



**Byron Shire Council
Northern Shire Sporting Fields
Strategy
Adopted 23 October 2008**



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Executive Summary

The provision of additional recreational/sporting facilities in the north of the Shire has been a significant issue and challenge for Council for many years.

In November 2007, Councillors attended a workshop and considered a discussion paper (#722323) outlining recent history and available information about the issue. The discussion paper presented a direction for Council for the provision of sporting facilities for the Northern Shire. Feedback from the workshop indicated general support for the direction but also identified a need for further investigation into the extent of need. The direction proposed that Council;

1. Investigate provision of significantly expanded facilities in the northern and southern parts of the study area: i.e., at New Brighton and at Stan Thompson Oval, Brunswick Heads.
2. Formalise investigations into needs and define the opportunities for more intensive use and development of other existing facilities.
3. Not prioritise the Yelgun east site.

Proposed timing priorities would be:

1. Existing facilities - define the opportunities for more intensive use and development, and categorise into immediate, medium-term and long-term.
2. Progress investigations into the expansion of Tom Kendall Park (New Brighton), with investigations to be completed by June 2008.
3. Commence investigations into the expansion of Stan Thompson Oval complex (Brunswick Heads) onto the adjacent Crown Land and the STP site by 2010.

Following this direction, further investigations have been undertaken since November with the aim of defining the opportunities for more intensive use and development of existing sporting facilities.

To this end, sporting clubs in the north of the Shire and their associations have been approached to determine their current and future sporting field needs. An investigation has taken place to ascertain the existing facilities available to the community in the Northern Shire. The status of discussions with the Department of Lands regarding land adjacent to New Brighton Field has been determined and the best way to progress this matter investigated.

The findings of the investigation reinforce with the direction proposed in November 2007 and provide important data for the prioritisation of projects.

This Strategy provides a blueprint of how Council can take practical steps towards providing recreational/ sporting facilities in the north of the Shire in accordance with the direction proposed at the workshop.

Based on the outcomes of the investigation, it is recommended that Council;

1. Look to how it can improve the existing sporting facilities. From the information provided by sporting clubs and associations, there are some steps that Council can afford to take now, in the short term, such as upgrading lighting, that will significantly improve the enjoyment of children and adult sportspeople and spectators.
2. Undertake a comprehensive investigation into the potential use of Lot 423, DP 755687 New Brighton for sporting fields. Begin the investigation with consultation with any State Government Agencies that may object to the use.

3. Commence preliminary investigations into the potential use of the Brunswick Heads STP for sporting field after the Brunswick Area Sewer Augmentation in 2010.

Vision Statement

Byron Shire is a thriving a vibrant community where residents and visitors can live work and play in a sustainable environment.

Council recognises the valuable role that sport can play in maintaining the health and well-being of the community.

Through the Northern Shire Sporting Fields Strategy, Council aims to develop and manage sporting facilities for residents of the Northern Shire in a manner that protects and reinforces the character of the area and is in harmony with the natural environment.

In developing and implementing the Strategy, Council actively seeks to work in partnership with; residents, sporting clubs and sporting associations in decision-making and actions.

Guiding Principles

Council's Guiding Principles reflect Council's core values and commitment to high quality service, stewardship and corporate management. The Guiding Principles are applied when Council develops strategies, like the Northern Shire Sporting Fields Strategy and when it delivers services, such as sporting facilities, to the community.

The Guiding Principles are;

- Sustainability
- Equity
- Integrity
- Community Engagement
- Efficiency
- Innovation
- Identity

1.0 Introduction

Data on population and demographics, assessment of existing facilities, comparisons with standards for open space and recreational facilities and information from the community all indicate that the existing community is underserved in terms of sporting facilities. The biggest shortfall in the Shire appears to exist in the north of the Shire; Ocean Shores, New Brighton, South Golden Beach, and to a lesser extent Brunswick Heads.

The location of sporting fields in the Ocean Shores area became highly contentious as a result of differing views in the community and on Council about the preferred use of the land known as Lot 107 Shara Boulevard, Ocean Shores. In 2004, Council considered a draft plan of management to provide sporting fields on part of Lot 107. This was not adopted and Council subsequently sold Lot 107 to be included in the adjoining nature reserve. Council had investigated some alternative sites in the years leading up to 2004. In 2004 Council commenced new investigations into potential alternative sites for a sporting field facility in the northern part of the Shire.

Various studies and reports to Council were considered in the years from 2004 to 2007. Council has allocated funding via the loan program in 2005/06. However, no new facilities have been constructed in the north of the Shire during this period, except a skate park at Mullumbimby.

Progress has continued into investigations into the development of land immediately to the north of the Tom Kendall Field, New Brighton for sporting fields. At Council's Ordinary meeting held on 24 October 2006, it considered a Notice of Motion that Council make an application to the Department of Lands for an investigation licence for Lot 423, DP 755687 at New Brighton for assessment of use for sporting fields.

Council resolved as follows:-

06-666 Resolved:

- 1. That Council make an application to the Department of Lands for an investigation licence for Lot 423, DP 755687 at New Brighton for assessment of use for sporting fields*
- 2. That all available information, including previous studies and Council agendas, be compiled and made available in the Councillors' Room to be sent with the request.*

In June 2007, Council resolved to set the following strategic objective for the General Manager:

"Finalise the strategy for the provision of recreational/sporting facilities for Ocean Shores."
[Res 07-374]

A target date of June 2008 was established.

In April 2007, Council applied to the Department of Lands for the investigation licence for the land at New Brighton. The Department of Lands subsequently offered a licence to authorise the use of Lot 423 DP 755687 for investigations to assess the suitability and feasibility of recreational development proposals. The matter was again considered at Council's Ordinary meeting held 30 August 2007 where Council resolved;

07-463 Resolved:

- 1. That Council authorise the General Manager to attach the Council seal to all documentation relating to the Department of Lands Licence No. LI 394480 over Lot 423, DP*

755687 New Brighton as shown at Annexure 2 (#674384).

2. That the cost of funding the investigation of the site be funded from section 94 contributions.

3. That Council authorise the expenditure of \$376 for the annual licence fee.

In November 2007 a discussion paper on the Northern Shire Sporting Fields was considered by Councillors at a workshop. The discussion paper summarised the investigations into potential sporting field sites since 2004, reviewed the project against the Project Delivery Roadmap, clarified the need for the project, reviewed the available budget and financial considerations and presented options for the consideration of Council. The discussion paper also recommended a strategic direction, which was generally supported by Councillors at the workshop.

In addition, it was recommended that the area to be addressed be broadened to “Northern Shire” rather than Ocean Shores specifically. Consequently the focus of this Strategy will be enlarged from Ocean Shores to the Northern Shire.

The purpose of this Strategy is to progress the provision of recreational / sporting facilities for the Northern Shire by detailing the next steps Council can take in the direction supported at the workshop.

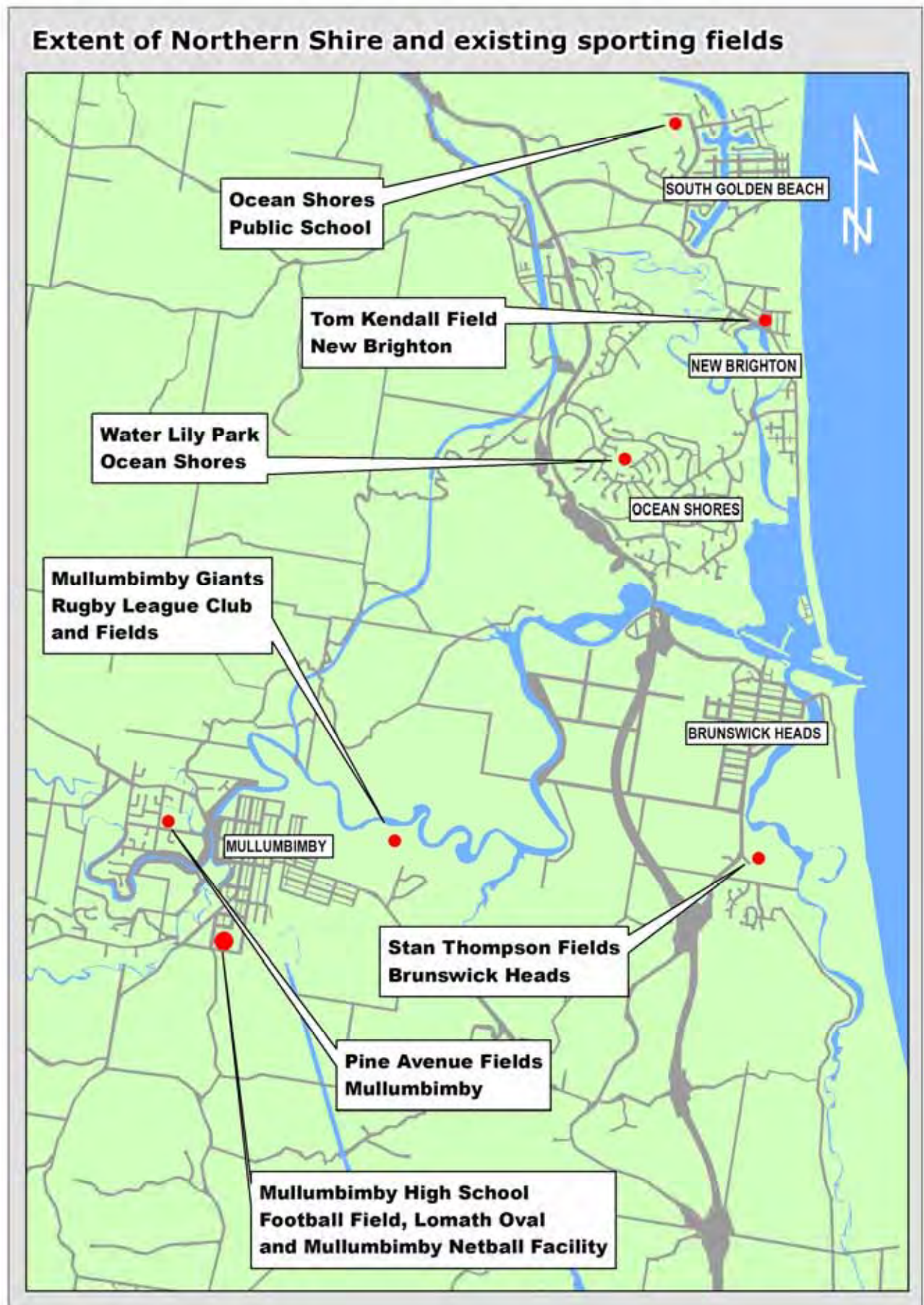
2.0 Project Delivery Road Map

A project delivery process guide known as the Project Delivery Road Map is now being used in Council to standardise and improve project delivery processes. The Road Map sets out four stages of project delivery, known as Project Initiation, Project Planning, Project Implementation and Project Finalisation. The first three steps in the Project Initiation phase are:

1. Identify the Need for the project
2. Define the project
3. Identify possible solutions.

As identified in the November discussion paper, it appears that the provision of sporting facilities for the north of the Shire has to date has proceeded without these steps being fully and clearly specified. Consequently preparation of this Strategy is based upon the following the first three steps in the Project Initiation phase in order to obtain a more holistic outcome.

Figure 1 - Map Defining Extent of the Northern Shire



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3.0 Analysis of Need

3.1 Discussions with Sporting Clubs and Associations

Following initial contact with the Brunswick Valley Sporting Association, to obtain current information about the needs of residents in the north of the Shire for sports fields, each sport was individually approached. The honorary officers of each club and association were contacted by email and or telephoned, then interviewed. The following questions were asked.

1. How many teams did you have last season?
2. How often did they train? (per week)
3. How often did they play? (per week)
4. In your opinion, does the provision of sporting fields restrict how often teams can play, e.g.: no field available for make-up games, field flooded following rain etc.
5. If you had more teams next season would there be enough sporting fields available to meet your club's needs?
6. Any additional comments that you would like to make?

As the needs and views of the sporting clubs/ associations are crucial to the success of this strategy each interview took between 30 and 60 minutes. Whilst the associations did not have teams, their comments were also very valuable as they were able to compare the facilities available to clubs in the north of the Shire to clubs elsewhere, and thus comment on the impact that the provision of sports fields is having on their sport.

3.2 Athletics

There is no Council owned athletics track in the Northern Shire. Children and adults interested in athletics train on the track around the Mullumbimby High School football field. Little Athletics caters to children aged 3 to 13 years. It is run on a Friday afternoon at the high school. Little Athletics use the track belonging to the high school and some rudimentary facilities on the adjacent Council land. The long jump pit and storage lock-up for Little Athletics are located on Council land. Each Friday before training commences a trailer containing the equipment is wheeled out of the storage lock-up. (Figure 1, located at the rear of the Strategy, shows the facilities at Jubilee Avenue, Mullumbimby used by Little Athletics).

In 2007, Little Athletics had 40 registered children participating in their activities, over their season, which extends from September to March. After children reach age 13, they tend to specialise in the type of athletics at which they excel, such as high jump or sprinting, and the circuit style training offered by Little Athletics loses its appeal. Teenagers and adults keen in pursuing athletics tend to train at the high school on days other than Friday with their respective coaches.

Little Athletics expressed dismay that an area as well populated as the Northern Shire does not have a Council owned athletics track for community use. Using the high school field is problematic. As Little Athletics uses the field during the summer season, when it is not required for football, the field is not mowed regularly, particularly in the summer school holidays. Given the fast rate of growth of grass in the region over the summer months this means that Little Athletics can arrive at the field on a Friday afternoon to find it unsafe for use. Even if it has been mowed, the clumps of grass clippings can create a trip hazard for children. To prevent this situation from occurring the field must be mowed often during summer – which is understandably inconvenient for the Department of Education when pupils are on holidays. If the field was owned and maintained by Council, Little Athletics believe that this problem would not occur.

3.2.1 Recommendation: Athletics

In the short –term, for lack of an alternative facility, athletics will need to continue to take place on the Mullumbimby High School football field. To ensure that it is in optimum condition for enjoyment by the children of Little Athletics and the other older members of the community who participate in athletics, it needs to be maintained to minimum standards in the months outside the football season. It is therefore recommended that Council work with the owner of the field, the Department of Education, to improve the maintenance of the field. This may mean that Council supplements the mowing regime of the Department of Education during the summer school holidays. Liaison with the Department of Education is recommended.

In the long –term it is recommended that any new sporting field that Council develops include an integrated athletics track around the perimeter and basic athletics facilities, such as a long-jump pit on the periphery.

3.3 Australian Football League (Aussie Rules) [AFL]

The Brunswick Valley Junior AFL Club is based out of the Stan Thompson Fields at Brunswick Heads. Last season they fielded five teams ranging from Under 8 through to Under 16. They train once a week, on Tuesdays however towards the end of the season they will train on Thursdays also. Home games are played all day Sunday. (Figure 2 shows the layout of sporting fields at Stan Thompson Fields, Brunswick Heads).

The AFL Club shares the fields with cricket and soccer clubs. According to the AFL Club it takes three men one hour to reset the field for AFL after soccer. This is a considerable inconvenience.

The AFL Club considers that the limited number of fields available to them for AFL training and games is a constraint to club growth. It is their opinion that the needs of other sports impact on AFL. To this end, the Club would be very interested in relocating to a new field, even if it was in Mullumbimby, in order to get their own field, and remove the need for time consuming set up and pack up, whenever they train or play. Until the provision of fields is improved they do not see how they can field more teams.

3.3.1 Recommendation: AFL

In the short term, as there are four fields at Stan Thompson, investigation should be undertaken to determine how one of the fields can be converted to an AFL field. The Brunswick Valley Junior AFL club is to have priority on this field on training and game days. (When the AFL Club does not require it, it can be utilised by other sports) This will remove the need for time consuming set up and pack up. Investigation should also be made into the provision of lights to the AFL field to maximise the use of this field for training in winter.

In the long term, AFL should definitely be considered as a candidate sport to be relocated to a new sporting field in the Northern Shire. In the past concerns have been raised that a new facility may potentially have poor community acceptance and a lack of community “ownership”. It is true that sports such as soccer and cricket that have been established in the Shire for a long time may be uninterested in relocating to a new facility and may not take ownership. A relatively new sport however, such as AFL, that because of its recent arrival in the Shire (last 5 years) is disadvantaged in the number of fields available to it, is likely to be keen to relocate and will take ownership of the new facility.

3.4 Basketball

Basketball is a popular sport in the Northern Shire, played by men, women and children. There is only one facility in the Northern Shire suitable for playing basketball: Ocean Shores Public School hall. All games are played at this location. The Ocean Shores Basketball Association advises that in the 2007 season they had 190 registered players. The basketball season for ladies and children occurs in school terms 2 and 3. Men however play all year round. Typically each week, the following basketball games are played;

Day	Games
Monday	4pm Mixed years 3-4 5.30- 7pm High School Boys years 7-9
Tuesday	4pm Mixed years 5-6 5.30-7pm High School Boys years 10-12
Wednesday	3.30-4.30pm Skills sessions 6-8pm Men
Thursday	4.45pm High School Girls years 7-12 6.30-8.30pm Ladies

The Ocean Shores Basketball Association does not have access to the hall on Fridays as the school requires the hall for discos, concerts and plays. Basketball players can however use the hall on the weekends for training at a fee of \$12/hour.

Whilst basketball is a popular sport with a broad following in the community, local basketball players must leave the area to compete. With only one court in the Northern Shire it is not possible for the club to host any competitions. The Association advises that there are no basketball courts in Mullumbimby.

A minimum of three basketball courts are required to hold a competition. The Ocean Shores Basketball Association would like to see three courts made available to them for training, playing and competing, and advises that all three would be well used by their players.

Proposed Courts at Water Lily Park

Late in 2007 representatives of the Ocean Shores Basketball Association, Ocean Shores Netball Club and Ocean Shores Tennis Club met Councillors and Council staff at Water Lily Park. All present agreed that two new hard surface courts and one new grass court were feasible and desirable at Water Lily Park adjacent to the existing tennis courts. The new courts should be suitable for both basketball and netball, with removable netball goalposts and rotating basketball boards, linemarked to suit both sports. The proposal was also supported by the tennis club, which agreed to share the use of their toilet facilities and clubhouse.

Water Lily Park Plan of Management

Council is required under the Local Government Act 1993 to prepare plans of management for community land. The recently prepared draft Plan of Management for Water Lily Park includes the development of these facilities as a high priority in its action table.

The clauses in the Act relating to the management of community land are detailed and specific. It is compulsory for Council to categorise community land. The draft Plan of Management for Water Lily Park categorises one hectare of the park as a sportsground for

active recreational uses. This categorisation facilitates the further development of sporting facilities in Water Lily Park.

Ocean Shores Tennis Club offer support for new courts at Water Lily Park

The Ocean Shores Tennis Club plays at Water Lily Park, where there are two tennis courts, a modest clubhouse and toilet facilities. Parking facilities are rudimentary. The tennis club advises that they have an on-going problem with vandalism. Their clubhouse and toilet facilities are being constantly damaged by youth vandalism.

The Ocean Shores Tennis Club is very supportive of the development of courts for playing basketball and netball, adjacent to the existing tennis courts. They have offered to share their toilet and clubhouse facilities with the basketball and netball clubs.

The development of facilities for other sports at Water Lily Park could offer real benefits to the tennis club. Basketball and netball will bring more people to Water Lily Park, generally at different times to the tennis players (tennis tends to be played during the day – netball and basketball training will be after school). This will increase visual surveillance in the park, increasing security and reducing incidents of vandalism. It will also result in a wider cross-section of the Ocean Shores community feeling a sense of “ownership” towards the park.

In addition, the tennis courts are in need of upgrading as the playing surface is degraded and line marking deteriorated. The ideal time to upgrade the tennis courts would be during development of the new courts.

The development of courts for basketball and netball at Water Lily Park would also necessitate the upgrading of parking arrangements. The existing parking area is not sealed or line marked and as a consequence the area is underutilised. A better parking area at Water Lily Park would definitely benefit the tennis players. Tennis is generally played at different times to after school sports and the tennis players would not expect to encounter traffic and parking congestion.

Taking all of these factors into consideration the Ocean Shores Tennis Club view the proposal to develop courts for other sports in Water Lily Park as a positive step and offer their support.

Proposed Courts near Ocean Shores Public School

Since the agreement on future facilities at Water Lily Park, another potential location for basketball courts has been supported by the Ocean Shores Basketball Association. There exists beside the Ocean Shores Public School a strip of land, approximately 20m wide, owned by Council and once considered for a road. It now appears unlikely that a road will ever be constructed in this corridor. This land may however be suitable for development as one or two courts for playing basketball and netball.

Locating additional courts beside the Ocean Shores Public School has benefits. Both sports are well established at the school and there is need for additional courts. There are possibilities in increasing facilities at a venue known to be well used. In addition, if there were three courts at the Ocean Shores Public School it would be possible for meaningful competitions to be held. The school has a canteen and toilets, and there maybe no need to construct additional amenities.

3.4.1 Recommendation: Basketball

In the short term, plans for the development of basketball and netball facilities at Water Lily Park should ideally be progressed. Now that the relevant sporting groups have agreed on the extent of desired facilities, concept plans can be obtained and costs estimated. The

draft Plan of Management recommends that the development of additional sporting facilities at Water Lily Park should take place within the next two years.

In the long term, there may be potential for the development of additional courts adjacent to Ocean Shores Public School, in the unused road land. Such a concept should be considered by the two key stakeholders; Council and the Department of Education. To facilitate such consideration, an investigation into the feasibility of courts on this land could also proceed.

3.5 Cricket

Mullumbimby / Brunswick Cricket Club

The Mullumbimby / Brunswick Cricket Club fields teams from Under 8's (Milo Squad) through to A grade mens. In the 2007/ 2008 summer season the Club had 99 registered junior players and 67 registered senior players. The Milo Squad contained three girls however the remaining registered players in the Club were all male. The fields used for playing cricket are;

1. Stan Thompson Oval, Brunswick Heads (turf wicket) (Figure 2)
2. Alby Lofts Oval, Brunswick Heads (synthetic wicket) (Figure 2)
3. Lomath Oval, near skate park, Mullumbimby (synthetic wicket) (Figure 1)
4. Giants Oval, Mullumbimby, privately owned.

There are no fields free on a Saturday morning when the juniors play. Because the Club fields two teams in most junior grades (2 Under 10's, 2 Under 12's and 2 Under 14's) one of the teams in each age group plays more away games than home games. In the 2007/2008 season, the Under 10's played a Thursday evening competition to relieve the overcrowding on Saturday mornings.

The Club revealed that they had been interested in forming a winter cricket competition for juniors on Sunday afternoon, using Alby Lofts Field at Brunswick Heads. This plan has been shelved because the Brunswick Valley Rugby Union Club decided recently to relocate their home ground in 2008 from the privately owned Giants fields to the Alby Lofts Field at Brunswick Heads. As a result of this decision by the rugby union club, there will be no winter cricket competition for juniors this year. All other fields are already used on Sundays during winter by other sports.

The shortage of fields for playing cricket in winter is acute and affects the Club in other ways. Juniors who have talent must travel to Lismore and Murwillumbah for junior development squads.

The Club has noticed that since the skate park has been constructed in Mullumbimby, near Lomath Oval, the level of littering, graffiti and vandalism at the field has increased significantly. The wicket at Lomath Oval requires a new cover as a consequence of relentless vandalism.

At the request of tennis players using adjacent courts, the cricket practice nets at Lomath Oval have been covered with netting in such a manner that prevents their use by spin bowlers. The Club says that the nets were altered without any discussion with the cricket club as to their needs. As the nets are necessary for bowlers to practice their skills, the Club requests that Council fix them before the commencement of next season.

The Mullumbimby Brunswick Cricket Club have reiterated the comments made by other sporting clubs, that the Stan Thompson fields at Brunswick Heads are extremely congested in winter. As there is only one field with lights at Brunswick Heads, this field is packed with teams training four nights a week and with rugby union games on Friday night. Consequently, whilst the cricket club would like to run clinics for their juniors to prepare them

for the start of the cricket season, and to keep their skills up over winter, it cannot. There is no available space on the one lit field.

3.5.1 Recommendations : Cricket

In the short term, there are some simple improvements that Council can make to improve the cricket facilities in the Northern Shire. The practice nets at Lomath Oval should be fixed so that they can be used by cricketers. The wicket cover at Lomath Oval should be replaced with a more secure, vandalism proof cover ready for the start of the next cricket season.

The installation of additional lights at Stan Thompson Fields, Brunswick Heads will assist cricketers as well as the winter sports such as soccer, hockey, AFL and rugby union. The provision of more lights will relieve the congestion at weeknight training times and give the cricket club the option of running winter training for its keen and talented cricketers.

In the long term, the Mullumbimby Brunswick Cricket Club would benefit from the provision of a new sporting field in the Northern Shire. Whilst such a field would be valued by the winter sports struggling to find space to play on a winter weekend, it would also be put to good use by the cricket club over summer, particularly on a Saturday morning when the junior teams play.

3.6 Hockey

Mullumbimby Hockey Club

The Mullumbimby Hockey Club plays at Stan Thompson fields on the field beside the sewer treatment works. (Figure 2 shows the location of the Hockey Field at Brunswick Heads). Hockey requires a very flat field, and this is the only field at Stan Thompson that meets that criteria. This field has no facilities. The Club fielded 6 senior teams and one junior team last season.

From the perspective of the hockey club, the lack of lights on the hockey field is a very big problem. The Club fields an A Grade senior team that is forced to train at Murwillumbah. The lack of lighting impacts on games in winter too. Hockey games are played on Saturday at 1pm, 2.20pm and 3.40pm. It is too dark in winter to play a 3.40pm game, meaning only 2 home games per week are played at home. With only 2 home games, the club considers the viability of the canteen as a source of fundraising to be marginal.

The Mullumbimby Hockey Club considers that it is suffering severely from lack of facilities. Whilst they have limited capacity to field more junior teams, it is very difficult to keep seniors due to lack of training facilities. They do not feel that they can attract new players, or even keep the players they have, when clubs in Lismore and Murwillumbah have much better facilities.

The Club advises that they were based in Mullumbimby in the past, hence the name Mullumbimby Hockey Club. They would be very interested in moving back to Mullumbimby to have access to better facilities.

Tweed Border Hockey Association

The Mullumbimby Hockey Club is affiliated with the Tweed Border Hockey Association. It is the club located the furthest south in their competition. The Byron Bay Hockey Club is affiliated with the Far North Coast Hockey Association, based in Lismore. The Tweed Border Hockey Association is funded via the registration fees paid by each registered hockey player, and employs one full –time staff member.

Of all the clubs in the Tweed Border region, the Association recognises that Mullumbimby is the club with the greatest need for better facilities. Comparing the facilities available to the nearby hockey clubs and their teams in 2007;

Club	Facilities	Number of Teams
Mullumbimby	One field No lights	6 senior teams 1 junior team (Minkey)
Pottsville	Two fields One field poorly lit – lighting on one side of the field only and suitable for training only.	4 senior teams 1 junior team Under 9 boys 1 Minkey team Under 7 boys
Burringbar	One Field With lights	10 senior teams 6 junior teams (girls and boys teams) 3 Minkey and Modified teams for Under 8's
Casuarina	One field with excellent facilities and lights	6 senior teams 6 junior teams (girls and boys teams) Minkey and Modified for Under 8's

Looking at the table, a direct correlation can be seen between the number of teams across all age groups and the facilities available to each club. The clubs with better facilities attract more players regardless of the population of the surrounding area. Burringbar Hockey Club, for example, is better resourced and consequently has more teams than Mullumbimby, despite the population of the Northern Shire far exceeding that of Burringbar.

Hockey at the highest level is played on a synthetic grass field, referred to as turf. The Olympic and State teams play and train on a turf field. The Association considers that a turf field gives faster and cleaner games, best for players and spectators.

There is one turf field in the Tweed Border region, located at Murwillumbah. The Mullumbimby teams, unable to train at home, due to the absence of lights, train at Murwillumbah on the turf field. The Association charges teams, including those from the Mullumbimby Hockey Club, \$55 per hour to use the turf field. The money generated by hire of the field to clubs is used by the Association to replace the synthetic grass (replaced every 7-10 years at approximately \$400,000 – last replaced in 2007) and for lighting costs. Whilst it is understandable that the Association charges for the use of their turf field, it is a cost that the Mullumbimby Hockey Club can ill afford.

The Association also commented that the location of the Mullumbimby Hockey Club home field, immediately west of the Brunswick Heads sewer treatment works is not very desirable. Other teams do not relish playing at Mullumbimby, especially when the easterly wind blows. Anecdotes abound of players swallowing flies! It is acknowledged that players who have the option of joining clubs in the Far North Coast (Lismore) region or elsewhere in the Tweed Border Region, do so partly because of the poor facilities available to the Mullumbimby Hockey Club.

3.6.1 Recommendations: Hockey

In the short term investigations should be made into how the existing hockey field at Stan Thompson fields can be embellished to improve the experience of playing hockey. The provision of lights to the hockey field should be investigated. This will enable senior teams to train at home and three games to be played on a Saturday. There may be other embellishments also, such as seating, fencing and provision of bins that are low cost, yet will improve the facility for players and spectators.

In the long term, it is recognised that in order for the Mullumbimby Hockey Club to grow it needs more than one field. Potential for growth certainly exists, given that it draws from a population catchment that is essentially the whole Northern Shire. The Tweed Border Hockey Association has advised the number of registered players in the region is experiencing steady growth. Therefore to meet the needs of future hockey players, Council could assist hockey in finding a new field.

It is therefore recommended that hockey, like AFL, should be considered as a candidate sport to be relocated to a new sporting field in the Northern Shire. Further, the Mullumbimby Hockey Club has expressed a strong desire to return to Mullumbimby. The provision of purpose built (very flat) hockey fields at the new Northern Shire sporting field should be investigated.

3.7 Netball

Ocean Shores Netball Club

The Ocean Shores Netball Club fields a minimum of six teams of girls each season. In the 2007 season teams ranged in age from Under 8's through to Under 15. The teams train at Ocean Shores Public School, where there is one netball court and an adjacent grassed area. Last year the club had a team of girls that all attended Brunswick Heads Public School, so that team trained there.

The facilities at Ocean Shores Public School are inadequate for training because there are only standard goal posts available at the school. Most of the girls at training are younger and require the modified goal posts used by younger children. They cannot use the Ocean Shores Public School hall for training because it is used by basketball and school related activities. As there are no lights training can only be held between 3.30pm and 5.15pm. The training facilities do become congested with teams and as a result training takes place over several days at staggered times.

All games are played at Mullumbimby, where there are six hard courts suitable for rep games and six grass courts for juniors. Girls play games on weekends and ladies play weeknights (twilight competition) and weekends. There is existing lighting at the Mullumbimby courts.

The Club commented that it "makes do" with the limited training facilities in the Ocean Shores area. According to the Club, there were grass netball courts at Waterlily Park, Ocean Shores, in the past. The grass courts were poorly drained and could not be used following rain. The Club was responsible for mowing and linemarking the courts, which was an unreasonable burden.

The Club further commented that new netball courts in Ocean Shores for training would be appreciated however it was unlikely that games would be relocated from Mullumbimby.

From the Club's perspective, the construction of training facilities at Waterlily Park may not be as convenient as the school. With training held at the school, girls can go there directly after school finishes. Parent assistance will be required to transport girls to Waterlily Park.

Brunswick Byron Netball Association

The Byron- Brunswick Netball Association has expressed concern about the limited facilities available for netball training for teams based in Brunswick Heads and Ocean Shores.

The Association advise that other than the netball courts provided by the primary schools there are no other netball facilities in Brunswick Heads and Ocean Shores.

The Brunswick Valley Sports Association has also written to Council stating that "At least two netball courts are required urgently for training". 17/5/05 #520870.

It is the opinion of the Association that netball teams from the Northern Shire require training facilities not competition courts.

Mullumbimby Netball Facility

The Brunswick Byron Netball Association Incorporated (BBNAI) advise that all BBNAI competition games are played on the all weather and grass courts at the Mullumbimby Recreation Grounds.

BBNAI are concerned about the drainage and lighting at this facility. According to BBNAI, at least one of the all weather courts is unplayable owing to ponding water and resultant accumulated matter on the court and surrounds. The continual presence of water has also compromised the court surface. The drainage around the netball courts requires upgrading to rectify this problem.

BBNAI also comment that the current lighting of the netball courts is not adequate. They state that there is a need for additional lighting and a rearrangement of the existing lighting. Such an upgrade would assist with training and provide a more suitable venue for a twilight competition.

3.7.1 Discussion: Netball

Previous Information provided to Council on Netball Facilities in Brunswick Heads and Ocean Shores

In November 2007 the *Northern Shire Sporting Fields - draft Discussion Paper* (#722323) was considered by Council.

This document contained a table (Table 6.3) that outlined the *Existing Open Space Provision* in various parts of the Shire by sport.

Brunswick Heads/ Ocean Shores were noted as having 10 netball courts.

The table was taken directly from Council's 2001- 2006 Section 94 Contributions Plan Accompanying Report (#298615), prepared by Connell Wagner for Council in 2001.

From discussions with the Byron- Brunswick Netball Association, it does not appear that the information presented on netball facilities in Brunswick Heads and Ocean Shores is correct. The actual availability of netball facilities available is significantly lower than previously reported.

Possible source of the difference between recorded and actual netball facilities

Discussions with the Byron- Brunswick Netball Association have indicated that there were sites of netball courts at other locations in Brunswick Heads and Ocean Shores in the past. These courts were abandoned, not due to diminishing demand for facilities but because they did not meet minimum acceptable standards.

There were two courts in Brunswick Heads opposite the existing cricket/ soccer clubhouse. Apparently they were constructed on filled land that experienced differential settlement and as a consequence the playing surface became uneven and unsafe. The netball courts were abandoned and the land was subsequently converted to the car park that exists there now.

There were as many as six grass netball courts at Waterlily Park in the past. Ocean Shores Netball Club advises that their club was responsible for mowing and line marking the courts.

The courts were located on low lying land that did not drain well following rainfall and as a consequence were muddy and frequently unsuitable for netball. There were no toilet facilities. The grass courts were abandoned by the club and the Netball Association as it was considered that inadequate funding had been invested to construct the courts to a reasonable standard and the demands placed on the club to maintain the courts was too onerous.

The number of netball courts recorded by Connell Wagner as located in the Brunswick Heads and Ocean Shores area appears to include these eight abandoned courts.

Potential of Waterlily Park for new netball facilities

Late in 2007 representatives of the Ocean Shores Basketball Association, Ocean Shores Netball Club and Ocean Shores Tennis Club met Councillors and Council staff at Water Lily Park. All present agreed that two new hard surface courts and one new grass court were feasible and desirable at Water Lily Park adjacent to the existing tennis courts. The new courts should be suitable for both basketball and netball, with removable netball goalposts and rotating basketball boards, line marked to suit both sports. The proposal was also supported by the Tennis Club, which agreed to share the use of their toilet facilities and clubhouse.

In the event three new courts are developed at Water Lily Park they could be used for training and meet an established need. The inclusion of slots for removable goal posts will allow posts for all aged players to be inserted making these courts more versatile than the existing single court at the Ocean Shores Public School that has a fixed standard sized goal post.

The draft Plan of Management for Water Lily Park includes the development of these facilities as a high priority in its action plan.

Brunswick Byron Netball Association offer support for new courts at Water Lily Park

The Brunswick Byron Netball Association have offered their support to the proposal to develop courts at Water Lily Park. The Association state that the new courts could be used for training and some competition and/or a summer twilight netball season. According to the Association, there are senior and junior teams interested in using such a facility.

Proposed Courts near Ocean Shores Public School

Since the agreement on future facilities at Water Lily Park, another potential location for courts suitable for netball and basketball has been proposed. There exists beside the Ocean Shores Public School a strip of land, approximately 20m wide, owned by Council and once considered for a road. It now appears unlikely that a road will ever be constructed in this corridor. This land may however be suitable for development as one or two courts for playing basketball and netball.

3.7.2 Recommendations: Netball

There appears to be a serious shortfall in the number of netball courts available for teams in the Brunswick Heads and Ocean Shores area to train.

In the short term, plans for the development of basketball and netball facilities at Water Lily Park should ideally be progressed. Now that the relevant sporting groups have agreed on the extent of desired facilities, concept plans can be obtained and costs estimated. The draft Plan of Management recommends that the development of additional sporting facilities at Water Lily Park should take place within the next two years.

In the long term, there may be potential for the development of additional courts adjacent to Ocean Shores Public School, in the unused road land. Such concept should be considered by the two key stakeholders, Council and the Department of Education. To facilitate such consideration, an investigation into the feasibility of courts on this land could also proceed.

All netball competition games are played in Mullumbimby at the all weather and grass courts located at the Mullumbimby Recreation Grounds. It is recommended that in the short term Council seek to fix the poor drainage that is limiting use of the courts and damaging their surface, and repair the water damaged court surfaces. In the medium term the lighting at this facility should be reconfigured and upgraded to better meet the needs of netball players.

3.8 Rugby League and Touch Football

The Mullumbimby Giants Football is the rugby league club in the north of the Shire. The Club uses both land leased and owned by the club.

Lot 61 DP 856020 is owned by Council. It has been leased to the Club for 21 years for a minimal rent. This lot accommodates a single field. This field is used by the Club in winter and for cricket in the summer. It is used all year by the Oz-Tag competition.

Lot 8 DP 808341 is owned by the club. It is private land. It accommodates two rugby league fields, one used by seniors and one used by juniors (Figure 5 shows the layout of the Mullumbimby Giants Rugby League Club fields).

All fields are used by schools during the week for school sports.

Last winter the Giants fielded 3 senior teams and 10 junior rugby league teams.

In summer approximately 20 touch football teams play a weeknight competition.

The Club consider that they do have adequate fields to meet their needs however better lighting would enable improved use of their facilities. To this end they would like Council to assist with funding to improve lighting, as they consider that the use of the Giants fields by sports other than rugby league reduces the congestion on Council fields.

The Club has advised that they currently have two sets of shower and toilet facilities, one each for males and females. The Club considers that the crowded conditions in these facilities at peak times could be greatly improved by the development of a new amenities block on the south eastern corner of their land. The new amenities block should contain male and female toilets and change rooms and a small canteen.

The Club has also requested that Council consider upgrading the facilities on the Council owned field and sealing the unsealed road to the Council field. The Council owned field needs better lighting and embellishment with seating, fencing and rubbish bins etc. The unsealed road is dusty during dry weather and muddy during wet weather.

3.8.1 Recommendations: Rugby League and Touch Football

The sports of rugby league and touch football appear to have an adequate number of fields to meet their needs however the facilities would benefit from upgrading.

Lot 61 DP 856020 is a Council resource that is used by a variety of sports throughout the year. The lighting and facilities on this field should be upgraded. It is appropriate that Council also seal the road access to this field.

In the medium term Council should consider how it can best assist the Mullumbimby Giants Rugby League Club with improving the facilities on their land, Lot 8 DP 808341. The Club

has identified as top priorities the upgrading of field lighting and the construction of a new amenities block on the south-eastern corner of their land.

3.9 Rugby Union

Rugby union is played by juniors in the Brunswick Valley Rugby Union Club and seniors in the Moonshine Rugby Union Club. Both clubs play out of the Stan Thompson Fields in Brunswick Heads. (Figure 2 shows the layout of fields at Brunswick Heads). Until recently the seniors played at the privately owned Mullumbimby Giants fields however for the 2008 season the club has decided to relocate to the Council owned Alby Lofts field, at Brunswick Heads.

The junior club advises that rugby union is growing in popularity. They had 109 registered players in 2007 but have 118 in 2008 already, with more players expected to register as the season progresses. The junior club fielded 9 teams in 2007. The senior club had 111 registered players in 2007, however only 60 of those players played every week and consequently the club only fielded 3 senior teams.

According to the clubs, 80% of the registered players reside in the Brunswick Heads and Ocean Shores area, with 70% of those in Ocean Shores (including New Brighton and South Golden Beach). Consequently they consider it critically important that they have access to adequate sporting fields in the Brunswick Heads and Ocean Shores area.

Junior rugby union trains and plays on the top field at Stan Thompson. Because this field has lights, games can be played at night. All junior games are played in the top field on Friday nights. With only one field illuminated at Stan Thompson not all of the home games can be accommodated at home. The club is forced to play some home games at locations such as Alstonville, where there is spare capacity.

The top field at Stan Thompson is used by the junior club for training and playing because it is the only field with lights however it is too small. According to the junior club, the dimensions of the field are adequate only for the younger players with teenagers often kicking the ball into the river. The light poles have also been installed too close to the perimeter of the field and create a hazard to players.

There is a clubhouse at Stan Thompson fields, facing the cricket oval. This is inconvenient to the top field. The clubs also advise that the dressing rooms within the clubhouse are too small.

The rugby union clubs see real benefit to the juniors of installing a second set of field lights at Stan Thompson fields, on the Alby Lofts Field. This would enable more games for juniors to be played on a Friday night and would allow all home games to be played at home. Playing games at night on the Alby Lofts field would have the added benefit of allowing more use of the clubhouse and the canteen as the Alby Lofts field is located beside the clubhouse. The canteen is vital to the fundraising efforts of the club. With night games only played on the top field, which is not close to the clubhouse, the canteen is underutilised.

The clubs would love access to additional fields for training and games. They lament the congestion of the fields on training nights. They would not however be interested in relocating out of Brunswick Heads or Ocean Shores, as their players live in this area. Consequently they would not be keen to relocate to a new field in Mullumbimby. On the other hand, the possibility of expansion of the Stan Thompson fields on the Brunswick Heads STP site post 2010 appears to the clubs to be a great opportunity.

3.9.1 Recommendation: Rugby Union

It is recommended that Council investigate the provision of lights to the Alby Lofts field, Brunswick Heads. Illumination of this field will provide the Brunswick Valley Rugby Union Club with enough fields to play all of their Friday night home games at home. It will also relieve the congestion on the top field (presently the only lit field at Brunswick Heads) on training nights, for both junior and senior players.

3.10 Soccer

Soccer is a very popular sport in the north of the Shire, with clubs in Brunswick Heads, Mullumbimby and Ocean Shores. The Football North Coast Soccer Association advises that the number of players in the region increases each year, with growth anticipated to continue for years to come. Their statistics show that the number of registered soccer players in the region has grown from 4820 in 1997, to 6016 in 2002 and on to 7411 in 2007.

Brunswick Valley Football Club

The only club catering to adult soccer players is the Brunswick Valley Football Club, playing out of the Pine Avenue fields in Mullumbimby. (Figure 4 shows the layout of fields at Pine Ave). At Pine Ave, there are two full size soccer fields with lights. The lights enable the men to train after work in winter.

The club shares the fields with Mullumbimby Junior Soccer Club, and commented that the weeknight training sessions can become congested towards the end of the season as both clubs try to cram in extra training for the finals.

The Brunswick Valley Football Club only had three teams of seniors in 2007 and does not see that the provision of fields is a constraint to growth of their club. They have successfully fielded four teams in recent years. They play their games on Saturday afternoons and are able to accommodate all their home games at home.

They commented that the canteen and toilets at Pine Avenue could benefit from an upgrade and the change rooms are too small to meet their needs. Further, formalising of the car parking on the perimeter of the field would improve a congested quagmire on wet Saturday afternoons in winter.

It is the opinion of this club, that if Council was to construct new fields in Mullumbimby near the high school, then they would not seek to relocate. It would be better for the Mullumbimby Junior Soccer Club to move to the new fields.

Brunswick Heads Soccer Club

The Brunswick Heads Soccer Club fields junior teams only. Last season they had eight teams ranging from five years olds to Under 16. They train and play out of the Stan Thompson Fields at Brunswick Heads.

There are four fields at Stan Thompson (see Figure 2);

1. the cricket oval
2. Alby Lofts field (between the cricket oval and the Old Pacific Highway)
3. the hockey field (between the cricket oval and the Council sewer treatment plant)
4. top field (north side of the access road).

Only one field at Stan Thompson has lights (top field). The Far North Coast Football Association recently conducted an audit of all field lighting in its region and found that these lights are sub-standard, not adequate for playing or even training.

The Brunswick Heads Soccer Club uses all the fields at Stan Thompson for games, including the cricket oval, and as a consequence can accommodate all of its home games at home.

The club shares the fields with AFL, hockey and rugby union during the winter. This can result in congestion. However the club would not be interested in relocating to a new location as they consider that they have been at their existing location for 34 years, whilst the other sports have arrived in the last five years. In the club's opinion, the other sports should relocate to reduce congestion on the fields.

Mullumbimby Soccer Club

The Mullumbimby Soccer Club had more than 300 registered players in the 2007 season and have 350 to date in the 2008 season. They train and play out of the fields at Pine Avenue. (Figure 4 shows the layout of fields at Pine Ave). Teams ranged in ages from the Under sixes through to the Under 16's and a ladies team. Each age group contains a couple of teams.

Teams train once a week minimum. Some coaches elect to train twice a week, particularly if their teams are likely to qualify for the semi finals. Overcrowding and congestion are common at training sessions.

The Club advises that they are will have more teams in 2008 than in 2007 and that further growth is anticipated in 2009.

It is the opinion of the Club that the Pine Avenue fields desperately require upgrading. A retaining wall and levelling are required in the south eastern corner, compaction is required at the goal mouths, returfing of the fields and improvements to lighting. The buildings and facilities are inadequate. The toilets are in poor condition, there are no lockers and no dressing rooms. The canteen is frequently vandalised and needs better security. There is no clubhouse for the 300 plus players.

For players, reserves, coaches, ground staff and administrators no seating is provided. The small existing grandstand offers no protection from the elements.

The Club is very concerned about parking arrangements at the Pine Avenue fields. At present, vehicles can drive on to the grounds and park beside the playing field. The driveway onto the grounds is located beside children's play equipment. The Club is worried that a tragic accident could occur when the fields were congested with, children, spectators and their vehicles. It is the recommendation of the Club that the parking arrangements be better designed to separate spectators from vehicles. Further it was suggested that some under-utilised playing areas at the southern end of the fields be redeveloped for car parking.

Recently the Mullumbimby Junior Soccer Club elected a new committee – a committee which is keen to see better facilities provided at Pine Avenue for soccer players and spectators. The Club envisages new facilities at the fields in the form of a new clubhouse and canteen. The Club advised that they would be interested in financing up to 50% of the cost of developing of such facilities. To this end they would like to meet firstly with Council planning staff to ascertain what is permissible, and secondly with Council management to determine how a funding partnership could be arranged.

Other improvements to the fields at Pine Avenue that the Club suggest are lighting upgrades and the provision of half-way benches and grandstands for both fields. Whilst there have been lights installed on both fields, on one of the fields where the lighting is older, five out seven lights are out. Consequently the quality of illumination on this field is substandard. It is not adequate for games of soccer at night. The Club believes that congestion at training times could be relieved if lighting was also provided to the small training fields at the southern end of the fields. The Club has requested that Council provide two benches for

each field, four in total, similar in design to bus shelters, for the home and away teams to sit during games, and grandstands for each field. Only one field has grandstands at present.

The Mullumbimby Junior Soccer Club advise that whilst the development of additional fields at another location in Mullumbimby to relieve congestion at Pine Avenue would be appreciated, they believe the Pine Avenue facilities should be upgraded as a priority.

The Club would like to see new sporting fields developed in Mullumbimby but will only offer Council conditional support unless they are given the opportunity to be fully involved in the development process from inception to commissioning. The Mullumbimby Junior Soccer Club remains disappointed as a consequence of Council's recent actions over the sale of land at Shara Boulevard, Ocean Shores. Despite this, the Club says that it is "extremely positive about addressing all of these concerns in a most co-operative, productive and expeditious manner with Council".

Shores United Soccer Club

The Shores United Soccer Club fields junior teams only and is based out of Tom Kendall Field, New Brighton. (Figure 3 shows the layout of Tom Kendall Field, New Brighton). Last year they fielded nine junior teams, with a total of 150 registered players. Teams range from Under six through to Under 14.

Each team trains and plays once a week however more than 50% of home games cannot be played at home as the field is busy or unsuitable.

The field does not have lights. The Shores Club say lights are desperately needed. Training begins at 4.15pm each afternoon. In winter light is fading by 5pm. As 45 minutes is not enough time for training parents are forced to turn their car headlights on the field to enable the training session to finish.

Shores Club have commented that the New Brighton field is under-sized. They would like a full-size field, a training field, lights, change rooms and a grandstand. (Both Pine Avenue and Stan Thompson Fields offer these benefits to the soccer clubs based there, so the wish list of Shores is not unreasonable in this context.)

Shores United Soccer Club appears to be the soccer club in the northern part of the Shire with the most pressing need for improved facilities.

Football Far North Coast Association

The Football Far North Coast Association manages up to 500 soccer games per weekend throughout the region, with more than 7000 registered players in the 2007 season. The Association receives funding via one third of the registration fee of each player and employs four full-time staff.

The outcomes of discussions with the soccer clubs in the north of the Shire were discussed with the Association.

3.10.1 Discussion: Soccer

Is Tom Kendall field New Brighton too small for soccer?

According to the Football Far North Coast Association (FFNC), there are several sets of dimensions that apply to soccer fields.

The absolute minimum dimensions of a field are 90m x 45m with a minimum of 3m clear space around the perimeter to any fences.

The maximum dimensions of a soccer field are 120m x 90m however very few fields ever meet these dimensions.

The standard field size for senior (adult) soccer is 100m x 68m.

The Association believes that the Tom Kendall field at New Brighton only satisfies the minimum dimensions, whilst the fields at Pine Avenue, Mullumbimby meet the standard senior dimensions. New Brighton field has no lighting.

As a consequence the field at New Brighton can only really be used by children under 12 years of age. It is not suitable for teenagers (girls or boys) or adults. The Association is forced to schedule, where possible, home games for older teams of the Shores United Soccer Club, such as Under 13 and Under 14, at other fields. These children **never** get to play a home game.

How does this impact on Shores United Soccer Club?

Last season, Shores had approximately 150 registered players. The Far North Coast Football Association considers that the ability of this club to grow is seriously constrained by the inadequate facilities at Tom Kendall Field, New Brighton. The field cannot accommodate the training times, (due to the absence of lighting) or the games (field too small) of more players.

Shores appears to be well run, with an organised and motivated volunteer administration. The Association believes that given the population of the Ocean Shores area it could definitely attract more players if it had the facilities.

Looking at statistics provided by the Association, clubs in comparable areas have significantly more registered players, and the clubs with equivalent numbers of players (150) are located in much smaller rural villages. Comparing the facilities available to Shores to other clubs in the Far North Coast region;

Club	Facilities
Ocean Shores	150 registered players 1 undersized field with no lighting
Bangalow	400 registered players 3 full size fields with no lighting
Byron Bay	450 registered players 2 full size fields and good lighting
Mullumbimby	300 registered players 2 full size fields and good lighting
In Tweed Shire	
Burringbar	140 registered players 1 full size field with good lighting
In Lismore Shire	
Dunoon	150 registered players 2 full size fields with good lighting

Note player numbers were for the 2007 season. All information from Football Far North Coast Association.

Growth of Soccer in the Northern Shire

The Football Far North Coast Association reports that the number of registered players in the region is growing at a phenomenal rate. They would definitely like to see an expansion of soccer in the Northern Shire. In the opinion of the Association, the North Shire needs a senior club – seniors currently play for Brunswick Valley at Pine Avenue, Mullumbimby, where the only effective lights exist. (Lighting at Brunswick Heads is sub-standard).

It is the preference of Association to expand soccer at Ocean Shores, compared to Brunswick Heads. The Association considers that Brunswick Heads is too close to Mullumbimby, where a well established medium sized club exists. The Association also considers that the New Brighton field will be more attractive to players from all over Ocean Shores than Brunswick Heads.

Consequently the Association would be very supportive of any plans by Council to improve the facilities at New Brighton field that will enable Shores to expand. Ideally, they would like to see the existing field expanded to standard dimensions so it can accommodate games for teenagers and adults, a second training field constructed, and adequate training lights installed.

3.10.2 Recommendations: Soccer

New Brighton

Options for expanding the facilities at Tom Kendall Field, New Brighton, that should be explored include;

- Expansion of the existing field to meet standard dimensions;
- Provision of a second, standard sized field for training and playing; and
- Training lights to the appropriate standard.

Were Council to concentrate its efforts in establishing a new sports field at Jubilee Avenue Mullumbimby, this would do nothing to meet the needs of Shores, which appears to be the soccer club in the Northern Shire with the greatest needs.

Steps Council can take to improve facilities in New Brighton are discussed in greater depth later in this strategy.

Pine Avenue, Mullumbimby

The two soccer fields at Pine Avenue are well used. As usage is expected to grow in the future, Council should consider improving the facilities. Infrastructure improvements to the playing surfaces, such as levelling (and minor retaining walls as required) compaction and returfing, should be undertaken as a matter of priority. Upgrading of the lighting to meet the appropriate standards should also be investigated. Information obtained by Football Far North Coast Association during their recent audit of field lighting should be a starting point. Improvements to parking at the field should also be investigated along with provision of half-way benches and grandstands to both fields.

In the long term, new amenities should be provided at Pine Avenue. Ideally, a new clubhouse should be constructed, containing dressing rooms with showers and lockers, a new secure canteen facility, undercover seating and of course a general purpose meeting room. The Mullumbimby Junior Soccer Club has expressed an interest in developing these facilities in a funding partnership with Council and Council could remain open to such an option.

Brunswick Heads

It is acknowledged by the Brunswick Heads Soccer Club that they have an adequate number of fields on which to accommodate their training and games. What the fields at Stan

Thompson lack are adequate training lights. The lights on top field require upgrading to meet the appropriate standard. Information obtained by Football Far North Coast Association during their audit of field lighting on the extent of the deficiency should be a starting point.

4.0 Existing Facilities

An inventory of existing facilities was carried out for the Section 94 Contributions Plan in 2001, and has not been systematically updated since then. It clearly showed that the biggest shortfall in sporting fields and recreational facilities at that time was in Byron Bay, and justified Council's efforts to improve facilities in that area in recent years.

Council's 2001-2006 Section 94 Contributions Plan Accompanying Report identified the then existing provision of structured open space. The table presented below is an extract from the Plan's Accompanying Report.

Note: An additional column has been added to the table to show the *actual* provision of sporting fields in the Northern Shire 2008. Northern Shire in this context includes; Brunswick Heads, Ocean Shores, Mullumbimby, New Brighton, South Golden Beach.

4.1 Existing Structure of Public Open Space Provision

Facility	Byron Bay / Suffolk Park	Mullumbimby	Bangalow	Brunswick Heads / Ocean Shores	Total Shire	Actual Northern Shire 2008
Soccer	3 (5) ¹	6	(4)	5 (9)	14 (24)	3 (4)
Hockey	(2)	1	(4)	(2)	1 (9)	1
Cricket	(1)	(1)	3	1 (2)	4 (7)	3
Football	(1)	(1)	1	(1)	1 (4)	(2)
Netball	13	17	4	10	44	2
Tennis	4	6	7	5	22	11

Notes:

- () denotes shared facilities such as joint use of hockey/soccer fields. Cricket/football
- "Creek" swimming pool

4.2 Inventory of Existing Sporting Facilities

Organisation	Type of Sport / Activity	Field / Facility used	Land Ownership
Mullumbimby Brunswick Cricket Club	Cricket	Alby Lofts Oval, Stan Thompson Fields, Brunswick Heads	Byron Shire Council
Mullumbimby Brunswick Cricket Club	Cricket	Lomath Oval, Mullumbimby	Byron Shire Council
Mullumbimby Brunswick Cricket Club	Cricket	Mullumbimby Giants Rugby Leagues Club Fields	Byron Shire Council / Mullumbimby Giants Rugby League Club
Moonshines Rugby Union Club	Rugby Union (Senior)	Mullumbimby Giants Rugby Leagues Club Fields	Byron Shire Council / Mullumbimby Giants Rugby League Club
Mullumbimby Rugby Leagues Club	Jnr/Snr Rugby League; Oz-Tag Assoc; Mullum Rodeo Commit PSSA	Mullumbimby Giants Rugby Leagues Club Fields	Byron Shire Council / Mullumbimby Giants Rugby League Club
Mullumbimby Touch Association Incorporated	Touch Football	Mullumbimby Giants Rugby Leagues Club Fields	Byron Shire Council / Mullumbimby Giants Rugby League Club
Brunswick-Byron Athletics Club	Athletics	Mullumbimby High School Field	NSW Department of Education
Brunswick Valley Junior AFL Club	AFL - Australian Rules Football	Mullumbimby High School Field	NSW Department of Education
Brunswick Valley Junior Rugby League Club	Rugby Union (Junior)	Mullumbimby High School Field	NSW Department of Education
Mullumbimby Little Athletics	Athletics	Mullumbimby High School Fields and Lomath Oval, Mullumbimby	Byron Shire Council/ NSW Department of Education
Brunswick Byron Netball Association Inc	Netball	Mullumbimby Netball Facility	Byron Shire Council
Ocean Shores Basketball Association Inc	Basketball	Ocean Shores Primary School Hall	NSW Department of Education
Ocean Shores Netball Club	Netball	Ocean Shores Public School 1/2 netball court	NSW Department of Education
Mullumbimby Soccer Club	Soccer	Pine Avenue Sporting Fields, Mullumbimby	Byron Shire Council
Brunswick Valley Football Club	Soccer	Pine Avenue Sporting Fields, Mullumbimby	Byron Shire Council

Organisation	Type of Sport / Activity	Field / Facility used	Land Ownership
Brunswick Heads Junior Soccer Club (B.H.J.S.C)	Soccer	Stan Thompson Fields, Brunswick Heads	Byron Shire Council/ NSW Department of Lands
Mullumbimby Hockey Club	Hockey	Stan Thompson Fields, Brunswick Heads	Byron Shire Council/ NSW Department of Lands
Brunswick Valley Sports Association Inc	AFL, Soccer, Hockey, Union, Cricket, School Carnivals	Stan Thompson Fields, Brunswick Heads	Byron Shire Council/ NSW Department of Lands
Mullumbimby Brunswick Cricket Club	Cricket	Thompson Oval, Stan Thompson Fields, Brunswick Heads	Byron Shire Council/ NSW Department of Lands
Shores United Junior Soccer Club	Soccer	Tom Kendall Field, New Brighton	Byron Shire Council

4.3 Recommendations: Existing Facilities Immediate, Medium- term and Long- term Priorities

Facility	Sport to benefit	Proposed Improvement	Priority
Water Lily Park	Basketball and Netball	Construct two hard surface courts and one grass court, suitable for both basketball and netball. Upgrade drainage, parking and lighting. Install equipment storage facility.	Short term
Stan Thompson Fields, Brunswick Heads	AFL	One of the four fields at Brunswick Heads to be dedicated to AFL.	Short term
		Lighting (adequate for training) to be installed on this field.	Medium term
	Hockey	Lighting to be provided to the existing hockey field.	Short term
		Embellishments, such as seating, garbage bins and fencing to be provided to the hockey field to improve amenity.	Short term
	Soccer	Lighting on existing "top" field to be upgraded to meet standard suitable for training.	Short term
	Rugby Union	Lighting to be provided to Alby Lofts field.	Short term
Pine Ave Fields Mullumbimby	Soccer	Improvements to playing surfaces, such as levelling and returfing	Short term
		Upgrade lighting to meet standard suitable for training on both fields	Short term
		Install 2 half-way benches and grandstands to both fields.	Medium term
		Construct a new clubhouse containing dressing rooms with showers and lockers, a new secure canteen facility, undercover seating and a general purpose meeting room.	Long term
Ocean Shores Public School	Netball	Liaise with the NSW Department of School Education to have constructed a second netball court, with modified goal posts suitable for younger children,	Short term
Tom Kendall Field, New Brighton	Soccer	Investigate the provision of additional facilities, such as a second field, on adjacent Crown land.	Short term
		Investigate whether existing field can be expanded to meet minimum dimensions within it's own parcel of land.	Short term
		Lighting to be provided to meet standard suitable for training.	Short term
		Construct a new clubhouse containing dressing rooms with showers and lockers, a new secure canteen facility,	Long term

Facility	Sport to benefit	Proposed Improvement	Priority
		undercover seating and a general purpose meeting room.	
Mullumbimby High School	Little Athletics	Liaise with the NSW Department of School Education to improve the mowing regime on the football field in summer to ensure athletics track is always suitable for use by the Little Athletics children.	Short term
Lomath Oval, Mullumbimby	Cricket	Remove netting that prevents cricketers from practicing in the nets.	Short term
		Replace vandalised cover to cricket wicket.	Short term
Lot 61 DP 856020 (Council field adjacent to Mullumbimby Giants Rugby Fields)	Cricket Oz-Tag Rugby League Touch Football	Lighting to be upgraded	Short term
		Road providing sole access to the field to be sealed	Short term
		Embellishments, such as seating, garbage bins and fencing to be provided to the field to improve amenity	Medium term
Lot 8 DP 809341 (Mullumbimby Giants Rugby Fields)	Oz-Tag Rugby League School Sports Touch Football	Assist Club in the development of an additional amenities block in the south-eastern corner of their land.	Medium term
Mullumbimby Netball Facility, Mullumbimby Recreation Grounds	Netball	Improve drainage on and around the netball courts	Short term
		Repair water damaged netball courts	Short term
		Reconfigure and upgrade existing lighting to the netball courts	Medium term

4.4 Indicative Costs for the development of sporting facilities

Some indicative costs for the development of sporting facilities are:

Item	Cost
New winter playing field, including filling, lights and drainage	\$275,000
Clubhouse	\$450,000
Netball Court, including filling, lighting and pavement	\$50,000
Lighting of a single sports field	\$40,000
Estimated cost of one playing field without amenities	
Fill 120m x 75m x 300mm	\$80,000
Lighting	\$40,000
Irrigation	\$55,000
Car parking, say 30 car parking spaces per field at	\$60,000
Drainage, earthworks and contingency	\$40,000
Total	\$275,000

(These costs have been taken from the Ballina Shire Council draft Open Space Strategy 2007, which contains detailed costing spreadsheets for sporting facilities. In 2005 Ballina Council engaged to Ardill Payne and Partners to calculate the costs of developing centralised playing fields in Ballina. Ballina Council has also prepared cost estimates for the development of sporting facilities at the Wollongbar Urban Expansion Area and at other locations in their Shire. By considering the information provided by Ballina Council, and indexing for inflation, the indicative costs above have been provided to give guidance on the funding required to meet the needs identified in this strategy).

4.5 Recommendations: New Sporting Fields in Mullumbimby

There is Council land in Mullumbimby, near the high school that will be available for development in the short term. Any new sporting fields in Mullumbimby could serve the whole Northern Shire; Mullumbimby plus Ocean Shores, South Golden Beach, New Brighton and Brunswick Heads. Several sporting clubs, such as hockey and AFL, have expressed real interest in relocating to a new home ground.

Development of a new sporting facility in Mullumbimby will not however meet many of the identified needs in the north of the Shire. Local facilities in Ocean Shores, New Brighton and Brunswick Heads will still be required.

To this end, it is recommended that the development of facilities at Mullumbimby be considered a long term proposition, to be expedited only if investigations into new facilities at New Brighton and Brunswick Heads prove unsuccessful.

4.6 Other Facilities

The focus of this Strategy is the provision of enhanced or additional sporting fields in the Northern Shire.

The Plan of Management for the Stan Thompson fields at Brunswick Heads identifies the

land as also suitable for a skate park. Council is progressing the provision of this facility and has resolved that this project be included in the Playing Field Strategy.

Similarly, land at South Golden Beach adjacent to the community centre may be investigated by Council for the provision of a skate park and BMX track in the future.

5.0 Use of Crown land at New Brighton for Sporting Fields

Potential exists for the development of vacant Crown land at New Brighton for sporting fields. The subject land parcel is Lot 423, DP 755687. It has an area of 2.274 hectares. (The location of the parcel is shown in Figure 3).

Recent history relating to the investigations into the suitability and feasibility of development on this site are as follows.

1. An Assessment of the ecological and landscape values of five possible sports field sites in the North of Byron Shire was undertaken by ecologist/ botanist, Robert Kooyman in 2000. Lot 423 was one of the five sites assessed. The main factors considered during the assessment were;
 - a. Extent of native vegetation cover
 - b. Condition of the vegetation
 - c. Conservation significance of the vegetation
 - d. Presence of, potential habitat for, species of conservation significance
 - e. Flora and fauna habitat values
 - f. Level of landscape connectivity
 - g. Landscape position and significance of the site.

The assessment concluded that the site has relatively low conservation values however it does retain considerable potential to extend and enhance coastal habitat for a wide range of species, it is close to the beach and dune sequence and the area buffers the adjacent urban development. The vegetation provides a good habitat for amphibians and other fauna species.

It was noted that a number of native species are regenerating at the site and revegetation could be assisted by tree planting and natural processes. It was concluded that if the area was to be used for a single sports field, the areas adjacent could be rehabilitated and where necessary assisted to redevelop ecologically appropriate native vegetation.

Of the five sites assessed, the Shara Boulevard site at North Ocean Shores was identified as having the highest ranking for flora and fauna values. This site, Lot 423 at New Brighton was ranked second last, with only Dung Oval, Billinudgel scoring lower.

2. In March 2002, the Department of Land and Water Conservation (DLWC) undertook a land assessment of several parcels of vacant Crown land in New Brighton and South Golden Beach. The land assessment took place after Council advised DLWC of its intentions to investigate the suitability of Lot 423 for a sports field.

DLWC noted that Lot 423 land was located within the coastal zone on the northern outskirts of the village of New Brighton. The physical characteristics of the land were noted as heavily vegetated with either forest, heath or advanced regeneration and contain threatened species and birds which are subject to international protection agreements.

DLWC identified the land as being of high conservation value and recommended that the land be transferred to the National Parks and Wildlife Service as an addition to the Marshall's Creek Nature Reserve. DLWC intended to undertake the necessary actions to ensure that the transfer took place promptly.

(It appears that six years on, such a transfer has not occurred. Lot 423 remains Crown

land and has not been incorporated into the Marshall's Creek Nature Reserve.)

3. In October 2004, Newton Denny Chapelle were engaged by Council to undertake a comparative land analysis for sporting fields within the Ocean Shores locality. Fifteen sites were investigated, one of which contained Lot 423 at New Brighton.

Newton Denny Chapelle noted that the land was located north of the existing New Brighton Oval, known to be a well drained field and that any new field would benefit from its proximity to the existing field.

Newton Denny Chapelle further noted however that Lot 423 was located within Council's wildlife corridor map as contained within the adopted biodiversity strategy and was identified as containing exotic vegetation of corridor value.

Their report did not recommend that Lot 423 be considered for further investigation for sporting fields based on the environmental significance of the site and the limited capacity of the road network to cater for increased traffic movements.

4. In May 2006, the Mayor, Cr Jan Barham wrote to the Minister for Lands, Mr Tony Kelly, requesting that he consider the leasing of the Crown Land (Lot 423 DP 755687) to Council for the provision of sports fields. (#596727)
5. In July 2006, following a meeting with the Minister for Lands to discuss various matters, the General Manager wrote to the Minister requesting that consideration be given to the future of Crown Land for sporting fields.
6. In September 2006, the Minister for Lands replied to correspondence from the Mayor and General Manager, making the following statements:

The provision of playing fields is a local government responsibility that is funded from rating considerations and Section 94 Contributions under the Local Government Act 1993. The land at New Brighton you have identified, Lot 423 DP 755687 was subject to a land assessment which was undertaken by the former Department of Land and Water Conservation in September 2001. The assessment at that time found that the land's highest and best use was conducive to nature conservation and environmental protection.

However given the period that has elapsed since Lot 423 was assessed I have asked the Department of Lands to consider any application by Byron Shire Council for an investigation licence. A licence would allow Council to have access to the land to investigate the merits of any proposals covering the provision of recreational and commercial facilities to benefit the local community.

Findings from the investigation should then be provided to the Department of Lands to enable them to be reviewed to assist with further consideration of council's lease / purchase request.

7. At Council's Meeting held on 24 October 2006, Council resolved to make an application to the Department of Lands for an investigation licence for Lot 423, DP 755687 at New Brighton for assessment of use for sporting fields.
8. At Council's Meeting of 30 August 2007, Council resolved to authorise the General Manager to attach the Council seal to all documentation relating to the Department of Lands investigation licence over Lot 423 DP 755687. The resolution reads as follows:

07-463 Resolved:

1. *That Council authorise the General Manager to attach the Council seal to all*

documentation relating to the Department of Lands Licence No LI 394480 over Lot 423, DP 755687 New Brighton as shown at Annexure 2 (#674384)

2. *That the cost of funding the investigation of the site be funded from Section 94 contributions.*

3. *That Council authorise the expenditure of \$376 for the annual licence fee. (Barham/Kestle)*

To date the Department of Lands have appeared relatively supportive of Council's intention to consider Lot 423 for development as sporting fields. The licence permits Council to occupy Lot 423 for the purposes of "assessing the suitability and feasibility of recreational and development proposals for the site". In practice, this means that Council staff and consultants can now access the site to assess the flora, fauna, soils, etc to determine whether it should be developed for sporting fields. These are investigative steps that must be taken to action resolution 07-463 and enable Council to make an informed decision about development.

Lot 423 is presently zoned part 1(d) Investigation zone and part 7Z(f)1 Coastal Lands. A rezoning and development application will be required in order for development to proceed.

5.1 Crown land New Brighton: Recommendation

There is a clear need in the community for an additional field at New Brighton. Crown land, Lot 423 DP 755687, has been identified as a potential location for such a field. The Department of Lands has granted Council a licence to investigate the development potential of the site for sporting fields.

Some investigation into the site has occurred in recent years.

In 2002 the then Department of Land and Water Conservation expressed strong opposition to the proposal. Consultation with the Department of Natural Resources (reshuffled DLWC) is required to clarify their current position. This should be Council's priority activity - as staunch Departmental opposition to the development of the Crown land for sporting fields will be a difficult obstacle to overcome, particularly with regard to the need to rezone the land.

Depending on the outcome of consultation with the Department of Natural Resources, it is recommended that Council undertake a comprehensive analysis of Lot 423 to determine its suitability for use as a sporting field. Existing information held by Council to be utilised and augmented as required. Depending on staffing resources within Council the project could be managed internally, with the specialist advice of environmental and planning consultants obtained as required.

The costs to Council for the investigation into the potential of Lot 423 for development as sporting fields cannot be quantified until consultation with the Department of Natural Resources takes place.

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6.0 Use of STP site and Crown lands at Brunswick Heads

With the decommissioning of the sewer treatment plant at Brunswick Heads planned for 2010, Council will have the opportunity to redevelop this land for another purpose. As the STP site is located immediately to the east of Stan Thompson fields, the expansion of sporting fields onto the site may be an attractive option. (The location of the STP in relation to Stan Thompson fields is shown in Figure 2).

The redevelopment of the STP site for sporting fields offers some real benefits, starting with the synergies that exist when new facilities are located conveniently beside existing ones. Also, the greatest anticipated population growth in the Northern Shire in the next decade will be at Bayside Brunswick, and this site is well placed to capitalise on it. Given that the STP is already owned by Council, the development of this site will be relatively affordable, and by acquiring some adjacent Crown land and the STP site, two full size fields could be achieved.

The Brunswick Heads sewage treatment plant is still operational however and consequently it is anticipated that the site will be unavailable for redevelopment until 2010. Once the Brunswick Area Sewerage Augmentation occurs, and the existing STP is made redundant, there will still be many unknowns to be investigated. Potentially rezoning and development applications will be required to progress the redevelopment.

As outlined previously in this strategy, there are many sports in the Northern Shire, playing out of several different home grounds. It is not possible to apply a “one size fits all” solution to the problem of providing much needed sports fields. The provision of two new fields at Brunswick Heads has the potential to significantly benefit the sporting clubs that play there already. They have brought to the attention the congestion that occurs here over the winter season as three sports (AFL, hockey and soccer) train and play. Another two fields on the STP site will allow these clubs to grow to meet the needs of the community that play their sports.

There are other sports and clubs however that will not benefit from such development. Football Far North Coast Association has identified Shores United Soccer Club, playing out of Tom Kendall Field, New Brighton as the club in most dire need of new facilities. New fields at Brunswick Heads will not benefit them. Further, the football association has recognised an unmet need for soccer further north than Brunswick Heads and recommends that the Shores, located at New Brighton be given scope to grow strong senior teams. Brunswick is too close to the existing established teams at Mullumbimby. Also, the established Ocean Shores Netball Club needs training facilities where the girls attend school – Stan Thompson Fields does not suit them.

Notwithstanding these considerations, Council will need to consider the future use of the Brunswick Heads STP site after decommissioning, and the redevelopment of the site for sporting fields is a feasible option. It will meet an identified need in the community.

Council recently engaged GHD to prepare a draft *Preliminary Land Use Options Report* (May 2008) for the Brunswick Heads Sewage Treatment Plant. This report recommended that the site be zoned RE1 Public Recreation after decommissioning, to facilitate redevelopment as sporting fields.

The investigation of the potential of the Brunswick Heads STP for sporting fields is a long – term priority for Council.

6.1 Recommendation: Brunswick Heads STP site

As part of Council's strategic planning for the site post decommissioning, Council consider the use of the land for sporting fields. Any investigations and feasibility studies undertaken for the site should not preclude this option.

The costs to Council for investigation into the suitability of the STP site for use as sporting fields will be met by the sewer fund.

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7.0 Financial Situation

Council currently has available approximately \$1,209,509 for sporting facilities in the northern part of the Shire, comprising funds as set out in the following table:

Funds available for sporting facilities – Northern Shire – as at December 2007			
	Source of Funds	Amount	Comments
1.	Loan Funds	\$400,000	Borrowed in June 2006 (total \$500,000 less \$100,000 allocated to skate park in Brunswick Heads)
2.	S94 Funds	\$809,509*	Subject to review of plan to allow funds for catchments to be used as needed. Will no longer distinguish between local and structured open space in the use of funds. See Table below for more detail.
	Total	\$1,209,509	

S94 Funds Available as at December 2007

Centre	Works	Total Works Program (Indexed for 30/6/0)	Section 94 Percentage	Expenditure / Dedication to Date	Remaining Expenditure as per Plan	Section 94 Component	Council Component	Funds Available as at 30 June 2007
Ocean Shores/New Brighton Sth Golden Beach – Local Parks	Local Playspace – Land	63,000	100%	133,000	0	0	0	638,881
	Local Playspace – Improvements	179,600	100%	0	179,000	179,600	0	
	Community Playspace – Land	448,000	100%	0	448,600	448,600	0	
	Community Playspace – Improve	129,500	100%	0	129,500	129,500	0	
	Informal Open Space – Land	162,400	100%	0	162,400	162,400	0	
	Local Parks – Acquisition	1,193,400	100%	0	1,193,400	1,193,400	0	
	Local Parks – Establishment	434,000	100%	0	434,000	434,000	0	
	Land Acquisition	922,000	100%	0	922,000	922,000	0	
	Sub-total	3,532,700		133,000	3,469,700	3,469,700		
Ocean Shores/New Brighton/Sth Golden Beach – District / Structured (Sporting Fields)	Acquisition	592,600	26%	168,000	424,000	110,396	314,204	170,628
	Embellishment	662,665	26%	19,365	643,300	167,258	476,042	
	Embellishment	705,100	100%	0	705,100	705,100	0	
	Sub-total	1,960,365		187,365	1,773,000	982,246	790,246	
	Total – Ocean Shores/New Brighton/Sth Golden Beach	5,493,065		320,365	5,242,700	4,452,454	790,246	809,509

Potential Future S94 Contributions

The Section 94 Levy per lot is \$6,877/SDU. At 200 lots in Brunswick Heads, an additional S94 amount of \$1,375,400 is anticipated in that area from 2010. In Ocean Shores, the additional amount would be \$206,310 to \$343,850, making a total in the order of \$1.5 to \$1.7 million.

8.0 Options

To progress the provision of much needed sporting fields to the Northern Shire it is recommended that Council;

1. Look to how it can improve the existing sporting facilities. From the information provided by sporting clubs and associations, there are some steps that Council can afford to take now, in the short term, such as upgrading lighting that will significantly improve the enjoyment of children and adult sportspeople and spectators.
2. Undertake a comprehensive investigation into the potential use of Lot 423, DP 755687 New Brighton for sporting fields. Begin the investigation with consultation with any State Government Agencies that may object to the use.
3. Commence preliminary investigations into the potential use of the Brunswick Heads STP for sporting field after the Brunswick Area Sewerage Augmentation in 2010.

Attachments

Recent Council Resolutions

Resolution 04-880 – 9 November 2004

- “1. That the Council urgently proceed with a detailed assessment of sites 7 (Lot 39 DP850926, Billinudgel South) and 8 (Lot 1 DP779833, Tunnel Road) of the analysis to ascertain their potential for use as a single or multiple use sports facility.
2. That should the site be suitable for a least one standard rugby/soccer field and facilities then the RTA be offered a swap for Lot 107 Shara Boulevard with value adjustments to be negotiated financially or in works, subject to independent valuation and legal advice.
3. That options to acquire and develop:
 - Site 4 (Lot 12 DP612989, Billinudgel West)
 - Site 5 (Lot 3 DP1019171, Pocket Road)
 - Site 6 (Lot 17 DP755687, West Pocket Road)
 - Site 2 (Lot 102 DP1001878, Yelgun East)
 - Lot 105 Shara Boulevard
 - Vacant land next to the Seventh Day Adventist Church

in the analysis continue to be pursued with a view to providing Ocean Shores with at least their required standard.
4. That the existing sporting fields and facilities in Ocean Shores be upgraded to their optimum potential.
5. That independent valuations of Lot 107 and sites 7 (Lot 39 DP850926, Billinudgel South) and 8 (Lot 1 DP779833, Tunnel Road) be obtained.
6. That Council obtain updated legal advice on Council’s current options.
7. That Council consult with the Ocean Shores catchment by mailout and a public meeting on the various sites that are being offered in exchange of Lot 107.” (Tabart/Westheimer)

Resolution 05-993 – 20 December 2005

1. “That Council note the information provided in the report “Detailed Assessment of Yelgun East for Sports Facilities at North Byron Shire” attached at Annexure 2(a) (#563059).
2. That Council:
 - a) Identifies the western portion of the North Ocean Shores site as the suitable site for sports facilities at North Byron Shire.
 - b) Obtain an independent valuation for any or all of the subject lots at North Ocean Shores.
 - c) Authorise the General Manager to enter into negotiations to acquire all of lots 101, 102, 107 DP101878, Lot 30 DP880376 and Lot 12 DP848618 at North Ocean Shores.
 - d) Consult with the National Parks & Wildlife Service and the Roads and Traffic Authority on portions of the site that may be swapped or purchased for the purpose of vegetation

corridors.

- e) Seek a further report covering matters including outcome of valuation assessment, negotiations with the vendor, and options for funding sources for the acquisition and embellishment of the site.” (Mangleson/Woods)

Resolution 06-666 – 24 October 2006

1. That Council make an application to the Department of Lands for an investigation licence for Lot 423, DP 755687 at New Brighton for assessment of use for sporting fields.
2. That all available information, including previous studies and Council agendas, be compiled and made available in the Councillors' Room to be sent with the request.

Resolution 07-39 – 1 March 2007

“That Council allocate \$100,000 of the sporting embellishment funds for the north of the Shire to assist in the development of a development application and construction of the Brunswick Heads Skate Park at the Stan Thompson Oval Sporting Complex.” (Woods/Kestle)

Resolution 07-463 – 30 August 2007

1. That Council authorise the General Manager to attach the Council seal to all documentation relating to the Department of Lands Licence No. LI 394480 over Lot 423, DP 755687 New Brighton as shown at Annexure 2 (#674384).
2. That the cost of funding the investigation of the site be funded from section 94 contributions.
3. That Council authorise the expenditure of \$376 for the annual licence fee. (Barham/Kestle)

Figure 2 – Jubilee Avenue Mullumbimby



Figure 3 – Stan Thompson Fields – Brunswick Heads



Figure 4 – Tom Kendall Field – New Brighton



Figure 5 – Pine Avenue Soccer Fields - Mullumbimby



Figure 6 – Mullumbimby Giants Rugby League fields - Mullumbimby





Appendix G

Needs and Standards Assessment