

DEPT OF TOURISM, SPORT & RACING



ISIS SHIRE COUNCIL



SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITY PLAN

(FINAL REPORT)

(July 1999)

Prepared by:

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in association with

LAMBERT RECREATION PLANNING

ISIS SHIRE COUNCIL

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF STUDY.....	3
2. STUDY APPROACH	4
3. REVIEW OF RELEVANT REPORTS AND STUDIES.....	6
3.1 WIDE BAY 2020: REGIONAL GROWTH MANAGEMENT (RGM) - CONSULTATION DRAFT (1997) ..	6
3.2 NORTH COAST REGION SPORTS FACILITY: CONSULTATION REPORT (1998) - DTSR	7
3.3 ISIS SHIRE CORPORATE PLAN.....	8
3.4 ISIS SHIRE STRATEGIC PLAN 1994.....	10
3.5 CHILDERS / APPLE TREE CREEK DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN (DCP) 1998.....	10
3.6 BUNDABERG YOUTH NEEDS SURVEY AND COMMUNITY SURVEY 1998 (QPCYC)	11
4. DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS.....	13
4.1 POPULATION	13
4.2 POPULATION GROWTH AND STABILITY	13
4.3 AGE STRUCTURE.....	14
4.4 UNEMPLOYMENT	15
5. TRENDS INFLUENCING LEISURE FACILITY PLANNING.....	16
5.1 IMPACT OF TRENDS ON RECREATION FACILITY PROVISION	17
6. OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION PROCESS	19
6.1 COMMUNITY SURVEY.....	19
6.2 SPORT AND RECREATION ORGANISATION SURVEY	25
6.3 SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS	30
6.4 YOUTH ISSUES	30
6.5 PUBLIC MEETING.....	32
7. ANALYSIS OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE.....	34
7.1 OVERVIEW	34
7.2 EXISTING SUPPLY OF PARKS AND SPORTING FIELDS	34
7.3 OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADDITIONAL PARKLAND.....	37
8. ANALYSIS OF SPECIFIC FACILITIES.....	41
8.1 PROPOSED INDOOR FACILITY	41
8.2 SWIMMING POOL	48
8.3 SHOWGROUNDS	52
8.4 BIKEWAYS AND PATHWAYS	53

List of Tables

- Table 1: Total Shire Population – 1986, 1991 and 1996 Census Periods
- Table 2: Population Growth (Isis Shire and Queensland)
- Table 3: Population by Age – 1986, 1991 and 1996 Census Periods
- Table 4: Significant Age Group Differences (Isis Shire and Queensland)
- Table 5: Club Membership Trends
- Table 6: Facility Development Issues & Club Financial Contributions
- Table 7: Club Priorities
- Table 8: Analysis of Open Space Supply
- Table 9: Potential Users of Indoor Facility
- Table 10: Evaluation of Potential Locations for Indoor Facility
- Table 11: Evaluation of Site Options for New Pool

List of Figures

- Figure 1: Age Profile of Survey Respondents
- Figure 2: Rating of Sport and Recreation Facilities
- Figure 3: Community Usage of Nominated Facilities
- Figure 4: Priorities for Sport and Recreation
- Figure 5: Summary of Resident Attitudes Toward Series of Issues
- Figure 6: Views on Meeting Running Costs
- Figure 7: Satisfaction with Facilities Used in Isis Shire (Clubs)

List of Appendices

- Appendix 1: Inventory of Existing Facilities

List of Maps

- Map 1: Illustration of Facility Locations and Possible Bicycle / Pedestrian Network

1. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF STUDY

The aim of the project as outlined in the project brief was as follows:

'The completion of a Sport and Recreation Facility Plan for Isis Shire Council to guide provision of sport and recreation facilities for the next five to seven years, forming an integral part of Council's Corporate Plan.'

Specific objectives set out in the brief included the following:

- Preparation of an inventory of existing sport and recreational facilities in Isis Shire
- Analysis of current usage levels of existing sporting and recreational facilities
- Identify gaps in sport and recreation provision
- Provide strategies to meet future recreational needs and address current deficiencies
- Determine the best facility locations to meet the future Isis Shire population needs

In addition, Council noted that the scope of the study was to be limited to particular areas in order to satisfy the project objectives. These were stated in the brief as:

- *An assessment of the existing sport and recreation facilities.*
- *The extent to which the existing facilities are being utilised or under utilised.*
- *The identification of more efficient usage of existing facilities.*
- *To identify and prioritise, if necessary, options for the location and format of sport and recreation facilities that will satisfy the future needs of the Isis Shire community.*

2. STUDY APPROACH

A comprehensive study methodology was implemented comprising the following:

1. Review of Reports / Studies:

Reviews of relevant reports were completed. These included:

- Wide Bay 2020: Regional Growth Management (RGM) - Consultation Draft 1997
- North Coast Region Sports Facility: Consultation Report (1998) - DTSR
- Isis Shire Corporate Plan
- Isis Shire Strategic Plan 1994
- Childers / Apple Tree Creek Development Control Plan (DCP) 1998
- Bundaberg Youth Needs Survey and Community Survey 1998 (QPCYC)

2. Demographics:

A review of the composition and growth of the population compared to the state as a whole.

3. Trend Analysis:

An analysis of relevant sport and leisure trends.

4. Inventory

An overview of facilities in the Shire utilised for sport and recreation.

5. Community Consultation

An extensive consultation process was undertaken to identify the sport and recreation needs of the community and to “draw out” key issues. In brief this process involved:

- Survey of the general community (see below)
- 2 x youth focus group meetings
- Interviews with Council officers
- Interviews with Steering Committee representatives
- Interviews / discussions with sporting club representatives
- Meetings with other community organisations (eg Neighbourhood Centre, Museum, Woodgate Residents Association)
- Meetings with Primary and Secondary school principals
- Survey of clubs and organisations (see below)
- Public meeting

6. Community Survey

A questionnaire was distributed to some 1,131 residents in the Shire.

7. Sport and Recreation Organisation Surveys

Surveys were forwarded to 18 known sport and recreation organisations.

8. Analysis of Parks and Open Space

An analysis of Council parkland and open space was completed.

9. Site Analyses

A more detailed analysis of the following sites was undertaken:

- Location for an indoor facility
- Swimming pool
- Showgrounds

3. REVIEW OF RELEVANT REPORTS AND STUDIES

The following review of literature provides a brief summary of relevant documents and their impact on the study.

3.1 Wide Bay 2020: Regional Growth Management (RGM) - Consultation Draft (1997)

The Wide Bay region covers the local government areas of Bundaberg, Burnett, Cooloola, Hervey Bay, Isis, Kolan, Maryborough, Miriam Vale, Tiaro and Woocoo. The plan was prepared jointly with State Government, local Government, business and community sectors. The planning process was steered by a committee with representatives from these groups.

The focus of the plan is management of population growth and its impacts. Population is projected to grow at a higher than state average rate, to 317,000 by 2020 (1996 population was 185,000). The region is an important agricultural resource with sugar cane being the dominant crop.

The region also contains significant natural areas along the coast and hinterlands. Fraser Island and the Capricornia section of the Great Barrier Reef are included in the region. The important natural values and natural resource values of the area need to be protected in any strategy for managing growth.

The implications for Isis Shire are:

- Population growth in the region can be accommodated within existing designated residential land. Further encroachment on agricultural or environmentally significant land is unlikely to be needed.
- Woodgate is well placed to share in regional growth however, population growth would “preferably be matched with suitable growth in new employment initiatives”.
- The main regional centres for the Shire will be Bundaberg and Hervey Bay.
- The RGM proposes that land for agriculture should be protected from non-rural development where there are viable alternatives. This is significant for a shire where the larger proportion of land is under agricultural use.
- The region has access to a wide range of nature based recreation opportunities and the coast will continue to be a major holiday and recreation destination. Further opportunities on publicly owned land (such as dams and forestry) will be developed.
- Eco-tourism will be further developed as a means of economic and employment growth.

3.2 North Coast Region Sports Facility: Consultation Report (1998) - DTSR

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 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 down 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 has traditionally allowed for 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 new Integrated Planning Act (IPA) 1997, for sport and recreation provision and planning.
- Swimming pool standards have been recently modified by FINA and this has meant many local pools will be unable to host competitions. Rural councils will face upgrade and redevelopment costs for pools that do not meet standards.

Existing and Planned Facilities

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

- Bundaberg and Burnett are currently completing a sport and recreation planning study.
- Bundaberg plans to build a \$5M indoor sport and entertainment venue to a standard for national competition.
- Bucca weir is a national standard rowing facility
- Burnett Shire has a state-competition level, rowing venue on the Kolan River.
- Isis Shire's football facility (Showgrounds) is considered to be of regional standard.

3.3 Isis Shire Corporate Plan

The vision for the Shire has five components, namely:

1. Growth of the Shire
2. Attractive lifestyles and amenity for residents and visitors
3. Sustainable development through protecting and enhancing the agricultural and environmental features and qualities of the Shire.
4. A strong sense of local identity and community spirit.
5. Efficient and effective community management.

Of the key issues affecting the Shire, the following are most relevant to the Sport and Recreation Facility Planning Study:

- Council needs to access new sources of external funding to maintain or improve services.
- Diminishing financial resources means assets must be effectively managed.
- The proposed relocation of the Bruce Highway to the west will improve amenity in Childers but threaten the income levels of "traffic" dependant business.
- The population of the Shire is increasing and the demographics are changing. Council will be under increasing pressure to fund new infrastructure.
- Environmental priorities include the protection of wetlands at Woodgate; preservation of scenic areas of the Shire; and managing creek erosion.

The following corporate programs and aims are important to this study:

1. *Community Services*

- Obtain a community development officer and supporting resources on a regional basis.
- Encourage community activity and community spirit by facilitating / sponsoring new community events and activities.

2. *Economic Development*

- Review and update standards for residential developments
- Ensure the Shire has a strong and clear identity- develop a plan to improve the Shire's image.
- Develop tourism as a local industry - through regional marketing, inclusion in the Industry Strategy, supporting tourism promotion and development of the main street as a destination.

3. *Environmental Management*

- Manage erosion in Theodolite Ck and involve the community in rehabilitation.
- Overcome discharge problems into the Fish Habitat Reserve and wetlands at Woodgate.
- Preserve environmentally sensitive areas.

4. *Land Use Planning*

- Provide recreational opportunities
- Preserve areas of environmental and heritage significance
- Provide services and facilities for urban residential and rural residential growth.

5. *Recreation and Leisure*

- Facilitate the provision of enjoyable recreation and cultural facilities for residents and visitors on a socially just basis.
- Ensure there is a clear understanding of needs.
- Investigate the need for additional tennis courts
- Light the tennis courts at Woodgate
- Improve use and satisfaction at all facilities but especially Buxton Library; Buxton Community Hall; Primary school oval; parks and recreation areas and the proposed town rest area.

3.4 Isis Shire Strategic Plan 1994

The goals of the Strategic Plan include:

- To provide for urban residential and rural residential growth with appropriate levels of services and facilities in appropriate locations within the Shire.
- To provide recreational opportunities within the Shire.
- To allow for desirable tourism developments in appropriate locations within the Shire.

The preferred dominant land uses for the Shire do not include a specific designation for sport and recreation land however the objectives for land type include the following:

Rural Residential: Must provide opportunities for organised sporting and recreation activities.

Urban Areas: Shall provide open space for playing fields and parks; a linked open space system retaining existing vegetation in its natural state where required and bikeways or a contribution towards development.

Urban Areas: To provide for the development of commercial tourism, recreational, industrial uses and community facilities.

Villages: Residential development in Villages shall require the provision of parkland and public open space.

3.5 Childers / Apple Tree Creek Development Control Plan (DCP) 1998

The DCP takes in developable land in the areas of Doolbi, Childers and Apple Tree Creek. The DCP identifies that a range of community facilities, recreation and open space exist within the plan area, but no assessment of the adequacy of these resources appears to have been made.

The planning study indicates that there are insufficient housing lots to cater for expected demand and that further subdivision will be required.

The DCP planning study proposes that development in the plan area should incorporate a linked open space system, safe pedestrian and cycle facilities and that land identified by the Department of Environment as environmentally significant should be incorporated in the open space system.

The DCP provides the following objectives for Open Space and Recreation:

- “To ensure that sufficient public open space is provided in convenient locations to meet the future recreational, sporting and aesthetic needs of the community”.

- “To ensure that open space and recreation areas are linked by linear parkways to reserves, local streets and community and recreational facilities within urban residential areas”.

The implementation provisions of the DCP provide for the protection of environmentally significant land within open space and recreation areas but provide no other comment on the nature of providing for sport and recreation needs of existing and future residential areas.

In the provisions for development in “Urban Residential” areas the DCP also indicates a desire for open space and recreation areas and indicates that land required for buffer purposes between incompatible land uses should be included in the Open Space and Recreation areas.

The Preferred Dominant Land Use Map in the DCP identifies the following additional open space and recreation resources:

- An open space/ environmental corridor along Apple Tree Creek
- Open space / recreation corridors along the cane rail line and margins of rural land at the south-west residential boundary of Childers.
- Other open space / recreation corridors proposed to link residential and open space areas and facilities (these are located notionally and would rely on development activity being achieved).
- No additional open space suitable for active recreation or informal parklands has been identified.

3.6 Bundaberg Youth Needs Survey and Community Survey 1998 (QPCYC)

This study was undertaken to assess the level of need for a PCYC in Bundaberg and to assess general youth and community support for a proposed PCYC. The survey also generated information of the range of activities / facilities that a PCYC should incorporate. The sample included 1871 youth, some of whom were resident in Isis Shire. The age of respondents ranged from 8 years to 17 plus, with the bulk being in the 10-14 years group.

The following points highlight the relevant findings of the study:

- Major barriers to use of a PCYC were transport; money; no time; not my age group and; friends wouldn't go.
- Major issues for youth included isolation; bullying; transport (lack of); money (lack of); harassment (including from family); boredom and; personal safety.
- Main uses for club tended to be informal- recreational not organised sport and competition, however, fitness and training were in the top 8 (the rest were informal-social-recreational).¹

1. The response to this question would have been strongly influenced by the “tick an item” framing of the question where the majority of options were informal-social-recreational.

- The “other” suggested uses of the proposed club were dominated by personal / social uses such as; escape from home/ respite from home life; counselling; keeping out of trouble; safety; enjoy self and meet friends. Activities suggested included disco, rollerblading, rockclimbing and literacy education.
- The organised activities that should be provided involved a strong mix of social-cultural and sporting. The top 7 were (in order) basketball; dancing; pool tables; gymnastics; internet café; night club and; volleyball.
- Time of use for the club received diverse responses however the most frequent response was “school holidays” which was nearly twice the next most frequent response - “after school (weekdays)”.

4. DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

4.1 Population

The 1996 ABS population estimate for the Shire of Isis was as follows:

Males	3026
Females	<u>2857</u>
Total:	5883 ¹

As at the 1996 Census, the population of Isis Shire accounted for 2.6% of the Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division population which also incorporates the local authorities of Bundaberg, Burnett, Cooloola, Hervey Bay, and Maryborough².

4.2 Population Growth and Stability

There has been a positive growth in the resident population of Isis Shire in the last decade as shown at Table 1.

Table 1: Total Shire Population – 1986, 1991 and 1996 Census Periods

1986 Census	1991 Census	1996 Census
4082	4820	5873

The average annual growth rate for Isis Shire compared with that for Queensland as a whole over the 1986 - 1991 and 1991 - 1996 Census periods³ is shown at Table 2.

Table 2: Population Growth (Isis Shire and Queensland)

	Average Annual Growth Rate (%) (1986 – 91)	Average Annual Growth Rate (%) (1991 – 96)
Isis Shire	3.1%	4.2%
Queensland	2.4%	2.4%

1. 'Population by age and sex – Queensland', ABS Catalogue No:3235.3, 30 June 1997, p.55.
2. 'Population Projections for Queensland, 1998 Edition', Department of Communication & Information, Local Government & Planning, p.33
3. 'Population Snapshot No.1 – incorporating 1st release Census Data', QLD Department of Local Government and Planning, p.5

In the medium growth scenario of population projections prepared by the Department of Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning, Isis Shire population is predicted to increase to 7,020 by the year 2006⁴.

4.3 Age Structure

From analysis of census data, there has been a decline in the proportion of younger residents and a noticeable increase in the proportion of older adults (refer Table 3).

This indicates that the Shire's population is aging and perhaps an influx of older persons presumably retiring to the area.

Table 3: Population by Age – 1986, 1991 and 1996 Census Periods

Age Group	1986 Census	1991 Census	1996 Census
0 to 4	7.57	6.91	6.11
5 to 9	7.67	7.78	7.44
10 to 14	9.77	7.84	8.17
15 to 19	8.06	6.68	5.81
20 to 24	5.76	4.79	4.58
25 to 29	6.3	5.37	4.73
30 to 34	6.66	6.83	5.7
35 to 39	7.03	6.91	6.98
40 to 44	7.15	7.47	6.88
45 to 49	5.73	7.26	7.56
50 to 54	5.39	6.08	7.37
55 to 59	5.71	6.43	7.54
60 to 64	5.41	6.31	6.91
65 to 69	4.51	5.64	5.96
70 to 74	3.36	3.28	3.42
75 to 79	2.16	2.43	2.23
80 to 84	1.08	1.31	1.17
85 to 89	0.44	0.25	0.65
90 & Over	0.17	0.21	0.22
Overseas visitor	0.07	0.23	0.54
Total	100%	100%	100%

Compared with the state as a whole, Isis Shire has a significantly lower proportion of teenagers and adults aged up to 34 years (see Table 4). This is presumably because these age groups seek education and employment opportunities elsewhere.

On the other hand, compared with the state as a whole, Isis Shire has a substantially higher proportion of older residents aged 50 years and over.

⁴ 'Population Projections for Queensland, 1998 Edition', Department of Communication & Information, Local Government & Planning, p.93

Table 4: Significant Age Group Differences (Isis Shire and Queensland)

Age Group	Queensland % of Population	Isis Shire % of Population
15 to 19	7.06%	5.81%
20 to 24	7.52%	4.58%
25 to 29	7.46%	4.73%
30 to 34	7.51%	5.70%
50 to 54	5.53%	7.37%
55 to 59	4.48%	7.54%
60 to 64	3.80%	6.91%
65 to 69	3.78%	5.96%

4.4 Unemployment

Unemployment in Isis Shire is significantly higher than the state average with 15.4% of the population listed as unemployed as at the 1996 Census, compared to the state average of 9.6%.

5. TRENDS INFLUENCING LEISURE FACILITY PLANNING

A number of trends are influencing participation in sport and recreation activities. These include:

Changed working arrangements (eg contracting out, enterprise agreements) have **altered the notion of the traditional working week**.

There is a trend toward **casual employment** with only about 43% of the population engaged in conventional full time employment.

There has been a **continued drift away from rural towns** by young people seeking employment or education opportunities in larger cities.

The **population is ageing** and average household sizes are decreasing.

Unemployment continues at high levels.

There is greater **responsibility and accountability** on the part of the managers of publicly funded sporting facilities is now required.

A greater emphasis is being placed by government on deriving revenue **from user fees and charges** rather than via rates or taxes.

There is a growing **trend** by government authorities **toward partnerships** with the private sector in the provision and management of facilities.

There is a growing awareness of "**risk management**" and the need for a "**whole of life**" approach to facility development and asset management.

Equity of access to leisure facilities and services is a prerequisite in facility design and management.

Communities and interest groups, increasingly **demand to be consulted** and are more **intolerant of disruption** to residential amenity brought about by sport or recreation developments, eg:

- **Noise** or traffic impacts caused by large spectator events or regular sporting competitions
- Impacts from **floodlighting** associated with sporting activities
- Growing community concern over the '**alienation**' of public land for sport where other values for the land exist (eg environmental or visual).

Changing patterns of work and declining availability of 'uncommitted time', is placing greater importance on the **quality** of the leisure experience for those in full time employment.

For many, the leisure experience is one of limited time availability with an expectation of **'instant gratification.'**

This is evidenced by a desire for participants to “turn up and play” where no commitments are involved.

Volunteerism is declining.

In country areas, sport participation patterns tend to be **cyclical**, ie different sports experience being “flavour of the month” at different times. Causes of these shifts in patronage are difficult to measure but may be driven by personality factors, innovative programming or sub standard condition of venues.

Casual employment of **young people** during prime shopping hours (Thursday evenings and Saturdays) has had a direct effect on sports participation rates in many parts of Queensland.

In sugar producing areas, **continuous crushing** has affected participation in recreation activities.

According to 1997 ABS data, when all age groups are combined, golf ranks by far the most popular organised sport and physical activity for Queensland men, followed by touch football. For Queensland women, aerobics is by far the most popular organised activity, followed by netball and tennis.²

5.1 Impact of Trends on Recreation Facility Provision

Social, environmental, work, and leisure trends are likely to have implications for the future design and management of leisure facilities. For example:

- ✓ In response to changing work patterns and a reduction in the ‘uncommitted time’ of potential patrons, sporting facilities and activities should be designed to be easily and quickly accessible, with few barriers to entry, and able accommodate formal and informal / social patterns of participation.
- ✓ Facility design should maximise opportunities for generating increased revenue and utilisation and/or reduce operating costs.
- ✓ In order to maximise usage and synergies with existing infrastructure, site location should focus on links with other facilities such as sporting facilities, retail centres, or educational establishments. Site location should ensure that impacts on neighbouring residents are minimised.
- ✓ Increasing demands within limited budgets are likely to reinforce the need for partnerships between Council, sport, and the private sector in order to ensure facility provision is economically and socially viable.

². ABS Catalogue 4177.0 (1997), p.3

- ✓ Maximum flexibility in design to accommodate varying community needs and forms of use should be a pre-requisite.
- ✓ Effective use of technology will be important factors in the design of successful facilities in the future. (eg digital technology, flexible seating systems etc)
- ✓ In-house competitions and co-promotion of events are becoming more prevalent as venue managers try to maximise usage and viability.
- ✓ Contracting out or partnering in overall management or the provision of certain services (eg catering, maintenance, security) is likely to increase.
- ✓ For many people, evening competitions will better cater for changed working arrangements.
- ✓ Sporting Associations will need to recognise social changes and adapt their activities to suit.
- ✓ Those sports which demand minimal administration duties; are not too time consuming; have flexible scheduling of competition structures; contain few barriers to entry (eg high skill levels); and enable people of varying skill levels to compete may be better positioned to succeed.
- ✓ Young people want to have a say in planning and managing their leisure environment; they want to feel safe; and they don't want overt adult supervision.
- ✓ Popularity of informal and non-structured activities among people including adventure / fitness based sports (eg mountain biking).

6. OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION PROCESS

6.1 Community Survey

A questionnaire was distributed to some 1,131 residents in the Shire. Council advice was sought in relation to the estimated proportional distribution of the population residing in various parts of the Shire.

The community survey endeavoured to mirror the estimated population distribution. Accordingly addresses were selected at random from the electoral roll as follows:

Childers and region	785	(69.4%)
Apple Tree Creek	86	(7.6%)
Cordalba	86	(7.6%)
Woodgate	174	(15.4%)
<u>Total:</u>	<u>1,131</u>	<u>(100%)</u>

Some 344 responses were received with a further 65 received after the latest possible date which would still enable us to comply with Council's study time frame. This represents a total response rate of 36% which is excellent for a study of this type. Eligible survey responses were approximately proportional to the original distribution, namely:

Childers & region	67%
Apple Tree Creek	10%
Cordalba	8%
Woodgate	15%
	<u>100%</u>

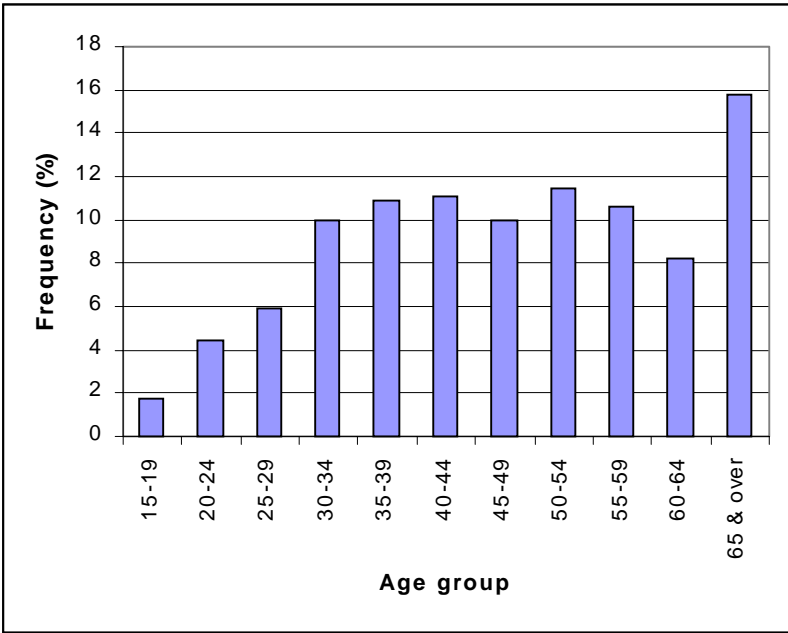
It must be noted that because surveys were distributed only to persons on the electoral roll, results may not necessarily reflect the attitudes / participation patterns of younger (below voting age) people.

There was a disproportionately high number of female respondents compared to the Shire population. 59% of responses came from females (compared to 48.7% female population in the Shire) and 41% of responses came from males (compared to 51.3% male population in the Shire).

There was a fairly even distribution of survey respondents in the 30 to 59 years age group. People aged under 30 years accounted for only a small proportion of total respondents (12%). Almost 16% were aged 65 years and older which is slightly higher than their Shire population of 13.69% as at the 1996 Census.

The age group characteristics of respondents are summarised in Figure 1 below.

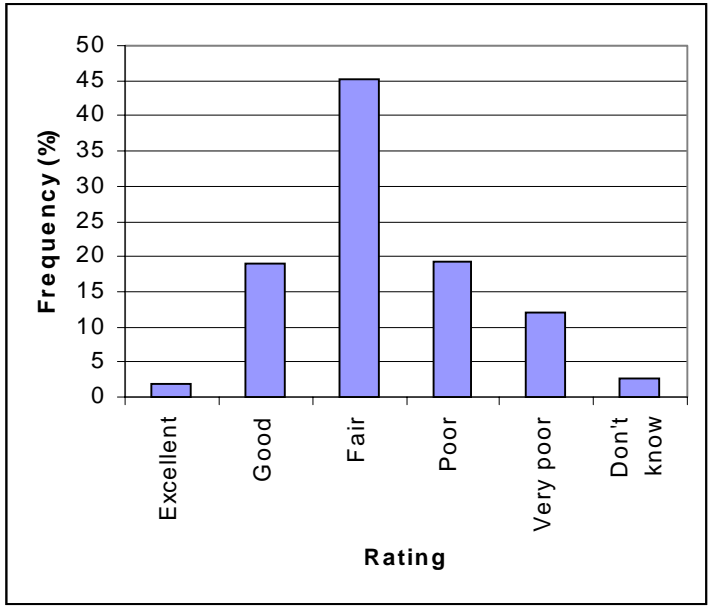
Figure 1: Age Profile of Survey Respondents



6.1.1 Rating of Sport and Recreation Facilities in Isis Shire

It appears that most residents are relatively satisfied with sport and recreation facilities in the Shire, with 45.3% of respondents rating their provision as fair and 19% as good. Very few gave an excellent rating (1.7%). Slightly more than one in ten respondents (12.0%) rated facilities in the Shire as very poor.

Figure 2: Rating of Sport and Recreation Facilities

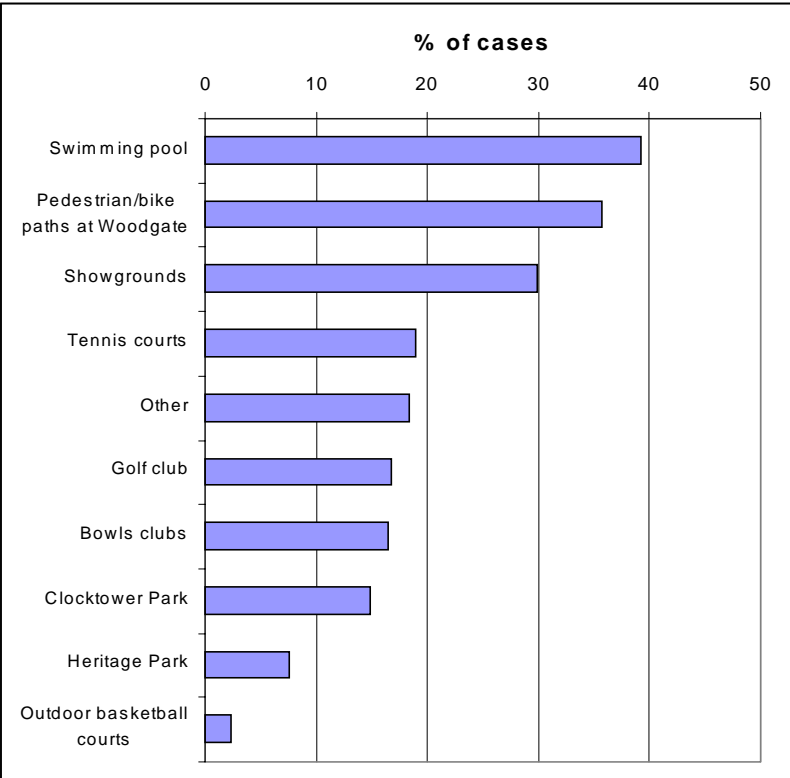


6.1.2 Facilities used most often by Shire Residents

Respondents were allowed a maximum of two responses to this item. The percentages given are based on the total number of respondents (n = 291) to this question, hence the total percentage is greater than 100%. The swimming pool was used by almost 40% of the respondents. More than one-third of the respondents (35.7%) used the pedestrian and bike paths at Woodgate. The outdoor basketball courts and Heritage Park were used by less than one in ten respondents.

The paths at Woodgate tend to be used most often by those aged 60 years and over. Among survey respondents, the swimming pool facility was most popular among 30 to 49 year olds. Compared to other age groups there was a high rate of tennis court usage by 40 to 49 year olds.

Figure 3: Community Usage of Nominated Facilities



6.1.3 Priorities for Sport and Recreation in Isis Shire

From the range of choices provided, clearly the highest priorities for sport and recreation in Isis Shire are:

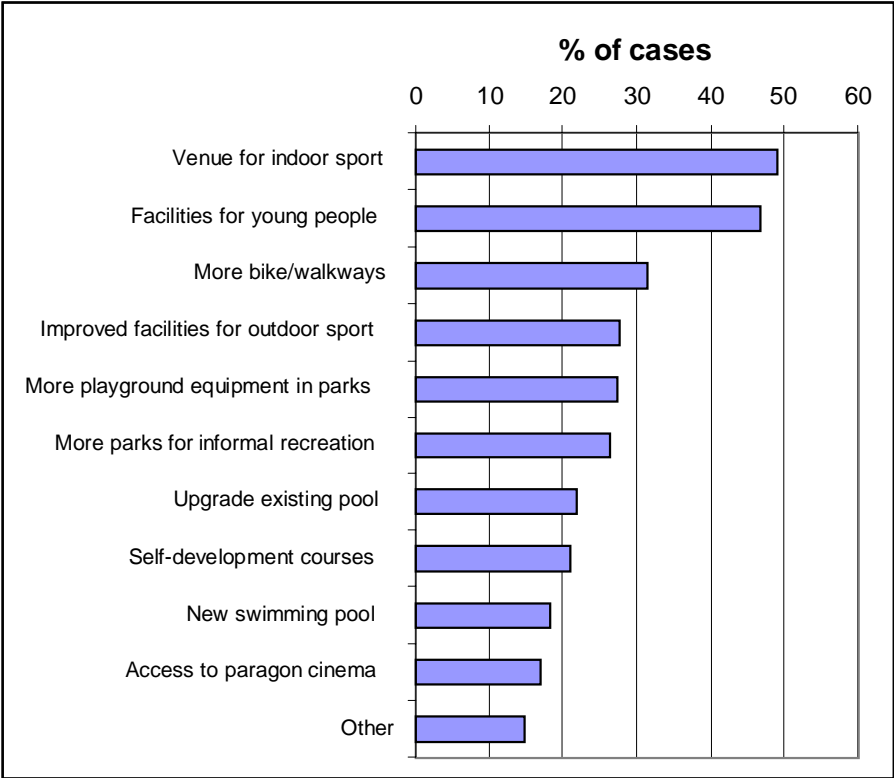
- 'Venue for participating in indoor sport'
- and
- 'Facilities for young people'.

Almost half of the survey respondents gave one of their top three priorities to an indoor sport venue (49%) and to the provision of facilities for young people (47%). An indoor sport venue also attracted the highest proportion of number one priorities (25%).

About one in five respondents gave one of their top three priorities to a new or upgraded swimming pool, self development courses or access to the Paragon Cinema.

Compared to residents in other areas of the Shire, Woodgate residents gave a low priority to an indoor sport venue and a high priority to more bikeways and walkways. Almost half (48%) of the Apple Tree Creek respondents gave one of their top three priorities to upgrading the existing pool.

Figure 4: Priorities for Sport and Recreation



6.1.4 Attitudes towards Sport and Recreation Opportunities

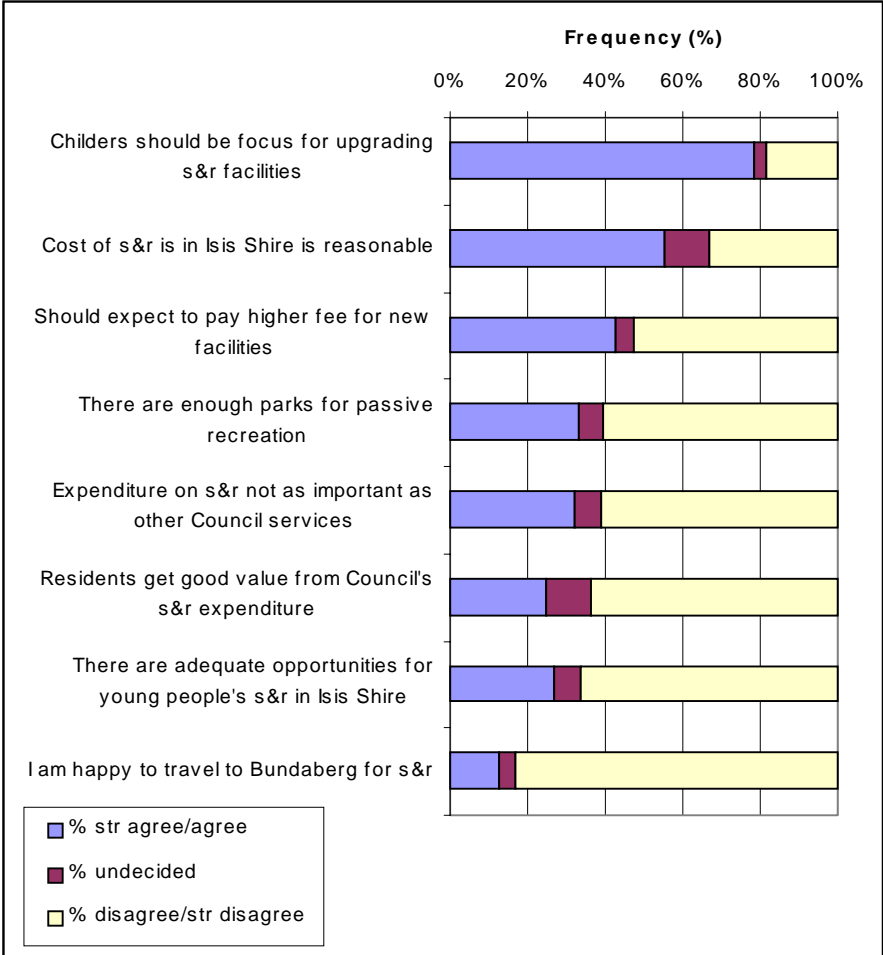
Most respondents (84%) favoured Childers as the focus for the development or upgrading of sport and recreation facilities in the Shire. However, this was not universal and while 93% of Childers residents held this view fewer than two-thirds of Woodgate residents (63%) were of the same opinion.

Most felt that the cost of participating in sport and recreation activities is reasonable (73%). Those aged less than 30 years were less likely to agree with this view (60%) than residents in all other age categories where the level of agreement was 75% or higher.

Almost half of the respondents (47%) were of the opinion that people should expect to pay higher usage fees to access new facilities in the future. Older residents were far more strongly in favour of this strategy (60%) than were residents aged less than 30 years (only 25% in favour).

Very few respondents (14%) were happy about travelling to Bundaberg for their sport and recreation.

Figure 5: Summary of Resident Attitudes Toward Series of Issues



Childers residents were more likely than residents in other areas to disagree with the statement that there are enough parks for passive recreation in Isis Shire. Compared to Woodgate residents (25%), the majority of residents in Childers (61%) and Cordalba (63%) felt that the Shire residents were not getting good value for money from the Shire's expenditure on sport and recreation.

There were also some age group differences in attitudes about getting good value for money from the Shire's sport and recreation spending. More than 50% of respondents across most age groups felt that they were not getting good value for money. This attitude was particularly evident for people aged 30 years or less (75%).

Older residents (60 years or over) were less likely to have negative attitudes about getting value for money.

Males (46%) were more likely to agree with the view that Council expenditure on sport and recreation facilities is not as important as other areas than females (30%). This finding was somewhat surprising, given that sport commonly ranks higher in priorities among males than females.

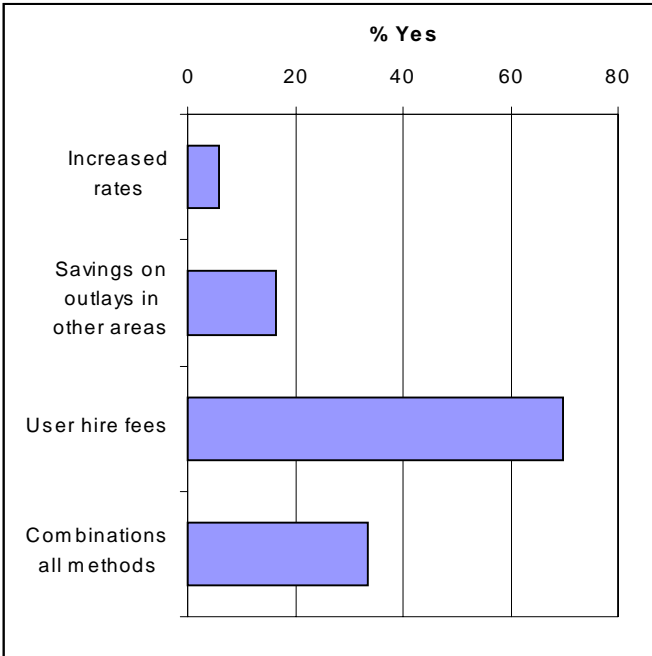
Woodgate residents more strongly supported the view (56%) that Council expenditure on sport and recreation facilities is not as important as other areas than residents of Childers (30%) and Cordalba (26%). There was a clear trend that older people felt that other areas of Council expenditure were more important than sport and recreation.

Compared to Woodgate residents, the residents of Childers were less likely to agree with the statement that there were adequate opportunities for people to participate in sport and recreation. As might be predicted, younger people were also less likely to agree with this statement.

6.1.5 Meeting the Running Costs of Sport and Recreation Facilities

Respondents could select more than one option for this question. Very few respondents were in favour of increased Council rates (6%) to meet the running costs of facilities. A slightly larger portion favoured savings in Council outlays in other areas (16%). The vast majority of respondents (70%) were in favour of a user pays system to meet the running costs of sport and recreation facilities.

Figure 6: Views on Meeting Running Costs



6.1.6 General Comments in Community Survey

Many respondents took the opportunity to express general comments about sport and recreation in Isis Shire. A number expressed quite strong views about community sport and recreation needs. Comments typically revolved around:

1. Access to facilities (cost, affordability, usage hours, need for supervision, transport)
2. Need for youth facilities and opportunities
3. Location and mix of facilities

6.2 Sport and Recreation Organisation Survey

Surveys were forwarded to 18 known sport and recreation organisations in Isis Shire to identify:

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

Some 10 responses were received representing a response rate of 56%.

Of those organisations responding to the survey, 6 had experienced an increase in membership over the last 3 years ranging from 9.7% (squash) to 233% (hockey). Two clubs (karate and darts) reported a decline in membership over the last 3 years. Most clubs projected an increase in membership over the next 3 years ranging from 2.2% (squash) to 165% (hockey). (refer Table 5)

Participation in sport and recreation in rural and regional communities tends to be somewhat cyclical with different sports experiencing “flavour of the month” status at different times. Increases in participation are not generally driven by population growth but factors such as availability of coaches, better administration, new participation trends or, in some cases, facility development.

Table 5: Club Membership Trends

Name of Club	As at 3 Years Ago	Current Membership	% Growth	Predicted in 3 Years	% Growth
Isis Club	300	500	66.7%	700	40.0%
Childers Karate Club	42	34	-19.0%	42	23.5%
Isis Golf Club	111	128	15.3%	145	13.3%
Isis Darts Association	55	48	-12.7%	52	8.3%
Isis Croquet Club	10	12	20.0%	15	25.0%
Isis Tennis Club	92	135	46.7%	150	11.1%
Isis Squash Club	84	93	10.7%	95	2.2%
Isis District Show Society	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a
Childers Junior Rugby League	75	75	0.0%	75	0.0%
Childers Hockey	12	40	233.3%	106	165.0%
Basketball Club	No response				
Isis Rugby League Club	No response				
Childers Touch Association	No response				
Isis Cricket Club	No response				
Isis Swimming Club	No response				
Isis Pony Club	No response				
Childers Softball	No response				
Childers Shooting Club	No response				

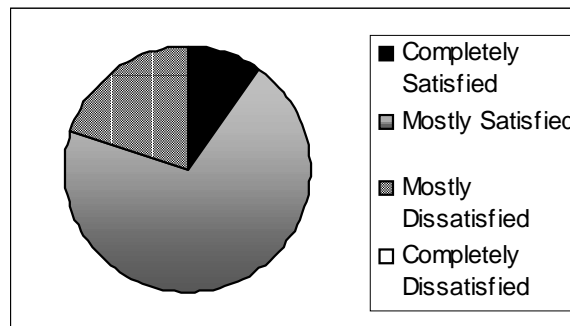
The majority of groups were 'completely satisfied' or 'mostly satisfied' with the facilities in Isis Shire used by them (see Figure 7). Two clubs indicated dissatisfaction with current facilities namely:

Tennis "Courts are old and there not enough courts at the one venue for local and inter-town competitions. Schools would also utilise these courts more if there were more than two."

Hockey "Fields are not of a safe standard and are not lit for night games. Costs and availability of using showground are just too expensive for us as a new club trying to survive on our own."

The projected increase in hockey over the next 3 years does however appear to be most ambitious.

A survey response was also received on behalf of people with disabilities. This survey noted that, apart from the pool, there was an absence of facilities in the Shire which enabled people with disabilities to take part in sport. It noted that there may be a possibility of government funding to provide special facilities or equipment.

Figure 7: Satisfaction with Facilities Used in Isis Shire (Clubs)

Clubs were evenly divided in their assessment as to whether or not existing sport and recreation facilities in the Shire were being utilised to their fullest extent.

Facilities mentioned as being underutilised were squash courts, school tennis courts, bowls club, basketball courts, showgrounds, and golf course (week days). General suggestions for improving use of facilities included:

- Supervised youth activities
- Training and coaching clinics
- More adult education and indoor activities
- More shared use
- More school use of facilities

New or upgraded facilities regarded as essential by clubs, and the extent to which clubs are able to contribute toward capital / maintenance costs, are set out at Table 6.

Table 7 sets out the top 3 priorities for clubs over the next 5 years. The most common priority is maintaining or increasing membership, with individual clubs having specific priorities relating to facility development.

6.2.1 Other Unaccommodated Sports

A netball team from the Shire plays in Bundaberg but has no practice or competition facility.

Soccer has commenced in Childers and has about 25 juniors already. They currently train at the primary school and play in Bundaberg. Soccer would like to secure a venue for junior games as there is considerable interest in Childers and other villages in the Shire. Increased demand from soccer is a reasonable expectation as it is a growth sport in many shires (particularly among juniors).

Table 6: Facility Development Issues & Club Financial Contributions

Name of Club	Essential Facilities	Capacity to contribute to capital or maintenance cost	Alternatives to Facility Development
Isis Club	Nil	100%	n/a
Childers Karate Club	Indoor facility to stage state and national titles	Pay hire fees	Continue use of existing facilities
Isis Golf Club	Gang mower	Maintenance of mower & wages for operator	Council assistance with machinery (eg surrounds mowers)
Isis Darts Association	Multi-purpose sports complex	Income not high. Would contribute what it could.	Not stated.
Isis Croquet Club	Nil	N/a	N/a
Isis Tennis Club	2 more courts at existing venue for juniors and inter-town competition.	Already pay court hire of \$3,000 per year + maintain area. \$3,000 cash in hand.	If 2 courts unable to be provided at existing venue, would need at least 4 courts at a new venue.
Isis Squash Club	Nil	N/a	N/a
Isis District Show Society	Excellent facilities already available	N/a	N/a
Childers Junior Rugby League	Indoor facility incorporating gym for children fitness	Nil	Partnership between Isis Shire & Education Dept
Childers Hockey	Level, flat playing fields with low cut grass. Showgrounds maintained for football & longer grass unsuitable for hockey.	Assist in seeking grants to help fund.	Council / state supply land for clubs to establish own sport and combined clubhouse. Council should not have to totally maintain – user clubs should do so.
Basketball Club	No response.	-	-
Isis Rugby League Club	No response.	-	-
Childers Touch Association	No response.	-	-
Isis Cricket Club	No response.	-	-
Isis Swimming Club	No response.	-	-
Isis Pony Club	No response.	-	-
Childers Softball	No response.	-	-
Childers Shooting Club	No response.	-	-

Table 7: Club Priorities

Name of Club	Competition Details	Top 3 Priorities for Next 5 Years
Isis Club	Local & regional comp.	1. Upgrade clubhouse to cater for disabled players, lighting, larger bowlers room.
Childers Karate Club	Local & regional comp.	1. Maintain & increase membership 2. Sustain financial viability 3. Remain competitive at state & national level
Isis Golf Club	Local & regional comp.	1. Increase membership 2. Gang mower 3. Smaller more suitable clubhouse
Isis Darts Association	Local & regional comp.	1. Own venue 2. Integrate with surrounding clubs affiliated with Aust. Darts Federation 3. Promote & foster Darts in Isis
Isis Croquet Club	Local comp. only	1. Increase membership 2. Good watering system 3. Dependable mowing
Isis Tennis Club	Local & regional comp.	1. Attract & maintain membership 2. Continue coaching & encourage older juniors to participate in adult fixtures 3. Continue lobbying for 4 courts
Isis Squash Club	Local comp. only	1. Increase membership (based on juniors) & retain them 2. Run more tournaments 3. Provide more coaching
Isis District Show Society	n/a	1. Continue availability of grounds for Annual Show 2. Grounds to continue to be maintained by Council 3. Larger hall close to or near showgrounds for use at Show
Childers Junior Rugby League	Regional comp. only	1. Maintain interest in club for children of district
Childers Hockey	Local & regional comp.	1. Develop hockey in area via addition of playing field(s) and formalise club 2. Attract other sports to share the same complex & use this to reduce costs 3. Ask Premier League to consider Childers as central point for weekend competitions
Basketball Club	No response	-
Isis Rugby League Club	No response	-
Childers Touch Association	No response	-
Isis Cricket Club	No response	-
Isis Swimming Club	No response	-
Isis Pony Club	No response	-
Childers Softball	No response	-
Childers Shooting Club	No response	-

6.3 Social and Community Concerns

A number of social and community concerns which have relevance for recreation provision were raised in stakeholder interviews.

- The Shire has a significant number of marginalised and transient youth
- There are few social and welfare services in the Childers area apart from the support provided at the Neighbourhood centre.
- There is no public transport in the Shire and Government agencies are based in Bundaberg.
- Youth health, youth suicide and “at risk” youth are concerns in the community as are the likely contributing factors of low employment, lack of opportunities and lack of youth services.
- People with disabilities have no support services and there are no respite centres, support accommodation or transport.
- There are very few training (vocational and non-vocational) opportunities in the Shire. The neighbourhood Centre offers some literacy and numeracy courses.
- The Neighbourhood Centre operates within a limited budget and is unable to respond to the level of demand in the community.
- Youth programs are regarded as a high priority along with transport and access to services for other disadvantaged sectors of the community.
- A meeting place / park area with safe play facilities and shade would be of benefit to parents of young families (particularly those at home).

6.4 Youth Issues

Two focus groups were held at the local high school. A year 8 class and a year 11 class participated in an open discussion regarding the needs of young people in the Shire. The main organised sports played in the Shire by young people are as follows (younger or older indicated in brackets as Y or O):

- Basketball (school competition) (Y&O)
- Swim Club (Y)
- Touch football (Y&O)
- Rugby League (Y&O)
- Hockey (Y)
- Soccer (Y)
- Cricket (Y)
- Tennis (O)
- Netball (O)
- Squash (O)
- Golf (O)

Informal recreation activities of younger people are:

- Old basketball courts
- Informal kick-about (in showgrounds or heritage park)
- Rollerblading and cycling
- TV / Video / video games
- Fishing
- Swimming (at pool)
- Visiting parks / river / beach

The informal recreation activities of older youth are:

- Shopping (Bundaberg)
- Water skiing
- Cycling
- "Veg out"
- Swimming (at pool)
- Horse riding
- Walking
- Camping
- 10 pin bowling (Bundaberg)
- Socials / dances

Youth suggestions for improving sport and recreation opportunities in Isis Shire are:

- Indoor facility (very strong support)
- Movie theatre (very strong support)
- Youth space / place for weekends and evenings.
- Cycling (more bike tracks; BMX track; mountain bike trails)
- Aquatic facility (eg 50m pool; bigger pool with greater recreation focus; heated pool; diving board at the pool; waterslide)
- Management initiatives (eg youth forum or committee to organise events and venues; youth representation on facility management committees; open the showgrounds for casual use (stops kids having to jump the fence)
- Park related initiatives (more parks with space for games and shelter areas / spaces for youth; skating / blading area)
- Other suggestions included an internet cafe (with cheap rates); under age discos (not blue light); public transport; skirmish venue; gymnasium / aerobics and fitness classes; more trails and paths for walking and exercise; indoor cricket; legal graffiti art sites.

Young people had a number of thoughts on the proposed indoor facility. They included:

- Young people should be represented on any management committee
- Design should incorporate flexible space (and storage) for meetings and small group functions. This space could then be used for Friday nights / weekends as an informal youth venue providing a safe space for 'hanging out.'
- Indoor facility should cater for basketball, volleyball and indoor netball. A gym would be welcomed.
- Facility should have a canteen/kiosk to make it attractive as an informal venue and for clubs to raise funds.
- Youth space could have a pool table or air hockey or similar.
- Facility should be suitable for dances and functions.
- Young people would like to get involved in the establishment and management of a "youth space" program.
- Integrate outdoor areas (eg. tables) with the facility so that youth space can be accessed even if the facility is being used for other purposes (eg meeting).
- Would be ideal if floor surface was suitable for roller blades. Could set a regular night for skating.
- Access and lack of transport is still an issue if you don't live in Childers.
- Could have a "big screen" TV for video nights etc.

6.5 Public Meeting

A public meeting to discuss draft recommendations of this study generated the following issues and comments:

- ❑ A centralised location for future co-located sporting facilities
- ❑ Re-emphasis of tennis need for 4 courts in one location
- ❑ Clarification of future use of old bowling green and its possible use for active sport
- ❑ Community needs to consider its priorities for sport and recreation development in order to make best use of limited Council funds
- ❑ Some concern about shared use of facilities with the High School
- ❑ Potential for increased use of the Apple Tree Creek Showgrounds

- ❑ Concern about subsidised public facilities impacting on commercial provision (ie squash)
- ❑ Potential for upgrading of the pool
- ❑ Need to consider how the community wants Council to pay for facility developments
- ❑ Standard of any future facilities needs to cater for future generations

7. ANALYSIS OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

7.1 Overview

Isis Shire does not have an abundance of open space or parkland. The township of Childers is surrounded by agricultural land and the Council has little land available for future use as parkland. The cost of purchasing land is significant given the quality of the agricultural land. Alternatives are few but could include:

- Converting road reserve or unallocated state land to park
- Access state government owned land for community use or conversion to public parkland. (The education department is one of the major government landholders in the town).
- Acquiring land through developer contribution
- Leasing land
- Further use of the land in the Airport Reserve

The Council has plans to create a roadside (linear) park on road Reserve at the northern entry to the township and the development of Council's subdivision at Heritage Park to the south. In addition a new park (mostly scenic value) will result from a development application at Noakes' Lookout.

Other urban areas of the Shire have small populations and the current need can be met through the existing park stock or by shared use of school ovals. Growth in the areas of Cordalba and Apple Tree Creek should be monitored as facilities for local and informal sport may become an issue in the next 5-10 years.

In Cordalba the existing cricket field on Cemetery Rd should be adequate for development as a multi-use oval and would also accommodate the development of passive (picnic) facilities. The solution in these two villages would be focused on more multi-use of existing land than the acquisition of additional land.

Woodgate has an excellent multi-use park which has integrated sporting, recreational and cultural uses. Combined with the resource of the foreshore and beach it is unlikely any further demand will arise in the life of this plan.

7.2 Existing Supply of Parks and Sporting Fields

While there has been considerable debate regarding suitable supply standards for open space in recent times, two consistent themes continually surface in open space planning:

1. That provision should be calculated on a demand basis. This is most commonly expressed as a "per capita" supply standard (e.g. 4 ha per 1000 persons).

2. That quality (usefulness) of open space is equally as important as quantity. Quality needs to consider access (distance to, street frontage, topography etc), function (what uses, diversity of uses) and management (special requirements, cost of development etc).

Many of the recent approaches to open space planning have combined a supply standard (ha/1000) with a performance standard to ensure that adequate open space of suitable quality is provided for new communities.

As Isis Shire is not experiencing major growth the key issues are assessment of existing provision levels in parks and recreation facilities and identifying future supply options.

It is proposed that supply be measured by a general standard of 4ha/1000 (comprised of 2ha sporting and 2ha passive). This figure is consistent with many standards adopted by other Queensland Councils. A number of larger Councils have chosen to adopt a higher standard.

Although the combination of a supply standard and a set of performance criteria (to ensure quality) is important in assessing adequacy of the existing supply, the implications of the Integrated Planning Act (1997) are that Council will need to adopt its own standard.

The State Government has identified a process in IPA for the preparation of infrastructure plans and the full integration of open space planning in the Town Plan. Guidelines are currently available which describe the process.

Although detailed figures on open space supply and types of parks across the Shire were not readily available, a broad analysis for Childers based on an estimated area of existing supply was undertaken. In summary the supply of parkland, particularly informal parks, is inadequate in terms of quantum and diversity of opportunity (refer Table 8).

Table 8: Analysis of Open Space Supply

Type of park	Supply Standard	Childers	Comment
Passive open space	2ha/1000	0.6 Ha/ 1000	Considerable under-supply
Active open space	2ha/1000	2.6 Ha / 1000	Adequate
Total	4ha/1000	3.2 Ha / 1000	Under-supply

Note: Includes proposed parkland adjacent to Fire shed but does not include ATC showgrounds.

From the above it is evident that Childers has an adequate supply of sporting land but a significant shortage of informal (or passive) open space.

In regard to future needs the focus of growth is likely to be the Childers / Apple Tree Creek area and Woodgate. The DCP for Childers identifies growth rates ranging from 1.8 % to 4.6 % per year. On this basis the population increase over the period to 2005 would generate demand for an additional 1 - 3 ha for sporting land and 1 - 3 ha for informal park; a total of between 2 and 6 ha³.

While the town's topography does not limit the opportunity for informal parks to be sourced from developer contribution, the need to identify and secure land for sporting use (active recreation) is the main long term issue.

7.2.1 Key Open Space Issues

- There is no destination park for the town which combines a pleasant setting with play and picnic facilities.
- There is only one playground in a small park next to a bus parking area.
- There is no "authorised access" park area for active recreation on an informal basis. The Showgrounds is fenced and gated and there is some confusion about access to the school ovals.
- The shire could capitalise on northern and southern entries through better development of roadside parks. This would also serve to encourage tourist drivers to stop over. The Lookout park at the southern entrance (next to the reservoir) has a good view and could be developed into a strong entry statement and stop over point.
- While Heritage Park is a reasonable setting and removed from traffic, it is developed to a low standard and is of a limited size (0.9ha). Young people use the vacant house lots for active sport and recreation in preference to the limiting size and topography of Heritage Park.
- The Council has limited resources for the acquisition and development of land for new parks and sporting fields. The available resources would be best used by improving available land and converting the use of other public owned land.
- The proposed network of open space corridors and bikeways (identified in the DCP) will be unlikely to eventuate without substantial property transactions. Better options may be to explore shared use of existing corridors (cane line, road reserves, creek/drainage reserves).
- The priority open space link would be along Apple Tree Creek to link the sportsground to the State reserve currently used for Girl Guides and grazing and along to the road leading to Reserve 566 in the south. This corridor could provide a trail link for recreational horse, pedestrian and cycle use.

³ Based on a linear extrapolation of both growth rates (1.8% p.a. and 4.6% p.a) and additional demand created by population increases of 543 and 1681 respectively.

- The State owned reserve (RP175CK2765 and RP208CK2878) (part of which is being used for Girl Guides) has potential as a nature based park and is designated as open space in the DCP. Currently the larger portion of the area has a grazing lease over it. The Girl Guides area has been used by schools and for camping. It is suggested that negotiations with the state government be commenced to transfer this site to Council control. Council could manage the site for agistment as well as outdoor recreation in the short term and develop the site as a bushland park linking to Apple Tree Creek sportsgrounds in the longer term.
- It is understood the guides may be seeking to relinquish their lease. There is potential for youth oriented programs to be organised at the site in response to the identified need for more access to outdoor and adventure based recreation.
- There is vacant space adjacent to the basketball courts in Pizzey St and the Neighbourhood Centre in West St. The spare space is an old bowls green, however the use of the croquet courts is relatively low and the basketball courts will be less important following the development of any indoor facility. Consideration should be given to the development of a masterplan for this area which, integrates with the adjacent High School and Showgrounds precinct.
- The park at Woodgate includes a large sporting field which appears to receive little formal use. With minimal upgrading and line marking a good multi-use field could be provided. This would cater for increased demand resulting from population increase and changing demographics (ie. more youth/ families) in the village.
- Apple Tree Creek park and sportsgrounds have a strong historical and cultural theme which (in keeping with the towns heritage feature) should be explored and the area should be developed as a heritage park.
- Clocktower Park in Childers is dominated by the toilet block and no visual link exists between its Churchill Street frontage and Crescent Street frontages. It is opposite the Crescent Street park and carpark. The two areas should be developed as one integrated park with a memorial theme and could be a feature for visitors.
- The Showgrounds provide an excellent field sports venue but outside formal use times it is underutilised. There is a need for the showgrounds to be managed to provide more informal and non-organised opportunities. Land around the margins could provide walking and picnic opportunities as well as formal parking areas. The second field should be available for organised sport and informal use.

7.3 Opportunities for Additional Parkland

7.3.1 Sporting Parks

As outlined previously there are limited opportunities for the development of further sporting areas in Childers. The topography of the town and the limited land under Council's ownership or control constrain the options. However, in the longer term, demand may reach a point where more efficient use of existing areas will not suffice. The main opportunities for additional sporting land are:

1. *The Airport Reserve*

- A substantial amount of topographically suitable land is available in this reserve however it is out of town.
- The “removed” location of this reserve and the existing noise generating use means that it is suited to being a focus area for “difficult to locate” sports. Motor sport, model aero, trail bikes, shooting, archery are good examples of these sports. The area currently accommodates some of these sports and further co-location of “difficult to locate” sports should be encouraged.
- To ensure this reserve is used efficiently, a master layout plan should be developed so that future development allows for shared use of access roads, parking, amenities and services. In addition the master plan can identify the constraints applicable from the aircraft use.

2. *The Sanitary Reserve (night soil) and Adjacent Dump Reserve*

- The historical approach to remediation of reserves and their conversion to parks and sporting fields has been problematic. Many Shires are now dealing with the difficulties of contaminated land and subsiding fields. Contemporary legislation means that proper remediation is mandatory and standards for future use as open space are available if that is identified as the desirable “post use”.
- The “Dump” reserve contains remnant vegetation of some significance and has the added advantage of being linked to Apple Tree Creek. The DCP shows the reserve as Recreation and Open Space. The topography of this site and environmental constraints mean that development for sporting purposes may be difficult. The development of the site (or part of it) as a nature based park is possible.
- As a long term strategy the night soil area could be planned as future open space when the need for its current function has passed. The cost of appropriate remediation and redevelopment may be excessive when compared with other alternatives.
- These two parcels of land are also “out of town” and are therefore no more desirable than the airport land. The airport land is certainly less constrained.

3. *State Government Owned Land:*

- The only suitable land in this category is owned by the Education Department. The Department has to ensure sufficient land for any future education needs, however the High School has two campuses, one of which (the old TAFE) appears to have surplus land on the southern boundary near the cane line.
- Shared use of school ovals and facilities already occurs but investment from the Council or the community could enhance the flexibility of existing facilities (eg. courts) and allow greater non-school use.

- The main constraint is schools' needs to manage their entire complex and prevent vandalism and other undesirable behaviour. To this end schools permit clubs or organised groups to use facilities (on a booked basis) but not informal use.
- Where informal uses involve active pursuits (such as running, touch, or throwing a frisbee) they are limited to the small (and inadequate) area of Heritage Park.

7.3.2 Open Parkland

The key need appears to be to develop a local "destination" park which caters for families and is accessible. This means it needs to provide a safe and shaded playground, open area for kicking and active games, and facilities such as seats, tables and bbq's.

The development of other informal parks which provide outdoor recreation opportunities (such as mountain biking and bush walking) is also of priority. The strategic aim should be to develop a range of park settings and outdoor recreation opportunities.

The main opportunities would be focused on re-configuring the use of existing public land and maximising benefit of existing parks. Opportunities for provision of open parkland are as follows:

1. *State Reserve Land (RP175CK2765 and RP208CK2878 off the highway heading north)*
 - This area is currently mostly used for grazing. There is potential to develop the site as a nature based park and provide picnic and walking/riding facilities.
 - The site could provide a short stay "bush" camping area as well which would serve local and tourist demand.
2. *Expand Park Area Adjacent to Heritage Park*
 - The vacant land associated with later stages of development includes a creek line / natural drainage line that could be incorporated with a second park area and linked to the existing area. This would provide a more diverse and useable park and the corridor could be linked eventually (via future open space along the drainage line and perhaps widened footpaths) to Churchill St.
3. *Unused former Bowls Green (adjacent to Neighbourhood Centre)*
 - This site offers the opportunity to provide integrated facilities with the basketball courts providing youth activity and redevelopment of the green as picnic and play space.
 - There is already fencing around the perimeter which addresses traffic hazard and child safety. Development of the site could be based on a masterplan / concept plan and undertaken in stages.

- There is potential for this site to develop as the “destination” park for the Shire, providing the play, picnic and active components necessary to meet the needs of families. It is also a highly accessible site and the potential for youth based programs run in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Centre should be explored.
- The surrounding residential use is a constraint and development should not provide for night use.

4. *Redevelop / Expand Lookout park (road reserve) at southern entry to Childers.*

- This site has strong potential to be enhanced as an entry statement and a lookout. The view is excellent and offers opportunity to interpret both natural and settlement history.
- The adjacent reservoir land could be incorporated into the park area and the reservoir itself could be repainted with a mural or similar in keeping with the historical theme and create a feeling of “space” in a small park area.

5. *Road Reserve adjacent to Fire Shed on northern entry to Childers*

- Council has plans to create a park area on this linear site. This would primarily service travellers but could, with suitable landscaping, provide a picturesque parkland setting.
- Tables, chairs, shelters would be a mandatory feature of this site. Any playground equipment provided should be fenced as the park is narrow and located adjacent to the main road.

6. *Community Generated Proposals*

- There is a proposal by some members of the community to establish a nature based park / environmental reserve on land bounded by McIlwraith, Nelson and Thompson streets. This proposal advocates the revegetation of the property with native species (endemic to the Shire) to form an example of the “Isis Scrub”.
- The project has considerable merit as it links with the promotion of the town’s history. However, it requires the purchase of the privately owned land.
- An additional suggestion raised was that land off Chews Road, which is the site of a memorial to a Kanaka Church, be acquired for park purposes and that the land be developed as a major historical theme park possibly relocating the existing history museum to the site.

8. ANALYSIS OF SPECIFIC FACILITIES

8.1 Proposed Indoor Facility

There is strong support for the development of an indoor multi-purpose sport and recreation facility.

In our view, **a joint funding arrangement with the High School is the most viable option for the development of an indoor facility** in Isis Shire. The following questions need to be resolved:

1. Who will use it?
2. What should be the key elements of the facility mix?
3. How much will it cost to build and operate and where will the funding come from?
4. How should it be managed?
5. Where should it be located?

8.1.1 Potential Users

Potential users and facility design implications are set out at Table 9..

Table 9: Potential Users of Indoor Facility

User	Uses	Frequency	Implications / comments
High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School sport ▪ Socials ▪ Events (eg. speech night) ▪ Exams ▪ School assembly ▪ Performances/ drama / dance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 8.00am to 4.00pm ▪ During school term only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Usage as performance / function venue would need stage – but this use would be low frequency. ▪ School use will dominate Monday to Friday (daytime) ▪ Approx 500 students
Childers Multi-cultural Festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Events ▪ Functions ▪ Displays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1- 2 weeks per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use would be in a solid block and would preclude day time (school) use during the festival.
Youth Groups and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dances and events ▪ Youth space / place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Friday and / or Saturday nights ▪ Weekend days ▪ Events / dances, say 10 per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Floor needs to be multi-use material suitable for court sport and other uses ▪ Facility should have flexible space for youth activities ▪ Integrate youth space with outside components such as tables.

Table 9 (Continued)

User	Uses	Frequency	Implications / comments
Soccer (indoor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indoor soccer could be organised as a night casual or competition sport (however currently no demand currently) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unknown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Possible future use ▪ Facility needs to allow space for sports/groups to store equipment
Basketball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Junior and senior competition ▪ Regional competition ▪ Masters games 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Possible 1 afternoon / evening per week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basketball would be seeking to base the sport at the indoor facility. ▪ Basketball would be willing to invest in the facility and is able to contribute funds for equipment. ▪ Regional comp's could use indoor facility and school courts and possibly Pizzey St courts.
Karate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training and tuition ▪ Regional competition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Currently train 2 nights per week at the cultural centre ▪ Competition would be 4-5 times per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May not move training to indoor facility
Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training ▪ Possible competition games 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Possible 1 night per week (training) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Netball currently only has demand for training venue but with an indoor facility demand may increase. ▪ Location next to Showgrounds would be preferable as remaining netball courts could complement indoor facility for regional competition
Primary Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School sport ▪ Events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fridays (block use) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requires negotiated times between the three schools. ▪ Would need to store some equipment.
Community programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Possible daytime activities such as adult fitness, indoor bowls, adapted sport (for people with disabilities) ▪ Possible vacation and respite programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unknown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Design of facility will be fully accessible

8.1.2 Facility Design

The design of the facility will be limited by available funds. The basic elements of an indoor facility would comprise:

- 1 court facility with multi-purpose hard wearing floor (such as Perlastic) to accommodate range of uses such as indoor court sports, dances, functions, events.
- Storage space
- Flexible clubroom which could double as youth meeting space (incorporating pool table) with independent entry linked to outside youth space (such as courtyard, tables)
- Amenities / change rooms
- Meeting / teaching area
- Low maintenance / hard wearing external walls
- Basic kitchen / kiosk area
- Big screen TV for use as video nights for young people.

If tender prices for building construction exceed the available budget, it is suggested that stage 1 of the development of an indoor facility, concentrate on satisfying the need for indoor sport and youth space.

The High School have indicated the need for a stage for performance use, but if deferral of costs is necessary it is recommended that this item be undertaken in stage 2.

8.1.3 Capital / Operational Costs and Funding Sources

The High School have benchmarked the capital cost of developing an indoor facility against the 2 year old indoor facility at the Nanango High School, which is understood to have cost in the order of \$430,000.

This facility comprised a single basketball court, raised stage plus change rooms annexe, kitchen, storage / staff area with mezzanine above used for teaching purposes, and amenities. Building material was colorbond with timber floor. Council absorbed project management costs.

The development of the Nanango High School centre appears to have been very competitively priced and it will be necessary to obtain quantity surveying estimates for an indoor facility in Childers which includes services, parking, professional fees etc.

From discussions with the High School, Education Department funding guidelines are understood to provide for matching funds of up to a maximum of \$200,000. It is also understood that the P&C have approval for a loan of \$100,000 and the High School is seeking Council funding of a minimum \$100,000 (total minimum funds \$400,000).

A \$400,000 facility would be very basic and additional funds would be necessary in order to develop a facility of reasonable standard. It is therefore important that community expectations of the facility are not raised beyond the resources available.

Under the “Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Program” administered by the Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing (DTSR), projects proposed for development on land owned and controlled by educational institutions are eligible for financial assistance of up to 30% of eligible project costs to a maximum of \$500,000.

Financial assistance obtained from other government departments (eg Education) is considered to be a contribution to the overall gross project cost, thereby reducing the eligible cost of the project for which funding may be sought. *It should be noted that Council would need to the applicant under this funding program.*

8.1.4 Management and Operation

If DTSR funding is to be sourced, an essential component (if situated on Education Department owned land) will be the need for a “Joint Management Agreement” between the various stakeholders. This must demonstrate equitable access and use of the facility by the general community.

The High School has indicated that it would insist on “as of right” access to the facility during school hours (8.00am to 4.00pm). This should not conflict with peak times for community use which are usually between 5.00pm and 10.30pm.

It is suggested that **day to day management** be vested in the school. A **User Advisory Committee** comprising representatives of user groups, school, P&C, young people, and Council should be formed to resolve operational issues.

Key elements of a management agreement between the High School, P&C, and Council should comprise:

1. Purpose Statement:

“To cater for education, youth and community recreation needs of residents of Isis Shire.”

2. Objectives:

- To utilise the centre for teaching and extra curricular activities of students in Isis Shire.
- To encourage young people to utilise the Centre for a wide range of formal and informal activities.
- To utilise the facility as a catalyst for the development of clubs and activities in Isis Shire.
- To strive for self sufficiency by recouping operating costs from the users of facilities wherever possible.

- To ensure that neither school nor community users are disadvantaged in terms of accessing facilities.
- To maintain appropriate standards of patron safety, building, plant and equipment maintenance.

3. *Principles of Joint Management Agreement*

The following principles for a joint management agreement involving the Council, High School, P&C and DTSR (if co-funded by them) are suggested.

- ✓ Term of Agreement
- ✓ Explicit agreement on 'up front' capital contribution of all parties
- ✓ Ownership of the facility
- ✓ Hours of operation
- ✓ Bookings to be undertaken by the High School with school holiday bookings handled via the school administration or Council.
- ✓ Procedure for approval of budgets
- ✓ Operating costs to include:
 - electricity
 - rates and charges
 - repairs and maintenance
 - insurance
 - security
 - rubbish removal
 - cleaning
- ✓ School to undertake all building maintenance
- ✓ Setting of fees for community use to be agreed between the parties.
- ✓ All fees to be directed toward offsetting operating costs (excluding building maintenance which is the responsibility of the school).
- ✓ School and Council to share responsibility for operating deficits (excluding building maintenance which is the responsibility of the school) in direct proportion to school / community use.
- ✓ School allocated free use between 8.00am and 4.00pm Monday to Friday but pays for all usage outside these hours at the same rate of hire as for community groups. Schools do not have priority booking outside set school hours and would be required to book the facility in the same way as community groups.
- ✓ Guaranteed community access after 4.00pm and on weekends.

- ✓ A contract for hire to apply to all users of the facility. Safety procedures to be agreed according to Education Department and Council risk management policies and clearly communicated to users via hire contract.
- ✓ The facility to be made available for major civic events and festivals (number to be negotiated)
- ✓ Hirers to have access to kitchen / kiosk
- ✓ Minimum number of school hours access for St Joseph's and the Primary School to be provided (actual number of hours to be negotiated).
- ✓ Process for resolving disputes
- ✓ Insurances required and any need for vesting in joint names (eg contents, public liability, workers compensation)

8.1.5 Facility Location

If the facility is to be part funded by an Education Department grant it must be situated on school land. There are three site location options:

- On the existing netball (grass) courts and vacant land adjacent to the Showgrounds
- On the agricultural plot below the tennis courts and adjacent to the Pizzey St Basketball Courts
- On the unused land at the second campus (Lord St) adjacent to the cane line

These sites are evaluated in Table 10 below.

Table 10: Evaluation of Potential Locations for Indoor Facility

Site	Access and parking	Compatibility and conflict with surrounding uses	Other considerations
<p>Netball Courts - next to Showgrounds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access from Gee St and showgrounds. ▪ Parking available on street and on school oval. ▪ Could develop a joint parking and access design using school and showgrounds land (with added entry from Ridgeway St) ▪ Centrally located for High and State Primary School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highly compatible with adjacent Showgrounds use & surrounding compatible uses. ▪ Access through Pizzey St will have some impact on residential area on north side of Gee Street. ▪ Creation of a precinct for major sport events (showgrounds /school) is a positive. ▪ Location has minimal impact on residential areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will involve loss of some grass netball courts. ▪ Construction may require loss of some mature trees. ▪ Location favoured by school ▪ Will require some redevelopment of showgrounds land to create a well integrated precinct.
<p>Agricultural plot at High School</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access from Pizzey St ▪ Some parking available on street. Additional available on School oval. ▪ Could develop a joint access and parking arrangement for Pizzey St facilities and School facility. ▪ Well located for High and Primary School to access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adjacent uses include Kindergarten and residential. ▪ Site is small and will require removal of existing trees and buildings. ▪ Has potential for creation of precinct with Pizzey St courts & school tennis courts. (co-location of indoor / outdoor basketball courts would be advantageous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Main concern is the small site and closeness of residential. ▪ Would rely more heavily on the school oval as parking area for events.

<p>Lord St</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access possible form Lord St and North St. ▪ Parking could be provided on site and on street ▪ Location offers better access from town centre and for St Josephs ▪ Less favourable location for Primary and High school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cane line and school major adjacent uses. ▪ Some residential adjacent at eastern end ▪ Close to cultural centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Site based on old road reserve and kerb and channel still exist on north boundary. ▪ Requires negotiation with school and education department ▪ Probably the easiest site for development ▪ Site is also examined later (in this report) as potential best site for a new aquatic centre.
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8.1.6 Preferred Site

The recommended site is on the **netball courts adjacent to the Showgrounds.**

This site allows for the development of a precinct for major sporting and social events with the combined availability of the showgrounds fields, pavilion and access and parking for the indoor facility, school courts and main oval.

It is suggested that the design of the facility integrates with the showgrounds in order to ensure good multiple use of all these facilities. This location will have the least residential impact and has better options (and space) for car parking.

8.2 Swimming Pool

The existing pool is aging and a number of maintenance / management issues require attention. The main issues appear to be:

- Existing filtration system is old, prone to failure and relies mostly on manual dosing and pH control. The sodium hypochlorite storage tank is not bunded for spillage. This should be attended to in accordance with AS3780.
- Gauges in the plant room are not operating.
- There has been some water loss.
- Pool filter should be inspected to validate its integrity.
- The pool's 33m length provides neither a short course (25m) or long course (50m) competition venue.

- Aquatic trends indicate that any redevelopment should encompass 'leisure water' in the design.
- Current users complain of lane space issues and water temperature.

There is a need to undertake a **condition audit report** on the pool by a qualified asset management specialist to determine future maintenance requirements and potential life span.

The current site is not suitable for any major redevelopment. It is small, heavily constrained by slope and adjacent uses, there is no off-street parking and limited on street parking.

8.2.1 Future Options

There appear to be two options available to council in responding to the above issues:

- Refurbish / redevelop the existing pool complex.
- Develop a new centre on a different site.

In stakeholder interviews, the refurbishment of the pool arose as a key issue, however **from community survey feedback, the upgrading / relocation of the pool did not rank as high as other sport and recreation development priorities.**

1. Redevelopment of Existing Site

Any redevelopment of the current site would provide only for attention to necessary maintenance issues, some renovation of existing buildings and additional shade. There is the potential to install a movable bulkhead thereby 25m lap area and 7 meter informal water area.

This option does not however address the site deficiencies (eg carparking) and can not provide much improvement in the way of a community recreation focus.

2. Development of New Pool on Another Site

Any new facility (like the indoor centre) will rely on a location that maximises access for a broad range of users.

The site needs to be of a size sufficient to accommodate a (minimum) 25m x 8 lane pool and a wading pool. Contemporary design features could accommodate the potential for lap swimming and recreational use. Space needs to be allowed for socialising with perhaps a grass or sand volleyball court and the usual kiosk / swim shop, change and office facilities.

A grandstand for spectators on one side would be desirable, together with space for a club room which could double as occasional care space for daytime programs.

To ensure a useable and accessible site (ie for people with mobility challenges) topography of the site is also important with a generally flat site preferred. Construction costs can be reduced when the site does not require major structural elements to accommodate slope.

There is limited land available for the development of such a facility. If land needed to be purchased it would be likely to make the total cost of the project prohibitive. For this reason it is considered that there are 2 options for the development of a future new pool:

1. Council land between West Street and Pizzey Street
2. Education Department Land at Lord St

Table 11 evaluates these options.

The **preferred site** for a future new pool is on land currently owned by the Education Department in **Lord Street**. Council would need to negotiate the transfer of the site to Isis Shire.

Table 11: Evaluation of Site Options for New Pool

Property	Tenure/ ownership	Zoning / DCP Status	Constraints	Positives
West St – Pizzey St (approx 0.5ha)	Council Freehold	Recreation and Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existing uses on site include Croquet and Basketball (some of these would need to be relocated) ▪ Adjacent to the Neighbourhood centre and residential areas ▪ Site is smaller than the other and there is less option for off-street parking ▪ Site is away from town centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Could be part of a whole precinct approach linking with the School, Indoor Facility and Showgrounds ▪ Very close to High School ▪ Council owns site
Lord St (approx 1.2 Ha) (por 170 CK 814791)	Crown Land – Education Department	Special Purpose (pre-existing road reserve ,Lord St, has been degazetted)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ownership by Education Department requires negotiation re the transfer of the site to Council ▪ Residential at one end only ▪ Current school use appears to be agricultural (cane) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May be able to incorporate the acquisition of this site into negotiations with High School on joint use agreement on indoor facility ▪ Close to schools & town centre. ▪ Site has sufficient room to allow staged development and room for future expansion ▪ Most adjacent uses (commercial, SES, cane line, School) are compatible with pool use. ▪ Would link with future bikeway proposed along the cane line. ▪ Room for off street parking

8.3 Showgrounds

The Childers Showgrounds is the principal field sport venue for the Shire. Considerable investment in this 3.5ha site has provided a high standard facility.

The Showgrounds are strategically located adjacent to the High School and Council's land at Pizzey St. The Pizzey Street land contains two old outdoor basketball courts, a croquet court, an old unused bowls green and a neighbourhood centre.

The Showgrounds encompasses the main oval, grandstand and dressing rooms, pavilion, toilets, sheds and an area suitable for a smaller second oval.

The High School has a large oval, netball courts, volleyball courts, and 2 tennis/basketball courts.

By focusing on the area as a whole, these three sites can be considered as part of a **precinct** providing a diverse range of sport and recreational opportunities.

8.3.1 Current Facilities and Usage

The site consists of the following:

- Main oval with in-ground irrigation, subsoil drainage and competition standard lights.
- Grandstand with 500 seats and change rooms, club room , kiosk and bar
- Pavilion
- Toilets
- Concrete wicket between main and second oval
- Smaller un-marked second oval (no lights or drainage)
- Yards and stables
- Unsurfaced internal roads and parking areas
- Informal space along eastern boundary with mature vegetation (eastern boundary abuts residential).

The showgrounds are currently used for rugby league, touch football, cricket, tae kwon do (pavilion), dance (pavilion), High School sport, Childers Show and trade days.

8.3.2 Preferred Development Option - Showgrounds

The Showgrounds should remain as the main field sports venue for the Shire. The recommended site for the development of the indoor facility on the adjacent High School grounds enables greater integration of the two sites.

The effective use of the indoor facility will rely on access to and use of the Showgrounds and the interface between the two areas needs to be planned to allow gradual development and upgrading of the combined area.

The new "Town Sport and Recreation Precinct" would encompass use of school and Council facilities and be focused on:

- The Showgrounds
- The proposed indoor facility
- The High School oval

Development of the site in conjunction with the proposed indoor facility should also consider the strong need for informal access to active open space (sporting parks).

Both youth and adult groups identified the Showgrounds as a desirable place for casual use (walking the dog, jogging, informal games etc). This should be part of the plan for the facility. A fitness circuit (running circuit with signed exercise points and equipment) would be of benefit could be built into the showgrounds using a perimeter track and exercise stations. This would be useful to clubs during training as well as the general public.

It is recommended that greater access be allowed for informal use. If there are concerns regarding undesirable behaviour on the site they should be addressed through means of better site surveillance. More frequent organised and casual use of the Showgrounds will increase community surveillance of the site.

If there are problems with vehicles, then on site parking should be bollarded off from the main areas with service roads accessed by a boom gate. Perimeter fencing is still desirable for control during events and games and the main gates could be used to restrict access during such events only.

Negotiating access for the community to the High School oval is also important. When the Showgrounds are in use for a major event, the school oval could be accessed for informal use. In addition, the combination of the main and second ovals in the Showgrounds and the school oval offers greater flexibility for the hosting of regional field sport competitions.

8.4 Bikeways and Pathways

The development of bikeways / walkways ranked third in priorities for development identified in the community survey. Indications from stakeholder interviews were that running and walking uses are of equally high demand and there is a demand among youth for mountain bike trails or bush tracks.

Although the DCP shows a network of open space corridors and proposes bikeway use of these corridors, many of them will not be achieved for a long time and may never be achieved.

To establish a reasonable basis for planning any network of cycle / pedestrian paths, the main demand generators should be identified. These are:

- The four school campuses
- The swimming pool (existing and proposed locations)
- Town centre
- The Showgrounds
- Pizzey Street courts
- Cultural Centre and Library

Due to the topography of the town there are limited opportunities for easy grades. The development of the network should focus on “shared-use” paths rather than design bike use only.

The following approach to developing a bicycle / pedestrian network is suggested:

- Develop off-road shared use paths where possible
- Use widened footpaths as an off-road alternative
- Use on-road lanes where critical links for bicycles are needed and other alternatives are not possible.
- Look for opportunities to develop walking and mountain bike tracks along creek lines and naturally vegetated corridors

Map 1 provides an overview of a possible network and shows the location of the main demand generators. The network has been proposed on the basis of providing recreational loops as well as links between facilities.

APPENDIX 1:

Inventory of Existing Facilities

Facility Inventory

Facility Name **Location** **Access** **Description** **Usage** **Tenure** **Management** **Condition** **Expand/redevelop** **Comments**
Facility Type 1

Facility Name	Location	Access	Description	Usage	Tenure	Management	Condition	Expand/redevelop	Comments
Apple Tree Creek Park	Bruce Highway	road, off-street	toilets/ bbqs/ tables/ shelters/water	informal	Reserve in trust	Council	good		
Clocktower Park	Churchill St	road	small memorial pk with toilets	informal	Freehold	Council	good	Toilet consumes most of park and blocks link to Crescent St park	
Cordalba Logging Ck Park	Promisedland Rd	road	undevel- corridor park	?		Council	fair	flooding issues	
Crescent St Park	Crescent St	Carpark, paths, ok for wheelchair	Small Park with playground and picnic table	informal	Freehold	Council	good	nil	small park bound by cane rail and large carpark. Park is linked to Clocktower Park
Heritage Park	Heritage Estate	road	shelter shed- mostly undevel	informal	Freehold	Council	good	could be developed further with facils and formal kickabout ares- one half of park are undevel	part of staged Council residential devel
Park- roadside north	Churchill St	road, carparking	linear park with single multi shelter	informal	Other Crown	Council	good	Planned expansion using adjacent road reserve and cane rail reserve	will provide a stop over point for visitors and main road focus/ entry statement

Facility Name	Location	Access	Description	Usage	Tenure	Management	Condition	Expand/redevelop	Comments
Park-Lookout South	Churchill St	road, carpark	small lookout park with tables	informal	Other Crown	Council	fair	Excellent view could be developed into a good entry point and to take advantage of view	Road reserve area adjacent to Reservior which might offer additional land for park development-could integrate structure of Reservior
Wodgate Esplanade and beach	Woodgate	Road, Bikeway, parking, W/chair access	Foreshore reserve with noded picnic development linked by bikeway. Picnic facils/ sheds/ toilets/ boat ramp	informal	Reserve in trust	Council	good . Bikeway is paved and (maint implication)	opportunity for development of more nodes	reserve is main access to beach and bounded by road on west. Links to north (Theodolite Ck) and south (Walkers point) could be explored further
Woodgate Community park	Woodgate esp	Road, Carpark, W/chair access	Park area with BBQs, picnic facils, shelters, phone						

TYPES: 1 = General Park 2 = Sporting Park 3 = Sporting Facility 4 = Recreation Facility 5 = Commercial Facility 6 = Cultural Facility 7 = Other

Facility Name	Location	Access	Description	Usage	Tenure	Management	Condition	Expand/redevelop	Comments
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Facility Type 2

Facility Name	Location	Access	Description	Usage	Tenure	Management	Condition	Expand/redevelop	Comments
Woodgate Community park	Woodgate esp	Road, Carpark, W/chair access	Large multiuse field- no posts or lights	informal	Reserve in trust	Council	fair	good opportunity for development as multi use field	appears to have minimal use. Part of Precinct.

Facility Name **Location** **Access** **Description** **Usage** **Tenure** **Management** **Condition** **Expand/redevelop** **Comments**
Facility Type 3

Facility Name **Location** **Access** **Description** **Usage** **Tenure** **Management** **Condition** **Expand/redevelop** **Comments**

Apple Tree Creek Sports Grounds Bruce Highway-Apple Tree Creek road, off street Rotunda/. Club House/ Main field (ring)- lit/ jumping area/ yards/ sheds/ loading ramp Show/ rodeo/ pony club/ events Reserve in trust ATC recreation Committee fair good potential-flooding major constraint adjacent to passive park areas and almost opposite memorial hall

Burrum Heads Bowls club

Childers Basket Ball courts Pizzey St Road, adjacent to small parking area 2 courts (bitumen)/ training lights/ some fencing/ small stand informal Freehold Council fair-poor could be redevelop as part of integrated area adjacent to High School/ Croquet/ old Bowls green and Neighbourhood Cr.

Childers Bowls Club Churchill St Road, ramps 2 greens- lit/ clubhouse and function club Freehold club good no expansion space Adjacent to RSL club

Childers Croquet Club Pizzey St Road, adjacent to small parking area single pitch and small clubhouse club- low use Freehold Council fair could be redeveloped as part of precinct Part of precinct adjacent to High School and Neighbourhood centre. (old bowls green, Bball courts

Childers Golf Course

Facility Name	Location	Access	Description	Usage	Tenure	Management	Condition	Expand/redevelop	Comments
Childers Pool	Churchill St	Road only/ (no off-street) parking	33m x 6 lane pool, wading pool, kiosk, change and club room. Some shade and small stands. No shade on main. Small grass area- ltd shade.	formal club/ recreational sport/ org programs	Reserve in trust	Leased	poor	limited by location. Plant is v. old and not upgradable. Could develop new 25m pool on site but no off-road parking is major constraint	Pool location is central but access is difficult due to slope and
Childers Primary School	Mungomery St	Road, carpark, stairs	Tennisx2/ Bballx 1/ oval- conc wicket/ Practice netsx 2 / Covered view area	School, some informal community/ club	Other Crown	School- P&C	good	potential for some expansion of field but bounded by creek.	
Childers Showgrounds	Ridgeway St	road, off-street parking, access from Pizzey St	Main Oval-Lit, stands/ change/kiosk/club room, 2nd oval unlit, conc cricket wicket btw fields, l/g	Field sports- Rugby L/Touch/ Cricket/School	Reserve in trust	Council	Main Oval is excellent, other facilities good-fair	could reconfigure land adjacent(S&E) to provide formal on-site parking and small court sports	Main oval is high standard- N boundary is elevated
Childers State High	Ridgeway St	Road, off-street, 2 street accs, ramps(some)	large Main Oval (conc pitch)/ 2 Tennis-Bball multis (fenced- conc-emul base)/8+ netball(grass)/ 4 Volleyball(grass/ 1 cricket net	School, some club and community	Other Crown	School- P&C	good	main oval is large and could cater for most field sports. Netball and vball area could be restructured to use space better. Shared develop with adjacent showgrounds could provide integrated facility- also small ag plot adjacent to Council's Bball and croquet area	School has a proposal for an indoor multi single
Cordalba Cricket Club	Cemetery Road	road, off street	large field, conc wicket, small clubhouse, toilet and change (new)	irregular club/ play group	Reserve in trust	Council	fair-poor (except toilets)	plenty of available space for expansion and develop- no adjacent uses constraining	adjacent to cemetery and tip.

TYPES: 1 = General Park 2 = Sporting Park 3 = Sporting Facility 4 = Recreation Facility 5 = Commercial Facility 6 = Cultural Facility 7 = Other

Facility Name	Location	Access	Description	Usage	Tenure	Management	Condition	Expand/redevelop	Comments
Cordalba Primary School	Cordalba	Road	Small field- conc wicket/ 1 multi tennis-bbal	school	Other Crown	School- P&C	good		offers only large open space in the village
Howard Bowls club									
Howard Golf Course									
Isis Central Bowls Club	Isis Central			club/ community/ events	Freehold	Club lease			
Isis Small Bore range				Club					
Tennis Courts	North St	Road, no off-street	2x courts (lit), small kiosk and store/ club area/ change. Courts concrete-emulsion	Club	Other Crown	Club- council has lease	good	space adjacent available for further courts pending Ed Dept appvl	Lease are has been excised from High School land with Council as Trustee
Torbanlea Bowls club									
Woodgate Community park	Woodgate esp	Road, Carpark, W/chair access	2 Bowls greens , 1 with lights/ clubhouse- function						
Woodgate Community park	Woodgate esp	Road, Carpark, W/chair access	2 Tennis Courts with lights						

Facility Name **Location** **Access** **Description** **Usage** **Tenure** **Management** **Condition** **Expand/redevelop** **Comments**
Facility Type **4**

Facility Name **Location** **Access** **Description** **Usage** **Tenure** **Management** **Condition** **Expand/redevelop** **Comments**

Anglican Church Hall	McIlwraith St	road parking, stairs	Med church hall- brick	religious	Freehold	Church	good		
Childers Scout hall	Lord St	road, on street parking	small hut / bbq/ open area	Scouts - low	Reserve in trust	Council	fair		
Girl Guides Area	Bruce Highway- left hand before ATC	dirt road,	Grazing lease with small lease to Guides. Has guide hall and shed	Majority under grazing lease- Guides are leaving	Other Crown	Department of Natural Resources lease to users	broken terrain and wooded	possible site for development of bushland park and on ATC corridor	This site is controlled by Department of Natural Resources but is identified in DCP as Open Space and rec./ Should be transferred to Council control
Masonic Lodge	Macrossan St	Road parking, stairs	two story Hall	organisation	Freehold	organisation	fair		
Theodolite Ck Boat Ramp	Theodolite Ck (nth of Wodgate Esp)	Road, carpark	2 lane ramp with parking and picnic facils/ toilets	informal	Reserve in trust	Council - DOT	good	opportunity for further picnic and passive facils. Possibly a queing lane for ramp.	Good calm water access for boats. Also popular for fishing and land based activities.
Uniting church Hall	Macrossan St	road parking, stairs	small wodden church	religious	Freehold	Church	fair		

TYPES: 1 = General Park 2 = Sporting Park 3 = Sporting Facility 4 = Recreation Facility 5 = Commercial Facility 6 = Cultural Facility 7 = Other

Facility Name	Location	Access	Description	Usage	Tenure	Management	Condition	Expand/redevelop	Comments
Walkers point Boat Ramp	Walkers Point	Road, Carpark		informal	Reserve in trust	Council -DOT			

TYPES: 1 = General Park 2 = Sporting Park 3 = Sporting Facility 4 = Recreation Facility 5 = Commercial Facility 6 = Cultural Facility 7 = Other

Facility Name	Location	Access	Description	Usage	Tenure	Management	Condition	Expand/redevelop	Comments
Facility Type	5								

Facility Name	Location	Access	Description	Usage	Tenure	Management	Condition	Expand/redevelop	Comments
Childers Squash Courts	Lord St	Road	3 court complex	Squash, Volleyball	Freehold	private	fair		

Facility Name **Location** **Access** **Description** **Usage** **Tenure** **Management** **Condition** **Expand/redevelop** **Comments**
Facility Type **6**

Facility Name	Location	Access	Description	Usage	Tenure	Management	Condition	Expand/redevelop	Comments
Apple Tree Creek Memorial Hall	Bruce Highway - Apple Tree Creek	road, off street	Large wooden hall	events/ functions	Reserve in trust	Hall Committee	fair-good	area limited by highway and land	opposite ATC sports grounds and picnic area
Childers Cultural Centre and Library	Churchill St	road/ ramps no Off-street	Library/ Stage-audit (350)/ wings/ change/ store/function area-bar-kitchen (100)/ small play	events, functions, karate, dance	Freehold	Council	good	planned expansion of library	
Childers Showgrounds	Ridgeway St	oad, off-street parking, access from Pizzey St	Show pavillion, Sheds/ stables/ yards	Tae Kwon Do, Dance, Show, Field days	Reserve in trust	Council	fair	space is limited -could improve parking on site- integrated plan for showgrounds is recommended	Adjacent to high school
Childers State High	Ridgeway St	Road, Off-street	Small theatre, class rooms/ covered assembly area	School	Other Crown	School- P&C	good	limited by building design and space avail adjacent	
Woodgate Community park	Woodgate esp	Road, Carpark, W/chair access	Community Hall and sub library						

TYPES: 1 = General Park 2 = Sporting Park 3 = Sporting Facility 4 = Recreation Facility 5 = Commercial Facility 6 = Cultural Facility 7 = Other

Facility Name **Location** **Access** **Description** **Usage** **Tenure** **Management** **Condition** **Expand/redevelop** **Comments**
Facility Type **7**

Facility Name	Location	Access	Description	Usage	Tenure	Management	Condition	Expand/redevelop	Comments
Childers Primary School	Mungomery St	Road, carpark, stairs	Class rooms/ assembly area	Schhol	Other Crown	School- P&C	good	limited	
Community Centre	Hinkler St	Road, stairs, no off-street	small building and some yard area	Day care, meetings	Other Crown	Council	fair	limited as surrounded by High School land	Leased to Council from Ed Dept
Neighbourhood Centre	West St	Road, ramps, no off-street	converted house adjacent to Pizzey st sports facilis (croquet/Bball)	Community services, respite, training, activities,	Freehold	Council- Centre Manager	good- needs paint	potential to expand to W onto old bowls green	highly used centre which is too small for the demand for community services
Old Fire Shed	Churchill St	Road, some off-street	med fire shed	informal/ youth/ organised rec	Freehold	Council	good	Could be upgraded as part of adjacnet park developemt	
St Josephs Primary School	Churchill St	Road, Carpark	Small field, class rooms, hall (1 x tennis multi planned)	formal- education	Freehold	church-School	good	v limited	no additional space

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