



# NSROC Regional Sportsground Management Strategy

## Volume 2. Consultation Findings and Analysis



## About this document

This document is the NSROC Regional Sportsground Management Strategy, Volume 2: Consultation and Analysis. It has been prepared by @leisure on behalf of NSROC, and in conjunction with staff from member Councils, and in consultation with agencies, peak sporting bodies, associations, clubs and other interested stakeholders.

Other documents prepared for this project are: Volume 1: NSROC Regional Sportsground Management Strategy, and supplementary internal documents including an inventory, code plan, and summary of fees and charges.

## Acknowledgements

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In particular, we would like to thank Carolynne James, NSROC Executive Director and staff from the NSROC Councils:

- ▶ City of Ryde
- ▶ Hornsby Shire Council
- ▶ Hunters Hill Council
- ▶ Lane Cove Council
- ▶ North Sydney Council
- ▶ Ku-ring-gai Council
- ▶ Willoughby City Council

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Rear 534 Mt Alexander Road  
Ascot Vale Vic 3032  
Ph: (03) 9326 1662  
Fax: (03) 9326 0991  
Email: [leisure@jeavons.com.au](mailto:leisure@jeavons.com.au)  
[www.atleisure.com.au](http://www.atleisure.com.au)



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## 1. Overview of consultation

Consultation for this project was completed in three stages:

Stage 1: The discussion paper was released for public comment and submissions on this paper were invited. 17 submissions were submitted from sports associations, sports clubs and interested stakeholders. Refer to Appendix 2 for a summary.

Stage 2: Public forums (2) were held for peak sporting bodies, regional association and sport clubs. Refer to Appendix 1 for notes from each of these forums.

Stage 3: Telephone interviews were undertaken with a variety of Councils, agencies, peak sporting bodies, sports associations and sports clubs. (Refer to Appendix 3).

## Summary of key findings by sport

The following is a summary of key issues raised in the public forums, telephone consultation and submissions organised by sport.

### Athletics

Athletics track and field takes place in the summer months. All tracks in the NSROC region are a grass surface.

The region doesn't have a dedicated cross country track.

There are no athletics tracks in Hunters Hill, Lane Cove or North Sydney.

The NSROC region is serviced by the tartan tracks of Narrabeen Athletics Centre and Sydney Olympic Park at Homebush.

The grass athletics facility (Rotary Athletics Field) at West Chatswood is considered to serve the region<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Athletics NSW

### ■ Key issues raised in consultation

The following issues were raised in telephone interviews, community forums and written submissions:

- ▶ Participant numbers in athletics are steadily increasing<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ Athletics NSW are targeting the transition ages from 12 years to 18 years to increase participation<sup>3</sup>
- ▶ There is a lack of senior clubs in the NSROC region to drive juniors to, and a lack of facilities that can cater for senior clubs<sup>4</sup>
- ▶ Synthetic tracks would eliminate wet weather closures. All weather tracks are preferred<sup>5</sup>
- ▶ Schools would flock to a tartan surface<sup>6</sup>
- ▶ Narrabeen and Sydney Olympic Park are the closest tartan tracks<sup>7</sup>
- ▶ The Ku-ring-gai grass track is only 300m rather than the required 400m<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Athletics NSW

<sup>3</sup> Athletics NSW

<sup>4</sup> Athletics NSW

<sup>5</sup> Athletics NSW

<sup>6</sup> Athletics NSW

<sup>7</sup> Athletics NSW

<sup>8</sup> Ku-ring-gai Little Athletics Club

- ▶ Recruitment and retention of volunteers is a major issue<sup>9</sup>
- ▶ Clubs and schools sometimes have to place carpet over paths etc to enable parks to be used for cross country by runners with spikes
- ▶ Asset protection from vandalism is required to prevent graffiti and break - ins to amenity buildings<sup>10</sup>
- ▶ Lack of shade protection for participants and spectators is an issue at tracks<sup>11</sup>
- ▶ The illegal use of grounds by people in a semi organised fashion damages surfaces<sup>12</sup>
- ▶ Sydney Olympic Park is not always available for training or competition athletics due to football and other events<sup>13</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Ryde Athletics Centre

<sup>10</sup> Ryde Athletics Centre

<sup>11</sup> Ryde Athletics Centre

<sup>12</sup> Ryde Athletics Centre

<sup>13</sup> Public Forum 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2010

## Australian Rules Football

Australian Rules football is typically played in the winter sports season on Sundays.

Australian Rules football participants are provided for by Auskick, junior and senior competitions.

Juniors in the region play at a local and district level, while seniors play regionally in a Sydney wide competition that extends to Wollongong.

There are seven junior clubs and three senior clubs in the region.

There is an active Sydney Women's AFL league, however there are no clubs in the NSROC region.

North Sydney Oval is currently being used for umpiring and coaching development programs.

### ■ Key issues raised in consultation

The following issues were raised in telephone interviews, community forums and written submissions:

- ▶ Australian Rules football has a large participation base playing on limited grounds. Most grounds are only large enough for junior competition<sup>14</sup>
- ▶ There are no grounds for Australian Rules football in Hunters Hill or North Sydney<sup>15</sup>
- ▶ The absence of NSW State Government funds for infrastructure improvements is an issue. Victoria has programs such as the Country Football and Netball Program<sup>16</sup>
- ▶ There are no facilities in the region that are the complete package for Australian Rules football. There is only one ground in the region that is compliant with Australian Rules football standards<sup>17</sup>

<sup>14</sup> AFL NSW / ACT

<sup>15</sup> AFL NSW / ACT

<sup>16</sup> AFL NSW / ACT

<sup>17</sup> AFL NSW / ACT

- ▶ Lighting is required for night games. The lighting at Gore Hill Oval, which accommodates a premier division club is not suitable for competition<sup>18</sup>
- ▶ Two regional facilities are required in the region. One in Willoughby and the other in Hornsby<sup>19</sup>
- ▶ In 2009, 30% of training nights were cancelled due to ground closures and three weekends of play were lost<sup>20</sup>
- ▶ Ground quality in NSW is not as good as Queensland or Victoria even though the same amount of money is spent on maintenance<sup>21</sup>
- ▶ The AFL maintains Queensland sportsgrounds for the same fee as Councils. They are now maintained to a regional level rather than a local level. Councils are now getting AFL to look after other codes fields too<sup>22</sup>

<sup>18</sup> AFL NSW / ACT

<sup>19</sup> AFL NSW / ACT

<sup>20</sup> AFL NSW / ACT

<sup>21</sup> AFL NSW / ACT

<sup>22</sup> AFL NSW / ACT

## Baseball

Baseball is a diamond sport that is traditionally played in the summer months. In recent years there has been a steady increase in the number of females playing the sport.

A new Australian Baseball League has commenced in 2010.

There are two baseball associations in the NSROC region, one association is the largest in the state.

### ■ Key issues raised in consultation

The following issues concerning baseball were raised in telephone interviews, community forums and written submissions:

- ▶ There is a shortage of facilities to provide for the largest baseball clubs and association in the state, which are located in the NSROC region<sup>23</sup>

<sup>23</sup> Baseball NSW

- ▶ Female participants are being targeted by Baseball NSW and have risen from 3-4% of participants, to 8-9% in the last five years. Female participation is predicted to rise to 12% in the future<sup>24</sup>
- ▶ The largest participation group is the 9-12 year olds playing in the little league. Little League is played by boys and girls, but is predominately boys<sup>25</sup>
- ▶ The commencement of Australian Baseball League in November 2010, is predicted to drive an increase in participation by 25%<sup>26</sup>
- ▶ Ryde Hornsby Baseball League has moved competition to mid week as they carry a population of private school players
- ▶ Additional lit fields are required to cater for the likely increase in demand<sup>27</sup>
- ▶ Pitching mounds are preferred, however some levels of competition can be played on shared fields if required<sup>28</sup>
- ▶ The ideal layout for a facility includes back to back netting in the centre of a field<sup>29</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Baseball NSW

<sup>25</sup> Baseball NSW

<sup>26</sup> Baseball NSW

<sup>27</sup> Baseball NSW

<sup>28</sup> Baseball NSW

<sup>29</sup> Baseball NSW

- ▶ Baseball has six to seven levels of competition that have different field requirements / standards<sup>30</sup>
- ▶ It is difficult to host state and interstate competition in the NSROC region due to the quality of facilities. These types of competitions are currently held at Blacktown<sup>31</sup>
- ▶ There is one competition standard lit field in the NSROC region (ELS Hall, Ryde) and six in the state<sup>32</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Baseball NSW

<sup>31</sup> Baseball NSW

<sup>32</sup> Baseball NSW

## Commercial Providers / Personal Trainers

There is a growing demand for commercially delivered sport and recreation opportunities where volunteers are not required and typically participants don't train; just play one or more times per week.

Personal trainers and commercial providers provide opportunities for physical activity, one off competition and team sports in non-traditional time slots such as before work, lunchtime and after work for corporate groups and individual participants. These offerings typically motivate a range of people that don't play team sports, and may appeal to women or parents who often have fragmented opportunities to do physical activity due to family responsibilities for example, or participants who already play another team sport at peak times.

There is a diverse range of physical activity and sport offerings provided by private enterprise including boot camps, personal training, yoga, pilates, touch football, tennis, volleyball, netball, biathlon, soccer, boxing etc.

There is a likely to be considerable growth in private providers of social team sports, one off events sports events / challenges and personal fitness classes, and some additional private facilities in the region in the long term. This will present some competition for space on sports grounds.

### ■ Key issues raised in consultation

The following issues were raised in telephone interviews, community forums and written submissions:

- ▶ The availability of grounds for commercial providers and personal trainers<sup>33</sup>
- ▶ Commercial providers see injustice in them paying for sports fields but getting second preference behind sports clubs and associations<sup>34</sup>
- ▶ Club memberships are declining and participants in commercial programs are increasing<sup>35</sup>
- ▶ Demand indicates that more people are participating in sport on a more on a social basis
- ▶ Businesses cannot grow if fields are not available to hire<sup>36</sup>

<sup>33</sup> Anderson Events

<sup>34</sup> Anderson Events

<sup>35</sup> Anderson Events

- ▶ There is a misconception that commercial providers are making lots of money and aren't providing a community service. Some commercial providers give back to the community by conducting fundraising events<sup>37</sup>
- ▶ Boot camps are allocated edges of fields even though people doing sit ups does no where near the damage that rugby players do<sup>38</sup>
- ▶ People who attend boot camps are mostly professional people and ratepayers. Some are up in arms about why they can't use their ovals<sup>39</sup>
- ▶ Anderson Events require an additional 12 grounds to meet the current demand, for their use in the region<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> Anderson Events  
<sup>37</sup> Anderson Events  
<sup>38</sup> Anderson Events  
<sup>39</sup> Anderson Events  
<sup>40</sup> Anderson Events

- ▶ Grounds close to workplaces and central business districts are important for morning and lunchtime corporate sports. In the evening grounds can be a little further away as people have more time to travel (up to 20 minutes)<sup>41</sup>
- ▶ More indoor multi purpose facilities are required for training and competition<sup>42</sup>
- ▶ Some ovals are in pristine condition and are not made available for community use<sup>43</sup>
- ▶ Synthetic surfaces will increase carrying capacity of grounds<sup>44</sup>
- ▶ Additional lighting on sportsgrounds is required<sup>45</sup>
- ▶ Additional access is required to schools to meet current demand<sup>46</sup>
- ▶ Commercial providers would like recognition of their contributions to the community<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> Anderson Events  
<sup>42</sup> Anderson Events  
<sup>43</sup> Anderson Events  
<sup>44</sup> Anderson Events  
<sup>45</sup> Anderson Events  
<sup>46</sup> Anderson Events  
<sup>47</sup> Anderson Events

## Cricket

Cricket is traditionally played in the summer months on Saturdays. Many modifications of the cricket are played including Milo in2CRICKET, 20/20 and one day matches. Cricket is also being played on Sundays to ease demand. Cricket is also played by people with vision or hearing impairments. There is no Blind or Deaf Cricket played in the region. Opportunities are provided for players with disabilities, such as Blow Fly cricket that is an initiative of the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai and Hills District Cricket Association for autistic children.

### ■ Key issues raised in consultation

The following issues were raised in telephone interviews, community forums and written submissions:

- ▶ Northern District Cricket Association reports that membership numbers are steady, but are constrained due to the ground shortages<sup>48</sup>
- ▶ Cricket is not played at night at association level<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> Northern District Cricket Association  
<sup>49</sup> Northern District Cricket Association

- ▶ Ground closures for maintenance leave associations short of grounds. This summer there are two or three grounds closing in Ryde<sup>50</sup>
- ▶ The modification of some cricket grounds to incorporate perimeter walking / bike paths creates a risk issue for users<sup>51</sup>
- ▶ There is difficulty in obtaining access to school fields<sup>52,53</sup>
- ▶ Electronic devices allowing entry to support facilities such as those at Meadowbank Park are preferred to ease the burden on volunteers<sup>54</sup>
- ▶ Consistency in fees and charges across the region and a universal booking system would be advantageous<sup>55,56</sup>
- ▶ The provision of Sunday cricket should be a priority for NSROC to ease demand<sup>57</sup>, however some grounds aren't available and others have time restrictions<sup>58</sup>
- ▶ Standardise infrastructure requirements such as cricket nets, so that all are the same instead of some cheap and nasty ones used in some places<sup>59</sup>
- ▶ Modified formats are becoming increasingly popular and attracting a new participatory audience<sup>60</sup>
- ▶ The lengthening of the winter sports season is encroaching on the summer sports<sup>61</sup>
- ▶ Cricket NSW is supportive of synthetic surfaces being put in at some grounds
- ▶ Cricket NSW is interested in partnering with appropriate sports such as Australian rules football in the development of sportsgrounds<sup>62</sup>
- ▶ Coaches are wanting to train more often, and develop their players at a younger age<sup>63</sup>
- ▶ Representative teams are requesting access to fields in winter for training<sup>64</sup>
- ▶ Cricket wickets are not allowed to be laid at particular soccer grounds<sup>65</sup>
- ▶ Hornsby Ku-ring-gai and Hills District Cricket Association are piloting a hybrid form of the game for women players<sup>66</sup>
- ▶ The need for additional facilities such as cricket nets for training<sup>67</sup>
- ▶ Hornsby Ku-ring-gai and Hills District Cricket Association require six additional grounds to facilitate match play and training<sup>68</sup>
- ▶ There is a difficulty in getting clubs to report ground issues to associations<sup>69</sup>
- ▶ Red tape and the administration requirements are a burden on volunteers<sup>70</sup>

<sup>50</sup> Northern District Cricket Association  
<sup>51</sup> Northern District Cricket Association  
<sup>52</sup> Northern District Cricket Association  
<sup>53</sup> North Shore Junior Cricket Association  
<sup>54</sup> Northern District Cricket Association  
<sup>55</sup> Northern District Cricket Association  
<sup>56</sup> North Shore Junior Cricket Association

<sup>57</sup> Northern District Cricket Association  
<sup>58</sup> North Shore Junior Cricket Association  
<sup>59</sup> Northern District Cricket Association  
<sup>60</sup> Cricket NSW  
<sup>61</sup> Cricket NSW  
<sup>62</sup> Cricket NSW  
<sup>63</sup> North Shore Junior Cricket Association

<sup>64</sup> North Shore Junior Cricket Association  
<sup>65</sup> North Shore Junior Cricket Association  
<sup>66</sup> Hornsby Ku-ring-gai and Hills District Cricket Association  
<sup>67</sup> Hornsby Ku-ring-gai and Hills District Cricket Association  
<sup>68</sup> Hornsby Ku-ring-gai and Hills District Cricket Association  
<sup>69</sup> Northern Suburbs Cricket Association  
<sup>70</sup> Northern Suburbs Cricket Association

- ▶ Northern Suburbs Cricket Association suggest the implementation of service agreements with Council, that clearly define when, and what type of maintenance is taking place, as well as issues that impede the completion of these maintenance tasks e.g rain<sup>71</sup>
  - ▶ The number and skill-set of volunteers as one of the key issues affecting our future<sup>72</sup>
  - ▶ Continued access to appropriate quality playing and training facilities is the key priority<sup>73</sup>
  - ▶ Ensure that existing facilities are of improved quality so that all users experiences are optimised, and alterations to existing layouts are considered to optimise use by a variety of recreational activities<sup>74</sup>
- ▶ The main concern for the management and delegate committees is the lack of grounds and the condition of grounds in the north shore area. As increasing the number of grounds in this area appears to be limited, our efforts have turned, in conjunction with NSCA, to improving the condition of current grounds to provide the juniors with the best possible facilities to enjoy junior cricket<sup>75</sup>
  - ▶ Cricket grounds in the district are fully utilised and, in fact, the juniors competition it is required to book and play on grounds outside of the north shore area, just to ensure that all juniors get a game on the weekend. The U16/17 competition has been moved to turf grounds on Sunday mornings in an effort to make better grounds available on Saturday afternoons. To accommodate growth the NSJCA has also introduced Sunday morning competitions for the U11 and U14/15 age groups<sup>76</sup>
  - ▶ Improvement of existing facilities, particularly with respect to drainage, as vital to help meet the existing demands<sup>77</sup>
- ▶ Cricket is very supportive of the current philosophy of several Councils, which involves major refurbishment (drainage / levelling) of grounds. We acknowledge that this will create six or 12 month periods of unavailability. We would recommend that NSROC councils attempt to coordinate these works<sup>78</sup>
  - ▶ The difference in Sunday allocation policies make organisation difficult and more time consuming (which affects volunteer time)<sup>79</sup>
  - ▶ The NSCA supports the concept of giving priority to local hirers, but recommends that care should be taken to ensure the definition of “local” is reasonably generous<sup>80</sup>

<sup>71</sup> Northern Suburbs Cricket Association

<sup>72</sup> Northern Suburbs Cricket Association

<sup>73</sup> Northern Suburbs Cricket Association

<sup>74</sup> Northern Suburbs Cricket Association

<sup>75</sup> North Shore Junior Cricket Association

<sup>76</sup> North Shore Junior Cricket Association

<sup>77</sup> Northern Suburbs Cricket Association and North Shore Juniors Cricket Association

<sup>77</sup> Northern Suburbs Cricket Association and North Shore Juniors Cricket Association

<sup>78</sup> Northern Suburbs Cricket Association and North Shore Juniors Cricket Association

<sup>79</sup> Northern Suburbs Cricket Association and North Shore Juniors Cricket Association

<sup>80</sup> Northern Suburbs Cricket Association and North Shore Juniors Cricket Association

- ▶ One of the key issues for sporting organisations is the lack of volunteer time, or expert time (expert in grant application writing). We would recommend that NSROC (or individual councils) consider engaging staff (or a consultant) whose main aim was to co-ordinate and project manage professionally the preparation of applications<sup>81</sup>
- ▶ The NSCA / NSJCA are open to any improvements to winter coverings that provide better or safer surfaces for the winter codes on the proviso that the pitch surfaces are appropriately cleaned (e.g. high pressure water) before the summer season<sup>82</sup>
- ▶ Understandably local government schools are wary of non school activities on their grounds, but local government probably has better chance of gaining access rather than individual sporting groups<sup>83</sup>
- ▶ The main focus and shortfall of facilities at the moment is for lower level, community participation based sports teams, rather than at more elite levels.
- ▶ The provision of a small number of synthetic surfaces would not necessarily lessen the demands for cricket fields<sup>84</sup>
- ▶ Where possible it is important to maintain existing club structures. The resources required to create a new club from scratch are often many times more than maintaining an existing one<sup>85</sup>
- ▶ Increased assistance in project management of co-funded facility improvements would be most welcome. Volunteer organisations find it difficult to arrange time during business hours to be involved in many of the meetings and negotiations involved in some of these projects<sup>86</sup>
- ▶ Councils could take an increasing role in general marketing of community activities (be that sporting or anything else). Communication media is changing at ever increasing rates, and most community groups are struggling to keep up the varied tools of print, web, email, facebook, twitter and whatever will be the flavour of the month tomorrow<sup>87</sup>
- ▶ Cricket and other recognized summer sports get priority of booking and usage during 1 September to 31 March ("summer sports season"); soccer, rugby union, rugby league, netball, hockey, Australian Rules football and other winter sports get priority between 1 April and 31 August ("winter sports season")<sup>88</sup>
- ▶ Any rained out games should either be cancelled in a draw or played as make up games in school holidays, to ensure season finishes on time<sup>89</sup>
- ▶ Local clubs and traditional seasonal users (e.g cricket in summer, rugby in winter) should be given priority in their respective LGA<sup>90</sup>

<sup>81</sup> Northern Suburbs Cricket Association and North Shore Juniors Cricket Association

<sup>82</sup> Northern Suburbs Cricket Association and North Shore Juniors Cricket Association

<sup>83</sup> Northern Suburbs Cricket Association and North Shore Juniors Cricket Association

<sup>84</sup> Northern Suburbs Cricket Association and North Shore Juniors Cricket Association

<sup>85</sup> Northern Suburbs Cricket Association and North Shore Juniors Cricket Association

<sup>86</sup> Northern Suburbs Cricket Association and North Shore Juniors Cricket Association

<sup>87</sup> Northern Suburbs Cricket Association and North Shore Juniors Cricket Association

<sup>88</sup> Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club

<sup>89</sup> Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club

<sup>90</sup> Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club

- ▶ There are issues with winter sports encroaching on summer sport seasons. NSROC should have a policy and clubs should be made aware of this in writing<sup>91</sup>
- ▶ Some grounds are booked solidly all year round, therefore there is no rest window<sup>92</sup>
- ▶ Clarity of the fee structure and in the interests of equitable pricing a differentiation between high impact and low impact sports with seasonal grounds hire taken into account<sup>93</sup>
- ▶ A distinction should be made between local and non local sporting clubs and the fees that they are charged<sup>94</sup>
- ▶ More artificial playing surfaces are required particularly for juniors<sup>95</sup>
- ▶ A repair / renovation schedule is required to avoid losing key grounds – better coordination and planning of major maintenance<sup>96</sup>

<sup>91</sup> Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club

<sup>92</sup> Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club

<sup>93</sup> Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club

<sup>94</sup> Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club

<sup>95</sup> Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club

<sup>96</sup> Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club

- ▶ There are little cricket practice facilities in the local district. Provision of additional cricket nets is required<sup>97</sup>
- ▶ Propose that Council introduce a wet weather bond to reimburse clubs or sporting bodies in the event of ground closures<sup>98</sup>
- ▶ Introduce 10 year capital works research plan that identifies an agreed window of opportunity to schedule capital works to minimise the inconvenience to sporting users<sup>99</sup>
- ▶ Consider modern technologies such as sms and internet to advise clubs of ground closures<sup>100</sup>
- ▶ Council should be making the decision to close grounds rather than the users<sup>101</sup>
- ▶ Council need to have proper software and adequate system controls in place to properly manage bookings and communicate with regular hirers<sup>102</sup>

<sup>97</sup> Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club

<sup>98</sup> Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club

<sup>99</sup> Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club

<sup>100</sup> Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club

<sup>101</sup> Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club

<sup>102</sup> Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club

- ▶ Council could assist clubs by to deliver sports competitions, support club development and assist them to remain viable by: waiving fees for junior development programs for 3-6 year olds and programs for indigenous groups and girls aged 3-12 years, providing a health inspector to ensure all food preparation areas are clean and serviceable, providing sport grants to stimulate opportunities for boys and girls of all abilities from 3-15years to participate in sport, or minority groups such as women and girls, disabled athletes, provide marketing support by promoting club news and club registration information on its website or in flyers; and feature in news of particular news of disadvantage groups such as women, girls and indigenous<sup>103</sup>

<sup>103</sup> Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club

- ▶ Council to roster grounds staff for weekends all day<sup>104</sup>
- ▶ Invest in opportunities to harvest water and ensure grounds are properly prepared and have sufficient drainage<sup>105</sup>
- ▶ Membership figures should be analysed by age group<sup>106</sup>
- ▶ RHHCC has a high proportion of junior players and there is a huge demand for grounds for junior cricket in the region<sup>107</sup>
- ▶ Care needs to be taken in rescuing declining clubs referred to in the report to examine if it is in decline due to the administrators' or because there are too many similar clubs in the district<sup>108</sup>
- ▶ Long term tenure in occupancy agreements with Councils and in return the club will invest in capital improvements<sup>109</sup>

- ▶ Addressing issues with council booking systems especially looking at using MyCricket as this is a national web based product provided by the ACB that is used by all cricket associations and clubs. Tools such as these will allow both councils and sports clubs to see when and how grounds are booked and used presenting the opportunity to maximise ground utilisation<sup>110</sup>
- ▶ If there is a need to upgrade lighting around sports grounds then it should be of a standard so that it can be used all year round by all sports (i.e. Cricket, Rugby, Australian Rules football etc.) for both training and match play<sup>111</sup>
- ▶ Regional facilities are needed for major Northern Sydney events e.g. St Ives Showground<sup>112</sup>
- ▶ Greater usage of school ovals and facilities through formal cooperative agreements<sup>113</sup>

- ▶ Greater communications needed between government, and associations and clubs which could result in motivating people to lobby and work together to achieve outcomes<sup>114</sup>
- ▶ Areas need to be set aside for enclosed dog parks instead of using venues which are allocated as sportsgrounds and have young people training on them; i.e. fence non sportsground open space for leash free areas and limit such activity on sportsgrounds<sup>115</sup>
- ▶ Education of residents of the increased ground requirements for sporting activities; residents near sportsgrounds should be put on notice that the open space is for community use and not in any way an adjunct to their own property<sup>116</sup>
- ▶ No further closure of sportsgrounds<sup>117</sup>
- ▶ Council should charge higher fees for turf cricket wickets, instead of reducing them to synthetic wickets<sup>118</sup>

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<sup>104</sup> Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club

<sup>105</sup> Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club

<sup>106</sup> Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club

<sup>107</sup> Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club

<sup>108</sup> Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club

<sup>109</sup> Lane Cove Cricket Club

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<sup>110</sup> Lane Cove Cricket Club

<sup>111</sup> Lane Cove Cricket Club

<sup>112</sup> Lane Cove Cricket Club

<sup>113</sup> Lane Cove Cricket Club

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<sup>114</sup> Lane Cove Cricket Club

<sup>115</sup> Lane Cove Cricket Club

<sup>116</sup> Lane Cove Cricket Club

<sup>117</sup> Lane Cove Cricket Club

<sup>118</sup> Public forum 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2010

## Golf

There are a variety of golf participation options in the NSROC region including member only private courses, membership to a Council owned golf course or casual play. Participants can also become a member of the Golfers Club of NSW, which is a virtual club that provides many benefits while not being affiliated with any one club.

The region has a variety of nine and eighteen hole courses, but does not currently have a Council owned golf driving range. A range is in development at Thornleigh.

Golf is traditionally played year round.

### ■ Key issues raised in consultation

The following issues were raised in telephone interviews, community forums and written submissions:

- ▶ The shortage of driving ranges in the region one being constructed in Thornleigh at the moment.
- ▶ The shortage of Council owned courses in the region

- ▶ A quality nine hole course with a driving range and café are likely to be a better proposition than a mediocre eighteen hole course
- ▶ Nine hole golf courses with a driving range, café etc are good investments for Council. 18 hole courses could be converted to a nine hole course, but it would depend on many factors such as how entrenched the membership is, etc
- ▶ Driving ranges are important for development as this is where people begin playing
- ▶ The difficulty in attracting and maintaining members<sup>119</sup>
- ▶ Cost vs accessibility issues
- ▶ Quality of turf or course is a key attractant for some players
- ▶ NSROC is starved for public play courses of quality. There are only about three courses
- ▶ Some Council owned courses could charge additional fees to users, to raise capital for upgrades and in turn have a more satisfied customer<sup>120</sup>
- ▶ Golf NSW would like to work with Councils to encourage more people to participate at their courses

<sup>119</sup> Golf NSW

<sup>120</sup> Golf NSW

- ▶ Three way management of Council courses – Council, Pro and Club. Greater collaboration is required between Clubs and other stakeholders e.g greater input for clubs on how they manage the course
- ▶ The three way management structure of Council courses is not always amicable<sup>121</sup>
- ▶ Public players account for 40% of the total market
- ▶ Sporting fields abutting golf courses are dangerous<sup>122</sup>
- ▶ Sports training on golf courses would do too much damage and most fairways are not flat enough to facilitate this<sup>123124</sup>
- ▶ Dog walkers on golf courses is a risk issue<sup>125</sup>
- ▶ Councils do not market their courses as being open to the public and available for social play<sup>126</sup>
- ▶ Golf courses are expensive to join<sup>127</sup>

<sup>121</sup> Lane Cove Country Club

<sup>122</sup> Golf NSW

<sup>123</sup> Golf NSW

<sup>124</sup> Lane Cove Country Club

<sup>125</sup> Golf NSW

<sup>126</sup> Golf NSW

<sup>127</sup> Lane Cove Country Club

- ▶ Lots of clubs are experimenting with fee structures and offering different levels of membership with support from the governing bodies Golf Australia and Golf NSW<sup>128</sup>
- ▶ There is a push towards nine hole golf competition<sup>129</sup>
- ▶ A good booking system is required for golf courses
- ▶ There may be an option to use car parking at golf courses at night for adjacent sports facilities e.g. Cammeray Park
- ▶ There is a proposal at Northbridge Golf Course to create 2 flat grass areas for soccer training, on the 1st Fairway (which is close to the main road and a car park). It will require lights and is intended for use only in Winter (as golfers don't start a round after 4-5pm)

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<sup>128</sup> Lane Cove Country Club

<sup>129</sup> Lane Cove Country Club

## Hockey

There are six hockey associations in the NSROC region. Hunters Hill, Lane Cove, and Willoughby Council do not have hockey facilities in their municipality.

The Independent Girls Schools Sports Association makes up approximately one third of all players in the region.

The sport is traditionally a winter sport, however some associations are now running spring / summer competitions and an indoor competition with modified equipment.

Hockey in the region provides competition for men, women and juniors. Hockey is one of the few sports where men and women have separate associations.

The Hockey NSW Strategic Facilities Plan 2010-2020 identified that there are many associations trying to access limited synthetic pitches and that there is no strong collaboration between, women's, men's and juniors sectors of hockey.<sup>130</sup>

The lack of synthetic pitches (and the distance to travel to existing ones) is likely to lead to a decline in Hockey.

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<sup>130</sup> Hockey NSW Strategic Facilities Plan 2010-2020

One synthetic pitch in Ryde is to be lost with the sale of the site.

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) have typically specified water based pitches for international hockey. Due to drought, the FIH has been working towards specifying a water-free synthetic turf for top level hockey and a multi-sport turf for other levels. In Australia hybrid surfaces (that can be played wet or dry are being installed in new facilities due to flexibility of use, longevity, and cost and access to water.

■ **Key issues raised in consultation**

The following issues were raised in telephone interviews, community forums and written submissions:

- ▶ There is a shortage of grounds. At least two more synthetic fields are required in the region<sup>131</sup>
- ▶ All hockey fields need to be lit<sup>132</sup>
- ▶ Clubs are finishing training at 11:30pm, in order to fit all teams in<sup>133</sup>
- ▶ Northern District Hockey Association have approval to put in an additional synthetic field at Pennant Hills (currently grass) but do not have the funds to finance it. An Australian Sports Foundation account has been setup for tax deductible donations to fundraise for the project<sup>134</sup>
- ▶ The hockey field at Pennant Hills is hired to other user groups such as Grid Iron, Soccer and Milo Cricket<sup>135</sup>

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<sup>131</sup> Northern District Hockey Association  
<sup>132</sup> Northern District Hockey Association  
<sup>133</sup> Northern District Hockey Association  
<sup>134</sup> Northern District Hockey Association  
<sup>135</sup> Northern District Hockey Association

- ▶ A greater awareness by Councils of the costs in maintaining and replacing synthetic pitches for associations is required. Some association members have mortgaged their houses to provide the existing facilities and funds have not been secured to resurface these<sup>136</sup>
- ▶ The Northern District Hockey Association has a growing membership with the largest group of under nine players in Sydney<sup>137</sup>
- ▶ Women’s soccer scheduling (on Sundays) clashes with hockey. Lit fields could allow weeknight competition to avoid this competition between sports<sup>138</sup>
- ▶ There is a lack of volunteers<sup>139</sup>, and expertise to apply for grants<sup>140</sup>
- ▶ There is a lack of media coverage of hockey even though at a National level Australia is one of the top ranked countries for men’s and women’s hockey<sup>141</sup>
- ▶ The cost of electricity is a major issue for hockey because they have to play under lights<sup>142</sup>

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<sup>136</sup> Northern District Hockey Association  
<sup>137</sup> Northern District Hockey Association  
<sup>138</sup> North Shore Women’s Hockey Association  
<sup>139</sup> North Shore Women’s Hockey Association  
<sup>140</sup> North Shore Women’s Hockey Association  
<sup>141</sup> North Shore Women’s Hockey Association  
<sup>142</sup> North Shore Women’s Hockey Association

- ▶ The grass at Ryde isn’t maintained well enough to play hockey on<sup>143</sup>

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<sup>143</sup> Public forum 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2010

## Lacrosse

Lacrosse can be played on a soccer or hockey field, or a modification of the game called box lacrosse can be played on a tennis court. Lacrosse is traditionally played in the winter months, however modifications such as softcrosse are played in the summer months on tennis courts.

Lacrosse does not have a formalised competition in Sydney and there are no clubs or associations.

Key issues raised in consultation:

- ▶ There are no grounds or competition in the region<sup>144</sup>
  - ▶ Many schools have equipment, however there are no established clubs for players to transition to<sup>145</sup>
  - ▶ Recruiting and retaining players<sup>146</sup>
  - ▶ Perception that smaller sports tend to get squeezed out<sup>147</sup>
- ▶ Lacrosse NSW is working on getting a home ground in the north and in the south of Sydney. At present all equipment is stored in a hired storage shed.

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<sup>144</sup> NSW Lacrosse

<sup>145</sup> NSW Lacrosse

<sup>146</sup> NSW Lacrosse

<sup>147</sup> NSW Lacrosse

## Lawn Bowls / Croquet

Lawn bowls has declined in club participation especially amongst females, and a number of clubs have closed in the region in recent years. There is a however a growth in barefoot and social lawn bowls where this is being offered.

Croquet is played by all ages and both sexes on an equal basis. Over 80% of registered players in NSW are over 60 years of age and around 10 players are aged over 90<sup>148</sup>.

Croquet has 2723 registered players in NSW and has grown by 26% in the last six years<sup>149</sup>

Lawn bowls, croquet, petanque, bocce and boules all have different synergies and court configurations.

As a consequence of the closure of the North Sydney Anzac Club, various facilities including a bowls green, two futsal pitches and two tennis courts along with indoor rooms are currently unavailable. A review of these facilities by North Sydney Council is underway.

<sup>148</sup> Croquet NSW Yearbook, 2010

<sup>149</sup> Croquet NSW Yearbooks, 2004-2010

### ■ Key issues raised in consultation

The following issues were raised in telephone interviews, community forums and written submissions:

- ▶ Lawn bowls is in decline<sup>150</sup>
- ▶ Scheduling of women’s lawn bowls matches is not appropriate for working women and grandparents caring for grandchildren<sup>151</sup>
- ▶ NSW has separate women and mens associations representing lawn bowls<sup>152</sup>
- ▶ Lawn bowls clubs are hiring out greens for futsal and cricket training to gain return on investment. This is supported by the NSW Women’s Bowling Association<sup>153</sup>
- ▶ Bowling greens are expensive to maintain<sup>154</sup>
- ▶ There are fifteen croquet greens in the region and seven clubs<sup>155</sup>

<sup>150</sup> NSW Women’s Bowling Association

<sup>151</sup> NSW Women’s Bowling Association

<sup>152</sup> NSW Women’s Bowling Association

<sup>153</sup> NSW Women’s Bowling Association

<sup>154</sup> NSW Women’s Bowling Association

<sup>155</sup> NSW Women’s Bowling Association

- ▶ There has been a lack of attention to the provision of facilities for the older community who can no longer play contact sports or sports requiring mobility<sup>156</sup>
- ▶ The increase in older Australians will mean that more and more facilities are required to provide for this group<sup>157</sup>
- ▶ Croquet provides mental skills, physical effort and social benefits making it an ideal game for the less mobile<sup>158</sup>
- ▶ Croquet is a growing sport that is low cost and mainly played by older people. The sport is flexible and an effective user of sportsground space<sup>159</sup>
- ▶ Croquet clubs have no paid staff, simple equipment and small clubhouses<sup>160</sup>
- ▶ The only significant cost is the maintenance of the croquet lawns which is often carried out by local Councils

<sup>156</sup> Eastwood Croquet Club

<sup>157</sup> Eastwood Croquet Club

<sup>158</sup> Eastwood Croquet Club

<sup>159</sup> Cammeray Croquet Club, Killara Croquet Club, Chatswood Croquet Club, Hunter’s Hill Croquet Club and Warrawee Croquet Club

<sup>160</sup> Cammeray Croquet Club, Killara Croquet Club, Chatswood Croquet Club, Hunter’s Hill Croquet Club and Warrawee Croquet Club

- ▶ Some croquet clubs are introducing other mallet sports such as gateball, which is popular in China, Japan and Korea, thus providing a service to ethnic communities in their area<sup>161</sup>
- ▶ It is theoretically possible for croquet clubs and bowling clubs to share lawns, but this has generally proved unworkable in practice<sup>162</sup>
- ▶ Where bowling no longer becomes viable, any surplus bowling greens can be taken over by croquet clubs<sup>163</sup>
- ▶ Croquet has a good reputation among local residents, as there is no noise, no unruly behaviour, little consumption of alcohol, and a tradition of politeness and cleanliness<sup>164</sup>
- ▶ One croquet club in the region (Camberay) has introduced lighting for night play, and other Sydney clubs are considering doing so. Lighting for croquet is less intense than for tennis or soccer, as the need to see a moving ball is reduced, and only the playing surface needs illuminating. Both these factors reduce unwanted neighbourhood glare<sup>165</sup>
- ▶ If croquet clubs are to invest money in facilities, and their time in promotion and coaching, they need to have security of tenure. There needs to be an understanding with council that as long as the club remains viable they will not be moved or closed<sup>166</sup>
- ▶ New South Wales has problems when major croquet competitions are held (such as the Australian Open, the New South Wales Men’s and Women’s Championships etc.) as there are no centres large enough to accommodate all the matches.
- ▶ It would help the situation if NSROC could work with one of the regional croquet clubs to develop a good-class four-lawn facility to host major competition tournaments<sup>167</sup>
- ▶ Croquet is an ideal sport for older people, and we feel that it would be in the interests of both Councils and clubs if they worked together to promote the sport – e.g. by holding Seniors Day events and Community College courses<sup>168</sup>
- ▶ There has been synergies in sharing facilities for croquet and bowls in the United Kingdom<sup>169</sup>
- ▶ There may be opportunities to share greens no longer required by a bowls club to develop for other bowling sports such as pentanque. This has happened elsewhere. There have been opportunities missed to put petanque facilities in parks due to a lack of awareness of the sport<sup>170</sup>

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<sup>161</sup> Eastwood Croquet Club

<sup>162</sup> Cammeray Croquet Club, Killara Croquet Club, Chatswood Croquet Club, Hunter’s Hill Croquet Club and Warrawee Croquet Club

<sup>163</sup> Cammeray Croquet Club, Killara Croquet Club, Chatswood Croquet Club, Hunter’s Hill Croquet Club and Warrawee Croquet Club

<sup>164</sup> Cammeray Croquet Club, Killara Croquet Club, Chatswood Croquet Club, Hunter’s Hill Croquet Club and Warrawee Croquet Club

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<sup>165</sup> Cammeray Croquet Club, Killara Croquet Club, Chatswood Croquet Club, Hunter’s Hill Croquet Club and Warrawee Croquet Club

<sup>166</sup> Cammeray Croquet Club, Killara Croquet Club, Chatswood Croquet Club, Hunter’s Hill Croquet Club and Warrawee Croquet Club

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<sup>167</sup> Cammeray Croquet Club, Killara Croquet Club, Chatswood Croquet Club, Hunter’s Hill Croquet Club and Warrawee Croquet Club

<sup>168</sup> Cammeray Croquet Club, Killara Croquet Club, Chatswood Croquet Club, Hunter’s Hill Croquet Club and Warrawee Croquet Club

<sup>169</sup> Public forum 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2010

<sup>170</sup> Public forum 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2010

## Netball

There are four netball district associations in the NSROC region, and each of these associations has a main competition venue where a large number of courts are clustered. Over flow is played at smaller venues.

Training for netball tends to be locally based at smaller satellite facilities. Lights are required at these venues to cater for the traditional evening training time slots.

Netball is traditionally a winter sport, however some associations are now running spring / summer competitions.

Netball in the region provides competition for men, women and juniors, as well as a modified competition for beginners called 'Net, Set, Go!'.

Opportunities are available for players with disabilities at some associations.

### ■ Key issues raised in consultation

The following issues were raised in telephone interviews, community forums and written submissions:

- ▶ Participant numbers are increasing and there is little room for additional courts at existing sites
- ▶ Associations are reducing game times to fit more time slots in, and spread traffic congestion<sup>171</sup>
- ▶ The recommended court run-offs cannot be accommodated at all venues
- ▶ Associations are contributing significant amounts towards maintenance while field sports have their maintenance done by Council<sup>172</sup>
- ▶ Costs per court are disproportionate to other sports and maintenance contributions are higher<sup>173,174</sup>
- ▶ There is a shortage of netball courts, both indoor and outdoor<sup>175</sup>. New indoor developments such as the Ryde basketball stadium do not meet netball run off standards
- ▶ There is a lack of car parking<sup>176</sup> at netball venues. An investigation into multi level car parking or leasing nearby facilities for car parking is required
- ▶ Netball is becoming less affordable as players are levied for capital improvements as well as memberships by associations<sup>177</sup>
- ▶ There is a lack of lit courts<sup>178</sup> for training and play
- ▶ Elite netball players travel outside of the region for training in Auburn<sup>179</sup>
- ▶ The surface of courts at Ku-ring-gai needs urgent attention as well as the toilets (six female, one male)<sup>180</sup>

<sup>171</sup> Eastwood Ryde Netball Association

<sup>172</sup> Eastwood Ryde Netball Association

<sup>173</sup> Ku-ring-gai Netball Association

<sup>174</sup> Eastwood Ryde Netball Association

<sup>175</sup> Ku-ring-gai Netball Association

<sup>176</sup> Netball NSW

<sup>177</sup> Eastwood Ryde Netball Association

<sup>178</sup> Ku-ring-gai Netball Association

<sup>179</sup> Ku-ring-gai Netball Association

<sup>180</sup> Ku-ring-gai Netball Association

- ▶ The courts with the best surface at Ku-ring-gai were recently turned into car parking to alleviate local street congestion in agreement with Council<sup>181</sup>
- ▶ Administratively it is more cost effective to have netball competition at the one site.<sup>182</sup> Players, officials, and coaches are often the same people, and teenagers that cannot drive themselves to netball at multiple sites
- ▶ Grass courts are not ideal for netball, and most associations are moving to the hard courts<sup>183</sup>
- ▶ When converting or sharing courts with tennis there are risk issues that need to be considered such as run off and net holes etc. Multi line courts can also cause issues<sup>184</sup>
- ▶ A blanket response to netball is not appropriate as each association has different issues and needs<sup>185</sup>
- ▶ Finding volunteers is becoming increasingly difficult<sup>186</sup>

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<sup>181</sup> Ku-ring-gai Netball Association

<sup>182</sup> Ku-ring-gai Netball Association

<sup>183</sup> Netball NSW

<sup>184</sup> Netball NSW

<sup>185</sup> Netball NSW

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<sup>186</sup> Hills District Netball Association

<sup>187</sup> Hills District Netball Association

<sup>188</sup> Public Forum 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2010

## Rugby League and Rugby Union

Rugby League is typically played in the winter months, however representative and premier league teams commence selections and start training as early as November<sup>189</sup>.

Girls can participate in rugby league, until they are in U/12s. There are no gender specific leagues in the NSROC region, although other associations do have teams for females<sup>190</sup>. Associations that operate in the NSROC region include the North Sydney Junior Rugby League and Balmain Junior Rugby League. These offer competition for children under 6 years to open age<sup>191</sup>. There is an infrequent masters competition organised by NSW Rugby. NSROC teams participate in this<sup>192</sup>.

Rugby Union is typically played in the winter sports season. Junior teams from NSROC compete in the Metropolitan Northern Zone competition.

<sup>189</sup> North Sydney Junior Rugby League

<sup>190</sup> North Sydney Junior Rugby League

<sup>191</sup> North Sydney Junior Rugby League

<sup>192</sup> North Sydney Junior Rugby League

Senior level competition is played in the NSW Premiership Rugby Union and a regional based competition called the NSW Suburban Rugby Union has six divisions (one to six).

### ■ Key issues raised in consultation

The following issues concerning **rugby league**, were raised in telephone interviews, community forums and written submissions:

- ▶ Clubs are experiencing a shortage of grounds to service a growth in participation of 5-8%<sup>193</sup>
- ▶ Some districts in Sydney cannot put out draws until the Tuesday before the game every week because grounds have not been allocated<sup>194</sup>
- ▶ Very few clubs have dedicated mini fields for mini and mod games<sup>195</sup>
- ▶ Changing lifestyle patterns are creating increased demand for weeknight match play<sup>196</sup>
- ▶ Many lights don't meet the required lux for training or competition<sup>197</sup>

<sup>193</sup> NSW Rugby League – Academy Branch

<sup>194</sup> NSW Rugby League – Academy Branch

<sup>195</sup> NSW Rugby League – Academy Branch

<sup>196</sup> NSW Rugby League – Academy Branch

- ▶ Amenity blocks are small and are suitable for mini and mod users, but not for adults<sup>198</sup>
- ▶ There is very little amenity for spectators at sportsgrounds e.g shade<sup>199</sup>
- ▶ Teams train on a quarter of a field - sometimes up to five teams training on the one field which creates significant wear<sup>200</sup>
- ▶ More facilities are required at the grass roots level rather than regional type facilities<sup>201</sup>
- ▶ Surfaces are worn from overuse and soft from the weather<sup>202</sup>

<sup>197</sup> NSW Rugby League – Academy Branch

<sup>198</sup> NSW Rugby League – Academy Branch

<sup>199</sup> NSW Rugby League – Academy Branch

<sup>200</sup> NSW Rugby League – Academy Branch

<sup>201</sup> NSW Rugby League – Academy Branch

<sup>201</sup> NSW Rugby League – Academy Branch

<sup>201</sup> NSW Rugby League – Academy Branch

<sup>201</sup> NSW Rugby League – Academy Branch

<sup>202</sup> NSW Rugby League – Academy Branch

- ▶ All facilities used in the North Sydney Rugby League need work and upgrades<sup>203</sup>
- ▶ The golden dream is to have specific venues allocated to specific sports<sup>204</sup>
- ▶ Greater respect for the sportsgrounds could be achieved by allowing semi ownership, or perceived ownership to clubs or associations<sup>205</sup>
- ▶ A proposed NRL team in the region will drive participation numbers. This is anticipated for 2012<sup>206</sup>
- ▶ Sharing grounds with soccer is not desirable as they have different wear patterns, which renders them unusable. Sharing with Rugby Union is more feasible<sup>207</sup>
- ▶ Synthetic cricket wickets are better for multi purpose than turf, and cost less to maintain<sup>208</sup>
- ▶ Increased access to school grounds is required to cater for demand

<sup>203</sup> NSW Rugby League – Academy Branch

<sup>204</sup> NSW Rugby League – Academy Branch

<sup>205</sup> North Sydney Junior Rugby League

<sup>206</sup> North Sydney Junior Rugby League

<sup>207</sup> North Sydney Junior Rugby League

<sup>208</sup> North Sydney Junior Rugby League

- ▶ The bike track put on the perimeter of a ground at Willoughby Park created massive drainage problems<sup>209</sup>
- ▶ Councils appear to be catering better to dog users and passive recreationalists rather than sports users<sup>210</sup>
- ▶ Six weeks of preparatory training is required prior to the season commencing to fulfil duty of care e.g players safety, rolling ankles due to uneven surface etc<sup>211</sup>

The following issues concerning **rugby union**, were raised in telephone interviews, community forums and written submissions:

- ▶ The number of participants is steady<sup>212</sup>
- ▶ There is a shortage of fields<sup>213</sup>
- ▶ There is a need for more lit fields for night competition<sup>214</sup>
- ▶ Improving drainage so that grounds can stay open<sup>215</sup>
- ▶ It is very difficult to start a new club as they cannot get grounds<sup>216</sup>

<sup>209</sup> North Sydney Junior Rugby League

<sup>210</sup> North Sydney Junior Rugby League

<sup>211</sup> North Sydney Junior Rugby League

<sup>212</sup> NSW Suburban Rugby

<sup>213</sup> NSW Suburban Rugby

<sup>214</sup> NSW Suburban Rugby

<sup>215</sup> NSW Suburban Rugby

- ▶ Junior rugby union is held back by the lack of grounds. There are children who cannot get into clubs as they do not have grounds<sup>217</sup>
- ▶ Synthetic surfaces need to be tried<sup>218</sup>
- ▶ Larger clubs contribute capital and are encouraged to do so to give back to the community and obtain tenure<sup>219</sup>
- ▶ A partnership approach to facilities between clubs and Council is required<sup>220</sup>
- ▶ Cooperation and communication between some clubs, and some Councils is poor in regards to wet weather closures – Councils have different approaches<sup>221</sup>
- ▶ Grounds that have drainage works are dramatically improved if done right<sup>222</sup>
- ▶ The north side of Sydney has a lot of Rugby Union and a strong hold there<sup>223</sup>

<sup>216</sup> NSW Suburban Rugby

<sup>217</sup> NSW Suburban Rugby

<sup>218</sup> NSW Suburban Rugby

<sup>219</sup> NSW Suburban Rugby

<sup>220</sup> NSW Suburban Rugby

<sup>221</sup> NSW Suburban Rugby

<sup>222</sup> NSW Suburban Rugby

<sup>223</sup> NSW Suburban Rugby

- ▶ North Sydney has the only regional type facility (North Sydney Oval). All others are club facilities in residential areas<sup>224</sup>
- ▶ Playing surfaces are a priority for works ahead of the basic amenity blocks which are functional<sup>225</sup>
- ▶ Many weeks of the year the fields are not playable<sup>226</sup>
- ▶ The priorities for the region are to improve drainage and lighting to competition standard<sup>227</sup>
- ▶ A transparent allocation process will rule out claims of favouritism<sup>228</sup>
- ▶ Set a regional standard for grounds and ensure all facilities meet this<sup>229</sup>

<sup>224</sup> NSW Suburban Rugby

<sup>225</sup> NSW Suburban Rugby

<sup>226</sup> NSW Suburban Rugby

<sup>227</sup> NSW Suburban Rugby

<sup>228</sup> NSW Suburban Rugby

<sup>229</sup> NSW Suburban Rugby

## Soccer

Soccer is traditionally played during the winter months with men’s competition played on a Saturday and women’s competition on a Sunday. Training takes place mid week.

Some associations and clubs are offering a minor summer competition.

Futsal (five a side) is generally played on indoor courts, but can be played on synthetic grass and lawn bowls greens.

Small sided games were introduced in recent years for younger age players and allows multiple games to be played on one standard sized field.

There are three associations in the region: Ku-ring-gai District Soccer Association, Gladesville – Hornsby Football Association and North West Sydney Women’s Football Inc.

### ■ Key issues raised in consultation

The following issues were raised in telephone interviews, community forums and written submissions:

- ▶ Some clubs are turning away players due to the shortage of grounds<sup>230</sup>
- ▶ Numbers for the North West Sydney Women’s Football Association are increasing slightly, however they are not promoting very heavily due to the shortage of grounds
- ▶ There is competition for grounds between men and women on Sundays<sup>231</sup>
- ▶ Women’s competition is not taken as seriously as the men’s. There is a pecking order and women are at the bottom<sup>232</sup>
- ▶ There is a need for synthetic surfaces<sup>233234</sup>
- ▶ More lit grounds would allow for rotation and spread of training<sup>235</sup>

<sup>230</sup> Ku-ring-gai and District Soccer Association Incorporated

<sup>231</sup> North West Sydney Women’s Football Association

<sup>232</sup> North West Sydney Women’s Football Association

<sup>233</sup> North West Sydney Women’s Football Association

<sup>234</sup> Football NSW

<sup>235</sup> North West Sydney Women’s Football Association

- ▶ Many grounds don't have competition standard lights and some leagues are now moving to night competitions to accommodate demand<sup>236</sup>
- ▶ The amount of rubbish left at grounds (from Saturdays play) is a significant issue on Sundays<sup>237</sup>
- ▶ Finals are rarely held in the NSROC region due to the poor quality of fields<sup>238</sup>
- ▶ Users being penalised for participating in sports outside of their Councils borders<sup>239</sup>
- ▶ Sports that share grounds need to work together to be more organised<sup>240</sup>
- ▶ Sports need to be honest about how often they are really using their sportsgrounds. Sometimes grounds will be booked, but no one is using them<sup>241</sup>

<sup>236</sup> Football NSW

<sup>237</sup> North West Sydney Women's Football Association

<sup>238</sup> North West Sydney Women's Football Association

<sup>239</sup> North West Sydney Women's Football Association

<sup>240</sup> Football NSW

<sup>241</sup> Football NSW

- ▶ The need to develop relationships with schools and the Education Department e.g. Sutherland Council manage the agreements for their school facilities<sup>242</sup>
- ▶ The opportunity to better use small areas of green space for small sided games<sup>243</sup>
- ▶ The need for more grounds for training<sup>244</sup>
- ▶ Teams are training elsewhere such as indoor training or running<sup>245</sup>
- ▶ Major participation growth is in community football and more local type facilities are required<sup>246</sup>
- ▶ A new FFNSW facility being developed at Riverston will not meet the needs of the community, rather service the elite players and their development<sup>247</sup>
- ▶ Soccer thinks that all Councils should have sport reference groups / Councils<sup>248</sup>
- ▶ Bowling greens can be used for soccer but some have been turned over to housing development<sup>249</sup>

<sup>242</sup> Football NSW

<sup>243</sup> Football NSW

<sup>244</sup> Ku-ring-gai and District Soccer Association Incorporated

<sup>245</sup> Football NSW

<sup>246</sup> Football NSW

<sup>247</sup> Football NSW

<sup>248</sup> Ku-ring-gai and District Soccer Association Incorporated

<sup>249</sup> Ku-ring-gai and District Soccer Association Incorporated

- ▶ Storage is an ongoing problem that Councils need to look at<sup>250</sup>
- ▶ A regional football centre is needed in NSROC. There is potential for one at St Ives showground<sup>251</sup>
- ▶ North Turramurra has the opportunity to be developed into a three pitch complex
- ▶ All existing soccer facilities need work and upgrading
- ▶ Cricket pitches are not ideal on soccer pitches<sup>252</sup>
- ▶ Secure tenure would be ideal and money could be put into facilities to secure this<sup>253</sup>
- ▶ Differing fees and charges across the region is perceived to severely handicap some clubs and cause disparity<sup>254</sup>
- ▶ There have been proposals for, (or there are opportunities to) develop synthetic soccer pitches at St Ives Showground (multipurpose), at a Education Department facility in Ryde, at Pennant Hills Park, and at Cammeray Park in North Sydney

<sup>250</sup> Ku-ring-gai and District Soccer Association Incorporated

<sup>251</sup> Ku-ring-gai and District Soccer Association Incorporated

<sup>252</sup> Ku-ring-gai and District Soccer Association Incorporated

<sup>253</sup> Ku-ring-gai and District Soccer Association Incorporated

<sup>254</sup> Ku-ring-gai and District Soccer Association Incorporated

## Softball

There are two softball associations in the NSROC region; the Hornsby District Association and the North Shore District Association.

The North Shore District Softball Association is the largest female only softball association in Australia with 1500 members<sup>255</sup>

Similarly to netball and touch football, all softball clubs play at the same venue each week, Ku-ring-gai however have multiple softball venues and a strategy to decentralise the sport which the association has agreed to.

Softball is predominately played during the summer months, although North Shore softball plays in winter. It is very large and as it is the only association to play winter and therefore draws players from outside of the region.

There is a proposal to create a new Diamond sports complex in Ku-ring-gai.

<sup>255</sup> North Shore District Softball Association  
<http://northshore.softball.org.au/locatorDetails.asp?orgid=4964>

There is a diamond at Meadowbank Park (Ryde) that hasn't been booked for years. Council are undertaking a master plan for this precinct at present.

### ■ Key issues raised in consultation

The following issues were raised in telephone interviews, community forums and written submissions:

- ▶ There is a shortage of grounds especially those central to the population: grounds are located on the fringes of Sydney away from the population – There is a large hole in central Sydney
- ▶ The Hornsby Association fields are not located centrally and do not have public transport access. As a result numbers have stabilised and are declining at Hornsby District Softball Association. The Association would prefer to be relocated<sup>256</sup>
- ▶ Participants in the region are female only and associations cannot expand to male participants as there is no more space to play<sup>257</sup>. Most other associations outside of the region have male participants<sup>258</sup>

<sup>256</sup> Hornsby District Softball Association  
<sup>257</sup> Softball NSW  
<sup>258</sup> Softball NSW

- ▶ Numbers have stabilised<sup>259</sup> and are declining at Hornsby District Softball Association<sup>260</sup>
- ▶ NSROC is the only region in Sydney that does not have softball specific fields year round<sup>261</sup>
- ▶ There are some facilities with lights for training, but no facilities with competition level lighting<sup>262</sup>
- ▶ Grounds used by Softball in the region require work. The surface at Hornsby is an issue as it is shared with soccer. The kitchen facilities require upgrading and do not meet health and safety standards<sup>263</sup>
- ▶ Permanent back nets are preferred for softball, but are not possible at shared grounds<sup>264</sup>

<sup>259</sup> Softball NSW

<sup>260</sup> Hornsby District Softball Association

<sup>261</sup> Softball NSW

<sup>262</sup> Softball NSW

<sup>263</sup> Softball NSW

<sup>264</sup> Softball NSW

- ▶ All diamonds in the region are grass. Representative, state and national level competitions are played on skinned infields<sup>265</sup>
- ▶ The inequity between men’s and women’s sport<sup>266</sup>

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<sup>265</sup> Softball NSW

<sup>266</sup> Hornsby District Softball Association

## Tennis

Tennis in the NSROC region is provided through association competitions, private providers and social tennis and casual opportunities.

Tennis participation numbers are expected to remain relatively consistent with Ryde, North Sydney and Willoughby experiencing the most growth<sup>267</sup>

The quantity of tennis facilities in the area is reasonable (when compared to the NSW industry benchmark of 1:1,500) however the mix (number of courts at each venue, quality and court surfaces) may need reviewing<sup>268</sup>

There is no regional centre in the region and hence player pathways may not be well developed.

Tennis has four associations in the region: Hornsby – Ku-ring-gai Association, Eastwood – Thornleigh Association, Northern Suburbs Tennis Association and the Hills Association<sup>269</sup>

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<sup>267</sup> Tennis NSW

<sup>268</sup> Tennis NSW

<sup>269</sup> Hills Tennis Association

## ■ Key issues raised in consultation

The following issues were raised in telephone interviews, community forums and written submissions:

- ▶ The quality of courts and the amenities is poor and look worse than they did 10 years ago<sup>270</sup>
- ▶ There is a large number of “local” facilities, which are less financially viable than 8-12 court venues<sup>271</sup>
- ▶ Users expect more than ever from the facilities and are happy to pay to access a quality facility<sup>272</sup>
- ▶ Users paying the same price for varying quality courts creates inequity<sup>273</sup>
- ▶ The lack of promotion of positive role models such as Samantha Stosur<sup>274</sup>
- ▶ Facilities need to be appropriate to service demand before any promotional activity takes place<sup>275</sup>

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<sup>270</sup> Love and Deuce

<sup>271</sup> Tennis NSW

<sup>272</sup> Love and Deuce

<sup>273</sup> Love and Deuce

<sup>274</sup> Love and Deuce

<sup>275</sup> Love and Deuce

- ▶ Courts could be rated as per hotel ratings system. This may encourage clubs to lift their game<sup>276</sup>
- ▶ Courts carrying capacity needs to be maximised before new courts are built<sup>277</sup>
- ▶ Tennis clubs do not charge high enough rates and therefore do not have the revenue to invest in facility upgrades<sup>278</sup>
- ▶ Training from Tennis Australia and Tennis NSW for coaches on running a successful business, rather than just focusing on producing elite players<sup>279</sup>
- ▶ Hills Tennis Association has declining membership, which is consistent with other associations<sup>280</sup>
- ▶ The lack of planning for obtaining grants and capital improvements<sup>281</sup>
- ▶ Pennant Hills is a 16 court complex that is poorly designed and laid out<sup>282</sup>

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<sup>276</sup> Love and Deuce

<sup>277</sup> Love and Deuce

<sup>278</sup> Love and Deuce

<sup>279</sup> Love and Deuce

<sup>280</sup> Hills Tennis Association

<sup>281</sup> Hills Tennis Association

<sup>282</sup> Hills Tennis Association

- ▶ Players in squads have to travel to Sydney Olympic Park twice per week for squad training etc<sup>283</sup>
- ▶ All tennis associations have different agreements and different access to money etc. A consistent approach would be useful<sup>284</sup>
- ▶ Competition from Council owned facilities with 3-5-5 committees. These courts are very cheap. Council should up the price to pay for capital improvements<sup>285</sup>
- ▶ There is one centre that is capable of meeting the criteria for a regional centre in the region (Pennant Hills Park) which would be sufficient for the region<sup>286</sup>

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<sup>283</sup> Hills Tennis Association

<sup>284</sup> Hills Tennis Association

<sup>285</sup> Hills Tennis Association

<sup>286</sup> Tennis NSW

- ▶ Tennis World on Epping Road is of significant concern. It is on RTA land and no tenure can be guaranteed, which means that minimal finance has been invested into capital rejuvenation. This facility should be one of the more prominent facilities in the region. TVNSW and Council need to work together to secure tenure at the site or alternatively a new site needs to be found for a facility of similar size<sup>287</sup>
- ▶ Focus on increasing the number of 8-12 court facilities which are more sustainable by either converting some of the existing facilities and potentially losing some of the unsustainable courts at smaller facilities, or by building new facilities and forgoing<sup>288</sup>
- ▶ Tennis NSW would relish working with NSROC Councils to develop a consistent strategy across the region<sup>289</sup>

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<sup>287</sup> Tennis NSW

<sup>288</sup> Tennis NSW

<sup>289</sup> Tennis NSW

## Touch Football / Oz Tag

Touch football and oz tag typically operate from one multifield association competition venue, similarly to netball.

Touch football and oz tag participants are both male and female.

Both sports are typically played in the evening during summer months.

### ■ Key issues raised in consultation

The following issues were raised in telephone interviews, community forums and written submissions:

- ▶ There is a shortage of grounds to cater for a growing participation base<sup>290</sup>
- ▶ Ryde Eastwood Touch Football Association plays matches Monday afternoons and evenings at Meadowbank and have just enough fields to meet demand<sup>291</sup>
- ▶ Brothers Oz tag are restricted to Tuesday afternoon play only, as they cannot get grounds at any other time<sup>292</sup>

<sup>290</sup> New South Wales Touch Association

<sup>291</sup> Ryde Eastwood Touch Football Association

<sup>292</sup> Brother Oz tag

- ▶ The number of injuries related to the quality of grounds is driving insurance costs up<sup>293</sup>
- ▶ Touch football is played in each Council<sup>294</sup>
- ▶ Toilets at all grounds require upgrading<sup>295</sup>
- ▶ Costs of hire for the same field vary e.g soccer are charged a fee for one field, however if four touch games are played on the same field, the fee is four times as much<sup>296</sup>
- ▶ Touch football can be played on synthetic surfaces but is not at present<sup>297</sup>
- ▶ The perception is that sports such as cricket that spend the most money, get priority allocations<sup>298</sup>

<sup>293</sup> Brothers Oz Tag

<sup>294</sup> Ryde Eastwood Touch Football Association

<sup>295</sup> Ryde Eastwood Touch Football Association

<sup>296</sup> Ryde Eastwood Touch Football Association

<sup>297</sup> New South Wales Touch Association

<sup>298</sup> Brothers Oz Tag

- ▶ There is some suggestion that as these sports are run under licence and not by a club or volunteers that they should be charged differently to clubs for use of playing fields, even though they are filling an important gap for people who want less routine commitment and a convenient service and are happy to pay
- ▶ Poor quality of surfaces<sup>299</sup>
- ▶ Touch football has no hierarchy of facilities<sup>300</sup>
- ▶ In some areas ground allocations will need to double by 2021 to cater for demand<sup>301</sup>
- ▶ The venues in Hunters Hill and Lane Cove cannot cater for further growth<sup>302</sup>
- ▶ Artarmon Oval has high usage and requires upgrading<sup>303</sup>

<sup>299</sup> New South Wales Touch Association

<sup>300</sup> New South Wales Touch Association

<sup>301</sup> New South Wales Touch Association

<sup>302</sup> New South Wales Touch Association

<sup>303</sup> New South Wales Touch Association

## Ultimate Frisbee

The largest proportion of ultimate frisbee players is in the NSROC region.

The sport can be played on a grassed field or synthetic surface and two matches can be played concurrently on the one soccer field.

Ultimate Frisbee on the North Shore has an elite league, and four divisions (one to four). It is popular among university students.

### ■ Key issues raised in consultation

The following issues were raised in telephone interviews, community forums and written submissions:

- ▶ The need for grounds to be available for adhoc events and tournaments<sup>304</sup>
- ▶ The number of participants is increasing and grounds are not available to cater for the demand<sup>305</sup>

<sup>304</sup> NSW Flying Disc Association

<sup>305</sup> NSW Flying Disc Association

- ▶ The sport has no access to fields on the weekend, and therefore requires access to fields with lights for weeknight participation<sup>306</sup>
- ▶ Willoughby City Council have cut down allocations of fields by 75% for ultimate frisbee<sup>307</sup>
- ▶ The cost of putting up lights (including financial costs and social costs to residents etc)<sup>308</sup>
- ▶ Fields are sometimes closed in summer months, as winter has taken so much out of them<sup>309</sup>
- ▶ 100 lux lights are required for the sport, however users will drop to 75 lux to get on a field<sup>310</sup>
- ▶ There is no hierarchy of facilities in ultimate frisbee<sup>311</sup>
- ▶ The allocation of three additional soccer fields is required for training and competition to meet existing demand<sup>312</sup>
- ▶ Representative teams did not have a field to train on prior to the World Championships<sup>313</sup>
- ▶ The allocation of grounds appears to be directed towards traditional sports. North Sydney Council’s method of bringing people around the table is a positive initiative to having a transparent allocation policy<sup>314</sup>
- ▶ Matches are not played across cricket pitches and football goal posts can be hazardous for participants<sup>315</sup>
- ▶ It is ideal if cricket pitches are located in the centre of the ground so that two Frisbee games can be played concurrently either side<sup>316</sup>
- ▶ The sport is very reliant on the NSROC region for its existence. The largest league in Australia is in the region, and the sport will wither without the allocation of grounds<sup>317</sup>

<sup>306</sup> NSW Flying Disc Association

<sup>307</sup> NSW Flying Disc Association

<sup>308</sup> NSW Flying Disc Association

<sup>309</sup> NSW Flying Disc Association

<sup>310</sup> NSW Flying Disc Association

<sup>311</sup> NSW Flying Disc Association

<sup>312</sup> NSW Flying Disc Association

<sup>313</sup> NSW Flying Disc Association

<sup>314</sup> NSW Flying Disc Association

<sup>315</sup> NSW Flying Disc Association

<sup>316</sup> NSW Flying Disc Association

<sup>317</sup> NSW Flying Disc Association

- ▶ Ultimate Frisbee create significant wear on sportsgrounds due to the nature of the sport e.g pivoting<sup>318</sup>

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<sup>318</sup> Public Forum 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2010

## Appendices

### Appendix 1. NSROC Regional Sportsground Infrastructure Management Strategy - Forum Notes

#### ■ 1a. Sports Forum 9th September 2010 (Lane Cove Library)

##### 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

##### 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

### 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 to date

- ▶ 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 are the other major sport issues in the community?

- ▶ Cross country area required (2km) around 2 x grassed fields, rugby league taking over Sydney Olympic Park athletics track for training
- ▶ Field availability for adhoc events such as tournaments
- ▶ Petanque is in a unique position - starting from the bottom – no existing facilities – new sport
- ▶ 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
- ▶ Instead of reducing the number of cricket turf wickets, move maintenance costs to the clubs
- ▶ Recognise sports with purpose built facilities as compared to multi use

### 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
  - ▶ Access to private schools – bring Government on board, the community will benefit by opening school sportsgrounds
  - ▶ Set up a website / database with contacts of all fields, documents on management and maintenance, funding opportunities – somewhere to share knowledge
  - ▶ Open the gate and increase access to public schools – particularly those 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 on a six monthly basis etc
- ▶ Not enough smart modern practices for maintenance, look at different grasses and watering - synergies to address ground surfaces

### 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
- ▶ 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

- ▶ Opportunities for regional facility development and / or upgrades 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 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
- ▶ Two 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
- ▶ 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 the 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
- ▶ Flying Disc Association promote public transport
- ▶ 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 trialling night games and continually assessing viability of this
- ▶ Diversity of recreation opportunities required, aquatic facilities are at capacity (Lane Cove) – are their opportunities to investigate this? Are there cross training opportunities for other sports at the pool?
- ▶ 10 foot run off is recommended for netball but cannot be provided

### 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 to sports associations e.g paid grounds manager

### 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 four 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
- ▶ Regional funds for sports / Councils / participants to contribute to, or 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?

### Priorities?<sup>319</sup>

- ▶ 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 to be available – through 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 - communications

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<sup>319</sup> Please note that hierarchy of priorities was not established

■ **1b. Sports Forum 23rd September 2010 (Lane Cove Council)**

**Major sport issues in Region**

- ▶ Long term agreements with Council are needed in return for investing in capital improvements
- ▶ Issues with booking systems – consistency required across the region
- ▶ Synthetics in bowling – issues with greens being too hard, slipping risks
- ▶ Standard of lighting is not adequate
- ▶ Look at the sports sharing – make sure they are conducive
- ▶ Regional facility that is available all year for the one code
- ▶ Quality of grounds is an issue as they are used so often
- ▶ Synthetic surfaces for soccer
- ▶ Growing number of older people in the community. Look at investing more funds in this growing group
- ▶ Ryde Hockey – lease expiring in 2014, trying to get it renewed. Synthetic grounds are needed – grass isn't looked after well enough to play hockey on
- ▶ Soccer is not harder on grounds – they just have more people using them than other sports
- ▶ Difficulty in securing grounds for training during the week – no spare capacity
- ▶ Issues with sorting out leases at Ku-ring-gai
  - Tenure is an issue across the region
- Issues with converting cricket to Sunday play
- Lighting for training is needed
- ▶ Availability and quality of grounds is an issue
- ▶ Attraction and attrition of volunteers
- ▶ Lighting enhances community safety
- ▶ Child protection issues when sharing fields e.g six year old children training next to senior rugby
- ▶ Increased access to schools, particularly high schools and universities
- ▶ The principal of a school is responsible for the community lease agreement – must make connections with schools
- ▶ A coordinated policy to school access is needed
- ▶ Sustainable developments and technology that will meet carrying capacity now and in the future
- ▶ Peak body strategic plans – promote to your peak body
- ▶ Liaison between local and state government to get access to school grounds
- ▶ Grant for schools (\$100k)
- ▶ Schools are losing grounds to new infrastructure, this is creating more demand for Council grounds
- ▶ More communication needed between government and associations and clubs – motivate people to lobby and work together
- ▶ Issue of clubs getting money for upgrades that aren't in Council plans

- ▶ Small grants mean that there is unstructured, adhoc planning
- ▶ Money is the big issue with facilities

### Regional initiatives to address management issues

- ▶ Some associations cover up to five Council areas, some outside of the NSROC region
- ▶ Premier league soccer to move to summer months – this competition is not in NSROC
- ▶ Sports that share grounds need to work together – some are doing this now i.e buddying
- ▶ Council to play a role in bringing stakeholders together
- ▶ Money to be invested in juniors – e.g. cricket junior fees to be spent on infrastructure for juniors rather than player payments
- ▶ Sport forums with Council are useful tools
- ▶ Utilisation of grounds needs to be dealt with locally
- ▶ Booking is onerous dealing with multiple Councils, different policies, booking systems etc. enormous amount of effort required
- ▶ Associations book competition venues, clubs book their training venues
- ▶ Transparency of ground bookings, knowing who's booked what and when
- ▶ Breaks in fixtures allow make up games from wash outs
- ▶ 70,000 dwellings being built on the train line to Hornsby. The State needs to provide for these
  - Get professional people in to fill out grant applications
  - Use NSROC as a way to lobby state government and obtain funds

- ▶ Northbridge synthetic will have 70 hours per week carrying capacity. Increased by approximately 50 hours from grass
- ▶ Grant application groups
- ▶ Need to have a plan in place, so that you know what you are going to apply for when grants come around
- ▶ Catering for different population groups can enhance grant eligibility
- ▶ Northbridge Oval synthetic development has seven funding partners
- ▶ Lobby the Minister of Planning for funds to provide recreation facilities for the planned population increases

### Opportunities to increase sport participation in region?

- ▶ Concern that residents will stop lighting being installed - need to educate the community about the need for lights and the importance of sportsgrounds and how they are used
- ▶ Put residents on notice e.g that all fields might be lit within 10 years
- ▶ All Councils need to support regional initiatives and advocate to their residents
- ▶ Tennis courts can be used for children's soccer training

### Priorities?

- ▶ Not to lose any more grounds
- ▶ To get multipurpose grounds and extend the usable life of them to reduce the pressure on others of sportsgrounds and Increase carrying capacity of fields
- ▶ Lights
- ▶ Look at what other countries are doing in regards to sportsground provision and management
- ▶ Lobby state government for more funds to serve new people and address obesity

## Appendix 2. Summary of Submissions

NO	POSITION / ORGANISATION	KEY POINTS RAISED
1	Northern Suburbs Cricket Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Getting clubs to inform the NSCA when there are problems with the grounds – NCSA will be looking at reporting issues internally</li> <li>• NSCA is experiencing considerable growth</li> <li>• Main way forward is through modifying offerings such as match type / length / duration day of the week as there are no new facilities being built</li> <li>• Approached Councils about possibilities of pitch replacements to improve the playing performance</li> <li>• Reducing red tape and administration required to carry out dealings will make the use of limited volunteers time more efficient</li> <li>• The introduction of service level agreements from Councils would give users an understanding of the regular maintenance on grounds – including scheduled maintenance and issues that prevent the tasks being undertaken e.g. heavy rain</li> </ul>
2	Parent – soccer and netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little or no improvement to Bob Campbell Oval apart from the annual refresh of turf which only partially covers the field</li> <li>• Fields are lush in September in time for cricket season, they are watered and fertilised for a few months and then level of care concludes in new year causing the grass to die away before soccer season</li> <li>• In April the field is grassy, by August its either dry and dusty or slushy and unplayable</li> <li>• One corner (possibly north east) is constantly boggy except in extreme heat</li> <li>• Other grounds such as Blackman and Pottery are the same – however, Cammeray, Northbridge and several others manage to survive</li> <li>• Overseas synthetic grounds are arranged so that full size games run the length of the fields, while three small sided games can run across the field</li> <li>• Synthetic surfaces vs turf costs will be reduced when carrying capacity is increased</li> <li>• Synthetic surfaces are multipurpose</li> <li>• Bob Campbell Oval is located at the end of Gore Creek, there is opportunity for tanks to be located behind the playground to collect stormwater</li> <li>• To prevent injuries the options are to maintain the fields to a higher standard or go synthetic</li> </ul>
3	Respondent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ultimate Frisbee is not well known</li> <li>• In Sydney there are about 1,000 active players ranging from school age to masters</li> <li>• Struggle to find space on pitches competing against some more well known sports such as soccer and rugby</li> </ul>

NO	POSITION / ORGANISATION	KEY POINTS RAISED
4	Respondent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would not support any strategy that would take away any public access to sports fields</li> <li>• Waitara Oval is a very well loved park and my family and I would be horrified if rugby or cricket were given any level of exclusivity over the oval or facilities, over and above normal games, training, and reasonable events</li> <li>• Ovals on the North Shore such as Chatswood are now hard to gain access to as the rugby club manages it for their own purposes. Do not allow this to happen elsewhere</li> </ul>
5	President, Northern Suburbs Dog Training Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Discussion Paper does not acknowledge formal dog training classes</li> <li>• The number of people involved in this activity would be greater than the numbers for baseball and thus should be considered</li> <li>• These organisations provide a valuable community service as they contribute to “the harmony of happy, but controlled animals with responsible owners who form a large proportion of the community”</li> <li>• Dog owners are far more numerous than any sport participant</li> <li>• Dog clubs and current training schools out number at least baseball participants</li> <li>• Grounds used to not have to cover a vast, flat, grassed area, but can be made up if smaller areas surrounded by trees</li> <li>• It is important to include dog owners and canine sports participants in the overall considerations when planning sportsground development and usage</li> </ul>
6	Respondent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The North Sydney Anzac Club will be closing at the end of September and to date there has been no mention of the future for this club</li> <li>• The facilities include, a bowls green, two futsal pitches and two tennis courts. All indoor rooms are large and could accommodate indoor bowls and other indoor sports</li> <li>• Futsal was stopped by Council after a handful of residents complained, the loss of revenue from this greatly impacted on the club and may have attributed to its closure</li> <li>• Disappointed in North Sydney Councils handling of the North Sydney Anzac Club and full disclosure would give understanding for their reasoning for running the Anzac Club to its closure</li> <li>• Looking forward to NSROC investigating more use of the clubs existing facilities that have been mismanaged</li> </ul>

NO	POSITION / ORGANISATION	KEY POINTS RAISED
7	KDSA	<p>Ku-ring – gai Soccer currently has Fifteen Thousand Four Hundred (15,400) Registered Players in our 2010 Winter Season. We operate in five (5) – out of the seven (7) Local Council Areas as nominated by our state body, the five are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hornsby Shire Council (Eastern part only);</li> <li>2. Ku-ring – gai Council;</li> <li>3. Lane Cove Council;</li> <li>4. North Sydney Council;</li> <li>5. Willoughby City Council.</li> </ol> <p>Our 2010 Winter Season concludes on Saturday 28 August/Sunday 29 August with a series of “round robin” matches for our junior players – some ten thousand (10,000) of them.</p>
8	Mt Colah Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All sports in a region / suburb need to group together as one community based sports association</li> <li>• Each sport, even those with small participation, can be better represented as a larger group. It would also allow those smaller sports to still exist and provide alternatives for the community</li> <li>• I live in Mt Colah and would prefer to see a Mt. Colah Sports Association - rather than individual sporting bodies doing there own thing. Collectively the community could then establish a club with facilities to support the needs of the area as age groups fluctuate and sport participation varies depending on the "in-sport" at that time</li> </ul>
9	Tennis NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tennis participation numbers will remain relatively consistent, with Ryde, North Sydney and Willoughby experiencing the most growth</li> <li>• The provision of tennis facilities in the region is quite reasonable (when compared to industry benchmark of 1:1500), however the mix may need reviewing</li> <li>• ERASS data shows that tennis ranks very high on participation tables (top ten in all categories)</li> <li>• Tennis Australia has released figures in regards to grassroots programs which shows that tennis has a bright future</li> <li>• NSROC has one centre capable of meeting the criteria for a regional centre which would be sufficient for the area</li> <li>• There is a large number of local and small facilities. The State Master Plan for Facilities has identified that small facilities (less than four courts) are financially unsustainable</li> <li>• Focus on increasing the number of 8-12 court facilities which are more sustainable by either converting some of the existing facilities and potentially losing some of the unsustainable courts at smaller facilities, or by building new facilities and forgoing the existing smaller ones</li> <li>• There are some cases where a small facility is sustainable through a joint management model. Each case should be assessed on needs of the specific community</li> <li>• Talus St, St Leonard is in good condition with the existing lessees and managers presenting and maintaining the facility very well</li> <li>• There are some facilities that have had no local government money invested in them and they are becoming run down</li> <li>• It is understood that some courts in Cammeray are under threat of being removed</li> </ul>

NO	POSITION / ORGANISATION	KEY POINTS RAISED
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tennis World on Epping Road is of significant concern. It is on RTA land and no tenure can be guaranteed, which means that minimal finance has been invested into capital rejuvenation. This facility should be one of the more prominent facilities in the region. Tennis NSW and Council need to work together to secure tenure at the site or alternatively a new site needs to be found for a facility of similar size</li> <li>Tennis NSW has recently completed a State Master Plan for Facilities</li> <li>Tennis NSW would relish working collectively with Councils to develop a consistent strategy across the region</li> </ul>
10	Not disclosed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I am from Europe and coached Football for the last 5 years in Sydney North Shore. I am trying to follow the development of sports fields in this country. I also know that it's not that simple and there are restraints within Councils and the governments</li> <li>I personally stopped playing football due to the appalling state of our grounds</li> <li>Every year clubs, Councils and Associations are having forums and discussion to how to improve the state of our ovals with simply closing their eyes to the fact that there are not enough sporting grounds around for the amount of active members</li> <li>The only way out of this dilemma is to build more grounds, or invest in artificial grass</li> </ul>
11	Cammeray Croquet Club, Killara Croquet Club, Chatswood Croquet Club, Hunter's Hill Croquet Club, and Warrawee Croquet Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Croquet is a growing sport that is low cost and mainly played by older people. The sport is flexible and an effective user of sportsground space</li> <li>Croquet clubs have no paid staff, simple equipment and small clubhouses</li> <li>The only significant cost is the maintenance of the croquet lawns which is often carried out by local Councils</li> <li>Some croquet clubs are introducing other mallet sports such as gateball, which is popular in China, Japan and Korea, thus providing a service to ethnic communities in their area</li> <li>It is theoretically possible for croquet clubs and bowling clubs to share lawns, but this has generally proved unworkable in practice</li> <li>Where bowling no longer becomes viable, any surplus bowling greens can be taken over by croquet clubs</li> <li>Croquet has a good reputation among local residents, as there is no noise, no unruly behaviour, little consumption of alcohol, and a tradition of politeness and cleanliness</li> <li>One croquet club in the region (Cammeray) has introduced lighting for night play, and other Sydney clubs are considering doing so. Lighting for croquet is less intense than for tennis or soccer, as the need to see a moving ball is reduced, and only the playing surface needs illuminating. Both these factors reduce unwanted neighbourhood glare</li> <li>If croquet clubs are to invest money in facilities, and their time in promotion and coaching, they need to have security of tenure. There needs to be an understanding with Council that as long as the club remains viable they will not be moved or closed</li> <li>New South Wales has problems when major croquet competitions are held (such as the Australian Open, the New South Wales Men's and Women's Championships etc) as there are no centres large enough to accommodate all the matches. It would help the situation if NSROC could work with one of the regional clubs to develop a good-class four-lawn facility to host major</li> </ul>

NO	POSITION / ORGANISATION	KEY POINTS RAISED
		<p>competition tournaments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Croquet is an ideal sport for older people, and we feel that it would be in the interests of both Councils and clubs if they worked together to promote the sport – e.g. by holding Seniors Day events and Community College courses</li> </ul>
12	Eastwood Croquet Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disappointed in the Stakeholder Information Evening as it seemed to be all about cricket and football</li> <li>• The lack of attention to the provision of facilities for the older community who can no longer play contact sports or sports requiring extreme mobility</li> <li>• Croquet provides mental skills, physical effort and social benefits making it an ideal game for the less mobile</li> <li>• The increase in older Australians will mean that more and more facilities are required to provide for this group</li> </ul>
13	Willoughby Park Bowling Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Its difficult to commit to long term commercial decisions when the tenure is relatively short i.e 5 years</li> <li>• Advance notice to residents and education to residents about why lights are needed is a good idea. It is a message that should be delivered from a high level, possibly State Minister for Local Government</li> <li>• There are grounds that are better suited to lighting due to their remoteness or natural screening provided by trees</li> <li>• Lighting brings more people; parking and noise issues will need to be addressed and managed</li> <li>• According to the Victorian Greenkeepers Association 85% of bowlers prefer to play on grass</li> <li>• Synthetic bowling greens also have issues with hardness, heat and glare which are all issues for older players and are slippery when wet</li> <li>• Sports like bowls and croquet require a precision surface. Maintenance is easier on a turf green at a modest cost. If a synthetic green has even minor subsidence it is a major and expensive repair job, if it was not fixed it would render these precision sports unplayable</li> <li>• Synthetic greens are more expensive than turf, most bowling clubs have water capture storage systems that render water costs negligible</li> <li>• Bowling clubs can offer a club house facility to other clubs, but there has to be a good level of understanding and a good fit between the two organisations if it is to work</li> <li>• Some bowling clubs are located close by to sportsgrounds and may be able to offer storage facilities to other sports and parking to ease pressure on residents</li> </ul>
14	Ku-ring-gai Netball Association (KNA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courts are utilised at maximum capacity for the winter competition and there is no capacity to increase playing numbers at the present time</li> <li>• KNA provides a players with disabilities program and a representative program for junior, senior and masters players</li> <li>• Membership figures have risen by 7% in 2009 to 3,860. Further increases in numbers are expected as NetSetGo programs are</li> </ul>

NO	POSITION / ORGANISATION	KEY POINTS RAISED
		<p>held for 5 to 7 year olds during the last quarter to 2010 in preparation of the 2011 season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In terms of the future role of Councils in sport and whether there should be a shift from the traditional administrative roles to focussing more on development, benefits and marketing, KNA would submit that development and promotion cannot succeed unless the facilities are available for the sport itself. Once development of facilities has progressed to a stage where demand meets supply, Councils could look towards development and promotion. This would need to be coupled with a strategy for delivering facilities for the additional demand that such development and promotion would lead to</li> <li>• In terms of managing fluctuations in demand KNA supports the proposed key principles outlined on page 12 of the Discussion Paper. No net loss of facilities would seem essential and doing more with less (expanding the carrying capacity of existing grounds) necessary to enable increasing populations to continue to participate in the sports we already cater for, although recognising this does not address development of emerging sports</li> <li>• KNA also supports the development of multi use facilities however cautions over any suggestion that synthetic fields would be appropriate for the sport of netball</li> <li>• KNA notes that the Discussion Paper recognises the considerable gains for sport and Councils if new facilities are designed in a centralised manner with car parking provided on the perimeter. KNA notes that the Canoon Road Recreation Area has been designed in such a manner but would suggest that the problems experienced in terms of traffic flow and parking have primarily stemmed from last minute changes to the design when the car park was significantly reduced in size</li> <li>• In order to ensure the most efficient development of existing sites, having recognised the rarity of greenfield development sites, areas such as the Canoon Road Recreation Area would benefit from a comprehensive review of the parking and traffic flow issues to allow continued utilisation to greatest effect with future development (greater utilisation of facilities) also taken into account. Better management of the parking and traffic flow issues would significantly benefit the local residents while continuing to meet sportsground demands</li> <li>• KNA supports the suggestion that the utilisation of facilities can be increased through the provision of lights. This would appear the most efficient manner in which to increase the carrying capacity of existing facilities and has been discussed in a number of sportsfield strategies and studies over many years</li> <li>• KNA also supports strategies that will lead to increased access to school facilities for sport users but recognises the saturation of usage in most schools for this purpose in our region in netball as KNA already utilise this strategy</li> <li>• KNA notes the suggestion that clubs introduce a plan to have training one day a week at a gym, pool or similar. KNA already uses this approach across a number of our clubs and teams</li> <li>• KNA understands the need to contribute financially to sportsground development and has done so on many occasions in the past. For major development opportunities however we note that significant financial input to development of facilities would need to be inclusive of some security of tenure for the sporting club making the contribution</li> <li>• KNA would suggest NSROC refers to the NSW Netball submission to the 2006 Standing Committee on Public Works Inquiry into Sportsground Management in NSW available from the NSW Parliament website at <a href="http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Prod/parliament/committee.nsf/0/D6EDE11C2FDC05BDCA2571F800059988">http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Prod/parliament/committee.nsf/0/D6EDE11C2FDC05BDCA2571F800059988</a>. Pages 3 and 4</li> </ul>

NO	POSITION / ORGANISATION	KEY POINTS RAISED
		<p>refer to financial aspects of netball facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research or literature that should be considered: Australian Sports Commission, 2009, Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey Annual Report 2009, Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council, 2007, Strategic Plan for Sportsfields / Courts in Ku-ring-gai, prepared by Manidis Roberts Consultants</li> </ul>
15	Lane Cove Cricket Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lane Cove Cricket Club was formed in 1893 and at present we enjoy an excellent relationship with Lane Cove Council. We are very fortunate to have a council who listens and provides the best playing grounds in our Shires Competition – which is run throughout the Sydney area – for the last three years. The club has 32 teams consisting of 23 Junior teams, 6 Senior teams and 3 Masters teams (whose players are over 40 years of age).</li> <li>We at Lane Cove Cricket Club realise the demand for sporting grounds already far outweighs supply, and this situation is only going to worsen on the North Shore. We therefore propose the following key points for NSROC’s consideration:</li> <li>Long term tenure in occupancy agreements with Councils and in return the club will invest in capital improvements</li> <li>Addressing issues with council booking systems especially looking at using MyCricket as this is a national web based product provided by the ACB that is used by all cricket associations and clubs. Tools such as these will allow both councils and sports clubs to see when and how grounds are booked and used presenting the opportunity to maximise ground utilisation</li> <li>If there is a need to upgrade lighting around sports grounds then it should be of a standard so that it can be used all year round by all sports (i.e. Cricket, Rugby, AFL etc.) for both training and match play</li> <li>Regional facilities for main Northern Sydney events e.g. St Ives Showground</li> <li>Greater usage of school ovals and facilities through formal cooperative agreements</li> <li>Greater communications needed between government, and associations and clubs which could result in motivating people to lobby and work together to achieve outcomes</li> <li>Areas need to be set aside for enclosed dog parks instead of using venues which are allocated for sports ground and have young people training on them; i.e. fence non-sportsground open space for leash free areas and limit such activity on sportsgrounds</li> <li>Education of residents of the increased ground requirements for sporting activities; residents near sportsgrounds should be put on notice that the open space is for community use and not in any way an adjunct to their own property</li> <li>No further closure of sportsgrounds.</li> </ul>
16	Northern Suburbs Cricket Association (NSCA) and North Shore Junior Cricket Association (NSJCA)	<p>NSCA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The competition is exclusively volunteer managed and operate</li> <li>In 2009/2010 there were 23 clubs fielding 63 teams in seven grades. 1,350 registered players took part last season</li> <li>See the number and skill-set of volunteers as one of the key issues affecting our future</li> <li>Continued access to appropriate quality playing and training facilities is the key priority</li> </ul>

NO	POSITION / ORGANISATION	KEY POINTS RAISED
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that existing facilities are of improved quality so that all users experiences are optimised, and alterations to existing layouts are considered to optimise use by a variety of recreational activities</li> </ul> <p>NSJA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The North Shore Junior Cricket Association was incorporated in 2004 and now has over 2,200 junior players from U9 to U16/17 age groups</li> <li>• The main concern for the management and delegate committees is the lack of grounds and the condition of grounds in the north shore area. As increasing the number of grounds in this area appears to be limited, our efforts have turned, in conjunction with NSCA, to improving the condition of current grounds to provide the juniors with the best possible facilities to enjoy junior cricket</li> <li>• Cricket grounds in the district are fully utilised and, in fact, for the Juniors Competition it is required to book and play on grounds outside of the north shore area, just to ensure that all juniors get a game on the weekend. The U16/17 competition has been moved to turf grounds on Sunday mornings in an effort to make better grounds available on Saturday afternoons. To accommodate growth the NSJCA has also introduced Sunday morning competitions for the U11 and U14/15 age groups</li> </ul> <p>COLLECTIVE RESPONSE TO DISCUSSION PAPER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councils’ primary role must continue to be in the provision and maintenance of publicly accessible recreational facilities</li> <li>• With the likelihood of considerable population growth along the North Shore, one area that Councils could take an increasing role is general marketing of community activities (be that sporting or anything else). Communication media is changing at ever increasing rates, and most community groups are struggling to keep up the varied tools of print, web, email, facebook, twitter and whatever will be the flavour of the month tomorrow. How do we ensure that all members of our community, especially new arrivals to the North Shore, are aware of the local community organisations in this age of information overload?</li> <li>• Improvement in administrative procedures at Council level, to reduce the paper based interactions with community groups for hiring facilities, and free up volunteer time at club level</li> <li>• Increased assistance in project management of co-funded facility improvements would be most welcome. Volunteer organisations find it difficult to arrange time during business hours to be involved in many of the meetings and negotiations involved in some of these projects</li> <li>• There is scope for a modest increase in hiring fees, but it is acknowledged that such fees represent only a small proportion of the total cost of council recreational facilities</li> <li>• Competition does not use “home grounds” nor do (most of) our clubs own their own facilities or club houses. A reduction in the number of teams from a club in a particular suburb is evened out by an additional entry from a club in a nearby suburb</li> <li>• Where possible it is important to maintain existing club structures. The resources required to create a new club from scratch are often many times more than maintaining an existing one</li> <li>• Within the NSCA we have an unofficial policy of insisting that any new groups of cricket players may not enter the competition as a new one team entity, but must join an existing club</li> <li>• The main focus and shortfall of facilities at the moment is for lower level, community participation based sports teams, rather</li> </ul>

NO	POSITION / ORGANISATION	KEY POINTS RAISED
		<p>than at more elite levels. We see the ability to increase use at all grounds as the key to address the increased demand. The provision of a small number of synthetic surfaces would not necessarily lessen the demands for cricket fields</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several schools already have arrangements in place with local councils to use their grounds. The NSCA / NSJCA sometimes make use (through arrangements with local councils) to have used sporting fields at Chatswood High, Mowbray Public, and West Pymble school. Understandably local government schools are wary of non school activities on their grounds, but local government probably has better chance of gaining access rather than individual sporting groups</li> <li>• The NSCA has been modifying its competition options to provide more and varied cricketing options within the same number of facilities:</li> <li>• “Compulsory” byes with grades have allowed us to accommodate up to 15% -20% more teams in a given season with the same number of grounds. The natural by product is that each team does play 2 or 3 less times over the 5 month season</li> <li>• Change in competition mix of one day and two day cricket have allowed us to provide more offerings to players with weekend commitments. This season approximately half our teams will be playing one day cricket only</li> <li>• Accommodated additional growth by adding extra games on Sunday afternoons when required experimenting with the very short T20 version this season</li> <li>• Shortened seasons, at both the start and end</li> <li>• Different councils have trialled different winter coverings of the concrete pitches. The NSCA / NSJCA are open to any improvements to winter coverings that provide better or safer surfaces for the winter codes on the proviso that the pitch surfaces are appropriately cleaned (e.g. high pressure water) before the summer season</li> <li>• Cricket would be open to options to relocate pitches on fields if it is mutually convenient for the winter codes and not excessively inconvenient to cricket. As an example, slight movement of pitches at some larger multifield grounds such as Tunks Park or Primrose Park could allow for the same number of cricket pitches, and reduce overlap or inconvenience to winter playing field layouts</li> <li>• The NSCA is open to the prospect of the synthetic field at Northbridge Oval, but we do wish to see the nature of how it plays in both winter and summer before making a decision either way on future surfaces for cricket</li> <li>• There is the option in cricket that could allow for better use of the bigger (one field) grounds by considering the installation of 3 pitches, that would allow for 2 simultaneous junior matches or one seniors match on a bigger field. Possible locations could be Gore Hill or William Cowan</li> <li>• Improvement of existing facilities, particularly with respect to drainage, as vital to help meet the existing demands</li> <li>• Very supportive of the current philosophy of several councils which involves major refurbishment (drainage/levelling) of grounds. We acknowledge that this will create six or 12 month periods of unavailability. We would recommend that NSROC councils attempt to coordinate these works – as an example the NSCA/NSJCA would be significantly affected if four different councils decided to close 2 ovals each in their municipality</li> <li>• A standard contract or usage license would be beneficial, but is not a high priority at this stage</li> </ul>

NO	POSITION / ORGANISATION	KEY POINTS RAISED
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NSCA / NSJCA want less formal, social and family activities to be able to co-exist at any time with an organised sporting activity. We would be open to suggestions that involved playing areas being allocated to be fenced off (for safety reasons) areas that allow for children’s playgrounds, exercise facilities, BBQs etc to exist with sport</li> <li>• The difference in Sunday allocation policies make organisation difficult and more time consuming (which affects volunteer time)</li> <li>• As an organisation that deals with 5 councils, we would be concerned if changing of costs by individual councils did substantially impact on competition wide costs. Approximately 65% of our income goes to ground hire</li> <li>• The NSCA supports the concept of giving priority to local hirers, but recommends that care should be taken to ensure the definition of “local” is reasonably generous</li> <li>• One of the key issues for sporting organisations is the lack of volunteer time, or expert time (expert in grant application writing). We would recommend that NSROC (or individual councils) consider engaging staff (or a consultant) whose main aim was to co-ordinate and project manage professionally the preparation of applications</li> </ul>
17	Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It's a fairly simple concept: cricket and other recognized summer sports get priority of booking and usage during 1 September to 31 March ("summer sports season"); soccer, rugby union, rugby league, netball, hockey, AFL and other winter sports get priority between 1 April and 31 August ("winter sports season")</li> <li>• Any rained out games should either be cancelled in a draw or played as make up games in school holidays, to ensure season finishes on time</li> <li>• Local clubs and traditional seasonal users (e.g cricket in summer, rugby in winter) should be given priority in their respective LGA</li> <li>• Council needs to undertake an audit of the fields in regards to usage and prioritise grounds in order of importance for sports such as cricket</li> <li>• We would support the installation of lights and select fields to allow secondary sports to use them when cricket and other summer sports have finished with them</li> <li>• There are issues with winter sports encroaching on summer sport seasons. NSROC should have a policy and clubs should be made aware of this in writing</li> <li>• Some grounds are booked solidly all year round, therefore there is no rest window</li> <li>• Use of grounds for training should be lodged directly to Council</li> <li>• Clarity of the fee structure and in the interests of equitable pricing a differentiation between high impact and low impact sports with seasonal grounds hire taken into account</li> <li>• A distinction should be made between local and non local sporting clubs and the fees that they are charged</li> <li>• More artificial playing surfaces are required particularly for juniors</li> <li>• A repair / renovation schedule is required to avoid losing key grounds – better coordination and planning of major maintenance</li> <li>• There are little cricket practice facilities in the local district. Provision of additional cricket nets is required</li> </ul>

NO	POSITION / ORGANISATION	KEY POINTS RAISED
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Propose that Council introduce a wet weather bond to reimburse clubs or sporting bodies in the event of ground closures</li> <li>• Introduce 10 year capital works research plan that identifies an agreed window of opportunity to schedule capital works to minimise the inconvenience to sporting users</li> <li>• Consider modern technologies such as sms and internet to advise clubs of ground closures</li> <li>• Council should be making the decision to close grounds rather than the users</li> <li>• A rotational allocation policy needs to be considered in the context of all seasons and over many years rather than just a specific period of any given year</li> <li>• Council need to have proper software and adequate system controls in place to properly manage bookings and communicate with regular hirers</li> <li>• Council booking hire policy should be sent out with booking confirmation and club to ensure that coaches are aware of the booking conditions</li> <li>• Council could assist clubs by to deliver sports competitions, support club development and assist them to remain viable by:</li> <li>• Waiving fees for junior development programs for 3-6 year olds and programs for indigenous groups and girls aged 3-12 years</li> <li>• Providing a health inspector to ensure all food preparation areas are clean and serviceable</li> <li>• Provide sport grants to stimulate opportunities for boys and girls of all abilities from 3-15years to participate in sport, or minority groups such as women and girls, disabled athletes</li> <li>• Provide marketing support by promoting club news and club registration information on its website or in flyers; and feature in news of particular news of disadvantage groups such as women, girls and indigenous</li> <li>• Give first priority to not for profit sporting clubs in opportunities for fund raising at Council run community events</li> <li>• Council to roster grounds staff for weekends all day</li> <li>• Invest in opportunities to harvest water and ensure grounds are properly prepared and have sufficient drainage</li> <li>• Provide a management framework for Council's asset management and capital works program</li> <li>• Assist not for profit clubs to receive adequate training and support in a real and practical sense for their volunteers</li> <li>• Membership figures should be analysed by age group</li> <li>• RHHCC has a high proportion of junior players and there is a huge demand for grounds for junior cricket in the region</li> <li>• Care needs to be taken in rescuing declining clubs referred to in the report to examine if it is in decline due to the administrators' or because there are too may similar clubs in the district</li> </ul>

### Appendix 3. List of stakeholders consulted by telephone<sup>320</sup>

- AFL NSW / ACT
- Anderson Events
- Athletics NSW
- Baseball NSW
- Brothers OzTag
- Cammeray Croquet Club
- City of Ryde
- Cricket NSW
- Department of Education
- Eastwood Ryde Netball Association
- Football Federation NSW
- Golf NSW
- Hills District Netball Association
- Hills District Tennis Association
- Hornsby District Softball Association
- Hornsby Ku-ring-gai and Hills District Cricket Association
- Hornsby Shire Council
- Hunters Hill Council
- Ku-ring-gai Council
- Ku-ring-gai and District Soccer Association Incorporated
- Ku-ring-gai Little Athletics Club
- Ku-ring-gai Netball Association
- NSW Lacrosse
- Lane Cove Council
- Lane Cove Country Club
- Love and Deuce
- Netball NSW
- North Shore Junior Cricket Association
- North Shore Women’s Hockey Association
- North Sydney Council
- North Sydney Junior Rugby League
- North West Women’s Football Association
- Northern District Cricket Association
- Northern District Hockey Association
- NSW Flying Disc Association
- NSW Lawn Women’s Bowling Association
- NSW Rugby League – Academy Branch
- NSW Suburban Rugby Union
- Ryde Athletics Centre
- Ryde Eastwood Touch Football Association
- Softball NSW
- Sport and Recreation NSW
- Tennis NSW
- Willoughby City Council