

Planning and Providing Our Infrastructure

Item: 13.01

Subject: DRAFT RECREATION PLAN

Presented by: Infrastructure & Asset Management, Jeffery Sharp

Alignment with Delivery Program

5.3.1 Plan, investigate, design and construct open spaces and recreational facilities.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council publicly exhibit the Draft Recreation Plan from 20 October to 28 November 2014 and consider a further report after the exhibition period.

Executive Summary

A draft Port Macquarie - Hastings Recreation Plan has been prepared for Council by ROSS Planning. The Recreation Plan is intended to provide council and the community with clear direction regarding the future of our parks, recreation and sporting facilities for the next 10 years.

It is proposed that Council adopt the draft Recreation Plan, that Council staff then exhibit the draft Recreation Plan from 20 October to 28 November 2014, and that Council considers a final Recreation Plan for adoption at a future Ordinary Council Meeting.

Discussion

As we know and appreciate, our LGA has some fantastic recreational resources, including the Coastal Walk, Port Macquarie Skatepark, the Wauchope All-Abilities Playground, our sporting facilities, and our amazing beaches. As a Council, we need to be well prepared to continue to deliver an appropriate level of recreational facilities and services to our unique population into the future.

To guide forward planning, in September 2013 Council engaged ROSS Planning to develop a Recreation Plan for the LGA. The Recreation Plan is a strategic planning document which is intended to provide council and the community with clear direction regarding the future of our parks, recreation and sporting facilities for the next 10 years.

To prepare the Recreation Plan, ROSS Planning has undertaken extensive research, mapping and consultation. The Recreation Plan maps all current recreation facilities across the LGA, and planned developments for the next 10 year period. It identifies the community's recreational activities, together with our capacity as a Council to deliver and maintain recreational services.

The consultant analysed local demographic and population data. This was of particular importance given our aging population and the way our active senior

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citizens recreate. Recreation trends and future recreation needs were also reviewed, and opportunities to increase recreational use and access across the LGA that would see a healthier population in the long term were considered.

Representatives of sporting clubs and community groups were interviewed during the preparation of the draft Recreation Plan to scope issues and concerns, determine what is working well and where improvements can be made. The general population of the LGA was provided an opportunity to have their say about recreation via an online survey hosted on PMHC Listening.

The responses individuals gave online, together with the results of interviews, data research, mapping and 'ground truthing', provided the basis for the development of the draft Recreation Plan. The draft Recreation Plan is attached for information.

The draft Recreation Plan

The draft Recreation Plan is a comprehensive document and it is not practical to provide an oversight of the entire document in this report. Some of the key points associated with the draft plan are:

- The plan generally indicates that rates of provision for open space and major facilities are meeting (or exceeding) industry standards. Current supply of open space across the LGA is 3.95 hectares per 1000 residents, which exceeds industry standards of 2.83 hectares per 1000 residents and councils adopted standards of 3.0 hectares per 1000 residents.
- There is significant opportunity to improve the quality of facilities being provided
- There is further opportunity to improve opportunity for activation through place making or commercial activities such as boot camps, yoga, etc.
- The plan also recommends outsourcing of management of aquatic facilities and indoor stadiums, which is current practice with the exception of Wauchope Indoor Sports Stadium.
- Recognition that there will be future demand for additional recreational boating infrastructure to support increases in this activity and to support population growth
- The plan proposes the formation of a sport & recreation advisory group to assist council in determining priorities and managing delivery of the plan.

It is really important to acknowledge that there are recreational demands and trends which have emerged since early rounds of community engagement were undertaken. As a consequence some of these emerging demands are not included in the draft. It is considered that these can be adequately captured during the public exhibition process and included in the final plan following analysis and determination. For example, recent requests for sites for BMX and remote control car clubs, and infrastructure to support the re-emergence of baseball at a local level, have not been captured in the plan.

There have been several iterations of the draft plan to date and further changes to the document have been requested by councillors and staff. Staff have requested ROSS Planning to make these further changes to the draft plan prior to public exhibition of the document. The requested changes are identified in the table below:

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Page	Comment
2	Two full stops after “future communities” (paragraph 1)
2	Flow chart: Operational Plan 2013-2014 should read 2014-2015
2	Remove comma after development - last line of first paragraph
4	in box, remove or modify reference to ‘DINKS’
5	2nd last paragraph, should note Wauchope as well as Camden Haven Last paragraph - change reference from 'growth hotspots' to 'growth areas'
5	Font change for “consistent with” (paragraph 2)
21	Re: Tuffins Lane - remove hyphen in “in-sufficient”
23	Refers to ‘TARDIIS’ this term is not relevant externally
23	To the dot points add ‘available (vacant preferably) riverside land
23 & 89	Include opportunity for private water based recreation incl. water skiing facilities in these sections and update Implementation Table actions.
24	Re: Settlement Point walkway question re: “over the rocks”
25 & 93	Too much emphasis on Move Eat Live Well project. This project was a one off. Increase emphasis on personal training, boot camps, surf school programs as briefly mentioned on page 25. CHANGE 3.3 & 3.4 of the implementation plan to reflect this.
28	Delete/change waterslide picture. Has been removed as part of management changeover for the Wauchope Pool facility.
50	Contribute significantly to local amenity and sense of place
57	There are localities missing off Rural precinct list, which should be noted, e.g. Rollands Plains, Telegraph Point, Lorne, Byabarra, Pappinbarra, North Shore (Typo - Pembroke)
80	Change heading from Peri-Urban Planning Precinct to Rural Planning Precinct
84	Inconsistent Rural list relative to page 57
89	Second last dot point: change ocean to river
89	DELETE ‘A full list of boat ramps, wharves, jetties and pontoons and their condition audit can be found in Council’s TARDIIS Services Review Project, Phase 2: Boat Ramps/Wharves/Jetties/Pontoons Case for Change document.’
90	Re: 1.2 under Rationale - add “& to improve access for the community”
90	Re: 1.6 under Recommendation - add “contingent on 1.4 above”
92	Item 1.11 insert ‘and’ between ‘disability’ and ‘the’ and add “as funding becomes available” at the end of the rationale for item 1.11
94	Item 3.1 add “ in indoor environments” to the end of the rationale
94	Item 3.6 add “for local parks” to the end of the recommendation
95	Item 4.4 Re: the recommendation - Should be pursued though Councils website.
95	Item 4.6 Re: recommendation - follow current engagement policy
96	Item 5.5 - Question mark against this - also highlighted is the reference to “every 6-12 months for its effectiveness”
97	Item 5.6 under Recommendation - “Link with adopt a park” should be added

Staff anticipate that these changes will be made prior to this report being considered by council and the final draft plan will be tabled at the Ordinary Council Meeting scheduled for 15 October 2014.

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Options

Council can adopt the recommendation to place the draft Recreation Plan included within this report on public exhibition and seek public feedback on the Plan. Alternatively, Council also has the option of deciding not to place this draft Recreation Plan on exhibition.

Community Engagement & Internal Consultation

The level of impact of the project is 'Level 1 - High level of impact on the whole or a large part of Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area'. In accordance with an identified Level 1 project impact, the most appropriate types of community participation are to *Inform, Consult, Involve, and Collaborate*.

Community engagement was an essential and central part of ROSS Planning's work to prepare the Recreation Plan. A community engagement strategy has been prepared for the project by the consultant and is attached for information. Consultation undertaken during development of the draft plan comprised:

- Group meetings with a number of internal council departments
- one-on-one interviews with a range of Council staff from various areas
- consultation with key stakeholders, including state government departments, and industry to ensure recommendations included in the Recreation Plan would be consistent with any relevant strategies/visions of these groups
- on-site and telephone interviews were held with community organisations (including progress associations), sport and recreation providers and facility managers
- targeted youth engagement through school classroom discussions
- community consultation via an online (PMHC Listening) and intercept survey
- three open community 'State of Play' workshops were held (Port Macquarie, Wauchope and North Haven)
- a sport and recreation 'timeout' workshop (with local club representatives) for sport/recreation clubs to talk through issues in a group setting
- a sport and recreation club survey was sent to all sport and recreation clubs to provide input to the study
- the vast majority of representatives from sport and recreation clubs were interviewed to discuss issues and needs in more detail
- Interviews (personal and telephone) were held with community groups that traditionally cater for older residents to ensure their local sport and recreational needs were included in the study.

Council encouraged residents to participate in the development of the Recreation Plan by advertising the online survey which was hosted on Council's PMHC Listening site. The online survey gave all residents an opportunity to have their say about the future of open space and recreation opportunities and facilities across the LGA. The survey was open from 3 November 2013 to 20 January 2014. Over 258 responses were received to the online and intercept survey.

The information gathered throughout the consultation period was collated and provides the basis of the development of the draft Recreation Plan.

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A Community Engagement Plan (attached for information) has been developed by staff to ensure that the community and identified key stakeholders are aware that the draft plan is being exhibited, and to identify opportunities for them to provide feedback for consideration in the development of the final plan document.

The public exhibition period will commence on 20 October and will run until 28 November. During this time staff will engage with the community in the following ways:

- Targeted engagement with groups and individuals who have already been involved in the development of the draft plan
- Pop Up engagement events in Port Macquarie, Camden Haven and Wauchope
- Information included on councils website and PMHC Listening
- Survey included on PMHC Listening and at Pop Up events

Planning & Policy Implications

Adoption of this plan by council in future will establish the planning framework for recreational infrastructure, programs and services for the next ten years.

Planning implications will be given due consideration when the Recreation Plan has been adopted and timelines for delivery of specific actions within the plan draw near.

Financial & Economic Implications

There are significant financial implications associated with this plan. Actual costs associated with plan implementation will not be known until such times as the plan has been adopted by council and prioritisation of plan actions have been determined.

It should be noted that funding of plan actions will not be the sole responsibility of council. The plan presents opportunities for the community to contribute to its delivery through fundraising efforts, sourcing of grants, place making activities and works in kind labour contributions.

The plan also identifies opportunities for council to partner with other organizations and agencies in delivering plan outcomes. For example, partnering with National Parks and Wildlife Service in ongoing development of the Googik Track.

Attachments

1 [View](#). ROSS Planning - Community Engagement plan for PMH Recreation Plan

2 [View](#). ROSS Planning - Community Engagement Plan Activities

3 [View](#). Community Engagement Plan - Draft Recreation Plan Public Exhibition Period

4 [View](#). Draft Port Macquarie Hastings Recreation Plan