



Council Strategy

RECREATION PLANNING STRATEGY 2008-2013

Major Albany Sport and Recreation Facilities

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this strategy is to set the framework, goals and action plan for council and community involvement in review and development of Sporting and Recreation Facilities on Council owned land or vested reserves.

Excluded from this review are recreation program delivery, paths, trails, parks, bush and coastal reserves and volunteering as these are now addressed and catered for in other City strategies, plans and policies.

This strategy sets the following key focus area goals and details specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely actions for their achievement.

- The location and interrelation of major Albany sporting and recreation facilities will be well planned and communicated
- Maximum likelihood of achievement of planned facilities will be ensured by keeping capital scope within the parameters of reasonably foreseeable, achievable levels of funding.
- Albany's recreation facilities will have the maximum likelihood of sustainable operation by ensuring effective planning and passive design elements
- That the community's resources are effectively prioritised and utilised to efficiently deliver major recreation and sporting facilities
- Major recreation facilities will be recognised as a shared community resource, to be sustainably, efficiently and effectively utilised
- If sustainable in the long term, a full co-location model will be implemented for the development of the next generation of Albany sport and recreation facilities
- Major sport and recreation facilities and infrastructure will be efficiently and effectively well managed and maintained (within the limits of available prioritised resources) to ensure they continue meet their intended purpose to a high degree over time
- Consultation is meaningful and timely while effectively and efficiently utilising community resources
- That there are sufficient motivated, trained and recognised volunteers to support the community's aspirations for the the provision of sport and recreation in Albany

A major focus of outcomes relating to this strategy will be to identify what can be achieved in the short to medium term, within the likely scope of available internal and external funding, while maintaining the integrity of long term planning.

BACKGROUND/ STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Council's original recreation strategy was developed in 2001. Following its adoption the Centennial Park Recreation Precinct Plan and Feasibility Study for Indoor Recreation and Aquatic Facilities were adopted (respectively).

A number of identified priority projects were completed, these include an upgrade of the Albany Leisure and Aquatic Centre (\$14.1 mil, 2008), Synthetic Hockey/ Sports Surface (est. \$450k, 2005) and Sanford Rd Skate park (est. \$450k, 2007).

A paths masterplan and priority projects were undertaken as was the development and implementation of a number of reserve and playground plans.

Work was commenced on concept planning for a Multisport facility at Centennial Park however this was suspended in late 2007 due to uncertainty in relation to the availability of the required level of external capital funding.

After consideration of the need for additional facilities and facility upgrades, as well as the political, economic, social, technological, environmental and legislative environment council determined to review the recreation strategy.

This strategy is presented within the strategic context of the Albany insight beyond 2020 strategic plan. The specific goals and initiatives guiding this strategy are:

Albany will be a City where ...

1.2 Young adults are well catered for.

1.3 Recreation facilities provide a diverse range of sporting and exercise opportunities.

1.5 Development ...

- responds to our unique historical and environmental values;*
- embraces environmentally responsible approaches to energy and water consumption; and*
- incorporates healthy lifestyle activities and access to green space*

Albany will be a City where ...

2.4 Our unique cultural heritage attractions deliver world class tourism experiences.

The City of Albany will...

4.2 Manage our municipal assets to ensure they are capable of supporting our growing community.

4.3 Deliver excellent community services that meet the needs and interests of our diverse communities."

KEY FOCUS AREAS

Location, Scope, Achievable Development and Provision of New Facilities

1.0 Recreation Master plan

There is a need to complete a master plan which identifies the location of major recreation facilities in Albany. As part of the master plan recommendations will be made on the priority of development of facilities and the process to continue their development.

2.0 New Facility Development Parameters

When new facilities are proposed the proponents (internal and external) undertake a process to determine need and feasibility. In addition to the level of co-location there is a need to assist in setting the initial direction/ scope for internally or externally managed sport and recreation facility developments by identifying the framework and basic parameters/ guidelines to be followed.

3.0 The City's Role In Recreation and Sporting Facility Development and Construction

There is a need to identify which type of facility developments will be led by the City and which will be led by other organisations as well as confirm the process and level of support offered for external/ community group developments by City staff.

Ongoing Operational Viability of Sporting And Recreational Facilities

4.0 Co-located Recreation Facilities

Co-location (a number of groups sharing facilities) has been seen by the Sport and Recreation industry as the way to improve the operation of clubs and ensure their sustainability. Large scale co-location may not be sustainable in Albany in the short to medium term given:

- the achievability/availability of funding for the capital cost of a single stage major co-location.
- that smaller facilities/ clubs (under 300 members) may be more manageable by volunteers
- the level of community desire (expressed by proposals) for smaller scale facilities

There is a need to define and communicate a sustainable model for co-location.

5.0 The City's Role in Recreation and Sporting Facility Operation

There are a number of historical arrangements governing the operation of Albany facilities.

The cost to council, net fees levied for services and intensity of staff involvement vary for each management scenario.

While volunteers arguably remain the lifeblood of Albany sport and the City does not have the capacity to undertake management and (without the contribution of clubs and individuals) provide for all recreation pursuits. There is a need to conduct a review and identify the parameters for councils role in the management and operation of Albany Recreation facilities, with a focus on priority and equity.

Other Focus Areas

6.0 Consultation

It is important for stakeholders to be meaningfully involved in decisions affecting them. It is equally important to recognise that community members time is valuable and paid officers and volunteers resources are finite. A balance between effective consultation and action is required.

7.0 Volunteering

An estimated 7,000 volunteers contribute their time and skills toward of unpaid work in a wide range of agencies and organisations. Over 200 Albany community organisations, staffed by volunteers, manage or operate community facilities or are established to promote specific interests. Finding, recruiting, training and retaining volunteers is a major challenge for the many organisations that require the services of volunteers.

KEY ACTION PLAN OUTLINE

Location, Scope and Achievable Provision of New Facilities

1.0 Recreation Master plan

GOAL: The Location And Interrelation Of Major Albany Sporting And Recreation Facilities Will Be Well Planned And Communicated

ACTION: That a recreation master plan is developed which: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• identifies the location of major recreation facilities and infrastructure in Albany in the short-medium term; and makes long term forecasts• identifies specific relevant parameters for their development (in addition to those contained within this strategy)• estimates capital scope and recommends priority order• identifies the lead agency for development of each identified new facility (i.e. City or other agency)	
Timeframe	Preliminary plan with estimates for council priority consideration March 2009, Finalised plan September 2009.
Resourcing	Officer time, 2008/2009 Recreation master planning budget allocation, proposed allocation for 2009/2010.
Officers	Executive Director Corporate and Community Services (EDCCS), Manager Community Development (MCD), Executive Director Development Services (EDDS), Executive Director Works and Services (EDWS), Manager ALAC (MALAC), Manager City Works (MCW), Manager City Services (MCS), Manager City Assets (MCA).

GOAL: Maximum Likelihood Of Achievement Of Planned Facilities Will Be Ensured By Keeping Capital Scope Within The Parameters Of Reasonably Foreseeable, Achievable Levels Of Funding.

ACTION: That the specification and scope of facilities identified in the recreation master plan will involve a focus on achievability, balancing needs to be met within each and the reasonably foreseeable level of available funding. In addition there will be a focus on what can be achieved in the short term while maintaining the integrity of long term planning.	
Timeframe	Preliminary plan with estimates for council priority consideration March 2009, Finalised plan September 2009.
Resourcing	Officer time, 2008/2009 Recreation master planning budget allocation, proposed allocation for 2009/2010.
Officers	Manager Community Development (MCD)

ACTION: That the following total scope of funding, currently identified in councils 15 year financial plan, is utilised as councils contribution towards facilities identified in the master plan.

2010/2011	ALAC stage II	\$1,803,000
2011/2012	Centennial Park	\$1,908,000
2015/1016	Ovals North	\$ 730,000
2016/2017	Ovals West	\$3,022,000
TOTAL		\$7,463,000

(however the timing and level of allocation to projects may vary based on need and priority) *this item is subject to priority determination by the City's finance committee

Timeframe	Determination March – July 2008
Resourcing	5 and 15 year financial plan
Officers	CEO, EDCCS, MFIN, MCD

ACTION: That the maximum amount of external funding is leveraged to deliver projects identified in the recreation master plan

Timeframe	Ongoing
Resourcing	Officer time (funding applications), external funding
Officers	CEO, EDCCS, MFIN, MCD

2.0 New Facility Development Parameters

GOAL: Albany's Recreation Facilities Will Have The Maximum Likelihood Of Sustainable Operation By Ensuring Effective Planning And Passive Design Elements

ACTION: Where new major recreation/ sporting facilities are planned conditions for their development will include (where relevant for each case):

- Consideration of and utilisation of the published Department of Sport and Recreation facility development model and Department of Treasury and Finance 'Strategic Asset Management Framework'
- The effects of Climate change and resource scarcity (including but not limited to Energy and Water efficient and carbon footprint reduction design principles)
- Staging of facilities with each stage having integrity in its own right (i.e. transportable buildings or buildings which are planned to be demolished in the medium term are not permitted as these type of facilities invariably become permanent, inefficient structures)
- Buildings which can be added onto for future stages are encouraged
- Organisations predominately servicing junior membership will not be permitted to incorporate a dedicated bar and liquor licence
- Priority will be on playing fields/ surfaces, toilets/change rooms, servery and supporting infrastructure
- Function space will be recommended against if there is sufficient space which can be leased for major events in other reasonable accessible adjacently located existing facilities

Timeframe	Ongoing
Resourcing	Officer time
Officers	EDCCS, EDDS, MCD

3.0 The City's Role In Recreation and Sporting Facility Development and Construction

GOAL: That The Community's Resources Are Effectively Prioritised and Utilised To Efficiently Deliver Major Recreation and Sport Facilities

ACTION: That the City will be responsible for feasibility, design, funding and construction of open public/ community use type facilities (to be identified in the Major Recreation Facility Master Plan), such as:

- Leisure and Aquatic Centre Facilities
- Major Sporting Grounds/ Fields
- Municipal Skate parks
- Shared community group administration facility (similar to lotteries house)

Timeframe	Ongoing
Resourcing	Officer time, future budgets
Officers	EDCCS, EDDS, EDWS, MCD, MCA, MCW

ACTION: Incorporated community organisations shall be responsible for undertaking the feasibility, design, funding and construction of facilities such as clubrooms and specialised surfaces such as tennis courts and motorsport tracks, in accordance with relevant actions within this strategy and other council strategies, policies, conditions, procedures and guidelines.

(Organisations may be eligible to apply for financial assistance under the community financial assistance fund)

Timeframe	Ongoing
Resourcing	Incorporated organisations
Officers	MCD (facilitation)

ACTION: That a guiding document will be developed outlining the process and providing guidance to groups intending to apply to lease land vested in council, for the purpose of developing community sporting and recreation facilities

Timeframe	December 2009
Resourcing	Officer time, 09/10 budget
Officers	MCD, EDCCS, EDDS, EDWS, MCA, MCW

ACTION: Where possible within the limits of available resources the City will provide facilitation, in conjunction with the Department of Sport and Recreation, providing guidance to groups at key decision making points, in relation to major recreation facility development on council vested reserves

Timeframe	Ongoing
Resourcing	Officer time
Officers	MCD

Ongoing Operational Viability Of Sporting And Recreational Facilities

4.0 Co-located Sporting and Recreational Facilities

GOAL: Major Recreation Facilities Will Be Recognised As A Shared Community Resource, To Be Sustainably, Efficiently And Effectively Utilised

ACTION: That co-location related parameters involving 'medium sized' co-location (2-3 compatible groups), rather than 'super facilities' (3+ groups) are developed and utilised by the City. These will be included as part of guiding conditions on development by community organisations seeking use of reserves vested in the City, with the purpose of recreation, for major recreation and sporting facilities to be constructed in the short (2008-2011) to medium term (2012-2018)

Timeframe	Ongoing
Resourcing	Officer time
Officers	MCD, EDDS

Goal: If Sustainable In The Long Term A Full Co-Location Model Will Be Implemented For The Development Of The Next Generation Of Albany Sport And Recreation Facilities

ACTION: That given the site will be 'green field', the principles of large scale co-location are considered to form part of the guiding principles of planning for a major sporting precinct, with construction to be staged in the long term (2015-2050) to service the needs of the Bayonet head and Lower King Areas (approx catchment population of 15,000 – 30,000).

Timeframe	Review of proposal September 2013
Resourcing	Officer time
Officers	EDCCS, EDDS, EDWS, MCD, MCA, MCW

5.0 The City's Role in Recreation and Sporting Facility Operation

GOAL: Major Sport And Recreation Facilities And Infrastructure Will Be Efficiently And Effectively Well Managed And Maintained (Within The Limits Of Available Prioritised Resources) To Ensure They Continue Meet Their Intended Purpose To A High Degree Over Time

ACTION: That a review is undertaken to investigate the feasibility of the City undertaking responsibility for maintenance, upkeep and bookings of all playing fields in the North rd. Precinct, with usage fees levied taking into account equity, current subsidy, priority and available resources.

Timeframe	March 2010
Resourcing	Officer time, 09/10 budget
Officers	EDCCS, EDWS, MCD, MCW, MALAC

ACTION: Investigation is undertaken in relation to the feasibility of extending this operational model to other major public sporting fields in Albany (eg Collingwood Park)

Timeframe	March 2010
Resourcing	Officer time, 09/10 budget
Officers	EDCCS, EDWS, MCD, MCW, MALAC

ACTION: Investigation is undertaken in relation to the feasibility of the City undertaking responsibility for sporting facility lighting maintenance with fess recovered on a full user pays basis.

Timeframe	March 2010
Resourcing	Officer time, 09/10 budget
Officers	EDCCS, EDWS, MCD, MCW, MALAC

ACTION: That where the location of facilities are identified within the master plan and in accordance with this strategy the City will lease the land to clubs for built facilities (such as clubrooms), to clubs.

Timeframe	Ongoing
Resourcing	Officer time
Officers	MCS

ACTION: Were clubs lease land for facilities, provisions are contained within the lease to ensure that the built facilities are continually maintained to an acceptable standard. The City will monitor these provisions and take action where standards are not met.

Timeframe	Ongoing
Resourcing	Officer time
Officers	MCS

ACTION: Clubs are also encouraged wherever possible to create and contribute to reserves for replacement of facilities at the end of their useful life

Timeframe	Ongoing
Resourcing	Officer time
Officers	MCD, MCS

Other Focus Areas

6.0 Consultation

GOAL: Consultation Is Meaningful And Timely While Effectively And Efficiently Utilising Community Resources

ACTION: Consultation on Major Recreation Strategy initiatives will involve the formation of key focus groups for a set limited time period, relevant to each topic for consideration

Timeframe	Ongoing
Resourcing	Officer time
Officers	MCD

7.0 Volunteering

GOAL: That There Are Sufficient Motivated, Trained And Recognised Volunteers To Support The Community's Aspirations For The The Provision Of Sport And Recreation In Albany

ACTION: That the City of Albany 'Volunteer Strategy' specifically address the recruitment and retention of volunteers in the area of Community Sport and Recreation

Timeframe	Vol strategy completed by July 2009
Resourcing	Officer time
Officers	MCD

Performance Measurement

A number of qualitative and quantitative measures will be utilised to measure the effectiveness of this strategy, they include:

- Quantitative feedback from community utilising the City's 'climate survey'
- Quantitative evaluation of achievement of strategy actions within given timeframes
- Qualitative evaluation by Councils Community and Economic Development Strategy and Policy Committee
- Qualitative evaluation through discussion, interviews and focus groups with groups, individuals and agencies
- Normative evaluation by officers
- Evaluation and feedback from reference groups such as Seniors, Youth and other relevant Advisory Committees.

Associated Documents

- City of Albany Corporate Documents Policy (2006).
- City of Albany Financial Assistance Policy (2006).
- City of Albany Community Development Strategy (2007)

Review

Manager Community Development and Executive Director of Corporate and Community Services to review on or before 30/10/2012