fees). - Providing training and education for Indigenous people who wish to actively work within the aboriginal community as coaches. (Especially where such people have previously participated within the broader community and can act as “Mentors”). 		

<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
53. Increase the awareness of parents and children of the availability of recreation facilities and services, and sports clubs in their local area, through school-based promotions.		
54. Promote the health and environmental benefits of cycling and walking.		

18.11. Strategic Objective # 7

Provide Effective Management, Support and Resources

Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
<p>55. Every 5 years, monitor the effectiveness of the current provision of open space, and recreation facilities and services, against changing recreational needs, and patterns of participation.</p> <p>56. Ensure Council’s recreation and open space planning staff are at the leading edge of industry development and service delivery, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Allocating necessary resources to allow recreation staff to subscribe to relevant industry journals, and to attend professional training and development seminars/conferences/courses. – Encouraging staff to informally network with colleagues in other local government authorities and industry service providers to facilitate discussion and information sharing on recreational issues. <p>57. Review the effectiveness of current promotional information available for residents and visitors in relation to the parks, trails, recreation and leisure opportunities that are available in the Wagga Wagga LGA, which should include details of accessibility.</p> <p>58. Establish an interactive database (linked to Council’s website) of all recreation groups available across the LGA (public and private groups), and the activities and facilities they provide.</p> <p>59. Prepare a new Fees and Charges Policy, which supports the collection of fees to offset the annual cost to Council for the maintenance and development of recreational assets. (Refer Section 15.1 for some background discussion and a recommended policy framework).</p> <p>60. Prepare a new policy, which considers a range of issues and principles allowing the safe exercise of dogs in public areas. (Refer Section 15.4 for some background discussion).</p> <p>61. Review the existing policy and guidelines for the <i>Conditions for Use of Council Sports Grounds</i>. (Refer Section 15.2 for some background discussion and proposed additions/amendments).</p> <p>62. Maximise external funding opportunities, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identifying all external funding bodies and collecting information on their respective grants programs. – Maintaining a database of these funding programs, and in a timely manner distributing information 		

Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
<p>about upcoming grants to clubs, associations, service providers and community groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assisting clubs and community groups to prepare funding submissions to external agencies. <p>63. Encourage sustainable turf management and maintenance practices, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Researching options for sub-surface irrigation systems and the re-use of storm water for irrigation, and investigate the feasibility of introducing suitable methods at Council owned/managed reserves. - Introducing water-resistant turf species to selected sports fields and high-use public open space areas to improve their long-term sustainability and use, and to reduce Council's total water costs. <p>64. Collect an annual statement from all user groups utilising Council-owned/managed facilities, which provides as a minimum, the membership profile of the group, the key activities and events of the group, and a list of any facility and operational issues which require consideration by Council.</p> <p>65. Provide adequate resources towards the ongoing renewal of well-used open space areas and associated infrastructure, and recreation facilities (such as pavilions, sports grounds, community/neighbourhood centres), by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing to review the condition and estimated life of Council's recreation facilities and open space settings. - Updating Council's asset maintenance register and ten year capital works plan to include relevant renewal projects identified in the condition assessments. <p>66. Continue to provide annual funding allocations for the existing community grants which support recreation, sport and open space planning, management, development and maintenance projects. (Refer Section 15.3 for background discussion and proposed additions/amendments).</p> <p>67. Establish a new community grants program which supports and encourages minor projects that can be carried out by "Friends" groups currently assisting Council with the management of public open space areas. (Refer Section 15.3 for background discussion).</p>		

19. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Wagga Wagga City Council has the following options for sourcing funding to assist with the implementation of the *Recreation & Open Space Strategy (2005 – 2010)*. Where grants programs are marked with a # symbol, additional background information is available in Section 19.3.

19.1. Active Recreation and Sport

Council Sources

- Council Capital Works Program.
- Recurrent Council allocations (grants programs for service initiatives and innovations).
- Section 94 Developer Contributions (refer Section 19.4).
- User Fees and Charges.

External Sources

- # NSW Department of Tourism, Sport & Recreation:
 - Capital Assistance Program.
 - Active Council Grants Scheme.
 - Regional Sports Facilities Program.
 - Active Communities Grants.
- Private Sponsorships, Advertising and Grants.

19.2. Passive Recreation & Open Space

Council Sources

- Council Capital Works Program.
- Recurrent Council allocations (grants programs for service initiatives and innovations).
- Section 94 Developer Contributions (see Section 19.4).

External Sources

- # NSW Department of Sport & Recreation:
 - Active Council Grants Scheme.
 - Active Communities Grants.
- # National Heritage Trust (Commonwealth):
 - Envirofund.
- # Commonwealth Department of Environment & Heritage:
 - Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations (GVEHO) Program.
- # Road & Traffic Authority:
 - Regional Cycleway Network.
- National Landcare.
- Private Sponsorships and Grants.

19.3. Detailed Grants Information for External Programs

Dept. of Tourism, Sport & Recreation	Funding Name	Grant Size Limits	Eligibility Criteria	Timeline
<p>Website: www.dsr.nsw.gov.au Email: info@dsr.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Telephone: 131 302 or (02) 9006 3700</p>	<p>Capital Assistance Program</p>	<p>50 per cent of the net project cost – no specified limit.</p> <p>Average grant over last five years \$9,500.</p> <p>Maximum grant found in 2003-04 was \$45,000.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within boundaries of NSW • Project available for General Public use. • Assists 'not for profit' sporting and recreational organisations and/or local government authorities to develop community oriented sporting and/or recreational facilities. • Project should improve the safety for users and participants. • Project must be able to commence within nine months and be completed within two years of the announcement date. • Organisation must verify that all the funds will be available excluding the grant, to commence and complete the project immediately. • Project must involve one or more of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Construction of a new local sporting, recreation and/or physical activity facility. ○ Enhancement of an existing facility by inclusion of additional features. ○ Provision of ancillary and support facilities at existing venues. ○ Provision of additional outdoor courts and playing areas. ○ Improved access for under-represented and/ or disadvantaged groups in the community. 	<p>Annual Grant</p> <p>Applications closed 31 August 2004.</p>

Dept. of Sport & Recreation	Funding Name	Grant Size Limits	Eligibility Criteria	Timeline
Website: www.dsr.nsw.gov.au Email: info@dsr.nsw.gov.au Telephone: 131 302 or (02) 9006 3700	Active Council Grants Scheme	Not Available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses on the promotion of physical activity to improve communities. • For NSW local Councils only. 	Annual Grant Applications closed 30 June 2004.
Dept. of Sport & Recreation	Funding Name	Grant Size Limits	Eligibility Criteria	Timeline
Website: www.dsr.nsw.gov.au Email: info@dsr.nsw.gov.au Telephone: 131 302 or (02) 9006 3700	Regional Sports Facilities Program	50 per cent of the net project cost, up to a maximum grant of \$200,000. Minimum grants of \$40,000.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the boundaries of NSW. • Project must assist not for profit sporting and recreational organisations and/or local government authorities to develop community oriented recreational facilities. • Project available for general public use. • Project should commence within nine months and be completed within two years of the announcement date. • Organisation must verify that all the funds are available to commence the project immediately. • Project must involve one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upgrading of an existing facility from local to regional to state and/or national standards ○ Provision of ancillary and support facilities at existing venues. ○ Improved access for under represented and/or disadvantaged groups in the community. 	Annual Grant Applications closed 30 Nov 2004.

Dept. of Sport & Recreation	Funding Name	Grant Size Limits	Eligibility Criteria	Timeline
<p>Website: www.dsr.nsw.gov.au Email: info@dsr.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Telephone: 131 302 or (02) 9006 3700</p>	<p>Active Communities Grant</p>	<p>Small Grants (not-for-profit organisations) \$2,000</p> <p>Large Grants \$10,000 - \$25,000 (over 3 years)</p>	<p>Aims to increase opportunities for under-represented and disadvantaged people in NSW to participate in physical activity at a community level.</p> <p>Organisation must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Council (with evidence of community support). • Schools (out of school hours project only). • Not-for-profit community sport and recreation organisation. • Not-for-profit community organisation. • Community health centres. <p>Additional information to be supplied via website closer to opening date.</p>	<p>Small Grants Applications closed 30 January 2004</p> <p>Large Grants Applications closed 26 July 2004</p>

National Heritage Trust	Funding Name	Grant Size Limits	Eligibility Criteria	Timeline
<p>Website: www.nht.gov.au/envirofund</p> <p>Email: envirofund@daff.gov.au</p> <p>National Heritage Trust Communications Team GPO Box 787 CANBERRA ACT 2601</p> <p>Telephone: 1800 065 823</p>	<p>Australian Government Envirofund</p>	<p>Up to maximum grant of \$50 000.</p>	<p>Bushcare funded activities to protect, enhance and increase the vegetation in the Australian landscape. A priority was to support community involvement in the management, protection and rehabilitation of Australia's native vegetation.</p>	<p>Two funding rounds per year.</p> <p>Applications close 18 February 2005</p>
Department of Environment & Heritage	Funding Name	Grant Size limits	Eligibility Criteria	Timeline
<p>Website: www.deh.gov.au</p> <p>Department of Environment & Heritage GPO Box 787 CANBERRA ACT 2601</p> <p>Telephone (0)2 6274 1111</p>	<p>Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations (GVEHO) Program</p>	<p>Not stated, but average grant amount is \$4,000.</p>	<p>GVEHO helps eligible community based environment and heritage organisations to value, conserve and protect the natural environment and cultural heritage by assisting these organisations with their administrative costs.</p>	<p>Not Stated</p>
Road and Traffic Authority	Funding Name	Grant Size Limits	Eligibility Criteria	Timeline
<p>Website: www.rta.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Telephone 1 800 060 607 or (02) 8837 0198.</p>	<p>Regional Cycleways Networks</p>	<p>50 per cent of the net project cost – no specified limit.</p>	<p>In recognition of the fact that most cycling takes place on local roads, the RTA offers funding to local councils for the provision of approved bicycle facilities and the development of local bike plans.</p> <p>The RTA provides funds for cycle routes and facilities identified in Council Bike Plans.</p>	<p>Not Available</p>

Community Relations Commission	Funding Name	Grant Size Limits	Eligibility Criteria	Timeline
Website: www.crc.nsw.gov.au Name: Ms Jaya Chivukula, Project Officer, Funding Programs Telephone: (02) 8255 6779	Community Development Grants Program	Not Available	The aim of the program is to encourage the participation of people from culturally diverse communities in all aspects of life in New South Wales.	Not Available
Dept. of Community Services	Funding Name	Grant Size Limits	Eligibility Criteria	Timeline
Website: www.community.nsw.gov.au Mary- Jane Clark, Executive Director, Partnerships and Communities, Ministerial Office, GPO Box 5070 Sydney NSW 1044	Community Services Grants Program	Not Available	Grants under this fund are to help communities build 'social capital' and a stronger, more resilient society.	Not Available

19.4. Developer Contributions Plan

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP & A Act)* grants Councils the power to levy contributions for public amenities and services, required as a consequence of development.

Section 94(1) of the EP & A Act states that

Where a consent authority is satisfied that a development, the subject of a development application, will or is likely to require provision of or increase the demand for public amenities and public services within the area, the consent authority may grant consent to that application subject to a condition requiring:

- a. *the dedication of land free of cost, or*
- b. *the payment of a monetary contribution, or both."*

Under Section 94 (2A), Councils are permitted to recoup the cost of public services or amenities provided in advance of, or to facilitate new development. Councils may also accept the provision of a "material public benefit" in part or full satisfaction of a condition imposed under the aforementioned sections.

Generally contributions can only be made towards:

- Capital costs including land acquisition.
- Public facilities which the Council has a responsibility to provide, and
- Public facilities which are needed as a consequence of (or to facilitate) new development.

The contribution requirement is imposed by way of a condition of development consent. The key principles of Developer Contributions are based on the provisions of Section 94 of the EP & A Act. The four key principles are briefly explained:

1. Nexus

Nexus refers to the relationship between the expected types of new development in an area and the demand for additional public facilities generated by that new development. The power to levy a contribution relies on there being a clear nexus between the development being levied and the need for the public amenity or service for which the levy is required.

2. Reasonableness

The Section 94 system places the responsibility on Council to determine what is reasonable and to use Section 94 in a reasonable manner.

3. Apportionment

Apportionment is the process which seeks to define the demands of all those who benefit from the provision of a public facility to ensure that the contributing population only pays for its share of the total demand.

4. Public and Financial Accountability

Public and financial accountability are crucial components of the making and administration of contribution plans.

Some recommendations for capital improvement projects contained in this *Recreation & Open Space Strategy* will have implications in the review of the Section 94 Plan. The Strategy has updated Council's knowledge of recreation and open space facility use and needs and, on the basis of the findings, has identified works and projects that could be included in a revised Section 94 Contributions Plan.

Developer Contributions towards the funding and provision of part or all of specific recommendations for new/improved recreation facility and open space provision are justified on the grounds of projected increase in resident population, the changing characteristics of the population (ageing), and the changing recreational needs and participation patterns of the community. Particularly relevant is the provision of funding or contribution towards the establishment of public open space and/or sporting facilities in proposed new residential subdivision areas (based on the proposed policy advocating an open space and sports facility hierarchy) to meet needs of specific populations.

20. STRATEGY REVIEW AND EVALUATION

The *Wagga Wagga Recreation & Open Space Strategy (2005 – 2015)* is designed to be a “living” document, that is, always open to review, challenge and discussion. Council will move to adopt the Strategy as the key strategic direction for the future provision of recreation and open space facilities and services, but will prepare Annual Work Plans for the incremental implementation of the various strategies and actions contained within the report. This process will assist with the setting of priorities and with the annual budget process.

Priorities will change as a result of many influences, including external funding opportunities presenting themselves from time-to-time, specific demands for facilities and services becoming evident, and Council re-assessing some of its strategic objectives for service delivery.

The following is a guide as to how the *Recreation & Open Space Strategy (2005 – 2015)* might be reviewed and evaluated.

Date	Task
May 2005	Strategy adopted by Council
June 2005	2005/06 Annual Work Plan prepared and presented to <i>Manex</i> for approval
May 2006	Review of status of 2005/06 implementation (to Council). 2006/07 Annual Work Plan prepared and presented to <i>Manex</i>

Ongoing annual process

April – Sept 2010	Conduct a formal (5 year) review of the Strategy, incorporating community and stakeholder surveying and consultation, and prioritisation of outstanding strategies with proposed new/amended strategies to 2010
-------------------	---

Repeat Annual Work Plan process

April 2015	Commence process to prepare a new Wagga Wagga Recreation & Open Space Strategy
-------------------	---

21. CONCLUSION

This recreation and open space planning study commenced in 2004, and has identified a range of issues and opportunities, and subsequent proposed strategies for the future provision of open space and recreation facilities and services across the City of Wagga Wagga for the period 2005 - 2015.

The Strategy provides Council and other stakeholders with the necessary planning direction to further develop and expand recreation and open space resources, and to improve management efficiencies. Council will need to do this to continue to meet the needs and aspirations of a changing population, and can achieve this by building upon the already diverse range of facilities and open space provision.

The *Wagga Wagga Recreation & Open Space Strategy (2005 – 2015)* will ensure a focussed approach is taken by Council in relation to the provision of open space, sports and recreational resources across the LGA, and will contribute to a more effective delivery of infrastructure and facilities to increase the participation by residents in physical activities.

APPENDIX 1
LGA Open Space Provision
Current (2001) vs Projected Scenario (2015)

Wagga Wagga LGA Public Open Space Provision - Current vs Projected to 2015

Zone / Suburb	Public Open Space Provision			Actual 2001		Projected Scenario 2015	
	6a Public Recreation (Hectares)	6b Private Recreation (Hectares)	Total (Hectares)	Population	Open Space per 1000 people	Projected Population #	Open Space per 1000 people
Wagga Wagga Urban Area							
North of the River							
North Wagga Wagga (Includes primary River foreshore open space)	78.83	0	78.83	512	153.96	527	149.58
Estella	6	0	6	1312	4.57	2794	2.15
Boorooma/Cartwrights Hill	N/A	N/A	0	1125	0.00	1548	0.00
Zone Sub-Total	84.83	0	84.83	2949	28.77	4869	17.42
River to Railway							
Central Wagga Wagga (Includes Racecourse, Bolton Park, RSL Club, Leagues Club and Wiradjuri Reserve)	184.59	24.89	209.48	8062	25.98	8384	24.99
San Isidore/Moorong	378.93	1.18	380.11	416	913.73	429	886.04
Ashmont (Includes Best Park, Ashmont Oval and Connorton Park)	29.34	0	29.34	3998	7.34	4157	7.06
Zone Sub-Total	592.86	26.07	618.93	12476	49.61	12970	47.72
West of Willans Hill							
Turvey Park (Willans Hill and the Botanical Gardens provides 71ha of this total)	93.08	0	93.08	3753	24.80	3867	24.07
Mount Austin (Willans Hill provides 48ha of the total)	72.13	0	72.13	4068	17.73	4191	17.21
Glenfield Park	39	7.88	46.88	3981	11.78	4879	9.61
Bourkelands (Includes Willans Hill and buffer / drainage areas)	14	0	14	1077	13.00	2645	5.29
Tolland (Willans Hill provides 18ha of this total.)	29.15	0	29.15	3592	8.12	3701	7.88
Lloyd	4.53	0	4.53	175	25.89	1347	3.36
Zone Sub-Total	251.89	7.88	259.77	16646	15.61	20630	12.59

Zone / Suburb	Public Open Space Provision			Actual 2001		Projected Scenario 2015	
	6a Public Recreation (Hectares)	6b Private Recreation (Hectares)	Total (Hectares)	Population	Open Space per 1000 people	Projected Population #	Open Space per 1000 people
East of Willans Hill							
East Wagga Wagga (Area includes Boman and Gumly Gumly. Land area includes that used by the Pistol Club).	55.94	0	55.94	783	71.44	807	69.32
Koorngal (Willans Hill provides 15ha)	39.88	0	39.88	7277	5.48	7575	5.26
Tatton/Springvale	41	0	95.82	1444	66.36	2695	35.55
Lake Albert (Includes the Country Club and Boat Club)	184.58	40	224.58	5537	40.56	5742	39.11
Forest Hill/Kapooka	8.18	0	8.18	2855	2.87	3828	2.14
Zone Sub-Total	329.58	40	369.58	17896	20.65	20647	17.90
Wagga Wagga Urban Area Total	1259.16	73.95	1333.11	49967	26.68	59116	22.55
Rural Villages							
Collungullie	4.43		4.43	151	29.34	178	24.89
Currawarna	4.07		4.07	104	39.13	104	39.13
Galore	4.47		4.47	11	406.36	11	406.36
Humula	53.26		53.26	109	488.62	109	488.62
Ladysmith	4.72		4.72	198	23.84	225	20.98
Mangoplah	8.84		8.84	95	93.05	95	93.05
Oura	21.08		21.08	132	159.70	159	132.58
Tarcutta	71.72		71.72	263	272.70	290	247.31
Uranquinty	2.41		2.41	637	3.78	664	3.63
Rural Villages Total	175		175	1700	102.94	1835	95.37
Total LGA	1434.16	73.95	1508.11	51667	29.19	60951	24.74

Projected population based on 1% growth (Source: Community Profile 2004 - Wagga Wagga LGA)

APPENDIX 2

Sports Reserve Inventory

Sports Ground Audit

City of Wagga Wagga (Council owned/managed assets only)

Reserve		User Groups	Facilities						Amenities						Comments	
	Classification		No. of Rugby Fields S = Senior Size, J = Junior Size L = Floodlighting	No. of Soccer Fields S = Senior, J = Junior, L = Floodlighting	No. of Cricket/AFL Ovals T = Turf, S = Synthetic, C = Concrete L = Floodlighting	No. of Cricket Nets S = Synthetic, T = Turf, C = Concrete	No. of Netball Courts P = Paved, A = Asphalt, C = Concrete L = Floodlighting	No. of Tennis Courts P = Plexipave, F = Porous, S = Synthetic, G = Grass, A = Asphalt, L = Floodlighting	Other Recreational/Sport Facilities	Path Network	Playground R = Regional, D = District, L = Local	BBQ / Picnic Facilities B = BBQ, P = Picnic	Public Toilets C = Closed, O = Open	Car Parking S = Sealed, U = Unsealed	Pavilion	Issues/Opportunities Environmental/ Conservation/Heritage
NORTH OF RIVER																
McPherson Oval Complex		North Wagga Saints Aust Football Club Riverina Lions Womens Football Club Wagga Wagga & District Cricket Association	X	X	1TL	X	1CL	X		X	X	X	C	U	2	Social Club built by Club.
RIVER TO RAILWAY																
Allen Staunton Memorial Park		Wagga Junior Rugby League Club	2SL 6J (1L)	X	2S	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	S	✓	Council lease grounds from Wagga Leagues Club. The Park is the competition ground for "Junior" Rugby League.	
Ashmont Oval		West Wagga Soccer Club Wagga Wagga & District Cricket Association	X	1J (training)	1S	X	X	X		X	D	X	C	U	✓	Former Ashmont Tennis Club site has been decommissioned, and the former clubhouse is now leased to a Community Group. Small bush park at southern end of reserve.
Bolton Park (excludes Robertson Oval & Tennis Complex - see below)		South Wagga Bowling Club Wagga Croquet Club Wagga Wagga & District Cricket Association	X	X	3S	X	X	X	2 turf bowling greens 2 croquet greens Concrete skate park Bolton Park Stadium & Airborne Gymnastics Oasis Aquatic Centre	X	D	B P	O	S	✓	Park area has 3 unfenced cricket ovals (synthetic pitches). Park area in winter is used for rugby training (2 lights). Park area considered underutilised in winter. Park area is a venue for large community events, and part of it is used for overflow car parking for Robertson Oval.
Bolton Park Tennis Complex (Jim Elphick Tennis Centre)		Wagga & District Tennis Association	X	X	X	X	X	10SL 11EL		X	X	X	X	U	✓	Two storey clubhouse.
Robertson Oval		Wagga Tigers Aust Football Club Koorngal Colts Cricket Club (training) Wagga Wagga & District Cricket Association	X	X	1TL	3S	1A	X		X	X	X	O	S	✓	Social Club built by Club. Inadequate provision for off-street parking. Master Plan for the site completed in 2000.
Cricket Ground		Wagga Wagga & District Cricket Association Wagga Cycle Club Wagga Kangaroos Rugby League Football Club Tolland Cycle Club Raceview Tennis Club	1L	X	1T	X	X	4EL	Velodrome (asphalt, lit)	X	X	X	O	S and U	✓	Venue for Wagga Golden Wheel Race. Reserve has a perimeter fence. Adjacent to the Murrumbidgee Race Club. Changeroom facility is of a poor standard. Grandstand not roofed.
Duke of Kent Sportsground		Wagga Wagga & District Cricket Association Wagga United Soccer Club	X	3S (1L)	2S	X	X	X		X	X	X	O	S	✓	Helipad - designated emergency landing area. Spectator seating in shade. Bore water used.
South Wagga Tennis Courts		South Wagga Tennis Club	X	X	X	X	X	8E		X	X	X	X	U	✓	Land bequeathed to Council in 1938.
Wagga Wagga Womens Bowling Club		Wagga Wagga Womens Bowling Club	X	X	X	X	X	X	1 turf bowling green	X	X	X	X	S	✓	Facility leased to Club by Council.
Wiradjuri Reserve			X	X	3C	X	X	X	18 hole Pitch & Putt Driving Range Greyhound track 450m	X	X	B P	O	U	X	Middle field runs east-west. Site for possible new River Beach. Golf Driving Range is a former land-fill site - still settling.
WEST OF WILLANS HILL																
Anderson Oval		Wagga Swans Junior AFL Wagga Wagga & District Cricket Association	X	X	1S	X	X	X		X	X	X	C	U Onstreet	✓	

Sports Ground Audit

City of Wagga Wagga (Council owned/managed assets only)

Reserve		User Groups	Facilities						Amenities						Comments	
Classification			No. of Rugby Fields S = Senior Size, J = Junior Size L = Floodlighting	No. of Soccer Fields S = Senior, J = Junior, L = Floodlighting	No. of Cricket/AFL Ovals T = Turf, S = Synthetic, C = Concrete L = Floodlighting	No. of Cricket Nets S = Synthetic, T = Turf, C = Concrete	No. of Netball Courts P = Paved, A = Asphalt, C = Concrete L = Floodlighting	No. of Tennis Courts P = Plexipave, F = Porous, S = Synthetic, G = Grass, A = Asphalt, L = Floodlighting	Other Recreational/Sport Facilities	Path Network	Playground R = Regional, D = District, L = Local	BBQ / Picnic Facilities B = BBQ, P = Picnic	Public Toilets C = Closed, O = Open	Car Parking S = Sealed, U = Unsealed	Pavilion	Issues/Opportunities Environmental/ Conservation/Heritage
RURAL VILLAGES (Council / Trust)																
Collingullie Oval (Trust)		Collingullie-Ashmont-Kapooka Football Club	X	X	1 oval (lit)	X	1AL	4CL		X	L	B P	O	U	✓	Tennis courts not used. Oval surface has cape weed problem, and training lights are average. Netball court surface cracked. Playground not conforming.
Gumly Gumly Reserve (Trust)		Eastern Hawks Football Club	X	X	1 oval (lit)	X	1AL	X		X	X	X	C	U	✓	Not Council Land, site managed by Eastern Hawks Football Club.
Humula Sports Complex (Trust)		Humula Cricket Club Humula Golf Club	X	X	1S	1C	X	X	9 hole Golf Course	X	X	X	X	U	✓	Separate sports pavilion, kiosk building and golf clubhouse. Sand greens.
Ladysmith Sports Complex (Council)		No user group	X	X	1C	X	X	3EL		X	L	X	O	U	✓	Pavilion disused. Reserve located off the main road. Perhaps relocate playground to Ladysmith Hall and close reserve.
Mangoplah Sports Complex (Trust)		Mangoplah Cookardinia United-Eastlakes Football Club	X	X	1CL	X	1A	6E		X	X	X	X	U	2	Tennis courts are not used. Recently planted trees along entry drive. 1 pavilion for sports ground, 1 clubhouse for tennis.
Norman Duck Oval, San Isidore (Council)		Wagga Wagga & District Cricket Association San Isidore Tennis Club Kyeamba Kennel & Training Club	X	X	1SL	X	X	2EL		X	D	B	O	U	2	Reserve comprises large area of open space.
Oura Reserve (Trust)		Oura Tennis Club	X	X	1S	X	X	3E		X	✓	X	C	U	✓	
Braeden Sportsground, Tarcutta (Trust)			1	X	1S	X	X	3E		X	X	X	C	U	✓	Sports pavilion open and in poor condition. Tennis courts not being used, weeds.
Uranquinty Sportsground (Council)		Wagga United Soccer Club Wagga Wagga & District Amateur Soccer Association Uranquinty Cricket Club.	X	1SL	1S	2S	X	2EL 1SL		X	L	X	O	U	✓	Playing area previously used as a football ground (posts still up) but now used as a soccer field. Sports pavilion is in poor condition.
PRIVATELY OWNED FACILITIES																
Eric Weisell Oval		Wagga Magpies Rugby League Club Wagga Brothers Rugby League Club Wagga Leagues Cricket Club Wagga City Leagues Bowling Club	1SL	X	1S	3S	X	X	2 turf bowling greens	X	X	X	X	S	2	Wagga Leagues Club adjacent. Main pitch has large grandstand. Wagga Leagues Club is in receivership, future of facilities and tenant clubs not known.
RSL Club		RSL Club Bowling Club	X	X	X	X	X	X	1 turf bowling green	X	X	X	X	S	✓	
Australian Rules Club (Maher Oval)		Turvey Park Australian Football Club Rules Club Bowling Club South Wagga Cricket Club (training in nets only)	X	X	1 oval (lit)	4S	1AL	X	2 turf bowling greens	X	X	X	X	S	✓	Maher Oval has perimeter fence, and spectator viewing areas. Licensed Club adjacent to Maher Oval.

APPENDIX 3

Schools Sports Facility Inventory

Wagga Wagga LGA Education Facilities' Audit

School / Tertiary	Sports Facilities	Available for Community Use	External User Groups	Arts/Cultural/Music Facilities	Available for Community Use	External User Groups	Proposed New / Improved Facilities	Comments (If "No", to available for community use - why?)
Primary Schools								
Ashmont Public Ph: 02 6931 4944	Cricket Nets	Y	NIL	School Hall	Y	Dance Group	NIL	No requests to use facilities
	BBall Court	Y	NIL					
Collingullie Public Ph: 02 6920 0165	NONE	N/A	NIL	NONE	N/A	NIL	Multipurpose Court	Use sports ground up the street Use Collingullie Hall
Currawarna Public Ph: 02 6929 1039	2 Tennis Courts	Y	Local Family	Community Hall	Y	Church Services Polling Bushfire Meetings	NIL	Not sure how much longer school will exist
Forest Hill Public Ph: 02 6922 7251	Cricket Nets	Y	NIL	School Hall	Y	NIL	NIL	No one hires facilities on a regular basis
	BBall Court	Y	NIL					
Gumly Gumly Public Ph: 02 6922 7285	Small Oval	N	NIL	Gumly Gumly Hall	Y	Local Community	NIL	Small oval, not suitable for external use, and too dry
Holy Trinity Ph: 02 6931 3704	Oval	Y	NIL	Parish Hall	Y	Craft Group	NIL	No requests to use facilities
	Cricket Nets	Y	NIL					
Kapooka Public Ph: 02 6931 2703	Oval	N	NIL	NONE	N/A	NIL	NIL	1/2 size oval, not suitable for external hire
Koorinal Primary Ph: 02 6922 6443	Oval with Cricket Nets	Y	Koorinal Colts CC	School Hall	Y	Karate Group Dance Group	Soccer Goals	Facilities are available for hire subject to Principal approval
	3 BBall Courts	Y	NIL					
Ladysmith Public Ph: 02 6922 1524	2 x 1/2 size Ovals	N	NIL	NONE	N/A	NIL	NIL	School has problems with vandalism so facilities are no longer hired to community
	2 Netball Courts	N	NIL					
	BBall Court	N	NIL					
	1/2 Cricket pitch	N	NIL					
Lake Albert Public Ph: 02 6922 6400	BBall Court	Y	NIL	School Hall	Y	Church Group Before/After School Care	NIL	Facilities are available for hire subject to Principal approval
	Tennis Nets	Y	NIL					
Lutheran Primary Ph: 02 6926 1414	Oval with Cricket Nets	Y	Junior Cricket Assoc	Chapel	Y	Church Services	Music/Drama Area	Facilities are available for hire subject to Principal approval
	BBall Court	Y	NIL	Multipurpose Room	Y	Church Group		
Mt Austin Public Ph: 02 6925 2481	1/2 size BBall Court	Y	NIL	NONE	N/A	NIL	Hall	School is in desperate need of a hall
	Cricket Nets	Y	NIL					
North Wagga Public Ph: 02 6921 3533	Oval	N	NIL	NONE	N/A	NIL	NIL	Facilities are not suitable for external hire
	BBall Court	N	NIL					
Sacred Heart Catholic Ph: 02 6922 6900	Oval	N	NIL	NONE	N/A	NIL	NIL	No markings on 1/2 size oval School uses Parish Centre for all activities
South Wagga Public Ph: 02 6921 2947	3 Soccer Fields	Y	NIL	Gym/Hall	Y	Old Time Dance Group Karate Group	NIL	Facilities are available for hire subject to Principal approval
	Cricket Nets	Y	South Wagga CC					
	Tennis Court	Y	NIL					
	BBall/Netball Court	Y	NIL					
St Josephs Primary Ph: 02 6921 5733	Oval	Y	Parish	School Hall	Y	Parish	NIL	Facilities are available for hire subject to Principal approval
	BBall/Netball Court	Y	Parish					

School / Tertiary	Sports Facilities	Available for Community Use	External User Groups	Arts/Cultural/Music Facilities	Available for Community Use	External User Groups	Proposed New / Improved Facilities	Comments (If "No", to available for community use - why?)
Sturt Public Ph: 02 6922 5087	Oval with Cricket Nets	Y	Local Cricket Assoc	School Hall	Y	Karate Group	NIL	
	BBall/Netball Court	Y	NIL					
Tolland Public Ph: 02 6931 1263	BBall/Netball Court	Y	NIL	Large Hall with stage	Y	Church Group	Pre-School	Facilities are available for hire subject to Principal approval Principal happy to encourage community use of facilities
	Large Oval	Y	NIL	Library	Y	NIL		
	Small Oval	Y	NIL					
Turvey Park Public Ph: 02 6925 2589	Playing Field	Y	NIL	NONE	N/A	NIL	Upgrading Play Equipment	
	BBall/Netball Court	Y	Koorringal NC					
Uranquinty Public Ph: 02 6922 9619	Oval	Y	NIL	NONE	N/A	NIL		Recently upgraded facilities BBall/Netball court not suitable for external hire
	BBall/Netball Court	N	NIL					
Wagga Wagga Public Ph: 02 6921 3398	BBall Court	Y	NIL	School Hall	Y	Karate Group Line Dancing Group Rock 'n Roll Group Vacation Care	NIL	
	Cricket Nets	Y	NIL					
Willans Hill Ph: 02 6925 1076	Large Playing Field	N	NIL	NONE	N/A	NIL	NIL	Willans Hill is a special school
Secondary Schools								
Kildare Catholic College Ph: 02 6925 3388	4 BBall/Netball Courts	Y	NIL	School Hall	Y	NIL	Renovations	Facilities are available for hire subject to Principal approval
	Volleyball Court	Y	NIL					
	25m Pool	Y	NIL					
	Oval	Y	NIL					
Koorringal High Ph: 02 6922 5155	Several unsuccessful attempts were made to contact this school over a 2 week period							
Mater Dei Catholic Ph: 02 6922 5069	BBall Courts	Y	NIL	Performing Arts Centre	Y	NIL	NIL	Brand new school that would be happy to hire to external user groups
	Oval	Y	NIL					
	4 Tennis Courts	Y	NIL					
Mt Austin High Ph: 02 6925 2801	4 Tennis Courts	N	NIL	Multipurpose Hall	Y	Local Arts/Cultural Group	NIL	School does not currently hire out facility to external users due to insurance issues
	Large Oval	N	NIL					
	2 Volleyball Courts	N	NIL					
	2 BBall/Netball Courts	N	NIL					
Riverina Anglican College HS Ph: 02 6933 1811	1 Outdoor BBall Court	N	NIL	NONE	N/A	NIL	2 Ovals Gymnasium (2006)	The grounds have been levelled out for the construction of 2 ovals. A multi-purpose gymnasium is planned to be built in 2005, for use beginning in 2006.
Wagga Christian College Ph: 02 6926 2622	2 BBall/Netball Courts	N	NIL	NONE	N/A	NIL	Cricket pitch and practice nets	Facilities are currently not available for community use
	1 other BBall Court	N	NIL					
	Oval	N	NIL					
	Soccer/Rugby Field	N	NIL					

School / Tertiary	Sports Facilities	Available for Community Use	External User Groups	Arts/Cultural/Music Facilities	Available for Community Use	External User Groups	Proposed New / Improved Facilities	Comments (If "No", to available for community use - why?)
Wagga Wagga HS Ph: 02 6925 3611	1/2 size Oval	Y	Local Soccer Club	School Hall	Y	Church Group	Plans to level out playground area to construct touch football fields Cricket pitch and practice nets. Gymnasium by 2006	School is improving the majority of existing facilities as well as constructing additional required sports grounds
	Rugby League Field	Y	NIL			Local Exhibitions		
	Gymnasium (1 BBall Court)	Y	NIL			Other schools		
	Multipurpose Courts	Y	NIL	Amphitheatre	Y	NIL		
	Cricket Nets	Y	NIL					
Tertiary								
Charles Sturt University Ph: 02 6933 2000	Indoor Centre - including BBall Court and Weight Room	Y	Christian Fellowship Cycling Club Various Sports Clubs	Drama room within Rec Centre	Y	Local drama group		Upgrade of existing facilities is due to take place before new facilities are constructed.
	30 m pool	Y	School Groups					
	2 Squash Courts	Y	NIL					
	5 Tennis Courts	Y	Local Tennis Club					
	2 Ovals	Y	Local Rugby Club					
	2 Outdoor Netball Courts	Y	Local Sports Clubs					
Riverina Institute of TAFE Ph: 02 6938 1416	NONE	N/A	NIL	Arts Studio	N	NIL	NIL	Arts Studio only available to those students studying at the TAFE

APPENDIX 4

Club Membership Data

Club Membership Trends - City of Wagga Wagga

Activity / Club	2001	2002	2003	2003 Season			
				Male	Female	Jnr	Snr
Athletics							
Koorungal Athletics Club **	250	250	220	115	105	220	0
Wagga Athletics Club **	180	180	250	142	108	250	0
Athletics Total	430	430	470	257	213	470	0
Australian Rules							
Wagga Tigers Aust Football Club	280	280	295	235	60	130	165
Turvey Park Bulldogs Football Club	222	225	201	171	30	142	59
Mangoplah-Cookardinia-Eastlakes United F&NC	124	158	140	95	45	30	110
Eastlakes Junior Football Club	120	120	120	120	0	120	0
Eastern Hawks Football Club **	260	260	260	225	35	180	80
Collungullie-Ashmont-Kapooka Football Club **	130	130	130	130	0	0	130
North Wagga Australian Football Club	220	220	220	220	0	140	80
Riverina Lions Womens Football Club	N/A	25	25	0	25	0	25
Australian Rules Total	1356	1418	1391	1196	195	742	649
Baseball							
Wagga Wagga and Districts Baseball Association	110	110	79	64	15	0	79
(Including Indiana Baseball Club and Storm Baseball Club)							
Baseball Total	110	110	79	64	15	0	79
Basketball							
Wagga Basketball Association	700	800	900	450	450	500	400
Basketball Total	700	800	900	450	450	500	400
Cricket							
Wagga Wagga & District Cricket Association	900	900	900	895	5	500	400
(Including Wagga RSL CC, Wagga City CC, Lake Albert CC, St Michaels CC, South Wagga CC, Koorungal CC)							
Wagga Primary Schools Cricket Association	500	500	543	540	3	543	0
Cricket Total	1400	1400	1443	1435	8	1043	400
Cycling							
Tolland Cycling Club	30	30	30	21	9	1	29
Wagga Wagga Cycling Club	140	140	140	80	60	90	50
Bicycle Wagga Wagga	105	125	160	N/S	N/S	N/S	N/S
Cycling Total	275	295	330	101	69	91	79

Activity / Club	2001	2002	2003	2003 Season			
				Male	Female	Jnr	Snr
Equestrian							
Wagga Dressage Club	76	84	95	20	75	20	75
Aust Stock Horse Society (Riverina Branch) **	200	200	200	100	100	N/S	N/S
Wagga Wagga All Breeds Horse **	110	110	110	55	55	90	20
Wagga Polocrosse Association	21	23	27	13	14	9	18
Riverina Show Jumping Club **	95	95	95	32	63	30	65
Lake Albert Pony Club **	50	50	50	20	30	30	20
Equestrian Total	552	562	577	240	337	179	198
Golf							
Wagga Wagga RSL Golf Club	350	350	350	320	30	10	340
Wagga Wagga Country Club **	947	947	960	N/S	N/S	N/S	N/S
Humula Golf Club							
Kapooka-RAAF Golf Club							
Golf Total	1297	1297	1310	320	30	10	340
Lawn Bowls							
Wagga Wagga Womens Bowling Club **	56	56	56	0	56	0	56
Wagga City Leagues Bowling Club **	222	222	222	167	55	1	221
Rules Club Bowling Club	147	153	160	160	0	0	160
RSL Bowling Club							
South Wagga Sports and Bowling Club	160	160	160	110	50	1	159
Lawn Bowls Total	585	591	598	437	161	2	596
Netball							
Wagga Wagga Netball Inc **	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	2,000	800	1,200
(Excludes netballers associated with football clubs, these membership numbers are included in the entries for Australian Rules above)							
Netball Total	2000	2000	2000	0	2000	800	1200
Rugby Union							
Southern Inland Rugby Union Inc**	243	243	243	236	7	153	90
(Including Wagga Waratahs, Wagga City Rugby Club, Wagga Agriculture College, Rivcoll Rugby Club, Riverina Army (Kapooka))							
Rugby Union Total	243	243	243	236	7	153	90

Activity / Club	2001	2002	2003	2003 Season			
				Male	Female	Jnr	Snr
Rugby League							
Wagga Junior Rugby League	600	600	600	600	0	600	0
(Including Wagga Kangaroos Juniors, Wagga Brothers Juniors, Wagga Magpies Juniors, Turvey Park Juniors, Wagga Raiders Juniors)							
Wagga Kangaroos	75	75	75	75	0	35	40
Wagga Brothers	85	85	85	85	0	52	33
Wagga Magpies	80	80	80	80	0	35	50
Turvey Park Rugby League Club	70	73	94	94	0	46	48
Rugby League Total	910	913	934	934	0	768	171
Soccer							
Wagga Wagga & District Amateur Soccer Ass	1500	1650	1780	1650	130	1500	280
(Includes data from Wagga City-based clubs - Wagga United SC, West Wagga S, South Wagga SC, Tolland SC, Lake Albert SC, Henwood Park SC)							
Soccer Total	1500	1650	1780	1650	130	1500	280
Swimming / Aquatic							
Wagga Leagues Swimming Club (Beach)	59	67	65	65	0	0	65
Wagga Wagga Water Polo Club **	350	350	250	140	110	90	160
Wagga Bidgee Canoe Club	75	71	72	55	17	4	68
Wagga Wagga Swimming & L/S Club **	241	241	241	108	133	171	70
Wagga Asthma Swimming Club							
Wagga Wagga Diving Club	10	12	22	11	11	22	0
Wagga Wagga Boat Club (Sailing Facet)	53	41	34	33	1	3	31
Swimming / Aquatic Total	788	782	684	412	272	290	394
Tennis							
Brucedale Tennis Club	16	16	17	2	15	2	15
Forest Hill Tennis Club	12	15	25	12	13	3	22
Grandview Tennis Club	22	22	22	5	17	0	22
Hopwood Park Tennis Club	68	52	46	24	20	2	44
Raceview Tennis Club	22	15	16	8	8	0	16
San Isadore Tennis Club							
South Wagga Tennis Club	140	140	140	60	80	20	120
Oura Tennis Club							
Uranquinty Tennis Club	10	10	10	5	5	2	8
Wagga & District Tennis Association	130	115	100	N/S	N/S	N/S	N/S
Tennis Total	420	385	376	116	158	29	247

Activity / Club	2001	2002	2003	2003 Season			
				Male	Female	Jnr	Snr
Miscellaneous							
Wagga Touch Association	1300	1350	1400	900	500	1000	400
Riverina Oz Tag							
Wagga Triants							
Wagga Wagga Combined Hockey	515	450	460	220	240	180	280
Wagga Volleyball Association	190	190	190	95	95	20	170
Pulletop Pistol Club **	30	30	30	30	0	0	30
Wagga Historic Engine Club	42	40	40	36	4	4	36
Kyeamba Kennel & Training Club	59	64	82	10	72	5	77
Wagga All Breeds Kennel Club **	30	30	30	15	15	6	24
Wagga Wagga Aero Club	73	73	73	70	3	0	73
Wagga Harley Owners Group	60	70	80	50	30	0	80
Wagga District Car Club **	40	40	40	35	5	4	36
Wagga & District Kart Club **	85	85	85	82	3	45	40
Airborne Gymnastics	180	180	180	30	150	180	0
Wagga Wagga Softball Association	557	557	557	17	540	233	324
Wagga Dressage Club	76	84	95	20	75	20	75
Riverina Umpires Association							
Miscellaneous Total	3,237	3,243	3,342	1,610	1,732	1,697	1,645
TOTAL	15,803	16,119	16,457	9,458	5,777	8,274	6,768
** = Estimates only for 2001 and 2002							
Airborne Gymnastics	7,000	7,000	7,000	3,500	3,500	7,000	0
Riverina Australian Football Club	11000	11000	11000	6000	5000	0	11000

APPENDIX 5

Consultation with Private Facility Managers

Tolland Squash Centre

Ph: (02) 9687 1616

- Tolland Squash Centre offers the following programs and services:
 - Squash competitions.
 - Squash tournaments.
- The Centre is looking to expand its variety of services by incorporating a Personal Studio into the facility.
- Usage and participation levels have experienced a huge increase in recent years – since the change of management.
- The Centre has been unable to meet the demand for court hire - most competitions are full.
- Management at the Centre would like to be able to work more closely with and be more informed about events within the community. For example, they were unaware of the Veterans Games and therefore played no active role in the Games. This is something they would like to be involved with in the future.

Xceler8 Fitness Centre

Ph: (02) 6925 0088

- Xceler8 Fitness Centre offers the following programs and services:
 - Gymnasium, group exercise classes.
 - Personal Training and Massage.
 - Children’s gym.
 - Wagga Hospital Program.
 - Injury prevention classes.
 - Aboriginal health programs.
 - Crèche.
- Usage and participation levels are steadily increasing. The Centre has experienced a 30% increase in gym memberships in the past year.
- The Centre’s annual turnover has increased by 300% in 12 months.
- The Centre has completed four extensions in 18 months and are about to open a second gym in Wagga Wagga.
- The Centre has noticed a significant increase in participation in the *Les Mills Group Exercise* programs.
- The Centre to date has not had much involvement with Council, but would like to receive some support in the future.
- The key issue at the Centre is the lack of professionalism of the staff. Management find it difficult to retain staff to work in the industry in Wagga Wagga. All the “good” staff head to capital cities where they can make more money.

Flex it Gymnasium

Ph: (02) 6921 1110

- Flex it Gymnasium offers the following programs and services:
 - Gymnasium, including cardio equipment and pin loaded/ free weights.
 - Personal Training.
 - Circuit Classes.
 - Nutrition Planning.
 - Personal Programming.

- The Centre has experienced a stable membership level over recent years.
- There has been an increase in interest for cross-training programs within the gym. This has been since the Centre decided to no longer conduct Group Exercise classes at the facility.
- The Centre would like to work with Council to promote and develop awareness within the community of the benefits of good personal health and fitness.

Workout Wagga

Ph: (02) 6921 5777

- Workout Wagga offers the following programs and services:
 - Gymnasium.
 - Group Exercise.
 - Personal Training.

- Usage and participation has been stable over the past 20 years.
- A major change has been a decrease in the number of Group Exercise class participants.
- The Centre has very little interaction with Council.

Nagle Street Indoor Cricket Centre

Ph: (02) 6921 7449

- The Nagle Street Indoor Cricket Centre offers the following programs and services:
 - Indoor Cricket.
 - Indoor Volleyball.
 - Indoor Soccer.
 - Indoor Netball.
 - Indoor Touch Football.
 - School use in the afternoons.

- There was an increase in usage and participation levels at the Centre when their main competitor, Planet Indoor, closed. Since then, participation levels have been steady across all sports.
- The venue has very little interaction with Council.

Vertical Reality

Ph: (02) 6925 0069

- The venue offers the following programs and services:
 - Indoor Rock Climbing.
 - Mountain Biking.
 - Outdoor Adventures.
 - Whitewater Rafting.
 - Caving.
 - Scuba Diving/Snorkelling.
 - Skydiving.
- Since opening 6½ years ago, Vertical Reality has registered 20,000 members. This is steadily increasing.
- Schools' programming and industrial height safety initiatives are services which have increased significantly over recent years.
- The drought has had an effect on the number of rural schools coming to the Centre on a regular basis for recreation programs.
- Vertical Reality is impressed with the Tourist Information Centre and the service that it provides. The Centre believes more interaction with Council and other private recreation operators would be a positive for the Centre.

Indoor Putt Putt

Ph: (02) 6971 0440

- Indoor Putt Putt offers the following programs and services:
 - Indoor golf - 20 holes.
 - Pool Tables.
 - Café.
 - Private hire.
 - Birthday Parties.
 - Competitions for disabled groups.
 - Occasional care.
- Indoor Putt Putt has experienced an increase in participation levels over recent years.
- Noticeable increases have occurred in the school programs and the number of tourists visiting the centre.
- A majority of all tourists which visit the Centre find out about it through the Tourist Information Centre.
- The business does not have much involvement with Council but where appropriate, would be interested in strengthening the relationship.

Wagga Show Society

Ph: (02) 6925 2180

- The Wagga Show Society offers its venue, the Wagga Showgrounds, for hire to the following programs and services:
 - Harness Racing.
 - Greyhound Racing.
 - Annual shows.
 - Tradeshow.
 - Exhibitions.
 - Conferences.
- There has been an increase in demand for this venue over recent years.
- Promotional Days have become the most popular of all activities held at the Showgrounds.
- There has been a decrease in demand for formal Balls over recent years. This is a result of the poor standard of the Hall facility. It has now recently undergone a \$100K improvement and it is expected that demand will increase again.
- The Society has very little interaction with Council – and when they do it is always negative. Executive Manager, John Hodge would like to see more positive interaction with council officers.

Borambula Sport & Recreation Centre

Ph: (02) 6928 4300

- The Borambula Sport & Recreation Centre offers the following programs and services:
 - School camps.
 - Community group camps.
 - Archery.
 - BMX Track.
 - High rope course.
 - Rock Climbing.
 - Canoeing / Kayaking.
 - Tennis.
 - Pool.
 - Mini golf.
 - Bed & Breakfast Accommodation.
- The Centre can cater for up to 150 people.
- The Centre is always booked out in summer and consistently busy throughout the year.
- The most popular program at the Centre is the Outdoor Education Program for schools.
- The Centre has very little interaction with Council.

APPENDIX 6

Summary of Sports Clubs' Surveys

Sports Club Survey

Wagga Wagga

Club	Recreation Facility/Reserve	Total Club Members	Junior			Adult			Last 3 years		Key Issues Facing Group										Comments
			No. of Members	No. of Teams	League	No. of Members	No. of Teams	League	Jnr Members	Senior Members	Fluctuating membership	Lack of playing surfaces	Clubroom/Pav too small	Unable to attract new members	Sponsorship/ Finances	High annual council user fees	High annual association affiliation fees	Lack of volunteers	Diminishing public interest in sport	Other	
Turvey Park Australian Football Club	Maheer Oval	201	142	5	WDJFC	56	3	RFL								2	3			Not able to build rooms at Maheer Oval Maheer St should have been the "major sporting ground" because of facilities and parking for big games	
Wagga Tigers Football Club	Robertson Oval	295	130	4	WDJFC	165	3	ACT/AFL Canberra League						1		2	3			Sponsorships are becoming increasingly hard to obtain AFL Canberra fees are very high Very hard to get people to do something for nothing	
Mangoplah Cookardinia United Eastlakes Football Club	Mangoplah Sports Ground	140	30	4	WDJFC	110	3	RFL MVAFA				2	1					3		All reserves to have equal maintenance from council A structured facility review Assist Junior facility development	
Wagga Wagga Womens Bowling Club	Shaw Street Greens	56	0	0	N/A	56	0	N/A	N/A						1					We pay rates, water, electricity, phone and lease to council We are a Women's Bowling Club that bowl 4 times per week and play cards 1 day per week	
Wagga City Leagues Bowling Club	Gurwood Street Greens	222	1	0	N/A	221	14	N/A						1	3				2		
Rules Club Bowling Club	Fernleigh Road Greens	160	0	0	N/A	160	6	WDBA	N/A		1		3		2					Lack of Junior Bowlers Always difficult to raise finances and gain sponsorship More accommodation required (clubrooms/pavilion)	
Wagga Wagga Netball Club	Netball Centre Equex Site	2000	800	80	Netball NSW	1200	110	Netball NSW	Not stated						2	3	3	1		Upgrading and maintaining sports facilities is a priority Great recognition that sporting events bring money into Wagga Greater recognition for volunteers	
Wagga City Rugby Club	Connolly Rugby Complex	80	0	0	N/A	80	3	SIRU	N/A		1					3			2	Social area in main building is not suitable Not enough room to store equipment Maintenance required on playing surface (inc need for floodlights)	
Wagga Junior Rugby League Club	Staunton Oval	600	600	75	N/A	0	0	N/A	N/A			1	2	3						If Staunton Oval is sold, we will have no where to play and train Large grounds needed for Junior/Rugby League (council owned) Main Building needs upgrade	
Southern Inland Rugby Club	Connolly Rugby Complex	243	153	6	SIRU	90	5	SIRU	Not stated				2		1				3	Steps must be taken to lessen the impact of vandalism at sports complexes. Very difficult to initiate More storage and security lighting are needed	
Wagga Leagues Swimming Club	Wagga Beach - River	65	0	0	N/A	65	0	N/A	N/A											The Wagga Beach area was once the Town Centre piece but now the Council has let it go Require a 1000 seat Convention/Recreation Centre	
Wagga Wagga Water Polo Club	Oasis Aquatic Centre	250	90	8	Not Stated	160	18	Not Stated			1						2	3		Starting to build membership up again after new pool completed Consolidation of grounds to provide more efficient use of funds Quality of facilities (Visiting teams judge a city by standards)	
Wagga Bidgee Canoe Club	Wagga Beach - River	72	4	0	N/A	68	0	N/A												Lack of 'real' liason and support for Wagga Beach. Limited to occasional special works. Lack of ongoing involvement. Effective system of linked cycleways	
Wagga Swimming & Lifesaving Club	Oasis Aquatic Centre	241	171	0	N/A	70	0	N/A	N/A	N/A		1	2							We have a waiting list due to lack of water available Need more lanes for training. Financial commitment to hiring lanes Inadequate clubroom	
South Wagga Tennis Club	South Wagga Tennis Courts	140	20	0	N/A	120	0	N/A			1									Juniors are main problem. They lose interest once they turn 18 South Wagga Tennis Club is the oldest club in Wagga, est 1923. We are probably the most viable and financial club in Wagga	
Wagga Historic Engine Club	Equex Centre	40	4	0	N/A	26	0	N/A												Development of multi-purpose recreational areas	
Kyeamba Kennel & Training Centre	Norman Duck Oval	82	Not applicable			Not applicable											3	2			Areas for children, playground etc More off leash dog areas (possibly fenced in) Club very short of storage area
Bicycle Wagga Wagga	Bikeways and Roads	160	Not Stated			Not Stated														Maintenance	Maintenance on existing facilities and upgrading. Better shared bikeway/walking tracks will encourage activity Safer on-road facilities would encourage commuting

Club	Recreation Facility/Reserve	Total Club Members	Junior			Adult			Last 3 years		Key Issues Facing Group										Comments
			No. of Members	No. of Teams	League	No. of Members	No. of Teams	League	Jnr Members	Senior Members	Fluctuating membership	Lack of playing surfaces	Clubroom/Pav too small	Unable to attract new members	Sponsorship/ Finances	High annual council user fees	High annual association affiliation fees	Lack of volunteers	Diminishing public interest in sport	Other	
Wagga City Aero Club	Wagga Airport	73	0	0	N/A	73	0	N/A	N/A			1									Clubroom not suitable for holding conventions To attract flying events to Wagga we need a more suitable building with an area suitable for camping. (eg. Showers and toilets)
Wagga Model Aero Club	"Cornorton" (Private Property)		Figures not stated						Not stated	1						2	3				Costs - insurance and affiliation fees Ensure that open space recreation areas are adequate Ensure popular recreations are financially viable and don't fold
Wagga Boat Club (Sailing Facet)	Lake Albert	34	3	0	N/A	31	0	N/A			2			3						Insurance/ fees	Insurance and high annual fees are our main concern
Wagga Wagga Country Club	Plumpton Road	960	Figures not stated								1	2			3						
Wagga & District Kart Club	Tasman Road Race Track	85	45	0	N/A	40	0	N/A	Not stated					1		2	3				Make track more attractive Upgrade amenities Attract new people to Wagga
Airborne Gymnastics	Bolton Park Gymnastics	7,000	0	0	N/A	7000	500	NSW Gymnastic		N/A	1			2							Sharing with Oasis fluctuating numbers since pool upgraded Discussions are currently taking place with council regarding lease and extensions to building
Wagga Wagga Softball Association	French Fields	557	233	23	WSA	324	35	WSA	Not stated		3	1		2							A dinkum first class sporting arena with all facilities for players and spectators Main Building needs a lot of work
Wagga Dressage Club	Equex Centre	95	20	0	N/A	75	0	N/A						2			1				Equex Centre needs to be finished A bit of maintenance needs to be done on playing surface
Wagga Wagga Combined Hockey Ass	Jubilee Park	460	180	15	WWCHA	280	34	WWCHA			3	1		2			1				Facilities need to be maintained to Aust Standards To Host Regional Carnivals Need to cater for a range of sports - not just male sports

 Decline
 Stable
 Increase

APPENDIX 7

Cost Estimates for Proposed Strategic Projects

No.	Recommendation / Project	Timeframe and Costing				Total
		Years 1 - 3	Years 4 - 6	Years 7 - 10	Years 10 +	
1	New/Upgrade Indoor Sports Centre (4 crts) 1st Stage: Feasibility Study 2nd Stage: Construction	\$ 40,000	\$ 4,500,000			\$ 4,540,000
2	Installation of Recreation Equipment in Selected Parks Staged Program of Works	\$ 150,000	\$ 200,000			\$ 350,000
3	Robertson Oval/Bolton Park Upgrade 1st Stage: Review of Master Plan/Design Development 2nd Stage: Construction 3rd Stage: Construction	\$ 100,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 800,000		\$ 3,900,000
4	EQUEx Development (Equestrian Facilities) Staged Program of Works	\$ 200,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 500,000
5	Upgrade Sports Ground Lighting (Includes operating system and infrastructure)	\$ 150,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 75,000		\$ 325,000
6	Upgraded/New Visitor Facilities at Selected Parks (Includes paths, seats, toilets, BBQ/picnic, shade shelters, bins) Rolling Program	\$ 250,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000		\$ 550,000
7	Reserve Signage Staged Program of Works (includes design development)	\$ 100,000	\$ 50,000			\$ 150,000
8	Upgrade and Extension of Cycleway (Works include new sections plus sealing of primary routes) Staged Program of Works	\$ 300,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 800,000
9	Upgraded/New Sports Pavilions Rolling Program	\$ 500,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 1,000,000		\$ 1,800,000
10	Community Halls Improvement Program Staged Program of Works	\$ 250,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 100,000		\$ 500,000
11	Wiradjuri Reserve Master Plan Implementation Staged Program of Works	\$ 300,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 200,000		\$ 650,000
12	New Accessible Playground	\$ 300,000				\$ 300,000
13	New Youth Recreation Centre (feasibility and construction linked proposed new Indoor Sports Centre - facilities should co-locate)	as above (project 1)	as above (project 1)	as above (project 1)	as above (project 1)	\$ -
	Sub-Total	\$ 2,640,000	\$ 8,900,000	\$ 2,575,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 14,365,000

Please note: The costings are high level and are estimates only, they have been prepared for Council discussion purposes.
The list of projects has not yet been endorsed by Council.