

# FINAL REPORT

## Gayndah Shire Sport and Recreation Plan



*June 2000*



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This report was prepared by:

**Strategic Leisure Australia Pty Ltd**  
Leisure Planning and Management Consultants  
Level 3, ANZ Stadium  
Cnr Kessels and Mains Roads  
Nathan Qld 4111  
Phone: (07) 3216 8899  
Fax: (07) 3216 8844  
E-mail: [sla@ozemail.com.au](mailto:sla@ozemail.com.au)



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# 1 Executive Summary

## Overview

While there are relatively few “burning issues”, this study has identified a number of short, medium and long term recommendations which should guide sport and recreation planning over the next four to eight years.

The key needs to emerge from the study are:

- Addressing the long term management of the Gayndah Sports Grounds
- Development of a feature park for the town
- Realising some of the Shire’s recreational tourism potential
- Facilities and activities for youth to use in an unstructured manner
- Better management of recreational assets

The provision of organised field sport and recreation in Gayndah Shire will be boosted on completion of the upgrading of the Gayndah Sports Complex. This development, when complete, will provide for touch football, rugby league, soccer, softball, cricket, little athletics, netball, use by schools and community celebrations.

## Population

The ABS estimated that the population of Gayndah Shire (June 1998) was 2,795 persons. Over the five years, 1993-1998, the population decreased by an average of 0.9% per annum though the population is expected to remain relatively stable with the projection for 2011 being 2,820 persons.

Gayndah Shire’s age profile is similar to that of the broader Wide Bay-Burnett population – it is under-represented in all categories between 15 and 49 when compared to Queensland as a whole.

Data on the age of Gayndah Shire residents from the 1986, 1991 and 1996 Census’ reveal that the population of the Shire is ageing. The median age of residents in Gayndah was 36 years in 1996 compared to 33 years for Queensland as a whole.

## Youth Issues

Youth generally felt that there were adequate sport options. The improvements that youth wanted to see were generally unstructured recreational and social activities, including:

- A “hang out” space for those under 18
- A movie theatre
- Improvements to the BMX track
- A basketball court
- A water slide and diving board at the swimming pool

## Sport and Recreation Club Membership

Membership of sport and recreation organisations in Gayndah Shire over the last 3 years has fluctuated, with some groups showing a substantial increase and others experiencing a significant decline (see section 7.1.1). Reasons for declining membership include economic

conditions, ageing membership, attraction of other sports, reduction in junior players and lack of shade or night lighting. Increasing membership was seen as a high priority for the majority of organisations over the next 3 years.

Many groups were dissatisfied with current facilities. Where dissatisfaction with facilities was indicated, the main themes to emerge were lighting and ground maintenance issues, inability to cater for regional/ state competition and inadequate amenities (refer to section 7.1.2).

The development of the Gayndah Sports Grounds and scheduled upgrade of tennis courts should address much of this concern

## **Sport and Recreation Group Issues**

Sport and recreation groups are facing a number of challenges in staying financially viable. The cost of playing sport was a concern of most groups as was the cost of travel to compete in major events.

Clubs reported a decline in volunteerism, which is consistent with other studies of this nature. A decline in the volunteer base has made the task of administering sport even harder for the few remaining volunteers.

There was some criticism of Council's support to sport, mostly concerning mowing and other ground maintenance issues. At this stage, the impact of water rates is unknown but is of concern to a number of clubs.

## **Parks and Open Space**

Gayndah has a number of parks and open spaces throughout the town. However, none could be described as a feature park. Most are flat, mown areas planted with trees, often in rows or at least formally spaced. Ron Cullen Park and Jaycees Park are the two major parks in the town that provide for family style recreation activities.

A feature park would improve passive recreation opportunities for the Shire's residents and visitors.

## 2 Recommendations

The recommendations of this report have been classified as:

- Short term (0 - 2 years)
- Medium term (3 - 4 years)
- Long term (5 - 8 years)

The recommendations are pragmatic and have been realistically framed in accordance with Council's budget, the ability to obtain grants and/or other resources.

It should be noted that costs outlined in the recommendations are indicative only and should not be relied upon for budgeting purposes as in many cases, multiple disciplines are involved (e.g. engineering, architecture, construction). In addition, factors such as proximity of services and local conditions (e.g. geo-tech) need to be examined.

The recommendations in this report have taken a strategic approach. The basis for formulating recommendations has been that they either meet broad community needs or address specific or obvious gaps in the provision of sport and recreation.

While the report identifies the aspirations and challenges of individual clubs in Gayndah, it does not place them in an "order of merit" over the next 8 years. Many individual club needs require further clarification, reality testing, accurate costing and are likely to change over time.

It is suggested that Council include the recommendations of this report into the Gayndah Shire Council Corporate Plan so that they may be resourced over time.

It is suggested that Council include the recommendations of this report into the Gayndah Shire Council Corporate Plan (under Program 4 – Parks, Gardens, Recreational and Cultural Amenities) so that they may be resourced over time.

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>1</b>	Priority = Short
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**Gayndah Sports Ground**

Establish a management agreement for the redeveloped Gayndah Sports Ground including an agreed level of service to be provided by Council.

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**Rationale**

Council is in the process of redeveloping the Gayndah Sports Grounds. It is not recommended that Council adopt management of this facility on a day-to-day basis but that this be passed to a management body that can represent all users' needs.

The management body would need to be incorporated and would most likely have a representative of each sport played on the sports ground as an equal member.

Council should negotiate an annual level of service that it will provide to the Gayndah Sports Grounds with the management body. This will cover the frequency and standard of Council's mowing service and any other services that it will provide e.g. rubbish removal. Any extra services required by the management body can be negotiated with Council and reviewed annually. If Council wishes to gain access to the grounds for special events it needs to factor into the agreement the number of times per annum that it requires access to the Grounds and the process that it will use to notify the managers of the proposed dates.

An agreed management arrangement and level of service will ensure that all parties are clear on their own and others responsibilities concerning the new complex.

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Indicative Cost	Agreement can be negotiated in-house though there may be some cost for legal fees (say \$1,000)
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<b>Recommendation 2</b>	Priority = Short
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**Recreation Tourism Potential**

Council liaise with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Biggenden Shire Council with regard to the development of the Mt Walsh National Park / Coongara Rock State Forest areas.

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**Rationale**

In discussions with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, it was discovered that there would be some development of walking tracks at Mt Walsh National Park over the next year or so. Additionally, Coongara Rock is planned as an addition to the Mt Walsh National Park in 2001 as part of the Regional Forest Agreement. This will add to the attraction of this National Park. Coongara Rock straddles Council's boundary with Biggenden Shire Council and can be accessed by road from either side.

Council needs to maintain contact with developments at Coongara Rock to ensure that its interests – securing tourism and recreation opportunities for the Shire – are represented in any planning decisions.

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Indicative Cost	Nil
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Long-term though any proposed development may require Council to contribute.

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<b>Recommendation 3</b>	Priority = Short
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**BMX Track**

Council formalise the BMX jumps located in Lions Park into a BMX track.

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**Rationale**

Consultation with youth found that the BMX jumps in Lions Park are very popular but that with a minimal amount of work these could be made into a BMX track that would provide more challenge and excitement.

Initially a track design should be established with the potential users. Once the design is agreed then it would only be a matter of shaping the existing dirt and adding some if necessary. No other expensive construction is required. Maintenance is low, though every few years some reshaping may be required. Management would stay with Council.

Combined with the existing skateboard facility and the recommended half court basketball court (recommendation 8), a youth recreation precinct is created in this corner of Lions Park.

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Indicative Cost	\$2,000
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<b>Recommendation 4</b>	Priority = Short
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**Asset Management**

Council prepare an asset management plan for the swimming pool and the Gayndah Sports Complex

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**Rationale**

Larger, more expensive recreational assets should have a planned maintenance schedule to ensure that they operate to the standard required and that costs are minimised over the long term. Properly planned maintenance can avoid down-time and costly plant failures by ensuring that maintenance is performed in a timely manner and not reacting to failures.

Initially, a condition audit will be required for the swimming pool and an asset management plan developed from that. For the Gayndah Sports Complex, this will be easier as most assets will be new.

Professionals specialising in the area of recreational/sporting asset management planning and maintenance should complete an asset management plan for both facilities.

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Indicative Cost	\$8,000
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<b>Recommendation 5</b>	Priority = Short
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**School Holiday Activities**

Council encourages and facilitates if necessary, the YMCA restarting its school holiday activities program. The program should consider, in particular, the needs of young women, as there are less informal recreation opportunities for this group than for young men.

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**Rationale**

Young women have few options for recreation outside of formal sport. This report has recommended an upgrade of the BMX track, provision of a half-court and there is an skateboard facility. While these facilities will be available to all youths, in reality they will tend to be used more by males than females.

The cost to Council of supporting a program such as this would not be great and it is low risk (because if it is not supported then funding can be stopped).

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Indicative Cost	\$2,000 per year
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<b>Recommendation 6</b>	Priority = Short
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**Active Australia**

Gayndah Shire Council become involved in the Active Australia network

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**Rationale**

Local government is a major provider of sport and recreation facilities and opportunities. With local governments, investing significantly in provision of these services it makes sense to seek to do it as efficiently and effectively as possible.

The Active Australia network creates a mechanism for getting key sport and recreation providers together to share information and improve planning and delivery in local communities. Once Council becomes a member of this group, it will have access to examples of best practice, information on services and infrastructure, and the ability to access a network of professionals.

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Indicative Cost	Nil
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<b>Recommendation 7</b>	Priority = Short/Medium
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**Greys Waterhole**

Develop Greys Waterhole as a significant regional park catering to the active and passive recreational needs of the Shire's residents as well as tourists.

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**Rationale**

Greys Waterhole is an attractive destination for local residents and visitors alike. Activities available include fishing, water skiing, swimming and picnicking.

Development at this point is only basic which limits its use. Its attractiveness though warrants upgraded facilities, which is likely to extend its use.

Development would include upgrading roads, formalising car parks, installing BBQ and picnic facilities as well as toilet facilities (suggest low-cost composting toilets). Prior to any development though a site master plan should be developed. This will identify the appropriate type of facilities, their site location, traffic flow, signage, materials to be used, vegetation-planting etc. The plan can also identify the appropriate staging of developments to allow its development over a number of years.

A developed Greys Waterhole would add to Gayndah Shire's tourist attractions and encourage visitors to both visit and stay longer.

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Indicative Cost	Up to \$100,000 staged over four years
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<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>8</b>	Priority = Medium/Long
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**Feature Park**

Council develop the parkland between Sam Weller Avenue, Queen, Simon and Pineapple Streets as a feature park.

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**Rationale**

Gayndah Shire does not have a large attractive park where families can go for a BBQ, picnic or other passive recreation. Jaycees Park and Ron Cullen Park while attractive, are not large and/or do not have or allow for a range of recreational activities. A large attractive park will provide passive recreation for the Shire's residents as well as encouraging community development.

It is suggested that the parkland between Sam Weller Avenue, Queen, Simon and Pineapple Streets be totally redeveloped. Plantings are currently linear and small. The arrangement of trees and shrubs does not provide any "spaces" within the park that are necessary if it is to be used for passive recreation. As well, there are no open spaces suitable for "kicking a ball around". In short, the park in its present state is uninviting and rarely used.

In redeveloping this park it is suggested that Council consider:

- Replanting the vegetation to create spaces (or zones) within the park with some areas being well vegetated and others left open.
- BBQ and picnic facilities be installed
- A water feature at the Simon Street end near the water treatment works. A shallow lake, attractive to ducks and other wildlife, could be created to add character and diversity to the park. Water pumped from the river (before its treatment) could be used to keep the lake filled. As long as the soil in this area is suitable for an artificial lake the amount of water required to keep it topped up should not be excessive.
- Long term, an amenities block can be created on the park and this would serve the needs of the adjacent Lions Park. However, as public toilets are a considerable expense, the public toilets at the Shire Hall can serve in the interim.

The development of a feature park on this site has several advantages. This location is reasonably central to the town, only has light traffic nearby, is adjacent to the youth facilities of Lions Park, is near the CBD and can take advantage of spare water capacity from the nearby pumping station to form a water feature.

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<b>Indicative Cost</b>	Up to \$100,000
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<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Priority = Medium</b>
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**Half Court Basketball Court**


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A half court basketball court be developed as part of the recreation / sport precinct at Lions Park

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**Rationale**

Youth expressed a desire for a half court basketball court and these have been popular with youth in other centres. Constructing a half court in Lions Park will add another youth recreation option to the existing skateboard and BMX facilities already located there.

A half court would be a low cost informal, recreational option for the Shire's youth.

The cost to Council is a one-off construction cost as once constructed maintenance costs are low.

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<b>Indicative Cost</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
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<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Priority = Long</b>
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**Ban Ban Springs Rest Area**


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Council cooperates with Department of Main Roads to redevelop the Ban Ban Springs Rest Area.

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**Rationale**

Ban Ban Springs is a well-known tourist destination however it is currently in a poor state of repair and is not particularly attractive to tourists or locals.

When redeveloped it will not only offer an attractive tourist stop but also an alternative passive recreation opportunity for local residents.

The available budget and consultation with residents will determine the final mix and type of facilities provided though it would be expected that the area would generally cater to short stay users.

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<b>Indicative Cost</b>	<b>Not Costed</b>
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## 2.1 Funding of Recommendations

The following table indicates the possible cost and timing of the recommendations. All estimates are fully costed. Council may have opportunities to reduce costs e.g. donated materials; service club labour or be able to access grant schemes for materials or labour to reduce its expenditure.

For some recommendations, it has not been possible to cost them at this time e.g. Ban Ban Springs Rest Area redevelopment. These will need to be determined over time and budgeted accordingly. It is felt that with grant and labour funds and some community assistance supplementing Council's contribution, the recommendations are affordable.

Recommendation	Year							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Gayndah Sports Ground</b>	1,000							
<b>Recreation Tourism Potential</b>	Dependent on Council's decision to support any proposed developments							
<b>BMX Track</b>		2,000						
<b>Asset Management Plans</b>	4,000	4,000						
<b>School Holiday Activities</b>	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
<b>Active Australia</b>	Nil							
<b>Greys Waterhole</b>		30,000	20,000	25,000	25,000			
<b>Feature Park</b>			25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000		
<b>Half Court Basketball Court</b>			10,000					
<b>Ban Ban Springs Rest Area</b>					To be determined			
<b>Total (Plus un-costed items)</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>38,000</b>	<b>57,000</b>	<b>52,000</b>	<b>52,000</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>

*Table 1: Costing of Recommendations*

## 2.1.1 Potential Funding Sources

It is suggested that Council consider the following funding sources to supplement its own or other organisations funding for the recommendations. This section draws heavily from the publication "Finding Funding"<sup>1</sup>.

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### 1. Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Program

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Sport and Recreation Queensland (Department of Communication, Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport) (5479 1199)

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Assistance is available "...to extend, upgrade or develop venues for regional sporting competition and for the community to participate in sport and active recreation".

Applications from local government are given priority. Grants up to 50% of the eligible costs can be received to a maximum of \$500,000. The eligible project costs must be more than \$250,000.

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### 2. Community Sport and Recreation Development Program

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Sport and Recreation Queensland (Department of Communication, Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport) (5479 1199)

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This Scheme's purpose is "...develop and deliver sport and recreation activities to Queensland communities (by improving) the management and administration of organisations providing sport and recreation opportunities, and increase participation in sport and recreation activities".

Assistance between \$3,000 and \$5,000 is available depending upon the nature of the project.

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### 3. Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund

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Department of Families, Youth and Community Care (1800 633 619)

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A broad range of non-recurrent projects is eligible for funding under this scheme. Projects must be able to demonstrate that they are "the development and provision of services and activities which will benefit the community".

Generally funding will only be to \$15,000 though in certain circumstances greater amounts can be applied for.

Eligibility is open to Queensland non-profit community organisations (not local governments)

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#### 4. Jupiter Casino Community Benefit Fund

Jupiter Casino Community Benefit Fund Trust (3808 7444)

Grants up to \$150,000 (larger grants will be considered in exceptional circumstances) for a broad range of projects which benefit the community. Projects must be capital based and discrete.

Eligibility is open to Queensland non-profit community organisations but not local governments)

#### 5. Minor Sport and Recreation Facilities Program

Sport and Recreation Queensland (Department of Communication, Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport) (5479 1199)

This program "...aims to increase the quality and quantity of sport and recreation facilities throughout Queensland (by) ...assisting in the construction or upgrading of sport and recreation facilities".

Financial assistance up to 50% of the total eligible costs to a maximum of \$50,000. Projects must have a total eligible cost between \$10,000 and \$250,000.

#### 6. Outside School Hours Care for Young People

Department of Families, Youth and Community Care (3224 8045)

This program provides funding towards after school (including school holiday) activity programs for 13-15 year olds.

The program is not currently funded but the Department advised that liaison should be maintained with the regional office in case this changes or other funds become available.

#### 7. Rural Living Infrastructure Program

Department of Communication, Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport (3225 8696)

Provides funding to local governments to enhance the quality of life for of people living in rural Queensland. Objectives include "improvement of community recreational, sporting or physical infrastructure" and "increasing tourism potential".

Grants up to \$75,000 are available and for a Shire the size of Gayndah, the subsidy would be up to 75% of the project cost.

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## 8. Showground Capital Works Subsidy Scheme

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Department of Communication, Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport  
(3225 8636)

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The scheme provides subsidies to show societies for capital works.

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### 3 Study Objectives

The Councils of Gayndah, Kolan and Biggenden jointly issued a project brief for sport and recreation plans for each Council.

The purpose of the project as outlined in the project brief was to:

*“...provide direction to Councils in the allocation of resources to sport and recreation development in each shire.”*

The objectives of the study as outlined in the brief were:

- To identify existing sport and recreation facilities and their usage and make recommendations with respect to improvements to these facilities
- To identify existing sport and recreation programs and their community usage and make recommendations with respect to future provision
- To determine the future facility needs of the community, on a short (4 years) and long-term (8 years) basis, taking into account regional demographics and regional needs. Provide for those facilities the most appropriate times and locations at optimum quality and cost
- Identify avenues of funding for both the Councils and the community groups to access or provide sport and recreation opportunities
- To provide Councils with strategies and policies in relation to sport and recreation provision within each Shire suitable for incorporation in the Council's Corporate and Operational Plans
- To identify the opportunities for sport and recreation tourism available for each Shire and the benefits that it can bring to each local economy
- To identify and define on maps land required for the future provision of sport and recreation facilities.

It was agreed with the Steering Committee that mapping would be the responsibility of the various Councils.

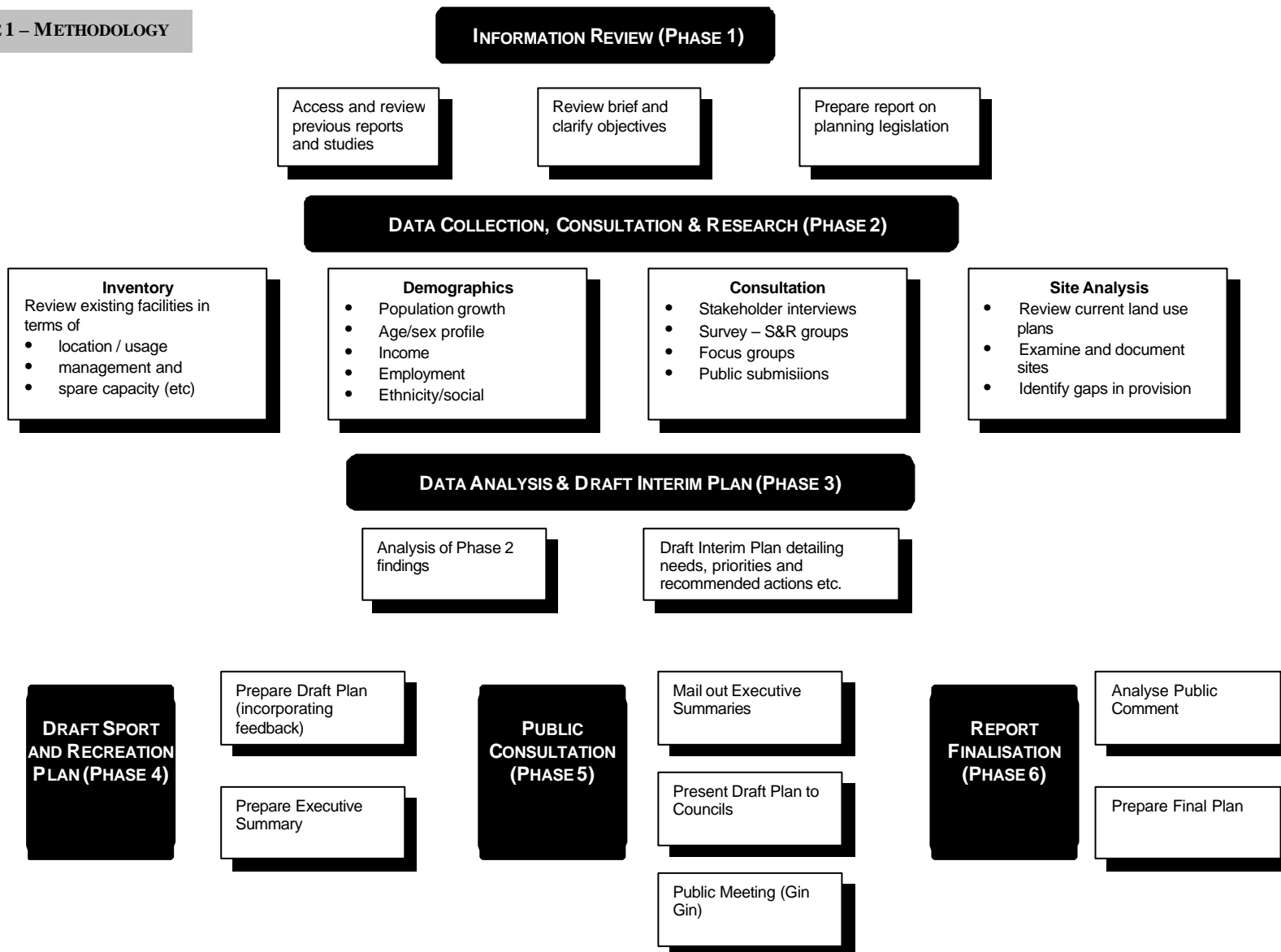
## 4 Study Approach

The study was undertaken in 6 distinct phases. This allowed the consultation to be undertaken in a logical and progressive fashion and provided the Steering Committee with feedback at relevant points.

These stages are represented in Figure 1 – Methodology and comprise the following:

<b>Phase One:</b>	Information Review
<b>Phase Two:</b>	Data Collection, Consultation and Research
<b>Phase Three:</b>	Data Analysis and Interim Draft Sport and Recreation Plan
<b>Phase Four:</b>	Draft Sport and Recreation Plan
<b>Phase Five:</b>	Public consultation on Draft Sport and Recreation Plan
<b>Phase Six:</b>	Report Finalisation and Presentation

**FIGURE 1 – METHODOLOGY**



## 4.1 Phase 1 – Information Review

In this phase the following activities were undertaken:

- The context of the study was clarified
- A tour of the Council's sport and recreation facilities
- Initial interviews with key to identify issues, opportunities and constraints in sport and recreation participation in the Shire
- A detailed review of relevant documentation

A review, identifying the likely impacts of current and planned legislation affecting recreational open space was also prepared.

## 4.2 Phase 2 – Data Collection, Consultation and Research

Phase 2 was divided into a series of stages, which allowed relevant information to be collected in order to make informed decisions and recommendations. Each stage was run concurrently.

### Inventory

An overview of existing sport and recreation facilities, programs and services within the Shire was conducted. The purpose of gathering this data was to establish the location, size, usage, general condition and management of existing facilities and services and to establish whether or not spare capacity exists.

### Demographics

A review of the socio-demographic profile of the Shire was undertaken in order to assess likely impacts on sport and recreation participation.

### Consultation

A comprehensive consultation approach was undertaken to ensure community input into the study. The consultation strategy comprised:

1. **Stakeholder Interviews** – meetings and discussions with key individuals and groups identified by the Steering Committee
2. **Sport and Recreation Groups' Survey** – questionnaires were distributed to all sport and recreational groups in the Shire to determine current and future needs.
3. **Focus Group Workshops** – focus group meetings were held with representatives of:
  - sport and recreation groups
  - schools and educational institutions
  - business, tourism and community groups
  - Year 6 and Year 11 school children
4. **Public Submissions** – the public were invited to provide submissions and time was made available to meet one-on-one if that was desired.

## Site Analysis

An examination of key potential sites for the development of sport and recreation facilities.

### 4.3 Phase 3 – Data Analysis and Interim Draft Sport and Recreation Plan

The findings from Phase 2 were analysed to develop an overall strategy for sport and recreation in the Shire. The aim was to produce a draft document that clearly identified relevant issues and provided logical and practical solutions.

- A realistic assessment of future facility needs based on the outcome of the consultation process and having regard to the impact of trends, future population projections, other demographic factors, and current and likely patterns of use
- An action plan for facility provision / solutions over the next eight years, including
  - Recommendations (for facility developments, land acquisition, Council strategies and policies and, sport and recreation tourism)
  - Priorities
  - Actions
  - Indicative costing (where available)
- An outline of gaps in provision and possible non-asset solutions to future needs.
- The most appropriate sites for future development.
- Links to Council's Corporate Plan.

The interim report was circulated to the Steering Committee and Council for their comment.

### 4.4 Phase 4 – Draft Sport and Recreation Plan

Following feedback from the Steering Committee / Council, the document was amended where errors of fact or emphasis warranted.

### 4.5 Phase 5 – Public Consultation on Draft Sport and Recreation Plan

An Executive Summary was prepared of each report and was used as the main public comment document. It was posted to those groups that had participated in the process (e.g. survey respondents, focus group participants, schools etc.). Each Executive Summary had a Response Sheet attached that allowed readers to easily provide responses on the Draft Sport and Recreation Plan.

### 4.6 Phase 6 – Report Finalisation

After Council and public comments were received, the need for any alternations or amendments was evaluated in consultation with the Steering Committee / Council and the final report, emphasising priorities, actions and recommendations were prepared. Council was also left with a database of facilities.

## 5 Review of Relevant Reports and Studies

### 5.1 Wide Bay Sport and Recreation Council – 3 Year Action Plan

The Wide Bay Sport and Recreation Council (WBSRC) was formed in 1996. The membership of the Council is reflective of Wide Bay. The region is broken down into 4 sub-regions with representatives from each of these areas on the Council.

The WBSRC's Action Plan identifies a number of priorities for the region. These were identified with the community and amongst professionals in the region. Since the original plan was developed many actions have been completed or are in train.

The Sport and Recreation Plan for Gayndah Shire Council will satisfy Action 1.1.1 for these as well as contributing to a number of other Actions contained in the plan. Specifically these include those relating to sporting infrastructure for sport and recreation events (Action 1.3.1) and identifying regional sport and recreation facility needs (Action 4.1.1).

### 5.2 Gayndah Shire Council Corporate Plan 1999/2000 and Operational Plan 1999/2000

The Gayndah Shire Council's Vision is:

*Gayndah Shire will be an economically viable rural community in which to live, work and retire.*

Council's Mission statement is:

*To fulfil the needs of the Community in the most efficient manner.*

Council has nine programs. The Program "Parks, Gardens, Recreational and Cultural Amenities" is most relevant to this report. The Program's Goal is:

*To provide a range of gardens, open space, sport, recreational and cultural facilities that meet the needs of the Community and encourages tourism.*

This study will contribute to four actions within Council's Operational Plan:

- Prepare a register of public and community facilities and community organisations
- Consult with community on need for additional facilities
- Continued support for recreational and cultural activities and the Museum
- To develop and maintain recreation parks as appropriate

### 5.3 North Coast Regional Sports Facility: Consultation Report 1998

This report is a regional consultation report which identifies facility needs of regional sport associations and local governments and the existing facilities capable of hosting regional, state, national or international competition. The Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing (now Sport and Recreation Queensland in the Department of Communication, Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport) prepared the report in 1998.

The following issues were identified as affecting local governments:

- The Department of Natural Resources changed the requirements for leasing of crown land to include the preparation of management plans for reserves. This has had a significant impact on the ability of under-resourced local governments to process leases and has consequently slowed the development of facilities.
- Availability of further land for sport and recreation is a significant issue and the main source of additional land is crown reserve. However, increased sharing of land and facilities is being made more difficult by the extension of playing seasons and pre-season training. Rural centres also struggle with cost of infrastructure for new facilities if suitable land can be found.
- Increasing economic pressure on clubs has expanded the level of requests for funding assistance and local governments are constantly criticised for their lack of assistance.
- Management of Council owned facilities usually involves a tension between the need to recover some costs (by charging) and ensuring the facility is accessibly priced. In addition, club use of indoor and stadium facilities have traditionally allowed clubs to generate revenue through kiosk and sponsorship sales. This can sometimes be at odds with professional management of the facility, which seeks to control those revenue sources.
- In rural shires, the lack of planning (for facilities) has often resulted in a lack of resources for development of facilities.
- For shires with low growth it is difficult to prioritise development of sport and recreation facilities above that of generating employment and economic development.
- Several councils felt the role of federal government in funding facilities was unclear and that an agreement should be reached as to the responsibilities of each tier of government.
- Many councils are still unclear on the implications of the Integrated Planning Act (IPA) 1997, for sport and recreation provision and planning.

### 5.3.1 Existing and Planned Facilities

The following points summarise the relevant facility issues in the Gayndah region:

- Gayndah Sports Grounds have been used for Regional level events
- Sporting associations are struggling financially. Government assistance is required for facility and program development
- Gayndah Golf Club estimates that \$150,000 is needed to irrigate the course fairways
- Council is currently completing a \$330,000 upgrade of the Gayndah Sports Grounds
- Bundaberg plans to build a \$5M indoor sport and entertainment venue to a standard for national competition

## 6 Demographic Analysis

### 6.1 Population and Age Structure

The ABS estimated that the population of Gayndah Shire (June 1998) was 2,795 persons<sup>ii</sup>. Over the five years, 1993-1998, the population decreased by an average of 0.9% per annum, though in 1997-98 this had accelerated to a 1.5% decrease<sup>iii</sup>. The population is expected to remain relatively stable with the projection for 2011 being 2,820 persons<sup>iv</sup>.

This figure represents the permanent population. Gayndah Shire has a large itinerant population associated with the orchard industry. Gayndah Shire has estimated this population at 500 and they reside in the district from April until September/October.

Figure 2 shows the age and sex profile of the Gayndah Shire population<sup>v</sup>.

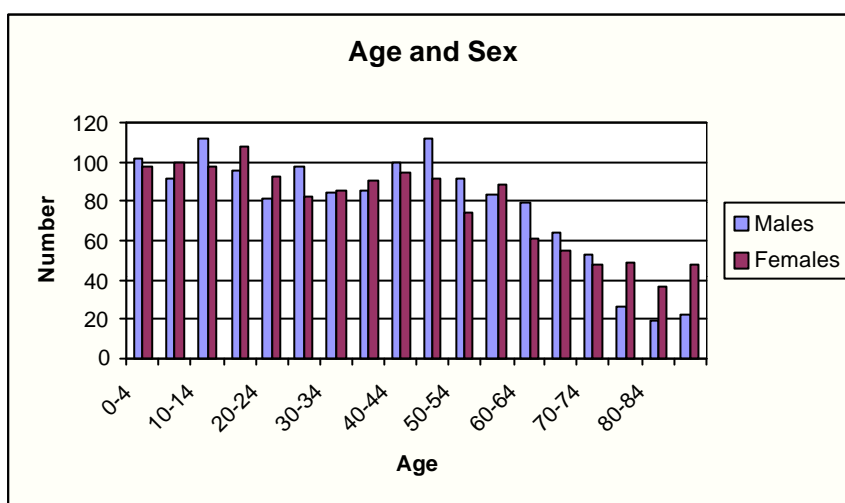


Figure 2: Age and Sex Profile for Gayndah Shire

Gayndah Shire’s age profile is similar to that of the broader Wide Bay-Burnett population – it is under-represented in all categories between 15 and 49 when compared to Queensland as a whole. The Queensland Government Statistician has surmised that this may be a result of these age groups leaving the region to pursue education and employment opportunities<sup>vi</sup>.

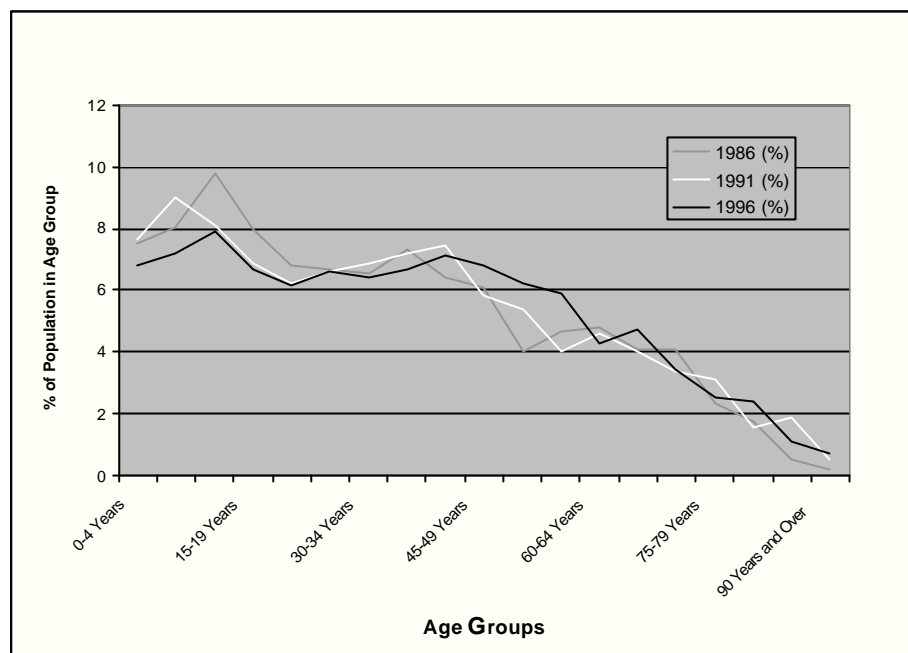


Figure 3 Gayndah Shire Age Trends-1986-1996

Data on the age of Gayndah Shire residents from the 1986, 1991 and 1996 Census' reveal that the population of the Shire is ageing. Figure 3 shows the age trends in Gayndah Shire from 1986 to 1996. This figure indicates that the proportion of residents aged up to approximately 40 years has decreased since 1986. However, the proportion of residents aged from 40 to approximately 70 years has increased during this period. The median age of residents in Gayndah was 36 years in 1996. Although this is less than the median age of Biggenden Shire residents (41 years), it is comparable to Kolan Shire (35 years) and higher than Queensland as a whole (33 years)<sup>vii</sup>.

## 6.2 Ethnicity and Social Profile

Gayndah Shire's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is 135 persons, which represents approximately 4.6% of the population.<sup>viii</sup> The proportion is higher than in Biggenden (2.9%) and Kolan Shires (1.9%).

The population of the Gayndah Shire and the Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division are less ethnically diverse than Queensland in total. Approximately 89.3% of the Gayndah Shire population were Australian born, which is slightly higher than the figure for the Wide Bay-Burnett region (85.7%). Both have a higher proportion of Australian born residents than Queensland as a whole (78.4%). Of the overseas born groups in Gayndah, persons from the U.K. or Ireland represent the largest group (2.88% of the population)<sup>ix</sup>. English is the only language spoken at home by 95.3% of Gayndah residents aged 5 years and over, this is more than the percentage for Queensland as a whole (82.2%) and reinforces that Gayndah Shire is less ethnically diverse than Queensland as a whole<sup>x</sup>.

Educational levels across the three Shires are slightly below the Queensland average. Persons, as a percentage of the Shire population, with a vocational qualification, Diploma, Bachelor degree or higher are Gayndah Shire (29.8%), Biggenden Shire (31%) and Kolan Shire (27.9%). The State average is 38.5%<sup>xi</sup>. In 1996, 10.7% of people living in Gayndah Shire were attending primary school and 6.3% were attending secondary school. Only 1.5% of the population was attending either a Technical or Further Education Institution, University or other Tertiary Institution. These figures are comparable to both Kolan and Biggenden Shires<sup>xii</sup>.

### 6.3 Income, Employment and Households' Profile

The median family income of Gayndah residents aged 15 or older was \$563 per week in 1996. This compares favourably with Kolan (\$449) and Biggenden Shire residents (\$435) though unfavourably with Queensland as a whole (\$688)<sup>xiii</sup>.

The unemployment rates at the time of the 1996 census<sup>xiv</sup> were:

Local Government	Unemployment Rate
Gayndah	6.7%
Kolan	22.4%
Biggenden	9.7%
Queensland Average	9.6%

Gayndah's unemployment rate compared very favourably with the Queensland Average and with the Shires of Biggenden and Kolan.

The composition of family households in Gayndah Shire was somewhat different to Queensland averages. While there were slightly more couple families with children (48.7%) and couple-only families (37.5%) in Gayndah Shire compared to the whole of Queensland (47.5% and 35.4%, respectively), there were fewer one parent families in the Shire (11% compared to 13.7% for Queensland)<sup>xv</sup>.

The structure of private dwellings in Gayndah is quite unlike that of Queensland as a whole, with more people residing in alternative dwelling structures and separate housing. The proportion of people in Gayndah residing in caravans, cabins or improvised homes, was 5.2% at the time of the 1996 Census, which is higher than the Queensland average of 2.2%. This is perhaps a reflection of the large itinerant population associated with the orchard industry in the Shire<sup>xvi</sup>.

## 7 Outcome of Consultation Process

### 7.1 Sport and Recreation Survey

Surveys were forwarded to 15 known sport and recreation organisations to identify:

- Membership trends
- Participation details
- Current usage of facilities
- Levels of satisfaction with facilities
- Extent to which full use of existing facilities is being made
- Suggestions for improved use
- Essential facility development requirements and alternatives
- Long term priorities

Eleven responses were received as set out below.

Organisation	Response
Gayndah Touch Association <sup>xvii</sup>	U
Gayndah Jockey Club	U
Gayndah Golf Club	U
Gayndah Bowls Club	W
Gayndah Rugby League	W
Gayndah Junior Rugby League	U
Gayndah Cricket Club	W
Binjour Bowls Club	W
Gayndah and District Tennis Club	U
Gayndah Little Athletics	U
Gayndah Angler and Fishstocking Association	U
Gayndah Swimming Club	W
Burnett River Pistol Club	U
Gayndah Show Society	W
Gayndah and District Netball Association	U

#### 7.1.1 Recent and Predicted Membership

Organisations that showed an increase in membership in the past three years were (figures in brackets are membership three years ago and current membership):

- Burnett River Pistol Club (35 – 52)
- Gayndah Junior Rugby League (50 – 70)
- Gayndah Golf Club (98 – 100)
- Gayndah Angler and Fishstocking Association (60 – 63)

Other organisations declined in membership over the last 3 years:

- Gayndah Jockey Club (63 – 57)

- Gayndah and District Tennis Club (44 – 39)
- Gayndah Little Athletics (69 – 39)
- Gayndah and District Netball Association (110 – 60)

### Reasons for decrease in membership (last 3 years)

The main reasons stated for declining membership in recent years included:

- Economic conditions
- Ageing membership
- Attraction of other sports
- Reduction in juniors because coaching subsidies have been reduced
- As sport has to be played in the summer heat, numbers have dropped

### Reasons for predicted increase in membership (next 3 years)

Reasons for predicted participation increases include:

- Improved facilities and administration
- Better coaching and player education
- Increased publicity
- Maintenance of low costs

#### 7.1.2 Levels of satisfaction with facilities

A number of groups are dissatisfied with current facilities (Table 2). Where dissatisfaction with facilities was indicated, the main themes to emerge were:

- Lighting and ground maintenance issues
- Inability to cater for regional/ state competition
- Inadequate amenities (eg. lack of shade or toilet facilities)

Club	Facility	Satisfaction	Reason (if dissatisfied)
Gayndah Touch Association	Sport and Recreation Complex	Dissatisfied	Lighting, ground surface, number of fields, amenities
Gayndah Jockey Club	Gayndah Jockey Club	Not answered	Improvements desired include upgrading of the FM radio and upgrades to the track and facilities
Gayndah Golf Club	Golf course	Very satisfied	
Gayndah Junior Rugby League	Sport and Recreation Complex	Satisfied	Grounds need maintenance and tidying, lighting is poor, lack of irrigation

Club	Facility	Satisfaction	Reason (if dissatisfied)
Gayndah and District Tennis Club	Association Courts	Dissatisfied	Surface needs upgrading and completion of fencing
	High School Courts	Dissatisfied	Short cement courts with erosion of the grass and dirt at the rear
	Primary School courts	Satisfied	
	Jim Curtis Court	Satisfied	
	Di Baker's Court	Dissatisfied	Unpredictable bounce through lack of use
Gayndah Little Athletics	Gayndah State High School	Most dissatisfied	Grounds are poorly maintained, sharing of equipment storage
	Gayndah Sports Ground	Most dissatisfied	Not stated
Gayndah Angler and Fishstocking Association	Facility at Mt Debatable	Not answered	
Burnett River Pistol Club	Range facility	Dissatisfied	Lack of facilities such as toilets, Undercover and storage areas
Gayndah and District Netball Association	YMCA	Very satisfied	

Table 2: Summary of organisation's satisfaction with existing facilities

## Facility Use

Most respondents felt that facilities were being used to the fullest extent possible. The Gayndah Touch Association's submission supporting Council's successful application for a grant towards the Regional Multi-purpose Sporting Facility highlighted the shortcomings of that facility. As a grant has been received and work is proceeding on a significant upgrade to the grounds, the existing shortcomings will be addressed.

The Gayndah and District Tennis Association's submission thought that the schools could use school courts more often. Suggestions for programming included lunchtime half-court competitions (Primary School) and inter-house tennis competition at the high school.

## New or upgraded facilities regarded by groups as essential

Suggested upgrades which organisations feel will be essential to the development of their sport, recreation or cultural activities are listed below. The organisation's overall priorities for the next five years, which may include non-facility issues, are also listed.

### Gayndah and District Tennis Association

#### **Facility priorities**

- New surface laid on Association's synthetic courts (scheduled for 26/4/00)
- Completion of security fencing

**Overall priorities for the next five years**

- Increase membership
- Increase player participation
- Ensure continuation of junior coaching and other activities

Gayndah Touch Association**Facility priorities**

- Completion of the upgrading of the Regional Multi-purpose Sporting Facility

**Overall priorities for the next five years**

- Complete the Regional Multi-purpose Sporting Facility

Gayndah Jockey Club**Facility priorities**

- Obtain on-course TAB

**Overall priorities for the next five years**

- Maintain and progressively upgrade the tracks and fixed improvements
- Make horse racing fun and a pleasure to attend
- Take advantage of the assistance available from Council and government

Gayndah Anglers and Fish Stocking Association**Facility priorities**

- Boat ramp at Mt Debatable facility
- Amenities Block at Mt Debatable facility

**Overall priorities for the next five years**

- Boat ramp
- Annual placement of 100,000 fingerlings between Weir and Mingo each year

Burnett Pistol Club**Facility priorities**

- Toilets
- Electricity to allow for night shoots
- Building for courses and meetings
- A 100m range

**Overall priorities for the next five years**

- As above

Gayndah and District Netball Association**Facility priorities**

- Availability of four netball courts in the upgrade to the Regional Multi-purpose Sporting Facility

**Overall priorities for the next five years**

- Club viability
- Coaching and training opportunities for younger players
- Always having a facility available and in good condition

Gayndah and District Little Athletics**Facility priorities**

- Full-size athletics track with lighting as part of Regional Multi-purpose Sporting Facility

**Overall priorities for the next five years**

- Provide members with a top-quality, safe venue
- Continue to develop the club's coaching and skill development
- Encourage and promote the sport of athletics in the area

Gayndah Golf Club**Facility priorities**

- Fairway irrigation to make use of Council's allocation of water
- Upgrading of machinery following the irrigation of the fairways (increased demand for mowing etc.)
- New toilet facilities on the course (particularly for ladies and juniors)

**Overall priorities for the next five years**

- As above

Gayndah Junior Rugby League**Facility priorities**

- Lighting, irrigation and announcer's box as part of Regional Multi-purpose Sporting Facility

**Overall priorities for the next five years**

- Lighting
- Field alignment
- Announcer's box

## 7.2 Focus Groups

Focus groups were held with:

1. School and education related organisations
2. Community, business and tourism groups
3. Sport and recreation organisations

### 7.2.1 School and Education Related Organisations

Representatives from Gayndah State Primary School and St Joseph's Primary School attended a focus group.

The Gayndah State Primary School makes available its facilities for use by the community for soccer, cricket and netball. It was noted that the Gayndah High School also makes available its facilities for cricket, soccer and little athletics. The two schools and the Gayndah Sporting Grounds provide the bulk of field sport facilities in Gayndah.

The Gayndah State Primary School uses its own facilities for most of its sporting activities. However, when Gayndah Sporting Grounds have been upgraded (late 2000), the school will most likely use those grounds for carnivals. The School does not expect to build any sporting related infrastructure in the immediate future<sup>xviii</sup>.

St Joseph's Primary School has smaller grounds than the opposite Gayndah State Primary School but the grounds meet most of the school's needs. For carnivals or special days, the Gayndah State Primary School grounds are occasionally used.

Comments on the pool were that it was difficult to schedule all the students in the time slot available (10am until 2pm). Morning tea and lunch erode the time actually available.

The constraints to sport were also discussed. Not surprisingly, the cost and logistics of travel was mentioned as a major constraint. Lighting is currently a constraint but this will be overcome with the upgrade to the Gayndah Sporting Grounds. As children grow older (about Year 9 or 10), there are less sport options available in the town, as the schools/clubs have to be able to travel to join in the competitions. Those children that are keen enough will try to join adult competitions but others will not play sport (outside of school).

A potential future constraint is the introduction of water meters from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2000. The Gayndah State Primary School is concerned that it may not be able to afford the water to keep its fields in a condition suitable for school, let alone, community use. Initial estimates of the cost are \$6,000 to \$10,000 per year.

### Staff of Gayndah State Primary School

An opportunity arose to speak to the bulk of the teaching staff at the Gayndah State Primary School. The session was not formalised in any way but the teachers were asked, from their experiences, what were some of the issues they saw facing youth in Gayndah and District. A summary of their comments is:

- Gayndah lacks an attractive park where you can take your family and have a BBQ
- A small core of volunteers runs the YMCA, which means that the hours are (necessarily) restricted
- Gymnastics is in abeyance. The equipment is still at the YMCA but a qualified coach is required to utilise it

- The town lacks a community centre. The three halls all lack in some regard and could possibly be replaced by one significant community centre. All schools would use a “big” community centre for their functions
- The small number of youths makes it difficult to maintain a broad cross-section of sports competitions. If a new sport starts it is, by and large, only transferring participants from other sports making them suffer
- A number of children like to roller-blade but are restricted from using the main street area
- Scouts no longer function in Gayndah
- There is little awareness of the developing riverside walking track
- There is a growing interest in motocross
- YMCA has organised vacation care until this year when it could not find anyone to undertake the role. This was “missed” by many people
- The development of a Regional Multi-purpose Sporting Facility is well supported
- Swimming pool has improved significantly and is well run. The swimming club has grown in numbers

### 7.2.2 Consultation with Youth

Consultation with Year 6 students at Gayndah State School and Year 11 students at Gayndah State High School was undertaken during the consultation phase of the study.

The majority of Year 11 youth supported three main priorities:

- A “hang out” space for those under 18. It would have video game machines, pool tables etc. It would be available to them after school and at weekends
- A movie theatre, and
- Improvements to the BMX track. At present, the track is only a series of jumps and not a continuous track

When asked about the existing skateboard facility the group indicated that it met their needs.

Year 6 students gave their priorities as:

- A basketball court, as they are not able to play at the YMCA.
- A water slide and diving board at the swimming pool
- Improvements to the BMX track, and
- A games arcade.

### 7.2.3 Focus Groups with Sport, Recreation and Community Groups

Sport, recreation, community, business and tourism groups in the Shire were invited to focus groups to discuss issues of concern.

The broad issues are:

- While Jaycees Park is well used by travellers the town lacks a significant park that can be used for passive recreation.

- The cost of sport where children play a number of sports e.g. registration fees in say four sports. The costs are being driven by the cost of insurance cover and a fee to the State or regional body from which, it is perceived, there is little return. The potential for an insurance or legal claim was the main reason the group gave for staying affiliated with their State bodies.
- A lack of volunteers to take executive positions in the clubs. A small group of people has to fill the roles for extended periods because of a lack of volunteers.
- The loss of “Category C” coaching grants that were enjoyed by swimming and tennis.
- Coastal communities will not travel to Gayndah to participate but expect Gayndah participants to travel to them if they wish to compete. The cost and logistics of travel is a significant burden on the Shire’s sports clubs. However, the completion of the Gayndah Sports Complex will attract more carnivals to the town, as it is central to Burnett communities.
- Government and State body regulation is making the job of administering a club harder and harder. Requirements to hold various coaching and administration qualifications as well as changes such as the introduction of the GST will further diminish the already small group of volunteers.
- Communication among the sports was not an issue and the Shire exhibited a cooperative culture when organising events or seasons.
- Arts groups would like to consolidate their activities into one building.
- Lack of informal recreation activities for youths. The youths particularly want to see the development of a BMX track.

Issues of concern directly involving Council include<sup>xix</sup>:

- Council’s support is inconsistent. Although rate rebates are appreciated invoices for the hire and delivery of chairs or rubbish bins for a carnival that brings people and revenue to the town are not.
- Council provides some mowing support with the clubs paying for others that they require. Mowing schedules are ad hoc and mowing is not undertaken in the off-season, leaving the fields looking unkempt and in poor condition for the start of the season. Council’s staff who undertake the field mowing do not always exhibit the level of care expected of them. An example that was cited was mowing the grass far too short for the sport being played and destroying the good cover that had been built up.
- The impact of water rates may prove to be significant but the clubs were unaware at the time of the meeting the rate that they were likely to be charged.
- The hours allocated for sprinkling were not sufficiently long to adequately water the fields.
- The clubs believed that Council did not have asset management plans and that maintenance was reactive. The example was given of tiling at the pool that was undertaken so late as to delay the opening of the swimming season.
- Most clubs are not on leases and have no security of tenure. There was some concern that the improvements that the clubs have put in place could be lost as well as having no certainty from year-to-year. The lack

of a lease agreement also means that there is no formal documentation of agreements and expectations.

- Provision of a heated pool adjacent to the existing pool – not heating of the current facility, as this would be too expensive. The heated pool would allow the swimming club to maintain training and fitness during the winter months and could be used by other sports for training and rehabilitation during winter.

## 8 Analysis of Parks and Open Space

### 8.1 Implications of the Integrated Planning Act (1997)

The Integrated Planning Act changes the basis upon which developer contribution for parks and recreation facilities are determined. Under the Act a contribution can be required towards the cost of community land for public recreation, however the contribution can only be towards the land and cost of basic development to make it suitable for the purpose intended.

This means that a financial contribution can only be towards the land component not the facilities on the land. Contributions must be determined on the basis of an Infrastructure Charges Plan (ICP) prepared for the development of parks and facilities and spent according to the Plan.

The amount of contribution is determined by the Standards of Service, which are identified in the Public Recreation Strategy. These Standards must in part be based on current levels and must consider existing supply. The service standard is applied on a “per additional person to be accommodated basis”.

For Gayndah Shire Council the implications are:

- An ICP will need to be prepared
- As Gayndah Shire currently has a good supply of open space and sporting fields, it will be difficult to justify further contributions towards acquiring land
- However, there are many localised issues with sporting parks and a contribution could arguably be taken towards the cost of “making the park suitable for the purpose intended”. This could cover drainage, basic landscaping, fencing and installation of basic services but not construction of landscape features, BBQs, picnic facilities or any built structures
- Funding of facility development and development of sports fields, parks and picnic areas will need to be funded by rates or other forms of partnerships.

In early May 2000, it was indicated by representatives from the Department of Communication, Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport that the part of the Act relating to developed contributions for Local Community Purposes was under discussion, and it was possible that changes may be recommended. However, there is no certainty that changes will be recommended and the above information remains correct at this time.

### 8.2 Open Space in Gayndah

Gayndah has a number of parks and open spaces throughout the town, however none could be described as a feature park. Most are flat, mown areas planted with trees, often in rows or at least formally spaced. Plantings do not create “spaces” that provide privacy and intimacy. The only park in the town that provides barbecue facilities is Ron Cullen Park, adjacent to the swimming pool. This is a very small park – and can only cater to a few families or a small group. The other significant formalised park within the town is Jaycees Park. This Park is used by travellers as it is adjacent to the Burnett Highway and close to the CBD. The Park has been “eroded” over time with the expansion of the Museum and is now a relatively small park.

A recommendation of this report is to enhance the park between Sam Weller Avenue and Simon, Pineapple and Queen Streets as a feature park for the town. This location is reasonably central to the town, only has light traffic nearby, is adjacent to the youth

facilities of Lions Park, is near the CBD and can take advantage of spare water capacity from the nearby pumping station to form a water feature.

The Claude Wharton Weir and Greys Waterhole are pleasant riverside parks. Their usage though could be improved. The Claude Wharton Weir is difficult for visitors to find and would benefit from improved signage. Greys waterhole is discussed in Recommendation 7.

## Endnotes

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- <sup>i</sup> Wide Bay Sport and Recreation Council and Sport and Recreation Qld, North Coast Region, May 2000, *Finding Funding*.
- <sup>ii</sup> Office of the Government Statistician, November 1999, *Regional Profile: Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division*, Queensland Government, Brisbane, p.3
- <sup>iii</sup> Office of the Government Statistician, April 1999, *Regional Profile: Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division*, Queensland Government, Brisbane, p.2
- <sup>iv</sup> Department of Communication & Information, Local Government & Planning, 1998, *Population Projections for Queensland*, Brisbane, p. 93
- <sup>v</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, June 1998, *Population by Age and Sex*, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.
- <sup>vi</sup> Office of the Government Statistician, November 1998, *Regional Profile: Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division*, Queensland Government, Brisbane, p.5
- <sup>vii</sup> 1996 Census
- <sup>viii</sup> Office of the Government Statistician, April 1998, *Regional Profile: Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division*, Queensland Government, Brisbane, pp.4-5
- <sup>ix</sup> Office of the Government Statistician, November 1998, *Regional Profile: Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division*, Queensland Government, Brisbane, pp.5-6
- <sup>x</sup> 1996 Census
- <sup>xi</sup> Office of the Government Statistician, April 1998, *Regional Profile: Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division*, Queensland Government, Brisbane, pp. 6-7
- <sup>xii</sup> 1996 Census
- <sup>xiii</sup> Office of the Government Statistician, November 1998, *Regional Profile: Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division*, Queensland Government, Brisbane, p.6
- <sup>xiv</sup> 1996 census data has been used, as more recent unemployment data is not available at a local government level.
- <sup>xv</sup> 1996 Census
- <sup>xvi</sup> 1996 Census
- <sup>xvii</sup> The Gayndah Touch Association did not complete the survey form but provided documentation that supported Council's successful application for a grant towards the Regional Multi-purpose Sporting Facility. As such, some information such as membership is not available.
- <sup>xviii</sup> The school will be building an adventure playground for Years 3-5 but this will not be available for after school use.
- <sup>xix</sup> It is felt that a number of the issues outlined in this section could be alleviated through improved communication between Council and the sports clubs. A number of mechanisms could be used to improve the communication. Examples include an annual forum, an occasional newsletter or a local sport advisory board that met regularly with a Council sub-committee.