

NSROC Regional Sportsground Infrastructure Management Strategy

Sports Forum
9th September 2010



Welcome and Introduction

- Carolynne James – Executive Officer NSROC
- Council staff from NSROC region
- Sally Jeavons – Director @leisure
- Kate Dickerson – Sport and Leisure Planner @leisure

Background

- Ongoing demand for sportsgrounds outstripping supply
- Crawford report
- Regional approach

Aim of project


- Better management to maximise participation and improve health and amenity in region
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Outcomes

- Common principles for future sportsground development and management across region
- A regional infrastructure development program – to facilitate regional bids for funding for sportsgrounds and negotiations with other sportsground providers




The project and process


- Council staff workshop
 - Demand projections for rule of thumb
 - Discussion Paper released
 - Councillor briefing
 - Submissions and feedback are being sought on the Discussion Paper until 30/09/10
 - Consultation with state, regional and local sports associations, Councils, schools and funding bodies
 - Inventory and works priorities for fields, support facilities and lighting
 - Draft Strategy will be submitted end of 2010
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Agenda

Agenda

- Summary of issues raised
 - 1. Other major sport issues in the region**
 - 2. Regional initiatives or principles to address management issues**
 - 3. Opportunities to serve more players / increase use**
 - 4. Opportunities for regional facility development and / or upgrades**
 - 5. Opportunities to create efficiencies / share resources across region**
 - 6. Funding strategies?**
 - 7. Priorities**
 - Preparation of submissions
 - Where to from here
 - ***Method- polling ideas by sport 1-5, then funding and priorities open to all***
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Rules of the game

1. Take turns (by sport), pass if no comment
 2. Stick to the question
 3. Big picture in, detail out
 4. Focus on long term 5 - 20 yrs
 5. Short answers, key words only, for recording
 6. No disagreement of others comments please
 7. Piggyback or add to others ideas
 8. Ask if you are not sure
 9. Try and speak on behalf of the region - and for all sports collectively
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Key findings to date

- Managing fluctuations in demand
- Planning and managing infrastructure to respond to demand and carrying capacity of grounds
- Pricing and occupancy of facilities
- Funding works and major projects




Key issues raised

- Lack of sports fields
- Sports competing for the same sports field
- Lack of lighting
- Lack of capital for upgrades
- Lack of skills to obtain grants
- Poor condition of sports fields
- Changeover between winter and summer sports
- Lack of training facilities
- Allocation of grounds for minor sports such as hockey and flying disc
- Lack of car parking
- Number of wet weather closures / varying wet weather policies
- Poor drainage
- Cost of synthetic surfaces
- Different booking systems across region
- Fees and Charges e.g. Councils charging different fees for non residents
- Commercial groups need to be recognised as providing a service to the community


What other major issues does sport face in the region?



1. Other major sport issues in region

- Cross country area required (2km) around 2 x grassed fields, rugby league taking over Homebush athletics track for training
 - Field availability for adhoc events such as tournaments
 - Petanque is in a unique position - starting from the bottom – new sport – no existing facilities
 - Indoor facilities could provide a greater range of opportunities
 - Netball court surfaces – consistency needed across the region
 - Bottom up approach required for the region, sit down with each sport and find out their issues
 - Recognise sports with purpose built facilities as compared to multi use
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2. Regional principles initiatives to address management issues

- Establish redevelopment committees for particular sites – break down silos between sports
 - Croquet and bowls synergies – there has been successes in the UK
 - Issues around “ownership” of grounds after contributions
 - Upgrading aging infrastructure for cost efficiencies
 - Shown success with complex based competition – look at single location facilities as a principle
 - Consider site specific sports to avoid conflict, not every sport has synergies
 - Small sided games create additional wear on grounds
 - Synergies to have one system for user contributions – standardising the basis to work with Council
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2. Regional principles initiatives to address management issues

- Access to private schools – bring Government on board, community benefit to opening schools
- Set up a website / database with contacts of all fields, documents on management and maintenance, funding opportunities – somewhere to share knowledge
- Open the gate – access to public schools - not used on Saturdays
- Opportunities for sharing, work with the plans of State Sporting Associations and Peak Sporting Bodies to develop facility mix
- Ground staff from Councils to network and share ideas 6 monthly etc
- Not enough smart modern practices for maintenance, look at different grasses and watering - synergies to address ground surfaces




Regional opportunities

What can NSROC collectively do across the region to

- a) Enhance participation?
- b) Enhance sportsgrounds management / address issues? and
- c) Improve infrastructure?



3. Opportunities to serve more players / increase use across region


- Complete inventory of every sports facility in the region to be available online
 - Lighting on fields, regional approach to lighting – lux levels
 - Football / netball partnerships work well
 - Quality control is an issue with synthetics – different types and different contractors can affect the life span
 - Council to facilitate clubs at the local level rather than the association level
 - New players are managed by the association on the website for netball
 - Provide physical resource for using school grounds, e.g. goals for hockey
 - Scheduling and game modifications
 - Avoidance of conflict with multi use fields
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3. Opportunities to serve more players / increase use across region


- Education and goodwill can maximise use of turf wickets
- Synthetics are only suitable for some levels of sport
- Winter football sports are extending their seasons – discussion around synchronising season changeovers required
- Open the gate to schools, private school grounds often don't get used on Sundays, indoor facilities, synthetic surfaces



4. Opportunities for regional facility development and / or upgrades

- Sports to develop facility standards and present to Council
 - Drainage issues – rain on Wednesday or Thursday and the grounds are still closed on the weekends
 - Significant ground closures - wet weather contingencies are required. Lighting and drainage are the two main issues
 - Length of car parking – e.g. 2 hours only in some areas, while matches are 2.5 hours
 - Car parking at Ryde is an issue and lack of indoor training facilities. Netball are increasing changeover time between games to allow cars in and out
 - Car pooling is difficult, family sport is hectic
 - All the wear is going on lit fields
 - Recognition of capital contributions – not looking for exclusive use
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4. Opportunities for regional facility development and / or upgrades


- 2 step process (lights, then carrying capacity) – tiered approach – stage it and know that a next level of investment is coming
 - Community consultation required to look at the viability of bus routes going to non serviced sports facilities. Opportunities for community vehicles – could be explored
 - Australian Government should be involved with providing capital expenditure per participation rates
 - Councils need to have strategic plans to identify potential sites, NSROC should look at a strategic plan – with a bottom up approach to identify future use, synthetics on buildings, soccer using unused bowling greens, piping over valleys and creeks
 - NSROC should go through a process and look for possible sites
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4. Opportunities for regional facility development and / or upgrades

- Education about petanque and awareness of the game, opportunities in parks have been missed due to lack of knowledge, 55,000 people have a set of balls. Cricket clubs get kids to play petanque when they are not batting to keep them active
- Tennis has a master plan that highlights facility hierarchy and distribution of facilities, look at different management facilities to make small clubs viable – regional approach can be taken
- More fields are needed
- Frisbee promotes public transport



4. Opportunities for regional facility development and / or upgrades

- Split games and longer breaks between games may or may not have eased car parking at one site for netball. Residents prefer peaks in traffic rather than constant flow
 - Avoid drainage issues by having the right profile – inverted dish
 - Council have to balance the needs of residents and sports for night games, Hornsby are incrementally trialing night games and continually assessing viability of this
 - Diversity of recreation opportunities required, aquatic facilities are at capacity (Lane Cove) – opportunities to investigate this – cross training opportunities for other sports at the pool?
 - 10 foot run off is recommended but cannot be accommodated for netball
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5. Opportunities to create efficiencies / share resources

- Same suppliers
- Clubs and associations to have shared / combined goals and efforts, use same lawyers to draw up leases etc for cost sharing
- Scheduling of night competitions – information sharing
- As a region have bookings, invoicing and paying for hire consistencies
- Paid staff can have their benefits e.g paid grounds manager



6. Funding strategies?

- Levies might be better as a 'sport for sport' fund, as some sports are more financial than others
 - Shouldn't turn backs on naming rights
 - Council passed lights for Meadowbank – going from 4 to 22 lit courts. Cost of developments is passed onto players – levy is going from \$7 to \$10. Recognition of capital contributions is needed
 - Opportunities for private developments, vacant industrial areas
 - Look at synergy sports such as cricket / Australian rules football for funding opportunities. Councils are happy to combine with peak body funding
 - Consider increasing user fees, rather than discontinuing services. Meet with user groups and determine what they can afford
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6. Funding strategies?

- Regional funds for sports / Councils / participants to contribute to? Levying players for major projects?
- It can be easier to justify expenditure for joint projects
- Change can be a positive thing – e.g. incentives for better facilities
- Simpler booking systems might free up staff to take on other roles, such as development
- Sydney Water money for Northbridge Oval synthetic development
- How to get money out of the state government?



7. Priorities?*

- Guarantee that Councils will work together on the strategy
- Synthetics
- Open the gate
- Lighting
- Strategic planning for future sites
- Efficient lighting systems
- More hours on the fields available – drainage, maintenance, lights – more sites or synthetics
- Councils to use State Sporting Association Plans and resources
- Accelerate development of sport specific hubs
- Lights – a principle to encourage lighting, improved support facilities and amenities
- Ongoing commitment to report on outcomes – communication
- *Please note that hierarchy of priorities was not established

Preparation of submissions

- Due 30th September 2010
- Examples of detail to include:
 - Response to key discussion points and key proposed principles in discussion paper
 - Membership figures
 - Demand for additional infrastructure
 - Ways to increase carrying capacity
 - Examples of other facility developments
 - Funding suggestions
 - Innovative development ideas
 - Projects to learn from
 - Opportunities for multi use
 - Research or literature that should be considered
 - Opportunities for regional standards
 - Equitable ways for ground allocation
 - Regional facilities
 - Planning standards



Where to from here?

- Public submissions and feedback on discussion paper by 30th September, 2010
- Telephone interviews of associations and peak sporting bodies
- Preparation of a draft NSROC Regional Sportsground Strategy by the end of 2010



Thank you

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