



Chinchilla Shire Council



Sport and Recreation Plan



Final Report - Executive Summary & Recommendations



May 2007

Chinchilla Shire Council

Sport & Recreation Plan

Final Report – Executive Summary & Recommendations

Prepared by:

Strategic Leisure Group
Leisure Planning and Management Consultants
(PO Box 1358)
Suite 4, 27 Mt Cotton Road
CAPALABA QLD 4157
Ph: (07) 3823 5688
Fax: (07) 3823 5689
E-mail: info@strategicleisure.com.au

May 2007

© 2007 Strategic Leisure Pty Ltd t/a Strategic Leisure Group.
This document may only be used for the purposes for which it was commissioned and in accordance with the terms of engagement for the commission. Unauthorised use of this document in any form whatsoever is prohibited.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	1
1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	2
1.1. PURPOSE.....	2
1.2. STUDY APPROACH	2
1.3. KEY FINDINGS.....	2
1.3.1. <i>Key Priorities From Community Meetings</i>	2
1.3.2. <i>Issues Impacting on Sport & Recreation Organisations</i>	3
1.3.3. <i>Other Key Findings</i>	3
1.4. KEY STUDY OUTCOMES.....	3
2. RECOMMENDATIONS	5
2.1. ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT	6
2.2. FACILITY DEVELOPMENT OR UPGRADING	12
2.3. FACILITY MAINTENANCE.....	16
2.4. OPEN SPACE PROVISION	17
2.5. PARTICIPATION IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY	19

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Chinchilla Sport and Recreation Plan was funded by the Chinchilla Shire Council and Sport, Recreation and Racing (formerly Sport and Recreation Queensland).

The Strategic Leisure Group would like to thank Council's Project Manager, Ms Sarah Anderson and Council's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Ed Hoffman for their assistance throughout the project.

We also acknowledge the input provided by Council's Project Steering Committee:

- Ed Hoffmann - Chief Executive Officer
- Tania Thornton - Manager of Administration, Arts, Culture and Recreation
- Sarah Anderson - Sport and Recreation Officer
- Cr Helen Townsend – Chinchilla Shire Council
- Cr Greg Olm – Chinchilla Shire Council
- Brett Irvine – Sport, Recreation and Racing
- Don Allan - Chinchilla Potters and Painters
- Renee O'Leary – Community Representative
- Brenda Rackemann - Chinchilla Junior Rugby League Club
- Ray Hicks - Chinchilla Rugby League Club
- Iris Thompson - Chinchilla Golf Club
- Glenys Gaske - Chinchilla Patches and Piecemakers
- Leisa Brown – Community Representative

We gratefully thank the numerous individuals and organisations who provided input to the study by participating in various consultation exercises.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the study as outlined in the project brief was to examine all aspects of recreation and sport in Chinchilla Shire, including facilities, programs and services, with a view to providing the Council with a clear strategic goal for incorporation into its Corporate Plan.

1.2. STUDY APPROACH

The research process included a comprehensive review of existing sport and recreation facilities as advised by Council's Project Manager including built facilities, sports fields, recreation parks, informal and formal aquatic facilities, some school facilities and outdoor recreation facilities.

A comprehensive consultation stage included:

- A survey of all known sport and recreation organisations to determine membership trends and organisational needs;
- Three community meetings, which were attended by over 55 people;
- Four focus group meetings with key interest groups;
- A survey of local schools primarily aimed at identifying school facilities available for community use; and
- Discussions with government agencies and key stakeholders.

1.3. KEY FINDINGS

A range of key findings were obtained through the consultation and research process. These are summarised below:

1.3.1. KEY PRIORITIES FROM COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- Consolidate the provision of sports facilities to enable a co-ordinated/ joint approach to management and maintenance.
- Upgrade sporting facilities (in particular, Bulldog Park) to provide for additional fields, netball courts, a track for little athletics and soccer ovals.
- Provision of an ambulance service for competitions.
- Develop a multi-purpose indoor sport and recreation facility, possibly at the Showgrounds with the new centre to replace the showgrounds pavilion during shows.
- Developing a well-connected, accessible network of pathways linking the town centre, sport and recreation facilities and residential areas.
- Provide catering facilities at the Brigalow Recreation Ground.
- Upgrade the public toilet at the Brigalow Hall.

- Investigate options for increasing water supply (predominantly for motocross) at the Brigalow Recreation Reserve.

1.3.2. ISSUES IMPACTING ON SPORT & RECREATION ORGANISATIONS

From the survey of sport and recreation organisations in the Chinchilla Shire the main issue identified as impacting on organisations is *Difficulty getting volunteers*. Other issues also impacting are:

- Poor standard or condition of facility; and
- Cost of maintaining facilities.

1.3.3. OTHER KEY FINDINGS

- Lack of opportunities for young people.
- Better information about sport and recreation opportunities is needed.
- Signage to existing sport, recreation and cultural facilities needs to be improved.
- Opportunities for outdoor recreation activities should be assessed, particularly using the creeks and rivers.
- Given the expected growth of the Chinchilla population, it will be essential to ensure an adequate supply of sport and recreation land to service future populations.
- Ongoing maintenance of facilities is an issue that needs to be addressed.

1.4. KEY STUDY OUTCOMES

A number of recommended actions are provided in Section 2. These are categorised under the following headings:

- Administration and Management
- Facility Development/ Upgrade
- Facility Maintenance
- Open Space Provision
- Participation in Physical Activity

Major recommendations are summarised below:

- Develop a policy for land use management that provides formal tenure options for sport and recreation clubs for the use of Council owned or controlled land.
- Develop a Position Description for Council's part-time Sport and Recreation Officer that incorporates the roles and responsibilities outlined in Section **Error! Reference source not found.** of this report.
- Adopt the Guiding Principles for sport and recreation provision (refer Section **Error! Reference source not found.**) and use these as the benchmark for all future decisions made regarding the provision of sport and recreation facilities and services.

- Seek funding through the Club Development Program to develop a resource package for clubs that provides user-friendly, interactive club administration and management resources, templates, and good practice examples.
- Consider establishing a “Chinchilla Multi-sports Committee” using the Longreach “Multi-sports Committee” as a model. This Committee would initially be established to seek funding for education and training opportunities, provide a link between sport and recreation clubs and Council and assist Council in considering requests for funding/ assistance from sport and recreation clubs.
- Establish mechanisms to keep residents informed of sport and recreation opportunities.
- Establish mechanisms to communicate better with clubs.
- Commence planning to develop an indoor multi-purpose sport and recreation facility.
- Develop a master plan for the Chinchilla Recreation Reserve.
- Support the implementation of the Bulldog Park Master Plan to enable greater use by other sports.
- Develop a kiosk/canteen at the Brigalow Recreation Grounds.
- Plan for condition audits (including safety) of all Council owned or Council controlled sport and recreation facilities and undertake identified maintenance improvements. As part of the condition audit, develop day to day maintenance programs for all Council owned or controlled sport and recreation facilities.
- Plan for the provision of adequate land for sport and recreation in response to population growth.
- Plan for the development of a district park in close proximity of the town centre and accessible from the Warrego Highway/ Chinchilla St. and ensure the selected site is included in the Open Space and Recreation Zone in the Planning Scheme.
- Prepare a master plan for the Weir recreation area.
- Establish a safe, connected pedestrian and cycle network through the Chinchilla town that encourages walking and cycling for commuter, recreational, tourism and fitness purposes.
- Plan for the extension of Charley’s Creek ‘Riverside Walk’ and investigate options for lighting to increase useability and safety.
- Contribute to improved health of residents by encouraging opportunities of all age groups to participate in physical activity.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations have been assigned the following priorities.

- Immediate (within 12 months)
- Short term (1 – 3 years)
- Medium term (4 – 6 years)
- Long term (7 – 10 years)
- Ongoing

Recommendations are grouped into the following headings:

1. Administration and Management
2. Facility Development/ Upgrade
3. Facility Maintenance
4. Open Space Provision
5. Participation in Physical Activity

The cost of implementing recommendations would be beyond the responsibility and/ or capacity of Council to fund in its own right. To this end, external funding contributions should be sought wherever possible, via various funding schemes (refer Section 0Error! Reference source not found.), and partnerships with other agencies or individual sport and recreation clubs. Recommended actions should be reviewed annually with a major review in year five.

2.1. ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

STRATEGY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	PRIORITY
2.1.1 Adopt and review the recommendations of the Sport and Recreation Plan.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt the Chinchilla Sport and Recreation Plan. 2. Review the recommendations of the Chinchilla Sport and Recreation Plan annually with a major review of the strategy, including public consultation, in year five. 	To maximise the effectiveness of the Sport and Recreation Plan and to ensure that it continues to adequately address community need and adapts to changing circumstances, it should be reviewed regularly.	Ongoing
2.1.2 Adopt sport and recreation management policies and practices that improve the accessibility, usage, management and viability of sport and recreation facilities and services.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a policy for land use management that provides formal tenure options for sport and recreation clubs for the use of Council owned or controlled land. As part of the process of formalising tenure, facilitate consideration of alternative management models among sporting organisations that reduce the administrative burden on volunteers and assist the long term sustainability of clubs (refer Section Error! Reference source not found.). Possible options include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Encouraging occupants of multi-use areas to incorporate under a single entity; b) Encouraging smaller clubs to incorporate under the banner of larger entities (eg licensed clubs); or Granting individual leases to sporting clubs only in circumstances where single purpose use facilities with no sharing potential are required (eg shooting) or where commercial arrangements are deemed necessary (eg swimming pools). 2. Ensure that future land use management arrangements incorporate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinated planning of capital improvements and maintenance ▪ Whole of life asset management (refer recommendation 2.3.1) ▪ Maximisation of usage 	<p>The rationale behind this recommendation is based around two key findings that emerged throughout this study:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The fact that there is currently no formal system for allocating and managing the use of public land by clubs; and 2. Difficulty getting volunteers is the issue having greatest impact on sport and recreation clubs in Chinchilla. <p>The type of land management arrangements in place between Council and Sport and Recreation Clubs can impact directly on their ability to attract and retain volunteers.</p> <p>Council is in an advantageous position in that it needs to establish a process to manage use of Council land by sport and recreation clubs and by developing a land-use model that is 'volunteer friendly', Council has an opportunity to address some of the volunteerism issues that clubs currently face and hence contribute to the sustainability of its sport and recreation community.</p> <p>In order to formalise land use management arrangements for use of Council owned or controlled land, to enable flexibility of use of Council land, and to respond to the difficulty of attracting and/ or retaining volunteers, Council should facilitate the development of Association or umbrella body tenure arrangements for multi-use areas, which require user groups to work together.</p> <p>Future tenure arrangements should ensure that community access is not impeded.</p>	Immediate

STRATEGY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	PRIORITY
2.1.2 (cont'd)	3. Develop a Position Description for Council's part-time Sport and Recreation Officer that incorporates the roles and responsibilities outlined in Section Error! Reference source not found. of this report.	<p>In order for Council to be able to implement the Sport and Recreation Plan and to effectively provide sport and recreation facilities and services to the community over the life of the Plan, a commitment to sport and recreation resources will be essential.</p> <p>Council's appointment of a part-time Sport and Recreation Officer indicates that Council is committed to this outcome. Continued support of this position and clear guidelines specifying the roles and responsibilities will be critical to the future success of sport and recreation provision in the Shire and underpins many of the recommendations of the Sport and Recreation Plan.</p> <p>The primary focus of this position should be on providing support to sport and recreation organisations within the Shire and will therefore assist Council in fulfilling the Sport and Recreation objectives of Council's Corporate Plan. As the Sport and Recreation Officer position is a 'junior' role within Council's structure, it is essential that this position be supported by senior management to ensure implementation of the Sport and Recreation Plan.</p>	Immediate
	4. Adopt the Guiding Principles for sport and recreation provision (refer Section Error! Reference source not found.) and use these as the benchmark for all future decisions made regarding the provision of sport and recreation facilities and services.	The proposed Guiding Principles will facilitate a coordinated and strategic approach to sport and recreation provision within the Shire. They will provide guidance in managing requests for assistance received from sport and recreation groups. Council should encourage sport and recreation groups with which it has dealings to develop similar Guiding Principles.	Immediate
	5. Approach mining and energy companies establishing in the Chinchilla Shire and encourage them to consider developing an incentive program for employees who contribute volunteer hours to community sport and recreation organisations.	Successful examples of such programs exist throughout Australia. For example, Western Australian Alumina company Alcoa's 'Bravo!' program supports employees who contribute 50 volunteer hours per year by providing a grant of \$330 to their club. In Queensland, BMA's Matched Giving Program, matches funds of up to \$1,000 per annum to eligible organisations for every employee who volunteers their time, takes part in fundraising or makes a donation to the organisation.	Short

STRATEGY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	PRIORITY
<p>2.1.3</p> <p>Facilitate the education and training of sport and recreation clubs and ensure clubs have access to club management resources.</p>	<p>1. Seek funding through the Club Development Program to develop a resource package for clubs that provides user-friendly, interactive club administration and management resources, templates, and good practice examples.</p>	<p>Lack of club administration skills was identified as an issue that has some impact on a large number of sport and recreation organisations.</p>	<p>Short and Ongoing</p>
	<p>2. Where demonstrated need for specific club administration and management training occurs, facilitate and support education and training of clubs by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supporting Club Development funding applications; and ▪ Seeking funding through the Local Sport & Recreation Program towards education and training initiatives; and ▪ Development of club management training programs in partnership with the Chinchilla TAFE. 	<p>Clubs already have access to training courses conducted by Sport, Recreation and Racing. A clear need did not emerge for more sport and recreation administration and management courses, however in discussions clubs stressed the administrative burdens on their executive positions and the link between these requirements and difficulty attracting volunteers.</p> <p>A resource package providing templates for everyday club administration tasks will streamline the administrative tasks and hence assist volunteers to manage the everyday club administration and management processes.</p> <p>It is possible that a need will arise in the future for specific club administration training, particularly considering the life of this plan is 10 years.</p>	
	<p>3. Encourage sport and recreation clubs within the Shire to become members of the Australian Sports Commission's <i>Club Development Network</i>, which is a free web-based program that supports the development and management capacity of sporting clubs.</p>	<p>The Club development network provides products and services that can help clubs to improve their management, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A simple internal review checklist to help the club identify areas for improvement and develop an action plan; ▪ Resources such as templates and fact sheets for many aspects of club management; ▪ Email updates related to all aspects of running a club; and ▪ Membership search enabling interested residents to make direct contact with the club. <p>http://www.ausport.com.au/clubs/index.asp</p>	

STRATEGY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	PRIORITY
<p>2.1.4</p> <p>Enhance the structure of sport and recreation and relationship between clubs and Council.</p>	<p>1. Discontinue the existing Sport and Recreation Reference Group and consider establishing a "Chinchilla Multi-sports Committee" using the Longreach "Multi-sports Committee" as a model. This Committee would initially be established to seek funding for education and training opportunities, provide a link between sport and recreation clubs and Council and assist Council in considering requests for funding/ assistance from sport and recreation clubs.</p> <p>Over time it would be encouraged that the Committee conduct fundraising activities and establish a funding program for sport and recreation clubs for minor initiatives such as maintenance equipment, seeding grants and representative travel.</p> <p>Consideration should also be given to the Committee establishing an equipment hire service for members, whereby the Committee purchases (through grant funds) items such as PA systems, marquees and a 'sport and recreation' bus for hire by members.</p> <p>In the medium to longer term, the Committee may become an overarching body for sports utilising Council controlled land, taking on club management responsibilities and thereby reducing the administrative burden on volunteers and enhancing the longer term viability and sustainability of sport and recreation clubs.</p>	<p>The current Sport and Recreation Reference Group (SRRG) contains representatives from each sport and recreation organisation within the Shire and generally convenes in conjunction with specific projects such as the development of this Sport and Recreation Plan. The SRRG does not appear to have formal terms of reference or coordinated management arrangement and may lack direction as to its role and purpose. As a result, over time the commitment of representatives has waned.</p> <p>Establishment of a multi-sports committee with incorporation and a clear purpose whereby individual clubs are able to become members is expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide a coordinated communication channel between Council and the sport and recreation community; ▪ Assist Council in fairly and consistently dealing with requests from sport and recreation clubs; ▪ Assisting clubs to obtain funding for club development initiatives; ▪ Over time, reduce the burden of administrative tasks as the Committee takes on the executive responsibilities; ▪ Alleviate issues such as declining volunteerism, clashing of sport and recreation events, maintenance burdens etc. <p>The Committee should be incorporated Council may be required to act as an administrator for the first 12 – 24 months until such time as appropriate systems and processes are in place to enable the executive to take over the day-to-day management.</p> <p>As the Committee develops it is recommended that it become the overarching body for sports utilising Council controlled land. This should not preclude clubs operating on non-Council controlled land from accessing grant funds and education and training opportunities coordinated by the Committee.</p> <p>In the long term it may be advantageous to consider creating a paid Administrator position.</p>	<p>Short</p>

STRATEGY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	PRIORITY
<p>2.1.5</p> <p>Facilitate appropriate communication, information and promotion processes to maintain effective lines of communication between Council, clubs and the community.</p>	<p>1. Maintain an up-to-date register of all sport and recreation clubs and organisations within the Chinchilla Shire. Make the register available in hard copy format and online.</p>	<p>The keeping of an up-to-date contacts register for sport and recreation clubs is necessary for two key reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To effectively communicate with clubs so that they are aware of Council initiatives, funding opportunities, etc.; and ▪ To provide correct details to community members seeking information about sport and recreation opportunities. <p>The register should include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Club name. ▪ Names of executive personnel. ▪ Postal address & club location (clubs should be encouraged to maintain a PO box to eliminate problems that occur with using street addresses of committee members once committee members are no longer involved in the club). ▪ Telephone contact numbers. ▪ Email address (preferably a generic club email address rather than a personal email address). ▪ Website address (if relevant). ▪ Form for updating of club details. <p>The register should be maintained by Council's Sport and Recreation Officer, with the possibility of future maintenance by the proposed Chinchilla Multi-Sports Committee.</p>	<p>Short and Ongoing</p>
	<p>2. Establish mechanisms to keep residents informed of sport and recreation opportunities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brochure of opportunities. ▪ Walking and cycling brochure comprising easy to read maps. ▪ Use of community noticeboards. ▪ Website. ▪ Chinchilla News. 	<p>A consistent finding throughout the research process was the view that there is a lack of information available to the local community about what sport and recreation opportunities exist within the Chinchilla Shire.</p>	<p>Short</p>

STRATEGY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	PRIORITY
2.1.5 (cont'd)	<p>3. Develop an information resource for sport and recreation clubs (hard copy and online) that provides information such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council contact details; ▪ Contact details for SRR Advisors; ▪ Available grant schemes; ▪ Calendar of closing dates for funding schemes; ▪ Links to funding guidelines; ▪ Sample funding applications; ▪ Up-to-date club contact details; ▪ Links to basic insurance and risk management advice; and ▪ Links to club management information. 	<p>A number of sport and recreation organisations indicated that they would like to be kept informed of funding opportunities. This was reinforced through community meetings, where participants called for better provision of sport and recreation information.</p> <p>For ease of updating, such a resource would be most beneficial as an online publication that clubs access through Council's web page. Some clubs within the Chinchilla Shire are yet to gain internet access and therefore will require a hard copy while clubs with online access should be encouraged to use the online copy.</p> <p>Refer to Recommendation 2.1.5.5 regarding encouraging all sport and recreation clubs to establish internet and email access.</p>	Short
	<p>4. Develop a quarterly newsletter for sport and recreation clubs providing information about funding opportunities, positive club stories, club profiles, hints and tips about club administration, information about workshops on offer etc. Distribute through direct mailout to clubs and include copies at key locations throughout the shire such as Council offices, library, accommodation centres, Visitor Information centre, IGA etc.</p>	<p>Communication between clubs and Council needs to improve. A newsletter for distribution to sport and recreation clubs within the Shire will enable information dissemination while also providing an opportunity to showcase positive club stories and achievements. Provision of copies at key locations within the Shire will also assist to broaden the community's awareness of sport and recreation in the Shire.</p>	Immediate
	<p>5. Establish a 'Chinchilla Clubs Online' project aimed at encouraging all sport and recreation clubs within the Chinchilla Shire to establish a club email address, obtain an internet service provider and work towards developing club web pages.</p> <p>This would initially involve an education workshop for clubs to demonstrate the benefits and possibilities of online access and to provide assistance to establish a club email address.</p> <p>Considering the remote location of some club administrators, a partnership with the Library for subsidised club internet access should be explored.</p>	<p>Communication between clubs and Council needs to improve. An online sport and recreation 'network' will enable improved communication between Council and sport and recreation clubs and more efficient dissemination of information and resources. Some clubs are already established online, however others will need encouragement and assistance.</p>	Medium

2.2. FACILITY DEVELOPMENT OR UPGRADING

STRATEGY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	PRIORITY
<p>2.2.1</p> <p>Encourage or facilitate the development of upgrading of facilities where necessary and affordable to meet community sport and recreation needs and enhance participation in sport and recreation.</p>	<p>1. Commence planning to develop an indoor multi-purpose sport and recreation facility that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 multi-use court with footprint for an additional court in the future; ▪ Meeting rooms suitable for aerobics, yoga, pilates, meetings, conferences etc.; ▪ Gymnastics facility; and ▪ Kitchen/ kiosk/ café facilities. <p>Potential sites include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adjacent to the Chinchilla Aquatic & Fitness Centre; ▪ Chinchilla Recreation Reserve; ▪ Chinchilla Showgrounds; and ▪ Adjacent to Chinchilla Folk Museum. <p>Planning should include site analysis, feasibility study, design planning and development of business planning and management options.</p>	<p>Refer to Section Error! Reference source not found.</p> <p>A common theme emerging consistently throughout the consultation for this study was the need for an indoor multi-purpose sport and recreation facility for Chinchilla. This need was expressed by members of the general community, young people, key agency representatives and sport and recreation organisations.</p> <p>While dependent upon indoor user requirements and concept design, an estimated footprint of 2,700m² to 3,300m² would be required for a two-court centre with gymnastics facility, not including car parking.</p> <p>Design should enable shared use by users, including gymnastics, of amenities, meetings rooms and kitchen/ canteen facilities to ensure economies of scale and optimum facility use opportunities are realised.</p>	<p>Commence planning immediately for development in the short term</p>
<p>2.2.1 (cont'd)</p>	<p>2. Develop a master plan for the Chinchilla Recreation Reserve (including the triangular parcel across the road) that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consolidated clubhouse facilities (including adequate changerooms); this should consider redevelopment of existing facilities or development of new facilities; ▪ Spectator seating and shade; ▪ Playground equipment; and ▪ Possible netball facilities. <p>Consider the redirection of Park Rd (access to Chinchilla-Wondai Rd) as part of the master planning process as a means of enhancing the overall useability and safety of the site.</p> <p>2.2.1.2 (cont'd)</p>	<p>User groups of the Chinchilla Recreation Reserve and the general community have indicated that the clubhouse facilities are in need of renovation. While the existing cricket oval is considered satisfactory, there is additional land at the reserve, including the triangular parcel across the road, which could be better used.</p> <p>Should the site analysis and feasibility for the proposed indoor sport and recreation centre (refer recommendation 2.2.1.1) conclude that the Chinchilla Recreation Reserve is the most suitable location for this facility, this master planning exercise should occur as part of the indoor centre design process.</p> <p>Redeveloped or new clubhouse facilities should include kitchen and kiosk amenities, changerooms and showers, disabled access and security.</p> <p>The Chinchilla Junior Netball Club currently uses the facilities at the Chinchilla State High School for training and travels to Dalby</p>	<p>Medium term or earlier should this be the preferred site for the indoor centre.</p>

STRATEGY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	PRIORITY
		<p>for weekly competitions. The Netball Club has a desire to participate in a home and away competition to reduce travel to Dalby and provide opportunities for competitions with other towns to the west of Chinchilla. The facilities at the High School are currently not adequate for netball fixtures and do not provide a sustainable long term option. Netball has indicated a willingness to develop courts at either the Recreation Reserve or Bulldog Park. Development at the Recreation Reserve would enhance the partnership and multi-use opportunities amongst existing users of the recreation reserve.</p> <p>The master planning exercise should consider closing Chinchilla-Wondai Rd (Park Rd).</p>	
	<p>3. Support the implementation of the Bulldog Park Master Plan to enable greater use by other sports. This should include the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Purchase of adjoining 1.9 acres; and ▪ Development of additional rugby league field. 	<p>Junior rugby league is strong and continues to grow. Touch is currently the highest participation sport in Chinchilla and has indicated the development of more fields under lights as an essential facility requirement.</p>	Short
	<p>4. Revisit the need for an athletics track at Bulldog Park and develop only if there is a demonstrable need.</p>	<p>The previous Chinchilla Sport and Recreation Needs Study, 2002 recommended that "the establishment of an athletics track should be investigated". The Chinchilla Rugby League Club subsequently included an athletics track in their draft master plan. A need for an athletics facility did not emerge during the course of this study, but should be revisited in the long term.</p>	Long

STRATEGY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	PRIORITY
2.2.1 (cont'd)	<p>5. Progressively plan to develop the following at the Chinchilla Aquatic and Fitness Centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spectator seating; ▪ Shade; ▪ Extension to the gymnasium; ▪ Heated spa for hydrotherapy purposes; and ▪ Leisure water. 	<p>The Chinchilla Aquatic & Fitness Centre has an A Grade rating through Queensland Swimming, however existing spectator seating is inadequate and restricts the ability of the Chinchilla Swimming Club to host regional carnivals.</p> <p>There is limited shade at the facility.</p> <p>The existing gymnasium is at capacity during peak periods and is expected to continue to be well used as the community grows. An expanded gymnasium at the existing location is likely to be the most sustainable option.</p> <p>There is currently no hydrotherapy facility in Chinchilla, although the indoor heated pool is used for some rehabilitation purposes. A heated 8-person spa would increase hydrotherapy options for community members and service providers.</p> <p>There are few opportunities for young people in Chinchilla. There is a trend towards leisure water featuring water play facilities in Queensland. This would be an advantageous addition to the Aquatic & Fitness Centre and would attract additional users to the facility while also improving recreation opportunities for children and young people in particular. Although space is limited, this could possibly be provided in part of the existing wading pool.</p>	<p>Spectator seating and shade = short term</p> <p>Extension to gymnasium, heated spa and leisure water = long term</p>
	6. Develop a kiosk/canteen at the Brigalow Recreation Grounds.	The Brigalow Recreation Grounds is well serviced and is operating successfully with good collaboration amongst clubs. Existing catering facilities are poor and restrict the ability of clubs to adequately cater for participants and spectators.	Short
	<p>7. Investigate options for the provision of water supply at sport and recreation facilities, particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brigalow Recreation Grounds (motocross); ▪ Chinchilla Showgrounds; ▪ Polocrosse Grounds; and ▪ Chinchilla Recreation Reserve. 	<p>A number of clubs, particularly motocross and horse sports have raised safety concerns associated with the lack of water available to irrigate tracks, courses and fields</p> <p>Investigation of options at Brigalow Recreation Grounds (particularly the motocross track) is a priority. For economies of scale it may be advantageous to investigate the other locations at the same time.</p>	Immediate

STRATEGY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	PRIORITY
2.2.1 (cont'd)	8. Upgrade public toilets at Brigalow Hall.	The existing public toilets are inadequate.	Short
	9. Extend the wet area at the Chinchilla Arts and Craft Hall and advance the kiln room.	The Arts and Craft Hall is well used by art and craft organisations within Chinchilla. The wet area and kiln room is currently small and somewhat inadequate. There is an upgrade of the Hall programmed for 2007, which will include air conditioning, floor, storage and lights. This will improve the hall and potentially increase use, therefore putting more pressure on the existing wet area and kiln room.	Medium
	10. Support the development of caretaker's accommodation at the Chinchilla Golf Club to enable increased access by locals and visitors.	There is a community perception that because the clubhouse at the golf club is closed during the week, that the course is also closed. The club believes that development of caretaker's accommodation will alleviate this issue and through associated kiosk/canteen facilities casual access to the golf course will be enhanced.	Medium
	11. Revisit the need to redevelop equestrian facilities at the Showgrounds including development of a sheltered arena in the long term and develop only if: a) there is demonstrated need for such an upgrade/ facility development; b) there is demonstrated commitment from the local horse industry, equine clubs and the Chinchilla A&P Association; and e) the development is deemed economically viable for Chinchilla and is likely to serve a regional catchment.	A feasibility study undertaken in 2001 supported the proposed development of an indoor stadium in Chinchilla for equine activities. The need for such a facility did not arise during the course of this study.	Long
	12. Support the development and community use of facilities at St Joseph's Primary School by developing alternative drainage options and removing the existing drainage gully that runs through the school oval.	St Joseph's Primary School has significant field space, multi-use courts and is planning to develop a storage shed, canteen/ kiosk and toilet facilities. The school is used by community clubs and would provide an additional good quality facility for community use with the planned facility enhancements. Currently a Council drainage gully runs through the oval, restricting the capacity of the oval for sport.	Medium

2.3. FACILITY MAINTENANCE

STRATEGY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	PRIORITY
2.3.1 Ensure a whole of life approach to asset management is adopted to maximise the lifecycle and sustainability of sport and recreation facilities	1. Plan for condition audits (including safety) of all Council owned or Council controlled sport and recreation facilities and undertake identified maintenance improvements. As part of the condition audit, develop day to day maintenance programs for all Council owned or controlled sport and recreation facilities.	Whole of life asset management is a critical requirement for sport and recreation facility owners and managers. Facility owners have an obligation to ensure facilities are of a reasonable standard and safe for use by the community. Day-to-day maintenance programs and regular condition audits are just one aspect of good risk management practices.	Immediate
	2. Encourage clubs to maintain facilities over which they have tenure by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Providing minimum maintenance standards; ▪ Informing clubs about external funding opportunities for maintenance; ▪ Encouraging clubs to develop an asset management plan. 	Under the land use management arrangements entered into between Council and clubs (refer recommendation 1.2.1), clubs may have an obligation to maintain facilities for which they have an agreement to use. Council needs to encourage and support clubs to maintain their assets appropriately.	Short

2.4. OPEN SPACE PROVISION

STRATEGY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	PRIORITY
2.4.1 Plan for the provision of adequate land for sport and recreation in response to population growth.	1. Develop standards of service for public parks provision using the Broad Supply Guidelines and Performance Criteria Guidelines provided in Section Error! Reference source not found. of this report.	Throughout the research process, a number of open space issues emerged and it became evident that Council will need to plan proactively for the future provision of open space. While open space planning was beyond the scope of work for this project, Section Error! Reference source not found. provides Broad Supply Guidelines and Performance Criteria Guidelines to assist Council in future open space planning.	Short
	2. Ensure standards of service developed for public park provision provide embellishment standards for each park type and that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ existing parks are embellished to meet these standards; and ▪ local parks are developed and embellished according to the standards of service as new subdivisions occur. 	Many of Council's parks are well-embellished, however, some parks, particularly those in new subdivisions are not embellished.	Short and Ongoing
	3. Identify strategic sites for future open space in town expansion areas and ensure these are protected within Council's Planning Scheme so that Council is able to meet future open space demand from projected residential growth. Priorities should be on land for informal recreation.	Chinchilla is experiencing rapid population growth. A number of new subdivision areas are currently being developed, with further areas expected to be developed in the future. Planning for and protecting the future provision of land for open space and recreation is essential to ensure land is not allocated to other uses. In order to ensure future open space demands are met, it is important that some strategic sites are identified and protected in the Planning Scheme, particularly for the development of information recreation parks.	Short
	4. Ensure the following open space areas are included in the Park and Recreation Zone in Council's Planning Scheme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chinchilla Recreation Reserve (currently shown as Urban). ▪ Lions Park (currently shown as Urban). ▪ Queens Park (currently shown as Urban). ▪ Jubilee Park (currently shown as Urban). ▪ Land on Chinchilla South Road to the west of Chinchilla State High School (currently shown as Urban). ▪ Parkland between the Visitor Information Centre and the Skatepark 	It is essential to ensure that existing and planned open space and recreation areas, particularly within the urban footprint, are protected to ensure Council is able to adequately provide for current and future populations.	Immediate

STRATEGY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	PRIORITY
	(currently shown as Commercial and Urban).		
2.4.1 (cont'd)	6. Consider the development of an Infrastructure Plan for Public Parks to enable Council to charge for acquiring and development of land for future parks and sporting fields.	With the adoption of the Integrated Planning Act (1997) and subsequent amendments, provision of public parks and sporting facilities will now be undertaken through an Infrastructure Charge. Given the significant residential growth expected in Chinchilla, an Infrastructure Plan for Public Parks will allow Council to collect an "Infrastructure Charge" from new development that reflects the cost of providing and developing public parks.	Short
	5. Plan for the development of a district park in close proximity of the town centre and accessible from the Warrego Highway/ Chinchilla St. and ensure the selected site is included in the Open Space and Recreation Zone in the Planning Scheme.	Plans are underway to develop 'Botanic gardens' adjacent to the Chinchilla Folk Museum and linking with the Visitor Information Centre on the Warrego Highway. This site provides a good strategic link for locals and visitors between the aquatic centre, museum, Visitor Information Centre and the linear parkland along Chinchilla Street and would provide a practical option for development of a district park. The district park development should ensure sufficient space is reserved for passive recreation activities with development of suitable facilities such as barbecues, picnic tables, toilets, drinking fountains, shade, rubbish bins and pathways. Should the district park be developed at this site, it is recommended that a suitable means of crossing the rail line be included.	Medium
2.4.2 Ensure existing land areas are upgraded in a manner that maximises use and viability	1. Prepare a master plan for the Weir recreation area which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Covered picnic shelters; ▪ Additional barbecues and rubbish bins; ▪ Delineation of day use & overnight camping areas; and ▪ Showers. 	The Weir is a well maintained outdoor recreation area that is popular with locals and visitors alike. While it is acknowledged that camping is restricted to overnight stays only, the weir would benefit from a master planning exercise that better organises day use and overnight camping areas and provides for improved facilities for day users. The provision of picnic shelters, barbecues, rubbish bins and showers is not intended to attract increased camping, but to support, enhance and sustain the site as a popular day use outdoor recreation area.	Medium

2.5. PARTICIPATION IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

STRATEGY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	PRIORITY
<p>2.5.1</p> <p>Establish a safe, connected pedestrian and cycle network through the Chinchilla town that encourages walking and cycling for commuter, recreational, tourism and fitness purposes.</p>	<p>1. Implement key connections for pathways over time as per the notional plan provided at Appendix A to ensure “missing links” in the current pathway system are addressed and a more connected, convenient and safer network is developed. This should include appropriate signage and linemarking of all existing and new pathways.</p> <p>While the networks identified in Appendix A provide the basis for location of pathways, further detailed investigations are recommended to determine route feasibility, construction standards, costs and implementation/ timing for each section of the network.</p> <p>Reference should be made to <i>AustRoads guidelines (Part 13 – Pedestrians and Part 14 – Bicycles)</i>, which are widely accepted throughout Australia. Pavement markings and facility signage should be conducted in accordance with the <i>Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)</i>.</p>	<p>Chinchilla’s existing pathway network primarily connects the town centre with the High School and the two primary schools.</p> <p>There is a clear need to for a well-connected, network of pathways that link the town centre, key sport and recreation facilities and residential areas.</p> <p>Clear designation of on-road bicycle lanes and signage of both on-road and off-road pathways will raise the awareness of all road users and ensure the walk/ cycle network is identifiable to users.</p> <p>Where proposed links are located on State Controlled Roads, the Department of Main Roads (DMR) will be responsible for their implementation. It is recommended that Council articulate its implementation priorities to DMR to accelerate the proposed works and ensure that projects are considered in DMR’s programming for road upgrades and construction.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>2. Plan for the extension of Charley’s Creek ‘Riverside Walk’ and investigate options for lighting and signage to increase useability and safety.</p>	<p>Walking is consistently the most popular exercise, recreation and sport activity for Queenslanders aged 15 years and over¹ and the development of pathways for recreation was mentioned in every consultation medium for this project. The Charley’s Creek walk has excellent potential to be developed as a signature recreational pathway for the Shire by being extended and linking with other pathways throughout the town.</p>	Medium
	<p>3. Consider shoulder widening coinciding with future road upgrades to provide safer on-road conditions for cyclists.</p>	<p>Chinchilla is well suited to on-road cycle travel given the wide road reserves, lower speed environment and short distance to local facilities. Currently no dedicated on-road bike lines exist.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>4. Ensure pedestrian and cycle access is integrated with expansion of residential areas as new subdivisions develop.</p>	<p>As the residential areas of Chinchilla grow it will be necessary to ensure adequate pedestrian and cycle opportunities for these communities.</p>	Ongoing

STRATEGY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	PRIORITY
2.5.1 (cont'd)	5. Provide highly visible bicycle parking facilities at key destinations to support the network and encourage more cycling activity.	Priority destinations requiring bicycle parking include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schools. ▪ Town centre. ▪ Major sport and recreation facilities. 	Medium & Ongoing
	6. Develop a program of pathway maintenance to ensure all pathways are kept in a safe and usable state. Include widening of pathways where funds permit.	A maintenance program is essential in order to ensure ongoing safety, usability and sustainability of pathways.	Short
2.5.2 Contribute to improved health of residents by encouraging opportunities of all age groups to participate in physical activity.	1. Work with Health Department officers and other agencies to jointly organise and promote physical activity programs such as Just Walk It! and 10,000 Steps. Consider opportunities for Just Walk It! promotions in conjunction with accomplishments of pathway development milestones, for example, opening of pathways.	Physical activity has emerged as a key issue for improving public health in Australia. Council has a role in establishing partnerships with other government and private sector agencies to create and promote community resources and opportunities for greater participation in physical activity. Where possible and appropriate, funding should be sought to subsidise physical activity programs.	Medium
	2. Implement the Easy Steps Program if successful and continue to develop further.		Immediate
	3. Encourage schools to register for Sport, Recreation and Racing's 'Get Active Queensland Accreditation Program' visits and teacher/ volunteer participation in 'Get Active Schools Accreditation Program' courses.		Short
	4. Work with local youth agencies and stakeholders to coordinate an annual skate competition.		Short
	5. Consider establishing a nature-walking group in partnership with Camp Coolibah that utilises the Charley's Creek Walk and trails within Camp Coolibah.		Short
	6. Seek funding for physical activity and nutrition initiatives through the Queensland Community Partnerships Grants Program.		Short

¹ Participation in Exercise, Recreation & Sport Surveys – 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005. Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport (SCORS).

STRATEGY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	PRIORITY
2.5.3 Support clubs to conduct safe and accessible activities.	1. Support the Chinchilla Motocross Club in pursuing the issue of Ambulance attendance and stand-by ambulance services for motocross competitions in order to reach a workable solution.	The issue of ambulance attendance at Motocross activities was raised during consultation for this study as a key priority to be addressed. While, issues of this nature are out of the scope of this study, Council should support the club in pursuing this issue with its State Association and the Queensland Ambulance Service.	Immediate
2.5.4 Foster greater community participation in active recreation in Kogan.	1. Work with the Kogan community to develop programs and services such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community festival. ▪ Walk to school day.. ▪ Community kitchen garden 	There are currently only a limited number of sport and recreation programs and services for the Kogan community. Barriers to participation in sport and recreation activities in Kogan include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cost; ▪ Difficulty getting people involved; and ▪ Lack of people to organise activities. 	Medium
	2. Work with program and service providers in Chinchilla to provide a range of programs and services to Kogan utilising the new Kogan Community Centre. Programs and services could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yoga, pilates, aerobics etc. ▪ Community art initiatives. ▪ Women's health programs. ▪ Men's health programs. 	Basic community programs that aim to encourage people to become familiar with their local community and increase community capacity will assist in people becoming more active.	Short