

**SPORTS, ARTS, CULTURE & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE****16 JULY 2008****9****SPORTING ORGANISATIONS REQUIRING FIELD AND FACILITY SPACE**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council note the current list of unmet requests from Sporting Organisations for assistance in acquiring field and facility space, and the status of responses to these requests.**

**INTRODUCTION:**

This report is to advise Council that officers are currently in receipt of fifteen (15) unmet requests from Sporting and Recreation clubs or individual community members for either additional space for expansion or new field or facility space.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Cairns Regional Council Local Government Area had a population of 147,505 in 2006. By 2020 this is projected to be 181,152, a population increase of 19%. This population increase will put additional pressure on existing sport and recreational facilities and field space which is already under pressure with the existing population.

**COMMENT:**

The following table outlines the fifteen (15) sporting clubs and member numbers, seeking additional space for either a sporting facility or expansion for field space.

Club/Assoc Name	Request <i>(request, list requirements/requests in detail, timeframes etc)</i>	Members
Cairns & District Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia	Requested land for permanent rifle range	1006
Cairns Kart Racing	Land for racing facility	100
Cairns Greyhound Racing Club Inc	Land for relocation of track and facilities	45
Cairns Miniature Helicopter Club	Land/shared land to continue use/ secured tenure	22
Cairns Radio Controlled Model Car Club	Land for development and operations	15
Cairns Wanderers Rugby Union	Land for home ground	60
Edmonton Storm Senior Rugby League	Land for training and games	200
Barrier Coast Archery Inc	Land for club activities	48

Cairns Figure Ice Skating Club	Site required to build ice Skating rink	25
Brothers Junior Rugby Union	Seeking land for home ground ideally would like area next to Aeroglen Drive Reserve (City end)	140
Cairns Four Wheel Drive Club	Seeking land for training purposes	Unknown
The Streets Boxing Club	Seeking indoor facility for operations	Unknown
The Stable Boxing Club	Seeking indoor facility for operations	Unknown
Barron Trinity Bulls Rugby Union	Residual Land formally 'Bull Park' at Aeroglen next to Aeroglen Drive Reserve (City end)	145
Southside Crusaders Sports & Culture	Require land for training and home games southern corridor	150

Following is further information relating to each sport and recreation club request:

### **Cairns & District Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (CDSSAA)**

Earlier this year Council received a letter from the Cairns & District Sporting Shooters' Association detailing their situation and seeking Council assistance to acquire or lease land for a permanent rifle range. This CDSSAA hire land leased by Department of Defence and Cairns 51<sup>st</sup> Rifle Club located at Wangetti. Their current facility is not of an adequate standard, the range is limited to only 100 meters and the ancillary infrastructure is of poor quality. The CDSSAA are seeking a suitable area of 3 acres to enable a minimum shooting range of 300 metres. This will enable the club to establish a national facility. Council has advised CDSSAA there is currently no suitable land within the Cairns Region available for this purpose. The club is investigating suitable land options elsewhere.

### **Cairns and District Kart Racing Club (CDKRC)**

Discussions with this club for a new Motor Sport facility date as far back as 2000. The Cairns and District Kart Racing Club currently operate from the Cairns International Speedway facilities at Lot 190 SP110847 Fisherman Road, Edmonton owned by the North Queensland International Motor Racing Association. As a result of increased Motor Sport interest and population growth in the area their membership base has doubled in the last twelve months.

The CDKRC is finding it difficult to schedule meetings and access the track for practice around all the current user groups. Recently a temporary pitting area was constructed to cope with increased demands however this area has become susceptible to flooding and the club had to cancel three meetings this year as a result of safety concerns.

In November 2007, Council sourced a suitable site on Thomson Road, Edmonton and presented an offer to the vendor. This offer was rejected. Council at its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2007 resolved to "not pursue at this particular time the acquisition of land for a Regional Motor Sports Precinct and encourage the Cairns Kart Club to source a suitable site". The CDKRC face decreased memberships and the possibility of 'ad-hoc' or 'informal use' of surrounding areas for their desired activities unless a new suitably sized (12 ha) and located site is sourced.

## **Greyhound Club**

The Greyhound Club currently hold race meets within Cannon Park Racecourse. The club has been advised by the Cairns Jockey Club that due to proposed expansion of the racecourse the greyhound club are required to find another suitable venue to hold their race meets. The timeframe of this relocation is unknown. The previous Council had declined to support this request for assistance because of the commercial nature of the club's activities. Council officers are not actively seeking land for the greyhound club due to a higher priority being assigned to other requests and identified needs. An April 2008 request to the club for additional information remains outstanding.

## **Cairns Miniature Helicopter Club (CMHC)**

The Cairns Miniature Helicopter Club has been operating with Council permission on Lot 115 NR 800836 off Macnamara Street below the Edge Hill Saint Soccer Club for many years. The club does not have access to amenities or power and exists in a small way due to the passionate nature of everyone involved. However without facilities or permanency of tenure the CMHC have been unable to strengthen its membership.

This sport potentially has large applications for youth participation, however constraints at the current facility make it impossible to adequately train and supervise juniors or those needing instruction. In order to adequately meet their requirements the club will require a minimum of 1ha. The club has been consulted as part of the Manunda Sport Precinct Master plan. Further discussions will be undertaken as part of the Master plan review.

## **Cairns Radio Controlled Model Car Club (CRCMCC)**

The Cairns Radio Controlled Model Car Club currently hire the speed skating rink located outside the Cairns Roller Sports facility on Lot 2 CP 903792 on Behan Street, Manunda. During the consultation process for the Edmonton Facility Needs Study the club expressed dissatisfaction with its current facility in that it doesn't adequately cater for its requirements. Much of the barriers to growth, centre around the fact that their current facility is noise sensitive, costly and without any shade or shelter for their spectators or equipment. Furthermore, the temporary nature of this facility does not grant them appropriate tenure to source funding to improve their situation.

The club have been rapidly losing members since the 'off road' component of its club was forced to conclude its operations due to being forced out of its previous home at Westcourt Shopping Centre, due to development. Club members have informed council officers that its membership base has more than halved since this time. A location large enough to accommodate both 'on-road' and 'off-road' racing would allow facilities to be shared and contribute to the on going sustainability of the club and sport in our region. The CRCMCC have indicated that they require a site that is approximately 100m x 70m with appropriate parking, water, power and toilets to continue and prosper into the future. The club are in negotiations with Cairns Australian Football League (CAFL) to potentially occupy surplus land located within the new AFL sporting fields being developed by CAFL located at Gordonvale.

### **Edmonton Storm Senior Rugby League**

In the context of the sport of Rugby League, The Edmonton Storm is a very high profile club and significant contributor to the sporting fabric of our region. The club has over 200 members consisting of 4 teams. In recent times, the club has expressed dissatisfaction with respect to the inadequate training and playing facilities available to it. This matter is partly being addressed by Council's current intent to acquire land in the Edmonton area, however many short to medium term issues remain, that could force the club to cease if not addressed.

In 2005 with the funding assistance of Sport and Recreation Queensland Council developed Petersen Park located on Farmer Street, Edmonton. This facility cost over \$1 million to construct and consists of two rectangular playing fields and a clubhouse. This facility is currently home to both Edmonton Storm Junior Rugby League and Centenary Comets Junior Soccer clubs. It was a Council commitment that when this facility was developed it would only be made available for Junior sport and NOT senior sport. This facility could easily cater to the Edmonton Storm Senior Rugby League, however due to the Council commitment to the immediate residents, the fifty senior players are forced to travel to Cairns City and train and play at West Barlow Park.

A suitable training venue in the immediate area simply does not exist. It is difficult and costly for the club members, who primarily live in the surrounding areas of Edmonton and Gordonvale to travel to the Cairns city area to train. This financial strain coupled with the subsequent decline in membership is putting an enormous strain on the club. In terms of the significant growth in the area and the obvious high profile of the sport, a decline in membership can only be attributed to the lack of existing facilities in the southern corridor. In the short to medium term Council officers will re investigate through community consultation the parameters set for the use of Peterson Park and alternatively in the short term explore the opportunity identified in the Edmonton Sport and Recreation Facility Needs Study to light Fuller Park to accommodate a more diverse array of users such as the Edmonton Storm.

### **Barrier Coast Archery Club**

Discussions are being undertaken to locate the newly formed Barrier Coast Archery Club to the Northern Beaches Judo Club off Wattle Street at Yorkeys Knob.

### **Cairns Figure Ice Skating Club**

Anderson Street Ice Rink closed on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2006, leaving Cairns Figure Ice Skating Club without an ice rink. The club has temporarily relocated to Cairns Roller Sports facility in Manunda and concentrates on artistic and freestyle skating. The club has investigated various locations including extending the current Roller Sport facility to accommodate an ice rink. Further investigations by the club are still underway.

### **Brothers Junior Rugby Union (BJRU)**

Brothers Junior Rugby Union's plight is indicative of most rugby union organisations in the region in that they share their facilities with a rugby league club. At present, the club use the facilities at Stan Williams Park off Behan Street, Manunda which have long been leased to Brothers Rugby League. Whilst this arrangement caters for their immediate needs, in the long term the club would ideally like to operate from a facility that allows them to grow and operate independently. Brothers Rugby League have been very helpful in assisting the club with this short term arrangement. Council hasn't received a formal request by BJRU seeking field space, only informal discussions with officers and club representatives have been held.

### **Cairns Four Wheel Drive Club**

The club has approached council in writing to request tenure of any suitable Council land to undertake their club activities. The club require a site of about 4ha. These activities include training and instruction as to the basics of four wheel driving- how to drive a vehicle in all terrain and conditions, and understand what it is capable of doing. The club has the support of Jim Turnour, Member for Leichardt. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of June, 2008 council advised the club that they were unable to identify an appropriate site and advised it to contact the Department of Natural Resources and Water.

### **The Streets Boxing Club**

The recently formed Streets Boxing Club has approached Council to assist with a venue to accommodate their operations. In addition to their contribution to our sporting fabric, they also were formed to address a disturbing societal trend amongst some of our youth. The founders intend to harness the benefits of organised sport, particularly the disciplinary aspects of boxing to assist people who have fallen into the youth justice system. Additionally, the club intend to fill the void left by the closure of a prominent boxing gymnasium in the Gordonvale area which has left many youth without a place to train. Some of these individuals have turned to crime and other activities (alcohol and drugs) as a substitute. The Streets Boxing Club require an undercover space capable of housing their training activities in the southern area. Officers investigated other suitable venues. There is the possibility of using a community facility in Alooomba.

### **The Stable Boxing Club**

The Stable Boxing Club have recently been asked to leave their former home in the old Girl Guides hut opposite the Edge Hill State School off Pease Street due to tenure complications. The site is currently leased directly to Girl Guides from the Department of Natural Resources and Water. The club have been operating from this facility for some time and grown with distinction producing both state and national champions. Other programs/initiatives undertaken by the club include women's defence classes, fitness training and coaching for all levels (beginner to advanced) with a emphasis on assisting disadvantaged kids. Since being asked to vacate their premises, the club have stored their equipment but have been unable to continue operations and are in jeopardy of winding up should an adequate facility not be located. Council officers have been assisting with their investigations and many opportunities have been explored without success.

## **Barron Trinity Bulls Rugby Union Club (BTBRUC)**

BTBRUC has been in operation since the early 1970's and currently operate from the grounds occupied by the Kangaroos Rugby League Club off Irene Street, Mooroolbool on Lot 1 SP 106970. The ownership of this facility has recently changed and the BTRUC has been advised that they will have to find a new home ground for the 2009 season. This is to accommodate the newly formed Queensland Rugby League franchise the Northern Pride, who will be using this facility for training during the 2009 season.

BTRUC has approached Council in writing to request tenure of the residual land at Aeroglen adjacent to the area currently leased to Cairns Touch Association. Historically the club used to occupy this land however were forced to leave due to a range of internal club issues. BTRUC currently have 145 members, comprising of 2 men's senior, 1 women's senior, approx 10 junior teams. Council will investigate the feasibility and cost to remediate the Aeroglen Reserve surface and field layout to accommodate multi use.

## **Southside Crusaders Sports & Culture**

Southside Crusaders Sports and Culture Junior Rugby Union Club were also consulted in the Edmonton Sports and Recreation Facility Needs Study. The club is a multifaceted organisation with both Junior and Seniors and was formed in 2004. As a new and developing club they have found it very difficult to access adequate practice facilities. Presently the club use the facilities on a hire basis at West Barlow park. As a club whose membership is primarily sourced from the suburbs of Edmonton and Gordonvale this situation is less than ideal. The club require land to cope with expected growth in participation. This matter is being addressed in part by Council's current intent to acquire land in Edmonton for Sport and Recreation purposes.

## **Other Requests**

In addition to the above club requests Council officers have also been approached by individual community members seeking BMX tracks and Skate parks in various parks across the region. Prior to constructing these types of facilities a Strategic Plan to investigate the positioning and ongoing maintenance costs of these facilities will be undertaken.

## **CONSIDERATIONS:**

### Corporate and Operational Plans:

Future Cairns Key Goal 6.4 provides for the 'equitable provision of a diverse range of sport and recreation opportunities for the residents of and visitors to Cairns...'

### Policy:

Should suitable land be sourced for the affected clubs, Council's Tenures Policy Not for Profit Recreation, Sporting and Community Groups (General Policy Number 1:02:45) will need to be considered in determining appropriate lease terms and conditions. This policy fosters multi use of Council operated facilities.

**Financial and Risk:**

There is a risk that due to lack of facilities and declining members the affected clubs will fold, affecting members of the community both senior and junior.

**Sustainability:**

Council's role is to foster and support the viability and growth of sporting organisations within the region. Without adequate facilities and field space these sporting organisations cannot operate effectively or continue to be financially viable.

**CONSULTATION:**

The clubs listed within this report seeking additional space for expansion or new field or facility space have formally approached Council seeking land and assistance. Further consultation with club representatives has taken place to identify their requirements.

**CONCLUSION:**

Sport and recreation plays a substantial role in the lives and well being of the community. Council foster and support the growth of sporting clubs within the region. Limited resources, space and facilities make the task of improving club viability and participation very difficult. It should be noted that if the land acquisition on Walker Road Edmonton is executed some of the abovementioned clubs such as Edmonton Storm Senior Rugby League, Southside Crusaders, Cairns Wanderers Rugby Union could be accommodated within this facility in accordance with Council's Tenures Policy Not for Profit Recreation, Sporting and Community Groups.

**ATTACHMENT 1 – Population Projections**

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**ATTACHMENT 1 - Population Projections***Population Projections*

Area	Current Population serviced	Projection by 2020
Cairns Beaches	12,774	18,178
Barron – Smithfield	12,666	18,004
Freshwater – Stratford - Aeroglen	3,796	3,741
Redlynch	7,564	9,754
Inner Suburbs	56,126	64,910
CBD – North Cairns	5,456	7,751
White Rock – Edmonton	26,128	35,480
Gordonvale – Goldsborough	4,925	7,655
Douglas – Daintree	11,771	14,873

Note: The above population figures and projections are provided by the Planning Strategies Unit and are based on 2006 ABS Census data and projections and does not include Portsmith or Woree Industrial.