



Hawkesbury City Council

Attachment 6  
to  
item 21

Draft Generic Plans  
of Management  
- Sportsground

date of meeting: 15 February 2011  
location: council chambers  
time: 6:30 p.m.





# Hawkesbury City Council

sportsgrounds  
draft  
generic plan of  
management



## Foreword

There are 25 Sportsgrounds and 3 Sports complexes within the Hawkesbury Local Government Area. The sportsgrounds are currently used for organised sport such as Cricket, Soccer, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Athletics and Australian Rules football. The complexes are used for organised sports such as Netball, Baseball, Softball, Tennis, Touch Football etc and their high levels of use attest to their popularity as sporting venues.

Sportsgrounds are also a popular place for informal recreation such as formal dog training, jogging, school sports, community events and general games.

Sportsgrounds are a challenging asset to manage, with demand for usage competing with the need to set limits of usage in order to maintain the grounds in good condition.

This Plan of Management aims to accommodate the needs of the community, whilst maintaining the condition of sportsgrounds. It looks at the management issues of these areas with an attempt to identify solutions that are sensible and equitable, within budget constraints.

I am confident that, with the actions outlined in this Plan, the Sportsgrounds of the Hawkesbury will benefit greatly.

Yours sincerely

Bart Bassett  
Mayor

Prepared by: The Parks & Recreation Branch February 2011

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## Definition of Terms

<p>Bushland</p>	<p>The category bushland is assigned to land that contains primary native vegetation and that vegetation is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or</li> <li>• Although not the natural vegetation of the land, is still representative of the structure or floristics, or structure and floristics, of the natural vegetation in the locality.</li> </ul> <p>Such land includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bushland that is mostly undisturbed with a good mix of tree ages, and natural regeneration, where the understorey is comprised of native grasses and herbs or native shrubs, and which contains a range of habitats for native fauna (such as logs, shrubs, tree hollows and leaf litter), or</li> <li>• Moderately disturbed bushland with some regeneration of trees and shrubs, where there may be a regrowth area with trees of even age, where native shrubs and grasses are present in the understorey even though there may be some weed invitations, or</li> <li>• Highly disturbed bushland where the native understorey has been removed, where there may be significant weed invasion and where dead and dying trees are present, where there is no natural regeneration of trees or shrubs, but where the land is still capable of being rehabilitated.</li> </ul>
<p>Community land</p>	<p>Is land intended for public access and use. To prevent alienation of this land, it cannot be sold, leased, licensed or any other estate granted over the land for more than 21 years.</p>
<p>Cultural Significance</p>	<p>Is a category of land that requires resolution by Council. Such land may be declared at an area of cultural significance because it is an area of Aboriginal, aesthetic, archaeological, historical, technical, research, or social significance.</p> <p>As defined by the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005:</p> <p>An area is of Aboriginal Significance because the land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has been declared an Aboriginal place under section 84 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act</li> <li>• whether or not in an undisturbed state, is significant to Aboriginal people in terms of their traditional or contemporary cultures, or</li> <li>• is of significance or interest because of Aboriginal associations, or</li> <li>• displays physical evidence of Aboriginal occupation (for example, items or artefacts such as stone tools, weapons, engraving sites, sacred trees, sharpening grooves or other deposits, and objects or materials that relate to the settlement of the land or place), or</li> <li>• is associated with Aboriginal stories, or</li> <li>• contains heritage items dating after European settlement that help to explain the relationship between Aboriginal people and later settlers, or</li> </ul> <p>An area is of aesthetic significance, by virtue of:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• having strong visual or sensory appeal or cohesion, or</li> <li>• including a significant landmark, or</li> <li>• having creative or technical qualities, such as architectural excellence, or</li> </ul> <p>An area is of archaeological significance, because the area contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• evidence of past human activity (for example, below-ground features such as building foundations, occupation deposits, features or artefacts or above-ground features such as buildings, works, industrial structures, and relics, whether intact or ruined), or</li> <li>• any other deposit, object or material that relates to the settlement of the land, or</li> </ul> <p>An area is of historical significance, because of the importance of an association or position of the land in the evolving pattern of Australian cultural history, or</p> <p>An area is of technical or research significance, because of the area's contribution to an understanding of Australia's cultural history or environment, or</p> <p>An area is of social significance, because of the area's association with Aboriginal life after 1788 or the area's association with a contemporary community for social, spiritual or other reasons.</p>
Escarpment	The category escarpment is assigned to land that includes such features as a long cliff-like ridge or rock, and the land includes significant or unusual geological, geomorphological or scenic qualities.
Foreshore	The category of foreshore is assigned to land that is situated on the water's edge and forms a transition zone between the aquatic and terrestrial environment.
General Community Use	Is a category of land that should be applied where the land may be available for use for any purpose for which community land may be used, whether by the public at large or by specific sections of the public. It includes land that does not fall into the categories of natural area, sportsground, park or area of cultural significance.
Lease	Confers an exclusive right to possession on the tenant/lessee. It is usually a written document and often registered on the title.
Licence	Does not confer an exclusive right to possession and confers on the licensee the right to use the land, or part of it, for a limited purpose, often for a limited time.
Natural Area	As defined by the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 is land that, whether or not in an undisturbed state, possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature or attribute that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore.
Objectives	Are broad statements that identify the end result or a desired outcome.
Other Estate	Is defined as: interest, charge, right, title, claim, demand, lien and encumbrance whether at law or in equity. An example is the grant of easements.
Park	As defined by the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 is land that is or is proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, for use mainly for passive or active



	recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that do not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.
Performance Target	Is an objective or goal to be performed.
Parks Capital Works Program	Is the capital works budget for the Parks and Recreation Branch.
Playground	An outdoor structure/area for children to play on.
Section 94 (s94)	This section of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act permits councils to collect monetary contributions from persons developing land to meet the increased demand for public services and amenities generated by their development.
Skate Park/Ramp	A constructed facility used for skating.
Sportsground	As defined by the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 is land used or proposed to be used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.
Watercourse	<p>The category of Watercourse has been assigned to land that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any stream of water, whether perennial or intermittent, flowing in a natural channel, or in a natural channel that has been artificially improved, or in an artificial channel that has changed the course of the stream of water, and any other stream of water into or from which the stream of water flows, and</li> <li>• Associated riparian land or vegetation, including land that is protected land for the purposes of the Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act 1948 or State protected land identified in an order under section 7 of the Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997.</li> </ul>
Wetland	The category of wetland has been assigned to land that includes marshes, mangroves, backwaters, billabongs, swamps, sedgeland, wet meadows or wet healthlands that form a waterbody that is inundated cyclically, intermittently or permanently with fresh, brackish or salt water, whether slow moving or stationary.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

This generic Plan of Management is an important document designed to provide clear guidelines for the effective management of Community Land - Sportsgrounds, in the care and control of Council and its delegated authorities.

This generic plan of management will support any subsequent individual plans of management. Such plans will be developed where large-scale development, conflicting or complex management issues exist, suggesting a more specific management approach is necessary.

Benefits of this plan of management are:

- Identifying the key issues and values common to sportsgrounds.
- Establishing directions for planning, resource management and maintenance of sportsgrounds.

This plan of management will provide a basis for assigning priorities in the programming of works and budgeting for new or upgraded facilities. A review after five years will allow policy and planning issues to be updated.

This generic plan of management is consistent with Councils strategic direction and land management objectives. Its preparation is a comprehensive and holistic approach to the management of Council owned public land and land under its Care and Control. The plan will be part of Councils overall open space planning activities reflecting Councils priorities and input from community consultation.

## 1.2 The Local Government Act

The Local Government Act, 1993 (the Act) provides Councils with a specific approach to the classification and management of community land. It states that there must be a plan of management prepared for all community land and there are restrictions on the use of such land. This plan of management has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993.

The Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 provides guidelines for the categorisation of community land. The categories reflect land use and/or describe the physical characteristics of the land such as sportsgrounds, natural areas and general parkland.

In addressing the requirement for plans of management for all community land, Council has adopted a strategy whereby a number of generic plans, according to category, have been prepared.

Under the Act, specific plans of management are required for the following pieces of community land:

- Land declared to be "critical habitat" under the Threatened Species Conservation (TSC) Act 1995 or the Fisheries Management Act 1994.
- Land directly affected by a recovery plan or threat abatement plan under the Threatened Species Conservation Act or the Fisheries Management Act 1994.
- Land declared by Council to contain 'significant natural features' because it is a known geological, geomorphical, scenic or other feature that warrants protection or special management, or is part of a wildlife corridor.
- Land declared by Council to contain an area of 'cultural significance'.

If the above circumstances occur after a generic plan of management has been adopted for an area of community land, the generic plan of management ceases to apply to that area from the date that the

declaration took effect, and a specific plan of management must be prepared and adopted for that area in accordance with the Act.

Whilst the Local Government Act applies specifically to Council owned community land the principles developed in this generic plan of management will apply to Crown Land under Council's trusteeship where specific plans have not been developed for the land. Leases and licenses on Crown Land will be managed under the terms of the Crown Lands Act. This Plan also takes into account the principles of Crown Land management as set out in the Crown Land Act 1989.

### **1.3 Hawkesbury Sports Council**

Hawkesbury City Council made a decision in 1991 to allow the care, control and management of specific active sporting facilities to be undertaken by the sporting community. The Hawkesbury Sports Council was formed by way of public meetings in 1991 under the guidance of Hawkesbury City Council and was incorporated in January 1992 to be representative of the sporting community, specifically to undertake management of active sporting facilities in the region. Hawkesbury City Council and Hawkesbury Sports Council work closely together regarding all sport coming under the Sports Council's umbrella.

The Hawkesbury Sports Council has been involved in the preparation and implementation of Corporate Management Plans since its inception. There exists a continued requirement for the Sports Council to formulate plans and strategies pertaining to the regions forecast growth, development and day-to-day operational expenses for incorporation into the budget of Hawkesbury City Council. These management plans must be in keeping with this Sportsground Plan of Management.

### **1.4 Community Consultation**

Community consultation is integral to the appropriate provision of facilities across the city. It provides Council with an understanding of local issues and the community values attached to the sportsgrounds and associated facilities. Community involvement and consultation also encourages an appreciation of Council's land management aims, counters possible misunderstanding, and fosters Community stewardship of local parks and sportsgrounds.

In order to generate widespread community awareness of this draft Plan of Management, advertisements have been placed in the Hawkesbury Gazette; posters are displayed at Council Offices, local libraries and at major sportsgrounds; letters have been sent to known user groups such as schools and clubs and a copy of the draft is posted on Council's website.

During the exhibition period of the draft document, comment is invited on the values and issues discussed below. Council will consider all submissions relevant to the plan of management prior to finalisation and subsequent adoption of the plan.

To ensure submissions are as effective as possible please:

- List all points according to section and page number in the Plan of Management.
- Briefly describe each subject or issue you wish to discuss.
- State which strategies you agree or disagree with, and give reasons.
- Suggest alternatives to deal with any issue with which you disagree.

Written submissions should be addressed to:

The General Manager  
Hawkesbury City Council  
PO Box 146  
Windsor NSW 2756

Fax: 4587 7740  
Email: [council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

**Submissions are to be received no later than close of business Tuesday, 5 February 2011.**

Comments regarding this or any other adopted Plan of Management may be submitted at any time for consideration in future plans of management.

## 1.5 Scope of the Plan

This plan of management applies to all community land that has been categorised as a sportsground as defined in the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005. It applies to the actual playing fields used for organised sport as well as to the structures and facilities directly associated with them. The principles are also applicable to sportsgrounds on Crown Lands under Council's care and control.

Other documents may imply management strategies and actions over community land that is not identified in this plan. Specific reference should be made, but not be limited, to the following:

Hawkesbury City Council Documents:

- Access Policy
- Community Strategic Plan 2010-2030
- Conservation Management Plan - McQuade Park
- General Community Use Generic Plan of Management
- Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 1989
- Hawkesbury Mobility Plan 2010
- Natural Areas Generic Plan of Management
- Operational Plan
- Parks Generic Plan of Management
- Pesticide Use Notification Plan 2010
- Statement of Equity Principles

Hawkesbury Sports Council Documents:

- Management Plan - Hawkesbury Sports Council

Legislation:

- Companion Animals Act 1998
- Crown Lands Act 1989
- Dividing Fences Act 1991
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- Fisheries Management Act 1994
- Native Title Act (Commonwealth) 1993
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
- Noxious Weeds Act 1993
- Pesticides Act 1999
- Pesticides Regulation 2009
- Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act 1948
- Rural Fires Act 1997
- SREP No. 20 Hawkesbury-Nepean River (No.2 – 1997)
- Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995
- Other legislation where relevant

This Plan has been developed to give clear management directions for community land by means of identifying the objectives and performance targets for sportsgrounds, means of achieving these targets and how they will be assessed.

## 2 Basis for Management

The plan of management has been written to outline the ways that the land will be used and the objectives for management. It may be used to determine the allocation of priorities for use of resources and funds.

This plan of management applies to all community land that has been categorised Sportsground within the Hawkesbury Local Government Area. The total area of the land to which this plan applies is approximately 139 hectares. This is approximately 6% of Council's open space.

### 2.1 Community Values

Sportsgrounds are an integral component of the open space network within Hawkesbury City Council, catering for an identified recreation need. The sportsgrounds of the Hawkesbury have major significance to not only the local community but to the whole Western Sydney Region as has been proven by the increasing number of applications from Schools, Sporting and Community Groups from adjoining Local Government areas.

The 1995 Hawkesbury City Council Residents Recreation Survey identified that approximately 30% of respondents participate in sports that specifically utilise sportsgrounds or associated facilities. No differentiation was made regarding council owned/managed sports venues and those run by other institutions or private corporations. Such sports include: football sports such as Rugby League, Soccer, Australian Rules Football and Rugby Union (30%); Bat sports such as Cricket, Baseball, Hockey (24%) and Netball, Basketball and Volleyball (25%).

The top six features that respondents identified as being important to them are: play equipment, cleanliness and the provision of garbage bins; shade; trees; amenities such as toilets; and, park furniture.

A recreation strategy will be undertaken in the near future to further inform priorities.

### 2.2 Corporate Goals

To ensure that this plan of management is consistent with Council's corporate direction it is important to note the following management statements:

Hawkesbury City Council Charter:

*"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 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 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 exercise its functions in a manner that is consistent with and promotes social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights".*

*"To facilitate the involvement of councillors, members of the public, users of facilities and services and council staff in the development, improvement and co-ordination of local government".*

*"To keep the local community and the State Government (and through it the wider community) informed about its activities".*

Hawkesbury City Council's Corporate Vision:

*"In 2030 we want Hawkesbury to be a place where we have:"*

*"A community in which the area's character is reserved and lifestyle choices are provided with sustainable planned, well serviced development, safe and friendly neighbourhoods"*

*"A community dedicated to minimising its ecological footprint, enjoying a clean river and an environment that is nurtured, healthy, protected and provides opportunities for its sustainable use"*

Sports Council's Mission Statement:

*"To provide, maintain, improve and increase the network of active recreational areas to meet the needs and expectations of the community".*

The Business Goal of the Hawkesbury Sports Council Inc.

*"To establish and implement maintenance, replacement and development programs which will ensure an acceptable level of service for the sporting community in terms of facilities, safety, required standards and legal requirements".*

## 2.3 Core Objectives

The core objectives of the 1993 Local Government Act in relation to land categorised as sportsgrounds are as follows:

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

These corporate goals and core objectives define the strategic framework under which performance objectives have been developed. As issues arise in the management of community land these are tested against the performance objectives and used to develop a series of planned activities or strategies.

To ensure the actions needed to complete the identified strategy are undertaken in a planned manner, responsibilities, performance targets and performance indicators have been identified and outlined in the accompanying action plan.

## 2.4 Management Objectives

Based on legislative goals, corporate goals, community needs and expectations, and the values and assets of the sportsgrounds themselves, the following broad primary, management objectives have been identified:

- To ensure management of sportsgrounds takes into consideration the principles of Crown Land management.
- To provide for public safety.
- To efficiently and effectively manage public assets.
- To provide the wider community with sufficient appropriate access to sportsgrounds.
- To encourage community involvement in the management of sportsgrounds.

- To provide a broad spectrum of safe, high quality recreational opportunities having regard to the objectives outlined above.
- To ensure the provision of suitable land for future sporting facilities.

These objectives have been used to guide policy development and formulation of the action plan.



## 3 Planning and Management Issues

Following is a list of major planning and management issues relevant to the management of Sportsgrounds in the Hawkesbury.

### 3.1 Safety and Risk Management

Safety is an issue Council needs to address on a permanent basis. Council has a statutory responsibility to provide facilities/structures that meet relevant Australian Standards and is obliged under common law to take appropriate steps to protect people from reasonably foreseeable risk or harm in the use of public spaces and public assets. This implies a responsibility to maintain all sportsgrounds and associated facilities to an acceptable standard.

- The development of any structure as well as the undertaking of general maintenance within parks must consider the safety of park users as well as the staff undertaking the works.
- Due to the number of parks and distance apart, parks staffs are unable to inspect each park on a regular basis.
- Anti-social behaviour and its effects are ongoing issues.
- Dogs, off leash, can threaten the health and safety of park users.
- Provision needs to be made to close sportsgrounds for maintenance purposes.
- Provision needs to be made to close sportsgrounds affected or potentially affected by natural disasters such as flood until the safety of the public can be assured.
- Provision needs to be made to allow the closure of grounds during wet weather for the safety of participants, spectators and to protect the ground surface.
- Broken glass on sportsgrounds is a safety issue.

### 3.2 Access and Parking

As sportsgrounds are used by the broad cross section of the community, facilities must be accessible by public and private transport where possible so that people, especially children and teenagers can access them.

- The majority of sportsgrounds do not have structured pathways, or public toilets, which can limit use by parts of the community.
- Design of facilities in the past has not taken in to account the needs of physically disabled users and parents with prams.
- Provision of emergency access to or egress from sportsgrounds can often not be provided. Flood and fire evacuation plans for users need to be determined.
- There is limited access for pedestrians and cyclists to sportsgrounds.
- Many sportsgrounds are not within walking distance or close to public transport. Often parking arrangements within and adjacent to a lot of parks are unsatisfactory for users or disturb surrounding residential areas.
- Some sportsgrounds are unfenced and unauthorised vehicular access is difficult and expensive to curb.

- Gates on some entries to sportsgrounds can limit access for emergency and service vehicles.
- Closure of sportsgrounds is necessary for maintenance or due to wet weather in order to protect the conditions of the grounds.
- Closure of parks can alienate the community.
- A lot of sportsgrounds can be at risk of flooding. Design of access to and from these sportsgrounds needs to be reviewed.
- Due to the rural nature of many sportsgrounds amenities are locked to prevent the risk of vandalism and to ensure they are not used for anti-social activities.

### 3.3 Recreation and Land Use

The majority of sportsgrounds within the City provide playing fields that cater for the local sports needs of the community. They are available for a variety of activities, while balancing the need for specialised sporting activities at district, regional & state level.

- The drinking of alcohol at sportsgrounds can lead to anti-social behaviour as well as broken glass causing a safety issue.
- A lack of signage identifying what can or cannot occur in each sportsground makes it difficult to curb certain activities. The over usage of signs can however lead to clutter and visual pollution.
- Where barbeques have been provided in natural areas, they are open fireplaces. This is not appropriate where bushfires can easily be started or where fuel is sourced from natural areas.
- Often cyclists or horse riders do not stick to formed tracks.
- Community needs are not static.
- The Bensons Lane Sporting Complex is not available for general public use. It is a designated sporting complex and as such is fenced to prevent unauthorised use.
- There is strong demand for usage of sportsgrounds by not only formalised sporting clubs but also schools, visitors, religious, social and community groups.

### 3.4 Environmental Management

Development and maintenance of sportsgrounds needs to be carried out in an ecologically sustainable manner to prevent any long-term impacts on adjoining properties and user groups.

- Many sportsgrounds lack substantial planting of trees and other vegetation. This and the removal of habitat trees can affect the fauna that use sportsgrounds.
- Existing remnants of native vegetation adjacent to/ within sportsgrounds are often threatened by current management practices such as nutrient enrichment or expansion of sportsgrounds.
- Development may not be compatible with surrounding natural areas or it could provide long-term negative impacts on adjoining bushland.
- Community needs are not static. Changing community needs must be met in an ecologically sustainable manner.

### **3.5 Landscape Character and Design**

Landscape design is important when designing new sporting facilities to meet multiple-use criteria and promote both cost-effective and efficient usage through sharing of facilities, amenities and car parking. Landscape design of sportsgrounds need to be sympathetic to the existing setting, its landscape values or the unique character and features of each site. The inherent landscape features thus need to be retained, and where possible enhanced, when developing sportsgrounds.

- Due to limited finance landscape designs for sportsgrounds are rarely undertaken. In some instances this had led to poor planting design and colour schemes or lack of facilities.
- Many sportsgrounds lack areas of shade for the use of the community.
- The entrances to and landscaping of sportsgrounds are often poor.
- Flooding is a constraint to the location and type of structures placed at some sportsgrounds.
- In some instances runoff from sportsgrounds can carry high nutrients to adjacent parklands or natural areas.
- Many sportsgrounds lack essential facilities and structures such as shelters.

### **3.6 Maintenance of Facilities and Grounds**

Due to the high usage of sportsgrounds, maintaining the grounds in good condition can be difficult.

- Vandalism and inappropriate behaviour is a problem at sportsgrounds.
- Litter and dumping of household and building rubbish remains a major & costly problem at many sportsgrounds.
- Efficient maintenance practices are required to provide quality sportsgrounds within available budgets.
- Over use of parks causes wear and tear issues.
- Maintenance budgets need to reflect the need to provide quality playing surfaces and facilities of an acceptable standard.
- Large events within parks on a regular basis can lead to wear and tear. This is more noticeable following wet weather.
- Buildings, fences and other structures are an integral part of many sportsgrounds. Some of these are outdated and not appropriate to the needs of user, nor acceptable to the general community.
- It is necessary to monitor usage patterns to ensure the ground carrying capacity of the fields does not result in cost over-run due to intense maintenance requirements.
- Maintenance time has been reduced due to increasing sporting seasons imposed by State & National Sporting Associations.
- Limited funding for upkeep of grounds.
- Old infrastructure eg irrigation systems & electricity supply require updating.

### **3.7 Community Involvement/Neighbour Relations**

Good neighbourly relations are important in the management of sportsgrounds. Neighbours and community users are vital for the contribution to the planning and management process as well as informing Council of any ongoing issues.

- In some cases, issues such as anti-social behaviour and noise affect the community and neighbours.
- Neighbours are sometimes hesitant to report inappropriate behaviour to police in fears of retaliation.
- Lighting from parks may impact upon neighbouring properties.

## **4 Management Strategy**

### **4.1 Leases, Licences and Other Estates**

Leases and licences formalise the use of community land by groups such as sporting clubs, community groups and schools, or by commercial organisations and individuals providing facilities or services for public use.

The Local Government Act contains important restrictions on the ability of Council to grant leases, licences and other estates over community land as these alienate the land and limit the ability of the public to use that land. A summary of these restrictions is included in Appendix 1. Generally a lease will be required where exclusive occupation or use of all, or part, of an area is proposed. A licence may be required for activities that may affect other users.

This Plan of Management authorises the following uses, to be leased or licensed as appropriate. The purpose of such leases, licences and other estates must be consistent with the core objectives for sportsgrounds.

#### **Club Houses / Buildings**

This plan of management authorises the granting of a lease or licence of buildings associated with sportsgrounds as Club Houses. These buildings can be used for club activities such as meetings and social functions relating to their current lease.

This plan of management authorises the granting of a lease or licence over a community building for the purpose of trading such as a kiosk.

#### **Easements**

This plan of management authorises the lease, licence or grant of any other estate over General Community Use areas for the purpose of providing easements for public utilities, providing pipes, conduits or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility on the community land provided that:

- there is no feasible alternative to connecting to a facility on the community land;
- there is no significant impact on the sportsground; and
- in all cases, the applicant is to be responsible for all costs incurred by Council in the creation of the easement.

#### **Festivals / Events / Ceremonies**

This plan of management authorises the granting of a lease or licence for the purpose of festivals, events and ceremonies to be held at sportsgrounds. Such leases or licences will provide for the temporary erection of food stalls, stages, seating and amusement rides.

#### **Filming**

This plan of management authorises the granting of a lease or licence for the purpose of commercial photographic sessions and filming.

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## **Helicopters**

This plan of management authorises the granting of a lease or licence for the purpose of helicopter landing and take off, provided all other approvals such as use of restricted air space have been granted by the relevant authority. Such a lease or licence may require the temporary erection of exclusion fencing or any other measure required to ensure public safety.

## **Markets**

This plan of management authorises the granting of a lease or licence for the purpose of markets and other such activities, at sportsgrounds.

## **Parking**

This plan authorises the granting of a licence for the purpose of collecting monies for parking at sportsgrounds provided that all monies collected be used for the maintenance and / or upgrading of the sportsground at which it is collected. This authorisation applies only to sportsgrounds where the individual plan of management specifies it to be so.

## **Personal Training**

This plan of management authorises the granting of a lease or licence for the purpose of commercial personal training activities.

## **Playing of Musical Instruments**

This plan of management authorises the granting of a licence for the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward.

## **Roads**

This Plan of Management authorises the granting of a lease, license or other estate for the purpose of the provision of public roads, where the provision of that road is consistent with the core objectives stated herein and where the road is necessary for the enjoyment of that land.

This plan of management authorises the granting of a licence for the use of an existing road of fire trail to:

- transport building materials and equipment required in relation to building work that is to be, or is being carried out on land adjoining the community land; or
- to remove wast that is consequential on such work.

Where there is no existing road, access may be permitted (and licensed accordingly) to adjoining land for the above purpose provided no damage to the park is expected. A bond will be required in this instance. Where a sportsground is to be used to transport building materials or waste to or from adjoining private land, the licence will be valid for no more than 1 month.

### **Storage sheds**

This plan of management authorises the granting of a lease or licence for the storage of equipment used by community groups / non-profit organisations where that equipment is regularly used at that sportsground.

### **Stormwater**

This plan of management authorises the construction of relevant structures for the purposes of stormwater treatment and or retention as prescribed in s28 of the Regulations.

This plan authorises the continued use of drains, channels and easements and creation of new drains, channels and easements.

### **Telecommunications Towers**

This plan of management authorises the granting of a lease or licence for the erection and use of telecommunications towers provided the proposal is put on public exhibition prior to a council resolution permitting the use. A rental fee will be payable to Council and that fee is to be used for the improvement of the sportsground in which the facility is located.

### **Granting of leases, licences or other estates**

Conditions of approval must be in keeping with the existing relevant Council policies and may require a resolution from Council.

## **4.2 Other Permitted Activities**

In addition to the uses requiring a lease or licence, this Plan of Management authorises the following uses, to be leased or licensed as appropriate.

### **Irrigation**

This plan of management authorises the installation of irrigation pipes under ground, to irrigate parks. This includes the use of recycled water.

### **Signage**

This plan of management authorises the erection of regulatory, interpretive and directional signage within sportsgrounds. Sponsorship signage is permitted at specific sportsgrounds. This is to be nominated within individual plans of management.

### **Stormwater**

This plan of management authorises the construction of relevant structures for the purposes of stormwater treatment and or retention as prescribed in s28 of the Regulations.

This plan authorises the continued use of drains, channels and easements and creation of new drains, channels and easements.

## **Structures**

This plan of management authorises the building or use of the following structures:

- Walkways
- Pathways
- Refreshment kiosks / canteens
- Work Sheds or Storage required in connection with the maintenance of the land
- Toilets or rest rooms
- Amenities including change rooms, mother's rooms, first aid rooms, referee's rooms.
- BMX tracks
- Tennis courts
- Netball courts
- Lighting of facilities, including floodlighting
- Shelters and seating
- Cricket nets
- Softball nets
- Discuss nets
- Removal, relocation and or construction of buildings for community use.
- BBQ facilities

## **4.3 Conditions of Use**

Conditions of approval must be in keeping with the existing relevant Council policies and may require a resolution from Council.

Any approval for leases or licences must include, but not be limited to, the following provisions:

- No significant damage to the area is anticipated as a result of the proposed activity.
- A bond or agreement to undertake repairs, in respect of potential damage is held by Council or Hawkesbury Sports Council.
- The activity is permissible under the objective identified for Sportsgrounds.
- The use or occupation does not involve the erection of any building or structure of a permanent nature.
- There is anticipated to be no significant disturbance to adjacent property owners.
- There is no interference with other user.
- Proof is obtained by Council of suitable insurances.
- All litter is removed.

## **4.4 Restricted Activities**

Activities that are prohibited or restricted within sportsgrounds include, but are not limited to :

- Camping
- Dogs off leash
- Drinking alcohol
- Firearms
- Horse riding
- Lighting of fires
- Motorbikes
- Playing golf
- Remote control vehicles including boats, aeroplanes and cars
- Remote control vehicles including boats, aeroplanes and cars
- Unauthorised vehicles



## 4.5 Schedule of Leases and Licenses

In accordance with the Section 46 (1) (b) of the Act this plan of management authorises those leases and licences listed within the following schedule.

<b>Playing fields and sporting facilities :</b>					
<b>Park No.</b>	<b>Facility Name / Location</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Maximum Permissible Term</b>	<b>Advertise (Yes / No)</b>
	Bensons Lane Complex	Cricket, Soccer, Softball, Baseball, Australian Rules Football, Personal Training	Sporting Complex	6 Months	No
	Berger Reserve	Soccer	Public recreation (playing of sport)	6 Months	No
	Bounty Reserve	Cricket, Soccer	Public recreation (playing of sport)	6 Months	No
	Breakaways Ovals	Cricket	Public recreation (playing of sport)	6 Months	No
	Brinsley Park	Cricket, Soccer	Public recreation (playing of sport)	6 Months	No
	Colbee Park	Baseball, Cricket, Soccer, BMX	Public recreation (playing of sport)	6 Months	No
	Colonial Reserve	Baseball, Rugby League Cricket	Public recreation (playing of sport)	6 Months	No
	Deerubbun Park	Rugby Union, Dog Training	Public recreation (playing of sport)	6 Months	No
	Don't Worry Oval	Cricket, Rugby Union, Personal Training	Public recreation (playing of sport)	6 Months	No
	Glossodia Park	Cricket	Public recreation (playing of sport)	6 Months	No
	Icely Park	Soccer	Public recreation (playing of sport)	6 Months	No
	McQuade Oval	Cricket, Rugby Union, Personal Training	Public recreation (playing of sport)	6 Months	No
	Mileham Complex	Netball	Public recreation (Playing of sport)	12 Months	
	Oakville Oval	Cricket, Soccer	Public recreation (playing of sport)	6 Months	No
	Peel Park	Cricket, Rugby League	Public recreation (playing of sport)	6 Months	
	Pound Paddock	Cricket	Public recreation (playing of sport)	6 Months	No
	Powell Park Tennis Courts	Tennis	Public recreation (playing of sport)	6 Months	No
	Richmond Oval	Cricket, Personal Training	Public recreation (playing of sport)	6 Months	No

<b>Playing fields and sporting facilities :</b>					
<b>Park No.</b>	<b>Facility Name / Location</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Maximum Permissible Term</b>	<b>Advertise (Yes / No)</b>
	Bensons Lane Complex	Cricket, Soccer, Softball, Baseball, Australian Rules Football, Personal Training	Sporting Complex	6 Months	No
	Tamplin-Field	Little Athletics, Dog Training	Public recreation (playing of sport)	6 Months	No
	Turnbull Oval	Cricket, Rugby League, Soccer, Tennis, Netball	Public recreation (playing of sport)	6 Months	No
	Vineyard Park	Cricket	Public recreation (playing of sport)	6 Months	No
	Woodlands Park	Cricket, Soccer, Personal Training	Public recreation (playing of sport)	6 Months	No
	Woodbury Estate	Cricket, Soccer	Public recreation (playing of sport)	6 Months	No

Note: Hawkesbury Indoor Sports Stadium is situated on operational land and is not included under this plan of management.

## 5 Action Plan

The action plan is the working component of the plan of management. This section links management strategies to proposed actions for all sportsgrounds. It outlines the means of achieving the objectives and how that performance is to be measured.

Within this table, actions are prioritised, however implementation is subject to the availability of resources.

### Action Plan for Sportsgrounds

Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
Safety and Risk Management	To ensure the safety of public when visiting sports grounds	Recreation fields, equipment, including playing facilities, tables, and the like shall be installed and maintained in accordance with acceptable standards	Conduct regular inspections of infrastructure and formed walking trails.	Hawkesbury Sports Council & Hawkesbury City Council.	Existing Resources	High Ongoing	Regular inspections of key infrastructure
		Encourage community involvement in the recognition and remediation of public risk	Respond promptly to reports of hazards within reserves	Hawkesbury Sports Council.	Existing Resources	High / as needed	Prompt response and remediation of hazards
		Discourage anti-social behaviour	Redesign areas that encourage anti-social behaviour	Hawkesbury Sports Council & City Council	Existing Resources	Medium	Number of areas designed.
		Ensure that health and safety of the community is not threatened by contact with dogs	Install signage instructing that dogs are not permitted on sportsgrounds.	Hawkesbury Sports Council & City Council	Existing Resources	Medium	Number of signs erected. Number of enforcements.
		Ensure the public is not at threat from flood	Develop a list of sportsgrounds that could be impacted by flooding. Erect signposts for Park Closed signs. Advertise ground closures on Council website and through known user groups	Hawkesbury Sports Council Hawkesbury City Council	Existing Resources	High	Development of list of reserves to monitor after floods

Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
			Close sportsgrounds that are threatened by flood until the park is assessed as being safe.	Hawkesbury Sports Council / Hawkesbury City Council	Existing Resources	When required	Number of sportsgrounds closed immediately after floods subside.
		Reduce possible injuries due to wet/soggy grounds	Advertise ground closures on Council website and through known user groups	Hawkesbury Sports Council Hawkesbury City Council	Existing Resources	When required	Number of ground closure notifications issued
			Close sportsgrounds that are wet and soggy until the grounds are assessed as being safe	Hawkesbury Sports Council / Hawkesbury City Council	Existing resources	When required	Number of sportsgrounds closed immediately after wet weather
		Limit hazards derived from anti social behaviour	Prohibit the drinking of alcohol at sportsgrounds where appropriate	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Existing Resources	High	Number of signs installed
General maintenance and management	Ensure infrastructure / facilities are appropriate to the needs of users	Repair or replace outdated facilities to an acceptable standard	Conduct a review of all facilities within sportsgrounds and source funding for replacement where necessary Initiate user pays system..	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Existing Resources	High Ongoing	Review of infrastructure is undertaken
		Install facilities / amenities where required	Conduct a review of all facilities within sportsground and source funding for new facilities where necessary	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Existing Resources	High Ongoing	Review of infrastructure is undertaken
	Reduce the occurrence of vandalism	Repair vandalism promptly to discourage further vandalism	Repair any sites that have been vandalised within 48 hours if damage is minor.	Hawkesbury Sports Council & City Council	Existing Resources	High Ongoing	Number of sites requiring treatment over time.
		Reduce visual barriers that hide vandalism activities	Install lighting where appropriate -carparks or at toilet blocks	Hawkesbury City Council	Existing Resources	High Ongoing	Number of sites being vandalised.

Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
		Lock Facilities and reduce access to parks where required	Erect fencing and gates at reserves that are frequently vandalised. Lock these gates either all the time or in the evenings, depending upon individual situations	Hawkesbury Sports Council & Hawkesbury City Council	Existing Resources	High Ongoing	Number of sites being vandalised
			Lock amenity buildings if necessary	Hawkesbury Sports Council & City Council	Existing Resources	High Ongoing	Number of amenity buildings being vandalised.
	Reduce the amount of litter number of dumping incidents	Track down offenders	Report dumping incidents to RID squad to chase up offenders	Hawkesbury City Council	Existing Resource	High Ongoing	Number of dumping incidents occurring
		Clean up dumped rubbish immediately where appropriate	Clean up dumped rubbish within 72 hours of report.	Hawkesbury City Council	Existing Resources	High Ongoing	Number of cleanup operations required over time.
		Install signage and or fencing to discourage dumping	Install signage at known dumping sites and where appropriate fence the reserve to limit access.	Hawkesbury City Council	Existing Resources	Ongoing	Number of signs installed over time.
		Improve aesthetics of an area by reducing litter	Provide rubbish bins where necessary. Introduce recycle bins	Hawkesbury City Council	Existing Resources	Ongoing	Number of bins installed.
Reduce maintenance costs of sportsgrounds	Reduce the destruction of sportsgrounds through overuse		sportsgrounds for large events	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Existing Resources	High	Sports Council's Management Plan accepted by HCC
			Close sportsgrounds when grounds are affected by rain.	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Existing Resources	High	Sports Council's User Policy developed

Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
	Reduce costs of maintaining under utilised and or unsuitable grounds for active sport	Change some grounds back to passive recreation only	Review the viability of some currently active sporting facilities that may be affected by adjoining development, safety issues, isolation, legal liability and lack of infrastructure.	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Existing Resources	Medium	Review Completed.
Access and parking	Ensure that essential pedestrian and vehicular access through or into sportsgrounds minimises the impact on the area	Prevent unauthorised access to sportsgrounds	Close non-essential pedestrian and vehicular access.	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Existing Resources	High	Number of tracks closed successfully
		Erect locked gates over emergency or service vehicle entries	Identify all emergency vehicles of service vehicle access requirements and place locked gates over these roads.	Hawkesbury Sports Council & Hawkesbury City Council	Existing Resources	High	Number of access points with gates across.
		Maintain existing roads and walking tracks to ensure safety and prevent erosion	Inspect roads and tracks regularly and maintain when necessary	Hawkesbury City Council	Existing Resources	High	Number of Inspections
		Limit unauthorised parking	Provide adequate parking facilities where appropriate	Hawkesbury City Council	Existing Resources	Medium	Areas damaged by unauthorised parking
			Lock carparks in the evening where appropriate.	Hawkesbury City Council	Existing Resources	High	Number of carparks locked in evenings
		Review grounds closure criteria	Close grounds according to criteria developed	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Existing Resources	High	Ground Closed Criteria developed
		Undertake regular review of ground usage patterns	Limit usage of grounds where appropriate	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Existing Resources	Medium	Review undertaken
		Undertake review of parking provisions at sportsgrounds	Provide appropriate parking as funding permits	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Parks Capital Works Program	Medium	Review undertaken

Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
	Ensure that access to sportsgrounds is provided to people with disabilities and with prams.	Identify suitable locations for development of suitable access for people with disabilities or with prams	Discuss with Council's Disability Advisory Committee	Hawkesbury City Council & Hawkesbury Sports Council	Parks Capital Works Program	Medium	Number of access points constructed versus number recommended in Plan
		Ensure amenities associated with sportsgrounds take into account the needs of the physically disabled	Replace or alter existing toilet facilities to accommodate for disabled access	Hawkesbury Sports Council & Hawkesbury City Council	As funds permit	Medium	Number of toilet blocks still existing without appropriate access.
	Obtain maximum use of facilities depending on ground capability.	Provide access to sporting grounds and facilities to schools and community groups on a casual bases	Through application to Hawkesbury Sports Council with approval subject to ground availability, weather conditions, contractual obligations and appropriate insurance cover.	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Existing Resources	High	User satisfaction with services provided
Community involvement / neighbour relations	To involve the community in the management of sportsgrounds	Identify and keep abreast of recreational sporting trends throughout the City to ensure responsive allocation of facilities	Formulate plans and strategies pertaining to the regions' forecast growth, development and changing sporting requirements	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Existing Resources	High	Plans and Strategies produced
			Conduct community survey of recreational needs	Hawkesbury City Council	Existing Resources	High	Survey conducted
	To reduce the impact of use of the reserve onto adjoining	Encourage neighbours to notify Council of any concerns regarding vandalism, dumping etc	Respond efficiently to any reports from neighbours	Parks Manager	Existing Resources	Medium	Reduction in vandalism & dumping

Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
	residents	Ensure responsibilities of all sporting hirers are identified accurately and managed to ensure that adverse effects upon neighbours are minimised	Develop hire agreements. Include a bond that can be kept if agreement breached.	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Existing Resources	High	Number of disturbances caused to neighbours
		Limit the effects of lighting upon neighbours	Design lighting and limit use to reduce impact upon neighbours	Hawkesbury Sports Council & Hawkesbury City Council	Existing Resources	Medium	Number of complaints received
			Identify and rectify all substandard floodlighting	Hawkesbury City Council	Parks Capital Works Program	High	All lights upgraded
			Install cloudmaster system to control all lighting	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Existing Resources	Medium	Cloudmaster systems on all grounds
Landscape character and design	Ensure that the landscape character of sportsgrounds is retained	Any structures, signs, paths etc in sportsgrounds should be sympathetic to the existing setting, its landscape values or unique character.	Plan appropriately, including materials selection and colour schemes	Hawkesbury Sports Council & Hawkesbury City Council	Existing Resources	Medium	Number of plans for new structures
	Consider constraints such as flooding when siting facilities.	New structures eg toilet blocks, shelters etc to be located in appropriate areas and designed appropriately	Assess impact of flood on structures when deciding on suitable location and design.	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Existing Resources	Medium	Number of structures assessed.
	Consider adjacent land use when designing sportsgrounds	Consider habitat, aesthetic and shade values of trees at sportsgrounds.	Retain trees for habitat value as well as shade and aesthetic values at sportsgrounds where possible	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Existing Resources	High	Customer satisfaction



Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
	Consider designing sportsground to encourage social interaction	Investigate the provision of spectator facilities to encourage social interaction	Provide appropriate facilities	Hawkesbury Sports Council	As funds permit	Medium	Provision of facilities.
Land use and Planning Framework	Ensure development of sportsgrounds does not impact upon neighbouring areas	To ensure that a buffer between the development and neighbouring properties is appropriate	New sportsgrounds are to be designed with buffers	Hawkesbury City Council	Existing Resources	High	Buffers included in all developments
			All efforts should be made to provide linkages for wildlife corridors.	Hawkesbury City Council	Existing Resources	High	Linkages provided
	Ensure signage /advertising within sportsgrounds does not affect visual quality of grounds	Limit sponsorship signage	Develop a policy for sponsorship signage at sportsgrounds	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Existing Resources	High	Sign policy implemented & reduction in visual pollution.
	Consider maintenance costs in the planning and design of capital works for sportsgrounds	All new capital works programs will include a maintenance component	Include ongoing maintenance provisions in Section 94 and Capital Works funding allocations.	Hawkesbury City Council	Budget Allocation	High	Reduction in maintenance cost of new facilities
		High standard facilities with reduced maintenance costs	Review existing policy of accepting cheapest quote to ensure high standard of workmanship, fixtures & fittings are included in tender documents.	Hawkesbury City Council	Budget Allocation	High	Reduction in maintenance cost of new facilities.
Environmental Management	Ensure habitat values are not compromised,	Improve habitat values where appropriate	Create habitat corridors through revegetation where possible	Hawkesbury City Council	Parks Capital Works Program / Grant	Medium	Number of corridors established.
			Retain habitat trees	Hawkesbury City Council	Existing Resources	High	Number of trees retained.

Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
	Reduce impact of high chemical or fertiliser use on users or adjacent areas	Limit the use of poisons that may harm user groups or the environment	Assess use of chemicals and fertilisers and their potential effect on the environment and user groups	Hawkesbury Sports Council and City Council	Existing Resources	High	Chemical usage assessed.
		Use chemicals and fertilisers appropriately to limit effect on adjacent areas or people	Review current practices	Hawkesbury Sports Council & City Council I	Existing Resources	High	Current practices reviewed
		Minimise stormwater impacts on sportsgrounds	Conduct a review of stormwater impacts on sportsgrounds	Council's Manager, Construction and Maintenance	Existing Resources	High	Study Completed
Recreation	To cater for the local sporting needs of the	Encourage use of sportsgrounds for passive recreation such as walking and jogging.	Conduct a review of grounds available to passive recreation when grounds are not being used for organised sport	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Existing Budget	Medium	Review completed
	community while balancing the needs of clubs competing at district, regional and state levels.	Develop more sporting complexes to cater for changing needs & to reduce infrastructure & maintenance costs	Prepare detailed review of need for complexing specifically due to increasing overlapping of sporting seasons	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Sect 94 & Capital Works Budget	High	Provision of new complex's meeting community needs
		Ensure sports grounds can cater for multi purpose sporting activities	Encourage the multiple use of existing recreation and sports facilities wherever practicable through the shared allocation of single fields	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Existing Resources	High	Review completed
		Ensure the needs of the local community are met	Allocation priorities are to be given to groups or clubs with majority of members living locally.	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Existing Resources	High	Customer satisfaction
	Encourage greater use of facilities	Promote Council's sporting facilities.	Develop brochures promoting Council's facilities, particularly tennis courts, cycle tracks and major sporting venues	Hawkesbury City Council	Existing Resources	Medium	Brochures developed.

## **5 Appendices**

The appendices for this document are under separate cover. Please refer to the document titled "Community Land Generic Plans of Management - Appendices".

Appendix 1 – Schedule of Lands

Appendix 2 – Community Land Category Maps

Appendix 3 – Leases, Licences and other Estates

Appendix 4 – Documents relating to the management of specific Parks and Reserves