



## **PLAN OF MANAGEMENT SINGLETON SPORTS GROUNDS AND RIVERSIDE PARKS**

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

The Local Government Act, 1993 requires that Plans of Management be prepared for all Council operated or owned community land. This plan will address the requirements of the Act and the Crown Lands Act 1989 but more importantly will serve as a means of providing community input into the management of the sports grounds and riverside parks in Singleton.

Singleton Council has eleven reserves with sports grounds with 23 playing fields, 36 netball and 27 tennis courts. See the list of recreation facilities in **Appendix 1**. These facilities provide the majority of active recreation facilities in the local government area.

Singleton Golf Course is currently located on Council and Crown Reserve at Howe Park

A number of sports grounds are located adjacent to the Hunter River or on creek lines, e.g. Rose Point/Cook Park, Civic Park, Allan Bull Reserve. This plan of management will also look at issues relating to the management of these areas with regard to riverbank vegetation and flooding.

For this reason two riverside parks without sports grounds were included in the first revision (1997) of this Plan of Management i.e. Clydesdale Reserve and Apex PA Heuston Lookout/Riverside Park. Apex PA Heuston Lookout has been excluded from this revision as a separate Plan of Management will be prepared for this site.

This Plan of Management does not include Dunolly Park Rugby League Ground; the site is classified as Operational Land and is not required to have a Plan of Management. The site is leased to, and operated by, Singleton United Rugby League Club Inc.

### **1.2 Aim**

The aim is to provide a Plan of Management for Singleton's sports grounds and riverside parks to fulfil the requirements of the Act. The planning process is to promote community comment and the completed plan is to provide guidelines for the planning, development and care of the parks.

### **1.3 Community Land Covered by this Plan**

The land covered by this plan is listed in the Schedule of Land in Section 5.0 of this plan. The majority of land listed in the schedule is Council owned land. However a number of parcels are leased under a permissive occupancy in Cook Park and a number of parcels are Crown Reserve i.e. part of Howe Park, Albion Park and Clydesdale Reserve.

The provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 apply to all reserves listed except the Crown sites. The Crown Lands Act 1989 Plan of Management provisions apply to the Crown land.

### **1.3.1 Classification and Category of Land**

The Council owned land listed in Section 5.0 is classified as “Community Land” under the Local Government Act, 1993. All parcels of Community Land covered by this Plan are categorised under Section 36 of the Local Government Act, 1993 as “Sports Ground”.

### **1.4 Objectives and Strategies**

The corporate objectives and strategies in the Singleton Council Draft Management Plan 2006/07 to 2010/11 relating to the management of Sports Grounds and Riverside Parks are:

- ☒ To ensure Council recreation and sporting facilities are maintained to an agreed standard and service requirement.
- ☒ To implement planning strategies to secure high quality community facilities and services for the local government area, within Council’s financial capacity.
- ☒ To support and encourage local voluntary community organisations associated with Council to achieve their objectives.
- ☒ To create a strong sense of community through an integrated community service network.
- ☒ To make the local government area an attractive and desirable place to live and visit.
- ☒ To assist in maintaining and improving the health and well being of our community’s lifestyle.
- ☒ To enhance the amenity and lifestyle of the community through the provision of quality infrastructure and services.
- ☒ To contribute to regional and sub-regional environmental land use planning initiatives.
- ☒ To support initiatives which contribute to sustainable natural resource management.
- ☒ Facilitate the development and expansion of infrastructure and services essential for a successful tourism sector.
- ☒ To provide a planning system, policies and procedures which reflect the vision and values of the community and also take into account:-
  - ✓ The physical infrastructure which is available to service the community.
  - ✓ The changing economic, social and environmental circumstances.
  - ✓ The need for growth and stability within the local government area.
  - ✓ The principles of ecologically sustainable development.
  - ✓ The preservation of heritage items.
  - ✓ The need to comply with state legislation.
- ☒ To ensure property is efficiently and effectively used in the best interests of the community.
- ☒ To provide public infrastructure, which benefits the broader community in an economically responsible manner.
- ☒ To promote water conservation.
- ☒ To show leadership within the community.

- ☑ To provide a forum that encourages public participation in the decision making process.
- ☑ Implement a well-researched and flexible financial planning strategy.
- ☑ To provide Council with budgetary and financial reporting systems which comply with statutory obligations and meet its needs.
- ☑ To strive for excellence in service provision.
- ☑ To continuously review our systems to ensure that resources are being used efficiently and effectively.
- ☑ To ensure compliance with all relevant Occupational Health and Safety obligations.

The Local Government Act, 1993 has mandatory core objectives for management of community land. The objectives in Section 36F of the Act for community land categorised as 'Sportsground' are:-

- (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and
- (b) to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.

#### **1.4.1 Council's Charter**

The 1993 Local Government Act prescribes a set of principles that are to guide a council in carrying out its functions. A Council may add other principles not inconsistent with those in Section 8 of the Act, which are as follows:

- ☑ To provide directly or on behalf of other levels of government, after due consultation, adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community and to ensure that those services and facilities are managed efficiently and effectively.
- ☑ To exercise community leadership.
- ☑ To exercise its functions in a manner that is consistent with and actively promotes the principles of multiculturalism.
- ☑ To promote and to provide and plan for the needs of children.
- ☑ To properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment of the area for which it is responsible, in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of ecologically sustainable development.
- ☑ To have regard to the long term and cumulative effects of its decisions.
- ☑ To bear in mind that it is the custodian and trustee of public assets and to effectively account for and manage the assets for which it is responsible.
- ☑ To facilitate the involvement of Councillors, members of the public, users of facilities and services and Council staff in the development, improvement and coordination of local government.
- ☑ To raise funds for local purposes by the fair imposition of rates, charges and fees, by income earned from investments and, when appropriate, by borrowings and grants.

- ☒ To keep the local community and the State Government (and through it, the wider community) informed about its activities.
- ☒ To ensure that, in the exercise of its regulatory functions, it acts consistently and without bias, particularly where an activity of the council is affected.
- ☒ To be a responsible employer.

#### **1.4.2 Mission Statement**

The mission statement describes the purpose of Council. Achievement of the Council's mission is dependent upon it being properly formulated, and shared throughout the organisation.

***“To provide quality services to the community in an efficient and friendly manner and encouraging responsible development”.***

## **2.0 MANAGEMENT**

### **2.1 Major Issues**

During the preparation of the 1996 version of this Plan of Management and at a Sports Council Meeting on 15 June 2006 a number of major issues were identified in relation to Singleton's Sportsgrounds. The items identified are discussed below.

#### **2.1.1 Planning for Sports Grounds**

Singleton has a wide range of recreation facilities. A list of all the active recreation facilities can be seen in **Appendix 1**. A survey was conducted of facilities provided in other Council areas in the Hunter Valley to determine what level of provision of recreation facilities exists. The results can be seen in **Appendix 2**. Facility user organisations from the Singleton Local Government Area (LGA) were also surveyed to measure their perception of the existing facilities and determine their future requirements.

From the results of the survey of surrounding Councils and information provided in regard to recreation facility provision standards (**see Appendix 3**), the provision of sports grounds in the Singleton LGA can be considered more than adequate. When the first revision of the management plan was prepared in 1997 there was demand for additional grounds, for example, Singleton Senior Soccer, Touch Football and Senior Rugby League. These issues have been or are being resolved.

There is a problem with the distribution of grounds. Grounds and facilities in town are extensively used. Facilities in the villages at Broke, Bulga and Warkworth are rarely used and have no allocations for use by sports clubs. As part of Council's Asset Management Strategy prepared in March 2006 a number of sites were identified as under utilised and considered for disposal, see Section 3.8.

The distribution and number of fields and facilities also has an impact upon the economies of maintaining the parks system. It is cheaper on a per facility basis to maintain a single park with a number of facilities (e.g. Rose Point/Cook Park)

rather than a number of parks with a single facility (e.g. Victoria Square). Money is saved by not duplicating construction and maintenance of amenities such as carparks and toilets. Sports fields maintenance economies of scale are also improved.

The issue of 'How does an organisation get facilities they require' was raised at the Sports Council meeting for the initial plan in 1997. It was acknowledged that a set methodology of what to do and who to see was required for sports groups to facilitate projects. **Appendix 5** addresses this issue.

Singleton Golf Club's possible move from Howe Park to its site at Gowrie raises possibilities with development of the existing golf course for other open space uses including sports facilities. The Golf Club has requested an additional lease, until the

30 June 2010, when they envisage they will be in a position to move to their new 18 hole course at Gowrie. As landowner, the Department of Lands has consented to continuation of leasing arrangements to 30 June 2010, but no further.

Singleton Sports Council has identified the improvement of existing sports facilities as a need. The Sports Council has commenced on a program of analysing problems and issues with a number of parks, mainly sports grounds. Upon completion of the analysis conceptual master plans are prepared. These plans are then put to Council for adoption. To date Townhead Park, Allan Bull Reserve and Rose Point/Cook Park plans have been completed. Another is underway for Alroy Oval.

The construction of a Skate Park in Allan Bull Reserve is currently being considered. A community Skate Park Advisory Committee has been formed and is working towards developing a suitable proposal for this facility.

### **Possible Management Strategies**

- Promote use of village facilities.
- Identify and develop additional facilities as Singleton expands.
- Re-develop or further develop existing facilities.
- Include the existing golf course site in this Plan of Management and prepare a new plan for Howe Park should the site be created and redeveloped.
- Develop an information sheet for sports clubs to promote their development of facilities.
- Plan for multiple ground sites in the future, to help improve maintenance and management economies.

#### **2.1.2 Maintenance**

Issues raised regarding maintenance of sports grounds and riverside parks can be divided into three areas: -

1. Sports Ground/Courts
2. Sports amenities such as buildings, carparks
3. Riversides/creek line issues

## ***Sports Grounds Maintenance***

Issues identified with grounds maintenance are mowing, turf renovation (top soiling, fertilising, aeration, soil conditioning and weed control) and irrigation. Mowing and renovation work is generally considered adequate however the poor quality of turf finish at a number of grounds is seen as a major issue. Most fields have good soils, adequate drainage and a good supply of water available (well water or town water). However the means to irrigate the water onto the grounds does not exist (except Alroy and Civic Parks). Council and the user groups are unable to manually water grounds adequately due to a lack of staff and volunteers. The installation of automatic irrigation, or large travelling irrigator for Rose Point/Cook Park, would resolve this problem and substantially help improve turf quality and play safety.

Maintenance of tennis courts is the responsibility of the user organisation. However, at the Village Parks at Broke, Bulga, Jerrys Plains and Stanhope Council has had to refurbish courts as management committees or user groups did not have the financial resources to conduct the work, with the exception of Bulga Recreation Ground. The Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association was able to obtain grants from NSW Department of Sport & Recreation and a local mine to refurbish their courts.

The Conditions of Use (**see Appendix 4**) prepared by Council and the Sports Council sets out the responsibility of users. All other maintenance work is the responsibility of Singleton Council.

Sports grounds and surrounding areas require various levels of maintenance. Maintenance standards for each site are shown in the table in Section 7.0. Definitions of the various levels are shown below.

### ***Park Maintenance Standards***

Sportsground park maintenance varies with the level of use and the location of the park. Various levels of maintenance are set some with a high level of input from the local community. Maintenance standards for each site are shown in the table in Section 8.0. Definitions of the various levels are shown below: -

#### **V      Very High**

Regular mowing, say every week in a good growing season. Grass edges treated by mechanical edging. Grass fertilized when required.

Automatic irrigation provided. Toilets, bins and paved areas to be cleaned out periodically (toilets generally daily). Landscape treatment – turf, trees and shrubs, paved footpaths, picnic shelters, BBQ, perennial and annual gardens.

*Example - Burdekin Park*



## **H High**

Regular mowing, say every two weeks in a good growing season.

Grass edges treated by spraying and occasionally by mechanical trimming when required. Grass areas fertilized annually.

Some type of irrigation will be provided. Toilets, bins and BBQ's will be cleaned periodically (toilets generally every day or two). Landscape treatment – turf, trees and shrubs, paved footpaths, picnic shelters, BBQ, some perennial gardens.

*Example - Townhead Park*

## **S Standard**

Regular mowing, say every three weeks in a good growing season.

Grass edges treated by spraying when required.

Generally these areas are not irrigated.

Landscape treatment – limited to earthworks, grasses, trees, picnic shelters, wood BBQ's, playgrounds and shrubs (no gardens). Toilets and bins will be cleaned periodically (generally weekly).

*Examples - McNamara Reserve, Jim Johnstone Reserve (Warkworth Oval).*

## **L Low**

Maintenance generally by users with occasional mowing or clean up by Council. Grass edges not treated. Site not irrigated. Landscape treatment generally trees or pasture.

*Examples - Ingar Park, Jerry's Plains Pony Club Ground.*

## **U Utility**

No or minimal mowing due to site not being used as a park, or located in an isolated area with little use, or too steep to mow.

Grass cover would typically be grazed.

Grass edges are not treated.

Site not irrigated.

Landscape treatment – generally bushland, pasture or site with steep gradients e.g. some areas Singleton Heights gully parks. Where possible areas too steep to mow will be revegetated with shrub/tree cover where bushfires are not likely to be of concern to neighbouring residences.

*Example: - Belford Resting Place, Howes Valley Reserve.*

## **P     Playing Field**

Mow weekly in a good growing season when being used. Fertilize annually, aerated annually.

Treated for broadleaf weeds annually.

At a minimum will have some irrigation outlets. May have automatic irrigation.

Maybe top dressed to correct surface irregularities if required.

Cricket wickets maintained by users.

*Example - Howe Park Oval.*

## **C     Cycleway**

Off road cycleways will be checked annually and repairs made within budgetary limits.

Grass edges will be sprayed. When required edges will be trimmed mechanically if grass/soil build up is excessive.

Cycleways cleaning/sweeping will only be carried out if a hazard exists, for example broken glass on cycleway.

*Example - Bridgman Road cycleway.*

## ***Sports Grounds Amenities Maintenance***

The Conditions of Use also apply to the sports grounds amenities buildings. Council looks after major maintenance and exterior work, the users look after interior work such as cleaning and interior painting. The user survey and Sports Council both indicated that the number of amenity buildings, suitability and quality due to age, cleaning and vandalism were issues. Amenities/toilets used regularly by the public are opened and cleaned daily by Council. Other amenities are locked to the public and opened by the user group for their own use.

The condition of some amenities buildings makes adequate maintenance difficult and expensive. The James Cook Park amenities building (circular concrete building) has toilets in poor condition, the plumbing and hot water service are old and fail regularly and the building is inadequate in size for its use. The building requires replacement.

Parking and access were also identified as issues. At a number of venues parking facilities are inadequate, for example Howe Park. Additionally, vehicles often park on fields or on the park surrounds, sometimes because of a lack of formal parking space or to achieve a vantage point to view sport from within cars. The impact is compacted soils, damaged turf and degraded park conditions. Vehicles driving on reserves also present potential safety problems. Disability access to amenities meets the Australian Standard, AS1428, at Rose Point AFL Clubhouse building only. All other sports grounds amenities fail to meet the standard.

### ***Riverside and Creek Line Maintenance***

Singleton Landcare and Singleton Tidy Towns Committee have had involvement in creek line and riverside rehabilitation work at Singleton's parks and other sites. Conservation volunteers and Green Corps Groups have been carrying out weed control and tree planting at some sites from time to time.

The Hunter Catchment Management Trust has prepared a booklet on the management of 'Hunter Streambank Vegetation'. The on ground management aspects (Strategy 6) of the report are relevant to Council's reserves, see **Appendix 6**.

### ***2.1.3 Use of Sports Grounds***

The following issues have been identified:-

#### ***Conflicts of Use***

##### **a. Between Sporting Bodies**

Overlapping of sports between different seasons has been the cause of conflicts between codes. The Singleton Sports Council is the vehicle for resolving this issue and Singleton Council intends for this to continue. The Sports Council has proved an effective forum to resolve these conflicts.

##### **b. Between Sporting Bodies and Members of the Public**

There have been instances where the general public has clashed with sporting groups who have been allocated the use of sports grounds. For example, golfers practicing at Civic Park.

#### ***Over Use of Some Parks***

Especially those with floodlights, Alroy Oval and Cook Park No. 4 Ground. High levels of use and little irrigation in the growing season have meant excessive wear and poor quality turf. Improved turf vigour through irrigation would resolve this issue. This has been the case with the irrigation installed at Alroy Oval in 1998.

#### ***Charging of Fees***

Charging fees by Council and by user groups is an issue. The charging of fees by Council for grounds use by clubs has been an ongoing debate. Sports such as swimming and basketball pay fees, and playing field based sports do not pay fees.

Singleton Council does not charge fees for use of grounds and promotes user self help programs. The situation is reviewed annually by Council.

Some sports organisations charge entry fees to the public to view games. The Conditions of Use (**Appendix 4**) only allows fees to be charged with Council approval. These conditions were drafted by the Sports Council and Council officers as a self regulation document when the original Sportsgrounds Plan of Management was prepared in 1995.

#### **2.1.4 Diversity of Use**

It is important that our sportsgrounds are as well used as possible. To this end it is important that this Plan of Management allow and facilitate as many uses as possible that are sustainable and meet the objectives and strategies of the Plan of Management. Allowable uses are sports, athletics, games, training, sports carnivals and events (with Council approval), recreation, cycling, walking/jogging, picnics and the like.

#### **2.1.5 Leases and Licences**

A number of leases and licences exist on the community land covered by this plan. The Local Government Act 1993 requires that such leases must be expressly authorised by a Plan of Management and that such lease provisions be in accordance with the provisions of the Plan.

Current arrangements are:-

- Lease, with additional 4 year lease planned, from Council to Singleton Golf Club for part of Howe Park, expires end of June 2006.
- Lease from Council to Singleton Heights Pre-School at Alroy Park. A new Lease was being prepared at the time of writing this Plan of Management revision.
- Annual allocation (licence) of various playing fields and courts.

#### **2.1.6 Advertising at Sports Grounds**

On the 28 October 1986 Singleton Council resolved:-

*"...the following policy in relation to advertising at sporting grounds:*

- a) with the exception of scoreboards, no permanent advertising structures to be erected.*
- b) Scoreboards only to be erected on the approval of the Singleton Council*
- c) Temporary advertising to be approved in principle, subject to all advertising being removed following the end of the sporting event."*

(Minute No 796/86)

This Policy does not include information signs. For example park name signs.

### ***2.1.7 Riverbank Vegetation***

There are a number of management programs that have been formulated to conserve, maintain, rehabilitate and restore the river and creek systems of Singleton. The main objectives of the programs are to maintain excellent water quality, healthy aquatic life and stable stream banks with revegetated riparian corridors.

Council's Community Support Officer – Land has identified the following programs, developed by the Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority (H-CR CMA), that are pertinent to this plan of management.

- Integrated Catchment Management Program
- Hunteview Gully Revegetation Program
- Rivercare Rehabilitation Program.

These programs do not specifically relate to the land covered by this plan of management, however for sites such as Civic Park adjoining the Hunter River, some of the strategies and actions are relevant.

The goals, objectives and relevant strategies and actions identified by Council's Community Support Officer – Land for each of these programs are detailed in the sections below.

#### ***Integrated Catchment Management Program***

**Goal:** A sustainable and productive Hunter River Catchment

**Objectives:**

- Foster coordination between landholders, community groups, industry organisations and other organisations in their land, water and vegetation management activities and the adoption of catchment-care practises;
- Promote the value of coordinated, catchment-wide approach for managing natural resources;
- Promote the management of the Hunter River catchment based on the principles of ecologically and economically sustainable development.
- Encourage landholders to practice best management strategies as outlined in the Hunter River "Rivercare Plan".

**Strategy:** Highlight importance of integrated and long-term planning to the health of the catchment.

**Action:** Provide for direct community participation in preparing the Strategic Plan.

**Strategy:** Improve recognition of the importance of riparian zones.

**Actions:**

- Work in partnership with H-CR CMA to encourage voluntary riverbank rehabilitation.

- Incorporate known information in riparian zones into development of the Council's Strategic Plan, Development Control Plans and Plans of Management.

### ***HunterView Gully Revegetation Program***

**Goal:** That the work undertaken at Col Fisher Park be extended into the drainage lines and lands adjacent to proposed residential areas of Hunterview. (Col Fisher Park is not covered by this Plan of Management).

#### **Objectives:**

- That Singleton's Hunterview Estate be widely recognised for its natural beauty and amenity, achieved through protection and enhancement of its native flora, notably the River Redgum, and landscape.
- To promote the concept of Urban Landcare through a carefully focussed program to rehabilitate a degraded creek system in the residential area of Hunterview.
- To utilise the experiences of this pilot project to devise strategies for the rehabilitation for other urban gullies and waterways in the local government area.

**Strategy:** Utilise a participatory planning process, involving community groups and neighbouring landholders, to develop and implement operational plans for the project.

#### **Actions:**

- Progressively clear noxious and environmental weeds from the river bank.
- Establish native vegetation species along the gully in a manner which improves the aesthetic, environmental and recreational attributes of the gully.
- Utilise the Green Corps and CVA if available, to conduct the above activities in public sections of the gully.

### ***Rivercare Rehabilitation Program***

**Goal:** To restore degraded river and stream banks in the Hunter River Catchment, particularly bank erosion and improve long term farm viability.

#### **Objectives:**

To encourage landholders to improve management of riverbanks by adopting the recommendations and strategies outlined in the Hunter River Management Plan including improving stability of existing sensitive riverbanks and revegetation or enrichment plantings.

**Strategy:** Establish partnerships with the Department of Natural Resources, H-CR CMA and Landcare.

**Action:** Promote funding opportunities from such bodies as H-CR CMA, the Natural Heritage Trust Fund (Envirofund) and the National Landcare Program.

It must be recognised that the extent of the management and preservation of riverbank vegetation and riparian corridors is restricted by the availability of resources, volunteers and donated services.

As a result Council's focus is to develop projects for weed removal and planting new native vegetation where practicable. A program is developed which largely relies on the work being carried out by volunteer groups such as Conservation Volunteers through the River Paramedics Program (sponsored by Coal & Allied). For example balloon vine in tree canopies along the riverbank is a typical weed problem and if identified a project for removal would be developed with volunteer services and included in the program. It is also aimed to incorporate planting new natives into the program on an annual basis.

## **2.2 Values and Functions**

The major function of sports ground parks is to provide sporting venues for the people of the Singleton LGA. The parks also have a function for non-structured active recreation and passive recreation.

The aesthetic value of the parks is significant due to the green open space they provide and the associated trees. Riverbank and creek line vegetation provides aesthetic values as well as having riverbank stabilisation and erosion control functions.

A number of the parks provide cycleway routes and therefore have cycle/pedestrian transport values.

The riverside sports grounds and Allan Bull Reserve also function as floodway's. Allan Bull Reserve also has a flood retardation basin function created by the cycleway.

## **2.3 Disposal of Under Utilised Land**

A Council Staff Project Team analysed Council's land register to determine which of Council's under utilised land assets may be considered for sale. The proceeds of the sales would be allocated to funding asset maintenance and management of Council's Parks and Facilities.

A report to the Council meeting of 27 March 2006 listed the land assets recommended to be considered by Council for disposal. Council subsequently resolved (Minute 102/06) to consider the eventual disposal of a number of under utilised land assets and to commence the processes required to reclassify and rezone the land before the sales can proceed.

Those properties that are to be considered for disposal which are relevant to this Plan of Management are shown below. A location plan for each site is also provided.



Property Description	Golf Course, Queen/Boonal Streets, Singleton
Land Register N°(s)	109
Title Reference(s)	Lot 2 – DP337895
Land Area	3.8 hectares
Land Classification	Community
Land Zoning	6(a) Public Open Space/Recreation
Proposed Zoning	2(a) Residential



Property Description	Part of Allan Bull Reserve, Acacia Circuit, Singleton
Land Register N°(s)	169
Title Reference(s)	Lot 26 – DP717790
Land Area	1,140 m <sup>2</sup>
Land Classification	Community
Land Zoning	2(a) Residential
Proposed Zoning	2(a) Residential





Property Description	Part of Alroy Reserve, Blaxland Avenue, Singleton Heights
Land Register N°(s)	Reserve No. 9, 267
Title Reference(s)	Part Lot 2 – DP828371
Land Area	832.5 m <sup>2</sup>
Land Classification	Community
Land Zoning	6(b) Public Open Space/Recreation
Proposed Zoning	3 Business

### 3.0 MANAGEMENT POLICY

The major issues identified in Section 2.1 combined with the corporate goals and objectives set out in Section 1.2 and 1.4 have been used to determine the management policy set out below:-

#### 3.1 Planning of Sports Grounds

- Planning for future sports grounds will be undertaken with community input and in accordance with park master concept plans. Master Plans that have been completed to date include Allan Bull Reserve and Rose Point/Cook Park. Community groups will be encouraged to be involved in the planning, development and care of parks (e.g. Sports Council, Tidy Town Committee, Landcare, Service Clubs).
- When additional sports grounds are planned, they should be sited, where possible, adjacent to Council's existing sporting or recreational facilities to improve economies of operation.
- The development shown in the Master Plans for Rosepoint Park and Cook Park and also Allan Bull Reserve, adopted by Council, be allowed.
- The following table lists the type of structures that may be erected in sports grounds and riverside parks with or without development consent:-

<b>Without Development Consent</b>	Buildings less than 10m <sup>2</sup> in area (e.g. Picnic shelters BBQ's Walkways/Paths Cycleways/Bike Tracks Sculptures Landscaping and gardens Tree Planting Park furniture (e.g. seats, bins, tables) Fencing Irrigation, taps, bubblers, Wells and spear points Information signs (excluding advertising) Utilities e.g. water and sewer Lighting (other than floodlights) Vehicle Access Dog walking areas Cricket wickets Sports nets e.g. baseball and cricket nets Playgrounds Stormwater control structures Stormwater harvesting structures Removal of encroachments eg. fill, embankments, retaining walls
<b>Only with Development Consent</b>	Buildings greater than 10 m <sup>2</sup> in area including meeting rooms, toilets, amenities, canteens, ban shells/bowls, Showers, childcare/playgroups, pre- schools, scout halls, shelters, store rooms, bush fire sheds, pergolas/shelters, horse facilities. Carparks Sport Fields Sports Courts e.g. tennis courts Floodlights Skate parks BMX Tracks Memorials  Other items consistent with the use of the park.

### 3.2 Maintenance of Sports Grounds

- Automatic irrigation will be installed at all fields with high use on a progressive basis as Council/user funds allow. Irrigation systems are to have features to eliminate excess runoff from fields (e.g. rain cut off switches and soil moisture meters).
- User responsibilities will be as set out in the Conditions of Use (**Appendix 4**)

- Additional parking will be constructed at Alroy Oval and Allan Bull Reserve on a progressive basis as Council/user funds allow.
- Parking and vehicle access will be maintained and controlled at all parks and sporting grounds.
- Playgrounds will be maintained in line with the Playground Management Strategy adopted by Council on 6 May, 2002.

### 3.3 Use of Sports Grounds

- Events that may be held in sports ground include:-

<b>Without Development Consent</b>	Sports Games Athletics Training Sports Carnivals Fairs Circus Parties, picnics, dinners and family gatherings. Anzac Day and Remembrance Day celebrations Concerts (where the event is likely to generate less than 500 people) ** Markets (where the event is likely to generate less than 500 people) **
<b>Only with Development Consent</b>	Concerts (where the event is likely to generate 500 or more people) Markets (where the event is likely to generate 500 or more people)

Note: - \*\* denotes:-

- ☒ If the event is likely to generate over 50 vehicles the event organiser needs to be referred to the Local Traffic Committee (SEPP 11).
- ☒ If the event is likely to generate over 200 vehicles the event organiser needs to be referred to the Regional Traffic Committee (SEPP 11).
- Use of village sports grounds will be encouraged.
- Alternative venues will be investigated for users of over used venues.
- Council will annually review its cost recovery policy for sports grounds with Singleton Sport Council.
- User groups who have use of a ground are to have exclusive use only for the period of the allocation and as per the Conditions of Use (**Appendix 4**).

### **3.4 Leases and Licences**

This Plan of Management authorises the leasing or licensing of any other estate over the land covered by this plan for the purpose of fairs, circus, trade shows, displays, filming, carnivals, training, sport, markets and the like. In particular the:-

- Singleton Heights Pre School site at Alroy Park.
- Singleton Golf Course site at Howe Park may be leased.
- Sport and community facilities on an annual basis (annual allocations).
- Water pipeline at Civic Park.

### **3.5 River Bank Vegetation**

- Rehabilitate and revegetate riverbanks and creek lines where funds allow.
- Encourage community involvement in riverbank rehabilitation projects.
- Adopt Strategy No. 6 as outlined in the Hunter Catchment Management Trust's Draft Report on Hunter Streambank Vegetation. Strategy No. 6 is to determine and co-ordinate 'on ground' management aspects.

### **3.6 Additional Park Land**

- When additional sport grounds or riverside parks are created the land will be included in this Plan of Management by resolution of Council.
- The term of this plan will be continuous until replaced by a new Plan of Management prepared under the Local Government Act 1993 and Section 115 of Crown Lands Act 1989.

### **3.7 Other Uses of Park Land**

- The construction of water and sewerage pump stations and pipelines.
- The construction of Rural Fire Service Brigade Sheds and Facilities.

### **3.8 Disposal of Under Utilised Land**

At the Council meeting of 27 March 2006 it was resolved (Minute 102/06) that the following under utilised assets, subject to the necessary community consultation, be considered for disposal. Prior to sale the land is required to be reclassified, this Plan of Management permits the proposed reclassification of the land listed below from Community Land to Operational Land.

- Part of Allan Bull Reserve, Acacia Circuit, Singleton, Lot 26 DP 717790.
- Golf Course, Queen/Boonal Streets, Singleton, Lot 2 DP 337895.

- Part of Alroy Reserve, Blaxland Avenue, Singleton Heights, Reserve No. 9,

Part of Lot 2 DP 828371 (see highlighted area on map below).



### 3.9 Threatened Species Laws

Singleton Council recognises that it has responsibilities under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSC Act) and the Fisheries Management Act 1994 (FM Act) to manage land in accordance with these Acts.

At the time of preparation the land covered under this plan had not been declared as 'critical habitat' under the TSC Act or the FM Act.

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) are currently preparing a number of recovery plans and threat abatement plans which are in various stages of production. If the land covered by this plan of management is directly affected by a recovery plan or threat abatement plan adopted under the TSC Act, where applicable, the land will be managed in accordance with the recommendations of that plan. Copies of any finalised recovery or threat abatement plans are available from the NPWS web site (<http://www.npws.nsw.gov.au>) or by writing to the Central Directorate Threatened Species Unit, P O Box 1967 Hurstville, NSW 2220. See Threatened Species Information and Environmental Guidelines 2000 for more detailed information and the status of these plans.

In reference to the Fisheries Management Act 1994, at the time of preparation the land covered by this Plan was not directly affected by a recovery plan or threat abatement plan under this Act.

## 4.0 PRIORITIES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

This Section summarises the management policy and actions detailed in Section 3.0 and assign responsibility to individuals or groups to carry out the action. Completion time frames and performance indicators are also given.

Performance Target	Action	Responsible Officer	Completion	Performance Measure
Sports Ground planning	Determine needs, design facilities with community input	Manager Parks & Facilities (MP&F), Manager Engineering Support (MES), Sports Council, Tidy Towns Ctee	Ongoing	Adequate number of quality facilities
Sports Ground design	Create larger parks in preference to new small parks to improve economy of operation	MP&F, Sports Council	As required	Quality facilities reduce operating costs
Sports Ground Maintenance	Install auto irrigation	MP&F, User Groups	As funds allow	Improve turf quality, safer play fields
Conditions of Use	Implement conditions	MP&F, Sports Council, User Groups	Ongoing	User know their responsibilities and Councils responsibilities
Play Equipment	Construction in line with adopted strategy	MP&F	As funds allow	Good quality safe play equipment
	Maintenance in line with AS1924 or the revised standard	MP&F	Ongoing	Reduced Costs
Cycle and Pedestrian Transport	Design and Construct	MP&F, MES	As funds allow	Progressively expand the cycleway network as per Bike Plan
	Maintenance	MP&F	Ongoing	
Construction of various facilities	Allow construction as per list in 3.1	MP&F, Manager Planning & Development Services (MP&DS)	Ongoing	Construction of facilities
Carparking	Identify required carparking where required as funds	Sports Council, MP&F	June 2008	Parking place spots identified

Performance Target	Action	Responsible Officer	Completion	Performance Measure
	allow			
Access	Identify and restrict access to parks where vehicles are a problem	Sports Council, MP&F	As funds allow	Improved parking, safer parks
Use of grounds	Use of village grounds encouraged	Sports Council, MP&F	Ongoing	Adequate use of ground
	Review no fees policy	Sports Council, MP&F	Annually	Cost to Council contained
Leases and Licenses	Allow leases and licenses for Golf Course, Heights Pre-School and other facilities	MP&F, Admin Officer	Ongoing	Lease requirements of Act(s) fulfilled.
Threatened Species	If site declared critical habitat consider options and modify management if required and viable	MP&F	If required	Threatened Species Laws legislation complied with.
Howe Park Plan of Management	When Golf Club confirm they are relocating finalise new plans for Howe Park	MP&F, Sports Council	When Golf Club confirm relocating date	Plan completed
Disposal of under utilised land	Disposal of 3 sites: Lot 26 DP717790 Lot 2 DP337895 * Subject to Golf Club relocating, Part Lot 2 DP828371	MP&F	June 2008	Land sold for a fair return

## 5.0 SCHEDULE OF LAND

The following table describes the land covered by this Plan of Management

Reserve No.	Reserve Name	Land Details	Owner	*Lease
1	Merricks Fire Brigade Park	6 DP 255886 Pt 217 DP 752455	Council Council	
9	Alroy Oval	1002 DP 803778 2 DP 828371 105 DP 249801	Council Council Council	1
10	Allan Bull Reserve	206 & 208 DP 264243 218 DP 827411 26 & 27 DP 717790 54 DP 264242 244 DP 864381	Council Council Council Council Council	
11	Civic Park	100 DP 737187	Council	
12	Rose Point/  Cook Park	1-3 DP 232841  3 DP 883810 203 DP 815755 109, 110 DP 1005149	Water Administration Ministerial Corp* Council Council Council	2
15	Victoria Square	312-317 DP 758906 340-345 DP 758906	Council Council	
22	Albion Park	U DP 918149	Crown	3
25	Clydesdale Reserve	147-148 DP 752455 221 DP 752455	Crown Crown	
31	Howe Park	2 DP 337895 7003 DP93614	Council Crown	4 4 & 5
103	Broke Recreation Ground	5 Sec 49 DP 758164	Council	
110	Bulga Recreation Ground	1 DP 949442	Council	
120	Jim Johnstone Park	1-2 Sec 6 DP 759053 Pt 3 Sec 6 DP 759053	Council Council	



### \*Notes – Existing Leases/Licences

- 1 Leased to Singleton Heights Pre-School
- 2 Land resumed (GG 28/7/61 No. 77 Pg 2254) and currently owned by Water Administration Ministerial Corporation, administered by Department Natural Resources. Singleton Council granted Permissive Occupancy 15/6/71 (PO 65/9586)
- 3 Informal license (allocation) to Albion Park Tennis Club
- 4 Two leases to Singleton Golf Club
- 5 Informal license (allocation) to Howe Park Tennis Club

## 6.0 CONDITION OF ASSETS

Currently under review.

## 7.0 SCHEDULE OF MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Level of Care	
<b>V</b>	Very High
<b>H</b>	High
<b>S</b>	Standard
<b>L</b>	Low
<b>U</b>	Utility
<b>P</b>	Playing Field
<b>C</b>	Cycleway

Reserve No.	Reserve Name	Locality	Site	Level of Care
1	Merricks Fire Brigade Park	Darlington Road Singleton Heights	Riverbank Remainder	U S
9	Alroy Oval	Bushland Avenue Singleton Heights	Playing Fields Gully Remainder	P U S
10	Allan Bull Reserve	Bridgman Road & Acacia Circuit Singleton Heights	Playing Fields Gully Cycleways Remainder	P U C S
11	Civic Park	Dr Maffey Drive Singleton	Playing Fields Riverbank Remainder	P U S
12	Rose Point/ Cook Park	Ryan Avenue Singleton	Playing Fields Cycleways Riverbank	P C U
15	Victoria Square	High Street Singleton	Playing Field Remainder	P S
22	Albion Park	Church Street Singleton	Playing Field Remainder	P S
25	Clydesdale Reserve	Glendon Road Clydesdale	Riverbank Remainder	U S
103	Broke Recreation Ground	Broke	Playing Field Remainder	S S
110	Bulga Recreation Ground	Inlet Road Broke	Playing Field Remainder	S S
120	Jim Johnstone Park	Jerry's Plains Road Warkworth	Playing Field Remainder	S S

## **8.0 APPENDICES**

1. Singleton Council, Active Recreation Facilities
2. Existing Local Government Sport Facilities in the Hunter Valley
3. Recreation Facilities Provision Standards
4. Conditions of Use
5. How to Improve your Sports Facility
6. Report on Hunter Streambank Vegetation – Draft (pages 20-22 only) Hunter Catchment Management Trust

## Appendix 1 Singleton Council Active Recreation Facilities

RES NO.	RESERVE NAME	PLAYING FIELD		TENNIS		SQUASH		NETBALL		BMX/BIKE		PLAY EQUIP		OTHER	
		Summer		Winter											
2	WONARUA PARK											1			
3	GOWRIE PARK									1	BMX				
4	JAMES WHITE PARK											1			
6	ORANA PARK														
7	BLIGH PARK														
9	ALROY PARK	1	CT	2	S			5				1		2	BK
9		1	CC	2	JS										
9		1	AT												
10	ALLAN BULL RESERVE			2	RU							1			
11	CIVIC PARK	1	CS	3	TF							1		BQ	
11		6	TF												
12	JAMES COOK / ROSE PT	4	CT	1	AR			12	NB			2		BQ	PC
12		1	CS	1	BB			23	NT						
12		2	SB	3	RL										
14	BURDEKIN PARK											1		PC	
15	VICTORIA SQUARE PARK	1	CC												
17	CRANSTON PARK														
18	HARRY GEORGE RESERVE											1		BQ	
19	ROBINS PARK											1			
20	TOWNHEAD PARK									1	BTT	1		BQ	PC
21	APEX PARK											1			
22	ALBION PARK	1	CC			6	TC					1		PC	
26	APEX LOOKOUT											1		PC	BQ
31	HOWE PARK	1	CT	1	S	6	TS								
31						8	TT								
32	SINGLETON GYM & SWIM													PL	
36	ROBINSON RESERVE											1			
100	McNAMARA RESERVE, BROKE													PC	CP
101	McTAGGART RESERVE, BROKE											1		PC	
102	BROKE REC GROUND	1	CS			2	TS		1	NB		1			

RES NO.	RESERVE NAME	PLAYING FIELD		TENNIS		SQUASH		NETBALL		BMX/BIKE		PLAY EQUIP		OTHER	
		Summer		Winter											
110	BULGA REC GROUND	1	CC			2	TS					1		PC	
120	JIM JOHNSTONE RES, WARKW'TH	1	CS									1		PC	BQ
121	WARKWORTH PICNIC GROUND														
130	JERRYS PLAIN RECREATION GROUND					2	TS					1		BK	PC
131	JERRYS PLAIN PONY CLUB													PO	
142	RAVENSWORTH														
150	LAKE ST CLAIR PARK													CP	BQ
150														BR	
160	STANHOPE TENNIS CRT					1	TS								
	<b>TOTALS</b>	23		15		27		5		36	2	20			

#### LEGEND

##### CODE DESCRIPTION

AR AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL  
AT ATHLETICS  
BB BASEBALL  
BK BASKETBALL COURT  
BQ BBQ FACILITIES  
BR BOAT RAMP

#### LEGEND

##### CODE DESCRIPTION

BTT BICYCLE TRAINING TRACK  
BMX BMX TRACK  
CC CRICKET - CONCRETE WICKET  
CP CAMPING  
CS CRICKET - SYNTHETIC TURF  
WICKET  
CT CRICKET - TURF WICKET  
MA MARCHING

##### CODE DESCRIPTION

NB NETBALL - BITUMEN  
NT NETBALL - TURF  
PC PICNIC FACILITIES  
PL 25M, 50M AND LEISURE POOL COMPLEX  
PO PONY CLUB  
RL RUGBY LEAGUE

##### CODE DESCRIPTION

RU RUGBY UNION  
S SOCCER  
JS JUNIOR SOCCER  
SB SOFTBALL  
TC TENNIS - CLAY  
TF TOUCH FOOTBALL  
TS TENNIS - SYNTHETIC TURF OR ACRYLLIC  
TT TENNIS - TURF

## Appendix 2 Existing Local Government Sports Facilities in the Hunter Valley

\* LGA Population Singleton & Port Stephens 1999 census estimate

	SINGLETON		CESSNOCK		LAKE MACQUARIE		MAITLAND		MERRIWA		PORT STEPHENS		MUSWELLBROOK	
LGA Population*	20687		45000		175846		51000		3500		55971		15000	
FACILITY TYPE	NO.	POP/FAC	NO.	POP/FAC	NO.	POP/FAC	NO.	POP/FAC	NO.	POP/FAC	NO.	POP/FAC	NO.	POP/FAC
Aussie Rules	1	20687	0	0	7	25121	1	51000	0	0	2	27985	0	0
Athletics	1	20687	3	15000	7	25121	7	7286	1	3500	4	13992	3	5000
Baseball	2	10343	0	0	8	21981	2	25500	0	0	4	13992	0	0
Basketball	2	10343	4	11250	0	0	0	0	1	3500	5	11194	2	7500
Boat Ramp	1	20687	0	0	32	5495	1	51000	0	0	15	3731	0	0
Cricket - Turf	6	3447	23	1956	17	3032			1	3500	12	4664	4	3750
Cricket - Other	8	2585	12	3750	41	4289	27not specified	1889	0	0	14	3997	3	5000
Cycling/BMX	1	20687	0	0	1	175846	1	51000	0	0	2	27985	1	15000
Hockey	0	0	5	9000	0	0	4	12750	0	0	2	27985	2	7500
Netball - Grass	23	899	4	11250	27	6513	49 not specified	1041	1	3500	0	0	1	15000
Netball - Hard	7	2955	21	2143	84	2093			0	0	30	1865	1	15000
Rugby League	2	10343	13	3461	29	6064	13	3923	2	1800	14	3997	5	3000
Rugby Union	1	20687	1	45000	7	25121	4	12750	2	1800	2	27985	2	7500
Soccer	5	4137	21	2143	68	2586	24	2125	0	0	15	3731	2	7500
Softball	1	20687	4	11250	3	58615	0	0	1	3500	4	13992	0	0
Squash	5	4137	0	45000	0	0	0	0	1	3500	0	0	4	3750
Swim Centres	1	20687	3	15000	5	35169	2	25500	1	3500	3	18657	2	7500
Tennis - Turf	8	2585	0	0	62	2836			0	0	0	0	0	0
Tennis - Other	19	1089	40	1125	30	5861	7not specified	7286	2	1800	31	1805	3	5000
Touch Football	6	3447	25	1800	0	0	18	2833	2	1800	23	2433	2	7500
Golf Course	1 (9 hole)	20687	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (18 hole)	15000
Other:			0	0					0	0			0	0
Equestrian	1	20687			4	43962					4	13992		
Skate park					9	19538	5	10200			3	18657		
Sailing Club											3	18657		
Motor Boat											1	55971		
Tidal Baths											2	27985		
Croquet Lawns							3	17000						

\* LGA Population Singleton & Port Stephens 1999 census estimate

	SINGLETON		CESSNOCK		LAKE MACQUARIE		MAITLAND		MERRIWA		PORT STEPHENS		MUSWELLBROOK	
LGA Population*	20687		45000		175846		51000		3500		55971		15000	
FACILITY TYPE	NO.	POP/FAC	NO.	POP/FAC	NO.	POP/FAC	NO.	POP/FAC	NO.	POP/FAC	NO.	POP/FAC	NO.	POP/FAC
Parks/Playgrounds	22	940			151	1165	93	548						
Multi-Courts					11	15986								
Public Wharf/Jetty					30	5862								
Dog Exercise Areas	1	20687			30	5862								
Patrolled Beaches					4	43962								
Roo Ball Fields					7	25121								
Cricket Practice Nets					14	12560								

## Appendix 3 Recreation Facilities Provision Standards

### Recreation Facilities Provision Standards

Facility Type	Dept Planning 1989	Singleton	Lake Macquarie	Maitland	Merriwa	Port Stephens	Muswellbrook	Cessnock
Aussie Rules		20687						
Athletics		20687						
Baseball		10343						
Basketball		10343						
Boat Ramp		20687	6000					
BMX		20687	12000					
Cricket – Turf		3447						
Cricket – Other		2585						
Cricket (not defined as above)	2000		3000					
Cycleways		20687						
Hockey	3000							
Netball – Grass		899						
Netball – Hard		2955						
Netball (not defined as above)	2119		1500					
Rugby League		10343						
Rugby Union		20687						
Soccer	1000	4137						
Softball		20687						
Squash		4137						
Swim Centres		20687	35000					
Tennis – Turf		2585						
Tennis – Other		1089						
Tennis (not defined as above)	1000		2000					
Touch Football		3447						
Golf Course		20687						
Multi Courts/Neighbourhood Parks			12000	*4000-5000		4000		
Parks/Playgrounds		940	1000	1000-1500		800		
Playing Fields (multi purpose)	3000		1200	*15000				
Dog Exercise Areas		20687	6000					
Equestrian Parks		20687						

### Notes

- Singleton Council has adopted a needs based planning approach to public recreation and open space provision therefore a provision standard per facility type based on population catchment has not been established. The Open Space & Recreation Quality Goals identified in the Open Space & Recreation Needs study are used as planning control measures for the provision of open space and public recreation. The figures shown above for Singleton Council represent the existing service provision for each facility at the end of 2002 when the study was completed. The Singleton Playground Management Strategy 2002 does however set out provision standards for the management of Parks & Playgrounds.

- The Department of Planning Outdoor Recreation and Open Space – Planning Guidelines for Local Government (1992) recommends a needs based approach to provision rather than relying on older standards. The standards listed above can however be used as a comparison with existing standards or service provision.
- \*Maitland Council applies these standards to their Neighbourhood Parks & District Facilities, local sports and training fields, playground equipment, picnic facilities and cycleways are also contained in these facilities.
- Muswellbrook Council are currently reviewing their requirements for open space provision in new developments with a view to adopting a needs-based approach that considers the characteristics of the community and environment, a population per facility provision standard for recreation facilities has not been established. Merriwa and Cessnock Council do not apply a per facility standard for recreation service provision.
- The table highlights the current trend by service providers and planning groups towards a needs-based recreation service provision and away from standards based provision.

#### Sources

*Singleton Council Open Space & Recreation Needs Study 2002*

*Lake Macquarie Section 94 Contribution Plan No. 5 – North Wallarah 2004*

*Port Stephens Council Section 94 Contributions Plan – Plan No 1 – Western Area*

*Maitland Council Citywide Contributions Plan 2005*



## Appendix 4 Conditions of Use

# CONDITIONS OF USE

The allocation of use of Singleton Councils Community Sports Facilities is subject to the user:

1. Submitting application for allocation of grounds to be made annually by June each year. Priority will be given to existing users where application is lodged on time.
2. Carry out Risk Assessments of field(s) prior to use. Checking the field(s) for potential safety hazard eg broken glass, rubbish, debris, exposed sprinkler heads.
3. Taking responsibility for safety of the user's volunteers, employees or contractors. The user is to provide documentary evidence of safety management procedures.
4. Ensuring players and spectators do not park vehicles on fields or surrounding turf areas.
5. Not charging admission to view games (exemption with Approval of Council).
6. Closing playing fields to use when wet and likely to be damaged.
7. Not using playing fields when closed by Council. Fields may be closed due to safety or maintenance reasons.
8. Being responsible for any damage to playing fields by members.
9. Undertaking own line marking.
10. Undertaking watering of grounds.
11. Supplying and maintaining own goal posts.
12. Removing and storing goal posts out of season when required by other user groups or Council.
13. Cleaning amenities and grounds after each use.
14. Keeping a register of members who hold keys (Council Master System).
15. Paying for all electricity, gas and water consumed.
16. Paying for building insurance for buildings used for long term allocation (a season). Council will pay insurance and invoice users.
17. Helping with minor maintenance of buildings eg interior painting, window repairs after consultation with Council.
18. Maintaining additional facilities installed for user group eg. floodlights, irrigation, nets and shelters.
19. Understanding that fixed improvements made on parks/reserves become the property of Council.
20. The Howe Park and Albion Park Tennis Clubs may enter into contracts with tennis coaches and other professional sports people to administer the facilities on behalf of the respective clubs, subject to approval by council of the arrangements.

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## **Appendix 5    How to Improve your Sports Facility**

### **1.     Information Gathering**

- Formulate aims and objective of project.
- Talk to Council's Parks and Facilities Manager to outline proposal.
- Obtain site plan from Parks & Facilities Manager if available.
- Talk to other user Groups affected by proposal.
- Prepare a concept sketch or layout plan.

### **2.     Financing the Project**

- Singleton Council has numerous requests for facilities and limited funds. Therefore projects which have financial support from user or other sources are more likely to receive approval.
- Investigate sponsorship grant funding eg. Department Sport & Recreation Capital Assistance, Hunter Area Assistance Scheme, Federal Grants and Sport Association Development Grants (Country Rugby League, Footytab, ACB/Coca Cola). Contact Council's Community Grants Officer on (02) 6578 7216 for assistance.
- Investigate financial support for project from other potential users.
- Prepare funding proposal(s) as part of information gathered in (1) above.

### **3.     Gaining Consent**

- Approach the Sports Council with proposal for their support.
- Formally approach Council for approval in principle.

**NB:** A Development Application or Construction Certificate may also be required depending on the project. Contact the Manager Parks & Facilities or the Development Services Division of Council on (02) 6578 7290 to determine requirements.

## **Appendix 6 Report on Hunter Streambank Vegetation – Draft (pages 20-22 only) Hunter River Catchment Management Trust**

### **STRATEGIES**

#### **5.6 Strategy No. 5**

##### **Achieve Change through Public Awareness**

Develop general public awareness and involvement in the problems of stream management and riparian zone vegetation management through the development of effective demonstrations and the promotion of 'rivercare' management plans.

##### **Recommended Actions**

Request the Hunter Catchment Management Trust to:-

- Prepare and develop a 'package' to 'sell' the streambank vegetation concept to the community by demonstrations; rivercare and landcare ethos and group establishment;
- Prepare and develop detailed strategies for local government, State Government, TCM, etc, so that they may be incorporated into agency programs and approvals;
- Develop 'type specific' guidelines and methods for incorporation within manuals of management for the various landholders and community groups to follow;
- Provide the Vegetation Public Awareness Working Group with sufficient information to prepare/develop a 'package' to 'sell' the riparian zone management concept to the public;
- Provide practical information for land users to manage the riparian zone.

#### **5.7 Strategy No. 6**

##### **Determine and Coordinate 'On Ground' Management Aspects**

Management practices and options for the riparian zone require taking into account the statutory rights of the landholder/land user without impacting upon the needs of the wider community in either their short or long term future multi-use of riparian zone.

Specific areas to be considered are: management of remnant native riparian vegetation; streambank grazing management; in stream and off stream recreational management; and width of buffer zones. In regard to buffer zones, there is a need to develop criteria for site specific actions and not just a blanket minimum width of zone concept.

## **Recommended Actions**

### **Streambank Priorities**

The stewardship management practices of streambank vegetation should take into account the requirements of the landholder and wider community (both in the short and long term timescale).

- Develop sound management practices for riparian vegetation, such as:
  - minimise industry, stock and recreation impact within the riparian feature, by excluding them from sensitive areas;
  - develop buffer zone guideline practices that are site specific and without arbitrary minimum width criteria;
  - foster and, where appropriate, establish native vegetation for:
    - a. runoff nutrient stripping buffer zones;
    - b. riparian rehabilitation zones;
    - c. recreational and visual aesthetic zones; and
    - d. other appropriate sites along the stream/river.

### **In Stream Priorities**

The riparian zone consists of the waterway and immediately adjacent lands. Management, either at a regional level or at a site specific level must consider potential effects upon the in stream biology and ecology of the waterway. In addition, the management action or inaction in one stretch of the waterway has the potential to detrimentally influence downstream stretches of that waterway.

Management options must take account of the need to:-

- a. Recognise the important and diverse functions of riparian vegetation in the provision of a clean, safe and diverse waterway.
- b. Maintain or provide for aquatic and semi aquatic habitat to allow many diverse plants and animals to exist within any site specific management actions.
- c. Provide for the effects of water storage, discharges and extractions on in stream environmental quality.
- d. Control the introduced plant and animal species within the riparian zone by the appropriate authorities.
- e. Provide education and awareness information to all users and managers of the Hunter stream system.
- f. Include recognition of the in stream biology and ecology in the assessment of water dependent and orientated development and activities;
- g. Provide site specific criteria and stream management plans which include consideration of the in stream biology and ecology.

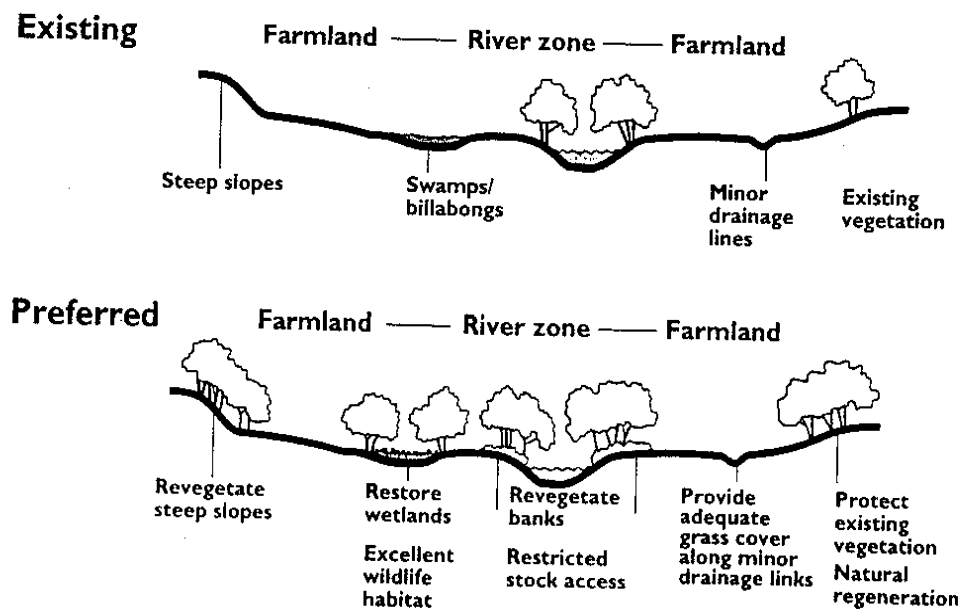
## 5.8 Strategy No. 7

### Determine, Collate and Provide Direction for Research Assessment

The collation of this information is important, firstly as baseline information, and secondly as an aid to making management decisions. This information database will aid the development of criteria for site specific management.

There is also a requirement for research in specific areas, such as:-

- Vegetated buffers for nutrient stripping; streambank grazing management; and management of remnant riparian vegetation.



**Figure 3:** Streambank stabilisation and wetland restoration – before and after