



MOUNT PETER STRUCTURE PLAN ~~SPORT AND RECREATION~~

PART 5 - TECHNICAL REPORT
SPORT AND RECREATION

MOUNT PETER STRUCTURE PLAN

APRIL ~~MARCH~~ 2010



This report is a technical background report that informs the Mount Peter Structure Plan. Specifically, this report is in support of, and in response to, elements of item 3.8 (Sport and Recreation Plan) of Section 4.1 (Outputs) of the Mount Peter Master Planning Specification.

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P.O. Box 359 Cairns, Qld., 4870

Tel: (07) 4044 3044 Fax: (07) 4044 302

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MOUNT PETER MASTER PLANNING GROUP



SPORT AND RECREATION TECHNICAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
BACKGROUND	55
1.1 INTRODUCTION	55
1.2 SCOPE OF THIS REPORT	55
1.3 BACKGROUND TO STRUCTURE PLANNING.....	77
1.4 EXISTING POPULATION.....	98
1.5 FUTURE POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE.....	108
1.6 METHODOLOGY.....	109
1.7 CURRENT TRENDS IN SPORT AND RECREATION.....	1140
1.7.1 Rates of Participation.....	1240
2 ASSUMPTIONS AND PRINCIPLES	1645
2.1 SPORT AND RECREATION PLANNING PRINCIPLES	1645
2.2 ESTABLISHING THE NEED - OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION STANDARDS AND PERFORMANCE CRITERIA.....	1817
2.2.1 Minimum Level of Supply.....	1817
2.2.2 Minimum Size of Parks	1948
2.2.3 Hierarchy of Provision.....	1948
2.2.4 Park Boundary.....	1948
2.2.5 Park Accessibility.....	2049
2.2.6 Park Visibility.....	2049
2.2.7 Park Land Form.....	2049
2.2.8 Park Land Quality.....	2049
2.2.9 Use of Floodprone Land.....	2120
2.2.10 Minimum Levels of Embellishment.....	2221
2.2.11 Other Design Considerations	2322
2.2.12 Opportunistic Provision of Open Space.....	2322
2.2.13 Use of Wet Tropics Buffer Area.....	2423
2.2.14 Standards for Sporting Facilities.....	2423
3 OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS	2524
3.1 EXISTING AND PROPOSED SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES	2524
3.1.1 Current Provision.....	2524
3.1.2 Proposed Provision for Southern Corridor.....	2625
3.2 OPPORTUNITIES	2928
3.2.1 Maximise Participation.....	3029
3.2.2 Service Demand for Young People	3029
3.2.3 Promote Active Living.....	3029
3.2.4 Use Constrained Land As Regional Resource.....	3029
3.2.5 Take Account of Natural Landscape Features.....	3130
3.2.6 Link and Cluster Facilities	3130
3.2.7 Integrate Community Management Structures.....	3234
3.3 CONSTRAINTS.....	3234



4	ISSUES.....	3332
4.1	A NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY TO RESPOND TO EMERGING NEEDS.....	3332
4.2	DEMAND CONSIDERATIONS	3332
4.3	USE OF CONSTRAINED LAND	3534
4.4	OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATIONS WITH SPORT AND RECREATION ORGANISATIONS.....	3635
4.5	ISSUES FOR RESOLUTION IN MASTER PLANNING	3736
5	REQUIREMENTS FOR SPORTS AND RECREATION PARKS	3837
5.1	QUANTUM OF OPEN SPACE REQUIRED	3837
5.2	DISTRIBUTION OF OPEN SPACE.....	3837
5.3	RECREATION PARKS FOR PASSIVE RECREATION	3938
5.4	SPORTS PARKS FOR ACTIVE RECREATION.....	4241
5.5	CO-LOCATION WITH COMMUNITY FACILITIES.....	4544
5.6	COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING AND COMMUNITY IDENTITY FORMATION.....	4644
6	IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES.....	494746
6.1	FURTHER RESEARCH REQUIRED	494746
6.2	REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER PLANNING	504746
6.3	STAGING OF PROVISION.....	524948
6.4	FUNDING OF PROVISION.....	535049
7	RECOMMENDATIONS	555150
7.1	SUMMARY.....	555150
7.2	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE STRUCTURE PLAN.....	555150
	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	1
	BACKGROUND.....	5
1.1	introduction.....	5
1.2	scope of this report.....	5
1.3	Background to Structure planning	7
1.4	Existing population	8
1.5	Future population and demographic profile	8
1.6	methodology.....	9
1.7	Current Trends in sport and recreation.....	10
1.7.1	Rates of Participation.....	10
2	ASSUMPTIONS AND PRINCIPLES.....	15
2.1	Sport and Recreation Planning Principles	15
2.2	Establishing the Need – Open space and recreation standards and performance criteria	17
2.2.1	Minimum Level of Supply	17
2.2.2	Minimum Size of Parks	18
2.2.3	Hierarchy of Provision.....	18
2.2.4	Park Boundary.....	18
2.2.5	Park Accessibility.....	19
2.2.6	Park Visibility.....	19
2.2.7	Park Land Form.....	19
2.2.8	Park Land Quality.....	19
2.2.9	Use of Floodprone Land.....	20



2.2.10	Minimum Levels of Embellishment	21
2.2.11	Other Design Considerations	22
2.2.12	Opportunistic Provision of Open Space	22
2.2.13	Use of Wet Tropics Buffer Area	23
2.2.14	Standards for Sporting Facilities	23
3	OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS	24
3.1	Existing and proposed Sport and recreation facilities	24
3.1.1	Current Provision	24
3.1.2	Proposed Provision for Southern Corridor	25
3.2	Opportunities	28
3.2.1	Maximise Participation	29
3.2.2	Service Demand for Young People	29
3.2.3	Promote Active Living	29
3.2.4	Use Constrained Land As Regional Resource	29
3.2.5	Take Account of Natural Landscape Features	30
3.2.6	Link and Cluster Facilities	30
3.2.7	Integrate Community Management Structures	31
3.3	constraints	31
4	ISSUES	32
4.1	A need for flexibility to respond to emerging needs	32
4.2	Demand considerations	32
4.3	Use of constrained land	34
4.4	Outcomes of Consultations with Sport and Recreation Organisations	35
4.5	issues for resolution in master planning	36
5	REQUIREMENTS FOR SPORTS AND RECREATION PARKS	37
5.1	Quantum of open space required	37
5.2	Distribution of open space	37
5.3	Recreation parks for passive recreation	38
5.4	Sports parks for active recreation	41
5.5	Co-location with community facilities	44
5.6	Community capacity building and community identity formation	44
6	IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES	46
6.1	Further research required	46
6.2	Requirements for Master Planning	46
6.3	Staging of Provision	48
7	RECOMMENDATIONS	49
7.1	summary	50
7.2	Recommendations for the structure Plan	50

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Definitions





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Technical Report presents the information that has been compiled to underpin the planning for Sport and Recreation for the Mount Peter Structure Plan. It is based on an appreciation of the need for flexibility in providing sport and recreation facilities that will be required to accommodate future sporting and recreation needs, trends and desires over the next 20-30 years of development in Mount Peter. The report is based on desk top research of available information, discussions with Cairns Regional Council and government agencies and limited consultation with peak sport and recreation organisations to identify major needs and issues at a level appropriate to the Mount Peter Structure Plan.

The report outlines the existing sport and recreation context of Mount Peter and the policy context and assumptions underlying the principles and standards that have been used to guide the preparation of the strategy. It identifies key issues, assumptions, opportunities and constraints that impact on the strategy. It also provides background -to and further discussion of the sport and recreation facilities proposed in the Mount Peter Structure Plan.

The Structure Plan for Mount Peter has been based on a forecast population of 42,500 people living in approximately 18,500 dwellings. This population growth is expected to occur over a 25 year period commencing around 2012 and completing around 2037.

The Existing Sport and Recreation Context

Key features of the existing sport and recreation context of relevance for the planning of Mount Peter include:

- The population in the surrounding area, focussed on Edmonton and Gordonvale, is characterised by high proportions of families and young people who have a preference for locally accessible facilities.
- Demand for sport and recreation facilities outstrips supply and many existing facilities are operating at capacity and/or beyond their design life and need to be upgraded or replaced to meet current demand.
- Current issues impacting on sport and recreation include the inadequate provision of land and facilities to meet demand, the poor standard or coordination of facilities, prohibitive costs of hiring/leasing facilities and limited multi-use of some facilities due to lease arrangements.

Principles, Standards and Assumptions

The principles guiding the preparation of the Structure Plan have been taken primarily from the:

- The standards and terminology for classification contained within Cairns Regional Council's Priority Infrastructure Plan (PIP) and the *Public Parks and Land for Community Purposes – Trunk Infrastructure Planning Study (PPLCP, March 2009)*.,
- Department of Communities' Planning Principles for Sport and Recreation.

Note: It has been advised by Cairns Regional Council that PIP standards supersede and take precedence over State Government guidelines and Council's Local Open Space Management Plan standards.

These documents provide an overarching framework for the provision of appropriate and accessible open space, sport and recreation infrastructure to



promote active living and contribute to social sustainability outcomes in Mount Peter.

Opportunities and constraints

Key opportunities include:

- The preference to provide locally accessible facilities to meet the needs of the population and to integrate the planning and delivery of facilities with the master planning process so that participation in sports and recreational pursuits is supported. Planning must consider the appropriate type of facilities, their location and accessibility to ensure that facilities are appropriate for the tropical climate, are easily accessible and are designed to meet the needs of the growing and changing community.
- The importance of providing facilities and 'hang out' spaces appropriate for younger people, who make up a large proportion of the population in the Southern Growth Corridor and who have high participation rates in sport and high needs for safe, centrally located open space areas for both informal and formal recreational activities.
- The imperative of promoting active living and the role of the built environment in enabling increased physical activity and active living through the provision of integrated pedestrian pathways and **cycleways shared paths** and a range of facilities for sport and recreation.
- The opportunity to locate open space, sport and recreation facilities in constrained parts of the study area that may not be suitable for other land uses but provide scope for providing open space and maximising recreational enjoyment of the areas natural landscape features, including the mountain escarpment, bushland and waterways. These opportunities need to be considered in accordance with Priority Infrastructure Plan (PIP) requirements.
- The need to cluster sport and recreation facilities to maximise resource efficiency and promote convenient access, usability and community identity, through clustering or co-locating compatible facilities in hubs or sports precincts.
- The potential to adopt community management structures as a means of building and promoting community capacity building and the formation of community identity.
- The opportunity to establish a sub regional attraction of recreational value along the Wrights Creek/ Grays Creek Corridor.

Key constraints include:

- The current location of the Cairns Target Shooting Club is not appropriate in a future residential area and the Cairns Target Shooting Club will need to be re-located in the short to medium term.
- The appropriateness of using flood-prone land for some recreation needs to be considered through the master planning process and further detailed analysis of waterway corridors is required to ensure the planned provision of open space complies with relevant design standards and provisions.
- Resource provision and funding opportunities need to be considered to ensure open space, sport and recreation facilities are delivered in conjunction with housing development to meet community need.

Identification of issues

Key issues for the Sport and Recreation include:



- There is a need to ensure flexibility in planning for sport and recreation facilities, to enable them to respond to precise demand requirements as the population moves into Mount Peter and its demographic characteristics and preferences can be determined.
- A range of demand considerations and trends in the provision of sport and recreation facilities need to be taken into account in the detailed planning of sport and recreation facilities for Mount Peter
- Mount Peter contains significant areas of constrained land not suitable for development. Opportunities to utilise constrained land for planned and opportunistic provision of recreational facilities, provided they meet design standards and provisions of Council's Priority Infrastructure Plan, need to be considered.
- Two issues will need to be resolved in the master planning phase. These are the future location of the Cairns Target Shooting Club, and the future expansion of existing sport facilities at Down Park within MPU 1.

Requirements for Sport and Recreation Facilities

Based upon a target population for Mount Peter of 42,500 people and the open space supply requirements contained within the Priority Infrastructure Plan (PIP), 191.25 hectares of land will be needed for open space, sport and recreation. [This represents the maximum chargeable rate of provision for land for public parks in accordance with amount of land that can be charged for under the PIP.](#) [Statutory Guidelines¹](#) This provides for:

- 106.25 hectares of land for informal recreation open space. This will comprise notional allocations of 26 ha for local recreation parks, 44 ha for district recreation parks, 12 ha for metropolitan recreation parks, 4 ha for town parks and 20 ha for open space to provide recreational trails.
- 85 hectares of land for organised sporting open space. This will include 40 ha for four district sports parks and 45 ha for two metropolitan sports parks.

Recommendations and actions

1. Preparation of a Sport and Recreation Plan detailing the open space, sport and recreation facilities to be provided in each Master Plan unit will be a requirement as supporting information for each Master Plan.
2. Further detailed assessment of recreation open space opportunities within the Wrights Creek / Grays Creek corridor will be carried out once a detailed survey study of the creek corridor has been undertaken to determine flood lines and land suitability for recreation purposes.
3. About five years into the development of Mount Peter, once the demographic profile and needs of the future Mount Peter population can be more clearly identified, a detailed Sport [&and](#) Recreation Needs Assessment should be prepared for Mount Peter [by Cairns Regional Council](#). This will identify the particular sporting facilities to be provided within the recommended district sports parks and metropolitan sporting precincts [\(including the need for a swimming pool\)](#), more clearly identify sites for recreational open space and consider in detail how sport and recreation will contribute to community capacity building and the formation of community identity.

[4. Depending on the outcome of the recommended Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment, a feasibility assessment will be undertaken for an indoor sports centre](#)

¹ [Statutory Guideline 01/09 – Priority Infrastructure plans and infrastructure charges schedules](#)



~~to establish the specific facilities it will include and the associated costs and delivery arrangements.~~

~~5. As Statutory Guidelines IPA does not provide a mechanism for the funding of buildings for social infrastructure, alternative funding arrangements will need to be considered and negotiated that include funds from Council, State agencies, Commonwealth Government, and the private and non-government sectors.~~

~~56. As Statutory Guidelines for Priority Infrastructure Plans (PIP) and Infrastructure Charges Schedule (ICS) only allow for the charging of land and some park embellishments for active and passive recreation, alternative funding arrangements will need to be considered and negotiated that include funds from Council, State agencies, Commonwealth Government, and the private and non-government sectors for embellishments that are excluded and in addition to (such as club houses and kiosks) those of the Statutory Guidelines.~~



BACKGROUND

1.1 INTRODUCTION

As part of the preparation of the Mount Peter Structure Plan, the Mount Peter Master Planning Team has been required to prepare a plan that outlines Sport and Recreation requirements. The purpose is to identify the open space, sport and recreation facilities that will be required to help create an active, healthy and socially sustainable community at Mount Peter.

The Sport and Recreation planning requirements are contained within separate documents prepared for the Mount Peter Structure Plan, being the Amendments to CairnsPlan, Planning Scheme Policy, Implementation Plan, Trunk Infrastructure Report and this Technical Report.

This Technical Report presents the working information that has been compiled to underpin the sport and recreation requirements for the Mount Peter Structure Plan.. It outlines the existing sport and recreation context of Mount Peter and the principles and standards that have been used. It also identifies key issues, opportunities and constraints that will impact on the planning and provision of sport and recreation facilities, and presents background to the facilities and areas of open space proposed in the accompanying Amendments to CairnsPlan and Policy documents. In supporting the Mount Peter Structure Plan, it identifies land requirements and broad locations for the facilities and open space infrastructure that will be required to meet the sport and recreation needs of the future Mount Peter community.

Open space within the Mount Peter area includes a number of elements that incorporate both natural open space areas (for examples creek lines, remnant vegetation areas, wetlands and World Heritage Area) and those areas identified for active and passive recreational open space. The Technical Report documents issues related to sport and recreation facilities that will enable the future Mount Peter community to be physically active and to participate in a diverse range of sporting and recreation opportunities. Considerations for areas of open space that fall outside the development footprint have been addressed in other technical reports, in particular those that relate to flooding, creek lines and the natural environment.

Planning for sport and recreation within Mount Peter has been based upon forecast dwelling yield and population assumptions current in July 2009, which envisage a population at completion of around 42,500 people living in approximately 18,500 dwellings. This population growth is expected to occur over a 25 year period commencing around 2012 and completing around 2037.

1.2 SCOPE OF THIS REPORT

The information provided in this report supports sport and recreation requirements incorporated within the Structure Plan for Mount Peter

The following table outlines both the requirements for the Sport and Recreation Plan as stated in the contractual arrangement of this project and the proposed response based on the delivery of a Structure Plan for Mount Peter.



Council Requirements	Structure Planning Response / Considerations
Review of existing facilities and studies	Review undertaken within the Technical Paper with a focus on existing facilities within and immediately adjacent to Mount Peter
A needs assessment for local, district and regional sporting facilities	<p>Assessment of needs for sport and recreation facilities has been provided in this Technical Report at a level of detail commensurate with the Structure Plan purpose and the very broad demographic forecasts available at this stage. This assessment identifies the quantum, size and location of proposed facilities in accordance with Council's minimum standards of service.</p> <p>This work needs to be considered in conjunction with the various design plans that identify the location of these facilities within <i>Mount Peter Map 13 Mount Peter Structure Plan Area – Sport Recreation and Community Facilities Infrastructure</i>.</p> <p>This report recommends that a detailed needs assessment be prepared once the Mount Peter population has grown to a point where its characteristics and detailed needs can be identified. This is likely to occur about 4-5 years into development, or when the population has reached 4-5,000 people.</p>
Key Locations / delivery Mechanisms	<p>Locations for proposed sport and recreation facilities have been identified within the Structure Plan and its associated maps.</p> <p><u>Land for open active and passive space with the required level of embellishment is (as set out according to the PPLCP and Statutory Guidelines) for open space will be delivered through the mechanisms identified in the Priority Infrastructure Plan.</u></p> <p><u>Whilst The various delivery mechanisms, which include development contributions and other funding and implementation mechanisms are identified within the Structure Plan Area Code and the Implementation Plan. Due to Statutory Guidelines 01/09 for PIP and ICS allows for a chargeable rate of provision of land for active and passive open space and also general embellishments such as lighting, car parking and public amenities, buildings such as clubhouses and kiosks may not be included. Alternative funding and delivery mechanisms will need to be considered and negotiated that include</u>IPA's <u>restriction that only the land component of community facilities can be funded, a range of delivery mechanisms for sport and recreation facilities will need to be considered and negotiated including:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Funding by Cairns Regional Council utilising additional rates revenue to support facilities</u>



	<p><u>provision</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>State Government funding programs (through programs related to Communities, Health, Education, Sport and Recreation etc.)</u> • <u>Commonwealth funding programs</u> • <u>Negotiated agreements between Council and developers to contribute towards the establishment of facilities, or to provide them as works in kind</u> • <u>The resources of non-government organisations and</u> • <u>Private sector partnerships.</u>
Opportunities for integration with open space network, regional facilities and other community facilities	The principles of integration and co location are supported in the Technical Report and have influenced the mapping of facilities within the Mount Peter MPA.
Indicative staging/benchmarks and costs for facilities	Indicative staging thresholds <u>and costs</u> for facilities have been identified in this Technical Report. Costs for facilities will be identified and then in 10 year cap works program <u>Costs for facilities required in the first ten years have been identified in the 10 Year Capital Works Program.</u>
Community capacity building and community identity formation.	The Technical Report provides a framework for community capacity building and recommends that detailed actions within this framework be prepared as part of the proposed detailed Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment (????) to be prepared once specific population needs can be identified. <u>Sport and Recreation Plans required for each master plan unit.</u>

This Technical Report has been prepared at a level of detail appropriate for a Structure Plan, which is intended to provide a broad framework within which more detailed master planning will occur in subsequent stages of the planning process. The focus of the Structure Plan is on land uses and processes for on-going planning, and hence this Technical Report has focused on identifying broad needs for land for sport and recreation purposes, and the processes / framework required for subsequent more detailed planning and implementation.

1.3 BACKGROUND TO STRUCTURE PLANNING

The Far North Queensland Regional Plan identifies that Mount Peter is within the Southern Growth Corridor that will accommodate future growth and development in the Cairns region up until 2031.

Mount Peter is approximately 15 kilometres south of Cairns between Edmonton and Gordonvale off the Bruce Highway. The MPA is 3,330 hectares in size and contains approximately 1,582 hectares of potentially developable land.

A comprehensive planning process has identified the opportunities and constraints for development. The planning process promotes an integrated approach to planning to provide a framework for coordinated development and delivery of services and facilities to support the future population.



The Mount Peter MPA is currently predominantly agricultural, with sugar cane farming being the dominant activity. There is some low density rural residential housing and several large areas of undeveloped land with intact natural vegetation.

Given the low population density currently there are few sport and recreation facilities within the MPA and residents tend to use facilities at nearby centres in Edmonton or Gordonvale. However, projected population growth will give rise to a demand for sport and recreation land and facilities within the MPA.



1.4 EXISTING POPULATION

~~In the 2006 ABS Census, the Mount Peter MPA had a population of less than 700 people. This small population differs from the broader Cairns population in the following ways.~~

- ~~• It is older, with a higher than (Cairns) average proportion of the population aged over 30~~
- ~~• It has limited numbers of Indigenous Australians and people born overseas~~
- ~~• The family type is predominantly couples with children~~
- ~~• It has little housing diversity, and a high proportion of large lot separate houses~~
- ~~• It has a higher than average proportion of fully owned housing~~
- ~~• It has lower than average household incomes and lower than average weekly rents~~
- ~~• It has lower than average levels of education, with a higher than average proportion of the population at secondary school~~
- ~~• It has a mixed range of employment types, including persons working in management/ administration, clerical, and production/ transport~~
- ~~• It has a high proportion of the population working at home and lower than average levels of the workforce travelling to work by car.~~

In 2006, the Mount Peter Master Planning Area had a population of 1,888 people. This small population differs from the broader Cairns population in the following ways.

- It is older, with a higher than (Cairns) average proportion of the population aged over 35
- It has limited numbers of Indigenous Australians and people born overseas
- The family type is predominantly couples with children and it has a higher proportion of 3, 4, 5 and 6 plus person households
- It has little housing diversity, and a high proportion (over 80%) of separate houses,
- It has a higher than average proportion of fully owned housing
- It has similar weekly household incomes and lower than average weekly rents
- It has lower than average levels of education attainment, with a higher than average proportion of the population at secondary school
- It has a mixed range of employment types, including managers/ administrators, clerical, and production/ transport
- It has a high proportion of the population working at home and lower than average levels of the workforce travelling to work by car

To the north of the Mount Peter Master Planned Area (MPA), Edmonton had a population of about 7,700 people in 2006. It has a higher than Cairns average population of children and young people, lower than average housing costs and higher than average proportion of persons with a certificate-level education and working in a trade.

To the south of the Mount Peter MPA, Gordonvale had a population of about 5,300 people in 2006. It has both relatively high proportions of children and of older



people, and higher than average proportions of Indigenous people and people of non English speaking backgrounds. It has lower than average costs of housing, lower levels of educational attainment and high proportions employed in trades and semi-skilled occupations.

1.5 FUTURE POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

As noted above, this Technical Report has been based upon forecast dwelling yield and population assumptions current in July 2009, which envisage a population at completion of around 42,500 people living in about 18,500 dwellings.

If growth patterns in the structure planning area are consistent with recent growth in the Southern Corridor in Bentley Park and Edmonton, the future population can be expected to have:

- a high proportion of households in the family formation stage of the life cycle
- a high proportion of children and young people aged 0 to 14 years
- a high proportion of 'couple family with children family type.

The demographic profile of the future population will have implications for sport and recreation planning. High population growth will place increasing demands on facilities, services and programs and will require significant investment to develop new facilities, services and programs. Growing numbers of family households will generate demand for family-orientated recreation settings and active sporting opportunities. Longer term population ageing will require more passive participation opportunities. The significant number of younger people (aged under 30 years) will generate demand for sport and recreation opportunities, as persons aged under 30 have higher rates of participation in sport and recreation than older persons.

1.6 METHODOLOGY

The preparation of this Technical Report has included:

- Review of background studies and identification of information gaps
- Understanding the existing population of the Mount Peter and surrounding area
- Assessing the availability of existing sport and recreation facilities and services in the Southern Growth Corridor region of Mount Peter / Edmonton / Gordonvale area
- Identification of key sport and recreation facility standards
- Understanding the policies, standards, planning processes, priorities and indicative requirements of relevant government agencies
- Understanding the policy framework and recreation planning approach of Cairns Regional Council
- Meetings and phone interviews with Council officers in various Departments to identify issues of significance to particular elements of sport and recreation infrastructure.
- Discussions with relevant state agencies through regular State Agency workshops



- Phone interviews with six community-based sport and recreation organisations in Cairns to understand key issues that may impact on future facility requirements within Mount Peter (refer Section 4.5 for details).
- Feedback and commentary from Council and State agencies on progressive drafts of documentation, and revisions to incorporate feedback.

This Technical Report has been prepared on the basis of a comprehensive review of relevant policies, plans and documents including:

- Strategic Leisure Group. March 2009 *Public Parks and Land for Community Purposes - Trunk Infrastructure Planning Study*, prepared for Cairns Regional Council
- Cairns Regional Council. April 2009. *Draft Planning Scheme Policy 4:04:05 – Trunk Infrastructure Contributions*
- Australian Bureau of Statistics. April 2006. *Children’s Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities (4901.0)*
- Australian Sports Commission. 2007. *Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport – Annual Report 2007*.
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1.7 CURRENT TRENDS IN SPORT AND RECREATION

Participation rates in different sport and recreational pursuits are not static; they change over time and vary slightly across states and regions depending on climatic and demographic influences. Given that Council does not have specified service



benchmarks for the provision of specific sporting facilities, it is important to understand current participation rates and trends in participation in different sports to help identify which sports need to be catered for to meet future community demand in Mount Peter. The following sections provide some indication of the current popularity of different sport and recreation activities. However, it is recognised that these may change considerably over the 20-30 year development timeframe for Mount Peter.

1.7.1 RATES OF PARTICIPATION

1.7.1.1 AUSTRALIA WIDE – OVER 15 YEARS

Research commissioned by the Australian Sports Commission² suggests that in 2007 the sport and recreation activities with the highest participation rates for persons aged 15 years and older across Australia were:

- Walking – 33 percent total participation rate
- Aerobics/fitness – 20.2 percent
- Swimming – 12 percent
- Cycling – 9.7 percent
- Running – 7.6 percent
- Tennis – 5.8 percent
- Bushwalking – 5.7 percent
- Golf – 5.6 percent
- Outdoor football – 4.2 percent
- Netball – 3.2 percent.

Of these activities aerobics/fitness enjoyed a significant increase in participation between 2001 and 2007 (+ 68 percent over 2001). Walking (+ 24 percent), outdoor football (+ 24 percent), bushwalking (+ 17 percent), cycling (11 percent increase) and running (+ 15 percent) also enjoyed increases in participation since 2001.

Conversely, tennis (- 31 percent over 2001), golf (- 26 percent), swimming (-19 percent) and netball (- 15 percent) all experienced large declines in participation between 2001 and 2007.

There was an increase of over 6 percentage points in the regular participation rate in any physical activity between 2001 and 2007. This was almost entirely explained by an increase in participation in non-organised activities. Most participation in physical activity is in non-organised activities. The regular participation rate in organised physical activity has remained fairly stable since 2001. Regular participation in organised physical activity and club-based activity is most common amongst those aged 15-24 years.

² Australian Sports Commission – *Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport Annual Report 2007*, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing



1.7.1.2 AUSTRALIA WIDE – UNDER 15 YEARS

Research undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics³ indicates that between 2000 and 2006 there was a marginal increase in participation in organised sport by both boys and girls aged 5 to 14 years, (from 59% in 2000 to 63% in 2006). Bike riding also increased for both boys and girls (from 62% in 2003 to 68% in 2006). The research suggests that in 2006 the sport and recreation activities with the highest participation rates for persons aged 5 to 14 years across Australia were:

For boys:

- Soccer (outdoor) - 20% participation rate
- Swimming - 17%
- Australian Rules Football - 14%
- Cricket – 10%
- Tennis – 8%
- Basketball – 7%

For girls the most popular sports are:

- Swimming - 18%
- Netball - 17%
- Tennis - 7%
- Basketball - 6%

1.7.1.3 QUEENSLAND SPECIFIC PARTICIPATION RATES

In 2007 the sport and recreation activities with the highest participation rates across Queensland were:

- Walking – 33 percent total participation rate
- Aerobics/fitness – 20.4 percent
- Swimming – 10.7 percent
- Cycling – 10.2 percent
- Running – 6.7 percent
- Bushwalking – 6 percent
- Golf – 4.9 percent
- Tennis – 4.5 percent
- Touch football – 3.9 percent
- Outdoor football – 3.2 percent
- Netball – 3 percent.

Accordingly, in Queensland there were slightly higher participation rates in cycling and bushwalking than for Australia as a whole. Conversely, Queensland had slightly lower participation rates in swimming, running, tennis and golf than across Australia as a whole. However, the differences are relatively insignificant and it is

³ Australian Bureau of Statistics. April 2006. *Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities* (4901.0)



concluded that overall, Queensland has similar recreational preferences compared to Australia as a whole.

In Queensland in 2007, 80.4 percent of the total population aged 15+ participated in some sport or recreation activity at least once annually. This compares with 79.4 percent for the population nationally. In Queensland 67.6 percent of the population aged 15+ participated in some form of physical activity at least once per week, slightly higher than the national average of 66.7 percent.

Annual participation rates in Queensland by age group (for people aged 15+) were as follows:

- 15 to 24 years – 82.5 percent total participation rate
- 25 to 34 years – 88.2 percent
- 35 to 44 years – 86.9 percent
- 45 to 54 years – 80.2 percent
- 55 to 64 years – 75.2 percent
- 65 years and over – 65.4 percent.

This indicates that participation rates are highest amongst young adults, and fall with age.

It is also worth noting that participation rates in Queensland for different sports are different for men and women. For Queensland males aged 15 years and over the top sports are:

- Walking (other than bushwalking) – 26.3 percent
- Aerobics/fitness – 14.2 percent
- Cycling – 12.5 percent
- Swimming – 11.7 percent
- Golf – 11.0 percent
- Running – 8.9 percent
- Touch football – 7.4 percent.

For Queensland females aged 15 years and over the top sports are:

- Walking (other than bushwalking) – 45.1 percent
- Aerobics/fitness – 21 percent
- Swimming – 14.9 percent
- Cycling – 7.3 percent
- Running – 6.6 percent
- Tennis – 6.6 percent
- Yoga – 5.1 percent.

This indicates that golf and touch football are more popular with males, whereas tennis and yoga are more popular with women.



1.7.1.4 CAIRNS REGION SPECIFIC

Recent studies and discussions with Council indicate a growth in participation in sports and recreation pursuits within the Southern Growth Corridor and wider Cairns region. Sports with increasing membership include:

- AFL
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Futsal (indoor soccer)
- Rugby league
- Rugby union
- Soccer
- Tennis.

Sports with decreasing membership include swimming. Overall there is a trend towards more informal and unstructured recreational activity rather than membership of structured clubs.

Reflecting the tropical climate, there is also reportedly:

- High use of indoor sports facilities
- Sports played in the evening rather than day-time, giving rise to a need for lighting of facilities
- Overlapping or changing of seasons for some sports, rather than the set seasons for summer and winter sports characteristic of southern areas.

This Technical Report has recognised these trends, in ensuring that a supply of land will be available within Mount Peter to accommodate a variety of facilities for the most popular sports, and that these facilities will enable evening use through provision of lighting. This Report also recognises that preferences and participation patterns will change over time, and accordingly it is not appropriate to determine needs and sites for each specific sporting code now based on the current patterns, given that development will occur over a 20-30 year timeframe. The structure plan needs to incorporate sufficient flexibility to respond to changing patterns of participation and need, as they are identified.



2 ASSUMPTIONS AND PRINCIPLES

This Technical Report is based on a number of assumptions, principles and standards that have been identified by Cairns Regional Council and the Queensland Department of Communities (formerly Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation).

These assumptions form the basis for sport and recreation planning for Mount Peter.

2.1 SPORT AND RECREATION PLANNING PRINCIPLES

Principles and implementation directives established by the former Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation⁴ provide guidance to assist councils to plan and deliver appropriate sport and recreation infrastructure. In order to protect and manage the open space values of an area and integrate sport and recreation planning with Council's other activities, the Department has established planning principles for recreation and sport in open space areas to consider:

- Recreation setting diversity
- Natural landscape features
- Sustainability of recreation
- Undeveloped open space
- Recreation and sport in rural areas
- Open space fragmentation and connectivity of recreation areas
- Cross boundary strategic planning
- Regionally significant open space
- Regional recreation and sport
- Open space standards/planning performance criteria
- Charging for public parks infrastructure and priority infrastructure plans
- Multiple uses of open space
- Re-development/ recycling of land for recreation and sport
- Tourism and outdoor recreation
- Compatible recreation activities
- Recreation and adjacent land uses
- Facility location - facility co-location
- Non-motorised recreation trail network
- Waterways and riparian corridors.

Identifying suitable open space land and associated facilities is linked to population needs analysis, demand forecasting and land use planning. The Department suggests that open space, sport and recreation strategies should include:

- Mapping of key landscape and environmental features (including waterway corridors)

⁴ Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation. September 2003. *Get Active Queensland Open Space for Sport and Recreation*
– *Planning Principles and Implementation Notes for Local Government.*



- Mapping of major transport corridors, non-motorised corridors and open space links (e.g. bikeways, trails, pedestrian paths)
- Mapping of existing and future population areas
- Identification, classification and mapping of all open space areas that, most importantly, show the distinction between areas specifically allocated to public recreation (e.g. parks and sporting fields) and other open space elements (e.g. waterways, buffers, drainage reserves, retention basins, wetlands, conservation areas etc)
- Identification and mapping of land, or potential precincts for facilities at local, district and regional levels
- Identification of the range of outdoor recreation settings potentially available and of critical locations/sites that have high value and which consequently may require protection (e.g. natural-wild recreation settings and long continuous open space corridors)
- Identification of proposed new parks and sporting fields at regional, local and district levels (local level provision can be guided by the standards of service/performance criteria or more detailed precinct/district plans)
- Analysis of the current supply of public recreation land and its adequacy given demand. This can involve current community satisfaction as well as objective assessment against standards of service/ performance criteria
- Preparation of a new or revised standard of service or planning performance criteria for public recreation land (this should include land for facilities, not only open space). These guide provision levels for future communities as well as provide for an objective assessment of existing supply. In addition, these are required for preparation of an infrastructure charges plan
- Illustration of strategic land use planning issues and intents, such as protecting waterways from development or identifying a critical district sporting/active recreation area
- Consideration of cultural and social values associated with open space (e.g. Indigenous values).

Open space, sport and recreation strategies should inform land use planning and therefore should provide:

- Sufficient information to assist planners in identifying key elements to be incorporated into the planning scheme
- Sufficient information to enable a long term plan for provision of additional recreation opportunities. For example: integrating open space strategy or recreation and sport strategy objectives into the planning scheme to ensure land for future recreation, sport and outdoor recreation needs is not developed inappropriately or key sites are not affected by inappropriate development on adjacent land. Also, providing information as the basis of a works program in long term corporate planning. Consideration should be given to development of parks, recreation track networks, as well as facilities
- Sufficient detail to identify potential locations for parks, sporting fields and facilities of district or regional standard and scale
- Sufficient information to prepare an infrastructure charges schedule (or payment schedule) for public parks infrastructure (preparation of a priority infrastructure plan)
- Strategies for the future direction and development of outdoor recreation settings, sporting fields and facilities



- Sufficient detail to allow decision making on levels of desired development in parks. For example: application of “management classifications” to different parks to provide guidance on desirable levels or types of activity and development.

Principles and standards for the planning of open space, sport and recreation facilities within Cairns have been outlined in *Public Parks and Land for Community Purposes -Trunk Infrastructure Planning Study (March 2009) (PPLCP)*. Planning for parks and land for community purposes are to be guided by the following broad principles:

1. Equity – parks and facilities should be provided in a way that ensures equity of access for all the community, in terms of the nature, design, location, distribution and accessibility of open space and facilities.
2. Efficiency – parks and facilities should be designed to ensure efficient operation and to minimise lifecycle costs to the community.
3. Flexibility – parks and facilities need to be able to respond to community needs and demands as they change over time, through reconfiguration and redevelopment.
4. Sustainability – parks and facilities should be designed and managed in a sustainable way, including with regard to protection of natural areas, water efficient design, considerations of tropical climate, and economic and social sustainability.
5. Integration – planning and provision of parks and facilities should be integrated within the planning scheme for new urban areas and at a corporate level within Council.

2.2 ESTABLISHING THE NEED - OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION STANDARDS AND PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

The *Public Parks and Land for Community Purposes -Trunk Infrastructure Planning Study (PPLCP, March 2009)* sets out the service standards Trunk Infrastructure Contributions Planning Scheme Policy. These include the detailed performance criteria which guide the size, distribution, primary function and level of development of individual parks. These are outlined in the following sections.

PPLCP terminology has been used in describing open space within the Mount Peter MPA, with the exception of the term “city-wide”. It is understood that the State Government requires the term “metropolitan” to be used instead, in order to comply with Priority Infrastructure Plan (PIP) requirements.

2.2.1 MINIMUM LEVEL OF SUPPLY

Cairns Regional Council's PPLCP specifies a standard of service of 4.5 hectares of open space land per 1,000 persons, which accords with *Statutory Guideline 01/09 – Priority infrastructure plans and infrastructure charges schedule*. –This standard provides for:

- 2.5 hectares per 1,000 persons - recreation parks providing local, district and metropolitan informal outdoor recreation opportunity
- 2 hectares per 1,000 persons – district and metropolitan sporting parks for formal sporting and organised public recreation activity.



2.2.2 MINIMUM SIZE OF PARKS

Cairns Regional Council's PPLCP specifies the following minimum sizes and distances from residences for open space land.

- Recreation parks (local) – 0.5 minimum, but 1 hectare preferred, within 500 metres safe walking distance of 95% of residences.
- Recreation nodes (local) – 0.2 hectare within 500 metres safe walking distance of 95% of residences. These parks are located within the heart of local centres across Mount Peter *Map 13 Mount Peter Structure Plan Area – Sport Recreation and Community Facilities Infrastructure*.
- Recreation parks or nodes (district) – 2 hectares within 2 to 5 kilometres of 95% of residences
- Recreation parks (metropolitan) – size not specified, depends on specific features or location, within 10 to 15 kilometres of residences
- Sports parks (district) – minimum 10 hectares, with minimum 7 ha useable area for main purpose to allow for 3 fields and ancillary facilities, within 5 kilometres of 95% of residences
- Sporting precinct (metropolitan) – 20+ hectare park/precinct within 15 kilometres of residences.

2.2.3 HIERARCHY OF PROVISION

Cairns Regional Council's PPLCP specifies the following hierarchy of provision for open space land.

- Local recreation parks – serves local neighbourhood
- District recreation parks – serves several neighbourhoods and may attract use from other districts
- District sports parks – serves one or more districts
- Metropolitan recreation parks – serves whole city or several districts
- Metropolitan sporting precinct – serves whole city or several districts.

2.2.4 PARK BOUNDARY

Cairns Regional Council's PPLCP proposes the following minimum road frontages to parks:

- Recreation parks (local and district) – minimum 50 percent road frontage
- Recreation parks (metropolitan) – 25 percent to 50 percent road frontage
- Sports parks (district) – minimum 50 percent road frontage
- Sporting precinct (metropolitan) – 25 percent external road frontage, and served by internal road network.

Council specifies that substantial road frontage is crucial in local parks to ensure access and good community surveillance.



2.2.5 PARK ACCESSIBILITY

Cairns Regional Council's PPLCP proposes the following access requirements for parks:

Local ~~recreation park~~ **recreation park**: safe walking access and pathway links to park

District recreation parks and district sports parks:

- high accessibility by car, bike, foot,
- multiple access points
- accessible for people with mobility challenges
- linked to local bikeway and pathway network
- car access catered for (recreation parks)
- on site car parking (sports parks)

Metropolitan recreation parks and sporting precincts:

- accessible by all transport modes and located on public transport routes
- off street car parking.

2.2.6 PARK VISIBILITY

Cairns Regional Council's PPLCP proposes that all parks should consider adjacent land uses and be adequately buffered from incompatible uses by vegetation corridors, planted mounds and fencing. Parks are also required to meet street frontage requirements to enhance visibility.

2.2.7 PARK LAND FORM

The proposed form and shape of a park needs to ensure it can achieve its desired level of service for the community. Shape and size should therefore reflect its function within the hierarchy and also its functionality as a public space.

Cairns Regional Council's PPLCP proposes that all park land should be wider than 15 metres unless it is part of a linkage or minor entry point when a 5 metre minimum standard applies. Overall, narrow, linear shapes are not preferred. Significantly, the Priority Infrastructure Plan proposes a minimum width for:

- District sports parks - minimum diameter – 200 metres.

2.2.8 PARK LAND QUALITY

Cairns Regional Council's PPLCP proposes criteria for park land:

- Local recreation parks:
 - Useable area for main purpose – 0.2 hectares
 - Maximum slope (main use area) – 1:20
 - Maximum slope (remainder) – 1:6
 - Amount of functional space with slope no greater than 1:20 – 70 percent
- District recreation parks:
 - Useable area for main purpose – 1 to 2 hectares



- Maximum slope (main use area) – 1:20
- Maximum slope (remainder) – variable topography
- District sports parks:
 - Useable area for main purpose – 6 hectares
 - Maximum slope (main field/court areas) – 1:50
 - Maximum slope (remainder) – 1:10
 - Amount of functional space with slope no greater than 1:20 – 70 percent
- Metropolitan recreation parks:
 - Useable area for main purpose – design dependent
 - Maximum slope (main use areas) – 1:20
- Metropolitan sporting precincts:
 - Useable area for main purpose – 15 ha
 - Maximum slope (all field/court areas) – 1:50.

The PPLCP proposes that all parks should be free of hazards and constraints to community use, being contaminated land, land affected by high voltage power lines, in close proximity to noxious uses or constrained unduly by easements.

2.2.9 USE OF FLOODPRONE LAND

Cairns Regional Council's PPLCP proposes specific criteria for the extent of park land that may be subject to flooding:

- Recreation parks (local and district) (main use area) – whole area free of regular flooding (ie above ARI 5) with the main purpose area or 10 percent of total area (whichever is the greater) above ARI 50
- Recreation parks (metropolitan) – facilities above ARI100 and at least 50% of park above ARI 50
- Sports parks (district) - main sporting use areas above ARI 50 with ancillary area for built facilities above ARI 100 .
- Sporting precincts (metropolitan) - all field/court areas above ARI 50 with ancillary area for built facilities above ARI 100.

The following general provisions are to apply to all types of parkland:

- All parkland should be above ARI 5
- constructed drains and overland flow paths are not suitable for parkland
- Detention and retention basins are not suitable for parkland.

It should be noted that the master planning process has identified the need for detailed design and development of Wrights / Grays Creek Management Plan that may consider alternative standards and or outcomes.



2.2.10 MINIMUM LEVELS OF EMBELLISHMENT

All parks and sporting areas should be developed to a minimum level to enable the community to use the park for the intended purpose. This includes:

Local recreation park or node:

- Informal recreation areas with shade, tables, seats, water tap and play facilities.
- If possible, an open “kick about” area or similar active node for older children

District recreation park or node:

- Provide for mixed active and passive use with picnic and play facilities, toilets, water, lighting, internal paths, informal active facility (such as half court) for older youth and off-street parking
- Provision of shade, tree plantings and high landscape quality

District sports park:

- Provide for parking provision, toilets or future club facilities, fields developed to playing standard, boundary fencing, water, power and security lights.

Metropolitan recreation park:

- Development according to a **Master Plan**
- Mixed active and passive use with picnic and play facilities, toilets, water, lighting, internal paths, a range of informal active facilities (eg half courts, trails and youth spaces) and off-street parking
- A range of settings and locations and features that may include built facilities, kiosks and event spaces
- Provision of shade, tree plantings and high landscape quality

Metropolitan sporting precinct:

- Development according to a **Master Plan**
- Sporting facilities for several sporting groups as partners or tenants
- Internal roads, parking, facility hubs, bikeways
- Fields, courts and suitable locations for larger built sports facilities.

Cairns Regional Council’s PPLCP proposes detailed prescriptive design criteria for development of the different categories of park land in relation to:

- Boundary fencing
- Water taps
- Irrigation
- Toilets
- Bike / pedestrian paths and facilities
- Lighting and power
- Playgrounds



- Informal active youth facilities
- Sporting fields
- Picnic tables, seats and bbqs
- Shade
- Landscape works
- Car parks and internal roads
- Other special elements.

Refer to Table 4.3 (pages 29-31) of the PPLCP Study (March 2009) for details of requirements.

2.2.11 OTHER DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Cairns Regional Council's PPLCP includes the following additional design considerations::

- Local and district recreation parks may be provided as stand alone parks, or as nodes within district or regional open space systems, or as part of a larger individual park which includes formal sporting opportunities.
- A district recreation park will also provide local recreation park functions for its immediate neighbourhood.
- District sports parks will preferably include local or district level recreation nodes or be part of a larger mixed use park.
- Metropolitan recreation parks should provide a range of areas for a range of uses and users and include high landscape quality recreational nodes as well as other areas in less developed states.
- Metropolitan sporting precincts are expected to also include local and district level recreation opportunities.
- All public parks should consider CPTED principles and any urban design guidelines for public spaces adopted by Council
- Co-location of sporting facilities with other community facilities and integration with other open space to maximise savings from sharing of facilities and services is supported.

2.2.12 OPPORTUNISTIC PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE

Opportunistic provision of open space refers to land acquired for other purposes such as drainage, bushland protection or open space buffers that can also provide some additional recreation opportunity such as recreational trails. These areas may complement the planned provision of parks and sporting fields.

While the land component of opportunistic provision cannot be charged for within the Public Parks component of a Priority Infrastructure Plan, there is scope for embellishment of these areas to be included as a charge. The main opportunities for complementary recreational use include:

Local open space:

- may provide linkages to local recreation nodes and have informal uses

District open space:

- provided along larger waterways or foreshores



- Minimum corridor width of 15-50 metres from top of bank or high water mark
- Suitable for bikeways or pathways
- May link local or district recreation nodes

District conservation areas:

- Provide outdoor recreation opportunity through development of picnic areas and trails

Metropolitan open space and conservation areas:

- Park system based on waterways and foreshores
- Minimum 50 m width and preferred 100 m width from top of bank / high water mark
- May link local and district recreation nodes
- Include infrastructure such as trails and visitor facilities.

2.2.13 USE OF WET TROPICS BUFFER AREA

There is a requirement to maintain a 100 metre buffer to the Wet Tropics Area along the western and southern boundaries of the MPA. The Wet Tropics Authority has a preference to promote suitable passive open space and recreation within the buffer area and adjacent to riparian corridors.

2.2.14 STANDARDS FOR SPORTING FACILITIES

Beyond requirements for a specific quantum of open space per 1,000 persons, Council does not have any standards or benchmarks for the provision of specific types of sport and recreation facilities. Accordingly, the need for facilities for specific sports and recreational pursuits will have regard to:

- The size and composition of the future population, including age, gender and socio-economic characteristics
- The geographic distribution of the population
- The physical characteristics of the Mount Peter MPA
- Current and likely future participation levels and recreation and sport needs
- Access to opportunities in the surrounding area
- The need identified in consultation with Council and existing sporting and recreation stakeholders in the Cairns region
- The Australian Standards for sports lighting and the appropriate governing body field / court dimensions for all metropolitan sporting precincts and district sports parks.



3 OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

3.1 EXISTING AND PROPOSED SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES

3.1.1 CURRENT PROVISION

The four main issues currently impacting on sport and recreation in the Southern Growth Corridor are:

- Inadequate land area or playing fields to meet demand
- Poor standard or coordination of facilities
- Cost of hiring/leasing facilities
- Facilities leased to particular organisations for their sole use may result in under-utilisation and a lack of multi-purpose facilities for other sporting groups.

3.1.1.1 MOUNT PETER

Given the rural nature of the area, there is not a lot of public open space or sport and recreation facilities that serve the local community living within the Mount Peter MPA.

Facilities within the Mount Peter MPA are limited and include:

- Small pockets of undeveloped creekside open space along Stoney Creek (Lot 996 SP133373) and Wrights Creek (Lot 8 NR7681) that are classified as Drainage Reserve and Local Park, respectively. Cairns Regional Council has tenure of these parcels of land.
- Down Park, in the north-east precinct to the east of the Bruce Highway on the eastern edge of Edmonton, which includes 3 ageing tennis courts
- An Olympic standard shooting facility within the MPA to the west of the Bruce Highway close to Wrights Creek.

Residents tend to use district sport facilities and parks in Edmonton and around Gordonvale and city-wide facilities in Cairns.

There are several significant regional destinations within 10 to 20 kilometres of the MPA, including Grey Peaks National Park and Wooroonooran National Park to the east and south of the MPA respectively. The Dinden Forest Reserve is to the west of the MPA. These conservation areas and local creeks (including Mackey's creek, Wrights Creek, Stoney Creek, Collinson Creek and Blackfellow Creek) and the Mulgrave River provide additional informal outdoor and nature based recreation. These conservation areas and waterway corridors complement the limited supply of formal open space within Mount Peter.

3.1.1.2 EDMONTON

The following district level facilities currently exist in the Edmonton area:

- Gymnastics club facility
- Regional motorsport facility
- Fuller Park – cricket, basketball, BMX track
- Petersen Park – junior rugby league, junior soccer



- Fretwell Park – AFL / cricket oval, indoor basketball court, BMX, skate park
- Ravizza Park – cricket pitch, playground & basketball 1/2 court
- Edmonton pool – 5 lane, 25 metre, covered 15 metre teaching pool and toddler pool
- Edmonton and District Pony and Horse Club
- Edmonton Amateur Fishing Club.

3.1.1.3 GORDONVALE

The following facilities currently exist in the Gordonvale area:

- Alley Park (district sporting park) – includes 4 tennis courts (2 lit) and small club building and 2 rugby league fields (1 lit, 1 semi-lit) with clubhouse
- Johnson Park (district sporting park) – includes cricket, little athletics and soccer facilities, 3 netball courts (semi-lit), amenities and athletics club building
- Norman Park (district recreation park) – includes 6 lit tennis courts and clubhouse
- Primary and high schools – includes 4 outdoor basketball courts and sporting field
- High school - includes 1 indoor (concrete) volleyball court and sporting field
- AFL field adjacent to Djarragun College
- Gordonvale pool - 5 lane, 25 metre pool and toddler pool
- Gordonvale Turf Club and Gordonvale Golf Course, with separate jockey-club and golf club buildings.

The golf course and race track are also used for walking and passive recreation.

3.1.1.4 CITY-WIDE FACILITIES

Residents of the Southern Corridor also rely on a number of city-wide recreation facilities located within the central area of Cairns. These include:

- Barlow Park Stadium for field sports. Consideration is being given within Council to ways in which this facility might be upgraded and expanded to cater for major competition events
- The Esplanade lagoon
- Cairns Botanic Gardens
- Sugarworld Gardens
- Regional tennis facility, North Cairns

3.1.2 PROPOSED PROVISION FOR SOUTHERN CORRIDOR

Most existing facilities around Edmonton and Gordonvale are at capacity or operating beyond their design life, but demand for sport and recreation facilities continues to grow as the Southern Growth Corridor develops. There is particular



demand for sporting parks for junior sports and facilities for youth recreation and sporting activities.

Many existing sport fields in the area lack functionality because they:

- Are too small
- Have poor access
- Have no or limited parking
- Have inadequate area for clubhouses/amenities
- Have limited floodlighting due to proximity of residences.

It is predicted that the pressure on existing facilities and fields from demand in the Southern Growth Corridor will ease as provision of new facilities in the corridor improves. Cairns Regional Council is currently investigating a number of opportunities to develop new facilities in the Corridor.

3.1.2.1 MOUNT PETER

Council had planned to develop two (2) district parks - a 2.5 hectare park in Mount Peter and a 2.0 hectare park in Wrights Creek - to accommodate existing demand for open space, sport and recreation facilities. These district parks were intended to be designed in the form of single multi-use areas that could provide space for community events, social sport, picnics and play.

Given the projected growth in the Southern Growth Corridor, there is a need to acquire significantly more land for sport and recreation and plan facilities to meet the needs of the projected population of about 42,500 people. As such, the existing proposals are now redundant.

3.1.2.2 EDMONTON

Edmonton's population is projected to continue to grow and the Edmonton Town Centre, outside the Mount Peter MPA, will form a principal activity centre for the region.

Due to limited facilities, there is substantial sharing of school based sporting facilities for community use. Other facilities in the Edmonton area are either at capacity (e.g. Southside Gymnastics), outdated or in poor condition (Edmonton swimming pool, Down Park tennis courts).

The *Edmonton Sport and Recreation Facility Needs Study (2007)* identified the following facilities which need to be upgraded, replaced or expanded in the immediate short term:

- Rugby league (additional playing fields)
- Rugby union (additional playing fields)
- Tennis (additional courts)
- Gymnastics (expansion of existing centre)
- Basketball (multi-purpose indoor courts)
- Radio controlled cars (flat, serviced land, approximately 1 hectare)
- Model aero (flat, serviced land, approximately 2 hectares)



- Archery (land).

The study also identified that the following new or expanded facilities need to be provided:

- Soccer (additional playing fields)
- Hockey (4 lit grass fields)
- Cricket (4 playing fields)
- AFL (additional playing fields)
- Touch (4 shared use playing fields)
- Futsal (access to indoor courts)
- Netball (access to indoor courts)
- Swimming (new pool to service southern corridor)
- Softball (access to shared use floodlit oval).

There is demand to improve the amenity of informal parks by improving the lighting for safety, installing water fountains, better play equipment and a greater range of facilities and shaded areas.

Cairns Regional Council is planning to develop a major district sports facility within a defined precinct at Edmonton. A master plan (or concept plan) was completed in 2008 as part of the due diligence assessment. Facilities will be delivered in two stages.

These include:

- Stage 1 – A multi-purpose indoor centre. Cairns Basketball Inc has been granted a 30 year lease to develop and manage the centre. A feasibility study is about to commence and detailed design will be completed after the feasibility study.
- Stage 2 – Sports fields and associated amenities to accommodate multiple ovals for a range of sports. Detailed design of the sporting field area has not yet commenced and will occur once the eastern boundary and road link/bus network is confirmed as part of the Edmonton Town Centre project.

Prior to securing the Walker Street site, Council had identified several potential sites on Thompson Road to develop the district sports facility. The proposed sites were subsequently rezoned for industrial uses.

A site for a new swimming pool (to replace the existing Edmonton Pool) within Sugarworld Gardens has been identified close to the proposed district sports facility and is subject to a feasibility study. The new swimming pool facility is being planned to include:

- 25 metre, 8 lane heated indoor pool, with provision for expansion to meet demand for growth in the Southern Growth Corridor
- Heated toddler pool.

The proposed new or upgraded facilities in Edmonton have been planned on the basis of existing need and a small component of future growth, but are not intended to satisfy all of the future demand likely to be generated by the development of Mount Peter MPA. For instance, the proposed new swimming pool is to replace an existing facility and will not have capacity to also service Mount Peter. However, the new facilities, once completed, may be able to meet some of the demand from the northern parts of Mount Peter in the early stages of development, until new facilities can be provided within Mount Peter.



3.1.2.3 GORDONVALE

Gordonvale's population is expected to continue to grow and the Gordonvale town centre will form a district activity centre, outside the Mount Peter MPA.

Due to limited facilities, there is substantial sharing of school based sporting facilities for community use. Other facilities in the area are either at capacity (e.g. Alley Park playing fields), outdated or in poor condition (Norman Park tennis courts). Accordingly, there are issues associated with ageing facilities and over-use.

The Gordonvale Facility Needs Study (2003) identified that facilities which need to be upgraded, replaced or expanded in the immediate short term include:

- Tennis (consolidated 10-13 courts)
- Vigoro (cricket) (4 playing fields)
- BMX (approximately 1,000 square metres)
- Touch football (6 lit playing fields)
- Rugby league (additional playing fields)
- Soccer (access to playing fields)
- Cricket (access to playing fields)
- Model aero (flat serviced land).

The study also identified that there is demand for better pathways and **cycleways shared paths** to provide access to informal parks.

The *Gordonvale Facility Needs Study* has been updated by the *Alley Park Master Plan (2006)*. Cairns Regional Council is planning to develop a major district sports area within a defined precinct at Alley Park in Gordonvale. The Alley Park Master Plan provides for a range of sport and recreation facilities to cater for future demand. The master plan provided for an upgrade to the existing pool (completed in 2008), upgrade and expansion of playing fields to provide 12 new playing fields for rugby, touch football and other field sports; 11 tennis courts and club house; and 8 netball/basketball courts including 2 indoor courts.

However, the adopted master plan and mix of proposed sporting facilities is to be reviewed, as the Department of Community Safety (formerly the Department of Emergency Services) has expressed an interest in acquiring some of the land.

Also, Djurragun College is keeping Cairns Regional Council informed about its plans for future facilities. There may be some overlap with redevelopment of the school's facilities and the plans for Alley Park in light of the need to review the master plan due to the Department of Community Safety interest in acquiring some of the land.

Again it is noted that the proposed upgraded district sports facility in Gordonvale is intended to address existing demand and has not been planned to meet need arising from future development in Mount Peter.

3.2 OPPORTUNITIES

The Mount Peter MPA presents a substantial number of opportunities with regard to future provision of for sport and recreation, as outlined below.



3.2.1 MAXIMISE PARTICIPATION

Previous studies have indicated that residents within the Southern Growth Corridor prefer locally accessible facilities and resist travelling to Cairns to access facilities, and in this way the lack of locally based facilities is currently a constraint to participation in sport and recreation. As such, there is an opportunity to cater to local need and provide locally accessible sport and recreation facilities within the Mount Peter MPA as a means of promoting and enabling participation in physical activity. Mount Peter has the opportunity to be reasonably self-contained in terms of local and district sport and recreation facilities.

The costs and availability of public transport are constraints to participation in sport and recreation, particularly for young people in the Southern Growth Corridor. Children, young people, retired and unemployed people are time rich but have limited mobility, giving rise to demand for locally based accessible facilities. The future location of new sports and recreation facilities should be considered in the context of public transport services and accessibility. There is a need to provide integrated pathways and a network of parklands to provide accessible informal facilities for all sections of the population.

For a number of reasons related to contemporary lifestyle and changing patterns of work, people have less time and are choosing to partake in sport and recreation pursuits at different times. Employed persons and parents with small children are particularly time poor and there is growing demand for after hours and evening sport and floodlit facilities.

Similarly due to the tropical climate there is growing demand for evening sport and indoor air conditioned facilities.

The planning of Mount Peter presents opportunities to address all of these needs. It also provides opportunities to avoid the mistakes of the past with regard to the location, nature and management of facilities, and to provide new facilities consistent with contemporary standards. These new facilities should complement those provided or proposed within the wider Southern Corridor.

3.2.2 SERVICE DEMAND FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

As noted previously, there is a particular lack of recreational opportunities and places for young people to meet and gather in the Southern Growth Corridor. Mount Peter presents opportunities to address this need. In addition to providing sports facilities, it will be important to prioritise other informal active recreation uses for young people and older children, such as skate parks, BMX, bikeways, adventure based activities and informal parks with facilities where young people can hang out.

3.2.3 PROMOTE ACTIVE LIVING

In planning for Mount Peter there is a significant opportunity to design and promote active living by ensuring that the area is planned to promote physical activity, including opportunities for play, sport, walking and cycling, as well as incidental physical activity. Given the popularity of walking as a form of physical activity, there is a real opportunity to plan an integrated network of pedestrian pathways and [shared pathscycleways](#) that link key destinations.

3.2.4 USE CONSTRAINED LAND AS REGIONAL RESOURCE

As noted previously, the Mount Peter MPA contains a significant proportion of land that is constrained for urban development, including riparian corridors, flood-prone



land, bushland, Wet Tropics buffer and the existing quarry and its buffer. This land presents substantial opportunity to contribute towards the quantum of open space required in Council's standards for sport and recreation facilities for the future Mount Peter population. It also presents opportunities to provide recreation resources of benefit to the whole Southern Corridor, and to the wider population of Cairns. This includes bushwalking, hiking, picnics, horse-riding and adventure sports such as rock-climbing.

The extent to which Mount Peter provides a suitable location for new city-wide sport facilities suitable for major events has been considered broadly during the structure planning process. The study area is not centrally located to provide convenient access for the balance of the Cairns population, and its development for predominantly residential uses will preclude the location of facilities that might have negative impacts on the amenity of adjacent urban areas.

It is understood that the need for additional regional level sporting fields (ie sports stadium) in Cairns suitable for national or international events will be investigated by Cairns Regional Council. However, it is unlikely that such a facility would be located in Mount Peter by virtue of its distance from the bulk of the Cairns population, the airport and tourist accommodation. Council has had preliminary discussions to explore opportunities to use and augment the existing Barlow Park facility but no feasibility work has been undertaken. Given the need for an operational buffer between the quarry and adjoining sensitive land uses, the potential to accommodate 'difficult-to-locate' sports adjacent to the quarry could be investigated through the master planning process.

3.2.5 TAKE ACCOUNT OF NATURAL LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Mount Peter is rich in its features of the natural landscape environment, including the mountain escarpment, the Pyramid, hills, bushland and waterways. These provide multiple opportunities to contribute to the diversity of recreation settings and opportunities available to experience natural environments through outdoor recreation activities, such as recreation trails. They also provide settings that will enhance the amenity of adjacent recreation areas. They may also provide linear corridors to link other open space features and more formal sport and recreation facilities or to provide buffers between land uses.

3.2.6 LINK AND CLUSTER FACILITIES

Mount Peter presents opportunities to locate facilities in ways that will make most efficient use of resources and which will promote convenient access, usability and community identity, through clustering or co-locating compatible facilities in hubs or sports precincts. There will also be opportunities for the sharing of sport and recreation facilities with schools, and for the co-location of sport and recreation facilities with other community facilities, such as community centres and libraries. Where sport and recreation facilities are to be shared with schools, community consultation should occur during master planning and design of schools to ensure appropriate community use and access arrangements. Sport and recreation facilities may also provide significant employment opportunities and hence help to underpin the local economy.



3.2.7 INTEGRATE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES

There is an opportunity to consider community management structures for multi-use/multi-facility sport and recreation facilities that are integrated with community facilities. This governance arrangement would assist with community development as population growth occurs within the Mount Peter MPA and would reinforce the role of sport and recreation facilities in helping to shape and define the local community.

3.3 CONSTRAINTS

Potential constraints include:

- Current location of Cairns Target Shooting Club: As noted previously, the suitability of the current location of the Club within the Mount Peter MPA in the longer term as Mount Peter is developed has been an issue for consideration. This is discussed further in Section 4.6 below.
- Much of the constrained land within Mount Peter is flood-prone and may not be suitable for sport and recreation, within the parameters of Council's open space standards. The extent to which this land may still be suitable for some recreation uses, although not considered as part of Council's supply requirements under PPLCP, will need to be considered in subsequent detailed planning stages, particularly in terms of responsibility for its management, embellishment and maintenance. It is proposed that a Management Plan for the Wrights Creek / Grays Creek corridor be prepared for this purpose. Similarly, responsibility for land required for environmental reasons, but which may also provide recreation opportunities, will also need to be resolved.
- As there is currently very little existing sport and recreation infrastructure in the area, a variety of new facilities will be required, necessitating substantial investment in new sport and recreation infrastructure. A key constraint on development of the strategy is the lack of a mechanism for funding sport and recreation infrastructure through the Integrated Planning Act. While land can be made available through the Priority Infrastructure Plan process for sport and recreation, there is no mechanism for collecting contributions from developers towards the construction of built facilities, such as clubhouses, indoor sport facilities or swimming pools. Alternative financing arrangements will be needed that draw together funds from Council, state agency programs and the private and non-government sectors.



4 ISSUES

4.1 A NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY TO RESPOND TO EMERGING NEEDS

As outlined above, the Structure Plan for Mount Peter has been based upon an assumed yield of 18,500 dwellings and a residential population of about 42,500 people. However, these figures will no doubt vary as detailed master planning of precincts and individual sites is undertaken. It is also difficult to precisely identify the demographic composition of the future population at this stage, and hence its precise requirements and preferences for sporting and recreation facilities.

Given the likely timeframe for development of Mount Peter (20-30 years), it is important to maintain flexibility to respond to changing needs and preferences and the demands for emerging sports. As such, planning for sport and recreation should not be based solely on current participation patterns and fixed standards. It needs to ensure that sufficient land is identified for the range of sport and recreation facilities likely to be required, but at this structure planning stage, should not identify specific sites and facilities for specific sports, recognising that these requirements are likely to change as the population grows and ages.

~~F currently(my understading is that funding is now not available – so this statement is not correct) – refer advice from L Jones 15/3/10 d It is recommended that about five years into the development of Mount Peter, once the demographic profile and needs of the future Mount Peter population can be more clearly identified, identified; a detailed assessment of need for sport and recreation facilities should be prepared for Mount Peter . This Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment should be undertaken by Cairns Regional Council, with a source of funding yet to be determined.(who would do this ??????). This will identify the particular sporting facilities to be provided within the recommended district sports parks and metropolitan sporting precincts, more clearly identify sites for recreational open space and consider in detail how sport and recreation will contribute to community capacity building and the formation of community identity.~~

4.2 DEMAND CONSIDERATIONS

Based on available research on sport and recreation trends, it is predicted that the following factors will influence the long term demand for recreation and open space opportunities within Mount Peter.

- National health issues will continue to stress improving opportunities within the built environment for everyday incidental exercise within residential areas and requiring designated walking and cycling tracks within nature corridors and natural areas.
- There is likely to be a sustained demand for health and fitness opportunities, requiring both indoor and outdoor facilities.
- The quality of facilities and open space is as important as quantity. Open space should be carefully designed and take into account a wider range of needs.
- The high demand for recreation programs for all age groups is likely to continue, resulting in increased demand for indoor multipurpose sport and leisure centres.
- As the population grows there could be increased levels of cultural diversity in the community, giving rise to a greater variety of sport and recreation needs.



- There is likely to be demand for recreation, entertainment and commercial leisure opportunities for young people. It is important to view young people as having a legitimate claim on public space and this should be addressed in the planning of the open space and public domain areas.
- As housing densities increase and private open space (the traditional back yard) shrinks, there is higher demand for access to public open space, especially for children's play
- There will be demand for natural areas as places to experience the natural environment, away from the urban setting and for appealing areas to walk and relax in a natural setting. In particular, natural river settings, creek corridors and larger bushland parks are valued.
- There is increasing demand for walking and cycle networks, including track systems linked to corridors and natural areas.
- Sporting codes are increasing the duration of playing seasons and increasing demand for training as well as competition grounds. Coupled with climate change, consideration needs to be given to managing the use of grounds and optimising water use through quality irrigation systems.
- Sporting clubs are demanding higher standards of provision, with change facilities, storage and floodlighting being desired inclusions so sports can play and train in the evening and out of season.
- Changing demand patterns suggests growth in adventure based activities such as artificial climbing wall, bmx, skateboarding, in-line skating, mountain biking, trail running and beach volleyball.
- Amenities within parks are essential. Shade, water seats, interactive play equipment and bike areas are core inclusions for parks to be used regularly.
- The increase in community events within parks requires additional facilities and utilities such as power, water, and parking infrastructure.
- There is a move towards establishing shared-use and multi-functional outdoor sport facilities to reduce duplication and manage costs.
- With an increasing trend to indoor multipurpose facilities, consideration should be given to the design of community centres to ensure that they can accommodate a range of leisure and recreation programs, for example dance, yoga, exercise and martial arts.
- There is increasing demand for informal recreation opportunities for families, and for affordable facilities and activities.
- There is an increasing demand for quality playgrounds with diverse opportunities for older and young children

In addition to these national trends, detailed planning of sport and recreation facilities for Mount Peter will need to respond to the following local trends:

- Overall there is a trend towards more informal and unstructured recreational activity rather than membership of structured clubs.
- Reflecting the tropical climate, there is a high use of indoor sports facilities and sports played in the evening rather than day-time, giving rise to a need for lighting of facilities, and overlapping or changing of seasons for some sports, rather than the set seasons for summer and winter sports characteristic of southern areas.
- There is a preference to provide locally accessible facilities to meet the needs of a range of groups within the future Mount Peter population



- There is a particular need for facilities and 'hang out' spaces appropriate for youth and younger people, who make up a large proportion of the population in the Southern Growth Corridor and who have high participation rates in sport and high need for safe, centrally located open space areas for both informal and formal recreational activities.
- There is a need to promote active living and a built environment that encourages physical activity, through the provision of integrated pedestrian pathways and **cycleways****shared paths** that link with key destinations and a range of facilities and open spaces for sport and recreation.

As outlined previously, identification of requirements for particular types of sporting and recreation facilities relies on forecasting the likely characteristics and needs of the future population. While precise needs cannot be identified at this stage, it is likely that broad needs will include:

- A variety of parks for informal play and passive recreation, to provide a diversity of recreation settings and opportunities for all age groups and all abilities
- Outdoor areas for large gatherings and cultural events e.g. amphitheatre, markets
- Playing fields for a variety of field sports
- Both outdoor and indoor courts for court sports
- Indoor spaces for activities such as dance, martial arts, yoga, fitness, gym
- Aquatic facilities that are commercially viable and that will include a variety of leisure and fitness activities and programs consistent with local needs and preferences
- A network of walking and cycling tracks linked to key destinations and recreation nodes
- Opportunities for adventure based activities, such as mountain biking, trail bikes, horse riding, rock climbing
- Opportunities to enjoy bushland and water, including picnic and bushwalking facilities.

4.3 USE OF CONSTRAINED LAND

The Mount Peter MPA contains very substantial areas of land which will not be developable for residential, commercial or employment uses, but which may be suitable in part for open space, sport and recreation. These include:

- Riparian corridors
- Waterway envelope
- Areas of bushland
- Flood-prone areas
- Wet Tropics buffer zone
- The buffer area around the quarry in the southern part of the study area.

Council's PPLCP recognises that such constrained land may provide some recreation benefit in addition to drainage, conservation or buffer purposes. At the same time, however, the PPLCP contains a number of prescriptions on the nature of land which may be accepted as open space for sport and recreation purposes.



These include minimum standards relating to the gradient of land and flood levels. This is to ensure that the land made available for sport and recreation is usable for that purpose, and is not simply the “left over” bits that otherwise cannot be used at all. Land that is regularly flood-prone results in sporting facilities and parks that cannot be relied upon for their availability, and also results in significant additional costs to Council in maintenance and management. Steep land cannot be used for sporting facilities and has safety and embellishment challenges for Council.

The extent to which constrained land may be used to satisfy open space requirements, and conversely the extent to which developable land may need to be used, will be examined in the proposed Wrights Creek / Grays Creek Management Plan, to be undertaken in the next phase of planning for Mount Peter.

Similarly the extent to which environmental areas such as vegetation corridors may be used also for recreation purposes will need to be considered. A key issue is to establish agency responsibility for the ownership and maintenance of such areas.

4.4 OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATIONS WITH SPORT AND RECREATION ORGANISATIONS

In preparing this report, limited consultation was undertaken with peak sport and recreation organisations to identify major needs and issues at a level appropriate to the Mount Peter Structure Plan. Organisations consulted included AFL Cairns, Marlin Coast Netball, Cairns & District Rugby League, FNQ Football (FNQ Soccer Zone Inc.) and Tennis Queensland. In addition, attempts were made to consult with Cricket Far North Inc.

Common key issues and ideas emerging from these discussions include:

- Many existing sport and recreation facilities in the Mount Peter area and greater Cairns Region are at capacity, hampering the growth of certain sport and recreation activities.
- In some cases, it is best to increase the capacity of existing facilities rather than establish new, smaller facilities in the Mount Peter area. Small and disconnected sports and recreational facilities that are not functional for their intended use should be avoided.
- For some sport and recreation activities, multi-purpose facilities are best, although there is a danger of certain sport and recreation activities dominating the use of shared facilities.
- Equity should be of concern in planning for sport and recreation facilities, including in regards to supporting activity amongst all age groups and genders.
- There is a need to integrate sport and recreation facilities with support amenities, such as schools and canteen / café facilities. Many sport and recreation activities require canteens, while co-location with schools supports economic sustainability and helps to forge the social bonds needed to maintain and grow sport and recreation activity.
- Sport and recreation facilities should be developed to be active at night, requiring outdoor lighting in some cases, which may present problems integrating sport and recreation facilities with surrounding residential development.



4.5 ISSUES FOR RESOLUTION IN MASTER PLANNING

As outlined in the previous section of this report, the Mount Peter MPA currently contains one major facility that serves the Cairns region as a whole, being the Cairns Target Shooting Club. It is understood that the ~~this~~ Club leases freehold land from Council. The current location of the Cairns Target Shooting Club is not likely to remain appropriate as urban development gathers pace in Mount Peter. It is proposed that the Cairns Target Shooting Club will need to be re-located off-site and away from residential development, to a new site of an equivalent standard. The way in which ~~such a~~ re-location is to be funded will need to be resolved during the masterplanning of that area.

~~In addition, the Edmonton Sport and Recreation Facility Needs Study (2007) identifies the need to expand the Down Park tennis courts to provide an additional 5 to 7 courts over the short to medium term. The future expansion of the tennis courts will need to be resolved through the master planning process for the north east precinct.~~



5 REQUIREMENTS FOR SPORTS AND RECREATION PARKS

This section of the report provides some discussion of the planning requirements for Sport and Recreation proposed in the Structure Plan

5.1 QUANTUM OF OPEN SPACE REQUIRED

As outlined in previous sections, requirements and specifications for land for sports and recreation parks for all parts of Cairns are set out in the Public Parks and Land for Community Purposes - Trunk Infrastructure Planning Study, prepared for Cairns Regional Council. The PPLCP underpins Planning Scheme Policy 4:04:05 – Trunk Infrastructure Contributions.

Future population growth in the Southern Growth Corridor will continue to place increasing pressure on existing facilities in Gordonvale and Edmonton,. The current supply of open space, sport and recreation land and facilities is inadequate for existing needs and has no capacity to accommodate future growth in demand within Mount Peter.

The current requirement under the PPLCP for a minimum of 4.5ha of land per 1000 people is seen as an appropriate mechanism to meet the needs of the future community. Based upon a target population for Mount Peter of 42,500 people and the open space supply requirements, the structure plan makes provision for a minimum of 191.25 hectares of land for open space, sport and recreation. This provides for:

- 106.25 hectares of land for informal recreational open space
- 85 hectares of land for organised sporting open space.

It is noted that the PPLCP also requires a minimum supply of 0.3 ha/1000 persons for local community purposes (ie community facilities). This has been addressed in the Community Facilities, Human Services and Community Development Technical Report.

5.2 DISTRIBUTION OF OPEN SPACE

This quantum of open space will need to be distributed in accordance with the requirements of Council, as outlined in *Section 2* of this report. This includes:

- Provision of local, district and metropolitan areas for informal recreation, to be distributed in order to meet distance requirements to most dwellings of 500 metres for local parks and 2-5 kilometres for district recreation parks.
- Provision for sporting facilities in district and metropolitan sporting parks. These should have a minimum size of 10 hectares (district) and 20 hectares (metropolitan). Given the PPLCP requirement to locate district sporting parks within 5 kilometres of most dwellings, sporting parks will need to be distributed across the Mount Peter MPA, rather than centralised in a single major cluster.



5.3 RECREATION PARKS FOR PASSIVE RECREATION

The supply of 106.25 ha of land for recreation parks will include a mix of local, district and metropolitan parks that meet the specifications set out in the PPLCP. These include specifications for minimum size and shape, distance from residences, park boundaries, accessibility, useable areas, land quality and minimum levels of embellishment.

The Wrights Creek Corridor presents a key opportunity to locate some of the larger areas of recreational open space for Mount Peter. However, determination of precise opportunities (in terms of location and size of parks) is dependent upon a detailed understanding of flood levels and compensatory earthworks, requiring survey and design work beyond the scope of this structure planning process. It is intended that the proposed Wrights / Grays Creek Management Plan will include determination of any additional recreational open space.

The creek corridors and conservation areas within Mount Peter also provide opportunities for open space that may include local or district nodes, picnic areas and bikeways and trails. Embellishment of opportunistic provision of open space will also need to be in accordance with the specifications outlined in the PPLCP.

Recreation parks are designed to complement each other so that the network of parks contains:

- a variety of play spaces for different age groups and abilities and offering a diversity of settings and experiences;
- at least one outdoor adventure playground with facilities suited to older children and young people (e.g. flying fox, ropes and jumps);
- spaces for family activities such as picnics, barbecues;
- bike and skate tracks suitable for beginners as well as older children;
- spaces suitable for large groups, cultural gatherings and community events;
- connections that support walking and bike riding
- a diversity of settings including a range of landforms, links with natural areas such as waterways, and local and district viewscapes and landscape features.

In addition, recreation parks should:

- Link open space to sports parks. This will include providing land around the sports fields that people can walk around while sport is in progress and the provision of play spaces for children
- Create connections between the larger recreation parks and creek line and from higher density areas to the creek line
- Ensure that medium and higher density areas have good provision of usable recreation open space.

Initially local recreation parks will be established in the earlier stages of development. Once these have been established, they will allow for a Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment to be completed which will assist in determining the proposed level of service for the new emerging community. More specific details of the proposed requirements for recreation spaces in the various areas follow.



Recreation Park	Specific Requirements	Allocation /Location
Metropolitan Recreation Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passive Open Space requirements to be determined as an output to the Wrights / Grays Creek Management Plan • Facilities to provide a major recreational destination attracting users from across the Southern Corridor • a diversity of settings including a range of landforms, links with natural areas such as waterways, and local and district views scapes and landscape features. • Facilities for young people which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ outdoor adventure playground with equipment such as flying fox, ropes and jumps ○ Outdoor basketball courts for informal use, including half courts ○ Skate park ○ BMX facility ○ Other informal facilities for young people ○ Safe walking and cycle paths ○ Safe and appealing seating to support meeting places in parks ○ Exercise equipment in parks ○ Easy and affordable access to transport ○ An open and accessible location promoting a safe and appealing presence via open surveillance and suitable amenities ○ Provision of adequate meeting, social or event space next to activity areas 	<p>Indicative draft allocations as follows</p> <p>Metropolitan Parks located in Wrights / Grays Creek</p> <p>MPU 5&6: 4ha MPU 7&8: 8Ha Total: 12 ha</p> <p><u><i>Note: the above includes 1.51ha Lot NR7681 currently in CRC ownership.</i></u></p>



Recreation Park	Specific Requirements	Allocation /Location
District Recreation Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a variety of play spaces for different age groups and abilities and offering a diversity of settings and experiences; • activities such as picnics, barbecues; • spaces suitable for informal games, kick about areas • bike and skate tracks suitable for beginners as well as older children; • spaces suitable for large groups and cultural gatherings; • a diversity of settings including a range of landforms, links with natural areas such as waterways, and local and district viewscaapes and landscape features. • More complex embellishments than a local park in line with PPLCP requirements 	MPU1: 2ha MPU3: 7ha MPU2&4: 15ha MPU5&6 MPU7&8: 20ha Total: 44ha
Local Recreation Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a variety of play spaces for different age groups and abilities and offering a diversity of settings and experiences; • spaces for informal play, games, relaxation • embellishments in line with PPLCP requirements 	Min 1 ha MPU1: 1ha MPU3: 2ha MPU2&4: 9ha MPU5&6: 7ha MPU7&8: 7ha Total: 26 ha
Recreational trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For walking, cycling • minimum 10m width 	Min 10m width MPU1: 5ha MPU3: 5ha MPU2&4: 3ha MPU5&6: 3ha MPU7&8: 4ha Total 20ha
Town Park	Supporting the urban character of the town centres is the development of a town park. The town park is to be located within 400m of the town square and whilst reflecting the tropical design character of the region should accommodate;	Minimum 2ha each Maitland Road (MPU2) Coopers Road (MPU7) 2 town parks proposed,



Recreation Park	Specific Requirements	Allocation /Location
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> green places for recreation use of endemic plants to Mount Peter as one design element (Botanic Gardens) picnic spaces BBQ areas. 	Total: minimum 4 ha

In summary the notional allocation of open space for recreation parks is as follows:

MPU	Town Centre Park Min. 2 ha	Local Recreational Park Min. 1 ha	District Recreational Park Min. 100m width	Metropolitan Recreational Park (Waterway Corridor)	Recreational Trail (Walking / Cycling) Min. 10m width	Total Passive Open Space
1		1	2		5	8
3	0	2	7		5	14
2 & 4	2	9	15		3	29
5 & 6	0	7		4	3	14
7 & 8	2	7	20	8	4	41
TOTAL	4	26	44	12	20	106

5.4 SPORTS PARKS FOR ACTIVE RECREATION

A minimum of 85 hectares of land for sports parks has been allocated as follows:

- 1 x 25 ha metropolitan sporting precinct
- 1 x 20 ha metropolitan sporting precinct
- 4 x 10 ha district sports parks.

This is intended to provide an appropriate mix of district and metropolitan facilities and enable their distribution to meet the locational criteria specified in the PPLCP. The number and location of district sports parks also has regard to the location of existing district sports parks, particularly Down Park within Precinct 1 and Alley Park just outside the MPA boundaries in Gordonvale.

The two metropolitan sporting precincts are described in the table below.

Metropolitan Sporting Precinct	Location	Specific Requirements	Size
M.1	Metropolitan sporting precinct 1 is located south of the Maitland Road District Centre in MPU7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playing fields for a variety of sporting codes suitable for senior and junior competition and training with appropriate field lighting and playing surfaces to maximise year round and evening use. 	Minimum 20ha



Metropolitan Sporting Precinct	Location	Specific Requirements	Size
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>A minimum of two fields per sporting code that are multi-use with other sporting codes</u> • <u>A mix of outdoor courts suitable for a variety of court sports, including competition level facilities with lighting</u> • <u>Amenities, change rooms, club house / meeting rooms, kiosk/canteen, fencing, storage and grandstand</u> • <u>Appropriate levels of car parking</u> • <u>Co-located with adjoining passive recreation area containing playground, picnic and barbecue facilities</u> 	
M <u>24</u>	Metropolitan sporting precinct 1 is located in MPU5 along the creek line at the confluence of the two creeks. This open space is central to the Mount Peter MPA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multi-purpose indoor recreation facility, subject to a feasibility study <u>to be conducted by Cairns Regional Council</u>. This will complement the facilities provided or proposed within Edmonton and Gordonvale. It will have a minimum of two courts but room to expand to four, recognising major competitions and associations usually operate on a four court facility. It should also have potential to incorporate an indoor rock climbing wall and indoor adventure arena, and retractable seating for about 1500 people and amenities suited to large gatherings of young people e.g. music, dance. The indoor facility will also include kiosk and amenities. <u>It should also have potential to incorporate other sport and recreation facilities, to be identified in the feasibility study.</u> • A swimming pool which complements the facilities, programs and experiences offered by the proposed new facility in Edmonton and existing facility in Gordonvale (subject to a further needs 	Minimum 25ha



Metropolitan Sporting Precinct	Location	Specific Requirements	Size
		<p><u>assessment, which may be included within the proposed Mount Peter Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment (to be undertaken by Cairns Regional Council)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing fields for a variety of sporting codes suitable for senior and junior competition and training with appropriate field lighting and playing surfaces to maximise year round and evening use. • A minimum of two fields per sporting code that are multi-use with other sporting codes • A mix of outdoor courts suitable for a variety of court sports, including competition level facilities with lighting • Amenities, change rooms, club house / meeting rooms, kiosk/canteen, fencing, storage and grandstand • Appropriate levels of car parking • Co-located with adjoining passive recreation area containing playground, picnic and barbecue facilities 	
M-2	Metropolitan sporting precinct 2 is located south of the Maitland Road District Centre in MPU8.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing fields for a variety of sporting codes suitable for senior and junior competition and training with appropriate field lighting and playing surfaces to maximise year round and evening use. • A minimum of two fields per sporting code that are multi-use with other sporting codes • A mix of outdoor courts suitable for a variety of court sports, including competition level facilities with lighting • Amenities, change rooms, club house / meeting rooms, kiosk/canteen, fencing, storage and grandstand • Appropriate levels of car parking • Co-located with adjoining 	Minimum 20ha



Metropolitan Sporting Precinct	Location	Specific Requirements	Size
		passive recreation area containing playground, picnic and barbecue facilities	

The metropolitan sporting precincts will complement the sport and recreation facilities provided within proposed ~~district city-wide sporting precincts~~ sports parks for Edmonton and Gordonvale. Detailed planning is yet to be completed to confirm their respective mix of spaces and facilities. The metropolitan sporting precincts will also complement each other, in order to provide a range of sport and recreation opportunities across Mount Peter.

The four (4) district sports parks are described in the table below.

District Sports Park	Location	Specific Requirements	Size
D 1	District Sports Park 1 is located within MPU3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complementary facilities in order to provide a range of sport and recreation opportunities for a variety of sports across Mount Peter • Playing fields for a variety of sporting codes suitable for senior and junior competition and training with appropriate field lighting and playing surfaces to maximise year round and evening use. • A minimum of two fields per sporting code that is multi-use with other sporting codes • A mix of multi-purpose courts suitable for a variety of sports, including informal social games as well as organised sport and competitions • Appropriate levels of car parking • Amenities • Ancillary play space 	Minimum 10ha
D 2	District Sports Park 2 is located within MPU2.		Minimum 10ha
D 3	District Sports Park 3 is located within MPU5.		Minimum 10ha
D 4	District Sports Park 4 is located within MPU7.		Minimum 10ha

Further opportunities for active recreation will also be provided through:

- Kick-about areas in parks suitable for informal social games
- Use of multi-purpose community facilities and school facilities for recreational activities and classes e.g. dance, martial arts, yoga, aerobics.

5.5 CO-LOCATION WITH COMMUNITY FACILITIES



The PPLCP encourages the co-location of local and district recreation parks with district sports parks and metropolitan sporting precincts. It also supports the co-location of sporting facilities with other community facilities.

Proposed locations for metropolitan sporting precincts and district sports parks indicate the following potential opportunities for co-location:

- District Sports Park 1 and the local multi-purpose community facility in local centre 6
- District Sports Park 3 and the primary school in local centre 15
- District Sports Park 4 and the primary school in local centre 14
- The metropolitan sporting precinct 2 and the secondary school in Precinct 5 (local centre 19).

Additionally, town centre parks are proposed in each of the two district centres, and proposed district multi-purpose community centres should be located adjacent to these, to help create a civic focus and support the use of the town centre parks for outdoor civic and cultural activities.

Further investigation of opportunities for co-location of schools and sporting facilities should be undertaken in master planning for each precinct.

5.6 COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING AND COMMUNITY IDENTITY FORMATION

The brief for this study required that it develop a strategy for community capacity building and community identity formation with regard to sport and recreation. This recognises that it is not enough to simply provide open space and sport and recreation facilities, but that efforts and resources are needed to help ensure they will be activated and well utilised, through support for the establishment of sporting clubs and teams, activities and programs and for local involvement in the management of facilities. It also recognises that sport and recreation can play a key role in developing a sense of community identity, establishing social networks and volunteering opportunities and building the social capital of the community.

However, developing a community capacity building strategy requires an understanding of local issues and needs, strengths and opportunities, which is simply not possible at this early and high level structure planning phase. While the need for a strategy to be developed and resourced is recognised, this should occur as the needs and interests of the incoming population can be identified (for instance interest in forming sports clubs and participating in teams, interest in developing particular recreation programs).

In this regard, there is considerable crossover with the Community Facilities, Human Services and Community Development Technical Report for Mount Peter. This proposes that a Community Development Worker be engaged for Mount Peter to work with residents to plan and implement community development initiatives that respond to their needs, some of which would relate to sport and recreation. The Community Development Worker would also identify the resources needed to support sport and recreation activities as part of their overall responsibility for service development and advocacy. ~~At the same time, however, Mount Peter might benefit from a dedicated Sports Development Worker, who can work more intensively on sport and recreation development issues.~~

As outlined previously, it is recommended that about five years into the development of Mount Peter, once the demographic profile and needs of the future population can be more clearly identified, a detailed Sport and Recreation Needs



Assessment be prepared by Cairns Regional Council for Mount Peter. This will identify the particular sporting facilities to be provided within the recommended district sports parks and metropolitan sporting precincts (including the need for a swimming pool), more clearly identify sites for recreational open space and consider in detail how sport and recreation will contribute to community capacity building and the formation of community identity.

In this regards the Needs Assessment will include consideration of:

- How local sporting groups are to be developed and supported
- How participation in sports will be encouraged to help build social capital and community networks
- Opportunities to develop and retain volunteers in sporting groups,
- Strategies to develop working relationships with key stakeholders through partnerships, sponsorships
- Encouragement for development of organised but not competitive recreation activities and programs, e.g. walking program, fitness activities in community centres, an organised community event or social game
- Activities and programs that support health and well-being and participation in physical activity
- Levels of support and resourcing required and available to community groups
- Opportunities for community participation in management of open space and facilities
- Opportunities to empower members of the community to help facilitate the ongoing management of key recreation areas
- Opportunities to provide a diverse range of recreation programs and events that will help build the identity of Mount Peter.

~~The master planning process for the Mount Peter Structure Plan Area proposes that a District Master Plan be prepared for each of the eight master plan units that will comprise Mount Peter. As part of the documentation to support a District Master Plan, a Sport and Recreation Plan will be required. It is proposed that the Sport and Recreation Plan for each master plan unit should detail how sport and recreation will contribute to community capacity building and the formation of community identity. This Needs will Assessment will also include consideration of:~~

- How local sporting groups are to be developed and supported
- How participation in sports will be encouraged to help build social capital and community networks
- Opportunities to develop and retain volunteers in sporting groups,
- Strategies to develop working relationships with key stakeholders through partnerships, sponsorships
- Encouragement for development of organised but not competitive recreation activities and programs, e.g. walking program, fitness activities in community centres, an organised community event or social game
- Activities and programs that support health and well-being and participation in physical activity
- Levels of support and resourcing required and available to community groups



- Opportunities for community participation in management of open space and facilities
- Opportunities to empower members of the community to help facilitate the ongoing management of key recreation areas
- Opportunities to provide a diverse range of recreation programs and events that will help build the identity of —Mount Peter.



6 IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

6.1 FURTHER RESEARCH REQUIRED

The population projections for Mount Peter are preliminary only and at this Structure Plan stage it is not possible, nor appropriate, to accurately predict precise needs and preferences of the future population for facilities and services that may not be required for another 15-20 years. Rather than prepare a detailed blueprint which might quickly become outdated, the Amendments to Cairns Plan and Planning Scheme Policy identifies broad requirements now, appropriate to a Structure Plan level, and recommends a process to carry the planning forward and determine detailed requirements as needs emerge.

It is proposed that a detailed Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment be prepared for Mount Peter by Cairns Regional Council once it becomes clear what the demographic profile of the area will be, and hence what the needs of the population are likely to include. This should occur in about Year Five of the development timeframe, by which time about 4,000 people are expected to have settled in Mount Peter, thereby giving some indication of the type and age of households attracted to the area. Prior to this, sport and recreation needs will be able to be met by fairly generic parks, playing fields and courts, and population thresholds for the larger and more specialist metropolitan facilities will not yet have been reached.

Further research by Cairns Regional Council will also be required to establish the need for, feasibility of and precise features required for a swimming pool and an indoor sports centre within Mount Peter. The population projections suggest that such facilities will be required, but the ways in which these needs may be satisfied and the feasibility of such facilities will require further examination once the characteristics and needs of the future population can be identified.

~~As mentioned in Chapter 1 previously, it is understood that funds are available from the Department of Communities (formerly Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation) for a separate and detailed local needs assessment that could allow for additional consultation with local sport and recreation stakeholders and additional research. Elton Consulting is also aware that funding is available from the Department of Communities (formerly Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation) for a separate and detailed local needs assessment that could allow for additional consultation with local sport and recreation stakeholders and additional research.~~

~~Secondly/Thirdly,-~~ the Wrights Creek Corridor presents a key opportunity to locate some of the larger areas of recreational open space for Mount Peter. However, determination of precise opportunities (in terms of location and size of parks) is dependent upon a detailed understanding of flood levels and proposed compensatory earthworks, requiring survey work beyond the scope of this structure planning process. It is understood a separate study of the corridor is proposed that will result in a Wrights / Grays Creek Management Plan.



6.2 REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER PLANNING

The master planning process for the Mount Peter MPA has been outlined in the Amendments to CairnsPlan and Planning Scheme Policy and other associated documentation. The MPA has been divided into eight master plan units, each of which will require preparation of a Master Plan, setting out the detailed planning for the master plan unit. Each master plan will require supporting information, which, in the case of sport and recreation, will take the form of a Sport and Recreation Plan.

The Sport and Recreation Plan for each master plan unit will identify in detail how the principles and intents of the Structure Plan will be planned and delivered with regard to sport and recreation within that master plan unit. Requirements to be addressed in a Sport and Recreation Plan include:

- A demographic profile of the anticipated population of the master planning unit and an assessment of its particular needs for sport and recreation facilities
- An assessment of the capacity of facilities in adjacent areas to meet demand likely to be generated by the future population
- Details of the sport and recreation facilities to be provided, as identified in the structure plan for the master planning unit, in terms of precise location, size, functionality and how they meet the specifications contained in the Cairns PIP and PPLCP
- How proposed sport and recreation facilities will complement those in the wider area
- How co-location objectives have been addressed
- Timing and delivery strategy
- Costings of land and embellishments

~~• How sport and recreation will contribute to community capacity building and the formation of community identity. This will include consideration of:~~

~~• How local sporting groups are to be developed and supported~~

~~• How participation in sports will be encouraged to help build social capital and community networks~~

~~• Opportunities to develop and retain volunteers in sporting groups,~~

~~• Strategies to develop working relationships with key stakeholders through partnerships, sponsorships~~

~~• Encouragement for development of organised but not competitive recreation activities and programs, e.g. walking program, fitness activities in community centres, an organised community event or social game~~

~~• Activities and programs that support health and well-being and participation in physical activity~~

~~• Levels of support and resourcing required and available to community groups~~



~~opportunities for community participation in management of open space and facilities~~

~~opportunities to empower members of the community to help facilitate the ongoing management of key recreation areas~~

~~opportunities to provide a diverse range of recreation programs and events that will help build the identity of Mount Peter.~~



6.3 STAGING OF PROVISION

Development within Mount Peter is expected to commence in 2012 and continue for about the next 25 years. Based on PIFU projections and modified by the MPMPG, population growth is forecast as follows:

Year	Number of dwellings	Number of people	Cumulative number of people
5	1,745	4,013	4,013
10	5,393	8390	12,403
15	9,358	9120	21,523
20	13,720	10032	31,555
25	18,484	10,959	42,514

Development is expected to occur on two fronts, commencing on both the northern and southern fringes adjoining existing residential areas of Edmonton and Gordonvale and moving towards the centre of Mount Peter in the later stages.

For open space and sport and recreation facilities, the implication of this staging is as follows:

- Development commencing from the fringes of Edmonton and Gordonvale will enable initial residents to use the existing -facilities and open space already established or proposed in Edmonton and Gordonvale, prior to the establishment of new facilities. Initially local recreation parks will be established and the in the earlier stages of development. Once these have been established, they will allow for completion of a the Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment to be completed, which will assist in determining the proposed level of service for proposed sports parks the new emerging community.
- Given the forecast population of approximately 4000 residents at year 5 and 12,500 residents at year 10, and the likely development fronts in the north and south parts of Mount Peter at that time (refer Trunk Infrastructure Report), the following is proposed:
 - Years 0-5
 - 2ha Local Parks
 - 4ha District Recreational Parks
 - Years 6-10
 - 5ha Local Parks
 - 4 ha District Recreational Parks
 - 2ha linear trails
 - 10ha District Sports Park (D2)
 - 15ha Metropolitan Sports Park (M1)



- Metropolitan sporting precinct 2, located in MPU8 near the Maitland Road District Centre will be developed fairly early in the development and will provide a major sporting facility resource for the early stages of development. The extent of facilities, services and embellishments for the above provision will be dependent on the outcomes of the Needs Assessment.
- Metropolitan sporting precinct 1, located in MPU 5 in the central part of Mount Peter, will not be delivered until the second half of the development. It may contain, potentially, an indoor sports facility and a swimming pool. Development of these high level facilities is unlikely to be warranted until the population has reached a threshold of 20-30,000 people, anticipated to occur about 15-20 years into the development.

Initially local recreation parks will be established in the earlier stages of development. Once these have been established, they will allow for the Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment to be completed, which will assist in determining the proposed level of service for the new emerging community.

6.4 FUNDING OF PROVISION

Land for open space and sporting and recreation facilities will be provided in accordance with the provisions of the PPLCP.

Costs for embellishments to District town centre parks at \$1.5M/ha.

is proposed (refer Trunk Infrastructure Report) Land acquisition at \$225k/ha (rate based on average rates across Cairns Region).

Sports ground embellishments at \$500k/ha.

All other park embellishments at \$300k/ha.

The Statutory Guidelines 01/09 s- for PIP and ICS s- allows for a chargeable rate of provision of ~~for the inclusion of~~ land acquisition (details should be in this report also as well as costs. Note the Implementation plan does not include costs) Due to IPA's restriction that only the land component of ~~for active and passive sport and recreation open space facilities~~ and also general embellishments such as lighting, and posts, fencing, irrigation and car parking and public amenities. However, buildings such as clubhouses and kiosks may not be included. can be funded, a range of funding and delivery mechanisms for open space embellishments and built form sport and recreation facilities will need to be considered and negotiated including:

- Funding by Cairns Regional Council utilising additional rates revenue to support community facilities provision
- State Government funding programs (through programs related to Communities, Health, Education, Sport and Recreation etc.)
- Commonwealth funding programs
- Negotiated agreements between Council and developers to contribute towards the establishment of facilities, or to provide them as works in kind.



7—

— ~~Funding by Cairns Regional Council utilising additional rates revenue to support community facilities provision~~

— ~~State Government funding programs (through programs related to Communities, Health, Education, Sport and Recreation etc.)~~

—

— ~~Commonwealth funding programs~~

— ~~Negotiated agreements between Council and developers to contribute towards the establishment of facilities, or to provide them as works in kind~~

— ~~The resources of non-government organisations and p~~

— ~~Private sector partnerships:~~

—

— ~~The draft capital works proGram for the first tEn years of Mount Peter includes two items for sport and recreation:~~

—

— ~~Wrights Creek / Grays Creek Plan of Management: \$587,000~~

~~7 District Sports Park 2 in MPU2: \$3,612,500.~~



~~7~~ RECOMMENDATIONS

8

8.1 ~~7.1~~ SUMMARY

This Technical Report has outlined the policy context that provides principles and standards to guide the preparation of the Sport and Recreation planning requirements for Mount Peter. It has examined the context of Mount Peter, with a particular focus on identifying existing and proposed open space, sport and recreation facilities in the local region and needs which are currently not being met. This report has also identified a range of issues that have implications for the planning and provision of sport and recreation infrastructure in the Mount Peter MPA. It has also provided a description of the sport and recreation facilities proposed in the Mount Peter MPA.

8.2 ~~7.2~~ RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE STRUCTURE PLAN

1. Preparation of a Sport and Recreation Plan detailing the open space, sport and recreation facilities to be provided in each Master Plan unit will be a requirement as supporting information for each ~~District~~ Master Plan.
2. Further detailed assessment of recreation open space opportunities within the Wrights / Grays Creek corridor should be carried out once the proposed Wrights / Grays Creek Management Plan has been prepared.
3. About five years into the development of Mount Peter, once the demographic profile and needs of the future Mount Peter population can be more clearly identified, a detailed Sport & Recreation Needs Assessment (check terminology used is other section — needs to be consistent needs assessment and sport and recreation strategy should be prepared by Cairns Regional Council for Mount Peter. This will identify the particular sporting facilities to be provided within the recommended district sports parks and metropolitan sporting precincts (including the need for a swimming pool), more clearly identify sites for recreational open space and consider in detail how sport and recreation will contribute to community capacity building and the formation of community identity.
4. Depending on the outcome of the recommended Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment, a feasibility assessment will be undertaken for an indoor sports centre to establish the specific facilities it will include, costs and delivery arrangements.
5. Other recommendations buried in the report that should be in here>>>>As Statutory Guidelines 01/09 for PIP and ICS allows for a chargeable rate of provision of land for active and passive open space and also general embellishments such as lighting, car parking and public amenities. However, buildings such as clubhouses and kiosks may not be included. Alternative funding arrangements will need to be considered and negotiated!PA does not provide a mechanism for the funding of buildings for public parks and sportsgroundsocial infrastructure, alternative funding arrangements will need to be considered and negotiated that include funds from Council, State agencies, Commonwealth Government, and the private and non-government sectors.





APPENDIX A

Definitions

Definitions adapted from Cairns Regional Council's *Public Parks and Land for Community Purposes - Trunk Infrastructure Planning Study*, March 2009 and local area open space management plans.

Indoor (District) Sports Facility: A facility which, for viability reasons, normally services a larger community usually that within a single LAOSMP catchment and which, ideally should be located centrally as part of a commercial centre with good public transport links.

Node: A local park facility provided as part of a larger open space area such as district sporting parks or open space corridor.

Open Space: In a general sense, means land that is predominantly undeveloped. It is land which has landscape, environmental, recreational or cultural values and for which the intention is that development is consistent with these value.

Open Space Linkages: Corridors required to provide access to parks or link park areas together. In general they also have ecological values as habitat corridors. They are considered part of the open space network but are not always considered as useable park (or public recreation land). In general they do not form part of the recreational park and sporting land supply.

Park: An area of public open space usually either owned by Council or the Crown. There are several types as parks:

Local Recreation Park or Node: A local park offering informal recreation and play opportunities. Active informal youth facilities (eg: ½ court or kickabout area) may be provided as well.

Minimum size of 0.5 hectare; preferred 1 hectare. Node minimum of 0.2 hectare separated from other uses.

Developed with local recreation facilities.

District Recreation Park or Node: A district level park offering informal recreation and physical activity opportunities. Usually includes picnic and play facilities. Amenities and active elements such as kickabout space or youth activity areas such as a ½ court.

Minimum 2 hectares of useable area.

Provided within 2-5 kilometre radius of 95% of residences.

Provides a range of informal passive and active opportunities (eg. picnic facilities, ½ court, kickabout areas, teenage activities, bike paths, exercise stations.

District Sports Park: Formal sporting provision in a single area or 'precinct' which provides for organised and programmed sport and recreation activity. May include fields, courts and built facilities supporting community and club use.

Minimum size of 10 hectares.

Formal layout for fields and specific use areas. Includes club facilities and amenities.

Conservation Park: Areas that should be protected in public ownership for their ecological values. They can include creeks and riparian corridors, patches of natural vegetation and buffer areas. Apart from highly sensitive areas, conservation parks are usually able to provide nature based recreation.



It may be desirable to provide local parks adjacent to conservation parks as a means of providing access and informal space for recreation.

Primarily for environmental protection and are therefore not considered part of the recreational park and sporting land supply.

Metropolitan (city wide) Recreation Park: Metropolitan Recreational Parks should be provided to service the whole city and are based on specific or unique features. They are provided on an individually planned basis and should provide a range of use areas for a range of uses and users and include high landscape quality recreation nodes as well as other areas in less developed states. They provide for access by car, foot, bike, public transport. Preferred access for Metropolitan Recreational Parks is within 10-20 km of 95% of all residences.

Usually a minimum of 5-10 hectares.

Planned provision based on identified opportunity.

Metropolitan (city wide) Sporting Precinct: Metropolitan Sporting Precincts are required to service the whole city. Provision should consider city wide and regional level sporting facility development and a minimum of 20 ha is preferred. Access should generally be within 15 km.

Multiple sports and multiple facilities

