

Cowra Sport and Recreation Plan



2015/2016 – 2019/2020

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Minute No. 123/2016

Council Department Corporate Services

Contact Officer Community Projects Officer

Revision Required Every Four Years

Revision History

Version	Council Meeting Date	Resolution No.	Responsible Officer
1	25 January 2010	9/2010	Community Projects Officer
2	23 May 2016	123/2016	Community Projects Officer

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PART A

Cowra's Vision

A leading, innovative and creative community, proud of our place in history, offering opportunity with the best of country living.

Our Values

In all our dealings we will....

- Show and grow leadership
- Be positive and work together
- Value each other and what we have
- Create opportunities for our next generations.

What is the Cowra Sport and Recreation Plan?

The Cowra Sport and Recreation Plan is a tool to assist the Cowra community to:

- Adopt a strategic approach to the development of sport and recreation facilities within the Shire;
- Prioritise and implement strategies aimed at creating active communities;
- Contribute to a vibrant sport and recreation community in Cowra;
- Allocate resources and source external funding to complete projects.

The Plan sets out six strategic objectives together with priorities and facility development.

Formal Sport & Recreation planning in the Cowra Shire has now been in place for 15 years. During this time, participation in sport and recreation activities continues to be a strong feature of the Cowra community with ongoing investment in facility developments realising significant improvements to the sport and recreation facilities available for Shire residents and visitors to enjoy.

An active, sustainable sport and recreation community relies on strong partnerships between Council, the Cowra Sport & Recreation Council, and the committed community volunteers that operate the myriad of sport and recreation clubs in the region. Similarly, partnerships must be developed and maintained with other relevant government and sport and recreation industry providers to ensure sport and recreation continues to prosper in Cowra.

The contribution that sport and recreation makes to the health and wellbeing of the community cannot be underestimated. It is widely acknowledged that maintaining healthy levels of daily physical activity can contribute to improved physical and mental health outcomes and overall feelings of wellbeing.

The social benefits of meeting and mixing with people through a shared interest also enhance social cohesion in a community, contributing to social inclusion and reduced feelings of isolation. Council has a responsibility to continue to support the sport and recreation community and to actively encourage community members to be physically active.

Sport has proven to be a source of considerable community pride for Cowra, with the region producing an above average number of sportspeople that have achieved national and international success within their chosen fields. Continuing to support our junior and representative athletes with training and competition opportunities remains a relevant goal for our sport and recreation community. Similarly, supporting the development of effective and efficient club structures operated by skilled officials and administrators will be vital to building participation in sport and recreation activities, creating an active community, and to continuing to produce sports champions in the future.

The broad spectrum of sport and recreation activities available in Cowra contributes to an enjoyable lifestyle for residents and to attracting new residents to the region.

PART B

Stakeholder Consultation

The Cowra Sport and Recreation Council continues to be the key consultative body for Council on sport and recreation matters in the Cowra Shire. The 2016-2020 Cowra Sport and Recreation Plan has been prepared through the collaborative efforts of the Cowra Sport & Recreation Council and Cowra Council.

To ensure broad community consultation in the development of the 2016-2020 Sport & Recreation Plan, the following consultation mechanisms were undertaken:

- Cowra Sport & Recreation Club survey;
- Cowra Sport & Recreation Council strategic planning session;
- Cowra Sport & Recreation Community survey;
- Two community consultation sessions facilitated by NSW Sport & Recreation.

The key strategies and facility development priorities were identified from the information and ideas gained through these consultations, together with input from Council staff responsible for managing and maintaining Council sports facilities.

Contributing Organisations

Cowra Sport & Recreation Council
 Cowra Adventure Playground Committee
 Cowra Ballet School
 Cowra Community Health
 Cowra Junior Cricket Association
 Cowra Senior Cricket Association
 Cowra Hockey Association
 Cowra Little Athletics Club

Cowra Netball Association
 Cowra PCYC
 Cowra Junior Rugby League
 Cowra Senior Rugby League
 Cowra Rugby Union Club
 Cowra & District Soccer Club
 Cowra Swimming Club
 New Vogue Dancing

PART C

The Sport and Recreation Planning Framework

Cowra Council's future strategic direction is articulated in the Cowra Community Strategic Plan (2006-2036). To ensure consistency and integration with the Community Strategic Plan, the Sport & Recreation Planning Framework is structured around the long-term Strategic Objectives identified in the Community plan.

Sport & Recreation Planning contributes to the following areas:

1. Health & Wellbeing
2. Lifestyle
3. Business & Industry
4. Governance

The plan sets out six strategic objectives, together with priorities for facility development. The identified strategies for each objective are detailed in the 2016-2020 Cowra Sport & Recreation Action Program in Part E.

Health & Wellbeing

Provide facilities and programs for health & wellbeing

- Provide a high standard of community facilities to support sport and recreation initiatives within the Cowra Shire
- Develop strategic partnerships to support the provision of sport and recreation initiatives within the community

- Promote and support community health and wellbeing initiatives that encourage increased physical activity (eg. Healthy Town Challenge, Bike Week)
- Promote and support initiatives aimed at increasing participation in sport and recreation activities
- Investigate improvements to community transport options to increase accessibility to sport and recreation activities

Develop programs to meet the needs of Cowra's young people

- Facilitate accessibility to sport and recreation activities for young people
- Encourage increased youth involvement across all aspects of community sports

Lifestyle

Build participation in community life

- Increase opportunities for sport and recreation volunteers to access training courses

Recognise and grow the talent in our community

- Improve local competition opportunities for our athletes;
- Provide financial support to Cowra athletes achieving State and National sporting representation

Business & Industry

Create tourism and economic growth through sport and recreation

- Investigate feasibility of staging a multi-sports event in Cowra
- Promote sport and recreation events within the local region

Governance

Maximise funding opportunities

- Identify and promote grant funding opportunities for sport and recreation initiatives;
- Source funding for priority facility development projects.

PART D

Related Documents

This document should be read in conjunction with the following related documents used for reference;

- Cowra Shire Community Strategic Plan and supporting documents.
- Cowra Shire Local Environment Plan
- Cowra Shire Cultural Plan
- Cowra Shire Pedestrian and Cycling Plan
- Cowra Shire Asset Management Plan Draft
- Cowra Shire Other Assets Management Plan
- Section 94 Plan

These documents are available at Cowra Shire Council or at www.cowracouncil.com.au

PART E

Cowra Sport & Recreation Plan Action Program – 2016-2020

Strategic Objective 1: Provide facilities and programs for health & wellbeing (Health & Wellbeing)

1.1 Provide a high standard of community facilities to support sport and recreation initiatives within Cowra Shire

Action	Management Plan					Responsibility + (Stakeholders)	Outcomes
	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20		
1.1.1. Investigate the feasibility of establishing a “Sporting Central” multi-sport venue to consolidate facilities			✓			Sport & Rec Council members	Report presented to SRC
1.1.2. Identify and pursue funding opportunities to support priority facility development projects in the Cowra Shire (Attachment A)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Council, Sports Clubs/Committees	Funding secured for priority development projects
1.1.3. Oversee the development of sport and recreation facilities following funding approval	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Council	Facility development projects completed
1.1.4. Maintain existing sporting facilities to a high standard	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Council	User groups satisfied with facilities
1.1.5. Manage the use of Council sporting facilities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Council	Respective facilities accessible for all relevant activities and satisfied user groups
1.1.6. Investigate feasibility of splash pad and play area at Cowra Aquatic Centre		✓				Council	Report completed and submitted to Cowra Sport & Recreation Council



1.2 Develop strategic partnerships to support the provision of sport and recreation initiatives within the community

Action	Management Plan					Responsibility + (Stakeholders)	Outcomes
	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20		
1.2.1 Encourage broad participation in the Cowra Sport & Recreation Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Council, Sport & Rec Council members	Diverse club representation on SRC
1.2.2 Encourage a collaborative approach to delivering sport and recreation activities within the Cowra community	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Sport & Rec Council members, Clubs	Whole of community engagement
1.2.3 Maintain relationships with local, State and Federal sport and recreation organisations, including NSW Sport and Recreation and that Council continue to support the Western Region Academy of Sport through a regular annual financial contribution	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Council, Sport & Rec Council members	Regular contact made and positive relations maintained
1.2.4 Participate in Local Government Sport & Recreation forums		✓	✓	✓	✓	Council rep, SRC rep	Forums attended



1.2 Promote and support community health and wellbeing initiatives that encourage increased physical activity

Action	Management Plan					Responsibility + (Stakeholders)	Outcomes
	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20		
I.3.1 Support community health programs that encourage increased physical activity (eg Mobility Improvement Program, Healthy Towns Challenge)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Council	Pool accessible for MIP's program
I.3.2 Promote nationally recognised events that encourage increased physical activity (eg. Bike Week, Mens Health Week)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Council	2 per year
I.3.3 Conduct local events that encourage increased physical activity (eg Festival Fun Run, Colour Me Happy Run)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Council, Festival Committee, Youth Council	2 per year

1.3 Promote and support initiatives aimed at increasing participation in sport and recreation activities

Action	Management Plan					Responsibility + (Stakeholders)	Outcomes
	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20		
I.4.1 Maintain and promote the "Get Active in Cowra" Sports contract brochure	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Council, Sports Clubs to provide info	Brochure updated annually
I.4.2 Publish bi-annual Sport & Recreation feature in local media	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Council, Sport & Rec Council members	Features published in Guardian and on CCN
I.4.3 Support NSW "Sport a Month" program to improve sport and recreation opportunities for people with a disability	✓					Sport & Rec Council members, Clubs	"Sport a Month" activities delivered

1.5 Investigate improvements to community transport options: this issue relates to persons who for various reasons are not able to travel to sporting venues

Action	Management Plan					Responsibility + (Stakeholders)	Outcomes
	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20		
1.5.1 Research transport barriers to participation in sport and recreation activities			✓			SRC Sub-Committee	Report presented to SRC
1.5.2 Develop strategies to address transport barriers			✓			SRC Sub-Committee	Report presented to SRC
1.5.3 Implement transport strategies to improve accessibility to sport and recreation activities within available resources				✓	✓	Sport & Rec Council members	Strategies implemented



Strategic Objective 2: Develop programs to meet the needs of Cowra's young people (Health & Wellbeing)

2.1 Facilitate accessibility to sport and recreation for young people							
Action	Management Plan					Responsibility + (Stakeholders)	Outcomes
	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20		
2.1.1 Provide Council facilities to junior sport and recreation activities free of charge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Council	No charges levied for junior sports
2.1.2 Support State and local sports initiatives to improve culturally diverse and indigenous backgrounds	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	SRC, Club	Activities promoted

2.2 Encourage increased youth involvement across all aspects of community sports							
Action	Management Plan					Responsibility + (Stakeholders)	Outcomes
	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20		
2.2.1 Encourage sports clubs to develop succession plans and establish Youth Committees		✓				Sport & Rec Council members	Youth Committees established in 5 sports clubs
2.2.2 Establish a Cowra Youth Sports Leadership Program			✓			Sport & Rec Council members	Program delivered
2.2.3 Recognise Youth Sports Leaders through advocating for the inclusion of new awards in existing recognition schemes (eg SOTY, Australia Day Awards)	✓	✓				Sport & Rec Council members	Respective organisations approached to consider inclusion of new awards

Strategic Objective 3: Build participation in community life (Lifestyle)

3.1 Increase opportunities for sport and recreation volunteers to access training courses							
Action	Management Plan					Responsibility + (Stakeholders)	Outcomes
	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20		
3.1.1 Facilitate training programs in club administration, volunteer management, meetings and media skills	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Sport & Rec Council members	Appropriate training delivered
3.1.2 Investigate establishment of a Sports Volunteer Scholarship Scheme			✓			Sport & Rec Council members	Sub-Committee report to SRC
3.1.3 Provide promotion assistance to clubs hosting relevant guest speaker events	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Council	Support provided

Strategic Objective 4: Recognise and grow the talent in our community (Lifestyle)

4.1 Improve local competition opportunities for our athletes							
Action	Management Plan					Responsibility + (Stakeholders)	Outcomes
	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20		
4.1.1 Investigate inter-town gala day in conjunction with local sports clubs (eg Young v Cowra)		✓				Sport & Rec Council members, Clubs	Report presented to SRC
4.1.2 Investigate requirements to develop and maintain West Cowra Recreation Ground to the standard required to host regional and State level fixtures		✓	✓	✓	✓	Council, Sport & Rec Council members	Investigation completed and presented to SRC

4.2 Provide financial support to Cowra athletes achieving State and National sporting representation

Action	Management Plan					Responsibility + (Stakeholders)	Outcomes
	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20		
4.2.1 Promote Donations Policy to assist individuals in sporting and recreational excellence	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Council	Information disseminated to relevant groups and organisations



Strategic Objective 5: Create tourism and economic growth through sport and recreation (Lifestyle)

5.1 Investigate feasibility of staging a multi-sports event in Cowra							
Action	Management Plan					Responsibility + (Stakeholders)	Outcomes
	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20		
5.1.1 Investigate the feasibility of staging a multi-sports event in Cowra		✓	✓			SRC Sub-Committee	Report presented to SRC and then to Council

5.2 Promote sport and recreation events within the local region							
Action	Management Plan					Responsibility + (Stakeholders)	Outcomes
	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20		
5.2.1 Encourage event organisers to utilise the Tourism Events Calendar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Council, Sport & Rec Council members	Sports events listed on Events Calendar

Strategic Objective 6: Maximise funding opportunities (Governance)

6.1 Identify and promote grant funding opportunities for sport & recreation initiatives							
Action	Management Plan					Responsibility + (Stakeholders)	Outcomes
	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20		
6.1.1 Circulate relevant information on funding opportunities to sporting clubs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Council	Clubs aware of grant funding opportunities
6.1.2 Prepare grant funding applications to obtain funding for sport & recreation projects	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Council, Clubs	Applications submitted for appropriate grants through the year

ATTACHMENT A: Facility Development Priorities

PRIORITY	VENUE	PROJECT	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	STAKEHOLDERS	OUTCOMES
1.	Col Stinson Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct 3 new sealed courts on existing grass court area 	✓					Council, Netball Club, Soccer Club	Enable safe night training sessions
2.	Edgell Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct large awning on eastern side of amenities building 		✓				Council, Soccer Club, Hockey Club, PCYC (Touch Football), Cricket	Provide shelter for players and spectators
3.	West Cowra Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace lighting towers to meet standards for night games 			✓			Council, Senior Rugby League, Twilight Soccer	Potential to attract high level games, improved facility for night training sessions and games
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct women's change room 				✓		Council, Senior Rugby League	Attract high level games for Women's Oz Tag