

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY

RECOMMENDED

STRATEGIES & ACTION PLANS

**Prepared by
Hornsby Shire Council**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

The Shire of Hornsby is the second largest Local Government Area in the Sydney region, at 510 square kilometres in area. It is located to the north of the Sydney Central Activities District and stretches from the suburbs of Epping and Carlingford in the south, to Wisemans Ferry and Brooklyn in the north, Galston and Dural in the west, and Berowra and Hornsby to the east. The current population is in excess of 150,000 people.

Geologically, the Shire is located on the Hornsby Plateau which rises from the south to its highest point at Cowan. The Plateau is dissected with steep gullies and valleys, and much of this central and northern spine comprises large areas set aside as National Parks. Approximately 10% of the Shire is zoned and used for urban development, 16% for rural purposes, 23% for open space. The remainder is National Park or Nature Reserve, such as Kuring-gai Chase National Park, Marramarra National Park, Muogamarra Nature Reserve and Berowra Valley Regional Park providing large areas of bushland in the Shire that protect the native vegetation and animals. Whilst some of these areas are also available for passive and active recreation uses, the varying topography and large areas of national parks generally makes access to all points within the Shire difficult.

Hornsby Council recently completed a major recreational planning study, the Hornsby Leisure Strategic Plan 2003 (Hornsby LSP) that identified shortfalls in the provision of sports facilities for selected sports within the Shire. The Hornsby LSP found that additional research was required to plan for an appropriate suite of facilities to meet existing and future needs. Council subsequently appointed Stratcorp Consulting, a sports and recreation planning firm, to prepare a Sports Facility Strategy (SFS) to assist Council and associated groups to better provide for the delivery of active sporting pursuits.

The scope of the study was inclusive of all outdoor sporting facilities under Council ownership and/or management with specific focus on the current and future provision of facilities for cricket, soccer and netball. These activities were identified in the Hornsby LSP as being under-provided for in relation to the availability of facilities across the Local Government Area (LGA).

The Hornsby SFS will guide the future planning, provision and funding for the upgrade of existing facilities and development of new sporting facilities within the Shire to better cater for existing and likely future community sports and recreational needs. The Hornsby SFS has a particular focus on soccer, cricket and netball as these sports were identified in the Hornsby LSP as those with the most urgent needs in the short term.

A number of projects are proposed to be funded through the 2004-2010 S94 Development Contributions Plan. This Plan provides funding for a range of facilities to meet identified future demand.

The 2004-2010 S94 Plan provides the framework for the efficient and equitable determination, collection, and management of development contributions towards the provision of these public amenities and services. The Plan management arrangements will ensure that amenities and services nominated under the Plan are provided in a timely and cost effective manner, dependant upon the funds being available.



As such, the capital works nominated in the Capital Development Plan section of the Action Plan of this Strategy, proposed to be funded by S94, will likely be undertaken in the years 2006-2013, subject to an annual review of the Funding and Prioritisation Strategy for the 2004-2010 S94 Development Contributions Plan.

1.2. Study Aims and Objectives

The SFS study had the following aims and objectives:

- Identify the adequacy (or otherwise) of the condition and distribution of existing outdoor sporting facilities to meet current and future needs (especially soccer, cricket and netball facilities);
- Confirm the existing and likely future unmet needs of the broad community and sports clubs in relation to outdoor sports facility provision (specifically the sports of soccer, cricket, and netball);
- Prepare a strategic approach for the future provision of soccer, cricket and netball facilities, including potential new sites for additional facility development;
- Identify and document guidelines in relation to the appropriate scope and standard of facilities for soccer, cricket and netball facilities;
- Identify potential opportunities for funding partnerships and/or joint facility development with external stakeholders;
- Enable Council to more effectively assess future funding applications from clubs for the refurbishment and development of cricket, soccer and netball facilities;
- Enable Council to quantify and prioritise the financial resources that will be required over a 5-10 year period to fund and maintain cricket, soccer and netball sports facility infrastructure;
- Enable Council to appropriately identify the means of supplying a regional equestrian facility; and
- Prepare a strategic approach to the provision of facilities for non-organised sports including skateboarding, in line skating and BMX riding.

The resultant strategy aims to provide Council with options for the further development of outdoor sports facilities identified as being undersupplied in Hornsby. The SFS will enable Councillors to consider a preferred direction(s) for new/upgraded facility development, and enable Council to facilitate further community consultation with local residents in relation to the viability of the preferred direction(s).

Note that the SFS considered outdoor sports facility provision in the Hornsby LGA, but did not include outdoor facilities not traditionally provided by Hornsby Council, such as golf course and lawn bowls facilities.

Methods

The SFS was undertaken to build upon the extensive review of recreation and leisure facility provision contained within the Hornsby LSP. Council engaged Stratcorp Consulting to review the Hornsby LSP, conduct various surveys of sports clubs and associations, and draft a strategy with preliminary solutions to provide required facilities. Council's Parks & Landscape Team, working with the Hornsby Shire Sports Council, then completed the draft strategy.

Demographic Profile of Hornsby Shire

The following section, prepared by Stratcorp Consulting, outlines key demographic data for the Shire of Hornsby, that has been obtained from the following sources:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 1996 Census and 2001 Census¹;
- Hornsby LSP (2003);
- i.d. consulting Community Snapshot; and
- Melbourne in Fact 2001.

1.3. Population Characteristics

In 1996, Hornsby Shire had a population of 136,746 people, which increased to 144,692 in 2001. In 1996, just over 70% (or nearly 100,000 people) lived in the older and established areas between Epping and Hornsby. Just 8% of the population resided in the expansive rural areas in the west and northern districts of the Shire.

1.3.1. LGA Characteristics Compared to the Sydney Metropolitan Area

2001 Census data comparisons between the Hornsby LGA and the Sydney Statistical Division (SD) are detailed in the following tables below.

Gender	Hornsby		Sydney SD	
	Number	%	Number	%
Males*	69,975	48.4	1,944,194	49.2
Females*	74,717	51.6	2,003,821	50.8
Total population*	144,692	100.0	3,948,015	100.0

* Excludes overseas visitors

Age structure	Hornsby		Sydney SD	
	Number	%	Number	%
Infants 0 to 4 years	8,971	6.2	265,175	6.7
Children 5 to 17 years	28,299	19.6	693,770	17.6

¹ Please note that at the time of analysis, small-area population data was not yet available from the 2001 Census.

³ Hornsby LSP (2003).

Adults 18 to 34 years	31,278	21.4	1,023,174	25.9
Adults 35 to 49 years	34,143	23.4	892,898	22.6
Adults 50 to 64 years	24,114	16.5	603,822	15.1
Adults 65 to 84 years	15,197	10.5	414,703	10.4
Adults 85 years and over	2,690	1.9	54,473	1.4

Birthplace	Hornsby		Sydney SD	
	Number	%	Number	%
Australia	95,424	65.9	2,454,424	62.2
Overseas Born	43,269	29.9	1,233,487	31.2
Born in Mainly English speaking countries (excl Australia)	14,468	10.0	327,341	8.2
Non-English speaking backgrounds	28,801	19.9	906,146	23.0

Family/household type	Hornsby		Sydney SD	
	Number	%	Number	%
Couple without child(ren)	12,103	30.6	317,459	23.2
Couple with child(ren)	22,426	56.6	513,414	37.6
One parent family	4,493	11.3	149,309	10.9
Lone Person households	8,264	20.9	305,672	22.4

Employment status#	Hornsby		Sydney SD	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total employed (% is of total aged over 15 years in the labour force)	72,428	96.0	1,816,225	93.9
Total unemployed	2,995	4.0	118,134	6.1
Total labour force (% is of total aged over 15 years)	75,423	65.9	1,934,359	61.4

Persons aged 15 years and over

Weekly household income	Hornsby		Sydney SD	
	Number	%	Number	%
Less than \$300	3,521	7.3	139,374	10.2
\$300 to \$999	13,056	27.0	469,638	34.4
\$1,000 and over	25,988	53.8	597,525	43.7



The demographic profile of the Hornsby LGA population is generally consistent with the broader population profiles of the Sydney metropolitan area, with the key points of difference being:

- A higher proportion of children/youth aged 5-17 years and a lower proportion of young adults 18-34 years;
- A higher proportion of people born in Australia, and of those born overseas, a lower proportion born in non-English speaking countries;
- A higher proportion of households comprising 'couples with children' and 'couples without children';
- A lower proportion of households with incomes below \$1,000 per week, and a higher proportion with income above \$1,000 per week; and
- A higher labour force participation rate, and conversely, a lower unemployment rate.

Other data:

- A higher level of educational achievement (in terms of degree or diploma attainment);
- A higher proportion of professional/managerial employees and a lower proportion of tradespersons;
- A higher proportion of vehicle ownership per household; and
- The number of people from non-English speaking countries doubled from 1986 to 1996 (11,368 to 23,363), with a majority of people from Hong Kong, Malaysia, Korea and China.

1.3.2. Differences Between Shire Planning Districts

(See Appendix 1 for description of suburbs within each of the Planning Districts)

Outlined below is a summary of where the demographic profile of specific Shire Planning Districts is different to the Shire-wide profile.

- Planning Districts 4, 5 and 8 have higher proportions of younger people (0-19 years);
- Planning Districts 1, 3/9 and 7 have higher proportions of older people;
- Planning Districts 3/9 and 7 have lower proportions of 'families with children', and lower household income levels;
- Planning District 8 has a lower proportion of 'families without children';
- Planning District 1 has a higher proportion of 'families without children'; and
- Cherrybrook and the Hornsby CBD area have a higher proportion of people born in non-English speaking counties.

Population Projections and Growth Areas

The high residential growth areas over the past two decades have been generally restricted to the new release areas of Cherrybrook, Dural and Castle Hill. In addition, high density housing in and around the Hornsby CBD has realised a net growth in this established area of the LGA.

At the time of the study research, Council did not have data relating to population projections broken down to age structure. Projections were available to 2005, being sourced from the Section 94 Plan. These projections were broken down for each Planning District and are shown in the following table.

Planning District	Year 2000	Year 2005	Population Growth (No.).	Population Growth (%)
PD 1	30,935	31,706	771	2.5
PD 2	26,706	29,085	2,379	8.9
PD 3 & 9	20,573	23,560	2,987	14.5
PD 4	20,122	20,657	535	2.7
PD 5	9,702	10,139	437	4.5
PD 6	9,627	9,899	272	2.8
PD 7	1,228	1,282	54	4.4
PD 8	26,603	27,056	453	1.7
Total Shire	147,495	155,383	7,888	5.3

The table shows that 68% of the forecast population growth to 2005 is expected to occur in the 2 planning districts of Planning District 2 (Pennant Hills, West Pennant Hills, Westleigh, Thornleigh & Normanhurst) and Planning District 3/9 (Hornsby, Waitara and Wahroonga).

For the whole of the Hornsby Shire further growth is expected to increase the total population to 163,000 by 2011 (compared to 137,000 in 2001).

1.4. Implications from Demographic Analysis

Future sports facility provision will firstly need to consider meeting the demands of the current Hornsby population, and once existing needs have been addressed, additional sporting infrastructure and long-term planning should be considered in the areas of Planning Districts 2 and 3/9 as these areas have been identified to have the highest future population growth. The current high proportion of 'couples with children' and high proportion of people aged 5-17 years in some areas of the LGA further highlights the need to continue to provide sporting facilities as it is these segments of a population which are traditionally high participants in sporting activity. These age groups are most strongly represented in Planning Districts 4, 5 & 8.



In addition, the high proportion of Australia-born people in the Hornsby LGA is another indicator suggesting that there may be higher than average participation rate in organised sporting activity. Conversely, the high cultural diversity evidenced in Planning Districts 8 and 3/9 may result in a marginally lower need for sporting facilities.

The low household income levels evidenced in Planning Districts 7 and 3/9 suggest that affordability may constrain sports participation, particularly for those activities which have high membership, entry and/or equipment costs.

In other areas of the LGA, higher income levels and lower unemployment rates suggest that families may have an increased capacity to support children's participation in a broad range of sports.

Current Hornsby Situation

The following section outlines the current situation within the Shire of Hornsby in relation to the provision, quality and use of sporting facilities, by reviewing the following factors:

1. Number and location of Council sporting facilities;
2. Quality of Council sporting facilities; and
3. Utilisation of Council sporting facilities.

The information in this section has been sourced from a combination of:

- Hornsby LSP (2003);
- Site reviews by Stratcorp Consultants; and
- Club Survey administered September – October 2003.

1.5. Existing Outdoor Sporting Facilities

The table below summarises the number of Council-owned/managed outdoor sports facilities by sport and by Planning District.

Outdoor Sports Facility	Planning District							Total
	PD 1	PD 2	PD 3 & 9	PD 4	PD 5 & 7	PD 6	PD 8	
Senior Soccer fields	6	5	0	8	2	3	3	27
Mini/Jr Soccer fields	7	3	1	8	5	3	4	31
Rugby League/Union	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	10
AFL	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	3
Hockey	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Baseball diamonds (jr + sr)	0	5	0	8	0	3	10	26
Softball diamonds	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	8

Outdoor Sports Facility	Planning District							
	PD 1	PD 2	PD 3 & 9	PD 4	PD 5 & 7	PD 6	PD 8	Total
Cricket fields	11	6	2	9	4	5	4	41
Athletics	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	4
Tennis courts	18	20	5	13	8	9	5	78
Netball courts	8	20	2	2	3	2	3	40
Archery range	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Skate park	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	3
BMX track	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	53	66	11	51	24	34	34	273

Outdoor Sporting Facilities By Planning District

Hornsby LGA has a diversity of sporting facilities; however, when compared with industry planning guidelines, the overall supply of sports specific open space is low³. The table illustrates the uneven distribution of sporting facilities across the Shire, which generally reflects the disparate nature of the distribution of the population, that is, the majority of the Shire's population live in Planning Districts 1, 2, 3/9 and 8.

1.6. Quality of Sporting Facilities

The open space quality audit component of the *Hornsby Open Space Plan (1997)* concluded that sports grounds were, with some exceptions, 'generally high in quality'. This finding was validated by the high levels of community satisfaction with the quality of Council's outdoor sports facilities demonstrated in the *Community Survey* component of the *Hornsby LSP* and the *Community Attitude Surveys* conducted annually by Council.

However, these high levels of satisfaction recorded with the broad community were not duplicated in the feedback received by sports clubs and associations in the *Organisations' Survey* and the sports stakeholder meeting. Of the 99 outdoor facilities rated, sports clubs and associations rated 15% as 'poor' or 'very poor' and 43% were rated as 'average'. Only 7% were rated as 'very good'.

The Club Survey conducted by Stratcorp Consulting as part of this planning study, validated the general dissatisfaction with the current quality of playing surfaces by some clubs (refer Section 5). This dissatisfaction was not restricted to any specific sports, and included:

- Netball;
- Cricket;
- Soccer;
- Rugby Codes;



- Softball;
- Tennis; and
- Little Athletics.

The key issues with ground quality for sports using turf surfaces concern overuse, lack of floodlights and irrigation.

Since the Survey undertaken by Stratcorp, Council has carried out significant improvements to some facilities, particularly the resurfacing of netball courts at Pennant Hills Park, Hayes Park and Cheltenham Oval. Other works include installation of floodlights at Ruddock Park, upgrade of floodlights at Hayes Park, Somerville Park and Oakleigh Oval, and replacement of the wicket square at Waitara Oval. While there have been improvements made to grass fields through installation of irrigation and drainage facilities, the drought which has continued since 2003 accompanied by water restrictions has meant that the benefit of these improvements has not been fully realised.

1.7. Utilisation and Adequacy of Sports Facility Provision

During research undertaken for the Hornsby LSP, booking records for the 2000/01 seasons were reviewed identifying that many sports grounds were being used at well over full capacity-

During the research for SFS, Council officers confirmed that the high use of Council outdoor sports grounds was still at capacity in the subsequent seasons to 2004. In addition, feedback from clubs in the Club Surveys (refer Sections 5.3 and 5.4) validated this high usage, and the representatives who attended the cricket and soccer sports forums also confirmed that there was a shortage of grounds to meet current demand (refer Section 6).

The specific gaps in sportsground provision were identified through a combination of information in the Hornsby LSP and research for the SFS as:

- Cricket (up to 6 fields);
- Hockey (previous shortage resolved with provision of a new regional synthetic field at Pennant Hills Park);
- Netball (up to 4 courts);
- Softball (up to 4 diamonds);
- Soccer (up to 11 fields);
- Skateboarding;
- Equestrian Sports; and
- BMX riding.

There was an adequate supply of facilities identified for:

- AFL;



- Athletics;
- Baseball;
- Rugby Union; and
- Rugby League;

The Hornsby LSP concluded that, with respect to sportsgrounds, there is no excess capacity in the existing open space system capable of absorbing the demands of new populations.

This information and conclusion was the basis upon which the investigation into increased provision of outdoor sports fields was undertaken during the SFS. A number of possible sites, both Council owned and others privately/publicly owned were identified and investigated during this study. (See Section 8).

2. NATIONAL AND STATE PARTICIPATION TRENDS

For the purpose of this study, Stratcorp Consulting undertook an assessment of relevant National and NSW sport and recreation participation trends. Where relevant, these trends have been used as the basis for cross-referencing against the primary research data collected as part of this study.

Relevant National and NSW sport and recreation participation trends have been sourced from the *Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS)* conducted by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC). The inaugural ERASS was undertaken in 2001 and subsequent surveys will be conducted annually. The results from the second survey in 2002 have recently become available.

One of the advantages with the ERASS over the physical participation reports generated from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census data is that ERASS data will be available on an annual basis thereby providing the opportunity to access more up-to-date research data. The methodology for the ERASS is that every 12 months 4 surveys are carried out throughout Australia (quarterly) with the sample size each quarter being 3,410 of people 15 years and over. The total annual sample is 13,640. AC Neilson undertakes the fieldwork survey by telephone on behalf of the ASC.

Comparative results from the 2001 and 2002 surveys as they relate to NSW are reported as follows.

2.1. Adult Participation

The ERASS identified a National participation rate in exercise, recreation and sport for adults of 77.8% in 2002 (unchanged since 2001). The following table identifies the most popular activities undertaken by all Australians, which were walking, swimming and aerobic/fitness, and shows comparisons between 2001 and 2002 participation rates.

Rank	Sport	% Participation (2002)	% Participation Change from 2001
1	Walking (other)	30.8%	2.0%
2	Swimming	14.9%	- 1.1%
3	Aerobics/Fitness	14.6%	1.6%
4	Cycling	9.3%	- 0.2%
5	Golf	8.7%	0.5%
6	Tennis	8.2%	- 1.0%
7	Running	7.6%	0.4%
8	Walking (bush)	5.6%	0.3%
9	Soccer (outdoor)	4.5%	0.8%
Rank	Sport	% Participation (2002)	% Participation Change from 2001
10	Netball	4.1%	0.0%

11	Basketball	4.0%	0.5%
12	Cricket (outdoor)	3.0%	-0.3%

Activity Participation 2002 (National)

On a National level, the participation in

Soccer has increased, for netball there has been no change,

Whilst for cricket there was a slight decline.

In New South Wales, 76% of the population participated in exercise, recreation and sport with the breakdown of males and females being 77.8% and 74.2%, respectively. The most popular activities in New South Wales have a high correlation with the most popular activities nationally.

The next table outlines the direct comparison between participation in New South Wales and nationally, and shows that 6 out of 12 activities directly correlate. For soccer, there is a higher participation rate in NSW than Nationally. For cricket (2.8%) and netball (3.4%) the rate of participation is lower in NSW than Nationally.

Rank	Sport	National Participation (2002)	Sport	NSW Participation (2002)
1	Walking	30.8%	Walking	29.0%
2	Swimming	14.9%	Swimming	17.0%
3	Aerobics/Fitness	14.6%	Aerobics/Fitness	14.3%
4	Cycling	9.3%	Golf	9.1%
5	Golf	8.7%	Tennis	9.0%
6	Tennis	8.2%	Cycling	8.3%
7	Running	7.6%	Running	7.6%
8	Walking (bush)	5.6%	Walking (bush)	6.6%
9	Soccer (outdoor)	4.5%	Soccer (outdoor)	6.1%
10	Netball	4.1%	Yoga	4.1%
11	Basketball	4.0%	Touch	4.0%
12	Cricket (outdoor)	3.0%	Basketball	3.5%

Comparison of Activity Participation between National and NSW (2002)

2.2. Organised and Non-Organised Participation

The ERASS defined participation as being ‘organised’ if the survey respondent reported that his or her participation was ‘organised in full or in part by a club, association or other type of organisation.’

In Australia, more than 6 million people aged 15 years and over participated in at least one organised activity, which represents a participation rate of 40.9% (compared 39.9% for 2001). It also represents over half (52.6%) of the 11.9 million persons who participated in sport or

physical activity. Those people who participated in organised sport or physical activity undertook an average of 1.3 sessions of organised activity per week.

In NSW 41.3% of people aged over 15 years participated in organised activities.

In relation to national participation in organised sport by age, the table below shows that participation in organised sport declines more rapidly with age, than for participation of all types.

Age Groups	All Participation	Organised Participation
15-24 years	89.5%	66.2%
25-34 years	83.3%	45.3%
35-44 years	78.9%	38.1%
45-54 years	76.3%	32.1%
55-64 years	71.7%	29.2%
65+ years	62.1%	28.9%
Average	77.8%	40.9%

Table 8 – Comparison of Total Participation With Participation in Organised Sport

Organised participation rates were highest in the 15 – 24 years age group (66.2%), and declined to 28.9% for persons aged 65 years and over.

The implications of this data for Hornsby Shire are that:

- The high proportion of 5-17 year olds across Hornsby may result in a greater demand for structured sporting opportunities for young people; however, this is balanced by the lower proportion of 18-34 year olds.
- Planning Districts 4, 5 and 8 (younger communities) have a higher need for the provision of structured sporting opportunities than Planning Districts 1, 3/9 and 7 (older communities).
- There is a very high level of participation in non-organised recreation, increasing as a proportion for adults. For adults, this demand is thought to be met by existing facilities such as paths and roads for walking, jogging etc. For younger people, who require an element of social mixing with recreation, the provision of facilities such as skate parks & BMX tracks is important.

Other Relevant Trends

A recent summary of ABS 2000 sports participation data indicated that:

- There was twice the number of Australian children (5 – 14 years) playing soccer than were playing cricket, tennis or rugby;



- Whilst the national participation of girls in soccer had doubled in 3 years (to 37,000), netball was the undisputed favourite played by girls (235,000), followed by swimming (lessons), tennis and basketball. Softball participation had shown the greatest decline (to 19,000 nationally);
- Tennis showed the largest increase in participation for boys at the expense of cricket and basketball; and
- Tennis is the highest participation sport at National and State levels across all age groups.

Equestrian Sports

Studies undertaken by Hornsby Council during the Hornsby LSP formulation, and when investigating the future management of Fagan Park, Galston, showed a high level of participation in horseriding among Hornsby Shire residents. The high level is most likely to be explained by the existence of a large rural area near the urban fringe, making horseriding a feasible activity for large numbers of people.

While existing roads, tracks and private properties can meet much of the demand for non-organised horseriding, there appears to be a solid demand for one regional facility that allows for competition events, while also catering at some level for non structured/organised riding.

3. SPORTS CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS CONSULTATION

The sporting clubs (49) and relevant sports associations (13) utilising outdoor sporting facilities within the Hornsby LGA were sent a survey which sought information relating to:

1. Club/Association membership and trends of membership;
2. Issues impacting the club/association now and likely to into the future; and
3. Issues in relation to playing surfaces and associated support buildings and infrastructure.

In all, 49 surveys were returned⁴. The results from this consultation are detailed herein.

3.1. Current Membership Levels

Actual membership numbers in the most current season in the period 2003/04 of those clubs/associations which returned a survey are shown in the table below.

Club	Junior Members	Junior Teams	Senior Members	Senior Teams
NETBALL				
Thornleigh Sports and Recreation Club – Netball Division	90	10	85	10
Rebels Netball Club	75	9	48	5
Epping Rugby and Netball Club	210	11	230	15
Beecroft Netball Club	180	22	90	10
Roselea Ladybirds Netball Club Inc.	106	11	19	2
Galston Netball Club	100	13	30	4
Berowra Netball Club	151	17	111	21
Epping YMCA Netball Club	100	13	40	4
Hills District Netball Association	2,315		1,195	
CRICKET				
Epping District Cricket Club – Juniors				
Epping District Cricket Club – Seniors			40	4
Epping YMCA Senior Cricket Club	43	4 All Age	18	
Northern District Cricket	25	1	60	5
West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Cricket Club	340	31	140	11
Pennant Hills Cricket Club	125	10	60	4
Thornleigh Sports & Recreation Club Inc (Cricket Division)	60	5	30	2
Roselea Cricket Club			20	1
Hornsby Kuring Gai Hills District Cricket Association				

⁴ A reminder letter was sent to all groups which had not returned a survey by the closing date. The results reported in this section include data from all surveys returned.

Club	Junior Members	Junior Teams	Senior Members	Senior Teams
SOCCER				
<i>Gladesville-Hornsby Football Association</i>	8,348	674	3,928	243
<i>Ku-ring-gai District Soccer Association</i>	7,943	689	5,573	293
Pennant Hills Soccer Club	326	27	93	6
Normanhurst Soccer Club	450	35	165	11
Asquith Soccer Club	265	24	125	8
North Epping Rangers Sports Club Inc.	377	41	168	13
Roselea Soccer Club Inc	400	38	100	5
Epping YMCA Soccer Club	310	27	250	17
West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Soccer Club	1,000	76	300	22
Hornsby Heights Sports Club (Soccer)	590	53	290	20
Beecroft Soccer	210	20	65	5
RUGBY				
Epping Rugby and Netball Club	220	11	230	15
Asquith Rugby League Club	203	13	50	2
Dural Rugby Club	200	13	25	1
Hills Hawks Junior Rugby League Club	200	12	400	-
Berowra Junior Rugby League	150	11	35	1
Pennant Hills/Cherrybrook Rugby League Club	160	7	28	1
Beecroft Cherrybrook Rugby Union Football Club			142	6
Beecroft/ Cherrybrook Junior Rugby Club	330	20		
AFL				
Pennant Hills Junior AFL Club	110	7		
Pennant Hills Australian Football Club Inc.			130	4
Hornsby Junior Australian Football League Club	67	5		
BASEBALL				
Greenway Giants Baseball	252	21	262	20
RBC Rangers Baseball Club	135	11	100	10
SOFTBALL				
Greenway Giants Softball	160	14	76	8
Kissingpoint Softball Club Inc.	122	11	110	10
Thornleigh Sports and Recreation Club (Softball Division)	50	4	17	1
Hornsby District Softball Association Inc.	509	44	372	25
TENNIS				
Cedarwood Drive Tennis Centre	204		92	
Beecroft Lawn Tennis Club			90	6
Eastwood Thornleigh District Tennis Association	516	174	1302	
Westleigh Tennis Club Inc.	480			
OTHER SPORTS				
Hornsby Electric Model Flying Club Inc.	1		45	
Northern District Hockey Association Inc.	110	9	52	4
Epping YMCA	1152		105	
Cherrybrook Snr and Jnr Little Athletics Centre	400		30	
Hornsby Heights Sports Club	590	53	290	20
Northern Districts Little Athletics Centre	350			
Northern Archers of Sydney	20		80	

Club/Association Membership Numbers by Sport

3.2. Membership Trends

Clubs and Associations were asked to identify membership trends for the past 5 years and estimated trends for the next 5 years.

The data in the table on the following page shows the proportion of all groups which responded to the survey which have had a trend of increasing membership in the past 5 years, and the proportion of those groups which indicated that there is likely to be a trend of increasing membership for the next 5 years.

Sport	Junior increased trend past 5 yrs	Junior increased trend next 5 yrs	Senior increased trend past 5 yrs	Senior increased trend next 5 yrs
Netball	44% <i>of clubs surveyed</i>	55%	33%	44%
Cricket	86%	86%	33%	66%
Soccer	100%	90%	66%	83%
Rugby	83%	100%	66%	83%
AFL	50%	100%	100%	100%
Baseball (1 club)	0%	50%	100%	100%
Softball	33%	33%	33%	33%

Proportion of Groups Identifying Increasing Membership Trends by Sport

The key results from this analysis are:

- Cricket, soccer and rugby had the largest number of groups claiming junior membership increases in the past 5 years;
- Cricket, soccer, rugby and AFL had the largest number of groups expecting an increased membership over the next 5 years;
- Soccer, rugby, AFL and baseball had the largest number of groups claiming senior membership increases in the past 5 years; and
- Cricket, soccer, rugby, AFL and baseball had the largest number of groups expecting increased membership over the next 5 years.

Some claims made about recent and future membership trends were checked against annual reports of various local sports organisations provided to Council. It was found that in the case of soccer, there was evidence of strong growth in that code whereas for cricket there was only minor growth in senior cricket.

3.3. Issues Facing Clubs/Associations

The survey asked all groups to indicate whether specific issues (as identified in the following table) were having an impact on the group now and/or were likely to in the future, and whether the impact was (or would be) of a major or minor nature.

The table on the following page shows the proportion of all clubs that identified each issue as having a major impact on them now, and the proportion of all clubs that indicated that the respective issues would be likely to impact them in the future.

The issues rated as having an impact by more than 35% of all clubs have been highlighted.

Issue	Major Impact Now (%)	Impact In Future (%)
Lack of active junior members	6	25
Lack of active adult members	8	31
Lack of volunteers and committee members	10	47
Lack of coaches	10	35
Poor or inadequate numbers of umpires/referees	12	31
Facilities not large enough for membership	43	49
Facilities poor quality	33	45
Cost of maintaining facilities	23	45
Lack of general finance	16	37
Cost of State/National affiliation fees	14	35
Cost of public liability and other insurance	31	51
Cost of paying players and coaches	0	18
Availability of sponsorship	18	45

Key Issues Raised in Clubs and Associations Survey

The survey identified that the most pressing issue facing groups in Hornsby now is **facility capacity**.

Clubs and associations indicated that most of the issues have potential to impact in the future, with the most pressing issues likely to be:

- Increased insurance costs;
- Facility capacity;

- Lack of volunteers;
- Facility quality;
- Cost of maintenance; and
- Difficulty in finding sponsorship.

3.4. Sports-Specific Issues

Issues identified by clubs and associations for each sport have been investigated in more detail. The results of this detailed review of the surveys returned by groups in respective sports are reported below.

3.4.1. Netball Facility Issues

Key issues identified for netball in the surveys include:

- Existing facilities are unable to cater for current and expected future membership;
- Hills District Netball Association (HDNA) has a waiting list while already having a large membership of 3,510;
- The HDNA identified a number of pressing issues in relation to the netball complex at Pennant Hills Park, including:
 - Insufficient courts;
 - Surface needs more maintenance;
 - Trees overhang (leaves issue causing slippery surface);
 - Serious parking problems;
 - Pedestrian dangers;
 - Poor spectator seating;
 - Drinking fountains required; and
 - Improved traffic lights sequence required for entry.
- A suggested improvement plan from HDNA for Pennant Hills Park would involve:
 - 4 new courts;
 - Resurfacing of existing courts; and
 - Improved maintenance, lighting, drainage, amenities, seating and parking.
- Cheltenham Park has unsafe surfaces (rough bitumen) and poor parking.;
- Ruddock Park could accommodate a training court near the cricket nets to solve the lack of courts in Westleigh/Thornleigh;
- There is an Epping Rugby and Netball Club Master plan for a rugby/netball development at Somerville Park to provide 3 new courts, and while Council endorses some aspects of the plan, it has not adopted the plan as such; and

- More courts needed in Berowra.

Commentary:

Council has recently compiled a Capital Works Program to address the required works at the Pennant Hills Park Netball Complex and other sites. Works completed as at February 2006 include:

- *Resurfacing all courts at Pennant Hills Park, Cheltenham Oval, Galston Recreation Reserve;*
- *Improvements to spectator seating at Pennant Hills Park ;*
- *Parking restriction signs and enforcement at Pennant Hills Park and re-phasing of traffic lights on Pennant Hills Road have resulted in improvements in traffic flow;*
- *The car park behind the tennis courts at Pennant Hills Park has been sealed and line marked and this has assisted with the parking problem to some degree;*
- *There are plans to re-surface the courts at Carlingford, Berowra, Asquith, Epping, Cherrybrook and Normanhurst in the next few years;*
- *Brickpit Park is an opportunity for additional indoor courts for netball;*
- *Bushland preservation issues and parking and traffic issues make it very doubtful whether Pennant Hills Park has capacity for any expansion of netball courts or other facilities; and*
- *Proposed netball courts at Somerville Park and Ruddock Park would be close to residences and noise issues would therefore be likely to make these proposals incapable of receiving development consent.*

Cricket Facility Issues

Key issues identified for cricket in surveys include:

- Geographic distribution of fields does not match population; some children have to travel up to 1 hour for games;
- Land given to baseball from cricket many years ago has helped create existing problems, e.g. Hayes Oval;
- James Henty Field was earmarked for a pitch by Council but this has not occurred;
- Ground allocation is too close to residential areas;
- Additional lighting of fields results in more damage occurring from overuse in winter, and requires more maintenance to make fields useable for cricket season. Council has not invested enough in these maintenance requirements;
- Grounds need to be rested longer before the cricket season, ie. by end of August;
- Council needs to set aside land in future growth areas of South Dural and Galston;



- Potential development sites include the Quarry site, James Henty, Pennant Hills #3 and North Berowra near the Old Tollgates on the Old Pacific Highway;
- Cricket is willing to fund new facilities;
- Small clubs don't need home grounds as they cause problems;
- West Epping, Cheltenham Oval, Wood St Reserve, Somerville Oval have poor standard training and playing facilities; and
- Pennant Hills Park has a poor synthetic surface, unsafe practice nets and no centre wicket to practice on for juniors. The seniors need a second turf pitch (as they have to play 10km away every second week) and better irrigation (it takes half the season to recover from football). In addition, the pavilion has poor facilities at least 20 yrs old.

Commentary

The proposal to develop school sportsgrounds for community use, while primarily designed to provide additional soccer facilities, would also have the effect of providing additional cricket opportunities in the south of the Shire.

Council has recently constructed a cricket pitch at James Henty Oval and is proposing to renew a damaged and disused pitch at Booth Park. There is an option to relocate softball from Dural Park to Hayes Oval. A new pitch can be constructed at Dural Park and baseball has already been relocated away from Hayes Oval, to allow cricket to have use of the park all day as opposed to half day as it has been for the past few years.

Pennant Hills Cricket Club, playing in the Sydney Shires Competition, has a longstanding request for an additional turf pitch ground to meet conditions of competition participation. A new turf pitch has recently been installed at Pennant Hills #2 oval in response to this request. Council did not fund the installation of the pitch but is maintaining the pitch.

The Parks & Landscape Team observed that in one competition both A Grade and Colts Junior cricket require turf pitch grounds for Saturday competition when demand is high. The practice has an effect on ground availability for lower levels of junior cricket. If Colts were to be played on synthetic pitches, this would enable at least one ground to be converted to a synthetic pitch. This allows morning use of a ground, which is very limited on turf pitch grounds, and would save approximately \$30,000 per annum in maintenance costs per ground.

Another cricket competition requires a turf cricket pitch for A Grade competition yet it appears that the competition and its A Grade clubs could not truly be said to be based within Hornsby Shire.

The practice nets at Pennant Hills Park, Warrina Street Oval, Somerville Oval, Waitara Oval, and Wood Street Oval have all been upgraded to varying extents since the consultation for the SFS occurred. Centre pitch upgrades have occurred at Asquith, Waitara, North Epping, Thornleigh, Normanhurst, Edward Bennett and Thomas Thompson Ovals in the same period.

On the issue of ground 'resting' prior to the cricket season, cricket already enjoys a longer season than winter sports yet cricket organisations are sometimes resistant to turf renovation work taking place during the cricket season despite the fact that such work needs warmer growing months for success.

3.4.2. Soccer Facility Issues

Key issues identified for soccer in the surveys include:

- Increasing junior and senior memberships. The existing high growth does not reflect demand as some clubs may be refusing extra memberships to safely control growth;
- Poor quality facilities that can't cater for membership growth;
- Urgent demand for full size playing pitches;
- Playing surfaces on existing pitches are poor with a lack of adequate maintenance and irrigation;
- Lack of lights and crowding for training is a big issue as most clubs have 3-5 teams training together at one time;
- The following table shows where overuse is occurring for soccer.

Area/Club	No. of teams	Facility/No. of Pitches
Pennant Hills	33	Share two ovals
Normanhurst	46 (35 junior 11 senior)	Share two ovals
Asquith	32 (24 junior 8 senior)	Asquith Park has good surface but drainage an issue, Mills Park and James Park
North Epping Rangers	54 (41 junior 13 senior)	North Epping Oval and Cheltenham Park also some use of Wood St Oval
Area/Club	No. of teams	Facility/No. of Pitches
Epping	44 (27 junior 17 senior)	West Epping Oval and Epping Ovals
West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook	98 (76 junior 22 senior)	Edward Bennett, Campbell Park Thomas Thompson Park poor surface, not full size but used for adults. Proposal to use James Henty if/when lights are installed (At time of writing, DA has been lodged)
Hornsby Heights Sports Club	73 (53 junior 20 senior)	Montview Oval (2 senior and 2 junior pitches) poor surface, needs drainage/irrigation, needs floodlighting, expand area to east to enable eastern soccer pitch to be located away from cricket pitch.

Soccer Usage at Various Facilities



- Parking is a significant problem at Pennant Hills Park;
- The provision of seating and toilets is poor at most grounds; and
- Soccer needs are most crucial due to highest growth and greatest number of participants (increasing women's participation not being met).

Commentary

The proposal to develop sportsgrounds at school sites is primarily aimed at providing additional senior soccer fields in response to demonstrated need.

Since the consultation was held with the soccer clubs, capital works to several soccer fields have been undertaken to improve ground surface conditions: Mills Park, Parklands Oval, Asquith Oval, Pennant Hills#3, Campbell Park, Roselea Oval, Carlingford High School #1 & #3, Asquith Oval, West Epping Oval and Berowra Oval. Further works are proposed in Council's Parks Capital Works Program 2006-2011.

As mentioned in the netball section, while parking is still a problem at Pennant Hills Park, some changes have been put in place, and traffic flow has been improved.

Council created a new training venue at James Park in 2002. Council has installed floodlights at Ruddock Park in 04/05 and further floodlights are proposed at James Henty Oval, Dural l and Woods St Oval North Epping to provide additional training venues. Ku-ring-gai and District Soccer Association were allocated additional training time at Rofo Park for the 2006 winter season in response to identified need.

Council is working closely with the Ku-ring-gai and District Soccer Association to develop a premier league soccer facility at Mills Park and the improved ground is scheduled to open in May 2006. This will provide a state level venue for soccer and allow for player progression through to the higher levels.

Rugby League/Union Facility Issues

Key issues identified for rugby league in the surveys include:

- Increasing junior and senior memberships;
- Storey Park, Asquith is unsafe due to hard (or very wet/muddy) turf centre that also causes training limitations;
- Lack of suitable grounds in Hornsby LGA, most have poor lighting or irrigation;
- Improvement to spectator amenities, particularly for Asquith which is hoping to have a semi professional State level team in 2005;
- Proposal to build new ground adjacent to Dural Park; and
- Master Plan for rugby/netball development at Somerville Park.



Commentary:

Council is including floodlighting works in the 5 Year Parks Capital Works Program 2006-2011, including new installations as well as upgrading and expanding existing systems. Improvements for spectators such as seating are also listed.

It was considered that the way to address this would be to acknowledge that there should be some flexibility in developing the new grounds so that they could be shared with soccer by other codes. Upon re-examination of the registration numbers of the Dural Rugby Club, it does appear that it has a case and that the Dural Rugby Club is experiencing the same level of shortages as some soccer clubs.

Ways of addressing this issue include the potential to install dual use soccer/rugby posts and the possibility of re-allocation of Dural Park #2 ground to rugby if soccer were to have more grounds made available to them. This would mean that Dural Park would become a rugby ground (both union and league), when at present it is one rugby field (used by both union and league) and one soccer field. This would enable some pre-season rugby matches (union and league) to be undertaken at Dural Park subject to the availability of the ground. There is also a possibility that soccer at Dural Park will be relocated to Arcadia Park by 2006.

The Masterplan for rugby/netball development at Somerville Park has been developed by the Epping Rugby/Netball Club and while some aspects of the plan appear to have merit, Council has not adopted the plan nor consulted the public about it.

Galston High School may provide an opportunity for a new rugby ground in the area.

3.4.3. Softball Facility Issues

Key issues identified for softball in surveys include:

- Need new fields;
- Improvement to floodlights;
- Lack of shade for spectators; a tree planting program needs to be implemented; and
- Dangerous playing surface, lack of parking, boundary fencing (backstops) and ongoing irrigation problems at Dural Park.

Commentary

Currently there is no room for expansion of additional playing fields at Dural Park without unacceptable bushland clearing. There may be some scope in the future to relocate the tennis courts and build a third playing field in that location. This would be dependant upon determining the need for tennis facilities in that area and finding an alternative site to relocate the tennis courts.

There is potential to re-locate Softball to a larger facility at Hayes Park. This would allow the expansion of diamonds to a safe operating size, and presents an opportunity for future expansion should the nearby Galston High School grounds become available for community use. A number of issues have been considered including ground conditions, standard and size of amenities and liaison with Cricket, Soccer and Rugby Clubs which would be affected by this



proposal. Meetings have been held with the codes affected and it is considered that the proposal to relocate Softball to Hayes Park for the 2006/07 season is achievable.

3.4.4. Baseball Facility Issues

Key issues identified for baseball in the surveys include:

- At Rofe Park there are inadequate training lights and an uneven playing surface;
- Enhanced drainage would enable the ground to be used more; and
- An additional diamond may be required at Rofe Park in the future.

3.4.5. Tennis Facility Issues

Key issues identified for tennis in the surveys include:

- Cedarwood Drive Tennis Centre requires court resurfacing to provide synthetic grass facilities;
- Parking a problem for the Pennant Hills Park complex; and
- Upgrading of ageing buildings and clubhouse at the Pennant Hills complex.

Commentary:

Council has developed a tennis courts capital works programme to assist with funding capital improvements over the remaining period of selected leases to assist with upgrading tennis court assets.

3.4.6. Australian Rules Football Facility Issues

Key issues identified for AFL in the surveys include:

- Increased demand for AFL due to good promotional activities and the success of the Sydney Swans;
- Playing surface at Ern Holmes Oval has improved with better irrigation; however, the line marking for Little Athletics damages the surface;
- Suggested improvements at Ern Holmes Oval include:
 - Floodlighting to competition standard;
 - Increasing the width of the oval;
 - Levelling the playing surface;
 - Provision of permanent equipment storage areas; and
 - Larger changeroom for visiting teams, and upgrade umpires change.
- Sharing with baseball at Rofe Park causes some problems with mounds.

Commentary:



Council staff have not seen evidence of growth in AFL participation rates.

Enlargement of the ground at Ern Holmes Oval would be costly and disruptive, and other options need to be fully explored. Some preliminary investigation has taken place at Greenway Park, however the Demons AFL club has identified issues with ground sharing and amenities building capacity.

A group of codes using Pennant Hills Park has begun discussions on how to work collaboratively to improve facilities at Pennant Hills Park and has provided a pre-liminary submission for Council to consider. AFL is involved with this group.

3.4.7. Equestrian Facilities Issues

Although equestrian groups were not consulted during the preparation of this strategy, Hornsby Council has conducted other extensive consultation with these groups, both during preparation of the Hornsby LSP and during preparation of the Plan of Management for Fagan Park, Galston.

These investigations support the need for a Shirewide level sports facility situated in the rural area and catering primarily for:

- Dressage;
- Cross-country horseriding;
- Horseriding gymkhanas, club and zone competitions;
- Informal horseriding activities;
- Other equestrian sports; and
- Dog exercising;

An area needs to be of suitable size, mostly cleared and flat or gently sloping, and best situated within horseriding distance of Galston Village.

Such a facility would replace the undersized Arcadia Pony Club grounds at Johnson Road Galston, which is the only public equestrian facility in Hornsby Shire.

Commentary

In 2005, Council purchased properties at 18 & 20 Bayfield Road Galston and approved a Development Application for a sports facility catering mainly for various equestrian sports but also dog-related activities.

3.4.8. Other Sports Facility Issues

Key issues identified for other sports in surveys include:

Little Athletics

Greenway Park #2 Oval, Cherrybrook

- Limited space for javelins. Prefer access to sections of Oval #1;



- Track deteriorating rapidly due to lack of watering. A water storage tank installed but does not irrigate Oval #2; and
- Training and competition activities take place during evenings during the week allowing other sports to use the ground on Saturdays.

Foxglove Oval, Mt Colah

- Playing surface becoming more uneven due to subsidence;
- Some areas get heavily used (eg. around the location of the soccer goals) which take considerable time to recover. Irrigation system seems adequate (when used);
- Drainage is generally affected by subsidence particularly in carpark and western drain where ponding is evident; and
- Competition takes place on Saturday morning meaning cricket pitches cannot be used at that time.

Commentary

It was initially proposed in this draft Strategy that all Little Athletics venues change to Friday twilight operations as at Greenway Park to enable use of the ground on Saturday mornings by Cricket. That proposal has been deleted following feedback from Little As and lack of support for the proposal from Cricket. Council recently endorsed the Parks Capital Works Program 2006-2011 that includes a proposal to repair subsidence damage to Foxglove Oval and to provide irrigation to Epping Oval and Athletics track . All 3 ovals at Pennant Hills Park are now provided with automatic irrigation, as is Greenway Park #2.

Hockey

Pennant Hills Park

- Leased area is fine because of the construction of a synthetic field. Some civil works required such as retaining walls, pathways and grass; and
- Northern Districts Hockey Association is solely responsible for the leased area.

Skateboarding

- District 8 has a small facility at Greenway Park, Cherrybrook; and
- District 7 has a very small and basic facility at Brooklyn Reserve.

These two facilities may be adequate as local facilities, but they are too small and too difficult to reach for young people from distant suburbs for them to function as a shire-wide facilities.

A regional, or shire-wide, facility needs to be constructed, with the following features:

- Located at a central point within walking distance of a railway station;
- Reasonable separation from residences;
- Area of around 500 square metres or more; and



- At a busy location with good exposure to passing traffic.

Commentary

Council has recently opened a skate facility at Berowra and is currently proposing to develop another at Thornleigh in District 2. In response to demand expressed by the Galston community for a skate facility, the Parks Capital Works Program is proposing a skate facility as part of improvements to Galston Recreation Reserve. There has also been demand expressed by many youths for a skate park in Hornsby.

Sports Specific Workshops

The research carried out during this study confirmed that there are short-term facility provision issues for the sports of netball, soccer and cricket in the Hornsby LGA. As a result, 3 workshops were organised for representatives from clubs and the respective sports associations for these 3 sports. The purpose of these sports specific workshops was to:

- Confirm specific issues and constraints in relation to the existing provision of facilities in Hornsby Shire;
- Seek feedback on possible scenarios for improved provision of facilities; and
- Identify other possible solutions for improved provision of facilities.

The outcome from these sports workshops is summarised below. See Appendix 2 for list of attendees.

Please Note that the information reported from the Sports Specific Workshops is a summary of the comments, views and opinions of attendees, and that some comments may be the view and opinion of one or two attendees only and may not necessarily reflect the feeling of all in attendance, or of the Hornsby community.

3.5. Netball Workshop

The key outcomes from the Netball Clubs and Associations Workshop were:

- Rebels Netball Club currently shares training facilities with Berowra Netball Club and the lack of courts restricts access for training. The existing court at Berowra Oval is not currently being used/is not available for use;
- Thornleigh Netball Club has restricted access to training courts in the Thornleigh/Westleigh area, suggests Ruddock Park as a possible venue to develop a new court(s);
- The Pennant Hills Park Netball Complex is used by some affiliate clubs with the Hills District Association as their training base;
- The current number of courts at the Complex is not meeting current demand for competition and training needs:
 - Some junior matches are being conducted at Cheltenham Park courts;
 - A proposed Masters Competition cannot currently be conducted;
 - The commencement time for Senior Competition on Saturdays has been pushed back to a later timeslot to accommodate increased junior use in the morning/early afternoon,



resulting in later finishing times (may start to affect the willingness of senior players to participate if the finish time encroaches further into early Saturday evening); and

- Two clubs which applied for additional junior teams to be entered into the Junior Competition in 2003 had their applications refused due to shortage of courts.
- The Hills District Association's current liability on the indoor court development is \$600,000;
- Access into and out of Pennant Hills Park and provision of carparking identified as ongoing issues for members. (Attendees did not believe that these issues were significantly affecting the recruitment and retention of players at this stage);
- Access into and out of Cheltenham Park for junior competition use is poor (use of reserve also clashes with soccer use);
- Possible scenario of establishing a second netball peak body and netball complex in the Hornsby Shire was rejected on the basis that the current formalised structure of Netball NSW provides for one association only in each local government area to coordinate netball activities;
- The Hills District Association confirmed its commitment to its current base at Pennant Hills Park, and its preference to extend the current facility by 4 courts;
- The key option explored as an alternative to the extension of Pennant Hills Park Complex was to establish an annexed facility at a different location. The main uses for this annexed facility would be for training and selected junior competitions, which would free up the Pennant Hills Park Complex for expanding existing competitions and to introduce new competitions;
- Options for locations for this proposed annexed facility were (which had in principle support):
 - Extension of Cheltenham Park by 4 courts;
 - Develop new indoor courts at Brickpit Park (Thornleigh);
 - Develop new courts at the Dog Pound site (Thornleigh);
 - Develop courts at Lyne Road Reserve (Cheltenham); and
 - Develop courts at the Hornsby Rifle Range if it should become available

Commentary

There is insufficient space for expansion of courts at Cheltenham Park and the roads could not cope with increased traffic. Lyne Road reserve also could not take netball traffic volumes, and any courts would be close to houses. Expansion at Pennant Hills Park is limited because there is no cleared land available, and although traffic flow has recently been improved in Pennant Hills Park, traffic congestion is still a serious issue and parking has reached its capacity. Brickpit Park may provide netball courts if the Brickpit Stadium is expanded. Land near the old tollgates in Berowra may accommodate netball courts.

Should the Hornsby Rifle Range cease to operate, its site on Crown land off Rosemead Road, Hornsby may be suitable for a netball facility.



Tennis/netball courts at Montview Oval, Hornsby Heights have recently been handed back for use as netball courts. It is possible that some Berowra clubs may be able to train at Montview Oval netball courts.

3.6. Soccer Workshop

The key outcomes from the Soccer Clubs and Associations Workshop were:

- ‘Season creep’ in soccer and cricket activities is making increasingly more difficult for soccer and cricket to co-exist on shared sports grounds;
- Access to training and competition venues in the Hornsby Shire is restricted and is not meeting demand. The pressure point is the southern region of the Shire. Urgent need to find solutions;
- The existing level of lighting at designated soccer grounds is generally inadequate, in relation to both lux levels and spread across grounds. The restricted spread across grounds impacts both the number of players/teams which can train at any given time and the inability to spread the load over the whole ground (more rapid and isolated degradation of specific sections of the ground is resulting);
- There is a lack of access to clubroom facilities for most soccer clubs (ie. no ‘home’ base for administrative and social outcomes, or venue to better develop a club spirit); and
- Ku-ring-gai & District Soccer Association and Gladesville Hornsby Football Association are each accessing school facilities to meet demand for grounds. Key issues in usage of school facilities are:
 - There are a variety of access and usage agreements depending on individual schools;
 - There is generally a lack of supporting infrastructure, such as toilets, change and parking; and
 - Condition of fields varies considerably, but generally poorer quality to Council grounds and undersized.
- Attendees supported the proposed direction of formalising the use of school facilities for soccer as a means of addressing the current shortage of grounds (particularly to accommodate junior matches); and
- Areas to be addressed with any future use of school facilities include risk management, capital contribution towards upgrades/new facilities, and fees and charges.

Commentary

School facilities may provide a partial solution to the well documented shortage of soccer grounds. Lighting of further soccer grounds will provide additional training facilities and spread the wear from over-burdened grounds.

3.7. Cricket Workshop

The key outcomes from the Cricket Clubs and Associations Workshop were:

- Participation in senior cricket and girls/womens cricket is increasing which has led to the current shortage of grounds (and some grounds are too small for their current designated use);
- The condition of some grounds at the commencement of the season is poor, largely caused by overuse/poor maintenance practices during winter use (ie. soccer use);
- The cricket grounds are graded and fixtured for use by the Cricket Associations which means that some clubs lack a 'home' base for administrative and social outcomes, or venue to better develop a club spirit;
- Hornsby Shire currently provides and maintains 10 grounds with turf centre wickets. There is a desire by the cricket community to increase this to 11 grounds;
- There is a lack of availability of cricket practice nets, and generally the maintenance and condition of the playing surface, run-ups and netting is poor. Some practice nets do not have access to power source, necessary for use of bowling machines;
- Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hills & District Cricket Association and the Northern Districts Cricket Association are accessing school facilities to meet demand for grounds. Key issues in usage of school facilities are:
 - There are a variety of access and usage agreements depending on individual schools;
 - There is generally a lack of supporting infrastructure, such as toilets and changerooms;
 - Condition of fields varies considerably, many are undersized; and
 - Security of tenure during a season.
- There is inconsistency across the Shire in relation to the amount of fees and charges for use of Council grounds and practice nets, and for use of school grounds;
- Attendees supported the proposed direction of formalising the use of school facilities for cricket as a means of addressing the current shortage of grounds (particularly to accommodate junior and girls/womens matches);
- There are funding opportunities available for facility upgrades through Cricket NSW.

Commentary

Senior cricket is now well catered for with 11 turf cricket pitch grounds and approximately 30 other grounds. The Parks Capital Works Program 2006-2011 provides a program for replacing old, worn assets. Council has worked with cricket organisations to secure more cricket grant funding. However, cricket as a sport consumes almost 40% of Council's sportsground maintenance budget and this is high compared to participation in cricket as a proportion of all sport. Maintenance of turf cricket grounds consumes 60% of Council's expenditure on all cricket grounds although turf grounds comprise only 25% of the grounds.



4. NEEDS/DEMAND ANALYSIS FOR ALL SPORTS

On the basis of the previous research undertaken, Stratcorp Consulting undertook a needs analysis for all major outdoor sports facility provision in the Hornsby LGA. The analysis sought to identify and quantify existing facility provision, identify those sports which had short-term facility development needs, and *preliminary* recommendations ('Facility Development Options') to guide the investigative tasks work undertaken during the second phase of the study. The outcome of the investigative research into potential new and improved sites for sports facilities is reported in Sections 8 & 9 and was used to develop and inform the final study recommendations and directions.

Sport / Activity	Demand	Current Facility Provision in Shire/Region	Gap	Facility Development Options
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate demand for Little Athletics. Moderate demand likely for Senior Athletics. Moderate demand likely for access to athletic tracks from local schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grass Track at Foxglove Oval, Mt Colah (share with touch, cricket and soccer). Grass Track at Greenway Park, Cherrybrook (share with cricket, rugby league). Grass Track at Pennant Hills Park Oval #2 (share with AFL/Cricket). 	NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No additional facilities required. Possible re-scheduling of Little Athletics competition time at Pennant Hills Park Oval #2 and Foxglove Oval, Mt Colah from Saturday morning to Friday evening, to free-up Saturday morning for junior cricket use.
Australian Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A claimed strong growth in junior football (Success of Sydney Swans plus Pennant Hills club a 'centre of excellence' for AFL in Sydney). Increasing demand for senior football likely. No evidence of increased demand at present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pennant Hills Park Oval #2 (share with little aths/Cricket). Rofe Park, Hornsby Heights (1 oval, share with baseball). Greenway Park, Cherrybrook (1 oval, share with baseball). Many existing school ovals are undersized and lack necessary support facilities. 	FUTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible upgrade of Greenway Park or a ground in Pennant Hills Park to be the 'premier' oval for region. New ovals for AFL to be considered in any new potential development at greenfield sites at Old Tollgate, Berowra site, providing need is established at that time.
Baseball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand likely to increase proportionally with population growth Current provision matches existing need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rofe Park, Hornsby Heights (8 diamonds). Greenway Park, Cherrybrook (4 diamonds, share with AFL). Ruddock Park, Westleigh (3 diamonds, share with softball (training only)). 	NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No additional facilities are proposed.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hornsby Ku-ring-gai & Hills District Cricket Association is by far the largest cricket organisation and user of Hornsby's cricket grounds. Also uses grounds in neighbouring council areas. Review of HKHDCA's annual reports over recent years demonstrates a decline in numbers of junior teams, and only a slight growth in senior teams. Other clubs are stable in number of teams Demand likely to increase proportionally with population growth. Current provision does not match existing need in the southern and central areas of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waitara Park. Asquith Oval. Somerville Park, Eastwood. Pennant Hills Park Oval #1. Epping Oval. North Epping Oval. Wood St Oval, North Epping. West Epping Oval. Cheltenham Park. Roselea Oval, Beecroft. Greenway Park, Cherrybrook. Thomas Thompson Park, West Pennant Hills. Campbell Park, West Pennant Hills. Headen Park, Thornleigh. 	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible re-scheduling of Little Athletics competition time at Pennant Hills Park Oval #2 and Foxglove Oval, Cherrybrook from Saturday morning to Friday evening, to free-up Saturday morning for junior cricket use. New ovals for cricket to be considered in any new sports ground development eg potential greenfield sites at Old Tollgates, Berowra, Old Mans Valley and Old Diary site (Brooklyn), Arcadia Pony Club. New pitch at James Henty Park, Dural (completed). Shared use of Pennant Hills Park Oval #3. HK&HDCA to consider changing its Colts junior competition from turf only to synthetic only, or synthetic/turf combination, thereby making it

Sport / Activity	Demand	Current Facility Provision in Shire/Region	Gap	Facility Development Options
	<p>the Shire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Dural and Galston likely future demand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normanhurst Park. • James Park, Hornsby. • Mills Park, Asquith. • Storey Park, Asquith. • Montview Oval, Hornsby Heights (2 ovals). • Parklands Oval, Mt Colah. • Foxglove Oval, Mt Colah (2 ovals). • Mt Kuring-gai Reserve, Mt Colah. • Berry Park, Mt Colah. • Berowra Park. • Warrina St Reserve, Berowra Heights. • Hayes Park, Galston. • Arcadia Park. • Cowan Park. • Brooklyn Oval. • Edward Bennett Oval, Cherrybrook. • Thornleigh Park. • Booth Park, Beecroft. • Glenorie Oval. • Wisemans Ferry Oval. • Pennant Hills Park Oval #2. • Carlingford High School (3 ovals) • Edward Bennett Oval, Cherrybrook. • Galston Recreation Reserve. • James Henty Oval. • Ruddock Park, Thornleigh (Nets Only). • Many of the Department of Education ovals throughout Hornsby are undersized and lack necessary support facilities. • Existing school grounds used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hills Grammar, Dural. • Cherrybrook Public School. • Arcadia Public School. • West Pennant Hills Primary School. • Hornsby Heights Public School. 	<p>YES</p>	<p>possible for one of either Storey Park, Berowra Park or Parklands Oval to be converted to a synthetic wicket. Benefit = increased use of oval for junior cricket, and opportunity to re-invest savings generated from reduced turf wicket maintenance to other facility development projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern District Cricket Association to be required to base A Grade competition outside Hornsby Shire reflecting the location of participant clubs, allowing West Epping Oval to be converted to a synthetic oval at a saving of \$50,000 per year, or take over responsibility for maintaining turf pitch at West Epping Oval • Investigate partnerships with schools to increase utilisation of new and existing school sports facilities by improving standards and amenities to meet required standards.

Sport / Activity	Demand	Current Facility Provision in Shire/Region	Gap	Facility Development Options
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pennant Hills High School. • Redfield College, Dural. • Epping West Public School. • North Epping Public School. 		
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand likely to increase proportionally with population growth. • Current provision matches existing need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pennant Hills Park (1 synthetic pitch). • Pennant Hills Park (1 grass pitch). 	NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council to support new synthetic hockey pitch proposed at Pacific Hills Christian School with the objective to ensure long term community access.
Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand for training and competition courts likely to increase proportionally with population growth. • Current provision does not meet existing need. • Future demand will likely include indoor court space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pennant Hills Park (18 outdoor courts & 1 indoor court). • Cheltenham Reserve (4 courts). • Dunrossil Avenue, Carlingford (2 courts). • Warrina Street Reserve, Berowra (2 courts). • Grant Close, Epping (2 courts). • Galston Recreation Reserve (2 courts). • Greenway Park, Cherrybrook (2 courts). • Montview Oval, Hornsby Heights (2 courts). • Normanhurst Park (2 courts). • Storey Park, Hornsby (2 courts). • Berowra Oval (1 court, not used). • Hastings Park, Castle Hill (1 court). • Grass court at Brooklyn 	<p>YES</p> <p>YES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new outdoor courts at Pennant Hills Park or Cheltenham Oval. • Possible new annexed facility for HDNA at the former Dog Pound Site, Westleigh (4 new courts). • Increased lighting of courts at Pennant Hills Park would allow additional training facilities • Possible four new outdoor netball courts (multi-purpose) at Pacific Hills Christian School. • New multipurpose courts at Mt Colah Public School • Netball courts to given priority in any expansion of the Brickpit Stadium, Thornleigh.
Rugby League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand likely to increase proportionally with population growth. • Current provision matches existing need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storey Park, Asquith. • Dural Park. • Warrina Street Reserve, Berowra. • Greenway Park, Cherrybrook Oval #2. • Waitara Oval. • Carlingford High School Oval #3. 	NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional facilities to be provided. • If Asquith RLFC successful in progressing to semi professional level, upgrade facilities at Storey Park, Asquith.

Sport / Activity	Demand	Current Facility Provision in Shire/Region	Gap	Facility Development Options
Rugby Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand likely to increase proportionally with population growth. • Current provision matches existing need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dural Park, • Headen Park, Thornleigh. • Pennant Hills Park Oval #1. • Somerville Park, Eastwood. • Waitara Park, Hornsby. 	NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of Rugby Union access to any proposed facility at Old Mans Valley, however, use of Waitara Oval to be surrendered in that case.
Soccer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand likely to increase proportionally with population growth. • Current provision does not match existing need. • South Dural and Galston likely future demand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood St Oval, Epping North. • Epping Oval. • North Epping Oval. • West Epping Oval. • Cheltenham Oval. • Pennant Hills Park Oval #3. • Roselea Oval, Beecroft. • James Henty Oval, Dural. • Thomas Thompson Park, West Pennant Hills. • Campbell Park, West Pennant Hills. • Ruddock Park, Thornleigh • Thornleigh Oval. • Oakleigh Oval, Westleigh • Normanhurst Park. • James Park, Hornsby. • Mills Park, Asquith. • Asquith Park. • Berry park, Mt Colah 	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New fields for soccer to be incorporated in any new multi-field development at potential greenfield sites at either, Old Tollgates, Old Mans Valley and Old Dairy site (Brooklyn), Arcadia Pony Club. • New training venues including lighting at James Henty Park, Dural and Ruddock Park, Westleigh. • Investigate partnerships with schools to facilitate community use of new and existing school sports facilities by improving standards and amenities to meet required standards.
Soccer		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Montview Oval, Hornsby Heights. • Parklands Oval, Mt Colah. • Foxglove Oval, Mt Colah. • Mt Kuring-gai Reserve, Mt Colah. • Berowra Park. • Warrina Street Reserve, Berowra Heights (undersized field). • Hayes Oval, Galston • Arcadia Park (available but not used). • Cowan Park. • Glenorie Oval (available but not used). • Wisemans Ferry Oval (available but not used). 	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Sports access to school grounds at Cherrybrook and Pennant Hills High through Council partnerships. • Development of new ground near the tollgates, Berowra. • Training lights at James Henty Oval and Woods Street Oval

Sport / Activity	Demand	Current Facility Provision in Shire/Region	Gap	Facility Development Options
Horseriding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand is currently high but steady. Council surveys suggest that 2% of the population participates in horseriding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 small pony club facility at Johnson Rd Galston Perimeter riding track at Fagan Park Various private facilities which are not available for competition. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 facility suitable for pony club, schools teams and adult riders is required. As no existing council land has been found to be suitable, purchase of new property in rural area, preferably within horseriding distance of Galston, is required. Property purchased for new facility in Bayfield Road, Galston. Construction expected 2006/07.
Skating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is demand for new facilities throughout the Shire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 small to medium facility at Cherrybrook and 1 small facility at Brooklyn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 new Shire-wide facility at Brickpit Park Thornleigh. 1 new local facility at Berowra. 1 new local facility at Galston. Possible expansion of existing facility at Greenway Park Cherrybrook.
BMX Riding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand for new facilities throughout Shire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 small facility at Hopeville Park Several 'unauthorised' bush facilities in existence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate converting some unauthorised facilities to authorised

5. POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SITES

5.1. Identification of Possible Sites

At the commencement of the study, a number of Council owned and publicly owned sites in the Hornsby LGA were identified by Council as having some potential for improvement and/or development as future outdoor sporting facilities. As part of the SFS planning process, Stratcorp Consulting further investigated these potential sites, and also other additional sites identified during the study period, including possible opportunities on education land.

This section identifies all Council owned and publicly owned potential sites, and provides a summary of the constraints, opportunities and issues for each site. Education land is reviewed in the next section.

In all, 23 potential sites were identified and assessed.

5.2. Initial Analysis of Possible Sites

The following table summarises the preliminary constraints and opportunities in relation to the suitability of each potential site:

Location	Constraints and Opportunities
Sydney Water Board Land Warrigal Rd, Westleigh <i>Site discounted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land owned by State, managed by Sydney Water. • Significant total land area 34.59 Ha (only 9.7Ha is cleared). • Heart of residential area. • Some levelling required. • Future use of land is currently under review by Sydney Water, and the Authority will not commit to any potential joint-use scenarios with Council in the short-term. (Source: Telephone conversation with Larry Stewart, Sydney Water, October 2003).
Former Dog Pound Site Warrigal Rd, Westleigh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land owned by Council. • Site abuts the Sydney Water site. • Narrow parcel of land - flat, but development possibility is restricted to court based sports approximately 0.3 Ha of site would be level enough for netball courts. • Former council dog pound building is in the centre of the site, and is currently being utilised as an emergency response training venue. • Access to the site is via entry situated on Sydney Water land (but permitted access is a possibility with any development of site).

Location	Constraints and Opportunities
<p>Former Hornsby Pony Club Site Berowra Valley National Park Off Schofield Parade, Pennant Hills</p> <p><i>Site discounted</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site is situated within a Berowra Valley Regional Park. • Land already cleared (1.8Ha) would be sufficient size for a senior and junior soccer pitch. • Car park and associated basic infrastructure exists. • Strong community opposition has been expressed. • Whilst Council has previously resolved to develop the site into sports fields, the Minister for the Environment has adopted a Plan of Management which identifies future usage to be of a passive nature only.
<p>Brickpit Park/Dartford Road Site Off Pennant Hills Rd, Thornleigh</p> <p><i>Long term development prospects</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land owned by Council (Area is 5.8Ha). • Operational land adjacent has indoor sports stadium. • Site was a previous landfill site and is still settling. • Medium-term land use has been approved for golf driving range. • Possible long-term option for a sportsground when land settles however substantial earthworks would be required. • Possible extension to indoor stadium to provide additional courts for a possible range of sports.
<p>Pennant Hills Park (sports precinct) Off Britannia St, Pennant Hills</p> <p><i>Site discounted for expansion</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land managed by Council (Area is 31.68Ha). • Existing multi-sport precinct. • Existing traffic management and car parking issues during peak use times. • No further cleared land available for development. • Unlikely that any land with existing vegetation will be available for use. • Some possibilities for modified/changed use of existing designated sports areas.
<p>Land adjacent to Epping Oval Somerset St, Epping North</p> <p><i>Site discounted for expansion</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land owned by RTA (Area is 1.68Ha) but may be available for acquisition at prices commensurate with surrounding residential land values. • Site is adjacent to existing Epping Oval and athletics track. • Available land may be suitable for small oval and/or soccer field. • Current use is bushland/parkland and strong community opposition likely for any sports field development proposal.
<p>Woods St Oval Off Woods St, Epping North</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land managed by Council (Area is 3.25Ha). • Existing sportsground. • Increased use for soccer training possible with lighting installation.
<p>Somerville Park Blaxland Rd, Eastwood</p> <p><i>Site discounted for expansion</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land owned by Council (Area is 4.07Ha). • Existing sports field (rugby and cricket). • Areas of potential expansion for netball are too close to houses.

Location	Constraints and Opportunities
Ruddock Park Quarter Sessions Rd, Westleigh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land owned by Council (Total area is 3.26Ha, 2.6Ha cleared). • Existing sports fields (soccer and baseball) and tennis courts. • Increased use for soccer training achieved with lighting installation in 2005. • Insufficient space for court expansion but future dual purpose courts possible.
James Henty Park James Henty Drive, Dural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land owned by Council (Total area is 1.7Ha, 1Ha cleared). • Existing soccer field. • Close to residential housing. • Increased use for soccer training proposed with lighting installation – DA due for determination 2005.
Former Quarry Site Quarry Rd, Hornsby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land managed by Council (Area is 23.52Ha). • Significant land area although site constraints for sports field developments due to topography. • Substantial buildings existing on site. • Community consultation supports sportsground on adjoining reserve in Old Mans Valley together with some residential uses. • Long-term prospect only.
Old Man's Valley Quarry Rd, Hornsby <i>Site under investigation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land managed by Council (total area is 12Ha, 5.2Ha cleared). • A portion of the land has been levelled but has not been developed. • Suitable size for senior sports oval and/or 2 soccer fields. • Access to site is difficult and will need to be formalised. • Site is currently under active consideration for development of a sports ground as part of the broader strategic land use planning study.
Arcadia District Pony Club Site Johnson Rd, Galston <i>Site discounted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land owned by Council (Total area is approx 3.0 Ha). • Space available for a sportsground but would require removal of significant trees. • Pony club pavilion and Council Depot exist on the site and would need relocation. • Site is north of the area where greatest need is for additional sports fields. • Council Depot needs to be retained. • Not a potential short-term option for a new sports field.

Location	Constraints and Opportunities
<p>Fagan Park Arcadia Rd, Galston</p> <p><i>Site discounted</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown Land managed by Council (Total area is 55Ha, 35Ha cleared). • Existing parking, picnic and other ancillary facilities. • Significant parcels of cleared land suitable for sports field development, although hilly. • Current plan of management does not allow for organised sport facility. • Site is north of the area where greatest need is for additional sports fields. • Any proposal for development of sports fields likely to meet community opposition. • Recent Master Plan process confirmed commitment to passive recreation use at the site, thereby eliminating potential use of some or all as a sports reserve.
<p>North of the Old Tollgates Site Pacific Highway, Berowra</p> <p><i>Medium to long term development prospects</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site owned by a combination of Council, State and private, however, private owner can require Dept of Planning to acquire and Council to become Committee of Management for whole site. This acquisition is underway. Total area is 4.8Ha, 2.66Ha cleared. • Site is situated on the northern side of the Pacific Highway adjacent to the site of the former Tollgates, north of Berowra. • Land area suitable for 1 senior cricket oval and possibly 2 soccer fields overlaid, or a number of netball courts. • Some land levelling required. • Site would require significant roadworks to be constructed to facilitate safe vehicle access from the Pacific Highway. • Connection costs for essential services likely to be high. • Site is north of the area where greatest need is for additional sports fields.
<p>Old Dairy Site Brooklyn Rd, Brooklyn</p> <p><i>Long term development prospects</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land owned by Council (total area is 3.7Ha, 3.7Ha cleared). • Land area suitable for 1 senior cricket oval and 1 senior & 1 junior soccer field. • Site is north of the area where greatest need is for additional sports grounds. • Site has been used for placement of dredge spoil and is planned to receive more spoil from dredging for extension for McKell Park seawall extension. • Redevelopment of the site by Sydney Water for a sewage treatment plant in by 2008 will leave sufficient space for a sportsground.



Location	Constraints and Opportunities
<p>Erlestoke Park Cherrybrook</p> <p><i>Site discounted for expansion</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land owned by Council (total area is 1.25Ha, 0.8Ha cleared). • Site currently includes a public tennis court and a range of visitor facilities, including shelters, path network and playground. • No available cleared land for additional sports field; would have to remove existing trees and/or existing recreation facilities. • Park has been developed as a low impact local park (predominantly for passive recreation uses) and it is unlikely that the local community would accept a changed use into a sports field.
<p>Greenway Park Shepherds Drive, Cherrybrook</p> <p><i>Site discounted for further field expansion but change of standard of current codes played possible</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land owned by Council (Area is 13.99Ha). • Existing multi-sport precinct (AFL, Baseball, Little Athletics, Soccer, Rugby, Cricket, skatepark and multipurpose hard court area – 1 tennis court, 2 netball and 2 basketball/netball courts). • Existing traffic management and carparking issues during peak use times due to adjacent shopping precinct and the park being located in a residential area, ie. narrow streets servicing the park. • Possible upgrade of AFL oval to ‘premier’ ground, providing logistically possible. • Potential expansion/upgrade of skate park.
<p>Marymount Mercy Centre David Rd, Cherrybrook</p> <p>Site discounted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land privately owned. • Large area of land (slightly smaller than Greenway Park but on a steep grade) , acquisition would be expensive (multi-million dollars). • Site slopes up east –west. • Located within high need area for additional sports fields. • Likely traffic management issues (residential streets about the site) for any proposal to develop the site into a sports precinct.

Location	Constraints and Opportunities
<p>Lyne Road Reserve Lyne Rd, Cheltenham</p> <p><i>Site discounted for sportsground, but suitable for local park facilities</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land part-owned by Council and RTA (road reserve-extension of Castle Howard Rd) (total area is 2 Ha, .7Ha cleared). • Site currently includes two cleared areas, each on a different level. Both are not of sufficient size to be sportsgrounds, and existing vegetation and topographical variations across the park would prevent any meaningful expansion of the cleared areas.. • Park has been developed as a low impact Local Park (predominantly for passive recreation uses) and it is unlikely that the local community would accept a changed use into a sportsground and/or sports hard courts (netball). • Possible dog run, playground and BMX track potential. • Shortage of useable open space in the area makes this site a valuable community recreation asset/destination. • Likely traffic management issues due to residential street access, no off-street car parking available.
<p>Appletree Drive Reserve Appletree Dr, Cherrybrook</p> <p><i>Site discounted for sportsground, but suitable for local park</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land owned by Council (Total area is 1.33Ha). • Site is adjacent to the Appletree Shopping Centre and currently includes a scout hall. • Site is relatively flat, and has a stand of mature pine trees. • Site is large enough for junior sportsground only. • A large cricket practice net facility has been proposed but this would require tree clearing and would be incompatible with proposed local park facilities. • Located within high need area for additional sports fields. • The local community would be likely to resist a changed use into a sportsground, cricket nets and/or sports hard courts (netball), loss of trees and possible loss of scout hall.
<p>Hayes Park, Galston</p> <p><i>Site suitable for proposed change of use</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total area is 3.3 Ha. • Currently used as a playing field for soccer and cricket. • Baseball has played there in the past. • Could be considered for re-location of softball from Dural Park and Cricket would re-locate to Dural Park. • Site could accommodate traffic and parking from proposed use. • Change of use will create additional demand for upgraded amenities.
<p>18 & 20 Bayfield Rd, Galston</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area is about 4Ha cleared and flat. • While small, can accommodate equestrian sports of a local nature. • Would allow re-location of equestrian activities from smaller Johnson Rd site. • Can accommodate other uses eg. Dog training exercise or off leash area, skate or BMX.

5.3. Shortlisted Sites

In summary, the sites identified as having some potential for improvement and/or development **in the short-term** as future additional outdoor sporting facilities to cater for the demand for cricket, soccer and netball activities are:

Site	Development Option	Sport Outcome
Improved Facilities		
1. Woods St Oval (Epping North)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting installation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased soccer training capacity
2. Somerville Park (Eastwood)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lighting upgrade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased use for rugby training
3. Ruddock Park (Westleigh)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting installation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased soccer training capacity
4. James Henty Park (Dural)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting installation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased soccer training capacity
5. Pennant Hills Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting installation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased netball training
6. Greenway Park (Cherrybrook)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skate Park Expansion/upgrade Potential for AFL improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved skateboarding and AFL opportunities
7. Hayes Park (Galston)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-location of Softball from Dural Park to Hayes Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased softball training and competition capacity
New Facilities		
8. Former Dog Pound Site (Thornleigh)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 outdoor netball courts Small pavilion/shelter Car parking (off site) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides additional netball training and competition space for the HDNA
9. North of the Old Tollgates Site (Berowra)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior sports oval and 2 soccer fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional oval for cricket/AFL use Additional soccer fields
10. Old Dairy Site (Brooklyn)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior sports oval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional oval for soccer
11. 18 & 20 Bayfield Rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pony and dressage arenas Cross country track 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local equestrian use Dog training/off leash
12. Old Mans Valley, Hornsby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football code facility Possible cricket/baseball facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased soccer opportunity whether at OMV or Waitara Oval Increased summer sport potential
13. Brickpit Park, Thornleigh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand existing Brickpit stadium by 2 courts Install regional skate park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased netball and other courts sport facilities Expanded skate facilities



6. SCHOOLS CONSULTATION

Schools were identified as a potential source for sporting facility development due to the limited availability of greenfield sites within the LGA that would be suitable and/or have the capacity to be developed into sports facilities. Two rounds of research were carried out.

6.1. Preliminary Schools' Audit

An initial telephone survey of schools was conducted during the period August/September 2003 to determine:

- Existing provision of sporting facilities and infrastructure on school land;
- Level of community use of school sporting facilities;
- Future development plans for school sporting facilities (if any);
- School's existing policy on the use school facilities by external groups; and
- School's view on the issue of entering into partnerships with Council for the maintenance and development of sporting facilities in return for community access to such facilities.

38 schools were initially contacted, with 24 schools providing data. The results of the survey are detailed in Appendix 2.

6.2. Second Round Schools' Research

A second round of research and consultation was conducted with selected schools during the period 10 – 12 February 2004. The 27 schools selected for additional research and investigation was based on:

1. The capacity (size) of existing facilities available at schools to accommodate junior and/or senior outdoor sport (based on the results from the preliminary audit); and
2. The geographic location of schools. The most urgent need for increased provision of outdoor sporting facilities for cricket and soccer is in Planning Districts 1, 2, 3/9, 4 and 8.

The methodology for the second round of research and consultation involved a site visit to the nominated schools and interviews with the Principal (or his/her nominee) to confirm data collected during the preliminary schools audit, and where relevant, to add to it.

The key aim of the follow-up research was to further explore the potential of school facilities to assist in meeting existing and likely future community demand for new outdoor sporting facilities. The focus was on cricket and soccer, being 2 of the 3 sports identified through this study and the *Hornsby LSP* as having a demand that far exceeds existing supply.

The detailed results of the second round of schools research and consultation are shown in Appendix 2.



6.3. Shortlisted Sites

In summary, of the 27 sites that were investigated, 15 schools have sportsfields considered suitable for possible use by external groups. In some instances, external groups are already using these sportsfields through arrangements already established between the school and the group.

Following is an assessment of the schools that have fields considered suitable for external use, and a summary of issues and constraints identified. In relation to the approved dimensions for soccer and cricket, the following standards were applied, sourced from *Sports Dimensions for Playing Areas, Australian Sports Commission (1998)*:

1.	Cricket Senior	68m radius from the centre of the wicket
2.	Cricket Junior	40m radius from the centre of the wicket
3.	Soccer Senior	100m long x 64m wide
4.	Soccer Junior	75m long x 55m wide
5.	Soccer Junior (modified)	50–60m long x 25–50m wide (U/8s – U/10s)

Relevant sports associations and peak bodies may modify these dimensions at their discretion for both competition and training purposes.

6.3.1. Senior Sports Fields

There are 13 sports fields at 9 schools identified as having the capacity to accommodate senior cricket and/or soccer located at:

1. Normanhurst Boys High School (1 senior soccer);
2. Loreto Catholic College, Normanhurst (2 senior cricket, 2 senior soccer);
3. Cherrybrook Technology High School (1 senior soccer - would require ground expansion for cricket);
4. Barker College, Waitara (4 senior cricket);
5. St Leo's College, Wahroonga (2 senior cricket);
6. Asquith Boys High School (1 senior soccer);
7. Pennant Hills High School (1 senior soccer, 1 junior soccer, 2 junior cricket);
8. Galston High School (1 senior rugby, potential for 1 junior cricket); and
9. Carlingford High School (2 netball courts and 1 tennis court).



Issues / Opportunities

- 6 fields are already being used for Saturday sport year round by Barker College. These include its own 4 fields, and the 2 fields at St Leo's College. Another field is being used by Barker College on Saturdays during winter for soccer (Asquith Boys HS) and another for soccer training after school (Normanhurst Boys HS). Barker College has various arrangements in place with these schools in return for access.
- The field at Normanhurst Boys HS is being used for soccer by the KDSA during winter.
- The fields at Pennant Hills High School are being used for Saturday cricket by HKHDCA but not for soccer competition or training outside of school use.
- The field at Cherrybrook Technology HS is/was used on Saturday mornings by the Greenway Giants Baseball Club for t-ball (overflow ground for Greenway Park). There may be an opportunity to use this field for soccer, including night training, and if expanded, for cricket.
- All fields are suitable for soccer training purposes, and for junior soccer competition.
- Some of the grounds require an upgrade of their playing surfaces to make them safe, and to provide a playing surface that could accommodate additional use eg. install new topsoil and turf, drainage and irrigation systems.
- Availability of supporting infrastructure (toilets, off-street car parking, shelter) is a current limitation at most schools.
- Development consent and agreement with school and department authorities will be required for non-school use of the facilities.
- Carlingford High School's hard courts would be suitable for netball training.
- Galston High School's rugby ground would be suitable for soccer dual use by agreement.

6.4. Junior Sports Fields

There are 17 sports fields at 12 schools identified as having some capacity to accommodate junior cricket and soccer. The fields are situated at the following schools:

Legend: NS = Non Standard dimensions
SJM = Soccer Junior (modified)

1. Epping North Public School (2 junior cricket NS, 2 junior soccer SJM);
2. Epping West Public School (1 junior cricket NS, 1 junior soccer);
3. West Pennant Hills Public School (1 soccer SJM);
4. Normanhurst Boys High School (1 junior cricket NS);
5. Normanhurst West Public School (1 junior soccer SJM);



6. Hornsby North Public School (1 junior soccer SJM);
7. Hornsby South Public School (1 junior soccer SJM);
8. Thornleigh West Public School (1 junior soccer SJM);
9. Barker College, Waitara (4 junior soccer);
10. Asquith Boys High School (1 junior cricket NS);
11. Asquith Girls High School (1 junior cricket NS, 1 junior soccer SJM); and
12. Pennant Hills High School (2 junior cricket NS)

Issues / Opportunities

- Barker College is already using its 4 fields, also the Hornsby South PS field (summer only) and the Normanhurst Boys High School field in winter for after school soccer training. NBHS field is being used by KDSA for Saturday soccer.
- Of these, 5 fields are already being used for Saturday morning cricket by external groups (Epping North PS, Epping West PS, Pennant Hills HS).
- Whilst 5 fields are currently being used for cricket, none of the fields currently meet the industry standard dimensions for sport playing areas for competition junior cricket (minimum 40m radius). They are all too small, most of them less than half the recommended radius. Depending on the age of players, the local cricket associations have the capacity to approve fields of varying dimensions for competition use.
- 5 fields (Barker College, Epping West PS and Pennant Hills HS) meet the standard dimensions for sport playing areas for competition junior soccer (minimum 75m × 55m minimum), however, all are currently being used in winter. The remaining fields are suitable only for modified soccer (U/10 and below), however, the local soccer associations have the capacity to approve fields of varying dimensions for competition use.
- All fields are suitable for soccer training purposes, although floodlights will be required at all except Epping West PS.
- Should the respective soccer and cricket associations become more stringent in their application of playing field dimensions (perhaps from a safety risk perspective), this will have a significant impact on the suitability of most of these fields, particularly for cricket competition.
- Some of the grounds require an upgrade of their playing surfaces to make them safe, and to provide a playing surface that could accommodate additional use eg install new topsoil and turf, drainage and irrigation systems.
- Availability of supporting infrastructure (toilets, off-street car parking, shelter) is a current limitation at most schools
- Development consent will be required for non-school use of the facilities.

6.5. Summary of Schools Review

As indicated previously, several school fields are already being used for soccer and cricket training and competition by external groups and/or Barker College. The net gain in relation to additional training and competition grounds for external groups at school sites is summarised below.

An assumption used for this analysis is that all grounds are available for only one day each weekend, allowing one 'rest' day for grounds.

Senior Soccer Competition

2 fields at Loreto College

1 field at Cherrybrook Technology HS

2 fields at Pennant Hills HS

Senior Cricket Competition

2 fields at Loreto College

1 field (NS size) and practice nets at Cherrybrook Technology HS

Junior Soccer Competition (conforming dimensions)

2 fields at Loreto College

1 field at Cherrybrook Technology HS

1 field at Epping West PS

2 fields at Pennant Hills HS

Junior Soccer Competition (modified dimensions, suitable for U/10s and below)

2 fields at Epping North PS

1 field at West Pennant Hills PS

1 field at Normanhurst West PS

1 field at Hornsby North PS

1 field at Hornsby South PS

1 field at Asquith Girls HS

Junior Cricket Competition (conforming dimensions)

1 field at Pennant Hills HS

1 field at Cherrybrook Technology HS



Junior Cricket Competition (non-standard dimensions)

1 field at Pennant Hills HS

1 field at Normanhurst Boys HS

1 field at Asquith Boys HS

1 field at Asquith Girls HS

Soccer training (senior/junior) could be undertaken at most of the sites identified above but floodlighting (as a minimum) would need to be installed at all sites, with the exception of Epping West PS.

Priority must be given to those schools with facilities suitable for both senior and junior competition, which would give the best cost benefit to Council and the community.



7. USE OF SCHOOL SITES

7.1. Development of School Facilities for Community Use

Hornsby Shire Council currently does not have a policy position in relation to contributions towards the cost of new/upgraded infrastructure located on non Council owned land, including school sites. The development of such a policy is a recommendation of this Strategy Plan.

Notwithstanding that there are no opportunities for Council to develop new sportsgrounds on Council-owned land in the southern portion of the Shire where they are most critically required, it remains for Council to consider expanding its current joint-use arrangement at Carlingford High School to include other school sites. Future agreements with schools could include a capital upgrade of the facilities which may include the installation of:

- New turf and topsoil;
- Drainage and irrigation (possibly using recycled water);
- Floodlights for night training;
- Car parking;
- Toilets and changerooms; and
- Fences, paths and spectator seating.

Any future expansion of Council maintenance services in schools should only be provided in instances where the facilities have been upgraded as described above. In some instances, the cost of providing such improvements could be shared between the school, the Council, specific sports clubs/associations and other external organisations (eg. Government funding programs).

Council could consider the delivery of maintenance services such as fertilising, verti-drainage, aerating, marking and the installation and removal of goal posts such as at Carlingford High School, or arrangements where the work is funded by the sports club and school, or a combination of all parties.

In relation to future joint facility development proposals Council should not enter into any school partnership unless the co-developers are prepared to enter into a legally binding contract, which specifically sets out a procedure and method for calculating due compensation for Council in the event of an early closure of the facility, and/or provides Council with an option for it to consider the transferral of the land into Council ownership.

The development of school facilities to facilitate use by community clubs should be undertaken with the principle that such sites not become the 'headquarter' facility for groups, but rather be a supporting facility for lower grade teams and/or juniors. This will ensure that the:

- Level of infrastructure development and maintenance of the sports field will not need to be to the same high standard as might be expected for 'headquarter' facilities;
- Potential impact on neighbouring properties from the use of school facilities out-of-hours will be minimised; and



- The wear and tear on the sports surface will in most cases be less than what might occur from use by higher grade teams.

Council will develop a new policy for the 'Development and Maintenance of Community Sports Facilities on School Sites' outlining the role of Council and schools for the provision of sportsfields for school and community use.

Any funds raised through the use of school facilities by sporting groups (rental and hire fees) will be collected and retained by Council to fund maintenance and development works carried out.

Other issues which need to be clarified include developing an agreement on public liability matters and identifying who is the hirer of the facility.

7.2. Club Tenancy Arrangements

The NSW Department of Education and Training has a policy statement and implementation procedure concerning community use of Government school facilities ('*Community Use of School Facilities, 1994*'). (See copy of policy in Appendix 4). The Department encourages members of the community to use school facilities when they are available, as a way of sharing a unique resource and strengthening the partnership between schools and local communities.

The Principal is responsible for approving use of school facilities after consultation with the School Council (if established) and parent groups. The Department has a standard '*Community Use Agreement*', outlining conditions of use in relation to access, period of use, fees, insurances responsibilities, forming the basis of any licence agreement for community use by external groups. (See Appendix 5 for a sample agreement).

The period of any licence agreement is for a maximum of 12 months, however, there is capacity to negotiate a longer period.

Council need not directly enter into agreements with schools on behalf of sporting groups for their use of school facilities, and groups can and have negotiated usage agreements directly with schools, in accordance with the existing policy framework in place by the Department of Education and Training. This arrangement is best suited where the size or location of the school facility does not allow for senior sport, and therefore there is a lower level of cost benefit for capital development by Council. In these cases, Council may need only to facilitate agreements between the schools and clubs.

Some clubs and associations already have direct arrangements to use school facilities within Hornsby Shire. In some of these cases, there is a potential benefit to Council involvement in order to produce a better quality facility capable of extending community use. In other such cases, there may be little such benefit in Council involvement. Hornsby Council currently undertakes maintenance of the sportsgrounds attached to Carlingford High/Carlingford Primary schools in order provide a large facility for community use. This arrangement needs to be reviewed in order to ensure that it is satisfactorily meeting the needs of all those involved.



7.3. Overview

The Hornsby SFS has been developed following consideration of all research data and information collected during the study period, including:

- Current and projected demographic profile of the Hornsby LGA;
- Review of the Hornsby LSP (2003);
- Review of the current provision of outdoor sports facilities in Hornsby LGA;
- Review of sporting participation trends;
- Identification and assessment of issues and opportunities relating to the current and future provision of outdoor sporting facilities in Hornsby, as identified by sports clubs, peak bodies and Council staff; and
- Rounds of consultation with the sports community through exhibition of the draft and discussion with the Hornsby Shire Sports Council and individual sports organizations.

The following principles and objectives guided the planning process:

1. Provision of a diversity of sports, and sports facility types and functions.
2. Provision of 'quality' rather than 'quantity' in relation to the number and standard of sports infrastructure.
3. Maximise opportunities for multi-use and shared-used of sports infrastructure.
4. Maximise opportunities for joint-use of outdoor sports infrastructure with education sites.
5. Equitable and rational distribution of Council resources in the provision of its sports facilities.

At all times, proposed developments shall be considered in the context of maximising the encouragement and support for participation in sport by people of all ages and abilities, and from all areas of the Hornsby LGA.

Based on these principles and the outcome of the research and consultation undertaken as part of this study, the following recommendations and strategies are proposed for the development of outdoor sporting facilities across the Hornsby LGA in the next 5 years. The strategy has been presented in the following table outlining:

- Strategic Directions and Policies.
- Capital Development Plan.



8. ACTION PLAN

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

Strategic Directions and Policies		Priority	Funding	Comment
1	That Council (where possible and practical) ensure the construction of any new sports facilities for cricket and soccer be of sufficient scale to permit one senior cricket/AFL oval and 2 soccer/rugby fields to be overlaid onto each other (soccer fields to be located each side of the cricket wicket).	High		Agreed, however this not always be possible due to site constraints on potential sites.
2	That junior cricket be introduced to the grass hockey field at Pennant Hills Park.	High	\$8,000 capital, \$2,000 per annum recurrent cost.	At time of writing, Hornsby Ku-Ring-Gai & Hills District Cricket Association is seeking grant funding to construct the pitch.
3	That the turf cricket pitch at Storey Park be reduced in width from 8 strips to 5 strips in order to reduce the proportion of hard surface experienced by rugby league players.	High	\$5,000 capital, minor recurrent savings.	Council has considered two reports regarding the allocation of turf cricket pitches, one in December 2004 and recently in February 2005. The February 2005 report recommended that Council resolve to convert the turf pitch at Storey Park to a synthetic pitch, both for cost saving purposes and to provide a higher quality ground for rugby league. Council resolved that a further report be prepared for Council's consideration if a mutually acceptable agreement is unable to be reached. A reduction in the pitch width is seen as a reasonable compromise as agreement has not been reached.

Strategic Directions and Policies		Priority	Funding	Comment
4	That Council convert the turf wicket at West Epping Oval, to a synthetic wicket. This will then make it available for more intensive cricket use (eg. junior & senior matches on Saturday) and save on substantial maintenance costs. This change to be implemented prior to the 2006-2007 season.	High	\$10K capital. Up to \$50K annual recurrent saving.	A grade matches conducted by the Northern District Cricket Association could continue by sharing Somerville Oval with Northern District Cricket Club (no relation). With the addition of the turf pitch at Ern Holmes Oval in Pennant Hills, there are now 11 turf pitches. This new pitch has allowed vacation of Saturday dates at Somerville Park for half a season. NDCA's 1 st Grade Teams are based predominantly outside Hornsby Shire. (See point 7 below). Alternative venues may be available to NDCA outside Hornsby Shire. The continuing availability of a share of Somerville Oval would be proportionate to NDCA's presence in Hornsby Shire. Alternatively, retain the turf pitch at WEO under NDCA's maintenance.
5	That Council in consultation with Hornsby schools and peak sports bodies for cricket and soccer/rugby develop a new policy for the "Development and Maintenance of Community Sports Facilities on School Sites".	High	Within existing staff resources.	Discussion with schools has commenced.

Strategic Directions and Policies		Priority	Funding	Comment
6	<p>That Council in consultation with the peak sports bodies for cricket and soccer prioritise the most appropriate school sites for developing community sports facilities from the following list of sites preferred due to their potential flexibility for use for cricket and soccer activities at senior level and their location in relation to where the greatest demand is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cherrybrook Technology High School - Pennant Hills High School - Galston high School 	High	\$1.5M per site, maximum of 3	If additional school sites become available and meet the requirements but are not on the preferred list, investigations should be undertaken to determine their potential.
7	That Council support a proposal by the Pacific Hills Christian School to construct a new synthetic hockey pitch at the school with the objective of ensuring long-term community access.	Low	Nil	
8	That priority for allocation of grounds be given to clubs and schools based within the Hornsby Shire boundary.	High	Nil	

Strategic Directions and Policies		Priority	Funding	Comment
9	In response to demand identified in the Hornsby Leisure Strategic Plan and supported in Stratcorp's Showground Consultation (2002), that Council develop a Rural Sports Facility at 18 & 20 Bayfield Road, Galston accommodating equestrian and canine activities.	High	Approximately \$3.3M acquisition, \$2M infrastructure.	Included in S94 2004-2010 Development Contributions Plan. Site in Bayfield Rd Galston acquired, development pending.
10	That Council consider the provision of facilities for non-organised sports including skating and BMX riding when new facilities are developed or where opportunities are available at existing facilities.	High	Not yet costed.	Funding for skate parks in Berowra and Thornleigh has been included in the 2005-2006 Parks Capital Works Program. Berowra facility opened December 2005. The DA for Thornleigh is to be lodged in April 2006.
11	Examine usage rates of various tennis complexes to determine whether there is underutilised capacity which could be resolved by converting some tennis courts to tennis/netball shared courts, netball courts or even consider the development of playing fields if suitable.	Low	Not yet costed.	Two tennis courts surplus to requirements at Montview Oval were allocated for netball in 2006. Other opportunities might exist.
12	That Council support the move for softball from Dural Park to Hayes Park subject to all the necessary requirements being met.	High	Approximately \$400K	Included in 2006-2011 Parks Capital Works Program. Will allow Softball to gain additional diamonds.
13	Identify the rifle range at Hornsby as a potential sporting complex should the range ever close.	Low	Not yet costed	Not included in current funding projections, not known when & if it will become available.

Capital Development Plan

Capital Development Projects		Priority	Funding	Comment
1	Install a cricket wicket at Pennant Hills Park grass hockey field.	Medium	\$10K	HKHDCA have not given an undertaking to fund this wicket but is understood to be seeking funding. While this item is not currently in the 5 Year Parks Capital Works Program, this could be reviewed.
2	Support the Asquith Rugby League Club use of Storey Park for the Jim Beam metropolitan rugby league competition.	High	Not yet costed.	Not included in Council's funding projections. ARLC may be expected to supply a majority of the funding. Council has supported the proposal in principle, and competition matches have been hosted at Storey Park.
3	Upgrade the playing surface of Dural Park.	High	\$125K	Included in 5 Year Parks Capital Works Program 2006-2011.
4	Install new/improved flood lighting for soccer training at James Henty Park, Woods St Oval and Ruddock Park.	High	Approximately \$80k per venue.	James Henty Park is subject to DA approval. Ruddock Park has been completed. Woods St Oval included in current 5 Year Parks Capital Works Program.

Capital Development Projects		Priority	Funding	Comment
5	Construct a new flexible outdoor sports field (senior cricket/AFL oval and 2 soccer/rugby fields) at the site north of the Old Tollgates (Berowra), and supporting infrastructure.	Low	Estimate of \$2M	Included in current funding projections in 2010 but subject to review of S94 plan due mid 2006.
6	Construct senior sized playing field facilities at Old Mans Valley, Hornsby.	Low	Estimate of \$2-\$5M	Not currently included in S94 2004-2010 Contributions Plan. Information that has become available suggests that it would be an expensive site to develop and service as a stand alone recreation area.
7	Construct a single senior soccer sized playing field at the Old Dairy site (Brooklyn), and supporting infrastructure.	Low	Estimate of \$1.5M	Proposal for Sydney Water (SW) to construct playing field in return for using Council land for sewage treatment plant has been abandoned by SW. No alternative funding sources have been identified. It would be more cost effective and efficient to improve the conditions at Brooklyn Oval rather than develop a new playing field which would add to recurrent maintenance costs.
8	Pending the outcome of Recommendation No. 6 of the Strategic Directions and Policy Section of the Action Plan, undertake necessary improvement works at school sites to facilitate increased cricket and soccer/rugby field provision.	High	\$4.5M	Included in S94 2004-2010 Contributions Plan. Dependant upon agreements reached with identified schools.

Capital Development Projects		Priority	Funding	Comment
9	Develop a rural sports facility (equestrian and other activities) on land acquired for that purpose.	High	\$3.3M acquisition. \$2.37M infrastructure.	Included in S94 2004-2010 Contributions Plan. Property purchased in Bayfield Rd Galston in 2005 and DA approved. Construction pending.
10	Consider sites for skate park facilities and BMX facilities including Galston, an extension of the Cherrybrook facility and a facility in C Ward if a suitable site can be found.	High	Not yet costed.	Not included in current funding projections but supported in principle.
11	Upgrade amenities and any other required infrastructure such as fencing to accommodate the move of softball to Hayes Park.	High	Estimate of \$400k	Most infrastructure upgrades are included in the Parks Capital Works Program.



9. CONCLUSION

This planning study undertaken between August 2003 and March 2004, and revised in 2006 following public consultation, has identified a range of recommendations and options for new/improved outdoor sporting facility provision across the Hornsby LGA. The need for the Strategy was an outcome from the Hornsby HORNSBY LSP 2003 which concluded that there was a shortage of available facilities for selected sports, particularly soccer, cricket and netball.

The Hornsby SFS provides Council and stakeholder groups with the necessary planning direction for the future development of outdoor sports facilities to meet the current needs of groups, especially soccer, cricket and netball clubs and associations. The shortage of available Council owned land in the areas of the Hornsby LGA where the greatest need for outdoor sporting facilities exists (Planning Districts 1, 2, 3/9, 4 & 8) resulted in the strategy development process investigating the availability and the feasibility of increased use of school facilities by community groups.

As well as school sites, 3 Council-owned greenfield sites been recommended for development into outdoor sports fields/courts, as well as a raft of improvement proposals for existing sports facilities with the combined outcome of easing the current shortage of outdoor sports facilities.

Subject to available funding some of the improvements outlined in the Capital Development Plan section of this Strategy are proposed to be implemented during the period 2006-2013 using S94 funds. An annual review of the 2004-2010 S94 Development Contributions Plan may result in changes to these proposed dates.



APPENDIX 1

Description of Planning Districts



Planning Districts

Planning District Suburbs

- PD 1 Eastwood, Epping, Epping North, Carlingford, Cheltenham, Beecroft
- PD 2 Pennant Hills, West Pennant Hills, Westleigh, Thornleigh, Normanhurst
- PD 3 & 9 Hornsby, Waitara, Wahroonga
- PD 4 Asquith, Berowra Creek, Hornsby Heights, Mt Ku-ring-gai, Mt Colah
- PD 5 Berowra, Berowra Waters, Milsons Island, Milsons Passage, Cowan, Berowra Heights
- PD 6 Glenhaven, Dural, Arcadia, Galston, Mid Dural, Berrilee, Maroota, Wisemans Ferry, Glenorie, Forest Glen, Fiddletown, Canoelands, Singletons Hill, Laughtondale
- PD 7 Danger Island
- PD 8 Cherrybrook, Castle Hill



APPENDIX 2

List of People/Organisations Consulted

People/Organisations Consulted During the Study

Soccer Groups Meeting – 29 October 2003	
Ross Iredale	Gladesville Hornsby Football Association
Gary Foster	Ku-Ring-Gai District Soccer Association
Leanne Noble	West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Soccer Club
Phil Bingemann	West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Soccer Club
Murray Hutton	Hornsby Heights Sports Club (Soccer)
Tony Gerrard	Pennant Hills Soccer Club
Stephen Hemming	Asquith Soccer Club
Richard Pilgrim	Asquith Soccer Club
Rob Roberts	Thornleigh Sports and Recreation Club (Soccer)
John Sparkes	Thornleigh Sports and Recreation Club (Soccer)
Brian Mitchell	Roselea Soccer Club

Cricket Groups Meeting – 29 October 2003	
Ian Field	Cricket NSW
John Crane	Northern District Cricket Association
Jim Barrett	Northern District Cricket Association
Barry McDonald	West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Cricket Club
Murray Hutton	Hornsby Heights Sports Club (Cricket)
Gordon Nagle	Pennant Hills District Cricket Club
David Boughton	Pennant Hills District Cricket Club
Mark Ware	Epping District Cricket Club
Peter Dwyer	Epping District Cricket Club (juniors)
Carolyn Ball	Thornleigh Sports and Recreation Club (Cricket)

Netball Groups Meeting – 30 October 2003	
Lyn Burgess	Hills District Netball Association
Barbara McCoy	Galston Netball Club
Trina Foody	Asquith Rugby League Netball Club
Jenny Wicks	Rebels Netball Club
John Carse	Thornleigh Sports and Recreation Club (Netball)



APPENDIX 3

Schools Research and Consultation

Preliminary Schools' Audit

This data includes information sourced from schools from across all areas of the Shire.

School	No.	Facilities	Avail. for Comm	Current User Groups	Proposed New / Improved Facilities	Comments
PD 1						
Epping North Public School	1	Soccer field (junior)	Y	Nil	Want to upgrade cricket nets.	Is interested in working in partnership with Council as currently they can't afford to upgrade the cricket nets
	1	Cricket Oval	Y	Northern Districts Cricket Association (junior cricket) in summer		
	1	Cricket Nets (2)	Y	Nil		
	1	Netball court	Y	Nil		
Epping West Public School	1	Soccer/cricket field (junior)	Y	YMCA (Northern Districts Cricket Assoc) Winter for mini soccer matches	In process of upgrading ovals, to include changeroom facilities. Possibility of upgrading netball and multipurpose courts.	Would be interested in discussing with Council any sports facilities plans, however the school's ground is below optimum size. Has a YMCA located behind school which has an oval and indoor gymnasium/basketball court which school uses regularly due to its oval currently being in poor condition. Have soccer field that is only used in morning for juniors. Have existing reasonable standard lights so a potential training ground.
	1	Netball court	Y (but not suitable)	Nil (poor condition)		
St Gerard's School	1	Netball court	Y	used by a mother's group		
Carlingford High School	2	Netball Courts + adjoining tennis courts	Y	Nil		Sportsgrounds used to capacity by school & community. Netball courts may be available for training in future
	3	Football/cricket grounds with amenities & night training floodlights		Cricket, soccer, rugby		
Arden Anglican Girl's School	1	Tennis court	N	Nil		

School	No.	Facilities	Avail. for Comm	Current User Groups	Proposed New / Improved Facilities	Comments
PD 2						
Pennant Hills Public School	1	Sports field	Y			
	1	Cricket nets	Y	school families after school		
Hornsby South Public School	1	Soccer field (junior)	Y	Barker College in summer (t-ball and softball) No winter use currently - but has been soccer use in past	School has no money	Yes, but don't believe it would work as school has poor accessibility and limited parking spaces.
	1	netball court	Y	netball club training		
West Pennant Hills Public School	1	Cricket field (junior)	Y	West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook CC	New Hall	
	2	Cricket nets	Y			
	1	Multi purpose court	Y			
St Agatha's School	1	Multi purpose court	N	Nil	No	School has no space for new developments
Pennant Hills High School	1	Rugby/soccer field	Y	soccer, rugby training; occasional soccer training camps	Tennis & Basketball courts in 2004	School sportsgrounds have potential to be improved for increased community use, especially soccer.
	1	Rugby/soccer/cricket oval	Y	HKH District Cricket Association		
	3	Tennis court	N	Nil		
	4	Basketball court	N	Nil		
Normanhurst Boys High School	1	Rugby/soccer field	Y	KDSA use it for soccer in winter. Barker College use it for after school, and Hornsby Rugby Club use it for pre-season	Talking with KDSA re a joint venture	Potential further community use when existing arrangements expire.
	3	Tennis courts	N	Nil		
	4	Basketball court	N	Nil		
Normanhurst Public School	1	Oval (poor)	Y	Loreto College (not this year)	No	Would be interested in discussing with Council any sports facilities plans, however the school's ground is below optimum size.

School	No.	Facilities	Avail. for Comm	Current User Groups	Proposed New / Improved Facilities	Comments
	2	Cricket nets	Y	Nil	No	
Normanhurst West Public School	1	Soccer field (junior)	Y	Occasional use (eg kanga cricket)		
	2	Cricket nets	Y			
	1	Netball court	Y	OOSH program		
Thornleigh West Public School	1	Multi purpose sports fields	Y	Thornleigh Soccer Club	Remarking of basketball /netball court	Would appreciate any assistance with line marking works
	1	Basketball/netball court	Y	Thornleigh netball & basketball		
Loreto College Normanhurst	2	Multi purpose sports fields	Y	Nil	No	Pool has just received DA approval for community use.
	1	Gymnasium (2 indoor bball courts)	Y	Nil		Would be interested in working with Council should that option become available, however school has advised that its sportsground would be reserved for Saturday morning school use. That would appear to discount the school as an optimum site for additional community use.
	4	multi purpose courts	Y	Nil		
	1	Aquatic centre	Y	Other schools and community		
PD 3/9						
Hornsby Girls High School	1	Tennis Complex	Y	Currently leased to private operator	Cricket nets and volleyball courts have been looked at but are currently beyond the financial capabilities of the school.	Would be interested in discussing with Council any sports facilities plans, however the school's ground is below optimum size.
	1	Oval	N	Nil	Also top dressing of oval for soccer/hockey.	
	2	Multi-purpose courts	N	Nil		
Hornsby North Public School	1	Soccer/rugby field (junior)	Y	Occasional community use		

School	No.	Facilities	Avail. for Comm	Current User Groups	Proposed New / Improved Facilities	Comments
Barker College	2	Cricket ovals	N	Nil		It is understood that the school's sportsgrounds are reserved for school use at times of peak community demand
	2	Rugby/cricket fields	N	Nil		
	1	Hockey (all weather)	N	Nil		
	6	Tennis courts	N	Nil		
	2	Netball court	N	Nil		
Waitara Public School	1	Netball court	N	Nil (poor condition)		
St Leo's College	1	Soccer/cricket field	Y	Barker College in summer (cricket) and winter (rugby union)	None	Existing agreement with Barker College makes the ground unavailable for community use
	1	Soccer/cricket field (junior)	Y	Barker College in summer (cricket) and winter (rugby union)		
	5	Cricket nets	Y	Barker College		
	3	Multi purpose (tennis) courts	Y	Barker College		
PD 4						
Asquith Boys High School	1	Soccer field	Y	Barker College (Sat – winter)	No. Lodged an application for funding for upgrading basketball court 18 months ago, however no funding has been promised as yet.	Would be interested in discussing with Council any sports facilities plans, however the school's ground is below optimum size.
	2	Multi-purpose courts (enclosed [basketball and tennis])	Y			
	1	Basketball court (very rough)	Y	Nil		

School	No.	Facilities	Avail. for Comm	Current User Groups	Proposed New / Improved Facilities	Comments
Asquith Girls High School	1	Soccer field	Y	Asquith Soccer Club (in the past) some mid week training	No money. Would like to resurface courts.	Would be interested in discussing with Council any sports facilities plans, however the school's ground is below optimum size.
	2	Tennis courts	Y	Nil		
	1	Hall (basketball)	Y	Hornsby Basketball League play up to 5 games a week there. Barker College uses it in March and November as well.		
	2	Netball courts	Y	Nil		
Hornsby Heights Public School	1	Cricket field	Y	Local cricket club on Saturdays; annual soccer presentation day	A new hall is to be built to accommodate dancing, but probably not big enough for basketball. It will be available for community use.	Would be interested in discussing with Council any sports facilities plans, however the school's ground is below optimum size.
St Bernard's Public School	1	Cricket field	Y cricket nets	Nil		

School	No.	Facilities	Avail. for Comm	Current User Groups	Proposed New / Improved Facilities	Comments
Mt Colah Public School	2	Playing fields (not really suitable for any sports)	Y (limited)	Nil	Currently undergoing \$4 Million upgrade, an all purpose court will be built which will accommodate netball, basketball etc.	Mt Colah Cricket club currently use the nets. With multipurpose court, the Principal supports community use, but stressed, as should be the case with the cricket club, that groups would need to formally hire the facilities and have public liability insurance.
	2	Cricket nets	Y	Local cricket club		
PD 5						
Berowra Public School	1	Multi purpose court	Y	Nil	None	Would be interested in discussing with Council any sports facilities plans, however the school's ground is below optimum size.
	2	Cricket nets	Y	Nil		
Wideview Public School	2	Cricket nets	Y	Occasional community use		
	1	Multi purpose court	Y	Occasional community use		
Cowan Public School	1	Multi purpose court	N	Nil (poor condition)		
PD 6						
Dural Public School	1	Soccer field (junior)	Y	nil	Lack of funds. Would like to resurface cricket net pitches with synthetic turf.	Would be interested in discussing with Council any sports facilities plans, however the school's ground is below optimum size.
	1	Multi purpose court	Y	Junior netball (Fri afternoon)		
Galston Public School	1	Multi purpose court	Y	Occasional use by netball group	No.	Have little space available for new facilities and the existing facilities don't need upgrading.
	2	Cricket nets	Y	Local junior cricket group		

School	No.	Facilities	Avail. for Comm	Current User Groups	Proposed New / Improved Facilities	Comments
Galston High School	1	Rugby union field	Y	Nil - but has been used in the past (two years ago)		Schools sportsground has potential for improvement to accommodate community sports eg rugby, softball
	3	Multi purpose court	Y	Nil		
Oak Hill Drive Public School	1	Netball court	Y	Nil		
	1	Soccer field (junior)	Y			
De La Salle Oak Hill College	4	Tennis courts	Y	Nil	DA for 12 mths for new sports field (no result as yet) Want to obtain DA for 2 court indoor stadium plus 25m indoor pool	Would be happy for community use of all facilities. Currently have other schools using facilities regularly. New field (not cricket) intended to take bulk of load and training leaving other fields to be maintained in top condition for competition requirements. No extra land available.
	1	Rugby field	Y	Other schools and community		
	1	Soccer field	Y	Hornsby Eastwood Soccer Assn		
	1	Multi purpose (cricket)	Y	HK&DCA		
Hills Grammar School	1	Cricket field (junior)	Y	Castlehill Cricket Club	Will be developing a cricket field and football field and aquatic centre between 2005 - 2007. They plan that community can use it outside school hours	Would be interested in discussing with Council any sports facilities plans.
	2	Tennis courts	N	Nil		
Pacific Hills Christian School	1	Soccer field	Y	Pacific-Dural Soccer Club	2nd oval, hockey pitch (art grass), tennis/netball x 4	Very keen on community usage of sports facilities but frustrated by local residents action groups who limit usage
	1	Basketball court/indoor sports- hall	Y	Basketball Association		
Redfield College	2	Sportsgrounds		School has teams in GHFA soccer comp & allows some matches not involving school to be played there	New sportsground amenities & canteen	School Principal reluctant to accept additional community use of school facilities
	3	Netball courts				

School	No.	Facilities	Avail. for Comm	Current User Groups	Proposed New / Improved Facilities	Comments
PD 7						
Brooklyn Public School	1	Soccer field (junior)	Y	Saturday morning by junior teams	Would like to resurface soccer ground	Would be interested in discussing with Council any sports facilities plans.
PD 8						
John Purchase Public School	1	Netball court	N	Nil (poor condition)		
Cherrybrook Technology High School	1	Soccer field	N	T-ball group (overflow from Greenway Park) - has been more use in the past but can't allow due to wear and tear and only one oval available.	Possible new netball court and redeveloped existing netball court for community use.	Have already developed sports indoor stadium (multi purpose hall) that was shared development with Council.
	1	Netball court	N	Nil		Currently share one oval with adjacent John Purchase Public School despite having 1,800 students!!! Use Greenway Park sometimes.
	1	Basketball court	N	Nil		Potential to expand sportsground to the west and provide upgraded amenities and surface for community use. Area is in need of cricket & soccer facilities
Tangara School for Girls	1	Soccer field (can be marked for Hockey)	N	Nil	Gymnasium in 10 year masterplan so they can be self sufficient	May be interested in discussing with Council any sports facilities plans.
	1	Indoor Multipurpose Room	N	Nil		Are concerned that community groups would cause vandalism.

Second Round Schools' Research

This table includes additional information about those schools located in Planning Districts 1, 2, 3/9, 4 and 8, collected during the second round of schools' research and consultation, and builds upon the data collected during the preliminary schools' audit.

School	Facility Description	Suitability	Comments
PD1			
Epping North Public School	<p><u>Upper Oval</u> Approx. 32m × 64m. Synthetic cricket wicket. Oval surface good.</p> <p><u>Lower Oval</u> Approx. 45m × 70m. Rugby posts. Oval surface good. Cricket practice nets (2) are located at end of upper oval, and are in poor condition and require reconstruction.</p>	Yes – junior (2)	<p>Dimensions not to regulation standards (except for lower oval junior soccer).</p> <p>Upper oval currently being used by NDCA Saturday mornings in summer.</p> <p>School interested in partnership arrangement. Would like assistance with upgrading cricket practice nets.</p> <p>Soccer posts would be required on both ovals and cricket pitch on lower oval.</p> <p>The ovals are located at the far end of the school away from the entry. Car parking and access is at the front of the school.</p> <p>Toilets located adjacent to lower oval.</p>
Epping West Public School	<p><u>Oval</u> Approx. 55m × 105m. Synthetic cricket wicket. 2 flood light towers (3/4 of bulbs require replacement). Oval surface poor. Current user groups use toilets at YMCA facility that abuts school. School has a site earmarked and has raised half the funds for a community facility with public toilets to be located beside the oval.</p>	Yes – junior (1)	<p>Dimensions to regulation standards for junior cricket and junior soccer (without 9m run-off's). Opportunity to remove trees to extend field.</p> <p>Oval currently being used by NDCA Saturday mornings in summer.</p> <p>Ground requires resurfacing. Irrigation system needs to be repaired. Soccer goals required.</p>
St Gerards School	No oval	No	
Arden Anglican Girls School	No oval	No	

PD2			
Pennant Hills Public School	<u>Oval</u> Too small. Cricket net (1) fair condition.	No	
Hornsby South Public School	<u>Oval</u> Approx. 40m × 64m. No cricket wicket, no goal posts. Oval surface uneven, with good turf cover.	Yes – junior (1)	Dimensions not to regulation standards. Used Saturday mornings by Barker College for t-ball and softball (Barker College mow their oval). Limited access to support infrastructure.
West Pennant Hills Public School	<u>Oval</u> Approx. 36m × 64m. Synthetic cricket wicket. Oval surface poor. Cricket practice nets (2) are located adjacent to oval on Cardinal Ave side, and are in fair condition.	Yes – junior (1)	Dimensions not to regulation standards. West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook CC use nets in afternoon for training in summer. Principal not overly keen to formalise use because thinks oval is too small. Soccer posts would be required. Access to the oval from the road is good.
St Agatha's School	No oval	No	

School	Facility Description	Suitability	Comments
Pennant Hills High School	<p><u>Upper Oval</u> Approx. 56m × 80m. Rugby posts. Oval surface fair. Large bare patches without turf coverage.</p> <p><u>Lower Oval</u> Approx. 56m × 88m. Residential property extends into corner, leaving part of ground 16m short. Synthetic cricket wicket. Separated from school by a stream. Oval surface good.</p>	Yes – junior (2)	<p>Dimensions not to regulation standards. Lower oval currently being used by HKHDCA. Require cricket wicket and soccer posts on upper oval. Require soccer posts on lower oval. Upper oval would require some top-dressing/re-seeding work. Poor access to toilet facilities.</p>
Normanhurst Boys High School	<p><u>Oval</u> Full size soccer field. Rugby posts. Poor condition, requires full upgrade and irrigation. Change/toilet facilities could be made available with some modifications.</p>	Yes – senior (1)	<p>Work would be required on oval. School would be willing to discuss partnerships based on level of assistance from Council. Barker College use after school for training. KDSA use for soccer in winter. Requires soccer goals and synthetic cricket pitch.</p>
Normanhurst Public School	<p><u>Oval</u> Too small. Poor condition. Cricket practice nets (2) in poor condition.</p>	No	

School	Facility Description	Suitability	Comments
Normanhurst West Public School	<p><u>Oval</u> Approx. 36m × 72m. Rugby posts. Concrete drain on boundary abutting residential properties. Oval surface good, goal square has bare patches without turf coverage. Cricket practice nets (2) in fair condition.</p>	Yes – junior (1)	<p>Dimensions not to regulation standards. Oval would require some top-dressing/re-seeding work.</p>
Thornleigh West Public School	<p><u>Oval</u> Approx. 40m × 56m. No cricket wicket or goals. Oval in good condition. Cricket practice nets (2) are located at a lower level to the oval. They are in very good condition, however run-ups face netball court.</p>	Yes - junior (1)	<p>Dimensions not to regulation standards. Used by Thornleigh Soccer Club. Require soccer posts.</p>
Loreto College Normanhurst	<p><u>Oval 1</u> 1 full size cricket or 1 full size soccer pitch. Turf wicket, no goal posts. Excellent condition.</p> <p><u>Oval 2</u> Uneven shape. Enough room for 1 full size soccer and cricket oval. No goal posts.</p>	Yes – senior (2)	<p>Requires goals posts. School is about to submit a planning application for additional carparking spaces, adjacent to Oval 1. Local community opposition to previous planning applications has restricted community use of indoor sports centre. Would be interested in working with Council to come to mutually agreeable arrangements for community use of fields by external groups.</p>

School	Facility Description	Suitability	Comments
PD3/9			
Hornsby Girls High School	<u>Oval</u> Approx. 40m wide. Ground surface good. No cricket wicket, no goal posts.	No	School believes facility too small for cricket and soccer and are not keen to allow community use.
Hornsby North Public School	<u>Oval</u> Approx. 40m × 56m. No cricket wicket. Rugby posts. Oval surface in poor condition, large bare patches without turf coverage. Cricket practice nets (2) in fair condition.	Yes – junior (1)	Dimensions not to regulation standards. Require cricket wicket and soccer posts.
Barker College	<u>Oval 1</u> Full size turf cricket oval, rugby and athletics. Excellent condition. Cricket practice nets (6) in excellent condition. <u>Oval 2</u> Full sized turf cricket oval, soccer and rugby. Excellent condition. <u>Ovals 3 & 4</u> Full sized cricket ovals (2) synthetic, soccer and rugby. Excellent condition.	Yes – senior (4)	Fully used Saturdays, year round. College uses other school facilities to make up for their own shortfall. Available Sundays during summer.
Waitara Public School	<u>Oval</u> Too small	No	

School	Facility Description	Suitability	Comments
St Leo's College	<p><u>Upper Oval</u> Full size ground. Turf wicket. Oval surface good.</p> <p><u>Lower Oval</u> Full size ground. Synthetic cricket wicket. Oval surface good. Cricket practice nets (5) located on lower oval, and are in very good condition.</p>	Yes – senior (2)	<p>Fully used Saturdays year round by school and Barker College (built their cricket practice nets and maintain turf table on upper oval).</p> <p>Available Sundays.</p>
PD4			
Asquith Boys High School	<p><u>Oval</u> Full size soccer field. No cricket wicket. Rugby posts (4 junior grounds). Soccer posts (1 ground). Oval surface in very good condition. Cricket practice nets (3) in good condition, all with synthetic practice wickets.</p>	Yes – senior (1)	<p>Use Waitara oval for cricket.</p> <p>Used Saturday mornings by Barker College (who mow their oval) in winter.</p> <p>School interested in partnership arrangement.</p> <p>No toilet facilities available (existing tenant doesn't use).</p>
Asquith Girls High School	<p><u>Oval</u> Approx. 45m × 75m. No cricket wicket. Soccer goal posts located on boundary edge. Oval surface fair condition. Cricket practice nets (2) in fair condition.</p>	Yes – junior (1)	<p>Need to relocate soccer goals and install cricket wicket.</p> <p>Seemed open to further discussion regarding potential partnerships.</p>

School	Facility Description	Suitability	Comments
Hornsby Heights Public School		No	Did not want to speak to anyone regarding Council matters. Did not return call to organise site-visit and discuss issues. Site not visited.
St Bernard's Public School	<u>Oval</u> Too small.	No	
Mt Coolah Primary School	<u>Oval</u> Too small. Cricket nets (4) fair condition, 2 with synthetic wickets..	No	
PD8			
John Purchase Public School	No oval	No	
Cherrybrook Tech High	<u>Oval</u> Full size soccer field. Oval surface in good condition, but there are some areas of bare patches without turf coverage. Soccer goal posts.	Yes – senior (1)	Ground requires resurfacing.
Tangara School for Girls	<u>Oval</u> Too small. Ground surface good. Soccer goal posts.	No	



APPENDIX 4

Community Use of School Facilities Policy

Available in hard copy only, to be attached in bound reports



APPENDIX 5

Sample Community Use Agreement

Available in hard copy only, to be attached in bound reports



APPENDIX 6

Concept Plan for Proposed New Netball Facility at Westleigh

COMMUNITY

USE OF

SCHOOL

FACILITIES

POLICY STATEMENT

AND

IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

NSW DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION 1994

FOREWORD

Schools are valuable community facilities, belonging to everyone. While their prime function is to serve as places of learning for young people, there are many times when the buildings and grounds are not in use.

The Department of School Education encourages members of the community and education groups to use school facilities when they are available. This is a way of sharing a unique resource and strengthening the partnership between schools and local communities.

This handbook, *Community Use of School Facilities*, sets out fair and sensible arrangements for ensuring access to facilities.

The document was developed following wide consultation with key community groups, including the existing major out-of-hours users of school facilities, the Primary Principals' Council, the Secondary Principals' Council and other Department of School Education staff. Importantly, it reflects advice from some 800 schools across NSW.

A set of three brochures accompanies the handbook. These provide information about the community use of school facilities for the general public, for ethnic schools and for adult and community education groups. The brochures encourage the use of school facilities and set out the responsibilities of those who use them.

As educators, we must ensure schools are in every way part of their community. Making our facilities available to others is important. I trust that this handbook will encourage a further opening of our doors.

Ken Boston
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
January 1994

POLICY STATEMENT

Schools are an important focus for communities. Parents and community members are encouraged to participate in the life of their school through school councils, parent organisations and the many activities schools organise. The community can also access the facilities of schools, out-of-hours, for appropriate purposes.

Schools are a community resource. Community use of school facilities provides benefits to both schools and their communities through:

- enhanced co-operation and goodwill between the school and the community;
- opportunities for the community to become better informed about and participate in the school's operation;
- more effective use of valuable school facilities;
- Opportunities for the community to play a positive part in school security through out-of-hours use of the facilities.

Schools are encouraged to make their facilities available to community groups and organisations. In approving use of facilities, schools should ensure that the organisation and proposed use are consistent with the values and goals of public education. As well, community use should not interfere with a school's provision of quality learning programs for their students. In the interests of the school and its community, care must be taken to avoid agreements with inappropriate organisations for inappropriate use.

Community Use Agreements (see Attachment 1) may be negotiated between schools and community groups following consultation between the Principal, school council and parent body. School councils, parent bodies and their sub-committees are entitled to free use of school facilities and do not require a Community User Agreement. These Agreements are for a maximum of 12 months. Any greater length of time must be negotiated with the regional office.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

PRIORITY

School educational programs must have absolute priority for the use of school facilities and equipment during school hours. In cases where the school council or Principal must determine priority among applicants for the use of school facilities, the following order shall be observed:

	Group	Some examples are:
1	Board of Studies	HSC, School Certificate
2	Parent body activities	School Councils, Federation of P&Cs, FOSCO
3	Departmental Groups	Saturday School of Community Languages, other government schools, professional teachers' associations, NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) and Aboriginal Student Support and Parent Awareness (ASSPA) committee meetings
4	Other government funded education providers	Ethnic schools funded by the NSW Ethnic Schools Board, Board of Adult & Community Education (ACE) groups, NSW TAFE, Adult Migrant Education Service classes, Aboriginal homework centres
5	Other educational groups and non-government schools	
6	Other users	

Note: There is no priority implied in the given examples. If priority needs to be established between users in the same category group, this will be determined at school level.

The following have precedence over existing community user arrangements:

- federal, state and local elections;
- disasters where school facilities are needed to house students or operate as welfare assembly centres.

PROHIBITED USE

School facilities must not be used for:

- games of chance or gambling unless an appropriate authority or licence has been obtained from the Chief Secretary's Department or other regulatory body;
- any illegal activity;
- activities considered by the Principal in consultation with the School Council and parent bodies, to be inconsistent with the school's purpose and goals.

It should be noted that smoking is totally prohibited on all departmental premises.

APPROVAL

The Principal is responsible for approving community use of school facilities after consultation with the school council (if established) and the parent bodies. In any case where community use is not approved, the Principal should ensure that the user group is fully informed of the reasons for this decision.

The use of school facilities as welfare assembly centres during disaster periods must be approved by the Assistant Director-General.

AGREEMENTS

Activities involving the School Council and parent bodies do not require a Community User Agreement.

All sections of the Agreement must be completed. Where additional conditions are agreed upon, details must be attached for the Agreement.

The person signing the Agreement on behalf of the community user must provide the Principal with written evidence that he or she has the authority to do so.

All user groups must receive a copy of the signed Agreement including all conditions of use.

Agreements are to be for a maximum period of twelve (12) months. Renewal may be negotiated.

ACE and NSWTAFF and ethnic schools funded by the NSW Ethnic Schools Board must be advised by the beginning of Term 4 if the school is unable to renew the Agreement for the following year.

In the case of an election or an emergency, where areas used by the community group are urgently needed to house students or provide accommodation during disaster periods, the Principal may suspend or terminate the Agreement but must refund any relevant fees paid by the community user.

User groups must be notified in writing where breaches of the conditions of the Agreement occur. Where a significant breach or repeated minor breaches of the conditions occur, the Principal may terminate the Agreement by giving one week's notice in writing.

Community users may terminate the Agreement at any time by giving one week's notice in writing. Should there be no default by the community user at the date of termination, the Principal shall refund any fees paid for a period beyond the termination.

RESOLUTION OF DIFFICULTIES

Where conflict exists and conciliation or arbitration is required, the school or the user group shall refer the user to the Assistant Director-General for that region, who will arrange for the matter to be resolved by negotiation between the Director of Schools, a representative of the user group and the Principal.

Where the user group is an ethnic school, the NSW Ethnic Schools Board shall be involved in the arbitration.

INSURANCE

- “1. The hirer of the school facilities must, subject to 2 below, produce evidence of the hirer's public liability insurance which provides coverage for the hirer of at least \$10 million.
2. The school Principal may exercise a discretion to hire school facilities to a hirer notwithstanding that the hirer does not have public liability insurance, if the use is of a non-commercial nature and the school Principal is satisfied that the user is of a low-risk nature.”

CHARGES

The following provides details of charges to be applied to various user groups. Schools have discretionary power to apply a lesser charge, to exempt from charge, or to accept a donation in lieu of charge.

Groups which receive free use

- School councils
- Parent bodies and their sub-committees
- AECG and ASSPA committees
- Professional Teachers' Association
- Board of Studies for the conduct of examinations
- Saturday School of Community Languages (see Attachment 2)
- NSWTAFF
- Any other appropriate group approved by the school

Groups which may be charged utility and other operational costs

- Ethnic schools funded by the NSW Ethnic Schools Board (see Attachment 2)
- Adult and Community Education groups (see Attachment 2)
- Adult Migrant Education Services classes
- Aboriginal Homework Centres
- Non-profit regular or casual users

Attachment 3 provides a scale of charges for lighting, heating, cooling, water and trade waste removal to assist Principals to determine appropriate charges for recovering these costs. Note: Where users have access to telephone, photocopiers and other equipment and services, schools should also recover these costs.

Groups which may be charged market rates

- Profit making organisations
- Casual users

Federal, State and Local Electoral Authorities

Schools must charge according to the following scale:

NO. VOTERS*	CHARGE**
100 or less	520
Up to & including 1000	530
Up to & including 2000	540
Up to & including 3000	560
Over 3000	560

* Relevant information can be obtained from Returning Officers

** This charge does not include cleaning or trade waste

Note: In relation to all the above groups, schools may add the cost of insurance where the users do not have their own cover.

INCOME

Income received by schools from use of their facilities is public money and must be treated by the school in accordance with the procedures set out in the School Manual on Financial Management. The income should be used by the school to augment educational programs.

CLEANING

Cleaning resulting from community use must not incur any extra expense to the school or the department over that incurred by the school's normal cleaning routine. Where an extra expense is incurred as the result of community use, the cleaning must be arranged and paid for by the user.

Schools must seek advice from their regional director of administration and finance regarding special requests for cleaning resulting from community use.

DAMAGES

Damages incurred by any user group must be paid for by the user group.

SCREENING OF FILMS AND VIDEOS

The screening of films and videos for entertainment purposes in schools is permitted where the user certifies that:

- there is no commercial theatre within a reasonable distance from the school which is prepared to screen the film or video;
- there is no public hall or other building in close proximity to the school for the screening of the film or video;
- the classifications of the Commonwealth Film Censorship Board are observed.

CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

Alcohol must not be consumed on or brought to school premises, under any circumstances during school hours.

Community groups may be permitted to consume alcoholic beverages on school premises outside school hours, provided:

- the Principal and the school council, or where there is no school council, the executive of the school's parents and citizens association, agree to such consumption and grant permission;
- all students present are in the company of a parent or guardian;
- the persons granted permission to consume the alcoholic beverages agrees to act in a socially responsible manner that would set an example to children.

The consumption of alcohol in schools that have been declared Drug Free Zones in accordance with Departmental policy (Establishing Schools as Drug Free Zones – Memorandum 89/118) is prohibited at all times, irrespective of the circumstances.

COPYRIGHT

The user must provide the Principal with evidence that all necessary permissions have been obtained for:

- copying of written material;
- performances involving music;
- screening of films and videos.

SCHOOL RECORDS

Schools must retain copies of all Agreements for at least six years. Any accident reports must be attached to the relevant Agreement.

LEGISLATION RELATING TO SCHOOL ASSEMBLY HALLS

Buildings such as school assembly halls are subject to special requirements. These were outlined in the *Director-General's Memorandum DG91.6516* of 14 April 1992 which was issued with the document "*Guidelines for Public Use of School Halls.*"

The most recent Local Government Act was issued in July 1993, the impact of which is described in *Director-General's Memorandum DG93.4983* of October, 1993.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Schools must lodge a development application with the local council if community use involves commercial activities such as a market or public car park. Community use of this sort must not involve the alteration in any way of the school building or site.

Local councils can provide details of lodgement of these applications.

ATTACHMENT 1

THE AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is made on _____ (day/month/year)

BETWEEN _____ (name of Principal)

for and on behalf of THE STATE OF NEW SOUTH WALES ('the State')

AND _____ (name of user)

('community user')

Definitions

1. In this Agreement:

“Premises” refers to (write full description of space to be used)

“Equipment” refers to (write full description of equipment needed by the user, if no equipment is needed write NIL EQUIPMENT)

“School” refers to (write full name of school being used)

“Principal” refers to the person occupying the position of, or acting as, Principal of the school.

Authority to Use

2. The State grants to the community user, licence and authority to use the premises for (write accurate description of activity)

and for no other purpose. This authority is not transferable.

Duration of Use

3. This Agreement shall commence on _____ (date of commencement) and terminate on _____ (date of termination). The premises and equipment will be used by the community user (write times and days and hours on which premises and equipment are to be used).

Fees

4. The community user shall pay to the school _____ to cover the use of the premises and equipment for the duration of this Agreement. Payment will be made in the following way.

Indemnity

Clauses 5 and 6 of the form of Agreement set out in Attachment 1 are deleted and replaced with the following:

“Public liability insurance

5. The community user has taken out and shall maintain a broadform contractual third party liability insurance (also known as public liability insurance and legal liability insurance) providing coverage for the community user of at least \$10 million. That insurance policy must be with a body corporate authorised to carry on insurance business under the Insurance Act 1973. (Complete all details below).

Name of insurer:

Policy Number:

Date of Expiry:

(If the use is of non-commercial nature and the school Principal is satisfied that the use is of a low-risk nature, the school Principal may delete clause 5).

Workers compensation insurance

- 6. The community user has taken out and shall maintain workers compensation insurance coverage with a licensed insurer under the Workers Compensation Act 1987 in respect of any employees of the community user who are employed in connection with the use of the premises and equipment.

Proof of insurance

- 7. The community user shall, on the reasonable request of the school Principal made from time to time, provide a certificate of currency in respect of the insurance policies referred to in clauses 5 and 6.”

At any time the Principal has the right to terminate this agreement or refuse future use if there has been a significant breach or repeated breaches of the agreed conditions attached hereunder. In the case of termination the Principal must give one week’s notice in writing.

The community user may terminate this Agreement at any time by giving one week’s notice in writing. Should there be no default by the community user at the date of termination, any fees paid for a period beyond the termination will be refunded.

Signed

.....
(Principal)

.....
(Witness)

.....
(Community User)

.....
(Witness)

CONDITIONS OF USE

The community user will:

- a) not use premises or equipment other than stated in Clause 1;
- b) not use the premises at any other time and day other than stated in Clause 3 unless agreed in writing between the community user and the Principal and noted hereunder;
- c) not use the premises on any public holiday/or during school vacations without the written consent of the Principal;
- d) ensure that all users who enter and exit the school grounds under this Agreement do so as directed by the Principal;
- e) not interfere in any way with the operation of the school or with records, materials or equipment of the school, staff or pupils and in particular not to use any machinery or equipment other than any equipment specified in Clause 1 and will not remove any equipment from the school premises;
- f) not make any structural alterations to the school premises including the attachment of nails, screws or any other fastenings to walls or fittings without the permission of the Principal;
- g) ensure that after each use all furniture is replaced in its original position unless otherwise specified by the Principal;
- h) ensure that all persons allowed on the premises or permitted by the community user to use equipment shall properly conduct themselves and ensure that any person forbidden by the Principal to use the premises or equipment does not do so;
- i) ensure that any children allowed to enter under this Agreement are properly supervised at all times and only use the premises specified in Clause 1;
- j) ensure that smoking does not occur;
- k) ensure that no game of chance or gambling is carried out on the premises, unless an appropriate authority or licence has been obtained from the Chief Secretary's Department or other regulatory body;
- l) not engage in any activity which breaches the Copyright Act;
- m) notify the Principal immediately in writing of any accident to any person while on the school premises under this Agreement and provide such statements from witnesses and the person/s injured as the Principal or the Department of School Education's Legal Services Directorate may require;
- n) leave the premises and any toilets or other parts of the school buildings and all entrance and exit routes in a clean and tidy condition after each use or arrange and pay for the cleaning of the premises;
- o) make full restitution for any damages to equipment or premises as may in the Principal's opinion be necessary;
- p) ensure that where premises include the use of a swimming pool area unless accompanied by an adult:
 - infants and non-swimmers must not be admitted to the pool area unless accompanied by an adult;
 - an adult must be nominated by the group to assume responsibility for good order;
 - the pool entrance must be supervised at all times;
 - under no circumstances is alcohol permitted with in or near the pool;
 - one person with a relevant lifesaving certificate must be in attendance for each 30 people or part thereof;
- q) allow the Principal or the Principal's nominee to enter the premises at any time for the purpose of inspecting the premises or equipment;
- r) vacate the premises on or before the authorised time each day of use and ensure that the premises are locked and secured at the end of each use;
- s) not continue to use the premises beyond the expiration of the term of this Agreement and reapply if continued use is required;
- t) obey any reasonable request by the Principal concerning the use of the premises and equipment as stated below.

ATTACHMENT 2

INFORMATION ABOUT SPECIFIC GROUPS

THE SATURDAY SCHOOL OF COMMUNITY LANGUAGES

The Saturday School of Community Languages is a non-profit Department of School Education LOTE teaching facility. Language tuition at the SSCL is free of charge. It was established in 1978 and its purpose is "to preserve and develop the mother tongue of Australian children whose parents were born in a non-English speaking country, as well as to give monolingual English speaking Australian children the opportunity to study the languages of our diverse society". The Saturday School operates on Saturday mornings in 16 departmental schools across six regions. Enrolment is open to secondary government and non-government students whose home school does not offer the language they wish to study.

THE NEW SOUTH WALES ETHNIC SCHOOLS BOARD (ESB)

Ethnic schools funded through the ESB are community based, non-profit making schools, established by ethnic communities to maintain and develop their linguistic and cultural heritage. They conduct classes in languages other than English on a part-time basis, outside regular school hours to school-age students. At the present, ethnic schools offer 59 languages in over 500 schools for approximately 42,000 students.

Ethnic schools funded through the ESB are supported by the Ethnic Schools Program, administered by the ESB under the auspices of the NSW Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs. It was established in 1992 by the State Government in line with its 1992 Vision Statement and in acknowledgment of the unique and significant role played by ethnic schools in language education and cultural development in NSW.

The role of the ESB is to assist ethnic schools to operate effectively and efficiently by administering an equitable grants program which supports both established and evolving communities. Its priorities include the Minister's Awards for Excellence, the Curriculum Framework Project, the Professional Development Project and the Recording of Student Achievements on Mainstream School Reports.

Day-to-day operations are under the directions of the Executive Officer of the NSW Ethnic Schools Board, Ethnic Schools Centre, Lancelot Street, Five Dock, NSW, 2046. Phone: (02) 712 5308; Fax (02) 719 8025.

ADULT AND COMMUNICATION EDUCATION (ACE)

ACE operates through the following providers: Evening and Community Colleges, Workers Educational Association (WEA) and Community Adult Education centres (CAEC). These are non-profit, community owned and managed organisations whose primary purpose is to provide adult and community education. All ACE providers have a certificate issued by the Board of Adult and Community Education stating that they are supported by the Board. This certificate should be produced for the Principal when required.

ATTACHMENT 3

COST RECOVERY (1993)

It should be noted that the following set charges are to assist Principals to achieve cost recover for facilities. Schools will be advised accordingly.

For assistance in determining market rental rates Principals should contact the local council.

Cost recovery for equipment (eg telephones, photocopiers, computers) outdoor and sporting facilities and other services would need to be assessed by schools within the principles of charging for utilities and operational costs.

Power & Heating/Cooling

Classrooms

These charges are expressed as dollars per room per hour:

Lighting/power	\$0.165
Heating	\$0.29
Air cooling	\$0.25
Air conditioning	\$0.99

Other Rooms

These charges are expressed as dollars per square metre per hour:

Lighting/power	\$0.0033
Heating	\$0.0057
Air cooling	\$0.0049
Air conditioning	\$0.0196

Water Usage & Trade Waste Collection

To calculate an approximate per capita charge per hour for water usage and trade waste the following is recommended:

Take the annual cost for each of these items and divide by the number of school days. This gives the total cost per day.

Divide the total cost per day by the number of hours in the school day. This gives the total cost per hour.

Divide the total cost per hour by the school population (students and staff). This gives an approximately per capita cost per hour.

An example is given overleaf to show how a charge can be determined for a community user in order for the school to recover utilities costs.

EXAMPLE: A group of 100 people are to use the school hall for 3 hours. This is to include use of the toilets and heating.

Calculation for Power & Heating

The size of the school hall is 450 square metres:

Lighting & Power $\$0.0033 \times 450 \times 3 = \4.455

Heating $\$0.0057 \times 450 \times 3 = \7.695

Total for lighting, power and heating = $\$4.455 + \$7.695 = \$12.15$

Calculation for Water

The school has a population of 500 and an annual water bill of \$2,400:

$\$2400 \text{ divided by } 202 \text{ days} = \11.88

$\$11.88 \text{ divided by } 7 \text{ hours} = \1.697

$\$1.697 \text{ divided by } 500 = \$0.003394 \text{ per capita per hour}$

$\text{Cost for water} = \$0.003394 \times 100 \times 3 = \$1.0182.$

Total Charge

This school would charge the community user $\$12.15 + \$1.02 = \$13.17.$

MEMORANDUM TO PRINCIPALS

DN/04/00016

COMMUNITY USE INSURANCE

From 1994 to 2003 the Department had made arrangements for an insurance policy to cover community use of school facilities. This was known as 'Community User Insurance'. The premium for this policy was met by a levy on the global budget of participating schools. An average of 4 claims per year were made on the policy over this period across the whole Department.

Early in 2003 a review was undertaken into the benefits associated with 'Community Use Insurance'. The review determined that a separate policy would no longer be provided for the community use of school facilities.

Claims of negligence against the Department arising from community use are now dealt with under the Department's existing public liability insurance arrangements through the Department's existing public liability insurance arrangements through the Treasury Managed Fund.

Under the previous insurance arrangements the Department recommended that schools require community users have their own third party liability insurance cover where:

- the use is for profit (eg. where a ballet/music teacher uses school facilities for their lessons and students are required to pay a tuition fee); or
- the activity is assessed as medium to high risk activity (eg. playing touch football on school oval); or
- where the community use is of a casual nature (eg. a club holds its weekly meetings in the school hall).

The situation in relation to these activities remains the same under the new insurance arrangements.

In relation to activities that don't fall into the above categories Principals need to undertake a risk assessment of the proposed activity when determining whether community users will be required to have their own third party liability insurance. In most circumstances, only those activities assessed as low risk should be given approval to use facilities without insurance cover. Principals should apply the risk assessment and management techniques covered in the mandatory Occupational Health and Safety training presented to Principals in 2003, when undertaking this assessment.

When determining whether an uninsured user can access the school's facilities Principals also need to give consideration to the benefit afforded the whole school community by the proposed activity. In small rural communities where the school provides the only oval or hall in town, the Principal may agree to the proposed use even if a risk is involved, if it is assessed that this risk is outweighed by the benefit the activity offers to the community.

The relevant departmental policy is *Community Use of School Facilities Policy Statement and Implementation Procedures NSW Department of School Education n1994* ("the Community Use Document") which can be found at:

<http://www.intranet.schools.nsw.edu.au/dse/D1.0/policies/pdfdocs/1550.PDF>

The policy is now modified as noted in the Attachment. A reviewed consolidated version of the Community Use Document is being developed. It will contain guidance to Principals about the level of insurance to be expected from community users in addition to the attached modifications.

It should be noted that it is not appropriate for schools to use the form of Agreement contained in the policy when a community user is undertaking a commercial activity. A commercial activity is one that involves a substantial use of the school's facilities and from which the school derives considerable income eg. regular use of school buildings by a coaching college or regular use of school grounds as a parking facility. In these situations the school should enter into an appropriate licence arrangement with the user. Principals are advised to refer to the *School Asset Management Guidelines* and to contact Properties Directorate to ensure that all requirements such as Development Applications and probity measures are addressed before entering into the licence agreement.

When Principals are in doubt about the conditions to be applied to the use of their school's facilities they should contact the Legal Services Directorate.

Claims by community users are now handled in the same manner as those made by students and/or visitors to schools who claim personal injury or property damage arising from the Department's negligence. Principals must follow the procedures set out in the directive *Reporting School Accidents* (PD/2002/200064) if they receive a report of an accident occurring during the use of their facilities by a community group.

Michael Waterhouse
Director, Legal Services
3 February 2004

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State of New South Wales

Department of Education & Training

And

Warringah Shire Council

LICENCE AGREEMENT

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This Deed of Licence made on

Between

The State of New South Wales through its Department of Education and Training,
35 Bridge Street, Sydney (“the Licensor”) and

Warringah Shire Council of Pittwater Road, Dee Why (“the Licensee”)

Recitals

- A. The Licensor through the Department conducts the School to which is or will be attached the Playing Fields.
- B. The School does not require the use of the Playing Fields outside School Hours and the Department has agreed to make the Playing Fields available to the community through the Licensee on the terms and conditions of this deed.

It is agreed

1. Definitions & Interpretation

1.1 In this agreement the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) “**Commencement Date**” means the commencement of this Licence as specified in Item 2 of the Schedule.
- (b) “**Department**” means the New South Wales Department of Education and Training or such amendment to that name as may come into force from time to time or such other administrative department from time to time of the Licensor that is responsible for the administration of public schools.
- (c) “**Licence**” means this deed.
- (d) “**Licensee**” means the operational manager of the Licensee as advised from time to time by the Licensee to the Licensor and from the commencement of this agreement is the person specified in Item 4 of the Schedule.
- (e) “**Playing fields**” means that part of the School as identified in the plan attached to this Licence and/or as disclosed in Item 5 of the Schedule.
- (f) “**Principal**” means the person occupying the position of, or acting as, Principal of the School.
- (g) “**School**” means the _____ School.
- (h) “**School Hours**” means 8.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday excluding Vacation Periods.
- (i) “**Term**” is the period specified in Item 3 of the Schedule commencing from the Commencement Date as specified in Item 2 of the Schedule.
- (j) “**Vacation Periods**” means those days fixed from time to time by the Minister for the Department as school holidays and such other days during a school term when all students enrolled at the School are absent.

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- 1.2 In the interpretation of this Licence:
- (a) “person” includes a corporation;
 - (b) any words importing the singular number shall include the plural number or vice versa;
 - (c) any words importing a gender shall include each other gender;
 - (d) a reference to a party to this Licence shall include all receivers, managers, liquidators, successors in title and assigns of that party;
 - (e) headings and the ordering of clauses shall be disregarded;
 - (f) when two or more persons comprise the Licensee all provisions in this deed shall bind such persons and any two or greater number of them jointly and each of them separately.

2. Grant of Licence

The Licensor grants to the Licensee a licence to use the Playing Fields except during School Hours.

3. Term

This Licence shall commence on the Commencement Date for the duration of the Term and may not be terminated prior to the expiration of the Term other than in accordance with the provisions of this deed.

4. Permitted Use

- 4.1 The Licensee may only use the Playing Fields under the terms and conditions of this deed.
- 4.2 The Playing Fields may only be used for the conduct of organised sporting events, whether for training or in competition and for general community activities in either case by organisations who have been authorised in writing by the Licensor to use the Playing Fields.
- 4.3 The Licensee must give to the Principal on behalf of the Licensor details of the organisation approved by the Licensor from time to time to use the Playing Fields.
- 4.4 If the Licensor receives any application for use of the Playing Fields, except for use in School Hours, it must refer this application to the Manager.
- 4.5 The Licensee may at its expense and subject to the consent of the Licensor which will not be unreasonably withheld construct changeroom facilities and/or toilet facilities on the Playing Fields in a location not on the area used for sporting events. At the expiration of the Term the Licensee must not unless requested by the Licensor remove these improvements which in that event will become thereafter the property of the Licensor.
- 4.6 The Licensee must not permit the Playing Fields to be floodlit.
- 4.7 The Licensee must comply with such reasonable directions as may be given from time to time by the Licensor in relation to the use of the Playing Fields.

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5. Holding Over

If following the expiration of the Term the Licensee remains in possession of the Playing Field any such occupancy shall be terminable by either party giving to the other on any date notice of one month.

6. Option to Renew

6.1 The Licensee may require the Licensor to enter into a further licence of the Playing Fields for the period specified in Item 6 of the Schedule commencing from the last day of the Term provided that:

- (a) the Licensee serves notice in writing upon the Licensor requiring the Licensor to enter into the further licence;
- (b) the Licensor receives the notice not less than 12 months prior to the last day of the Term; and
- (c) the Licensee is not in default under this Licence as at the date of giving the notice and on the last day of the Term.

6.2 The further licence shall contain identical provisions as are contained in this Licence except this clause and Item 6 shall be deleted.

7. Licence Fees

The Licensee will not pay any licence fee to the Licensor for the use of the Playing Fields under this licence.

8. Goods & Services Tax

8.1 If from time to time in respect of:

- (a) anything paid by the Licensor or provided to the Licensee by the Licensor under or in connection with this Licence; or
- (b) in connection with anything else which the Licensee is required to pay or reimburse to the Licensor or indemnify the Licensor against under this Licence.

is subject to GST the Licensee must within 7 days of the receipt of an invoice pursuant to the GST Act pay to the Licensor any tax under the GST Act in addition to the amount payable for such items as required in this Licence.

8.2 In this clause:

- (a) “**GST Act**” means the Act entitled *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999* as amended from time to time or any re-enactment of or substitution for it and includes any regulations or statutory instruments issued under it;
- (b) “**GST**” has the meaning given to that term by the GST Act.

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9. Nature of Rights Granted

- 9.1 The Licence does not create between the parties the relationship of lessor and lessee, principal and agent or employer and employee.
- 9.2 The Licensee shall not have the exclusive right to the use of the Playing Fields but if the Licensor wishes to use the Playing Fields at any time outside School Hours it must notify the Manager and will only be entitled to use the Playing Fields at any time outside School Hours if the Licensee has not previously granted permission for the Playing Fields to be used at that time by an organisation approved of by the Licensee.

10. Obligations of the Licensee

The Licensee must at its expense:

- 10.1 maintain the Playing Fields in a professional and competent manner including but not limited to:
- (a) mowing the grass whenever reasonably necessary;
 - (b) watering the grass as reasonably necessary and to the extent approved by Sydney Water;
 - (c) fertilising the grass as reasonably necessary;
 - (d) inserting and/or maintaining all necessary drainage and/or irrigation systems;
 - (e) keeping in good repair all fences and improvements from time to time constructed on the Playing Fields including any fence between the Playing Fields and any other land of the Licensor;
 - (f) construct if required by the Licensor a fence between the Playing Fields and any adjoining land of the Licensor with such gates as may be required by the Licensor; and
 - (g) such other works as the Licensor may from time to time reasonably consider necessary to maintain the Playing Fields and any fences or improvements on the Playing Fields;

and may, for these purposes with the consent of the Principal and subject to the direction of the Principal, enter the Playing Fields during School Hours.

- 10.2 only permit the Playing Fields to be used for the playing of sport and general community activities;
- 10.3 keep and maintain the Playing Fields in a clean and tidy condition;
- 10.4 maintain any facilities constructed pursuant to clause 4.5 of this Licence in good order and condition and ensure that:
- (a) the facilities are locked when not in use; and
 - (b) that any graffiti on the facilities is promptly removed;

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- 10.5 not bring upon the Playing Fields or permit to be done any act, matter or thing which may be a nuisance or inconvenience or cause damage or annoyance to the Licensor, its students or invitees at the School or which may breach any law or requirement of any competent authority for the time being in force with regard to the use of the Playing Fields;
- 10.6 not do or bring or permit to be done or brought upon the Playing Fields any act, matter or thing which might prejudicially affect the rights of the Licensor under any insurance policy held by the Licensor;
- 10.7 not damage any fixtures, structures or installations belonging to the Licensor on the Playing Fields or permit anyone else to do so;
- 10.8 permit any nominee of the Licensor at any time entry to the Playing Fields;
- 10.9 obtain any necessary consents from any competent authority for the conduct of any activity of sport on the Playing Fields and comply with all requirements of such competent authority throughout the Term;
- 10.10 not place any advertisements on the Playing Fields without the prior written approval of the Licensor which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- 10.11 not sell from the Playing Fields any food, drinks, cigarettes or other tobacco products without the approval of the Licensor which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld;
- 10.12 upon the expiry of the Term or the sooner vacation of the Playing Fields by the Licensee to give up possession of the Playing Fields to the Licensor and to leave the Playing Fields in good repair and condition and shall as required by the Licensor restore the Playing Fields to a condition not inferior to the condition in which the Playing Fields were at the time of the first occupation of the Playing Fields by the Licensee under this Licence or in any licence agreement pre-dating this Licence;
- 10.13 nominate from time to time a Manager and a business hours telephone contact number or numbers for that person.

11. Cleaning

The Licensee must at its own expense at the conclusion of each day of use ensure that changerooms and/or toilet facilities, if provided by the Licensee, on the Playing Fields are left in a clean and tidy state and must on a reasonable timetable cause such toilet facilities and changerooms to be thoroughly cleaned.

12. Waste disposal/pest control

- 12.1 The Licensee must make available appropriate garbage bins the contents of which will be removed in a timely manner by the Licensee at its expense.

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- 12.2 The Licensee must cause all rubbish and other waste material from the conduct of the Playing Fields to be placed in the receptacles provided by the Licensee.

13. Inspections

Any nominee of the Licensor shall be at liberty at all times without notice to the Licensee to enter the Playing Fields and to undertake any inspection considered necessary as to the state and condition of the Playing Fields and of the compliance of the Licensee of the covenants in this Licence.

14. Utilities

The Licensee will be responsible for all utility charges applicable to the Playing Fields and must at its expense arrange for separate meters for utilities including water and electricity.

15. Telephone

The Licensor is under no obligation to make available a telephone for the use of the Licensee at the Playing Fields.

16. Signage

The Licensee must not erect any signage at the Playing Fields without the prior consent of the Licensor which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

17. Car Parking

The Licensor will not make available to the Licensee car parking spaces and the Licensee must use its best endeavours to ensure that no motor vehicles are parked on the Playing Fields.

18. Damage to Person or Property

The Licensor shall not be liable under any circumstances to the Licensee or to any other person for any loss or damage occasioned to any person or to any property arising from the use of the Playing Fields by the Licensee or any person authorised by the Licensee however such loss may arise whether due to the negligence of the Licensor or otherwise.

19. Insurance

- 19.1 The Licensee must maintain all policies of insurance that are required by law for the employees of the Licensee;

- 19.2 The Licensee indemnifies the Licensor for all damages to any glass, fixtures and fittings of the Licensor at the Playing Fields howsoever such damage is caused.

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- 19.3 The Licensee must maintain a public liability insurance policy for a cover of not less than \$20,000,000.00 (or such reasonable additional amount as may be required by the Licensor from time to time) to note the interest of the Licensor as owner of the Playing Fields and to cover any liability howsoever caused to any person upon the Playing Fields.
- 19.4 The Licensee must notify the Licensor in writing as soon reasonably practicable after the Licensee becomes aware of any event or occurrence likely to give rise to a claim under the insurance specified in clause 19.3 and thereafter provide all assistance as may be required by the insurer and the Licensor regarding the subject matter of the notice.

20. Indemnity

- 20.1 The Licensee indemnifies the Licensor against liability for all loss, damage or injury to persons or property caused by the Licensee, its employees, agents or by any invitee of the Licensee or by people attending the Playing Fields whether authorised or not other than during School Hours whether through negligence or otherwise in connection with the use of the Playing Fields. The Licensee must at its own expense make good the amount of all claims, damages, costs and expenses arising from such damage or injury to persons or property.
- 20.2 The Licensee must duly and punctually pay or otherwise discharge all outgoing, debts, claims, liabilities and other obligations arising out of or connected with the use of the Playing Fields under this Licence.
- 20.3 The Licensor shall not be liable under any circumstances to the Licensee or to any other person for any loss or damage occasioned by defect or malfunction in respect of the Playing Fields whether such loss arises pursuant to the negligence of the Licensor, its employees, contractors or agents or otherwise and the Licensor shall further not be liable for the safety of any person using the Playing Fields except during School Hours and shall not be liable for the property or equipment of any person using the Playing Fields.

21. Assignment & Subletting

- 21.1 The Licensee must not enter into any sub-licence of the Playing Fields except that the Licensor is authorised to permit sports clubs or organisations to use the Playing Fields under such conditions, not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Licence, as are prescribed by the Licensee and provided the Licensee must whenever requested by the Licensor provide to the Licensor a copy of any agreement between the Licensor and any such sports club or organisation.
- 21.2 The Licensee may not assign the Licence.

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22. Rights of Termination

This Licence shall terminate at the option of the Licensor if at any time during the Term the Licensee fails to observe and perform any of the agreements and undertakings on the part of the Licensee required to be observed and performed under this Licence after a reasonable number of days from receiving notice from the Licensor of such failure and in such event the Licensor may enter the Playing Fields and terminate this Licence.

23. Costs

- 23.1 Each party will meet its own legal costs and disbursements concerning the preparation of this Licence. The Licensee must pay all stamp duty payable on the Licence.
- 23.2 The Licensee must also pay all professional costs on any surrender or other early termination of the Licence together with all professional costs incurred by the Licensor in remedying or attempting to remedy any breach or default by the Licensee and in or incidental to the exercise or attempted exercise of any right or power of the Licensor in consequence of any breach or default.

24. Variation

No variation or modification of the terms and conditions of this deed shall be binding unless agreed in writing and signed by both parties.

25. Notices

- 25.1 The parties may service notices in the manner prescribed by section 170 of the Conveyancing Act 1919.
- 25.2 In addition:
- (a) The Licensee must service notices on the Licensor by delivery to the office of the Principal between the hours of 9.00am and 4.00pm Monday to Friday but excluding public holidays or days in which the office is not staffed; and
 - (b) Notices may also be served by being sent by facsimile transmission to the following:
 - (1) To the Licensor on _____ ; and
 - (2) To the Licensee on _____
- 25.3 Any notice given by facsimile will be deemed to be served on the date that it is sent subject to the sender holding evidence from the machine from which the facsimile was sent that it was received by the other party provided however if the notice is sent on a weekend or public holiday it will be deemed to have been served on the next business day thereafter and if sent after 5.00pm on any day will be deemed to have been received the following day.

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SIGNED by RAY MASTERTON
OF THE NSW DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION AND TRAINING
As the duly authorised delegate of
the Licensor in the presence of:

.....

.....

THE COMMON SEAL of THE
SHIRE OF WARRINGAH was
Hereunto affixed pursuant to
a resolution passed at an
Ordinary Meeting No.
Held on 2004
and in the presence of:

Signature:

Signature:

Name:

Name:

Position:

Position:

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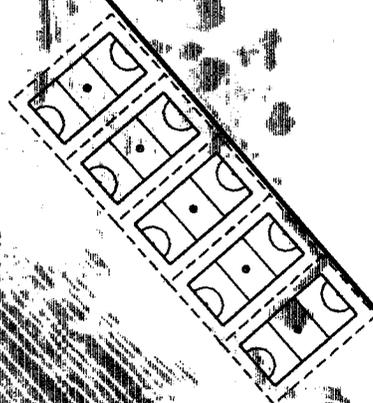
SCHEDULE

Item 1:	Licensee:	Warringah Shire Council
Item 2:	Commencement Date:	1 May 2004
Item 3:	Term:	years
Item 4:	Licensee Manager:	
Item 5:	Description of Playing Fields:	
Item 6:	Option to Renew:	years

APPENDIX 5
Sample Community Use Agreement

**OPTION B
5 NETBALL
NW ORIENTATION**

SCALE 1:2000 @ A4





APPENDIX 6

Concept Plan for Proposed New Netball Facility at Westleigh