

Draft Recreation Plan



Sports specific synopsis

For assistance in relation to the report on anything sport related please call
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Sport and Recreation



The Port Macquarie-Hastings Recreation Plan 2014 is Council's key policy document for the planning, development and management of Council controlled open space.

The plan highlights an increase in users and an increase in the variety of activities of open space, which places significant pressures on Council from both a planning and budget perspective to provide for the needs of the community.

This plan, along with ongoing community consultation, aims to ensure the ongoing protection and enhancement of the existing open space, respond to the open space needs of the community and proposes ongoing provision of open space through a strategic management plan.



Sport in the LGA



- The report states Port Macquarie-Hastings is actually quite well placed in the number and size of sport field precincts but the region faces the same issues as many other councils, such as
 - increased overlap of seasons,
 - wear and tear of fields as a result of over-use,
 - the general population growth of the local government area, and
 - the increasing perceived need for higher quality ‘competition’ fields.
- The main issue is the suitability of their locations in regard to future development and the ability of these precincts to offer the best possible sporting opportunities.



Community Feedback



Feedback received during the research and engagement period show that existing sporting fields and sporting field precincts (especially Tuffins Lane, Wood St/Stuart Park) could be improved through:

- improved drainage to flood affected sites
- stricter control of field use through the seasonal booking system, including stronger enforcement of the start and finish dates for seasonal use (to avoid end/start of season clashes/over-lap)
- improved field lighting to enable the spread of use across different times and field areas
- increased resources allocated to field maintenance to allow proactive techniques such as fertilising and aerating of fields
- incorporation of field management education within a Club Education Program.



Consultant Recommendations



Existing facilities could be vastly improved through the development of;

- Adequate Drainage
- Field Lighting
- Ancillary Facilities – Amenities / Change rooms/ Clubhouses

New facilities should only be developed as 'precincts' or for shared users rather than stand alone facilities.



Where to from here?



Provide Council with feedback and recommendations which will assist establishing the strategic direction of

- Facilities
- Management
- Opportunities for sport.

Your feedback will be tabled in a report to Councillors at a Council meeting.

Send your feedback to Council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au

Other Considerations

- Consult with other user groups
- Can partnerships be formed
- Is my club/sports
 - » direction in line with the governing bodies
 - » corporate governance in order
 - » How can we help ourselves

