

WANGARATTA RURAL CITY COUNCIL



BUSINESS PAPER FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE WANGARATTA RURAL CITY COUNCIL, TO BE HELD
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
62-68 OVENS STREET, WANGARATTA
ON **TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2012** COMMENCING AT 6.00PM

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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1. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS**
2. **OPENING PRAYER**
3. **PRESENT**
4. **ABSENT**
5. **ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES & GRANTING OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

ORDER OF BUSINESS

6. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE**

7. **BUSINESS**

7.1.1.1 **DRAFT OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION STRATEGIES**

Open Space Strategy

61.040.013

Introduction

This report deals with the preparation of Draft Open Space and Recreation Strategies (*refer attachment*), and a proposed community engagement plan to implement throughout a period of public exhibition. This follows the receipt of funding from the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) to develop the Open Space and Recreation Strategies. A tender process was undertaken in 2010 and Sykes Consulting was engaged to undertake the development of these strategies.

Background

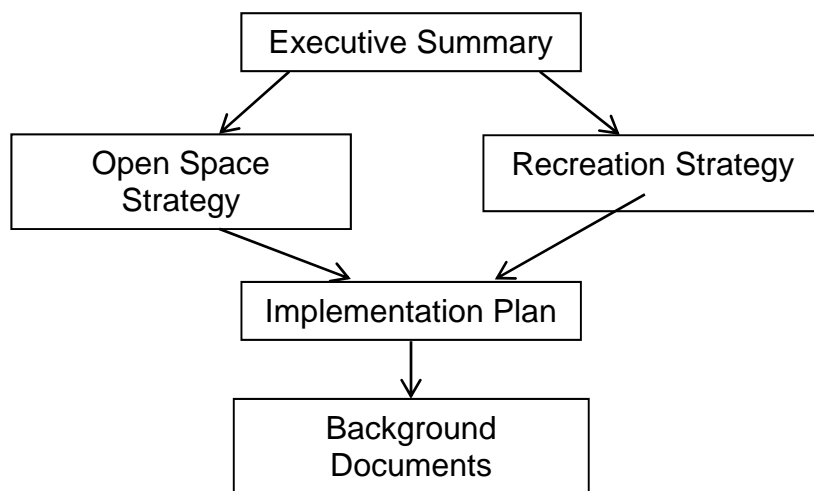
A Recreation Strategy was previously developed for Council in 2005. A need to review this strategy was identified to update research, undertake consultation, determine strategic directions and provide recommendations to guide recreation provision in the Rural City of Wangaratta.

Not having had an Open Space Strategy previously, the strategy has been prepared to provide a strategic framework for the planning, provision, development and protection of open space in the Rural City of Wangaratta.

The documents provided should be read in the following order:

1. Global document index;
2. Executive Summary;
3. Draft Recreation Strategy;
4. Draft Open Space Strategy;
5. Implementation Plan; and
6. Background Report.

The Open Space and Recreation Strategies, although maintaining a different focus, are designed in parallel. Accordingly, the Executive Summary, Implementation Plan and Background Documentation are combined providing content for both strategies. Details of this structure are list below.



The Executive Summary provides an overview of:

- the purpose of the strategies;
- a vision for Recreation and Open Space provision;
- principles for recreation and open space to guide the achievement of the Vision;
- an overview of the range of recreation facilities within the Rural City of Wangaratta;
- trends and influences for consideration; and
- a summary of the proposed objectives and actions for the strategies.

Some of the findings include:

- Informal and passive recreational activities are increasing in popularity while traditional field sports such as football, netball and cricket remain popular in the municipality, presenting a challenge for Council in the provision of new infrastructure whilst maintaining existing facilities.
- Wangaratta's community is projected to age over the next 20 years with those residents over the age of 65 projected to rise from 15% of the total population to over 25%. These trends will impact on infrastructure and open space established for recreational pursuits commonly popular with this particular demographic.

- While the provision of open space in urban Wangaratta overall is seen as being of good quality, some deficiencies exist in particular urban areas. The management of open space will continue to be a challenge with different standards applied because of the shared responsibility for Council, State Government and various Committees of Management.

Issues

Given some delays have been experienced in providing the Recreation and Open Space Strategies to Council it is imperative to conclude these strategies as soon as possible. The completion deadline has already been passed and a further extension is not available. Any further delay would not be acceptable by the funding body.

Accordingly, to comply with the funding acquittal timeframe and to allow sufficient time to undertake an appropriate consultation period, it is necessary to deal with this matter outside the normal meeting cycle.

Implications

Council Plan Objective

To undertake a planned approach to maintaining and improving quality and accessible recreation and sporting facilities and programs.

Sustainability

The Open Space and Recreation Strategies provide recommendations for a range of developments to occur over the next ten years. These will need to be considered progressively as part of future Council budgets.

A Community Engagement Plan (*refer attachment*) has been developed to facilitate input and comment to be provided from Key Stakeholders and the general community.

Conclusion

The draft Open Space and Recreation Strategies provide a detailed framework for the future planning and development of municipal open space and recreational opportunities over the next ten years.

The draft Open Space and Recreation Strategies have been developed and presented for Council endorsement to be publicly exhibited for a consultation period of 28 days.

Recommendation:

That Council endorse the draft Open Space and Recreation Strategies to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

Communication

The Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee will be advised of Council's decision. The community and other key stakeholders will be provided with the opportunity to provide feedback during the implementation of the Community Engagement Strategy. Copies of the draft Strategies will be made available. Public notification will also be provided through Council's website and local media.

8. CLOSURE OF MEETING