

FINAL REPORT

Kolan Shire Sport and Recreation Plan



June 2000



FINAL REPORT

Kolan Shire Sport and Recreation Plan

June 2000

This report was prepared by:

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



Table of Contents

1	Summary and Recommendations	1
1.1	<i>Summary of Research and Consultation</i>	1
1.2	<i>Recommendations</i>	5
1.3	<i>Funding of Recommendations</i>	13
2	Study Objectives	18
3	Study Approach	19
3.1	<i>Phase 1 – Information Review</i>	21
3.2	<i>Phase 2 – Data Collection, Consultation and Research</i>	21
3.3	<i>Phase 3 – Data Analysis and Interim Draft Sport and Recreation Plan</i>	22
3.4	<i>Phase 4 – Draft Sport and Recreation Plan</i>	22
3.5	<i>Phase 5 – Public Consultation on Draft Sport and Recreation Plan</i>	22
3.6	<i>Phase 6 – Report Finalisation</i>	22
4	Review of Relevant Reports and Studies	23
4.1	<i>Wide Bay Sport and Recreation Council – 3 Year Action Plan</i>	23
4.2	<i>North Coast Regional Sports Facility: Consultation Report 1998</i>	23
4.3	<i>Regional Growth Management Framework 1998</i>	24
4.4	<i>Kolan Shire Council Corporate and Operational Plan</i>	25
4.5	<i>Shire of Kolan Strategic Plan</i>	26
4.6	<i>Gin Gin Development Control Plan</i>	26
4.7	<i>Lake Monduran Recreation Development Plan</i>	26
5	Demographic Analysis	28
5.1	<i>Population and Age Structure</i>	28
5.2	<i>Ethnicity and Social Profile</i>	29
5.3	<i>Income, Employment and Households’ Profile</i>	30
6	Outcome of Consultation Process	31
6.1	<i>Sport and Recreation Survey</i>	31
6.2	<i>Focus Groups</i>	38
6.3	<i>Stakeholder Interviews</i>	41
7	Analysis of Parks and Open Space	43
7.1	<i>Implications of the Integrated Planning Act (1997)</i>	43
7.2	<i>Tirroan Rail Corridor</i>	43
8	Endnotes	45

1 Summary and Recommendations

Kolan Shire Council with the assistance of the State Government's Local Government Recreation Planning Program, contracted Strategic Leisure Australia to undertake a Sport and Recreation Plan for Kolan Shire.

The purpose of this study has been to:

“...provide direction to Council in the allocation of resources to sport and recreation development in (the) shire.”

Detailed below is a summary of the findings and the recommendations.

1.1 Summary of Research and Consultation

1.1.1 Demographic Analysis

The ABS estimated that the population of Kolan Shire (June 1998) was 4,705 persons. Over the five years, 1993-1998, the population had increased by an average of 5.5% per annum, though in 1997-98 this had fallen back slightly to a 4% annual increase. The population is expected to continue to grow with the projection for 2011 being 7,560 persons, a 61% increase on the 1998 estimated population.

Kolan Shire's age profile is similar to that of the broader Wide Bay-Burnett population – it is under-represented in all age categories between 15 and 49 years when compared to Queensland as a whole. Kolan Shire's population is ageing and the median age is 35 years, which is higher than Queensland as a whole (33 years).

The median family income of Kolan residents aged 15 or older was \$449 per week in 1996. This is slightly higher than Biggenden (\$435), however lower than Gayndah Shire (\$563) and Queensland as a whole (\$688).

Unemployment is very high, being more than twice that of Queensland at the last census (22.4% for Kolan and 9.6% for Queensland)

1.1.2 Consultation

Consultation took place with sport and recreation groups through a survey. As well, focus groups were held with:

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

Sport and recreation organisations survey

Surveys were forwarded to 16 known sport and recreation organisations. Ten responses were received. A further four groups provided comment by telephone.

Only two organisations showed an increase in membership in the past three years. Other organisations declined or were stable at best.

The main reasons stated for declining membership in recent years included economic conditions, people looking for more affordable sports, an ageing membership, the attraction of other sports and issues of transport.

Overall, the majority of organisations who responded to the survey indicated satisfaction with the facilities used.

A number of groups were contacted by telephone. A summary of their comments is:

Gaeta Progress Association

The Gaeta Progress Association has recently received a grant for \$32,500 towards the refurbishment and extension of the old Gaeta School, including the connection of electricity. The grant will allow initial works to make the building larger and capable of being used for a number of community functions.

The Gaeta community is distant from Gin Gin and lacks any community facility. The location to develop community facilities has been debated for some time. The two sites most considered have been the school facility and land commonly known as “Lot 100”. In 1997, Council undertook a survey in the area to determine the preferred location for a community facility. The Gaeta School was most preferred at that time. However the debate has not gone away and there are still advocates for Lot 100.

National Fitness

National Fitness has two facilities – the hall and the tennis courts. While the tennis courts will require maintenance in the not too distant future the only priority for upgrading at the present time is a storage room in the National Fitness Hall.

Gin Gin API Society

The Gin Gin API Society membership is reasonably static and they have no significant plans to change the facility. The society’s main event is the 2-day show held in early June. Other events held at the grounds include rodeo, campdraft, circus (occasionally), Santa Fair and Pony Club. While there are no urgent facility development matters, the Society would like to install underground power for stall holders and will be doing this over the next few years. The Society has no plans to change location and believes that if it has to do so it would need significant financial help.

Gaeta Road Community Association

This group is advocating the development of Lot 100 Gaeta Road. Gaeta Playgroup, Gaeta Fire Brigade, Gaeta Community Group and Gaeta Markets currently use this undeveloped block. In the Gaeta Valley, the area surrounding Lot 100, there are approximately 100 families. The Association’s aim is to knit a community and believes that some development of Lot 100 is necessary for this to happen.

School and Education Related Organisations Focus Group

Wallaville Kindergarten’s main need is for more play area for the children.

Gin Gin State School’s sport is socially based rather than competitive. The school leaves the organisation of competitive sport to the community. With the exception of the swimming pool, the State School uses its own sports facilities. The pool meets the school’s needs but it was noted that at times it can be a bit crowded. The State School also uses Memorial Hall. With the growth in the school’s population the Hall is not large enough to cater to the school’s concerts when parents also attend.

The principal of the State High School believes that the distance from Bundaberg and the socio-economics of the town mean that for many youths, whatever is available in Gin Gin, is all that they will be able to access.

Consultation with Youth

To gauge the opinions of young people in the Kolan Shire two focus groups were organised with Year 6 and Year 11 students.

Year 6 students at Gin Gin State School participated well in the focus group. The students summarised the improvements or changes that they would like to see as:

- A skateboard facility such as a half-bowl located adjacent to the Youth Centre.
- A basketball half court.
- School holiday activities such as pottery, art and craft activities.

The Year 11 students at Gin Gin State High School were keen to represent youth of their age. The main suggestions that this group believe Gin Gin would benefit from were:

- A multi-purpose indoor/ outdoor sport and recreation centre.
- A skateboard facility such as a half pipe or bowl.
- Support the availability of ceramics / art /craft activities during school holiday periods.
- Would like a movie to be available in the town once a week or alternatively a bus to Bundaberg once a week to the cinema there.
- The group believed that the Youth Centre was a good facility.

Community, business and tourism focus group

A summary of the points raised by the participants of the community, business and tourism focus groups is:

- Limited community dollars are available for fundraising.
- Volunteers to manage and run community organisations are declining and it is increasingly difficult to find personnel to take on these roles.
- The community is supportive of events such as Wild Scotsmen's Weekend.
- Low socio-economic status contributes to low participation.
- There are issues around communication and coordination.
- There is a need for a skateboard facility for the youth in the community.
- The town needs a park for passive recreation.
- Activities that are provided need to be low cost and informal.
- Transport is a significant issue.

Sport and recreation organisations focus group

Feedback from this focus group included:

- The township has an abundance of sport options and many of these are struggling to survive.
- The cost of sport is a major issue for many people.
- Junior sport in the town is struggling.
- Transport is an issue.

- Some people felt that leisure and informal recreation activities e.g. skateboard areas should be provided.
- The town lacked a formal park where families and others could have a BBQ, utilise playground equipment or just relax.

Gin Gin State High School

There is a proposal to extend the school hall. The principal advised that the school had the ability to access a further \$70,000 from Education Queensland when it was matched by a similar amount from the school. The Hall can seat approximately 600 people in rows and about 300 at tables. The hall has a stage and curtain and a concrete floor. Lighting has been designed to withstand the impact of balls. The Hall does not have toilets (school toilets are used), catering facilities or adequate parking for large events.

The school principal is supportive of the building becoming a community facility. The enhancement of the school hall is most likely the only way that the Kolan Shire will obtain a multi-functional performing arts/leisure centre.

Gin Gin Youth Centre

The Gin Gin Youth Centre opened in August 1998 and is located in a minor sporting and community precinct and adjacent to parkland. A summary of discussions with youth centre management revealed:

- There was an opportunity to build an adventure playground on land adjacent to the Youth Centre.
- The Youth Committee has been petitioning for a skatebowl.
- The junior tennis wishes to expand the National Fitness to four courts.
- The Youth Centre runs occasional programs to support sport in the town.

Kookaburra Park Eco-Village Body Corporate Committee

The Kookaburra Park Eco-Village Body Corporate Committee is proposing a bikepath to link Kookaburra Park to the existing bikepath at the High School. The community is growing (after a slow start) and with its focus being a green community, the community prefers to utilise bicycles for transport.

Kolan Shire Environmental & Outdoor Education Centre

Strategic Leisure Australia was shown a draft development plan for the Kolan Shire Environmental & Outdoor Education Centre. This proposal is for an outdoor adventure centre offering activities such as abseiling, gorge walking, canoeing, camping horse riding etc. in the Goodnight Scrub area. This is a long-term plan with no significant development planned for the next five years.

1.2 Recommendations

The recommendations of this report have been classified as:

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

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

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

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

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

It is suggested that Council include the recommendations of this report into the Kolan Shire Council Corporate (under Program 2 - Sport and Recreation section) and Operational Plans so that they may be resourced over time.

Recommendation 1	Priority = Short to Long
-------------------------	---------------------------------

Walking and Cycle Trail

1. Develop a walking and cycle trail as shown in Attachment 1
2. Purchase vacant land at the corner of Applin Terrace and Mildon Street, Gin Gin and develop into a rest area along the walking and cycle trail

Rationale

A walking and cycle trail will offer low cost recreation to the town's residents. Walking is Australia's most popular physical activity.

The trail as proposed offers a variety of settings (formal to bushland) and levels of exertion. It links public open spaces, including the town common, and offers a variety of entry and exit points so that walkers can structure a walk to suit their level of fitness.

The trail passes near to the aged care residents, youth centre, schools, National Fitness, showgrounds and the main street (tourist stops). It also links the Black Gully Wetland project and the Bruce Highway rest area with the town.

The trail as mapped envisages using the overgrown gully area behind the bowls club up towards the swimming pool. The trail in this section would be concrete, as water would run over it occasionally. This visual appeal of this area would be significantly improved by this recommendation.

The second recommendation concerns Council purchasing the vacant "rainforest" block at the corner of Applin Terrace and Mildon Street. This block offers a pleasant setting for a rest stop along the walking trail. The site would also have a secondary use by the adjacent Primary School for environmental education.

This recommendation contributes to the achievement of Sections 11 and 13 of the Draft Gin Gin Development Control Plan as well as the Cultural and Social Development Goal of Council's Strategic Plan.

Indicative Cost Track = \$82,000 staged over 6 years

Vacant Land = \$12,000

Recommendation 2	Priority = Short
-------------------------	------------------

Parkland Development

Develop a local level park on vacant land (road reserve) at the end of Dear Street where it intersects with Elliott Street incorporating playground and picnic facilities.

Rationale

The Shire lacks a main park where families can take their children and enjoy a relaxing and safe environment. Gin Gin's current main park is in the middle of the Bruce Highway. While travellers may use this park, consultation with local residents revealed considerable support for a new park, as it was not an attractive location for residents. The proposed site is gently sloping with established trees close to residents. It is understood that the adjacent land owned by Ergon Energy could also be used as an open area suitable for "kicking a ball" or an informal game of cricket. An arrangement between Ergon Energy and Council would need to be negotiated but this need not be difficult or expensive.

Suggested developments would include playground equipment, small bridge over drainage culvert, picnic shelters, BBQ, water and lighting. Eventually an amenities block should be constructed however, as this is a high cost it can be delayed as public facilities are available in the main street. This development could be staged to spread the cost over a number of years. Initially, a small playground and basic picnic facilities should be considered.

This recommendation also contributes to meeting the Cultural and Social Development Goal of Council's Strategic Plan.

The small area of park behind the swimming pool was also considered however, the Dear Street site was considered superior. However, this park would benefit from a small picnic shelter and minor landscaping as a low cost enhancement of the town's open space.

Indicative Cost	\$20,000 (playground and basic infrastructure) plus \$5,000 medium term development
-----------------	--

~

Recommendation 3	Priority = Short
-------------------------	------------------

Lake Monduran

While the development of the recreational aspects of Lake Monduran was not raised as an issue in any of the community consultation it is recommended that Council, in conjunction with DNR and other stakeholders develop an action plan to respond to the Lake Monduran Recreation Development Plan's recommendations.

Rationale

Lake Monduran is a significant tourist and recreational asset located some 25kms from Gin Gin. While the Lake is not readily accessible for those without transport, it does have the potential to offer low cost recreation to many residents.

The financial benefits from increased tourism would be of benefit to the Shire.

Indicative Cost	Nil
-----------------	-----

Recommendation 4	Priority = Short - Medium
-------------------------	---------------------------

Skateboard Facility

On the land adjacent to the Youth Centre construct, in conjunction with youth, a freestyle skateboard facility.

Rationale

There are few activities for youth in Kolan Shire if they are not interested in organised sport.

The need for youth activities was a constant theme to emerge from consultation with all groups, including youth. This is a low cost activity which is consistent with community feedback suggesting recreation activities need to be affordable. Currently, youth skate on footpaths and the disused BP Service Station.

The site adjacent to the Youth Centre is recommended for a number of reasons. These include:

- Continuing the recreation / sport theme of this precinct
- Adding to the activities available at the Youth Centre and encouraging greater use of this facility
- At certain times the Youth Centre may be able to offer some supervision of the facility to ensure younger children have fair access

It is further recommended that the design of the skate facility be established in collaboration with a representative group of youths to ensure that the facility meets their needs. This process also establishes "ownership" and the facility is less likely to be damaged.

The Youth Centre could undertake management of the skate facility. However, this would be subject to negotiation.

Indicative Cost \$20,000

~

Recommendation 5	Priority = Short
-------------------------	------------------

Active Australia

That Kolan Shire Council become involved in the Active Australia network

Rationale

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

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

Indicative Cost Nil

Recommendation 6

Priority = Short

Lot 100 Gaeta Road, Gaeta

Develop basic infrastructure of a road access, picnic shelter and composting toilet at Lot 100 Gaeta Road, Gaeta

Rationale

Despite the fact that grant funds have been received by the Gaeta Progress Association to repair and extend the Gaeta School facility, it is apparent that one facility is not going to meet all the needs of this linear community.

Lot 100, Gaeta Road is already used extensively for community activities such as markets, playgroup etc. (see page 33). The users of Lot 100 have indicated that they are not going to move their activities to the Gaeta School facility because it is too distant from their community (between 10 and 25 kms).

This isolated area does not have ready access to recreation or sport services. This recommendation meets some of these needs while helping to build a community in this isolated area.

Prior to any development, a site master plan should be developed to allow the optimum location of facilities and services to support the long term development of the Reserve.

Indicative Cost \$20,000 construction

\$500 mowing (per year based on community involvement)

~

Recommendation 7

Priority = Short

Tobins Shortcut Recreation Reserve, Tirroan

Develop Tobins Shortcut Recreation Reserve, Tirroan to provide basic recreation facilities.

Rationale

This area is becoming settled with a lot of development in the last few years. Building is continuing and a significant community population is amassing.

This block is central to the sub-division. It has a dam on-site and has electricity nearby. There is light timber over the site and is generally a pleasant location. The block has a slight slope.

Initial development will require an amenities building. An environmental toilet system (composting) for moderate use levels can be installed for approximately \$20,000. Levelling an area for games (e.g. cricket), and basic picnic facilities such as shelters and BBQs will be required developments.

Prior to any development, a site master plan should be developed to allow the optimum location of facilities and services to support the long term development of the Reserve.

Indicative Cost \$20,000 (Amenities and basic development)

Recommendation 8	Priority = Short
-------------------------	------------------

400 Metre Athletics Track

Explore the option of creating a 400m grass athletics track on the site of the State School and the adjoining rail corridor.

Rationale

It is not possible to make a definitive recommendation on this matter at this time. Firstly, ownership of the rail corridor land needs to be resolved. Secondly the site needs to be surveyed to see if a 400m track will actually fit and lastly, the costs involved in removing soil (and possibly rock) need to be determined.

The option of developing a 400m track on this site does have the support of the State School and Little Athletics. Whether a track is developed will depend upon the final cost and the funds available from the various parties. A 400m track will allow the development of the club, improve the school's facilities and allow the development of a senior club offering youths an option when they reach the maximum age for Little Athletics.

An additional benefit will be the holding of the zone carnival in Gin Gin, which is currently passed up, as the track is not big enough. Up to 400 people attend this carnival.

Responsibility for the project would rest with the Gin Gin Little Athletics Club and the State School with an agreed contribution from Council.

Indicative Cost	Cost to be established if the project is found to be viable. If it is, and the cost is reasonable, construction would be a medium term priority.
------------------------	--

~

Recommendation 9	Priority = Short
-------------------------	------------------

School Holiday Activities

Kolan Shire Council supports a program of school holiday activities at an existing agency such as the Youth or Alliance Centre, particularly aimed at young women.

Rationale

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

Young women expressed a desire to participate in school holiday activities such as pottery and art and craft activities.

The cost to Council of supporting a program such as this would not be great and it is low risk (because if it is not supported then funding can be stopped). The form of management (e.g. Council managed or a subsidy to another agency) will depend upon negotiations with the potential agency partners.

Indicative Cost	\$2,000 per year
------------------------	------------------

Recommendation 10	Priority = Short
--------------------------	------------------

Community Transport

Convene a Community and Government Working Party to examine the options to address issues of community transport

Rationale

Issues of transport, most commonly to attend events or competitions in other centres, were a common theme during the consultation. While a frequently suggested solution was a community bus, there are issues involved in this approach.

Apart from issues such as maintenance and running costs, the logistics of how one bus would meet all the community's needs when they reside over such a wide area needs to be reviewed. While it has been a major issue for sport and recreation it is also felt that transport would be a much wider community issue reaching into areas such as community health, home care, shopping etc.

The working party should determine the full gamut of community needs and develop a workable, whole-of-government approach to this difficult issue.

Indicative Cost Nil

~

Recommendation 11	Priority = Short
--------------------------	------------------

Gin Gin to Kookaburra Park Cycleway

Extend Council's bikeway system from the High School to Kookaburra Park as shown at Attachment 2.

Rationale

This extension is a logical progression of the cycleway / walkway network. It will offer a safe and low cost mode of transport for Kookaburra Park school children and adults to access Gin Gin.

The residents of this estate prefer "green" options and will utilise bicycle transport options extensively if they can be provided safely.

The cycleway will also add interesting options to the walkway / cycleway proposed at Recommendation 1.

Cost may be reduced if the Kookaburra Park Developer can be encouraged to contribute to the trail as part of the development of future stages.

The path may also enjoy some use by children riding their horses to the Pony Club. Currently parents transport the horses or they are ridden on the verge of the highway.

Indicative Cost \$17,000

Recommendation 12	Priority = Medium
--------------------------	-------------------

Half Court Basketball Court

That a half court basketball court be developed as part of the recreation / sport precinct near the Youth Centre

Rationale

The rationale is similar to that provided in support of a skateboard facility – there is a dearth of recreational facilities for youth in Gin Gin.

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

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

Indicative Cost \$8,000

~

Recommendation 13	Priority = Medium to Long
--------------------------	---------------------------

Gin Gin High School Multipurpose Hall

That Council continue liaising with the High School on the development of the Hall as a community sport, recreation and cultural facility.

Rationale

The Shire is growing rapidly and already Memorial Hall's size does not allow it to meet all the needs of school and community functions. As well, Memorial Hall is not a suitable venue for indoor sports.

Indoor sports have become more popular in recent years. However, an indoor sport facility is expensive to construct. In consultation, the youths expressed an interest in after hours use of the facility for volleyball and it could be expected that if the facility was available to the wider public then adults would wish to play indoor sports as well.

The costs of modifying both the Memorial Hall and the High School Hall need to be compared and the benefits of both options established. Council will then be in a position to establish which investment will offer the greatest community return.

Indicative Cost To be determined

1.3 Funding of Recommendations

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

For some recommendations it has not been possible to cost them at this time e.g. any additions or extensions that Council may agree to do to the Gin Gin State High School Multi-purpose Hall in return for obtaining community access. These will need to be determined over time and budgeted accordingly.

It is felt that with grant and labour funds and some community assistance supplementing Council's contribution, the recommendations are affordable.

Recommendation	Year							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Walking and Cycle Trail	10,000	5,000	19,000	19,000	31,000	10,000		
Parkland Development	20,000			5,000				
Lake Monduran	0							
Skateboard Facility		5,000	15,000					
Active Australia	0							
Lot 100 Gaeta Road, Gaeta		5,000	10,000	5,000				
Tobin's Shortcut Recreation Reserve	10,000	10,000						
400 Metre Athletics Track	0		To be determined (if it is found to be viable)					
School Holiday Activities	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Community Transport	0	Longer term costs, if any, to be determined by the working party						
Kookaburra Park Cycleway		17,000						
Half Court Basketball Court				8,000				
Gin Gin High School Multipurpose Hall					To be determined			
Total	42,000	44,000	46,000	39,000	33,000	12,000	2,000	2,000

Table 1 Costs and Timing of Recommendations

1.3.1 Potential Funding Sources

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

1. Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Program

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

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

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

2. Community Sport and Recreation Development Program

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

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

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

3. Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund

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

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

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

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

4. Jupiter Casino Community Benefit Fund

Jupiter Casino Community Benefit Fund Trust (3808 7444)

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

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

5. Minor Sport and Recreation Facilities Program

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

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

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

6. Outside School Hours Care for Young People

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

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

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

7. Rural Living Infrastructure Program

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

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

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

8. Showground Capital Works Subsidy Scheme

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

The scheme provides subsidies to show societies for capital works.

9. Transport Infrastructure Development Program

Department of Main Roads (3834 2011)

This scheme provides funds to local governments for the development of roads and bicycle paths.

2 Study Objectives

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

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

...provide direction to Councils in the allocation of resources to sport and recreation development in each Shire.

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

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

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

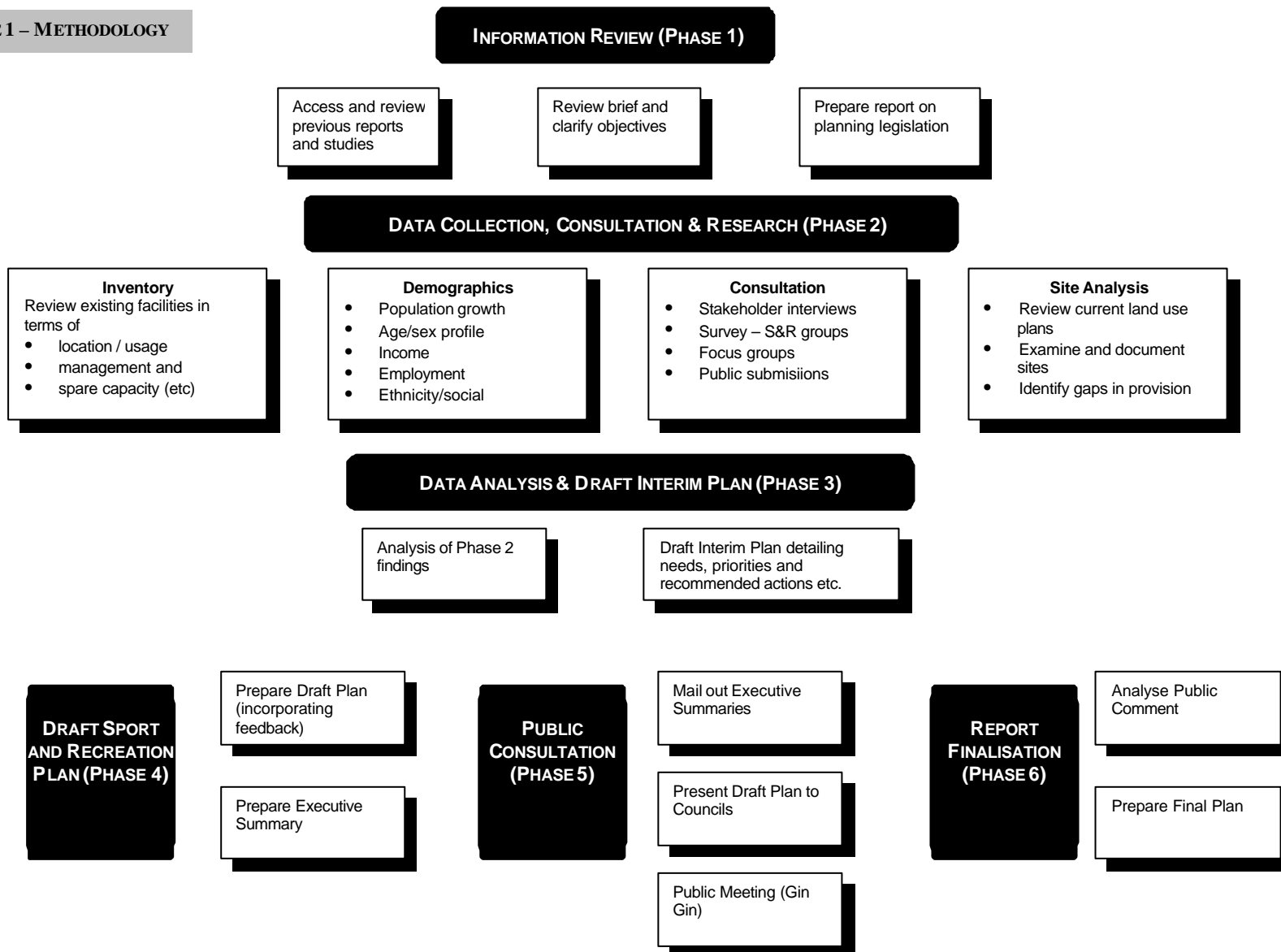
3 Study Approach

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

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

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

FIGURE 1 – METHODOLOGY



3.1 Phase 1 – Information Review

In this phase the following activities were undertaken:

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

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

3.2 Phase 2 – Data Collection, Consultation and Research

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

Inventory

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

Demographics

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

Consultation

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

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

Site Analysis

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

3.3 Phase 3 – Data Analysis and Interim Draft Sport and Recreation Plan

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

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

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

3.4 Phase 4 – Draft Sport and Recreation Plan

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

3.5 Phase 5 – Public Consultation on Draft Sport and Recreation Plan

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

The Draft Sport and Recreation Plan was presented to the Council as well as the community at a public meeting.

3.6 Phase 6 – Report Finalisation

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

4 Review of Relevant Reports and Studies

4.1 Wide Bay Sport and Recreation Council – 3 Year Action Plan

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

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

The sport and recreation plans for Gayndah, Kolan and Biggenden Shire Councils will satisfy Action 1.1.1 for these Shire Councils as well as contributing to a number of other Actions contained in the plan. Specifically these include those relating to sporting infrastructure for sport and recreation events (Action 1.3.1), the sport and recreation needs of special populations (Action 3.1.1) and identifying regional sport and recreation facility needs (Action 4.1.1).

4.2 North Coast Regional Sports Facility: Consultation Report 1998

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

The following issues were identified as affecting local governments:

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

- For shires with low growth it is difficult to prioritise development of sport and recreation facilities above that of generating employment and economic development.
- Several councils felt the role of federal government in funding facilities was unclear and that an agreement should be reached as to the responsibilities of each tier of government.
- Many councils are still unclear on the implications of the Integrated Planning Act (IPA) 1997, for sport and recreation provision and planning.

4.2.1 Existing and Planned Facilities

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

- There were no facilities identified as regional level or higher in Kolan Shire
- The Gin Gin Community Youth Centre was reaching completion but was not considered as a venue for regional level or higher competition (now completed)
- Kolan Shire Council believes that the area has the potential for a State level equestrian course.
- Gayndah Shire Council are currently completing a \$330,000 upgrade of the Gayndah Sports Grounds
- Bundaberg plans to build a \$5M indoor sport and entertainment venue to a standard for national competition.

4.3 Regional Growth Management Framework 1998

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 an agreed strategy to help balance economic, social, environmental, infrastructure and human service needs in the population. Population is projected to grow at a rate higher than the state average to 317,000 by 2020 (1996 population was 181,500).

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 Kolan 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.
- Gin Gin 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 region will be Bundaberg, Maryborough/Hervey Bay and Gympie

- The Regional Growth Management Framework 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.

4.4 Kolan Shire Council Corporate and Operational Plan

Kolan Shire Council's Vision is:

To promote growth, prosperity and a positive future for all people in the Shire.

Council's Mission is:

To provide and maintain an environment that enables the achievement of the present and future goals of our community.

There are three program areas:

1. Corporate Services
2. Community Services, and
3. Engineering Services

The Goal for the Community Services Program is:

To provide services to meet the changing and growing needs of the residents of the Shire and enhance our rural lifestyle while retaining the spirit of the environment.

Sport and recreation is one of the sub-programs within the Community Services Program. The Plan lists as background to the proposed strategies:

- Recognise potential of Lake Monduran as being of tourism and recreation economic benefit to the Shire
- Currently sport and recreation facilities are fragmented throughout the Shire
- Limited public space
- Existing park surrounded by highway
- More leisure time for families

Two significant strategies of the sub-program are:

1. "To provide a recreational reserve for all residents of the Shire in Gin Gin township, (and)
2. Encourage development of an Environmental Wetland in Black Gully area."

4.5 Shire of Kolan Strategic Plan

The main elements of Shire of Kolan Strategic Plan that are relevant to this study are contained within the goal of Cultural and Social Development. Four objectives for this Goal are relevant to this report. They are:

Objective 2

Council recognises the importance of providing for the opportunity for residents and visitors to engage in cultural and social activities

Objective 6

The main focus of social activities is to be Gin Gin

Objective 9

Council will support the establishment and operation of active sporting and social clubs in Gin Gin and Villages within the Shire, such as tennis, golf, bowls, swimming etc.

Objective 10

Council will support the development of public passive recreation opportunities within the Shire, including public parks, picnic areas at rivers, creeks and streams, forest walks, public fishing and boating facilities and public recreation facilities at Lake Monduran.

4.6 Gin Gin Development Control Plan

The Gin Gin Development Control Plan (DCP) supports the Shire of Kolan Strategic Plan and Schedule. The DCP provides for more detailed planning of the interface between the urban and rural designations in the Strategic Plan as well providing for detailed planning of the Gin Gin township and adjacent areas.

Open space and recreation lands are covered by Section 11. Land to which the Section applies is the developed sport and recreation lands as well as the linked open space corridor.

The outcomes sought by the Section concern adequate land being made available for sport and recreation in new subdivisions; and that open space areas link to each other and other destination points, follow drainage lines and have sealed pathways where appropriate.

Section 13 concerns the transport network. One of the outcomes sought by this Section is “Bikeways and pedestrian paths are constructed to provide access to major destinations such as schools”.

4.7 Lake Monduran Recreation Development Plan

This document was prepared in May 1999. The report analyses the recreation and tourism potential of Lake Monduran and provides a broad strategic plan for implementing the recommendations.

A Recreation Master Plan for the Lake was developed that identified improvements across a range of environment, recreation, commercial, education and tourism uses. The recommendations concerning water recreation included:

- A new caravan park
- Upgrades and improvements to the camping areas and boat ramp

- Conversion of the second boat ramp to a floating dock (with commercial as well as recreational potential)
- A kiosk/information centre to act as the centre of commercial operations and manage reservations and payments
- Informal trails linking all areas.

The State Forest area located on the north side of Lake Monduran was identified as appropriate for wilderness activities and potentially, four wheel driving.

5 Demographic Analysis

5.1 Population and Age Structure

The ABS estimated that the population of Kolan Shire (June 1998) was 4,705 personsⁱⁱ. Over the five years, 1993-1998, the population increased by an average of 5.5% per annum, though in 1997-98 this had fallen back slightly to a 4% annual increaseⁱⁱⁱ. The population is expected to continue to grow with the projection for 2011 being 7,560 persons^{iv}, a 61% increase on the 1998 estimated population. Such a level of growth will most likely place strain on services including the provision of sport and recreation opportunities.

Figure 2 shows the 1996 age and sex profile of the Kolan Shire population^v.

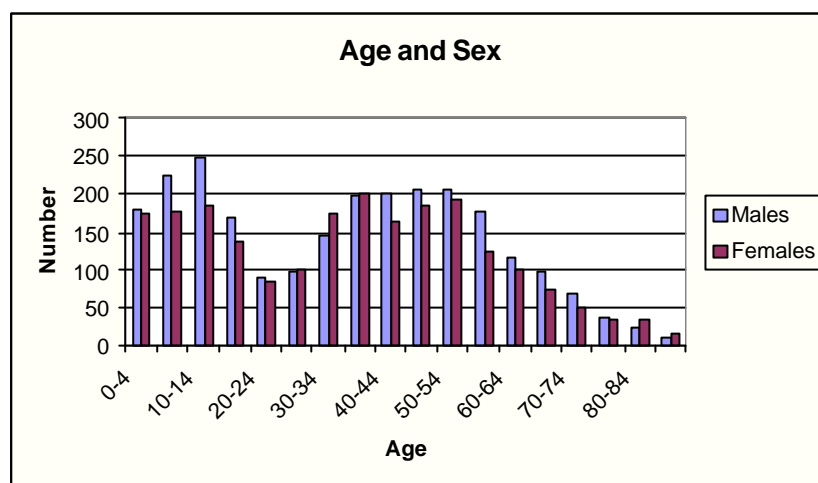


Figure 2: Age and Sex Profile for Kolan Shire (1996)

Kolan Shire's age profile is similar to that of the broader Wide Bay-Burnett population – it is under-represented in all categories between 15 and 49 when compared to Queensland as a whole. The age group 20-29 is substantially under-represented in the population creating a population profile skewed toward younger and older residents. The Queensland Government Statistician has surmised that this may be a result of these age groups leaving the region to pursue education and employment opportunities^{vi}.

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

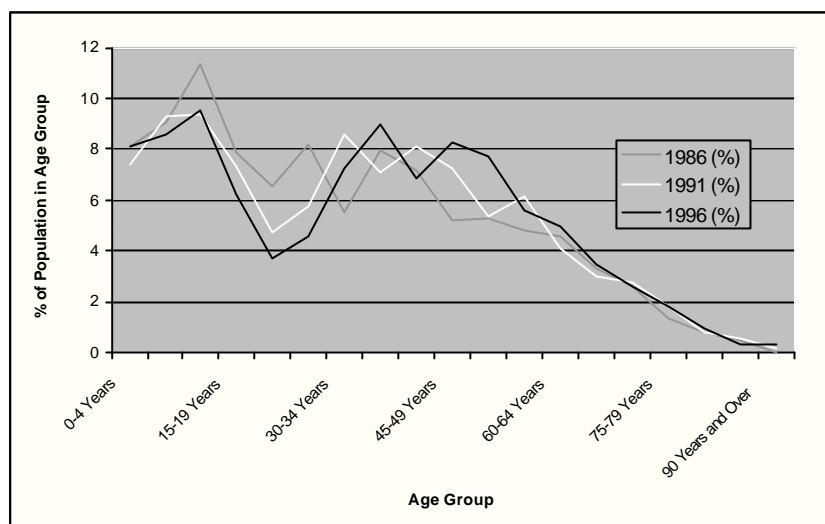


Figure 3: Kolan Shire Age Trends 1986-1996

5.2 Ethnicity and Social Profile

Kolan Shire's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is 82 persons, which represents approximately 1.9% of the population.^{viii}

The population of the Kolan Shire and the Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division are less ethnically diverse than Queensland in total. Approximately 84.9% of the Kolan Shire population were Australian born, this is similar to the Wide Bay-Burnett region (85.7% of the population) and significantly higher than Queensland as a whole (78.4%). Of the overseas born groups in Kolan, persons from the U.K. or Ireland represent the largest group (4.7% of the population)^{ix}. English is the only language spoken at home by 94% of Kolan Shire residents aged 5 years and over. This is higher than the percentage for Queensland (82.2%) and reinforces Kolan Shire as less ethnically diverse than Queensland^x.

Educational levels across the three Shires are slightly below the Queensland average. Persons, as a percentage of the Shire population, with a vocational qualification, Diploma, Bachelor degree or higher are Kolan (27.9%), Biggenden (31%) and Gayndah (29.8%). The State average is 38.5%^{xi}. In 1996, 12% of people living in Kolan Shire were attending primary school and 6.6% were attending secondary school. Only 1.1% of the population was attending either a Technical or Further Education Institution, University or other Tertiary Institution. These figures are comparable to both Gayndah and Biggenden^{xii}.

5.3 Income, Employment and Households' Profile

The median family income of Kolan residents aged 15 or older was \$449 per week in 1996. This is slightly higher than Biggenden (\$435), however lower than Gayndah Shire residents (\$563) and Queensland as a whole (\$688)^{xiii}.

The unemployment rates at the time of the 1996 census^{xiv} were:

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

Kolan's unemployment rate is significantly higher than for either Gayndah or Biggenden Shires that are close to, or below the State average.

Long-term unemployment generally manifests in lower disposable income and reduced self-esteem and motivation. Despite having more available time in which to participate, the effects of unemployment generally counter the desire or ability to participate.

The structure of private dwellings in Kolan is quite unlike that of Queensland as a whole, with more people residing in alternative dwelling structures. The proportion of people in Kolan residing in caravans, cabins or improvised homes, was 6.4% at the time of the 1996 Census, which is significantly higher than the Queensland average of 2.2%^{xv}.

6 Outcome of Consultation Process

6.1 Sport and Recreation Survey

Surveys were forwarded to 16 known sport and recreation organisations to identify:

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

Ten responses were received as set out below^{xvi}. A further four groups provided comment by telephone (indicated by ?).

Organisation	Response
Gaeta Progress Association	?
Gin Gin AP&I Society	?
Gin Gin Youth Activity Centre	U
Gin Gin Women's National Fitness Club	U
Gin Gin Bowls Club (Men's and Ladies)	U
Gin Gin Golf Club	U
Raiders Hockey Club	U
Gin Gin Little Athletics	U
Monduran Aero Club	W
National Fitness	?
Gin Gin Rugby League	U
Gin Gin Scout Group	W
Gin Gin Swimming Club	U
Gin Gin Squash Courts	W
Gin Gin Pony Club	U
Gaeta Road Community Association	?
Gin Gin Tennis	U

6.1.1 Recent and Predicted Membership

Only two organisations showed an increase in membership in the past three years (figures in brackets indicate the membership three years ago and current membership). They were:

- Gin Gin and District Pony Club (33 – 41), and
- Gin Gin Rugby League Club (30 – 59)

The membership of Kolan Junior Tennis Club remained stable at 60 members and Gin Gin Women's National Fitness Club (27 – 26)

Other organisations declined in membership over the last 3 years:

- Gin Gin Bowls Club (Men's and Ladies) (88 – 62)
- Gin Gin Golf Club (93 – 76)
- Raiders Hockey Club (141 – 120)
- Gin Gin Little Athletics (80 – 60)
- Gin Gin Swimming Club (91 – 63)

Reasons for decrease in membership (last 3 years)

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

- Economic conditions. People looking for more affordable sports or withdrawing altogether
- Ageing membership
- Attraction of other sports
- Issues of transport – particularly getting to Bundaberg for training and competition

Reasons for predicted increase in membership (next 3 years)

Reasons for predicted participation increases include:

- Introduction of junior competitions
- Increased local promotion as well as spin-offs from the Olympics
- Growth in population

6.1.2 Levels of satisfaction with facilities

Overall, the majority of organisations who responded to the survey indicated satisfaction with the facilities used (see Table 1). However, where the clubs were dissatisfied the reasons are shown.

Club	Facility	Satisfaction	Reason (if dissatisfied)
Kolan Swimming Club	Gin Gin Swimming Club	Satisfied – but with qualification	It is not a 50m pool; need a better amenities block and canteen facility; inadequate shade areas in pool surrounds
Gin Gin Little Athletics	Gin Gin State Primary School Grounds	Dissatisfied	The ground only offers a 300m track and not the 400m track normally used for competition and training.
Raiders Hockey Club	Artificial surface at the Primary School	Satisfied	Surface is only one third of full size. It is too small to play competitions on. It is useful for training.
Gin Gin Golf Club	Not stated		
Gin Gin Bowls Club	Bowls Club	Very satisfied	
Gin Gin Women's National Fitness Club	National Fitness Hall	Very satisfied	

Club	Facility	Satisfaction	Reason (if dissatisfied)
Gin Gin and District Pony Club	Pony Club Grounds	Satisfied	
Kolan Junior Tennis Club	National Fitness Courts	Satisfied	
	Gin Gin Primary School Courts	Satisfied	
Gin Gin Rugby League Club	Football Grounds	Dissatisfied	Better lighting needed and improved food preparation area

Table 2: Responding organisations' satisfaction with facilities

Facility Use

Most respondents felt that facilities were being used to the fullest extent possible. The exceptions to this were:

- Raiders Hockey Club believed that toilets, water, showers and canteen / clubhouse would make their facility more viable.
- Gin Gin Rugby League Club felt that better lighting and amenities would increase use.

New or upgraded facilities regarded by groups as essential

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

Gin Gin Rugby League Club

Facility priorities

- New lighting on both fields to allow night football (and touch football) as well as meet OH&S standards
- Upgrade food preparation area to meet health standards
- Upgrade amenities

Overall priorities for the next five years

- Upgrade lights and amenities
- Re-introduce junior rugby league
- Consider building a clubhouse

Gin Gin Women's National Fitness Club

Facility priorities

- Nil

Overall priorities for the next five years

- Improve the fitness levels of women in the District
- Increase membership

Raiders Hockey Club**Facility priorities**

- Full size artificial hockey field set up with canteen, toilet and shower facilities

Overall priorities for the next five years

- To increase player numbers, especially juniors
- To seek continued sponsorship to keep playing costs down.
- Look into a full sized artificial field

Gin Gin Swimming Club**Facility priorities**

- 50m pool as the existing pool does not have any spare capacity e.g. when schools are using it
- PA Box raised above ground as the existing structure does not give a clear view of the pool

Overall priorities for the next five years

- Ensure that as many people as possible are taught to swim
- Provide an affordable sport for all ages
- Maintain club membership by keeping costs down

Gin Gin Little Athletics**Facility priorities**

- A 400m track preferably with lights. Without this facility the Club will continue to miss out on zone carnivals (and its inherent financial benefits)

Overall priorities for the next five years

- Improving the facility for centre and zone competitions
- Training more coaches
- Form a senior athletics club
- Run competitions under lights

Gin Gin Golf Club**Facility priorities**

- Nil

Overall priorities for the next five years

- To continue to improve and beautify the course
- Upgrade and refurbish the clubhouse

Gin Gin Bowls Club**Facility priorities**

- Improvements to greens
- Improved shade

Overall priorities for the next five years

- Rebuild the membership
- Create a social centre
- Improve viability

Gin Gin and District Pony Club**Facility priorities**

- An official cross-country course on the Pony Club grounds that will allow the hosting of zone and regional competitions
- Level ground for dressage and showjumping

Overall priorities for the next five years

- Repairs and improvements to clubhouse and facilities
- Cross-country course and flat work area
- Upgrade and install new facilities – showers and toilets

Kolan Junior Tennis**Facility priorities**

- Two more court facilities. This would allow members to play full sets in the time available and for use by the High School

Overall priorities for the next five years

- Promote tennis in the Kolan area
- Additional courts and tennis wall
- BBQ area and fenced children's playground

6.1.3 Telephone Discussions

A number of groups were contacted by telephone. A summary of their comments is presented here.

Gaeta Progress Association

The Gaeta Progress Association has recently received a grant for \$32,500 towards the refurbishment and extension of the old Gaeta School, including the connection of electricity. The school has been closed since 1975 and while still a solid building, it has fallen into disrepair. The grant will allow initial works to make the building larger and capable of being used for a number of community functions. Long term it is hoped to obtain extra funds to complete the works and eventually restore the tennis court. The Progress Association will be responsible for maintaining the buildings and grounds once work is completed.

The Gaeta community is distant from Gin Gin and lacks any community facility. It is also a linear community extending approximately 30kms or so from end to end. The location for a community focus has been debated for some time. The two sites most

considered have been the school facility and land commonly known as “Lot 100”. The two sites are about 10kms apart.

In 1997, Council undertook a survey in the area to determine the preferred location for a community facility. The Gaeta School was most preferred at that time. However the debate has not gone away and there are still advocates for Lot 100. It is used weekly by the Gaeta Playgroup for picnic and play activities as well as the community for markets, meetings etc.

The distance that people have to traverse over a gravel road is the prime issue. What is the most suitable site for one person is not necessarily so for another.

National Fitness

National Fitness has two facilities – the hall and the tennis courts. Discussion of the tennis courts is covered by the response from Kolan Junior Tennis. Extra information presented here relates to the hall.

The Qld Academy of Self-Defence (twice per week), Junior Fitness and Women’s Fitness regularly use the hall. The facility meets the needs of these groups. While the facility will require maintenance in the not too distant future the only priority for upgrading at the present time is a storage room. A storage room will allow equipment to be moved off the floor of the hall increasing available space.

Gin Gin API Society

The Gin Gin API Society membership is reasonably static and they have no significant plans to change the facility. The society’s main event is the 2-day show held in early June. Other events held at the grounds include rodeo, campdraft, circus (occasionally), Santa Fair and Pony Club.

While there are no urgent matters facility development matters the Society would like to install underground power for stall holders and will be doing this over the next few years.

The Society has no plans to change location and believes that if it was to do so it would need significant financial help. As a result of the damage done to the turf by horses, the Society does not see any scope to multi-use the ring with field sports.

Gaeta Road Community Association

This group is advocating the development of Lot 100 Gaeta Road. This undeveloped block is currently used by:

- Gaeta Playgroup (once per week)
- Gaeta Fire Brigade (once per month)
- Gaeta Community Group (once per month)
- Gaeta Markets (once per month)

Gaeta is a linear community and characterised by “new” and “old” residents. For the new residents Lot 100 is more central than the Gaeta School site – and vice versa. In the Gaeta Valley, the area surrounding Lot 100, there are approximately 100 families. For this group, the preferred site for development is Lot 100. The Association’s aim is to knit a community and believes that some development of Lot 100 is necessary for this to happen. The Association’s priorities for the site are:

1. Formalise the road entrance – pipe over gully and gravel road
2. Construction of toilets
3. Picnic shelter
4. Playground equipment

6.2 Focus Groups

Focus groups were held with:

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

6.2.1 School and Education Related Organisations

Only two groups, the Wallaville Kindergarten and the Gin Gin State School attended the focus group. However, the views of the Principal of the Gin Gin State High School were obtained separately and are presented here and at Section 6.3.1.

Wallaville Kindergarten's main need is for more play area for the children. A proposal is being developed for Council's consideration whereby some adjacent land will be obtained to allow for the expansion of the kindergarten.

Gin Gin State School's sport is socially based rather than competitive. The school leaves the organisation of competitive sport to the community. It concentrates its focus on the social experiences of sport and building the gross motor skills of the students.

The only sport or recreation priority of the State School relevant to this report is the expansion of the running track to 400 metres. The school believes that it is possible to do this by cutting into the old rail corridor on the top side of the school and realigning the straight. However, it will be 2 or 3 years before this is a high priority of the school. Other education resources are more urgently required at this point.

The State School's policy is to make the school's facilities (including buildings) available after hours. A signed booking is all that is required. Fees are generally not payable for casual use.

With the exception of the swimming pool, the State School uses its own sports facilities. The pool meets the school's needs but it was noted that at times it can be a bit crowded so the school has to manage the number of children in the pool at any one time.

The State School also uses Memorial Hall. With the growth in the school's population the Hall is not large enough to cater to the school's concerts when parents also attend. The school indicated that it will split the concert in two in the future.

The principal of the State High School believes that the distance from Bundaberg and the socio-economics of the town mean that for many youths, whatever is available in Gin Gin, is all that they will be able to access. Therefore, it is important to offer a range of activities to the youth of the Shire in Gin Gin.

Consultation with Youth

To gauge the opinions of young people in the Kolan Shire two focus groups were organised with Year 6 and Year 11 students.

Year 6 students at Gin Gin State School participated well in the focus group. The class was a mix of town and out-of-town residents, with the latter being the larger group. The out-of-town group had restricted after-school leisure choices because of the isolation inherent in such living arrangements.

However, despite this the students summarised the improvements or changes that they would like to see as:

- A skateboard facility such as a half-bowl located adjacent to the Youth Centre. However, this age group was concerned that they would not get

any time to use it, as it would be monopolised by the “older kids”. They thought that if the facility was at the Youth Centre then it might be possible to set aside some time for them to use it without the older age groups being present. The only option for skateboarding at present was cited as footpaths and the closed BP service station.

- The half court at the school is not available to them after hours and they would like to see a half court in the township.
- Quite a number of students (mainly girls) would like to be able to do pottery, art and craft activities during the school holidays.

The Year 11 students at Gin Gin State High School were like the Year 6 students – a mix of town and country residents. The group chosen had sport as well as recreation interests and were keen to represent youths of their age.

A number of the students in this group travelled to Bundaberg to train and participate in their chosen sport e.g. athletics (tartan track) and rowing. While they would like to have these opportunities in Gin Gin they realised that the cost of these types of facilities is beyond the means of Kolan Shire Council. The main suggestions that this group believe Gin Gin would benefit from were:

- A multi-purpose indoor/ outdoor sport and recreation centre. Volleyball is very strong at the school with competitions being held at the school as well as travelling to Bundaberg for competitions. The students suggested that the school hall be available for after hours use and/or competitions.
- A skateboard facility such as a half pipe or bowl,
- Support the availability of ceramics / art /craft activities during school holiday periods. They suggested that the logical location for such activities was the Youth Centre.
- Would like a movie to be available in the town once a week or alternatively a bus to Bundaberg once a week to the cinema there. The students supported the bus trips organised by the Youth Centre – only suggesting that they be held more often.
- The group believed that the Youth Centre was a good facility and the main constraint to its use was the fact that so many of the youths lived out of town.

6.2.2 Community, business and tourism groups

A summary of the points raised by the participants of the community, business and tourism focus groups is:

- Limited community dollars are available for fundraising as the population has a low income and high unemployment
- Volunteers to manage and run community organisations are declining and it is increasingly difficult to find personnel to take on these roles. In particular, there is a lack of coaches and facilitators of activities. One estimate is that the Shire has 98 community groups and many of them are struggling
- While there are issues concerning volunteerism, the community is supportive of events such as Wild Scotsmen’s Weekend
- Low socio-economic status contributes to low participation. There is a real need to encourage greater participation in activities by the community

- There are issues around communication and coordination. Some suggestions were for an event calendar. The Community Alliance coordinated a calendar in 1999 but only got a proportion of the events. Others comment concerned the difficulty of “finding out what’s going on”. The major communication channel for community matters was thought to be the notice board at the newsagency.
- There is a need for a skateramp for the youths
- The town needs a park for passive recreation
- Activities that are provided need to be low cost and informal
- Transport is a significant issue. With many people living outside the town it is often difficult to get into town to participate.

6.2.3 Sport and recreation organisations

Feedback from this focus group included:

- The township has an abundance of sport options and many of these are struggling to survive. The population has little spare income to support the varied fundraising activities of the town’s clubs.
- The cost of sport is a major issue to many people and the larger the family the greater the burden.
- Junior sport in the town is struggling and “just keeping our heads above water”
- Transport is an issue, particularly for the large populations living outside the town. It is not only the logistics but also the cost.
- It was pointed out that Mt Perry has a community bus (supplied under a Jupiter Casino Community Benefit Fund).
- Some people felt that leisure and informal recreation activities e.g. skateboard areas should be provided while others were concerned that the provision of informal facilities would result in a drop-off in organised sport.
- The town lacked a formal park where families and others could have a BBQ, utilise playground equipment or just relax.

6.3 Stakeholder Interviews

6.3.1 Gin Gin State High School

The principal was interviewed in conjunction with the proposal to extend the school hall. The principal advised that the school had the ability to access a further \$70,000 from Education Queensland when it was matched by a similar amount from the school. At current rates of fundraising it may be about 8-9 years before the school can save the funds.

The Hall can seat approximately 600 people in rows and about 300 at tables. The hall has a stage and curtain and a concrete floor. Lighting has been designed to withstand the impact of balls. The Hall does not have toilets (school toilets are used), catering facilities or adequate parking for large events.

The school's priorities for the building are:

1. Internally accessible toilet facilities
2. Catering facilities
3. Back of stage dressing rooms (green rooms)

With these facilities the school would have a building that fully met their needs. The school recognises that for community use there may be other enhancements required. The addition of a foyer, parking facilities^{xvii}, drop-off bay and landscaping has been suggested.

The school principal is supportive of the building becoming a community facility. The enhancement of the school hall is most likely the only way that the Kolan Shire will obtain a multi-functional performing arts/leisure centre.

Advantages of a school-based arrangement include:

1. Maintenance responsibility being met from the school budget
2. Insurance risk being taken by Education Queensland
3. A joint arrangement for cleaning.

6.3.2 Gin Gin Youth Centre

The Gin Gin Youth Centre opened in August 1998 as a result of a petition for a gym and fitness centre. The youth centre is located in a minor sporting and community precinct and adjacent to parkland. The centre has facilities for pool, table tennis, air hockey, games, video and a gymnasium (small fee applies).

A summary of discussions with youth centre management revealed:

- There was an opportunity to build an adventure playground on land adjacent to the Youth Centre (approximate cost \$40,000^{xviii}) as well as an area for youth to ride their bikes (approximate cost \$20,000^{xix}) and a skatebowl. A fully developed facility, given its proximity to the Bruce Highway may be able to charge travellers admission costs.
- The Youth Committee has been petitioning for a skatebowl
- The junior tennis wishes to expand the National Fitness to four courts. The Youth Centre wants to consider multi-purpose options for the extra courts^{xx}. Should the courts at the high school need replacing then it may be advantageous to support the courts at National Fitness rather than replace them at the High School

- The Youth Centre runs occasional programs to support sport in the town e.g. sports medicine and GST workshops.

6.3.3 Kookaburra Park Eco-Village Body Corporate Committee

The Kookaburra Park Eco-Village Body Corporate Committee requested a meeting to discuss a proposal to link Kookaburra Park by bikepath to the existing bikepath at the High School.

The preferred path is from the High School bikepath along the highway to the golf course. Through the golf course at the edge of the fairway 9/18 staying close to the irrigation channel until the clubhouse. From the clubhouse continue along the edge of the practice fairway close to the highway or between the practice fairway and fairway 1/10 (where the path could also be used by buggies) to Saunders Road. Then use Saunders Road until the existing easement close to Kookaburra Park.

For the most part construction is relatively straightforward. No bridges or other structures are required. The laying of a hard surface would be required at the Saunders Road end of Kookaburra Park (approximately 100m), through the Golf Course, and along the Highway. An easement or other arrangement would need to be negotiated with the Golf Club for the bikepath.

The community is growing (after a slow start) and with its focus being a green community, the community prefers to utilise bicycles for transport. The current population is 95 with 36 children below 18 with approximately 25 of these attending school. The population is estimated to be 400 in three or so years as it is intended that the Lots will be marketed more rapidly.

6.3.4 Kolan Shire Environmental & Outdoor Education Centre

Strategic Leisure Australia was shown a draft development plan for the Kolan Shire Environmental & Outdoor Education Centre. This is a proposal being developed by Ian Fairhurst of Kolan Outdoor Adventure Learning Association (KOALA).

Mr Fairhurst's proposal is for an outdoor adventure centre offering activities such as abseiling, gorge walking, canoeing, camping horse riding etc. in the Goodnight Scrub area.

This is a long-term plan with no significant development planned for the next five years. As such it has not been included in the report's recommendations but its development may be worth noting and if Council has the opportunity to support it at the appropriate time, it should be considered.

7 Analysis of Parks and Open Space

7.1 Implications of the Integrated Planning Act (1997)

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

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

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

For Kolan Shire Council the implications are:

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

7.2 Tirroan Rail Corridor

The brief asked the consultants to consider what use could be made of a disused rail corridor between Gin Gin and Tirroan that Council is currently considering purchasing.

The corridor is, apart from either end where it is within or near urban areas, mainly through open farmland.

The possible uses include:

- Walking and or bikepath, perhaps with exercise stations located along the way
- Mountain bike path
- Horse trail or cross-country trail

There may be merit in Council purchasing that part of the corridor within the township of Gin Gin and at Tirroan but it is NOT recommended that Council purchase the intermediate section for sport and recreation purposes.

The corridor within Gin Gin is adjacent to the primary school, aged care units and the Youth Centre and could form valuable open space reserves in the town. At Tirroan the

corridor adds to the public open space and may be valuable in the long term should the township grow.

While low cost physical activity such as walking and bicycle riding has emerged as an issue in Kolan Shire, this corridor is not seen as the best use of Council's resources in providing for this need. The corridor, from a recreational perspective, is uninteresting. It does not have desirable natural features or the ability to be transformed. In meeting the needs of low cost recreation activities, this rail corridor is not a preferred option.

8 Endnotes

-
- ⁱ Wide Bay Sport and Recreation Council and Sport and Recreation Qld, North Coast Region, May 2000, *Finding Funding*.
- ⁱⁱ Office of the Government Statistician, November 1999, *Regional Profile: Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division*, Queensland Government, Brisbane, p.3
- ⁱⁱⁱ Office of the Government Statistician, April 1999, *Regional Profile: Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division*, Queensland Government, Brisbane, p.2
- ^{iv} Department of Communication & Information, Local Government & Planning, 1998, *Population Projections for Queensland*, Brisbane, p. 93
- ^v Australian Bureau of Statistics, June 1998, *Population by Age and Sex*, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.
- ^{vi} Office of the Government Statistician, November 1998, *Regional Profile: Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division*, Queensland Government, Brisbane, p.5
- ^{vii} 1996 Census
- ^{viii} Office of the Government Statistician, April 1998, *Regional Profile: Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division*, Queensland Government, Brisbane, pp. 4-5
- ^{ix} Office of the Government Statistician, November 1998, *Regional Profile: Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division*, Queensland Government, Brisbane, pp. 5-6
- ^x 1996 Census
- ^{xi} Office of the Government Statistician, April 1998, *Regional Profile: Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division*, Queensland Government, Brisbane, pp. 6-7
- ^{xii} 1996 Census
- ^{xiii} Office of the Government Statistician, November 1998, *Regional Profile: Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division*, Queensland Government, Brisbane, p.6
- ^{xiv} 1996 census data has been used, as more recent unemployment data is not available at a local government level.
- ^{xv} 1996 Census
- ^{xvi} As a number of important organisations did not respond they were telephoned and their responses included in the overall plan.
- ^{xvii} It would be possible to provide parking on the current netball courts and the cricket practice wickets. Long term the tennis courts may also be available. The netball courts could be moved or alternatively, if the area was laid with bitumen then the area could serve as netball courts for the school as well as a car park.
- ^{xviii} Cost estimate provided by the Youth Centre
- ^{xix} Cost estimate provided by the Youth Centre
- ^{xx} It is Strategic Leisure Australia's experience that multi-lined tennis courts are not desirable for tennis, particularly senior tennis.