Cloncurry Shire Council

Sport and Recreation Plan

Draft Report- Executive Summary

August 2008

Cloncurry Shire Council

Sport and Recreation Plan

Draft Report- Executive Summary

August 2008

Prepared by:

STRATEGIC LEISURE GROUP
Leisure Planning and Management Consultants

Cairns Office
PO Box 857,
SMITHFIELD, QLD 4878
Ph: 07 4055 6250
Email: cairns@strategicleisure.com.au

www.strategicleisure.com.au

Document History

Version	Date	Checked	Method	Delivered
Draft V1	24/07/08	ML JC	email	Karen Elphick
Draft V2	14/8/0/	ML	Email	K.E.

© 2008 Strategic Leisure Pty Ltd t/a The Strategic Leisure Group. This document may only be used for the purposes for which it was commissioned and in accordance with the terms of engagement for the commission. Unauthorised use of this document in any form whatsoever is prohibited.

SPACES ***PLACES*** ***PEOPLE***

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 3

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 4

2.1. CONSULTATION 4
2.1.1. Community Survey 5
2.1.2. Club Surveys 5
2.1.3. Youth Issues 6
2.1.4. Other Groups and Comments 6
2.1.5. Positives Mentioned by the Community 6
2.2. POPULATION PROFILE 7
2.3. CURRENT TRENDS IN LEISURE 7

3. RECOMMENDATIONS 8

3.1. ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY 9
3.1.1. Planning 9
3.1.2. Provision and Maintenance Standards 9
3.1.3. Policy 10
3.1.4. Sport and Recreation Reference Group 11
3.1.5. Staffing 12
3.2. FACILITIES 13
3.2.1. Master Planning and Feasibility Study for the Recreation Reserve 13
3.2.2. Indoor Sports Courts 14
3.2.3. Youth Facilities 14
3.2.4. Bikeways and Pathways 15
3.2.5. Chinaman Creek Dam 15
3.2.6. Parks 16
3.2.7. Cloncurry Pool 17
3.2.8. Cloncurry River 17
3.2.9. Golf course and Motorsports 17
3.2.10. Dajarra 18
3.3. PROGRAMS AND SERVICES 19
3.3.1. Supporting Sustainable Clubs and Community Groups 19
3.3.2. Specific Needs Programs 20

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Strategic Leisure Group would like to express their gratitude to the members of the Steering Committee and Council's Project Managers Ms Sue Swalling, Ms Alyce Earnst and Ms Karen Elphick for their support for the project and their efforts in working with us to prepare this plan.

As the study took place during the time of the Local Government Elections there were changes membership of the Project Steering Group and a degree of uncertainty regarding Councils planning. In spite of this numerous individuals volunteered their time to be involved and to provide valuable advice and support. We appreciate their involvement and commitment to their community. Members of the Steering Committee were:

- Daniel Bright — Senior Advisor, Sport and Recreation Queensland
- Mick Hughes — Manager Cloncurry PCYC
- Wayne Chivers — Sport & Recreation Club Representative
- Bob Hardy — Community Representative (Rotary)
- Robyn Watt — Sport & Recreation Club Representative
- Denise Hill — Sport & Recreation Club Representative
- Colin Ferguson — Councillor
- Andrew Daniels — Mayor
- Lynne Vernon — Councillor
- Chris Chaplain — Sport & Recreation Club Representative
- Vince Wall — Sport & Recreation Club Representative
- Craig Turnour — Manager Corporate Services

In addition to the above we would like to acknowledge the efforts of the schools and community sport and recreation groups in working with council during this plan and in their assistance in generating interest for meetings and attending stakeholder sessions.

The project received funding under the Queensland Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation's Local Sport and Recreation Program.

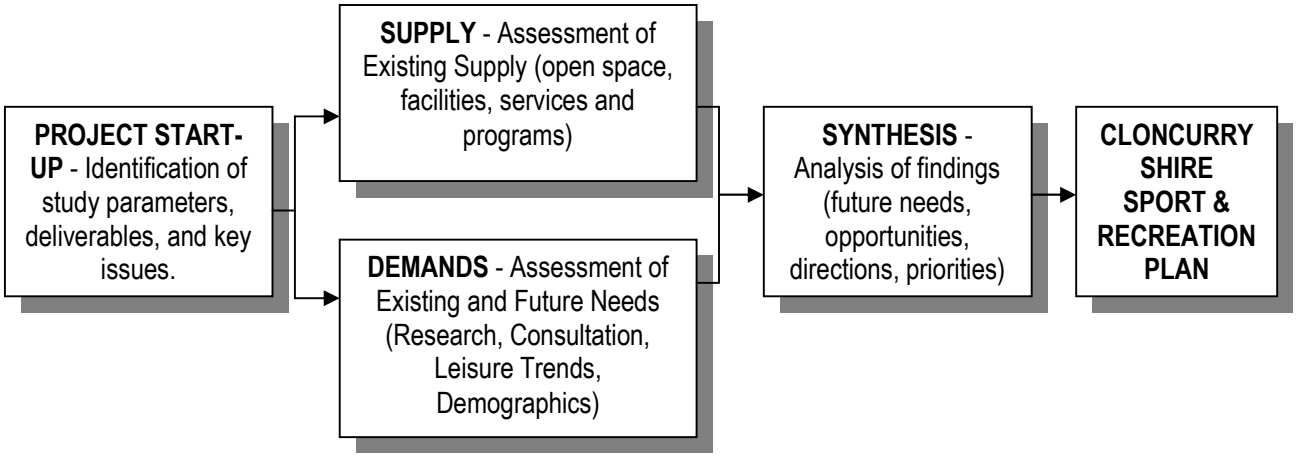
2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sport and Recreation Plan for Cloncurry which will provide direction and guidance to the Shire in providing sport and recreation opportunities for residents. The following objectives were identified for the preparation of this plan:

- To establish a working plan for Sport and Recreation in the Cloncurry Shire;
- To establish a plan to encourage interaction between sporting organisations;
- To establish a plan to encourage all members of the Community to participate in sporting and recreational activities; and
- To highlight the areas which need attention and to establish the areas which are working well.

This plan was prepared based on substantial community consultation as well as research investigation and analysis of the issues. The study methodology comprised the following key components.

- Stage 1: Background Research and Internal Consultation
- Stage 2: Analysis of Supply
- Stage 3: Analysis of Need (External Consultation)
- Stage 4: Information Analysis
- Stage 5: Sport and Recreation Plan Preparation



2.1. CONSULTATION

Consultation activities included

- Press releases
- Call for submissions
- Community survey
- Club surveys
- Focus groups with clubs and community organisations
- Stakeholder meetings

- Interviews with schools and agencies
- Focus sessions with year 6 and year 11 students
- Youth voice session at the PCYC
- Sport and Recreation Club forum
- 1300 (local call) number and email address for comments and suggestions

The consultation results are detailed within the report. Key points arising from consultation are:

2.1.1. Community Survey

- 27 responses
- 11male-14female
- Main response 20-39 y.o (55.5%)
- 41% had children under 19
- 22% couples no children

Top Priorities

1. Paths and Bikeways
2. Improve Chinaman Ck Dam
3. More Parks with Play/ Better amenities at sports grounds
4. Improve Rec Reserve/ Showgrounds
5. Youth activities
6. Entertainment/ Lighting/Motor sports
7. More shade at Pool and Outdoor Courts

2.1.2. Club Surveys

- Surveys sent to approx 46 Clubs (6 later returned/ invalid)
- 7 completed and returned
- 6 additional interviews

Top Priorities

- Full support for sharing and joint use
- Priorities
    - Shade
    - Storage
    - Improve fields/ facilities
- 4 out of 7 have business or Development Plan
- Other Comments:
    - Rates too high for clubs who own land
    - Shade is a priority
    - Showgrounds should be upgraded as multi-sport and events venue
    - Need for club facilities (meeting and storage

2.1.3. YOUTH ISSUES

- Need for free and accessible youth spaces (Skate Park/ / jump park/ bmx track, Parks, Paths and Trails)
- Improve Local Parks- Make Community Spaces
- Shade a priority (Pool, Parks, Courts, Fields)
- More diversity needed
- Need for outdoor recreation (Dam, Trails, Informal Active and adventure)
- Better provision for younger kids (playgrounds, water play, Family spaces)
- Should use Riverside -development of corridor
- Cater for more than traditional sport (Motor sports, Individual activities, social sport)
- Need for Older Kids play area- adventure Play ground
- Perceive a lack of maintenance/ investment in community facilities
- Limited provision for "marginal" kids

YOUTH PRIORITIES

- Invest in Parks and Community Facilities
- Bikeways, Trails
- Florence Clark Park and Chinaman Ck Dam
- Motor Sports
- Showgrounds upgrade (Courts, shade etc)
- Events
- Programs

2.1.4. OTHER GROUPS AND COMMENTS

- Need to upgrade parks
- Legacy of poor maintenance
- Bikeways and Pathways
- Youth programs and facilities a priority
- Need Facility as base for Older Adults programs
- Cost of Council venues
- Community access (informal) to facilities

2.1.5. POSITIVES MENTIONED BY THE COMMUNITY

- Mary K Park
- Chinaman Creek
- Events
- Range of sporting opportunities
- Opportunity with Mines and town growth
- PCYC

2.2. POPULATION PROFILE

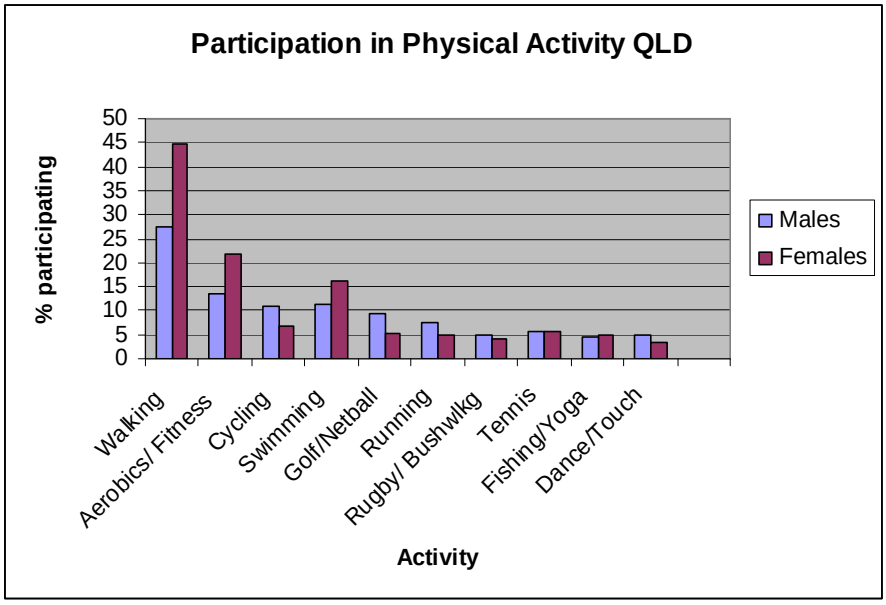
Cloncurry while a rural town forms a sub-regional hub in the north –west servicing several mines and surrounding stations. While growth according to the ABS is low, anecdotal evidence is that the resources boom has generated increased demand for accommodation and services and that mines would like to see increased capacity of the town to support employees as residents. Key Points are:

- 2006 population 3138- growth anticipated 0.3% p.a.
- 54.2% males 45.8% females
- 22.5% indigenous
- Young Community median age of 30 (Qld 36, Aust 37)
  - 25.3% under 15 (Qld 20.7)
  - 15.7% over 55 (Qld 23.6%)

2.3. CURRENT TRENDS IN LEISURE

There are a range of trends emerging in sport and recreation participation. Many of these are state and nation wide while some are more unique to rural towns with the mining industry as a major employer. Trends are discussed in detail in the report a brief summary is provided below:

- Less 'uncommitted time' –people prefer to turn up & play , not be part of a club
- Difficulty attracting/ retaining volunteers
- High participation in non-organised S&R activities
- Growing demand for social sport
- Demand for lighting of facilities
- Growing emphasis on physical activity
- Walking by far most popular activity
- Increasing focus on safety concerns (e.g. lighting)
- Youth participation declining due to part time work



3. RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations have been assigned the following priorities.

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

Recommendations are grouped into the following categories:

1. Administration and Policy
2. Facilities
3. Programs and Services

The cost of implementing all recommendations would be beyond the responsibility and/ or capacity of Council to fund in its own right. To this end, external or club funding contributions should be sought wherever possible. Recommended actions should be reviewed annually with a major review in year five. Where appropriate a cost estimate has been identified for recommendations. These are in 2008 dollars.

The recommendations arise from the detailed analysis in the body of this report and the key issues driving the recommendations are summarised in Section **Error! Reference source not found.**.

3.1. ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY

3.1.1. PLANNING	Priority
RECOMMENDATION	**1** = Immediate **2** = Annual
1. Finalise and adopt this Sport and Recreation Plan and implement according to the priorities identified 2. Undertake Annual reviews of the Sport and Recreation Plan as part of a planning process that checks priorities and determines activities for the following year.	
RATIONALE	
This sport and recreation plan is based on substantial input from the community and a strategic overview to guide resources for the next 5+ years. The plan will allow for a sustained effort and consistent direction for sport and recreation in Cloncurry. To maximise the effectiveness of the Sport and Recreation Plan it should be reviewed regularly to adapt to changing circumstances and shifting priorities. It is likely the plan will need a full review after 5 years and this should involve detailed consultation with the community.	

3.1.2. PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE STANDARDS	Priority
RECOMMENDATION	**1** = Short **2** = Short
1. A minimum standard of provision for parks should be adopted that guides both access to and level of development of parks for residents in the Shire. A draft standard is contained in Appendix A for Council's consideration. 2. . A maintenance standard for parks and sport and recreation facilities (e.g. fields) should be developed and adopted so club and community expectations regarding maintenance can be informed based on a planned approach.	
RATIONALE	
While the Minimum Standard of Provision is not critical to providing parks it will offer a "benchmark" for provision that allows Council to budget for any improvements needed as well as providing a basis for any developer contribution required towards public parks[1]. It will also form the basis for that will need to be completed for transition to an Infrastructure charging regime as required under the Integrated Planning Act Community expressed concern regarding maintenance standards for bikeways, parks and facilities. Development and adoption of a standard that details the type and frequency of activities that Council will deliver allows for adequate forward budgeting as well as clear performance measurement on maintaining facilities.	

[1] Under IPA and recent changes to this legislation Council can take contributions as an Infrastructure Charge towards planned provision. To enable this, Standards of Service will need to be developed along with a Plan for Trunk Infrastructure. This will be required even if Council uses a Regulated Infrastructure Charge.

3.1.3. POLICY	Priority
RECOMMENDATION	**1** = Immediate **2** = Short **3** = Short

1. A formal Sport and Recreation Policy should be developed for Council to consider and adopt. The policy should clearly articulate Council's role, its policy objectives and how these are to be achieved. This report should form the basis for development of the policy.
2. . A Community Use of Council Land and Facilities Policy should be developed in consultation with the proposed Sport and Recreation Reference Group (see 3.1.4). This policy should provide clarity and certainty in regard to the rights and responsibilities of groups using Council facilities under various tenure arrangements. The policy should detail:
   - The types of tenure/ use agreements available to clubs
   - The fees and responsibilities incurred by clubs under each type of agreement and any eligibility constraints
   - The level of support that Council provides in regards to maintenance for various facilities and tenures
   - The process used by Council to allocate tenure to groups and how equity of access is retained
   - Policy objectives regarding increased multi-use and sharing of facilities and resources
3. A program of formalising tenure and use agreements with all users of Council land or facilities should be implemented with a gradual phase-in over the next 3 years.

RATIONALE

The development of a formal Sport and Recreation Policy will allow Council to clearly define its role and the articulation of objectives means that actions and decisions can be based on them. The Sport and Recreation Policy should cover:

- Council's role
- How Council works with the community
- Policy Priorities
- Policy Objectives
- Policy Implementation

There were several concerns raised during consultation regarding inconsistencies in the way Council provided access to facilities and support in terms of maintenance for facilities used by clubs and community groups. The development of a formal policy in conjunction with the proposed Sport and Recreation Reference Group will allow for everyone to see that decisions are made according to policy and not politics. The policy allows for clarity in terms of what is expected from resident clubs and user groups in regard to maintenance and operating costs. The implementation of this policy will require significant effort from Council staff and in some cases negotiation, therefore it would need to be staged with a gradual transition over a few years. Some clubs may wish for an early resolution to allow them to apply for funding which requires them showing longer term tenure in the form of a lease.

3.1.4. SPORT AND RECREATION REFERENCE GROUP	Priority
RECOMMENDATION	**1** = Short

1. A sport and recreation Reference Group should be established to provide a forum for policy development and reviewing priorities in plan implementation. The group could also assist in the convening of an annual "summit" where clubs and groups come together to share information and ideas.

Their role should include:

- Advice on policy regarding assistance for clubs, leasing and tenure of land and facilities and strategic priorities.
- Assisting with communication and information between council and the shire's communities (both ways).
- Assisting with implementation of the Sport and Recreation Plan.
- Helping to develop information, awareness and resource sharing strategies.

RATIONALE

Clubs and community groups raised the issue of improving communications with Council particularly in regard to major infrastructure planning and the development of policy. Establishing a formal group would allow for efficient dissemination of information and feedback from the community in regard to issues currently being considered by council.

An initial group could be based on the existing Steering Committee (working on this plan) who should be responsible for developing final composition, role and operational rules for the reference group.

Membership of the group should include:

- 1 representative from each of the Major events
- 1 field sports representative
- A community representative
- 1 court sports representative
- 1 aquatic sports representative
- PCYC representative
- Council staff (Sport and Recreation Officer) as secretariat
- 1 Councillor with the appropriate portfolio
- Schools representative
- 1 youth representative and

While the above membership may be considered too large, it is unlikely that all representatives will be able to attend all the meetings. Have a large more robust group allows for the meeting dates to remain fairly fixed and a reasonable confidence that a sufficient number would attend each meeting. In addition the suggested mix will make use of the various community networks associated with each representative and maximise the communication potential of the group.

3.1.5. STAFFING	Priority
RECOMMENDATION	**1** = Short Est $ 55,000 p.a. (if fully funded)

1. Council should consider the employment of a Sport and Recreation Officer whose primary responsibilities would be to:
   - Coordinate the implementation of this plan.
   - Seek and apply for external funding for implementation of the major facility recommendations.
   - Establish and coordinate the support mechanisms for community groups and clubs including:
     - Assist clubs with business planning and management arrangements
     - Assist clubs in seeking external funding for improvements
     - Sharing of resources and information between clubs
   - Work with community groups and other agencies to source funding for, and development of, youth programs.
   - Manage and implement major recommendations such as the Master Plan and Feasibility Study for the Sport and Recreation Reserve.
   - Assist with development of community events.
   - Work with other areas of council to develop information and awareness programs for the range of sport and recreation opportunities in the region.
   - Assist with the development of the sports and event tourism market by working with key clubs and groups to further develop signature events.
   - Coordinate the leasing and use of Councils sporting fields and facilities.
   - Ongoing planning for sport and recreation including the development of physical activity initiatives.

This position may need to be shared with another role in Council or funding may be shared with another agency. One option may be to appoint the position on a part time basis with the aim to generate grant or other funding to expand the role to full time.

RATIONALE

Lack of staff resources is a major issue in the effective delivery of sport and recreation. Community members, Clubs and groups highlighted that lack of information on what was available, what other groups are doing or what resources and skills exist in the community was a major issue. In addition the lack of a consistent contact point within Council was raised as an issue (particularly in terms of "going to different people to get different things done"). Facilitating better communication and information sharing will require resourcing and coordination. In addition provision of a range of support mechanisms for community groups including assistance with funding applications, access to others skills and experience and centralised information sources, will ensure a more sustainable community based provision of sport and recreation activity.

3.2. FACILITIES

3.2.1. MASTER PLANNING AND FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE RECREATION RESERVE	**Priority** **1** = Immediate- Short Est. Cost of master plan and feasibility study $40,000- $45,000

RECOMMENDATION

1. Prepare a Master Plan and Feasibility Study for the Recreation Reserve that investigates:
   - Redesign of the reserve layout to improve provision for field sports and as a multi-use precinct for sport and recreation.
   - Reducing user conflicts
   - Incorporation of current proposals for expansion and improvement to indoor facilities
   - Consideration of youth space and informal recreation
   - Potential to enhance/ improve an equestrian events precinct
   - Improvements to the layout to enhance overall capacity to host events
   - Options for and feasibility of relocating all equestrian events to the racecourse or other location
   - Options for staged development and management of the site.

The Master Plan and feasibility should be prepared in conjunction with the user groups and involve full consideration of impacts on their events and activities.

RATIONALE

A number of proposals for redevelopment and enhancement of the reserve have emerged over the last few years. Key issues driving the need for planning include the conflicts between users over the main arena as well as the under provision of sporting fields in the town. In addition the site is host to several major events and has aging and poorly located infrastructure supporting these events. With safety of users and spectators likely to become a concern in the next few years it is recommended that an integrated plan for the whole site be prepared rather than a series of single issues solutions which will compound the difficulties in multi-use of the site.

Options for improving event capacity include:

- Reconfiguring the existing site and making use of adjacent space/ potential road closure options to improve event hosting capacity and sport and recreation uses.
- Investigating the potential to relocate some or all of the equestrian events to a purpose designed precinct such as at the Racecourse.

Several user groups on the site are progressing with plans to improve their facilities and have planned largely in isolation of other users and uses on the site. An integrated and prioritised plan will enable coordination of resources towards improvement and better sharing between groups.

3.2.2. INDOOR SPORTS COURTS	Priority
RECOMMENDATION	**1** = short **2** = medium Est $ 90,000 (floor) $100,000 (program room) $ 200,000 (2nd court)

1. The PCYC run Indoor Sports Centre at John Flynn Place should be upgraded with the floor resurfacing undertaken as a priority. If possible this should include an upgrade to the toilets and change amenities and provision of additional storage space.
2. Following the completion of the master plan for the Sport and Recreation Reserve further upgrades should be undertaken including an additional program space, a second covered court provided and adjacent, expansion of the space around the main court.
3. Collaboration between the PCYC and Susie's Gym and Indoor Sports Centre is recommended in the planning and delivery of social sport opportunities. The two should seek to complement each other's programs so a greater diversity of activity is provided, "cannibalism" of each other's participants is minimised and that the most appropriate venue is used for activities.

RATIONALE

Design issues and deteriorating floor condition have been acknowledged for some time in the Indoor centre. With the increased use of the facility due to PCYC programs there is a strong need to resolve any potential issues as a priority. Longer term planning should consider the development of a hub for indoor court sports. To make this a viable prospect and to replace the lost capacity of the unusable netball courts, a 2-court facility with additional program space is recommended.

Provision of increased indoor sport and social sport capacity is responding to participation trends and the increasing imperative for night time and sun safe activity.

As Cloncurry is a small community it is important to recognise that no program is likely to earn much more than cost recovery. However good cooperation between the two main venues should ensure a better range of activities provided in a more sustainable way.

3.2.3. YOUTH FACILITIES	Priority
RECOMMENDATION	**1** = Short **2** = Medium

1. Develop a permanent Youth Space in the Sport and Recreation Reserve
2. Provide additional informal facilities for youth in Florence Clark Park when it is upgraded

RATIONALE

The development of permanent youth space was a high priority with the community and the youth themselves. However no work should commence on this until the master plan for the sport and recreation reserve is completed. The master plan may suggest alternative configurations to meet the need for a permanent space. However as soon as practical funding should be obtained for the development of a youth space including:

- Skate Park with street style and ramp facilities suitable for bikes and skating.
- Shade and tables
- Water
- Landscaping and Place making features

Florence Clark Park was also identified by youth as a popular location that could be enhanced for all users in the community. Youth readily acknowledge that the park should be for a family focus and would like to see the toilets replaced and relocated to be less intrusive in the main space. In addition a playground for younger children, picnic facilities and a youth active node (such as the ½ court) with tables adjacent.

3.2.4. BIKEWAYS AND PATHWAYS	Priority
RECOMMENDATION	**1** = Immediate **2** = Short **3** =Medium

1. Adopt a regular maintenance program for bikeways and undertake a rectification program to re-instate badly degraded links.
2. Prepare a bikeways and pathways works plan for the next 5+ years which focuses on establishing key links and circuits for recreational riding and walking.
3. Investigate the potential for a bikeway/ pathway to link to Chinaman Creek dam

RATIONALE

Walking and riding are the most popular physical activities undertaken and this trend is likely to continue. Cloncurry has the start of a good network however it is constrained by poor maintenance on some links and a lack of loops. Community suggestions include the development of additional paths as well as longer trails such as one leading to Chinaman Creek Dam.

More detailed planning work is recommended due to constraints from main roads and the heavy vehicle bypass route and the more detailed investigation needed for opportunities along the river or Coppermine Creek.

Some Preliminary Proposals are discussed in Section **Error! Reference source not found.**.

3.2.5. CHINAMAN CREEK DAM	Priority
RECOMMENDATION	**1** = Short- Medium **2** = Medium

1. Undertake further development of recreation opportunities at the dam following the completion of the river weir and supply upgrade. The following should be considered:
   - The path linkage to town
   - Planting of shade trees and other landscape enhancements
   - Upgrade the main picnic area
   - Upgrade the main water entry point
   - Consider excluding cattle from the main use area and a larger portion of the dam.
2. . Investigate the development of a network of mountain bike/ off-road trails around the dam and possible staging of competitive events.

RATIONALE

.Chinaman Ck Dam received consistent support from residents as a highly values resource. The key issues raised were adding to the water storage and improving the recreation facilities. Following completion of the weir repairs and installation of a water transfer system the dam should be gradually improved. A staged plan is recommended with planning for improvements each year.

The area surrounding the dam has a diverse topography that could support a trail network suitable for mountain bikes and other off-road uses. This should be investigated and a network developed that provides an additional recreation opportunity for residents and in particular youth. “Activating” this trail network or encouraging use may be best done by establishing some competitive events at a local level which could be grown to a regional event. When considering a new regional event it may be worth adding it to an existing event to minimise promotional effort required.

3.2.6. PARKS	Priority
RECOMMENDATION	**1** = Short ($150,000-$200,000) **2** =Short ($200,000) **3** = Medium ($50,000) **4 =** Ongoing Est Cost (shown above)

1. Upgrade Florence Clark Park as a "town" park. The following should be included:
   - Replacement and relocation of the toilets to the side so they don't dominate the park space.
   - New landscaping and additional picnic facilities
   - Playground for younger children
   - Separate "space" for youth with tables and shade
   - Consideration of an Active component such as a half court or outdoor exercise equipment as discussed in Section **Error! Reference source not found.**
2. Develop a Town Park in Dajarra
3. Upgrade the local park on the corner of Alice and George Streets
4. Seek Grant funding to assist with implementation of these recommendations

RATIONALE

Florence Clark Park was identified by many in the community as needing attention. The park is seen as a central place for the community and redevelopment/ upgrading should be planned and implemented as a priority.

As discussed later in the recommendations there is an urgent need to provide a town park in Dajarra that meets minimum provision standards and is maintained.

The small park on Alice and George streets has potential as local destination and with some minor improvement will be more usable. The main constraint to the park is that Alice St and Hudson Fysh Drive are regularly used by heavily vehicles, post and top rail fencing would address this potential safety issue. Additional improvements would be a small playground and additional tables.

3.2.7. CLONCURRY POOL	Priority
RECOMMENDATION	**1** = Short **2** = Short **3** = Medium **4** = Medium-Long Cost Est- Shade (tba), Hoist ($5,000), Amenities ($60,000), heating (TBA)

1. Install retractable shade over the shallow end of the pool
2. Install a hoist or "drop in ramp" to enable people with mobility constraints to use the pool.
3. Refurbish or replace the amenities building.
4. Investigate options for pool heating and construction of a roof and "roll down" walls to keep the wind off the pool

RATIONALE

The recently redeveloped pool is a modern and greatly appreciated by the community. However a design error has left this pool inaccessible for people with mobility constraints and this should be rectified. In addition the construction of a shade cover would increase pool usability in the summer.

The amenities building is old but functional and while not an immediate priority its replacement or a major refurbishment should be planned for the medium term.

In the medium to longer term the value of the pool would be further enhanced by installation of heating. However heating would only be worthwhile if it included additional work to cover the pool (for heat retention) and walls (roll downs) would be needed to reduce wind chill.

3.2.8. CLONCURRY RIVER	Priority
RECOMMENDATION	**1** = Short- medium **2** = Medium- Long Est Cost ($ 100,000+)

1. Develop an additional "destination" park along the river focused on the old bridge and the repaired weir.
2. . Continue planning for the protection and development of a public open space corridor along the river.

RATIONALE

The river area is already used and with the repair of the weir it will be improved as a setting. It has the potential to be a destination for locals and visitors and is already linked to town via the bikeway.

In the longer term the river corridor could be further enhanced as public open space with walking and riding trails and links back into the township.

3.2.9. GOLF COURSE AND MOTORSPORTS	Priority
RECOMMENDATION	**1** = Short **2** = Short

1. Council should support the golf club in its efforts to re-establish the golf course.
2. Council should support the motor sports club in the development of the motorsports precinct.

RATIONALE

Both the golf course and the motor sports precinct will add considerably to the range of recreation opportunities available in Cloncurry. Council support can include technical and professional advice, in kind support with machinery or assistance with grant and funding applications.

3.2.10. DAJARRA	Priority
RECOMMENDATION	**1** = Short **2** = Short **3 =** Short **4 =** Medium

1. Upgrade the town's park to a minimum standard which provides a playground, picnic area, shade and water (See 3.2.6)
2. Implement a maintenance program for all parks and recreation facilities which sees regular service to the town and improves the amenity of the parks and sports field. This may be achieved through partnership with community agencies in the Town
3. Consider the establishment of a partnership with the school in the development and maintenance of multi-use playing field with grass, water and shade facilities.
4. Council should pursue the proposal to develop a small dam near Dajarra as this would provide a recreation resources as well as water to support improved maintenance of the town's parks and sporting field.

RATIONALE

Dajarra due to its relative isolation and poor water supply has suffered from a poor standard of development and maintenance of facilities. The main need identified was for a better sports field, development and maintenance of a recreation park and swimming facilities. Development and operation of a pool is problematic both from water supply and responsible management perspectives. The contemporary requirements of pool management and lack of resources caused the previous pool facility to be closed and decommissioned.

The provision of a dam could help with water issues as well as provide a new recreation destination and informal swimming area that would not require the resource intensive management of a formal pool.

3.3. PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

3.3.1. SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE CLUBS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS	Priority **1** = Immediate **2** = Short **3** = Annual
RECOMMENDATION	

1. Council should formalise planning for and resourcing a Club Support Program that provides the following:
   - Skills development program developed in conjunction with Department of Sport and Recreation and provides regular access to skill development and training workshops. These can be funded with access to grants as well as already developed learning materials provided by DSR. In addition council staff may have skills in managing clubs or maintaining facilities which can be shared through workshops and similar.
   - An annual training program developed in advance by consultation with clubs and groups and decided at the sport summit.
   - A resources sharing and mentoring program developed using the experience and resources clubs already have. This would be established by preparing a skills, experience and resources audit of the all the clubs and groups. The audit would be updated annually at the sports summit and the information made available to all clubs so they could contact other clubs directly for advice and assistance or to offer access to skills and resources.
2. Implement an information and communication strategy for sport and recreation which includes:
   - Up to date data base of clubs and activities available
   - Posting of the data base on Council's web site
   - Providing an information page on the web site for clubs to promote up-coming events
   - Providing a "live" events calendar on the web site which can be accessed by clubs and groups to place data claimers and meeting timers.
   - Encouraging the clubs to talk more to each other and to plan cooperatively for events.
3. Hold an annual Sport and Recreation Summit for clubs and groups which includes:
   - A training / skill component
   - Review of policy and this plan and priorities for the future years
   - Updating of the skills and resources register
   - Establish the following years skill development and training programs
   - Workshop on events planning and improvement
   - Focus on facility priorities and planning

RATIONALE

Consultation revealed that most clubs believed there was benefit in increased levels of sharing between clubs. In addition many mentioned that there were skills and experience some clubs had that could be shared to benefit other clubs. Access to information about each club and keeping it up to date was seen as a key challenge and some form of annual process was deemed appropriate. The implementation of a sport summit was suggested as a good way to bring everyone together and to plan for the following years programs.

Community discussions also highlighted that there was a general lack of information about the formal (club based) and informal opportunities for sport and recreation. This was particularly relevant for new families and residents who did not have the benefit of local knowledge or a network of locals to advise on what was "out there to do". Improved recording of these opportunities and increased access through a data base on the web site was seen as an important step to addressing this concern

3.3.2. SPECIFIC NEEDS PROGRAMS	Priority **1** = Immediate **2** = Immediate-short
RECOMMENDATION	

1. Support the development of programs for older people through subsidising venue hire and advertising, developing partnerships with service providers and increasing accessibility of key venues.
2. Encourage, clubs and groups such as the PCYC to hold more youth focused events which provide free or low cost entertainment and socialising opportunities. This can be done by providing subsidised access to community venues, support with advertising and investigating opportunities to bring additional entertainment to Cloncurry.

RATIONALE

Consultation with community sectors dealing with programs for elderly identified cost of venues and accessibility of venues as a major issue in providing programs and recreation opportunities for the aged. They did not believe it was Council's role to provide the programs but felt that assistance would be best in the provision of venues and support with advertising.

For youth there was a strong desire for more events which were youth focused. However there was very strong support for the continuation of the current events and a high importance attributed to the need for family events. Youth felt that there were enough motivated young people to help make things happen but they needed support and advice. Importantly young people did not want to see a single agency such as PCYC undertaking all youth programming- there was a preference for diversity of program and venue. Suggestions included:

- Investigate opportunities to have a youth focused event as part of each of the major events already held.
- Have regular discos/ social nights but at different venues
- Involve youth ion all planning
- Council could try and get more bands/ acts to Cloncurry by "piggy-backing" on visiting artists to Mt Isa or by working with other western Councils to book a tour through the towns.