LEICHHARDT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

16. RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE NEEDS STUDY

C522/05 RESOLVED PARKER/HAMILTON

That:

2.1 Council adopt the Leichhardt Recreation and Open Space Needs Study with the amendments outlined in Section 5.4 of the report, subject to the following changes:

(a) The removal of the following clause:

“Develop a new “wet” hockey pitch on Leichhardt Oval no. 2, subject to the availability of sports grounds within Callan Park or a suitable alternative facility for the relocation of each of the current users”

and replace with:

“Develop a new “wet” hockey pitch on Leichhardt Oval no. 2.”

(b) Defer the amendments relating to Callan Park as outlined in the report. Council consult with stakeholders including the Friends of Callan Park.

2.2 That a report on other options for active recreation facilities including sporting fields as recommended by the Environment and Recreation Committee come to Council with the Leichhardt Recreation and Open Space Needs Study in February 2006.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

This is page 25 of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on the day of 13 December, 2005 and presented for confirmation this day 28th February 2006.

CHAIR
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Study Background

The Leichhardt Municipal Council is an inner west municipality located approximately 6km from the Sydney Central Business District. It comprises of the suburbs of Annandale, Balmain, Balmain East, Birchgrove, Lilyfield, Leichhardt and Rozelle. The estimated population in 2001 of the Leichhardt Local Government Area (LGA) was 48,705 people, and by 2011 it is expected to grow to in excess of 55,000 people.

The Leichhardt Municipal Council takes a lead role in the planning and provision of open space, and recreational facilities and programs within the Leichhardt LGA. In order to effectively support this leadership role, Council requires an understanding of what it currently provides and to whom, a sound knowledge of its community's recreational needs, and strategies to match these needs for future facility and service provision.

The Leichhardt LGA is currently undergoing a period of change in relation to its population profile and distribution, largely as a result of older, established residential areas within the LGA being sought after by young couples and young families, and high density housing projects being stimulated and facilitated in specific locations within the municipality as part of broader urban renewal strategies. These demographic changes and the fact that the most recent LGA-wide recreation study was conducted in 1993, now make it timely for Council to re-assess the recreational needs and aspirations of its community, and to formulate new directions and priorities for the provision of open space and recreation facilities and programs.

As a result, Council commissioned the Leichhardt Council Recreation & Open Space Needs Study in October 2004 and appointed Stratcorp Consulting, a sports and recreation planning company, to undertake the study. This Study Report outlines the process carried out to complete the study, including a description and analysis of the research and information collected, and the proposed strategy plan which identifies actions, responsibilities, timeframes and resource implications for its implementation.

1.2. Study Scope and Objectives

The scope of the study includes assessment of the community's open space and recreation needs, including both active and passive, and indoor and outdoor recreation/sport needs.

The Study Objectives were:

1. To provide strategic open space and recreation planning direction for the Leichhardt LGA for the next 10 years which responds to organisational and community needs.

2. To deliver a study which will complement and enhance Leichhardt Council's corporate framework, and assist in the establishment of policies and programs for the provision, management, maintenance and usage of open space, recreation facilities and programs within the Leichhardt LGA.

3. To provide a strategic plan that is consistent with the open space and recreation objectives of corporate strategies, including the Leichhardt Town Plan, Strategic Plan 2000-2005 and Management Plan 2003-2006.
4. To provide direction for Leichhardt Council in partnership with the local community for an integrated approach to open space and recreation planning and management, and to develop and enhance links with recreation-orientated community organisations.

5. To provide a thorough analysis of needs which when incorporated within the Plan will withstand any legal proceedings.

1.3. The Planning Process

The planning process used to undertake the Leichhardt Council Recreation & Open Space Needs Study included the following tasks or phases:

- Audit and review of existing open space and recreation facilities and services available across the municipality.
- Analysis of current and likely future demographic profile of the Leichhardt LGA.
- Literature review.
- Review of National, State, and local recreation and participation trends.
- Community and stakeholder consultation.
- Gap analysis and draft strategy development.
- Client review period and finalisation of the draft strategy.
- Public exhibition of draft strategy and assessment of submissions.
- Council adoption of final report (13 December 2005).

1.4. Acknowledgements

Stratcorp Consulting would like to acknowledge the contribution of the Leichhardt Council staff for their input into the Recreation & Open Space Needs Study, and to those residents, sporting and recreation club representatives, community groups and other stakeholder representatives who responded to the various opportunities for input, and who provided advice and information where required.
2. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF LEICHHARDT LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

The demographic information relating to the Leichhardt LGA, which is reported below has been obtained from the following sources:


Refer Appendix 1 for full demographic profile of Leichhardt LGA.

2.1. General Demographic Characteristics of the Leichhardt LGA

The general demographic characteristics for the Leichhardt LGA are as follows.

- The estimated 2001 population of the Leichhardt LGA was 48,705 people, compared to 44,408 people in 1996. (Represents a total increase of 9.7%, compared to 6.8% for all of Sydney).

- The Leichhardt LGA is generally considered to be an “older” municipality, characterised by:
  - A higher proportion of its population in the middle age range (25-39 years) and older age range (50-59 years) compared to all of Sydney.
  - A lower proportion in the younger ages (0-19 years) compared to all of Sydney.
  - A median age of people of 35 years compared to 34 years for all of Sydney.

- Total population is projected to increase by approximately 3,347 people (to 52,052) by 2011, with the age cohorts of 55-64 years and 50-54 years expected to have the largest net growth = ageing population. With the proposed future development of the Parramatta Road Corridor and Rail Corridor, the population is expected to increase beyond 55,000 to the period 2020.

- A majority (64.2%) of the Leichhardt LGA residents are Australian-born, which is higher than all of Sydney at 61.4%, but is a slight decrease from 1996 (66.5%). Of those residents not born in Australia, the three main countries of birth are United Kingdom (7.9% of the total population), New Zealand (3.6%) and Italy (2.5%).

- There is generally high affordability in the Leichhardt LGA, indicated by:
  - Median weekly individual income of $700-799 (compared to $400-499 for all of Sydney).
  - Median weekly family household income of $1,500-1,999 (compared to $1,000-1199 for all of Sydney).
  - Median weekly total household income of $1,200-1,499 (compared to $800-999 for all of Sydney).

- Leichhardt LGA residents can be considered less mobile when compared to all of Sydney, indicated by 13.6% of all dwellings not having a motor vehicle, compared to 10.1% for all of Sydney.
2.2. Implications From the Demographic Profile On Recreation

The key implications from the demographic profile in relation to recreation planning and development include:

- Just under half of all residents are aged under 35 years, a range which includes the most active age cohorts in relation to participation in formal sporting and recreation activities.

- Estimated additional 3,350 people to take up residency in the Leichhardt LGA in the next 6 years.

  **Implication:** Continued need to provide active sporting opportunities for young people / families.

- Currently, there is a higher proportion of older adults in the Leichhardt LGA when compared to all of Sydney. As a whole, the future population will become “older”.

  **Implication:** May reduce some demand for active sporting opportunities, but increase demand for unstructured and passive leisure and recreation pursuits, such as walking, golf, lawn bowls, indoor social activities, and use of parks. A perception of safety in the community and safe accessible areas will be important attributes of the municipality for older adults, e.g. sealed and well lit paths.

  High importance for this target group to increase its level of participation in active recreation pursuits, where possible, to assist general health and well-being objectives to be achieved. The participation of older adults in sporting and recreation activities should not just focus on the physical fitness, competition and skill improvement outcomes, but also on social and general health outcomes. (Refer Appendix 2)

- General affordability of population is high.

  **Implication:** Notwithstanding the high numbers of older adults (concessions), the general affordability of the population is high meaning a “user pays” principle for costing the use of recreational services and facilities could be sustainable in the Leichhardt LGA.

- The Leichhardt LGA has a relatively high proportion of its population which is Australian-born.

  **Implication:** Will impact upon the types of recreation and sporting facilities and services to be provided. There will be continued strong demand for “traditional” Australian sports, such as rugby league, cricket, golf, netball and tennis.
3. SUMMARY OF RELEVANT REPORTS

A review of current Council strategic planning documents and other previous research was completed to identify key issues and recommendations relevant to the study. It is important that the Leichhardt Council Recreation & Open Space Needs Study has a context which is consistent with the planning directions and initiatives of Council and other regional planning agencies and organisations.

The key information from the review of key Council and State Government planning documents is summarised below.

3.1. Leichhardt Council Strategic Plan 2000-2005

The Leichhardt Council Strategic Plan 2000-2005 is the overarching document that provides broad direction for Council in responding to key community issues, and which reflects the community’s priorities and aspirations identified during the consultative process with all sectors of the community.

Council’s Vision¹ for the Leichhardt LGA is....

To foster the area’s distinguishing characteristics, namely, diversity, tolerance, community involvement and environmental consciousness through excellence in serving the community and an organisational culture that responds to the changing environment.

Council’s organisational Mission² statement is....

Council’s mission is to meet the needs of the local community and provide the economic, social and environmental development of the Leichhardt area through:

- Integrated customer service and focus;
- Highly skilled, motivated and courteous staff;
- Encouraging a culture that fosters change and consultative processes;
- The application of socially and contemporary human resource systems and practices; and
- Encourage the development of a workforce that reflects the make-up of the community.

Council’s Core Values which underpin achievement of the Mission include:

- Civic Leadership.
- Customer Service.
- Responsible Employer.
- Equity.
- Honesty and Integrity.
- Management and Councillor Teamwork.
- Consistency in Decision-Making.

¹ The Vision described here is that included in Council’s 2004-2007 Management Plan, which has modified the Vision articulated in the Leichhardt Strategic Plan.
² As above.
Two of the five Program Areas of the Strategic Plan give relevance and meaning to the preparation of the Leichhardt Strategic Recreation Plan:

1. Community Wellbeing.

2. Natural Environment.

Program 1: Community Wellbeing

Key Result Area 2: Recreation Provision

Leichhardt Council is committed to providing a diverse range of opportunities to assist the population to participate in sporting and recreational activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Ensure reasonable community access to a complete range of active and passive recreation.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To consolidate and improve services to local residents.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Provide additional youth recreation facilities.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Work collaboratively with older people to investigate, plan and deliver or facilitate a range of appropriate active and passive recreational activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Undertake a recreation needs study.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maintain and enhance recreation facilities.</td>
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Program 3: Natural Environment

Key Result Area 1: Conservation and Enhancement

Creeks and foreshores offer valuable passive recreational opportunities to residents and visitors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Where practical opportunities arise, enhance the environmental and recreational values of creek lines.</th>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Review and implement the open space strategy.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prepare and implement parks plans of management.</td>
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The Leichhardt Council Management Plan sets out the services and activities Council will provide for the community, and the necessary allocation of resources for the period 2004 - 2007. The Divisional Areas through which Council delivers its services are Mayor & General Manager’s Office; Environmental and Community Management; Infrastructure and Service Delivery; and Corporate and Information Services.

For each Divisional Area, the Management Plan outlines Goals, Objectives, Activities, Key Result Areas, Outputs, Priorities, Key Performance Indicators, and also the Financial Forecasts and Schedules for individual program areas.
The following Program Areas are relevant to the Recreation & Open Space Needs Study:

Program 2.3: Strategic Environmental Planning

Objectives
- In a partnership approach to assist clubs and sporting organisations in an advocacy role to other spheres of government.
- To work collaboratively with the community on the enhancement of recreational programs and facilities.
- To develop, implement and review policies and standards in the provision of recreation within the municipality.

Priorities
- Recreation Needs Study.

Program 3.2: Infrastructure & Service Delivery

Objectives
- To repair, clean and landscape existing assets in accordance with prescribed levels of service, .... and build new assets.

Priorities
- Increase parks maintenance levels in line with community expectations.
- Investigate the resourcing & provide support for community volunteers (Friends of the Park groups).

Program 4.5: Property Services

Objectives
- Develop, manage and maintain Council’s property to maximise its value and return to the community.

Priorities
- Complete compulsory acquisition of 2 – 8 Weston St, East Balmain.
- Complete compulsory acquisition case against RTA over the compulsory acquisition of part of Blackmore Oval.
- Prepare and lodge the DA plan for the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre (LPAC) children’s water playground, upgrade to the change rooms, entrance and roof repair.

Program 4.6: Recreation Facilities

Objectives
- To manage public recreation facilities to provide a quality, cost effective service catering for diverse community needs.

Priorities
- Prepare and lodge the DA plan for the LPAC children’s water playground, upgrade to the change rooms, entrance and roof repair.
- Develop LPAC presence on Council’s website.
- Maintain financial performance of the LPAC, and initiate other operational efficiencies.
- Complete renovation of entry and kiosk at the Dawn Fraser Pool.
- Review operating hours and entry system of tennis courts.
3.3. **Draft Leichhardt Council Social Plan (2005)**

The *Draft Leichhardt Social Plan (2005)* updates previous individual social plans which were prepared in 1996 and 2002 for the seven nominated target groups of Children (0-11 years), Young People (12-24 years), Women, Older People, People With Disabilities, People from Culturally Diverse Backgrounds, and Indigenous People.

The primary function of the Social Plan was to analyse the needs of the Leichhardt LGA community, especially the needs of the above listed target groups, and through a process of community consultation, demographic analysis, and review of existing servicing levels, to formulate strategies which respond to these needs.

The key issues relating to recreation for each of the seven target groups are summarised below. This information became very important resource material due to the low resident turn-out for some of the targeted community consultative meetings organised for the *Recreation & Open Space Needs Study*.

1. **Children (0-11 years)**

   **Community Feedback**
   - In general the community was pleased with the maintenance of the parks and playgrounds.
   - Playgrounds to have adequate shading and seating for parent supervision and protection.
   - New play equipment to include equipment for imaginative play.
   - Some playgrounds to have a lockable, fenced area around them to prevent children escaping or dogs entering.
   - Encouraging children to be more active.

   **Strategy**
   Council is committed to providing local recreation ..... for children and their families

2. **Young People (12-24 years)**

   **Community Feedback**
   - Recreation, cultural and social space is valued highly and it is important for Council to provide the opportunity for young people to access such places, spaces and activities.
   - A number of sports or facilities are not available, or are in high demand, in the area, including hockey, AFL, indoor sports, women’s soccer, netball courts, tennis courts and basketball courts.
   - Providing facilities for spectators, such as seating, parking, refreshments, and cover from the weather.
   - Providing mixed team sports as well as those for male or female.
   - Providing opportunities for formal and informal recreation.
   - Designing or modifying facilities for passive and active recreation.
   - Providing indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities.
   - Distribution of recreation facilities and open space to be relatively balanced throughout the LGA.

   **Strategy**
   Provide or advocate for recreational, cultural and social opportunities for Young People.
3. Older People

Community Feedback

- Recreation is important to most older people because of the benefits it brings, including companionship, satisfaction, health and skills development.
- Older men joining groups and participating in activities in the Leichhardt LGA community is fairly low.
- Issue of the lack of public transport to Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre and its many programs and activities.
- A number of modifications to the Hannaford Centre were suggested in order for it to be more accessible to the older community and people with a disability.

Strategy

Promote and support the development of a range of affordable and accessible recreational, educational, cultural and social programs for Older People.

4. People With Disabilities

Community Feedback

- Risk of isolation of people with a disability, due to reasons such as mobility restrictions and lack of transport.
- Need to further encourage sporting clubs to include people with a disability into mainstream sports.
- Need to ensure all public facilities, parks and open space are accessible for people with a disability with consideration of lighting, footpaths, safety, parking and the installation of a Liberty Swing.
- Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre – special needs swimming is very popular.
- There is an increased demand for hydrotherapy specialist exercise and gym classes for Older People and people with a disability.

Strategy

Explore opportunities for people with disabilities to have increased opportunities to access recreation, cultural and social pursuits within the community.

5. Women

Community Feedback

- Women specific physical activity programs are not available in LLGA and while there are activities at the Aquatic Centre they are not specifically targeted at women.
- Local parks are used regularly for recreation, relaxation, dog walking and celebrations.

Strategy

Council is committed to providing a range of recreation, cultural and social activities that are appropriate to the needs of women in Leichhardt LGA.
6. People from Culturally Diverse Backgrounds

Community Feedback  
No recreation-specific feedback.

Strategy  
Council is committed to providing a range of recreational, educational, cultural and social programs for Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities.

7. Indigenous People

Community Feedback  
The Indigenous community discussed the need to find alternative recreation and leisure options for Indigenous young people.

Strategy  
Working with the Indigenous community and various providers to expand and enhance the recreation, cultural and social experience of the community.

3.4. Leichhardt Open Space Strategy (1993)

The Leichhardt Open Space Strategy was developed in-house and has been a valuable reference document for Council’s strategic planning for the past decade. The report established a policy position for Council in relation to a number of components of open space planning, including open space classification, principles for open space development, and provision based on the application of benchmarks.

The report recommends a number of sites be progressively acquired for future development as open spaces areas, being a key strategy to increase the provision and diversity of parks and reserves in specific areas of the municipality where deficiencies were identified. In addition, the Strategy identifies several strategic linear linkages to be developed for pedestrian and cycling use to provide better connections within the municipality. Other recommendations included new facilities for young people, improvements to selected parks and sports grounds, and upgrades to the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre and Dawn Fraser Pool.

Over the past 10 years many of the recommendations have been implemented, or are in progress.

3.5. Southern Sydney Regional Recreation Study (2003)

The Southern Sydney Regional Recreation Demand and Opportunity Assessment Study summarises the recreational opportunities that exist in the Southern Sydney region and identifies opportunities to meet expressed demand for new or additional facilities. The Southern Sydney metropolitan planning region comprises 17 local government authorities, from Strathfield Council in the northwest, to Waverley and Woollahra Councils in the northeast, Hurstville Council in the southwest and Sutherland Shire in the south.
In 2001, the population of the region was estimated at approximately 1.269 million, which was an increase of over 52,000 people between the period 1996-2001. Further population growth is expected over the next decade. The report identified that there are 76 regional recreation venues and open spaces in Southern Sydney region with the following located in the Leichhardt LGA:

- Callan Park.
- Iron Cove Bay Run.
- Dawn Fraser Pool.
- Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre.
- Leichhardt Park / Oval.
- Balmain and Leichhardt Rowing Clubs.

Some of the key recreation demands identified for the Inner West Sub-Region (of which Leichhardt was a member) included:

- Better focussed parks.
- More developed passive informal parks.
- New connecting walking and bike trails.
- Off leash dog areas.
- Skate park facilities.
- Upgrading playgrounds and facilities.
- Indoor aquatic facilities.
- Indoor ball sports.
- Sports fields to meet playing and training needs.

The recreation planning and management issues given the highest priority across the 17 Councils were, in order of priority:

- Limited financial resources for works to upgrade existing recreation facilities and open space areas.
- The lack of coordination between State agencies and Councils.
- The need for improved recreation planning processes and open space needs assessments.
- The lack of coordination between Councils on recreation development.
- Limited availability of open space to accommodate higher density residential development.
- The lack of or limited resources, including staffing for recreation planning.
- Limited revenue streams to meet open space acquisition costs.
- The need for strategies for rationalisation of the number of small pocket parks.
- Difficulties with securing public access along trails and foreshores.
- Review of the adequacies of government grants.
- The lack of recognition by the State of Council investment in providing and sustaining regional open space and facilities.

The report concluded that there is significant unmet demand (in terms of facilities) for participation in sports, particularly more and better sports fields, informal parks, integrated trails and indoor facilities, including aquatic.

The report noted that the most popular organised sports in NSW are tennis, golf, soccer and touch football. Furthermore, there has been sustained growth in demand for soccer and AFL participation. The report concludes that a ‘whole of region’ approach to planning for the needs of the Southern Sydney region is needed. No one organisation or Council can cater for the entire demand being expressed across the region.
3.6. **Other Strategies and Plans Reviewed**

The following documents were also reviewed:

- Leichhardt Town Plan (May 2003).
- Plans of Management:
  - Mort Bay Park (2002).

In instances where the research and consultation carried out during the *Recreation & Open Space Needs Study* planning process has validated recommendations and actions from these plans, the relevant recommendations, or a variation thereof, have been carried forward into the *Leichhardt Council Recreation Plan*. 
4. SUMMARY OF RECREATION AND SPORTS PARTICIPATION TRENDS

For the purpose of informing this study, Stratcorp Consulting undertook an assessment of relevant National, State and local recreation and sport participation trends. The following section outlines the results of this assessment and highlights issues considered during the strategy development process.

The section commences with an overview of general trends in recreation participation, and some sports-specific participation trends, and then presents National/State physical activity participation trends as identified through the annual Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS) commissioned by the Australian Sports Commission3.

The section concludes with information on club membership trends from Leichhardt-based sports clubs.

4.1. General Recreation Participation Trends

Factors regarded as the catalysts for change in recreation participation include the following:

- Change in the size and structure of a population.
- Increased recognition of the strong links between involvement in recreational activities and good health, and the development of appropriate activities and services which cater for this.
- Demand by people for a greater diversity of recreational activities.
- Increased expectation of people/groups for higher standards in facility provision, and of quality programming, servicing and management.
- Greater reliance on locally accessed and lower cost opportunities by those without the resources to travel or pay for more expensive pursuits.
- Greater emphasis on non-competitive, unstructured recreation opportunities at the expense of participation and involvement in organised sport.
- Improved promotion, provision, and management of introductory sports programs by most State Sporting Associations, which are designed for children to “come ‘n try”.
- More flexible opening hours of facilities and for programming, including weekday, evening and weekend time-slots.
- An increasing demand for indoor facilities to facilitate this programming, and to provide protection from poor weather and exposure to the sun.

Other significant trends include a gradual decline in sports participation by young people (14 – 24 year olds), possibly because of increased importance placed on academic achievement, and a greater involvement by young people in the workforce created by the

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3 The methodology for the ERASS is that every 12 months four surveys are conducted throughout Australia (quarterly) with the sample size each quarter being 3,410 of people aged 15 years and over. The total annual sample is 13,640. AC Neilson undertakes the fieldwork survey by telephone on behalf of the ASC. The first ERASS was carried out in 2001.
introduction of extended shopping hours. Another possible reason identified through recent National research\(^4\) is the prevalence of children’s use of electronic games, computers, TVs and videos. The research found that within the total population of children aged 5-14 years (2,647,500), more children now play electronic or computer games (71%) than play organised sport (62%). This decline in sports participation has resulted in decreasing involvement by young people in ‘structured’ sporting activities.

Notwithstanding the previously described trend, overall participation rates in organised sport and physical activities remains highest amongst young people and declines steadily with age. In 2003, 65.2% of all 15-24 year olds in Australia were involved in organised sport and physical activities (60.6% in NSW). However, among 25-34 years olds, the participation rate had dropped to below 48.5%, for 45-54 year olds to 33.6%, and down to 31.6% for people over 65 years\(^5\).

A particularly significant, but yet to be confirmed, trend concerns increasing participation rates amongst older people. Government programs (such as Active Australia), the continued high media exposure of the Masters Games and athlete role models\(^6\), and proactive sporting organisations are collectively having the result of increasingly encouraging older people to participate in sport and regular physical exercise. If these programs and promotions are successful, and if people over 50 years engage in recreation activities more than their predecessors did, then the use of public recreation and sporting facilities may not decline as significantly as the population ages.

### 4.2. Sports Participation Trends - Children

A recent National survey of children’s participation in sport\(^7\) found that:

- Of children aged 5-14 years, 62% participated in sport outside of school hours, which had been organised by a school, club or association (up from 59% in 2000).

- Across all age groups, boys had a higher participation rate (68.6%) in organised sport than girls (54.2%). Both rates of participation in 2003 were up from 2000 levels (boys at 66.1% and girls at 52.3%).

- The most popular sport for all children was swimming, with a participation rate of 16.6%, followed by soccer (13.4%). These 2003 rates of participation were up for both sports from the 2000 levels (14.4% and 11.4%, respectively).

- Participation for boys increased between 2000 and 2003 in the following sports:
  - Gymnastics: 12,600 to 22,500 (78%).
  - Swimming: 177,000 to 213,600 (or 21%).
  - Martial Arts: 72,700 to 83,900 (15%).
  - Soccer: 265,000 to 301,000 (14%).
  - Australian football: 170,300 to 184,200 (8%).
  - Tennis: 124,800 to 128,300 (3%).

- ..... but decreased for:
  - Rugby League: 92,500 to 76,200 (-18%).

\(^4\) Children’s Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities April 2003, ABS.


\(^6\) Invariably former champion players who are still actively involved in training/competition for fitness and social outcomes.

\(^7\) Children’s Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities April 2003, ABS.
- Cricket: 133,600 to 124,200 (-7%).
- Basketball: 119,600 to 116,100 (-3%).

**Participation for girls increased between 2000 and 2003 in the following sports:**
- Soccer: 37,300 to 54,800 (47%).
- Martial Arts: 31,900 to 45,800 (44%).
- Gymnastics: 55,100 to 69,900 (27%).
- Swimming: 203,100 to 225,500 (11%).
- Basketball: 80,700 to 88,900 (10%).
- Tennis: 99,100 to 100,100 (1%).

... but decreased for:
- Netball: 235,000 to 233,200 (-1%).

**Just as netball is still the undisputed favourite sport played by girls, the popularity of soccer over Australian football and cricket is widening for boys.**

**Athletics and softball continue to lose favour with children.**

### 4.3. Participation Trends Based on Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) conducted its third annual *Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey* (ERASS) in 2003 to measure Australians’ participation in physical activity for exercise, recreation and sport. The results are reported in the following sections.

#### 4.3.1. Adult Participation

The ERASS identified a National participation rate in exercise, recreation and sport for adults of 82.5% in 2003 (an increase of 4.7% since 2002). The following table identifies the most popular activities undertaken by all Australians, which were walking, aerobic/fitness and swimming, and shows comparisons between 2002 and 2003.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>% Participation (2003)</th>
<th>% Participation Change from 2002</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Walking (other)</td>
<td>37.9%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Aerobics/Fitness</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>- 0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Running</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Walking (bush)</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Soccer (outdoor)</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>- 0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>- 0.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In NSW, 81.5% of the population participated in exercise, recreation and sport (an increase of 5.5% since 2002) with the breakdown of males and females being 83.2% and 79.8%, respectively. The table below shows the direct comparison of participation rates between NSW and Nationally, and shows that the first 9 most popular activities have high correlation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Walking (other)</td>
<td>37.9%</td>
<td>36.0%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Aerobics/Fitness</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Running</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Walking (bush)</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Soccer (outdoor)</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Touch Football</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comparison of Activity Participation Between National and NSW (2003)

The next table shows the comparison between male and female participation in exercise, sport and recreation in NSW. Of sports, female participation in walking and aerobics/fitness is significantly greater than males, but similar for swimming and tennis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Walking (other)</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Walking</td>
<td>45.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Aerobics/Fitness</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Aerobics/Fitness</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Walking (bush)</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Running</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Soccer (outdoor)</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Walking (bush)</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Dancing</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Surf Sports</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Running</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3.2. Organised and Non-Organised Participation

The ERASS defined participation as being "organised" if the survey respondent reported that his or her participation was "organised in full or in part by a club, association or other type of organisation".

In NSW, an estimated 2.2 million people aged 15 years and over participated in at least one organised activity, which represents a participation rate of 41.6% (compared to 38.7% for 2001). It also represents over half (50.9%) of the 4.26 million people who participated in sport or physical activity in NSW in 2003. Those people who participated in organised sport or physical activity undertook an estimated 2.2 sessions of organised activity per week8.

In relation to participation in organised sport by age, the table below shows that participation in organised sport declines rapidly with age.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Groups</th>
<th>Organised Participation (NSW)</th>
<th>Organised Participation (National)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-24 years</td>
<td>60.6%</td>
<td>65.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34 years</td>
<td>47.0%</td>
<td>48.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44 years</td>
<td>39.5%</td>
<td>40.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54 years</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64 years</td>
<td>35.2%</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+ years</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>41.6%</td>
<td>42.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comparison of Organised Participation Between NSW and National (2003)

Organised participation rates in NSW were highest in the 15-24 years age group (60.6%), and declined to 32.5% for persons aged over 65+ years. There was a higher rate of participation in NSW than Nationally for the two oldest age groups only.

4.4. Sports Trends

Specific trends of participation for the six major sports of basketball, cricket, netball, rugby league, soccer and tennis are as follows. The data has been sourced from the Australian Sports Commission publication, *The Numbers Game, March 2000*, unless otherwise stated. The source data relates to people aged 18 years and over.

**Basketball**

- South Australia has the highest rate of participation in basketball compared to other states and territories, however, Victoria has the largest number of players. NSW and Queensland have lower participation rates than the Australian average.

- Basketball tends to be dominated by younger people, with 74.6% of participants under 35 years. However, participation declines markedly after the age of 24 years.

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8 National average, as frequency data was not provided to State level.
• Basketball participants are more likely to be Australian born (86.7%).

• Over 33% of basketballers participate in one additional sport or physical activity, of which netball is the most popular.

Cricket

• Tasmania has the highest rate of participation in cricket compared to other states and territories, followed by Victoria and NSW.

• 40.1% of all cricketers are aged 25 - 34 years, however, there is a higher rate of participation in cricket by all 18 – 24 year olds (3.1%), compared to 25 – 34 year olds (2.4%).

• Cricketers are more likely to be Australian born (90.1%).

• Over 40% of cricketers participate in only cricket, whilst the 60% who participate in additional sports or physical activities, have a preference for Australian football, golf and indoor cricket.

Netball

• Whilst South Australia and ACT have the highest relative netball participation rates of 3.3% and 3.2% respectively, the majority of netballers come from Victoria, NSW and Queensland.

• Netballers generally demonstrate a younger age profile than that of participants in all sports and activities – 80.4% of netballers are less than 35 years of age.

• Netball participants are more likely to be Australian born (91.8%).

Rugby League

• NSW and Queensland account for 90% of all rugby league participants, with Queensland having a higher participation rate than NSW, followed by the Northern Territory and the ACT.

• Over half (55.2%) of all rugby league players are aged 18 – 24 years, with a further 33.1% being aged 25 – 34 years.

• Rugby league players are more likely to be Australian born (92.7%).

• Rugby league is the only organised sport or physical activity participated in by over half (52%) of all rugby league players, whilst the 48% who participate in additional sports or physical activities, have a preference for touch football and cricket.

Soccer

• NSW and the ACT have the highest participation rates in adult soccer.

• For most organised sports and physical activities, people living in non-capital city regions have higher participation rates than those living in capital cities – however, for soccer, the reverse is true with almost three quarters of all soccer players living in capital cities.
75.5% of all soccer players are aged under 35 years, a relatively low 71% of players are Australian born, when compared to other main stream sports.

Statistics supplied by Soccer NSW show that:
- Soccer NSW experienced an 8.8% growth in the total number of soccer player registrations from 157,872 (2002) to 171,759 (2003).
- There was male senior growth of 8%, male junior growth of 5.6%, female senior growth of 25%, and female junior growth of 30.5% for the same period.
- The Canterbury & District Soccer Association (CDSA) was the 8th largest Soccer Association in NSW of the 33 affiliate bodies, in 2003.
- The CDSA had an increase of 21% in the number of registered players between 2002 (7,172 players) and 2003 (8,704 players), and a 10% increase in the number of teams.
- The number of female soccer players in the CDSA increased by 98% between 2002 and 2003 (but from a low base of 132 players in 2002), whilst the number of male players increased by 19%.

Tennis

- Tennis is the 3rd most popular organised sport and physical activity undertaken by adult Australians, behind aerobics/fitness and golf.

- Victoria has the highest rate of participation in tennis (3.2% of all people), followed by South Australia (2.5%).

- More women (57.1%) participate in tennis than men, with the gap widening as age increases. The gap peaks at 45 years and over, where there is almost 50% more women playing tennis than men.

- Tennis participants are more likely to be Australian born (82.2%).

- A high 54.7% of tennis players participate in only tennis. Of those who undertake additional sports or physical activities, golf and aerobic/fitness are the most popular.

4.5 Organised Sport and Recreation Participation in Leichhardt LGA

The table in Appendix 3 shows membership trends for the Leichhardt Council-based sport and recreation groups for the three years from 2002 – 2004. The data has been collated from a combination of two main information sources, being the club survey administered as part of this study, and follow-up telephone interviews to those clubs which did not return a survey. In all, membership data has been collected from 35 of 36 sport and recreation groups.

In most instances, membership numbers reflect “active” members only, not “social/associate” members. In some cases membership data was only available for 2004, and in these instances the same membership number has been used for the 2002 and 2003 to enable a comparative analysis to be made for the past 3 years.
The key trends and information from the review of club membership data are:

- An estimated 8,911 people were active members of clubs in 2004.
- The overall increase in active membership in the past 3 years was 979 (or 12%).
- The most popular activities by membership (400+ members) in 2004 were:
  - Soccer (2,343).
  - Lawn Bowls (1,095).
  - Running/Walking (1,050).
  - Touch Football (1,000).
  - Cricket (548).
  - Tennis (460).
  - Rugby League (430).
- There was membership growth of greater than 10% in baseball, lawn bowls, netball, rugby league, rowing, sailing and soccer.
- There was membership decline of greater than 10% in aquatic activities and basketball.
- In relation to individual clubs with more than 50 members, the greatest variance in membership (> 20%) in the past 3 years was recorded for:
  - Balmain Rowing Club (+80%).
  - Balmain & District Soccer Club (+54%).
  - Balmain Sailing Club (+52%).
  - Balmain Bowling Club (+50%).
  - Balmain AFL (+50%).
  - Sydney Striders Running Club (+25%).
  - Balmain Association (-44%).
  - Sydney Dragon Blades (-28%).
- There was high fluctuations in membership growth/decline for individual clubs within the activity of lawn bowls, and membership growth was recorded for all rugby league clubs, all soccer clubs, and the two rowing clubs.
- Males made up 65% of the total club membership, whilst females comprised 35% of the membership. This difference in participation is significantly greater than the average “organised” physical activity participation rates for all NSW males (44.1%) and females (39.2%)\(^{11}\).
- Juniors (U/18 years) made up 47% (or 4,080) of the total club membership, whilst Adults (over 18 years) comprised 53% (or 4,552) of the membership.
- Most sporting clubs anticipate that their membership growth will either stabilise or increase in the next 5 years for both senior and junior categories. Decline was forecast by the Gladstone Park Bowling Club, and the Leichhardt Community Basketball Club.

\(^{11}\) Source: Participation in Exercise Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS), Australian Sports Commission, 2003.
5. **EXISTING PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE**

Leichhardt LGA has 84 parks, gardens and reserves with a total combined area of 80.5 hectares. This total open space allocation comprises both Council-owned land (Community Land) and those parcels of State Government land for which Leichhardt Council has been delegated management responsibility.

The total open space area comprises land which currently accommodates a combination of both passive and active recreation opportunities, including playgrounds, picnic areas, bike paths, and 7 sporting and recreation reserves comprising 10 sports grounds. The Leichhardt LGA also has 17km of frontage to the Sydney Harbour and the Parramatta River foreshores, much of which is accessible in the form of parks and foreshore reserves.

The Leichhardt Council Community Land Plan of Management (1996) outlines the current framework for the classification of Community Land in the Leichhardt LGA, being:

1. Foreshore and Creek Corridors.
2. District Parks.

The adequacy of open space in a local government area has historically been assessed using a standard or benchmark (e.g. 2.83 hectares per 1,000 people in NSW, 4.00 hectares in the ACT, and 5.00 hectares in Victoria). One deficiency with this approach is that standards do not necessarily reflect the different needs of different communities, or the diversity of quality and accessibility of open space. It does, however, provide one indicator towards the adequacy of open space in any given area, albeit in a simplistic form, and is also one means by which a comparative analysis can be made between different areas within the same LGA.

The Leichhardt Council has applied the benchmark of 2.83 hectares per 1,000 people as an indicator of adequacy of open space provision in previous open space planning reports, including the recently adopted *Developer Contributions Plan No. 1 – Open Space and Recreation (2005)*, and as such it has been used in this study as a means of comparing the adequacy of the current provision of open space in different areas of the LGA.

The analysis to compare the current provision of open space across the LGA (by suburb) against the benchmark of 2.83 hectares / 1,000 people used the 2001 population figures, and the information on land area was obtained from Council’s GIS. (See table over page)

The key findings from the analysis were:

- No suburb in the Leichhardt LGA has an open space provision that is in excess of the benchmark figure of 2.83 hectares / 1,000 people.
- The suburb with the highest ratio is Lilyfield (2.56 ha / 1,000 people), whilst Annandale has the lowest ratio (0.73 ha / 1,000 people).

12 Source: Leichhardt Council’s Geographic Information System (GIS). Excludes open space area in Callan Park and Ballast Point.
• The average provision across the whole of the Leichhardt LGA is 1.65 ha / 1,000 people.

• When compared to other selected Sydney LGAs, the provision for Leichhardt LGA is low:

  Inner West
  – Ashfield at 1.14 ha / 1,000 people.
  – Strathfield at 3.8 ha / 1,000 people.
  – Canada Bay at 3.87 ha / 1,000 people.

  Other
  – North Sydney at 2.60 ha / 1,000 people.
  – Ryde at 6.70 ha / 1,000 people.
  – Lane Cove at 4.64 ha / 1,000 people.
  – Waverley at 1.80 ha / 1,000 people.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suburb</th>
<th>2001 Population</th>
<th>Hectares / 1,000 people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annandale</td>
<td>8,228</td>
<td>16.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balmain (inc Balmain East and Birchgrove)</td>
<td>13,892</td>
<td>28.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leichhardt</td>
<td>12,608</td>
<td>25.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilyfield</td>
<td>7,028</td>
<td>14.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rozelle</td>
<td>6,949</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>48,705</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Provision of Public Open Space by 1,000 People and by Suburb (Leichhardt LGA, 2005)

Whilst some opportunities exist to increase the total area of public open space through Council’s continued program of strategic land acquisition and the development of new open space areas in residential subdivisions, it is unlikely that the ratio of available open space per 1,000 people will increase significantly in the short to medium term. This is one reason why Council should continue to advocate for the retention of the open space areas within Callan Park, and for the responsibility for their management to be transferred to Council, subject to suitable financial arrangements being negotiated between Council and the State Government prior to any transfer.

Notwithstanding this future possibility for an increase in Council-managed open space, Council needs to continually identify opportunities for acquiring suitable new open space areas, particularly in the Annandale and Leichhardt suburbs, such as the Whites Creek Valley Park and Wetlands precinct. The recent development of new parkland areas within the Balmain Shores precinct is another example of how open space areas can be established within large residential projects. Similarly, Council needs to further strengthen and expand the quality of the linear links between local neighbourhood areas as a strategy to compensate for the large number of smaller parks and pocket parks which have little or no opportunity to be developed into attractive, multi-dimensional destinations.
Future opportunities to increase the total public open space area in the LGA are likely to emerge in the medium to long term not only with the redevelopment of Callan Park but also through the potential redevelopment of land within the Railway Corridor possibly involving residential.

Other issues and values relating to the provision and quality of open space observed from site reviews and desk top reviews include:

- Open space will become the “new backyard” for many people as high density residential development continues across the Leichhardt LGA.

- Open space distribution is variable across the Leichhardt LGA, with relative good provision in most areas north of the City West Link compared to south of the City West Link, and sports grounds and other formal recreation facilities being largely situated on the edge of residential areas throughout the LGA.

- The waterways and foreshore reserves within the LGA continue to provide opportunities for developing quality and diverse recreation areas, and to establish linear linkages throughout the LGA.

- The LGA possesses a high number of “pocket parks” that appear to be highly valued by residents, but which are limited in their flexibility of use.

- The general quality of the passive open space areas is good, however, the quality of many of the active outdoor sports grounds whilst good in summer, quickly deteriorate to fair to poor in winter due to overuse.

- The provision and distribution of outdoor recreational areas/facilities for young people (14 – 24 years) is relatively poor, and appears largely confined to 5 informal basketball courts (half and full courts) and 1 skate facility.

- Competition is high for access to sporting facilities, and will continue to increase as the population grows.

- Some localities have limited open space but high recreation demands, thereby requiring these open space areas to provide flexibility and multi-use options to meet the community’s needs, such as Trevor Street Reserve (Lilyfield), Marr Reserve (Leichhardt), and Ann Cashman Reserve (Balmain).

- Many parks and reserves are accessible by public transport, although park users tend to access parks by private vehicles. Some open space areas have inadequate provision for car parking when sporting events are conducted, such as Birchgrove Park, King George Park (Balmain) and Lambert Park (Leichhardt).

- Physical barriers, such as main roads, create limitations for some residents to access parks. It is important that Council work in partnership with the State Government, land developers, schools, and other open space managers to provide better access opportunities to and within open space.
It is recommended that Council:

1. Liaise with adjoining Councils and other landowners both within and outside the LGA, to better cater for the open space needs in the Leichhardt LGA.

2. Give high priority to the acquisition of land where the development and completion of linear links might result.

3. Provide facilities for both passive and active recreation when assessing future development plans for major sites.

4. Advocate strongly for the development of linear links and corridors when investigating and considering development plans for major sites.

5. Ensure recreation facilities are distributed appropriately and with consideration to equity across the Leichhardt LGA.

6. Optimise the recreational use of existing open space resources through multi-using and design flexibility.

7. Provide recreational facilities that reflect the high value that the community places on open space for family and social activities.

The scope of the study did not allow a comprehensive analysis of the provision and distribution of the 46 playgrounds located within the Leichhardt LGA\(^\text{13}\), however, field surveys indicated that:

- There appears to be a relatively even distribution of playgrounds throughout the LGA.

- There is little diversity in the range of play equipment, that is, most offer similar experiences and cater for a limited age group, such as pre-primary (2 – 4 years) and young primary aged children (4 - 7 years).

- Play opportunities are not well provided for older primary (7 – 12 years) and teenagers.

- There does not appear to be a hierarchy of playgrounds that provides for the local, district and regional needs of the community.

- General quality and maintenance of playgrounds appears satisfactory.

A local government area of the size of the Leichhardt LGA warrants consideration for the provision of an “all abilities” playground. These playgrounds are of a large-scale and offer a range of play spaces and experiences for children of all ages and abilities, and are specifically designed to cater for people with poor mobility, such as people with a disability (wheelchair bound) and older adults who might have mobility constraints but wish to supervise children on playgrounds.

\(^13\) Excludes playgrounds located on non-Council areas, such as schools, which might also be available for general community use.
**It is recommended** that Council undertake a comprehensive Playgrounds Strategy to provide Council with a strategic approach to the provision of playgrounds:

1. To meet the changing needs of residents.
2. To meet new demand as the population increases and diversifies.
3. To provide a more diverse suite of playgrounds for the LGA, in scale, design, equipment choice and materials (including a new regional “all abilities” playground).
4. To ensure compliance of all play equipment with Australian Standards for playground construction.
5. To prioritise actions in relation to replacement, upgrade and decommissioning of playgrounds.
6. To enable Council to forward plan its resource commitment to the provision of playgrounds.
6. **EXISTING PROVISION OF SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

In relation to the provision of sport and recreation facilities, the Leichhardt LGA offers a limited range of facilities for residents and visitors, including but not limited to athletics, baseball, cricket, lawn bowls, rowing, sailing, skateboarding, soccer, swimming, and tennis. There are over 36 community sporting clubs and groups which utilise grounds and facilities directly managed by Council, other not-for-profit organisations, or the private sector.

This section provides an overview of the key sport and recreation facilities available within the municipality.

6.1. **Sporting and Recreation Reserves**

There are 7 Council owned/managed sporting and recreation reserves comprising 10 sports grounds in the Leichhardt LGA, including the following 2 major recreation reserves:

- **Leichhardt Park, Leichhardt** – is a large sporting and parkland area located on the foreshore overlooking Iron Cove, comprising Leichhardt Oval (rugby league), 1 soccer / rugby league field, a soccer training field, the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre, the Leichhardt Rowing Club, a sensory gardens and passive parkland area, sections of the Bay Run, a public wharf and a playground/family recreation area.

- **Birchgrove Park, Birchgrove** – is a large multipurpose sporting and parkland area, comprising significant sporting facilities, and large areas set aside for unstructured recreation activities. Specific features include 1 cricket oval (turf centre wicket), 2 soccer / rugby league fields, 3 synthetic cricket practice nets, 7 tennis courts, and a playground area.

A comprehensive audit of Council owned/managed sporting and recreation facilities is available in Appendix 4, and a municipal map showing the distribution of facilities is also included.

6.2. **Sporting and Recreation Facilities**

The Leichhardt LGA comprises a number of key sporting and recreation facilities, some of which could be classified as “regional” facilities as they service a catchment that extends beyond the municipality and/or they have been developed to a standard beyond local municipal needs, with other key facilities servicing a municipal-wide catchment.

Immediately beyond the municipal boundary, a number of key sporting and recreation facilities are located which are in close proximity to and are accessed by Leichhardt LGA residents.

6.2.1. **Council Regional Facilities**

Leichhardt Council owns/manages the following "regional" sports and recreation facilities:

- **Leichhardt Oval.**
  (Main stadium facility, home of the NRL Wests Tigers Rugby League team)
• Birchgrove Park.
  (turf cricket wicket, 3 x synthetic cricket nets, 2 x soccer/rugby league, playground/family recreation area)

• Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre.
  (Major aquatic and fitness centre, comprising outdoor heated 50m main pool, platform diving pool and toddlers pool, and indoor programmable pool, fitness gymnasium and aerobics room. A master plan for the future redevelopment of the centre is currently being prepared)

• Lambert Park.
  (A dedicated soccer field with covered spectator area)

• Dawn Fraser Pool.
  (Set in Elkington Park, Balmain, the facility is the oldest operating harbour pool, is heritage listed, and comprises of a formal lap swimming/water polo pool and informal swimming area)

6.2.2. Other Council Facilities

Leichhardt Council owns/Manages the following other key sport and recreation facilities:

• Birchgrove Tennis Centre.

• Blackmore Oval.
  (rugby league/union, baseball)

• Cohen Park.
  (junior soccer and junior cricket, 2 x tennis courts and rebound wall)

• Easton Park.
  (soccer, playground/family recreation area)

• King George Park.
  (soccer, rugby league, little athletics, fitness station, playground/family recreation area)

• Leichhardt Oval No. 2.
  (soccer, rugby league)

• Leichhardt Park No.3.
  (2 x junior soccer fields)

• Whites Creek Valley Park / Cohen Park.
  (soccer, junior cricket, tennis, skate park, basketball, playgrounds)

6.2.3. Other Key Public/Private Facilities

Key non-Council sport and recreation facilities include:

• Callan Park (Rozelle Hospital grounds).
  (an expansive and significant State Government site comprising public open space areas, foreshore frontage, sports fields and heritage buildings and associated areas)

• Bay Run.
  (a 7km shared-use track around the Iron Cove foreshore)

• Balmain PCYC.
  (dojo room, circuit room, boxing ring, various recreation activity rooms)
• Balmain Rowing Club.
• Balmain Sailing Club.
• Balmain Bowling Club.
• Leichhardt Rowing Club.
• Leichhardt Bowling Club.
• Tigers Health & Fitness Centre, Balmain.
• Balmain Fitness Centre.

6.2.4. Public Sport and Recreation Facilities Outside of Leichhardt LGA

Key public sporting and recreation facilities located just beyond the Leichhardt LGA include:

Sydney LGA
• Harold Park Raceway (Glebe Point).
• Wentworth Park Greyhound Track and playing fields (Glebe).
• Glebe PCYC.
  (multipurpose indoor community facility, with activities including weights gymnasium, basketball, indoor soccer, martial arts and boxing)
• Jubilee & Federal Park Precinct (Glebe Point).
  (sports grounds, parklands and family recreation areas)

Marrickville LGA
• Camperdown Park.
  (sports grounds, parklands, playground, tennis courts and bowling greens)
• Petersham Park.
  (sports ground, parklands, playground and bowling greens)
• Marrickville Park.
  (sports ground, parklands, playground, croquet lawn and lawn tennis courts)
• Marrickville & District Hardcourt Tennis Club.

Ashfield LGA
• Richard Murden Reserve.
  (parklands, playgrounds, tennis courts and netball courts)
• Ashfield Park.
  (sports ground, parklands, playground and bowling greens)

Canada Bay LGA
• Drummoyne Park.
  (sports grounds, parklands, community centre, and family recreation areas)
• Five Dock Park.
  (sports ground, parklands, tennis courts and bowling greens)
• Concord Oval.
• Drummoyne Olympic Pool.
• Five Dock Leisure Centre.
• Five Dock Indoor Cricket Centre.
• Five Dock Squash & Sports Centre.
• Cintra Park Netball Centre.

6.3. Overall Summary of Available Recreation and Sporting Facilities

The following list summarises the provision of the sporting and recreation facilities available within the Leichhardt LGA which are available for community use, irrespective of which organisation, agency or private sector group owns and/or manages the facility. The list does not include those facilities on primary and secondary school land, and for soccer and cricket, does not include junior sized grounds.

• 2 cricket ovals (1 turf wicket, 1 synthetic wicket).
• 7 soccer fields.
• 6 rugby league/union fields.
• 1 baseball field.
• 1 grass athletics track.

_Please note most of the above sports areas are dual use, that is, it should not be inferred from the list that all areas exist as single-use sports areas._

• 11 tennis courts.
• 5 lawn bowling greens.
• 2 rowing clubs.
• 1 sailing club.
• 1 skate facility (there is also a poor quality quarter-pipe at Elkington Park).
• 5 basketball courts (2 full size courts, 3 half-courts).
• 2 tennis rebound walls.
• 46 playgrounds.
• 2 public outdoor swimming centres.
• 3 health & fitness centres.
6.4. Adequacy of Current Recreation and Sports Facility Provision

Stratcorp Consulting undertook an assessment of the adequacy of the current number of sports facilities available in the Leichhardt LGA for the main (or popular) sports, based on a benchmark per thousand people. The benchmark was established using the following inputs:

1. The estimated 2001 population for the Leichhardt LGA of 48,700 people.
2. Existing facility provision within the municipality.
3. The NSW participation rate for the nominated sports\(^{14}\).
4. The estimated capacity of a typical municipal level sports ground/facility for the nominated sports.

### Adequacy of Provision of Selected Sports Facilities (2001)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Existing No. in Leichhardt LGA</th>
<th>Benchmark</th>
<th>2001 Ratio #</th>
<th>Benchmark Number</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rugby Field</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1:7000</td>
<td>8,117</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket Oval</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1:4000</td>
<td>24,350</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball/Netball Court (indoor multi-purpose)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1:10000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawn Bowls Green</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1:10000</td>
<td>9,740</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer Field</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1:3000</td>
<td>6,957</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Court</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1:1500</td>
<td>4,427</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Estimated 2001 population of: 48,700

This method of assessing demand, is a guide only. Factors such as the demographic characteristics of the population, availability of other facilities by private/other public providers, quality of facilities, and availability of facilities in neighbouring municipalities need also to be considered.

The results of the benchmarking process identified that for a population of 48,700 people there could be:

- Current adequate supply of facilities for rugby league/union and lawn bowls.
- No over supply of facilities for any of the popular sports.
- Less than optimum number of facilities for cricket, indoor court sports, soccer and tennis.

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6.5. **Education Facilities**

In relation to the provision of sports and recreation facilities, most public schools within the Leichhardt LGA only have one multipurpose outdoor sports court, and no sports ground within their boundaries. Only the Balmain Campus of the Sydney Secondary College has a sports ground (1.5 soccer fields), however, there is an approved plan for the development of a new rectangular sports ground at the Leichhardt Campus (just north of Moore Street). Therefore, all schools are accessing municipal sports grounds, parks and aquatic facilities for the conduct of most of their sporting activities.

The full audit of school sites is available in Appendix 5.

6.6. **Analysis and Summary of Existing Sports and Recreation Facilities**

General observations across all facilities are:

- There is a limited range of sporting and recreation facilities available within the Leichhardt LGA.

- Against facility provision benchmarks for popular sports, there is no over supply of facilities, however, there appears to be:
  - current adequate provision of facilities for rugby league and lawn bowls.
  - a less than optimum number of facilities for cricket, indoor court sports, soccer and tennis. In fact the shortage of facilities for all of these sports is significant, given the current demand for facilities by existing clubs, the gentrification and growth of the population (and subsequent likely increase in demand), and the evidence of degradation of sports grounds through overuse.

- Outdoor sporting facilities which are not available within the Leichhardt LGA, but which could be reasonably expected to be available include:
  - outdoor netball courts (as a minimum, training standard facilities).
  - AFL oval (in more recent times).

- There is no indoor high-ball sports and recreation centre available within the LGA. The Balmain PCYC has converted a previous indoor court area into a dojo room and circuit room, and now its indoor spaces provide little opportunity for court sports activities. Further, the Centre’s restricted and constrained spatial layout, it’s poor overall standard of facilities, it’s geographical location within the municipality, and it’s recent change in focus to be predominantly a “hired” facility rather than a "programmed" facility means that this facility is not considered to be any sort of option for broad community access to indoor sporting activities.

- The quality of existing facilities servicing clubs of similar status/grade is reasonably consistent, suggesting there has been (or is) a minimum level of provision/development standards which guides the maintenance and upgrade of facilities.

- The general condition of playing surfaces appears satisfactory, except for evidence of over-use on community sports grounds, and poor surface condition of the Cohen Park tennis courts, and the basketball court at 36th Battalion Park.
• Some change amenity buildings do not appear to be of a sufficient standard to meet the current needs of clubs, such as those located at Birchgrove Park, King George Park and Callan Park and Leichhardt Oval No. 2.

• In the main, facilities appear to be shared resources between multiple user groups, with little evidence of “empire” building by clubs. The exceptions are the leased facilities at Leichhardt Oval (Wests Tigers NRL team) and Lambert Park (APIA Leichhardt Tigers Soccer Club) where there is no co-location between winter and summer tenants.

• In relation to the distribution of sporting facilities across the municipality:
  - There is relatively poor provision for formal sports activities south of the City West Link when compared to the northern areas.
  - There is an even distribution of lawn bowls facilities, however, the Gladstone Park Bowling Club and the Balmain Bowling Club share the same catchment.
  - There is an even distribution of soccer facilities.
  - There is a relatively even distribution of informal sporting/recreation facilities (basketball, tennis and skate).
  - There is poor provision of both formal and informal sporting facilities in the southwest, with the only available sports ground (Lambert Park) being a "gated" facility and not available for informal community use.

• In addition, there is only fair provision of accessible sporting and recreation facilities immediately beyond the municipal boundary, compounded by the existence of the perceived barriers of major roads, railways and waterways/bays.

• There is low provision of sports and recreation facilities at education sites, with little opportunity to increase the availability of sports grounds and court sport facilities for external community groups through increased use of school sites. The two exceptions are:
  - Sydney Secondary College (Leichhardt Campus) which has indicated that it will likely make available the proposed new sports field for restricted use by external clubs/groups15; and
  - Sydney Secondary College (Balmain Campus) which has recently approached Council to discuss the opportunity for the School’s playing field to be used by the community and local clubs in return for Council assistance to maintain the field.

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15 Source: Tim Lloyd, Deputy Principal Sydney Secondary College (Leichhardt Campus).
7. OVERVIEW OF RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

This section provides an overview of existing recreational programs and services available to the Leichhardt LGA community, being either provided directly by Council, or facilitated by Council (through provision of facilities and/or grants).

7.1. Audit of Current Programs and Services

Generally speaking, Council does not directly deliver recreational and sporting programs. Rather, it makes available Council buildings and spaces for activities to be delivered by other public and/or private providers (tutors/instructors), and in some instances contributes funding towards service delivery. The main exception is the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre where Council staff are directly involved in the planning and delivery of aquatic and health & fitness services.

The following table lists the opportunities available for people to participate in recreational and sporting programs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility / Organisation</th>
<th>Programs and Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre</td>
<td>Swimming programs (learn-to-swim, stroke technique, and squad), platform diving and school swimming carnivals. Extensive health &amp; fitness services, including fitness gymnasium, group fitness activities, circuit classes, gentle exercise, Pump and pilates. Other services: crèche, holiday programs and martial arts. For all ages, cultures and abilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawn Fraser Pool</td>
<td>Swimming club, water polo and swimming carnivals. Other services: Facility hire for private/corporate functions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannaford Centre</td>
<td>Recreation and sport programs:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Rozelle Ramblers (walking group).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Tai Chi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- ‘Stepping On’ exercise program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Gentle exercise classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilyfield Community Centre</td>
<td>Gentle exercise classes:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Tai Chi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Yoga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Tae Kwon Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annandale Community Centre</td>
<td>Gentle exercise classes:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Tai Chi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Yoga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre</td>
<td>Limited recreation programs, mainly for people with a disability and respite care.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balmain PCYC</td>
<td>Recreation and sport programs:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Boxing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Pool/Billiards/Snooker.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Table tennis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Martial Arts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Weight training.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Facility / Organisation | Programs and Services
---|---
|  | − Holiday Programs (various schools).
|  | − Youth Recreation Programs.
Leichhardt Community Youth Association | Recreation–based programs:
|  | − Creative Art Workshops.
|  | − Rock ‘n water program (Akido).
Council | Sports Clubs
|  | Active Fun Day (sports club promotion).
|  | Seminars and courses for professional development of club administrators.
|  | Youth
|  | Youth Week (includes recreational activities).
|  | School Holiday Programs.
|  | Drop-in at Leichhardt Uniting Church (Martin Hall).

Council has an annual Community Funding Program which is open to Leichhardt LGA-based non-profit groups that provide services to residents. The focus of the program is on supporting cultural and community development, under the key principles of Innovation, Diversity, Community Participation, and Access and Equity.

Approximately $25,000 is available for distribution each year, with the maximum grant being $1,000.

### 7.2. Assessment of Recreational Programs and Services

There is currently a variety of recreational and sports program options available for residents to choose from which are suitable for various target groups and individuals.

Council’s current involvement in the delivery of centre-based programs is largely as “facility provider”, “funder” (through subsidies and grants), “advocate” and “promoter”. These roles and levels of involvement by Council are appropriate but could be expanded to increase the overall participation by targeted sectors of the community.

**Opportunities** appear to exist for Council to increase targeted recreation programs, as a constraint on program development and expansion identified by many service providers was the lack of accessible and flexible, multipurpose, indoor spaces within the municipality.

Also, the number of both organised and unorganised walking groups appears low when compared to other local government areas, particularly given the variety of options available to people by using trails along the harbour foreshore and inland waterways.
8. COMMUNITY & STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

8.1. Process

Stratcorp Consulting organised and facilitated a series of consultation processes with Leichhardt Council residents, sporting clubs, community groups, relevant Council staff, Councillors, and other key stakeholders during the period November 2004 – May 2005.

A comprehensive approach was adopted for the consultation, which was designed to ensure that a wide cross section of people and interested parties were given an opportunity to provide input into the future planning and development of recreation services for the Leichhardt LGA. The consultation phase incorporated a number of different techniques to interact with residents, clubs, other organised groups, and Council personnel.

The consultation process is summarised in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target Group</th>
<th>Consultative Technique</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Responses/Attendees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residents</td>
<td>Telephone Survey</td>
<td>Nov 2004</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Community Forums (x 2)</td>
<td>Feb 2005</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Active Fun Day Survey</td>
<td>Nov 2004</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Park User Surveys</td>
<td>Dec 2004</td>
<td>503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Community Submissions</td>
<td>Nov 04-May 05</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Clubs</td>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>Nov – Dec 04</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sports Club Forums (x 2)</td>
<td>Feb 2005</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Stakeholders</td>
<td>Youth Service Providers</td>
<td>Feb 2005</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School Students</td>
<td>Feb 2005</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Older Adults</td>
<td>Feb 2005</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>People with a Disability/Carers</td>
<td>Feb 2005</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interviews – Sports Assoc’ns/Regional Groups</td>
<td>Mar – May 05</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbouring Councils</td>
<td>Interview</td>
<td>May 2005</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Personnel</td>
<td>Meeting – Councillors</td>
<td>Feb &amp; Sept 05</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meeting – Recreation and Strategic Planning staff</td>
<td>Feb 2005</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meeting - Outdoor staff</td>
<td>Feb 2005</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents and all stakeholders</td>
<td>Public Exhibition of draft report</td>
<td>Oct – Nov 05</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The key outcomes from the consultation processes are summarised in the following sections. A more comprehensive review of the outcomes of some consultative processes is attached in the Appendices, and where this is the case a reference is made prior to the summarised version.

The summary and assessment of submissions received during the Public Exhibition period for the draft report are contained in Appendix 16.
9. CONSULTATION – BROAD COMMUNITY INPUT

Broad community input into the strategy planning process was facilitated through the following consultative processes:

- Household Telephone Survey.
- Resident Infield Surveys.
- Community Forums.
- Community Submissions.

The results from these processes are summarised below.

9.1. Household Telephone Survey
(450 randomly selected households, November 2004)

A full report on the results from this survey is attached as Appendix 6, with the key outcomes summarised below.

Participation in Sporting, Recreation and Fitness Activities

- 74% of respondents indicated that they had participated in sporting, recreation or fitness activities on a regular basis (i.e. at least once per month) in the previous 12 months. This participation rate compares favourably with the NSW participation rate of 81.5%\(^{16}\), which did not specify “regular” participation.

- The highest participating age sector was the 25-34 age group (88%), which is unusual for this type of surveying where the 14 – 17 age group (80%) and the 18-24 age group (only 69%) are typically the age cohorts with the highest rate of participation. This lower than average participation by young adults is validated in the club membership profile, where the number of active Juniors (U/18 years) is less than the number of active Adults – again, the ratio of juniors to seniors in active club membership would typically see a higher proportion of juniors compared to seniors.

- Highest levels of participation from people in Birchgrove (97%), Balmain East (96%), Lilyfield (88%), and Balmain (85%), with the lowest levels in Leichhardt (49%) and Rozelle (67%).

- Walking (34%) was the most popular activity, followed by Swimming (14%) and Gym/Weights (9%). There is a reasonable correlation between the most popular activities in the Leichhardt LGA and those of NSW as a whole. The main differences in ranking include:
  - Gym/Weights is more popular in Leichhardt where it is ranked 3\(^{rd}\) overall, compared to NSW where it is ranked 14\(^{th}\).
  - Aerobics/Fitness is not as popular in the Leichhardt LGA where it is ranked 9\(^{th}\) overall, compared to NSW where it is ranked 3\(^{rd}\).

\(^{16}\) Source: ERASS, 2003.
Bush Walking and Touch Football do not feature in the Leichhardt LGA’s top 10 popular activities, despite being ranked 8th and 10th respectively, in NSW.

- Over two-thirds (71%) of all participation in sporting, recreation or fitness activities was “unorganised”, meaning the activity was not organised by a club, association or other public/private group (consistent with the high preference for walking and swimming).

- 86% of all participation in sporting, recreation or fitness activities was mostly conducted within the Leichhardt LGA. Of those participating in activities outside of the Leichhardt LGA, the main reason cited was “facilities not available locally” (26%). Cross tabulations against sporting type for these people indicated that:
  - 2 people play netball.
  - 3 people were walkers.

- A clear majority of participants in sport, recreation and fitness activities participate for “fitness” (59%), followed by “enjoyment” (8%).

- A majority of respondents were satisfied with the quality (57%) and distribution (50%) of sports reserves and indoor/outdoor recreation facilities located within the Leichhardt LGA. (“No Responses” were 34% and 36%, respectively).

- Of the 26% of respondents who indicated that they did not participate in sporting, recreation or fitness activities on a regular basis, the main reason cited was “lack of time – family/work/study commitments” (by 36%), followed by “my age – too young/old” (24%) and “nothing, not interested” (21%).

- Respondents were asked if there are any activities that they or their families do not currently participate in, but would like to participate in on a regular basis in the future. The largest proportion of respondents indicated that they would like to swim (21%) or play tennis (11%) in the future, followed by soccer (9%).

Children’s Participation in Sporting, Recreation and Fitness Activities

- Of those respondents with children under 16 years living at home (130 respondents), 63% had children who had participated in activities on a regular basis in the previous 12 months (excluding school sport). The most popular activities were:
  - Swimming (24%).
  - Soccer (15%).
  - Tennis (10%).

- Participation in activities was mostly “organised” (81%), and was conducted at venues mostly within the Leichhardt LGA (79%).

- Of the 35% of respondents who indicated that their children do not participate in sporting, recreation or fitness activities on a regular basis, the main reason cited was “age – too young” (85%).
Parks and Open Space Areas

- A majority of respondents (91%) had visited a park situated within the Leichhardt LGA in the past 12 months. The most popular activity undertaken (or reason for visiting) was “walking/jogging for exercise” (37%), followed by “walking the dog” (12%).

- 63% of respondents of park users visited a park at least once or twice per week.

- Respondents rate highly the quality of parks and open space areas located within the Leichhardt LGA, with 83% rating their quality as either “very good” or “good”, whilst 75% rated their overall distribution as either “very good” or “good”.

- More than half of the respondents had no opinion (or knowledge) on the overall quality of playgrounds located within the Leichhardt LGA, however, of those who did have an opinion, a majority rated the overall quality of playgrounds favourably.

- There was a high level of satisfaction expressed by respondents in relation to the degree to which parks situated within the Leichhardt LGA meet their outdoor recreation needs.

- The main facilities, features or settings identified by respondents that a park should have to make them desirable destinations are “good provision of trees and gardens” (11%), “playgrounds” (10%), “path system” (9%), “shade and shelter” and “well maintained” (both 8%).

- The sport, recreation or open space projects that respondents nominated as priorities for the next 10 years were “parks maintenance” (15%), “bike paths and walking trails” (13%), and “new/upgraded swimming pools” (9%).

9.2. Infield Survey at Active Fun Day

(90 face-to-face interviews conducted at King George Park, Rozelle during the Active Fun Day on 28th November 2005)

A full report on the results from this survey is attached as Appendix 7, with the key outcomes summarised below.

- 97% of respondents indicated that they (or their family) participated in sporting, recreation or fitness activities on a regular basis, i.e. at least once per month (compares with 74% for the telephone survey), with the two most popular activities being Swimming (15%) and Walking (14%). (There was reasonably consistent correlation between this survey and the telephone survey for the most popular activities).

- 59% of respondents participated in their preferred sporting, recreation and fitness activities within the Leichhardt LGA most of the time (compares to 86% for the telephone survey). Sports which were mostly participated in outside of the Leichhardt LGA include:
  - Gym/Weights (6).
  - Running/jogging (6).
  - Cycling (6).
  - Rugby Union (4).
  - Swimming (14 people).
– Basketball (3).
– Soccer (12).

- Most respondents were satisfied with the quality (64%) and distribution (58%) of sports reserves and indoor/outdoor recreation facilities located within the Leichhardt LGA, which compares favourably with the telephone survey.

- 76% of respondents visit parks within the Leichhardt LGA at least once per month, with the most popular reasons / activities being “walking/jogging for exercise” (18%), followed by “using playgrounds” (16%) and “bike riding” (10%).

- A majority (84%) rated the overall quality of parks and open space as either ‘very good’ or ‘good’, with 68% rating their distribution as satisfactory.

- The sport, recreation or open space projects that respondents nominated as priorities for the next 10 years were “new/improved bike paths and walking trails” (20%), followed by “upgrading Leichhardt Oval (8%)”, and “new indoor sports centre” and “development of Callan Park precinct (both 7%).

9.3. Park Users Infield Survey

(A total of 503 face-to-face interviews were conducted at selected Leichhardt parks during the period 10 – 19th December 2005. Of these interviews, 363 were administered using a short 7 question survey - typically with people exercising in the park – whilst 140 were administered using a longer 16 question survey – typically with family groups or individuals using the park for play and relaxation).

A full report on the results from this survey is attached as Appendix 8, with the key outcomes summarised below.

- Of the total sample of 503 people:
  – 75% were ‘Residents’ of the Leichhardt LGA.
  – 19% were ‘Visitors’ to the Leichhardt LGA.
  – 5% were ‘Workers’ in the Leichhardt LGA.
  – 1% were ‘Tourists’ visiting the Leichhardt LGA.

- Of the total sample of 503 surveys:
  – 76% of respondents could be considered regular park users (i.e. once a week or more).
  – the highest proportion of park users were in the park for 31-60 minutes (27%), followed by 16-30 minutes (25%), and 1-2 hours (23%).
  – the two most popular activities undertaken on the days of the survey were ‘walking the dog’ (24%) and ‘walking/jogging/riding through the park’ (18%).

- Of the sample of extended users of the parks (140):
  – the things most liked about the park in which respondents were surveyed were ‘gardens/lake/water’ (22%), ‘large open space areas’ (15%), ‘close to home’ (11%) and ‘well maintained’ (9%).
  – respondents are generally happy with the cleanliness, maintenance levels, and feeling of personal safety within the parks.
the most unsatisfactory facility rated was the public toilets, with only 5% of respondents rating them “good” and 31% rating them “poor” (51% of respondents did not provide a rating).

- BBQ and picnic areas also received a less than satisfactory rating, with 16% rating them “good” and 27% “poor” (45% did not provide a rating).

- 54% of respondents indicated that the park they were using was the closest one to their home.

- 75% were either ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with the quality of parks and open space in the Leichhardt LGA.

- An open-ended question invited comments from respondents about the quality and distribution of parks and open space areas in the Leichhardt LGA, or whether there were any new or improved facilities that respondents would like to see in parks in the future. The key responses were:
  - Dog restrictions are excessive (11%).
  - Improve toilet facilities (11%).
  - Retain parks and open space (9%).

9.4. Community Forums

(1 attendee at two Community Forums, February 2005)

- There is a lack of maintenance carried out at ‘isolated’, coastal parks.

- Open-up Gladstone Park (Balmain) – remove perimeter fence and unused items.

- High need for additional active recreation (sports) areas.

- Provide improved connections to linear parks.

9.5. Community Submissions

(5 written submissions received)

Glebe Hockey Club

- Have prepared a Development Application for the provision of a ‘wet’ hockey field on Leichhardt Oval No. 2.

- The Club is willing to share the field with existing rugby league and soccer user groups.

- The closest ‘wet’ pitch is in Concord, and the Club currently utilise the University hockey field (turf field).

Balmain Rugby Club (Union)

- Club is newly established and comprises 50 members (currently 2 teams), mostly Leichhardt LGA residents.

- Club has a future aim of establishing a junior section in the Club.

- The Club is currently liaising with the Leichhardt Wanderers JRLC to co-locate at Blackmore Oval in the winter season.
Pioneer Precinct Committee

- The Precinct Committee has requested consideration be given to:
  - Installation of some additional park furniture, fencing and other landscape treatments in Shields Playground & Park.
  - Installation of a low climbing wall and other landscape treatments in Marr Reserve.
  - Installation of additional bike parking bays in commercial and open space areas.

Leichhardt Bicycle Users Group

- The Leichhardt BUGs have requested consideration be given to the development of some cycle facilities and circuits specifically for children, similar to the ones at Centennial Park and Timbrell Park. Possible locations identified by the Group include War Memorial Park, Mort Bay Park and Pioneer Park.

Resident

- Advocates the installation of an all-weather six-a-side soccer facility(ies) within the Leichhardt LGA.

Resident

- Advocates the ‘cleaning and greening’ of RailCorp land in Loftus St, Leichhardt, as one strategy to improve the overall provision of useable open space in the LGA.
10. CONSULTATION - SPORTING AND RECREATION CLUBS

Consultation and liaison with sport and recreation clubs was undertaken using the following consultative processes:

- Club Survey.
- Sport Club Forums.

In addition, feedback collected from a meeting of sports clubs conducted on 17 August 2004 during the consultation for the Developer Contributions Plan No. 1 – Open Space & Recreation has been incorporated.

The results from these processes are summarised below.

10.1. Methodology

The data collected from sports and recreation groups in the Leichhardt LGA differed slightly, depending upon whether a group utilises either a Council managed sports facility, or some other publicly / privately managed facility.

The 20 groups which utilise Council managed facilities were sent a questionnaire in November 2004 to seek information on a range of matters such as membership, condition of facilities, and an assessment of Council’s performance in delivering a range of services. Only 8 completed surveys were returned, despite a written reminder sent to all clubs in January 2005. Follow-up telephone calls were made during March – April 2005 to collect outstanding membership data which enabled the membership analysis to occur (previously reported in Section 4.5), and to also complete a short survey of all clubs in relation to Council’s performance in delivering a range of services.

Of the 16 groups not utilising Council managed facilities, 7 completed questionnaires were returned which collected information predominantly in relation to membership profile and growth/decline. Similar to above, a follow-up telephone call was made to those clubs which did not return a questionnaire, for the purpose of collecting outstanding membership data.

All groups which utilise outdoor sports fields and courts, as well as the rowing and sailing clubs, were invited to attend the two Sports Forums.

10.2. Clubs Utilising Council Managed Facilities

This section outlines the data and feedback collected from the 20 sporting clubs which utilise Council managed facilities (mainly outdoor sports grounds).

10.2.1. Facility Issues

A summary of facility issues identified by sports clubs:

- The condition of playing surfaces on sports grounds was generally considered satisfactory by clubs, given that they acknowledge the difficulty Council has with their overuse due to a general shortage of grounds in the LGA.
• Most clubs identified a need for access to additional sports grounds and associated facilities to cater for current and likely future training and competition needs (soccer and rugby league).

• Some clubs identified a need for clubroom space for meetings, memorabilia, social gatherings, etc. (soccer and rugby league).

• Most clubs identified a need for a range of improvements to change amenities, particularly increased storage, upgrades to toilet/shower areas, and improved canteen space.

• One club identified the need for covered spectator areas (Callan Park)

• Some clubs requested additional/improved floodlighting for selected sports grounds (Birchgrove Oval, Cohen Park and Callan Park).

• Upgrade and provision of effective security lighting around car parks and change rooms (King George Park).

A full description of the issues and opportunities raised is attached as Appendix 9.

10.2.2. Rating of Council’s Performance

Feedback from clubs in relation to Council’s performance in the past 3 years across a number of organisational areas included:

• Council’s performance was rated satisfactorily in the following areas:
  – Responsiveness to Club enquiries and requests.
  – Coordination of allocation of grounds/pavilions.
  – Assistance in seeking external funding grants.
  – Understanding sporting needs.
  – Liaison and communication with sports clubs.
  – Promotion of sporting opportunities which are available in the Leichhardt LGA.
  – Managing the risk of the use of sporting facilities.

• Council’s performance could improve in the following areas (according to clubs):
  – Sports field maintenance.
  – Pavilion maintenance.
  – Club administration development and upskilling.
  – Sports club volunteer acknowledgement and recognition.

The full set of results is attached as Appendix 10.

• Clubs identified the main roles of Council to be:
  – Provision and maintenance of sports facilities.
  – Allocating resources (facilities and funding) in an equitable manner.
  – Promoting sport and encouraging increased participation.
10.3. **Sports Club Forums**

All sports clubs and groups which utilise Council managed facilities, and the rowing and sailing clubs, were invited to attend one of two Sports Club Forums held in February 2005. The purpose of the Forums was to seek feedback on a range of issues dealing with Council’s management of sports services in the Leichhardt LGA, and to also provide sports clubs with a forum to discuss in more detail issues raised through the sports club questionnaire.

Seventeen club representatives attended the meetings. A summary of the Forum outcomes follows.

**Council Management Feedback**

- In relation to Council’s management of sports clubs and associated support services, clubs identified:
  - That there is no written protocol outlining the communication process between clubs and Council – some use verbal means, others email and letters. *(Most clubs agreed, however, that the relationship between clubs and Council had improved in the past 2 – 3 years).*
  - That there appears to be a lack of consistency in lease agreements for selected sports and/or facilities.
  - That the maintenance and quality of sports grounds was generally to an acceptable standard.
  - That some change amenities lacked umpire/referee rooms *(Birchgrove Oval, Easton Park).*
  - That the general quality of change amenities was below average (due to age, vandalism, condition, and lack of change space).
  - That most sports grounds provided inadequate storage areas.
  - That the change over process between seasons can sometimes be a problem due to differing needs of co-tenants, such as use of grounds for pre-season training and/or training during finals, i.e. season creep.
  - That the annual ground fees levied by Council are considered reasonable.
  - That Council does offer club development and volunteer professional development opportunities, but that they are at times poorly attended by clubs.
  - That there is ongoing conflict between some sports ground users and people exercising dogs on sports grounds.

- Some clubs had some criticisms of Council’s capital grants scheme, specifically in relation to transparency, equity, and quantum of funds available.

- Clubs agreed that Council should consider increasing / improving the mediums through which it currently promotes both the clubs and the types of sporting opportunities available within the LGA. Suggestions include identifying tenant clubs on ground signage, initiating articles in the newspaper, enhance the use of the Council’s website, prepare sports brochures, etc. *(Clubs acknowledged the success and value of the annual Active Fun Day as a promoter of clubs and sporting activities).*
## Sports Club-Specific Feedback

A summary of the key issues and opportunities raised by individual sports clubs which were represented at the Sports Forums follows. In addition, the feedback collected from the meeting of sports clubs during the consultation for the draft Leichhardt Park Plan of Management has been incorporated in blue italics, where appropriate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Issues / Opportunities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wests Boomers Baseball Club</td>
<td>Club currently has 4 senior and 9 junior teams. <em>Club has capped growth due to a shortage of fields, and sends additional players to other neighbouring clubs.</em>&lt;br&gt;Club is unable to host finals at Blackmore Oval due to the need for the ground to be available for rugby league pre-season use.&lt;br&gt;There is currently no winter baseball competition in Leichhardt LGA due to Blackmore Oval having to be allocated for rugby league use, and the current lack of an alternative venue. As a result, the Club plays all of its winter season games 'away'.&lt;br&gt;Future opportunity may exist to schedule a Seniors competition on a Friday evening at Blackmore Oval.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balmain District Cricket Club</td>
<td>Season creep an issue for the Cricket Club, as it requires access to the training nets at Birchgrove Park for pre-season training, however, creates a clash with soccer club use (using the nets during soccer use can create a potentially dangerous situation when cricket balls are hit into the playing area).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glebe District Hockey Club</td>
<td>Club currently has 13 senior and 10 junior teams and several Minkey teams, and utilises sports grounds at Jubilee Oval and Federal Park in Glebe.&lt;br&gt;Club lacks local access to a synthetic playing field for training and competition, compounded by the collapse of a previous plan to construct a new synthetic pitch on the infield of the Harold Park Paceway. <em>Later investigated Sydney Secondary College (Blackwattle Bay Campus) as a potential site but no suitable land was available.</em> Club is totally committed to the development of a new pitch at Leichhardt Oval No. 2.&lt;br&gt;Club’s membership is likely to expand with the development of locally-based synthetic field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balmain Little Athletic</td>
<td>Club is generally happy with their access to and the condition of facilities at King George Park, however, the toilet and change amenities could be upgraded.&lt;br&gt;Key issue during their season is dogs being walked off-leash across the Park.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tigers Netball Club</td>
<td>There are currently no netball courts in the Leichhardt LGA suitable for Club training.&lt;br&gt;Club accommodates a large number of players – 26 junior teams, 15 senior teams.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balmain Rowing Club</td>
<td>Club is accommodated in a private facility, which is also available for broad community use.&lt;br&gt;Club seeks continued good relationship with Council.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group</td>
<td>Issues / Opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balmain Tigers Rugby League Club</td>
<td>A floodlighting upgrade is pending at Leichhardt Oval No. 2. The existing change amenities building at Leichhardt Oval No. 2 lacks appropriate change amenities for referees.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Club not necessarily opposed to the proposal for Leichhardt Oval No. 2 to be converted to a synthetic hockey field, however, expressed concern that there would likely be a serious shortage of grounds for training for displaced teams.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Balmain Junior Rugby League Club</td>
<td>The existing change amenities building at Birchgrove Park lacks appropriate change amenities for referees.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Club identified that there would likely be a serious shortage of grounds for training if the proposal for Leichhardt Oval No. 2 to be converted to a synthetic hockey field is supported.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Leichhardt Junior Rugby League Football Club</td>
<td>Noted the general shortage of grounds to properly accommodate all teams (10 – 12 teams). Change amenities building at King George Park is inadequate to meet the needs of the Club.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Club opposes the proposal for Leichhardt Oval No. 2 to be converted to a synthetic hockey field as will likely result in displaced teams being relocated to already over-used grounds, such as King George Park.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leichhardt Rowing Club</td>
<td>Club expressed concerns about current parking problems on Glover Street when fun runs and rowing regattas are conducted and suggested that such problems will be compounded by use of Leichhardt Oval No. 2 as a formal hockey venue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balmain Wanderers Soccer Club</td>
<td>Club is unable to host finals at Easton Park due to the need for the ground to be available for other sports, including soccer and cricket. Notwithstanding the above comment, Easton Park is considered adequate for the Club’s needs for competition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leichhardt Saints Soccer Club</td>
<td>Noted the general shortage of grounds to properly accommodate all teams (40 teams), which leads to the degradation of King George Park through overuse. Servicing the training needs of the Club is a key issue.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Change amenities building at King George Park is inadequate to meet the needs of the Club.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balmain District Soccer Club</td>
<td>Club represents has over 1,300 members fielding 89 teams in the Canterbury District Soccer Association. Club has experienced rapid growth in playing members in the last 5-10 years, with an average growth of 3 teams per year.</td>
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<td><em>Majority of their ‘home’ games are required to be played ‘away’ due to shortage of available playing fields in the Leichhardt LGA. Club was not a current user of Leichhardt Oval No. 2, however was very interested in gaining access to any ‘spare’ week-end use that may be available from time to time.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>APIA Leichhardt Tigers Soccer Club</td>
<td>Leichhardt Tigers have over 500 registered players. Club’s senior teams play and train at Lambert Park. Approximately 7-8 years ago, the Club arranged a shared lease of Leichhardt Oval No. 2 with the Balmain Tigers Rugby League</td>
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</table>
Group | Issues / Opportunities
--- | ---
Football Club and has access to Leichhardt Oval No. 2 every night at the conclusion of Balmain Rugby League's training. U16, U/17 & U/18 years train and play on Leichhardt Park No’s 2 & 3
The Club strongly opposes the proposal for Leichhardt Oval No. 2 to be converted to a synthetic hockey field.

All Clubs | All clubs identified the high need for additional sports grounds for the Leichhardt LGA to support not only existing needs but likely future growth, and the opportunity that Callan Park provided for this.

The following table lists the regular bookings for use of Leichhardt Oval No. 2 (2004), and demonstrates the high usage for formal sporting activities.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Jan-Mar</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

N.B. Ground renovations occur every November, December and early January.

BRLFC – Balmain Rugby League Football Club
LTFC – Leichhardt Tigers Football Club (Soccer)
SSC – Sydney Secondary College (Leichhardt Campus)
CHS - Christian Bros High School
11. **CONSULTATION – TARGET POPULATION GROUPS**

Meetings and interviews were conducted with people and service providers from the following target groups:

- Youth Service Providers.
- Young people.
- Older Adults.
- People with a disability.

The purpose of the consultation was to identify current recreation service provision in the Leichhardt LGA for the target groups, any issues and opportunities in relation to the provision of recreational services for people with special needs, and where there might be gaps in current service levels.

The audit of recreational services for target groups is outlined in Section 7.1.

11.1. **Youth Service Providers**

A combination of meetings and telephone interviews were conducted with three providers of youth services in the Leichhardt LGA: Council’s Community Development Officer – Youth, and two project workers from the Leichhardt Community Youth Association. The key outcomes from the consultation were:

- The following outdoor court sport facilities and skate parks exist in the Leichhardt LGA for use by young people:
  - Full basketball court and skate park (Whites Creek Valley Reserve, Lilyfield).
  - Full basketball court (Gladstone Park, Balmain).
  - Half-court basketball court (Edwards Street, Balmain East).
  - Half-court basketball court (36th Battalion Park, Leichhardt).
  - Unusable quarter-pipe skate facility (Elkington Park, Balmain) *(Planned to be replaced with a Youth Activity Area).*
  - Concrete ramp (O’Connor Reserve, Rozelle).
  - *Outside Leichhardt LGA: Skate park (Federal Park, Glebe).*
  - *Proposed: Regional skate park at Leichhardt Park.*

- The Leichhardt Community Youth Association (LCYA) previously provided a youth drop-in service at their building in Darling Street, Rozelle, but ceased this service in 2004.

- The only drop-in service now available in the Leichhardt LGA is currently provided as a partnership between Council and the Leichhardt Uniting Church for the occasional use of Martin Hall for youth drop-in (Wednesday afternoons). Service is popular.

- Drop-in services located in neighbouring municipalities which are utilised by young people from Leichhardt, include Glebe PCYC, Glebe Council Youth Service (at Glebe Point), Petersham TAFE, and Cell Block Workshops (Camperdown).
• Current constraints identified for young persons recreation, include:
  − lack of a regular local drop-in service.
  − the impasse created by the City West Link (ideally a service should be available both north and south of the City West Link).
  − lack of public transport servicing Leichhardt Park (aquatic centre and future skate park).
  − reduced youth-specific programming at the Balmain PCYC (several spaces previously available at the Balmain PCYC are being utilised for private hire). Also, existing programs tend to be male dominated.

• Possible future provision of youth facilities at Marr Reserve, Leichhardt.

• The key opportunity for the Leichhardt LGA identified by all providers was the future provision of multipurpose indoor space, which had capacity to accommodate appropriate space for use as a youth-specific / “hang-out” area

11.2. Young People

A workshop was conducted with 14 students from Sydney Secondary College (Blackwattle Bay Campus) in February 2005. The key outcomes from the Student Workshop were:

• Students are accessing a range of sporting and recreation facilities and clubs both within and outside of the Leichhardt LGA.

• Perception is that the condition of sports fields is generally poor - reduce their usage and increase floodlighting to spread use.

• An indoor multipurpose youth space is required for Leichhardt LGA (Balmain PCYC not always accessible).

• An indoor basketball (sports) stadium is required for the Leichhardt LGA.

• Sporting and recreation facilities desired locally include AFL ovals, a larger skate park (current park at Whites Creek Valley Reserve is not challenging), and indoor sports courts.

• Features and qualities of open space areas considered important for young people, include flat grassed areas, accessible public toilets, well maintained play equipment, and art space for aerosol art.

11.3. Older Adults

A workshop was conducted with 4 older adults and Council’s Community Development Officer in February 2005. The key outcomes from the Older Adults Workshop were:

• There are a diverse range of recreational activities available through Council’s Hannaford Centre, Lilyfield Community Centre and the Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, and the Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre (this centre has a focus on servicing people with a disability).

• Whilst user fees are kept to a minimum at the Centres, there are some people in the community who have difficulty accessing services due to cost.
• Large areas of the Leichhardt LGA appear under-serviced with facilities/programs suitable for older adults.

• Key outcomes for older adults who attend programs are social interaction and experiencing a sense of connectedness with the community.

• Leichhardt Aquatic Centre is an important resource for older adults, but there are constraints to access for older adults, such as fees and lack of public transport to the Centre.

• Features and qualities of open space areas considered important for older adults:
  – Access to public toilets.
  – Good provision of visitor facilities, such as BBQs, seating, and shelters.
  – Footpaths and pathways which are level, and preferably sealed.
  – Retention of vistas across the water in foreshore parks.

11.4. People With a Disability / Carers

A workshop was conducted with 3 people/carers with a disability, and Council’s Community Development Officer in February 2005. The key outcomes from the Disability Workshop were:

• Perceived to be little recreation service provision in the Leichhardt LGA for people with a disability / carers – existing service approach is “regional”, with the designated “local” service provided in the inner west at Marrickville (FRANS).

• FRANS offers programs for children and adults with a disability (e.g. soccer team).

• Limited service only is provided at Rozelle Neighbourhood House for people with a disability (PWD).

• Provision of playgrounds in Leichhardt for young PWD is good, but there is a lack of opportunities for play for older children / young adults with a disability.

• Suggested that a Council owned/operated indoor multipurpose community centre is required for the Leichhardt LGA which can provide programs and services to various target groups, including PWD.

• One attendee had had some problems enrolling her disabled child into the special needs swimming groups at the Leichhardt Aquatic Centre (nominated reason was lack of staff).

• Features and qualities of open space areas considered important for PWD:
  – Access to public toilets.
  – Good provision of visitor facilities, such as drinking fountains, seating around playgrounds, and shade shelter.
  – Footpaths and pathways which are level and preferably sealed, and playgrounds which are located near danger areas should be fenced.
  – Provision of rubberised softfall under playgrounds, and ensure well maintained (i.e. risk management, and safety).
12. CONSULTATION - COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

The following Council personnel provided input into the Strategic Recreation Plan:

- Councillors.
- Recreation planning staff.
- Strategic planning staff.
- Council’s Parks and Streetscapes Manager.
- Parks maintenance staff.
- Community development staff.
- Council’s Manager Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre.

A summary of constraints and opportunities for recreation provision in the Leichhardt LGA identified by Council personnel is summarised below.

12.1. Councillors

(Feedback provided at a Councillor Briefing held 16th February 2005)

- There may be potential conflict between the outcomes and directions identified in the Strategic Recreation Plan and adopted Plans of Management.
- There is a perceived lack of equity by community groups in relation to the allocation of recreational resources by Council.
- There is a need for an accessible playground to be provided in the Leichhardt LGA.
- There is a current lack of opportunity for women’s sport in the Leichhardt LGA.
- Increase provision of youth recreation facilities.
- Advocate continued and possible increased usage of Bicentennial Park precinct by Leichhardt LGA residents and groups (through improved linkages for passive use, and through increased “ground time” for displaced groups).
- Plan for increased participation in walking and cycling groups, and use of shared trails along the Harbour foreshore.

12.2. Council Planning Staff

(Group meeting of Council staff held February 2005, 6 attendees)

- Callan Park provides the only short-term option for Council to increase the number of large public open space areas suitable for outdoor sports grounds in the short-term. Possible scenario is up 5 sports fields on the existing large open space areas located on the site.
- Preliminary Council estimate for the cost of maintaining a combination of active and passive open space areas, and garden beds in Callan Park is $1.5M per annum.
• In the long-term (to 2020), some opportunities may exist with the future development of the Rail Corridor and the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority land adjacent to White Bay.

• Community consultation is driving the direction and design of parks and open space - should be set of planning principles adopted LGA-wide which underpin design development, with community input then influencing site-specific issues, such as location of park furniture and associated infrastructure.

• Council has an asset management system for its parks maintenance and development.

• There are active ‘Friends of’ groups connected with King George Park and Cohen Park which are assisting Council with bush regeneration projects.

• Council is committed to the retention of Leichhardt Park Oval No. 1 as major sporting facility capable of staging premier events.

• Some conflict of use between users (cyclists/walkers/joggers) is evident along sections of the Bay Run, and the level of maintenance differs between sections of the course. Remaining undeveloped section of the Bay Run (adjacent to Callan Park) has recently received a funding commitment to be formalised.

• Some conflict of use between users (dog walkers/joggers) is evident along sections of the Hawthorne Canal Reserve.

• Council has commenced a review of the municipal bike plan (scheduled completion early 2006).

• A study to prepare a management plan to improve the efficiency and amenity of Parramatta Road is currently in progress. Key outcome is to "breathe new life into the street" through improved traffic management, improved linkages north/south, and improved pedestrian amenity.

12.3. Council’s Park Maintenance Staff

(Group meeting of outdoor staff held February 2005, 8 attendees)

• Council prepare turf wickets, and install goal posts and line marking on grounds.

• All playing fields have automated irrigation, which is controlled at the Depot, except Leichhardt Park No. 3 Oval.

• Floodlighting controlled by Council (on a timing system) – appears satisfactorily.

• All sports grounds have floodlighting, except Leichhardt Park No. 3 Oval.

• No specific strategy in place driving playground provision – playgrounds are upgraded and replaced in accordance with annual budget processes, with actual design and installation of playground equipment being driven by manufacturers.

• Issues identified by Council outdoor staff:
  – Lack of public toilets in some parks with BBQs and larger playgrounds (e.g. 36th Battalion Park, Whites Creek Valley Reserve).
− The toilet block and the playground in War Memorial Park are located at opposite ends of the Park.
− Increase the provision of shade for playgrounds.
− A Playground Strategy is required to deliver diversity.
− Overuse of some grounds is leading to rapid degradation of surfaces in winter, especially soccer goal areas.

12.4. Manager Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre

(A meeting with the Pool Manager was held February 2005)

− The Manager has responsibility for the management of the Dawn Fraser Pool and Council’s three community tennis courts, as well as the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre.

− The Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre was opened in 1960 as a seasonal cold-water pool, and underwent its first major redevelopment in 1993 to establish an indoor pool area and other dry facilities. There is currently a planning process underway to prepare a new master plan for the redevelopment of the pool. Key features of the draft master plan are increased water space and expansion of the health & fitness areas.

− Learn-to-swim is the biggest program at the Centre.

− The Centre attracts approximately 650,000 visitations per annum and operates on a close to "break even" basis.

− Key short-term issue is the poor condition of the changing rooms.

− The Dawn Fraser Pool is a seasonal (6 months) facility with an operating deficit of between $100,000 - $200,000 per annum.

− Key short-term issue is the costly ongoing maintenance created by ageing facilities and tidal influences.

− The Birchgrove Park tennis courts are leased to the North West Tennis Association for an annual fee of $65,000.

− The remaining Council tennis facilities at Punch Park (Balmain) and Cohen Park (Annandale) are available at all times for community use (for a fee). The annual income generated at Punch Park courts is approximately $20,000, and approximately $2,000 revenue is collected from the Cohen Park courts.

− The Cohen Park courts may be better utilised if redeveloped similar to the Punch Park courts.
13. KEY ISSUES AND ANALYSIS

This section provides an analysis of issues and opportunities identified during the study. Some issues highlight areas where Council has some improvement to make, but others where Council is performing satisfactorily. The more significant (key) issues have been assessed in a high level format by summarising the source of the issue (research and/or consultation), discussion of the issue, and by identifying proposed solutions and recommendations.

The section is set out as follows:

- Summary list of the range of issues identified during the study.
- Sports facility needs assessment.
- Analysis of key issues.

13.1. Summary of Issues Identified

The issues that emerged from the study have been classified into one of the three categories of Open Space / Recreation Needs, Sporting Needs, and Policy and Planning, and include:

Open Space / Recreation Needs

1. Projected increase in the population of approximately 3,350 people to 2011, the continued ageing demographic, and the gradual increase in preferences of people to engage in passive recreation activities, may necessitate additional (or redeveloped) places and spaces for passive recreation.

2. The distribution of useable public open space across the LGA shows deficiencies in the suburbs of Leichhardt and Annandale.

3. There is high value placed on the provision of quality and accessible parks and open space areas by residents and groups.

4. The integration of facilities and spaces suitable for young people in the broad open space network will be critical in addressing recreational demand for young people.

5. The demand for passive recreation space (including dog exercise areas) will continue to place pressure on sporting reserves to be multifunctional spaces which are relevant to all residents.

6. Strategic alliances with the State Government and other managers/owners of publicly owned land (e.g. Callan Park, the Rail Corridor and the Harbour Foreshore) will be important to help resolve current and likely future shortages in open space for both passive recreational pursuits and sporting activities.

7. Continuation of the establishment of strategic linear links will be critical in ensuring the community is mobile, well connected and safe.
Sporting Needs

8. There is expressed demand for indoor sporting facilities, additional soccer fields, a synthetic hockey field/s, AFL ovals and netball courts.

9. There is demonstrated overuse of sports grounds.

10. There is average local provision and distribution of a diverse range of activities within and throughout the LGA.

11. There is a projected increase in the population of approximately 3,350 people to 2011, however, the current and future age structure of the population may not necessarily result in a corresponding increased need for active sporting facilities.

12. The current participation rate of Leichhardt residents in physical activity is slightly less than the NSW average, suggesting there may be some latent demand.

13. The membership of Leichhardt sports clubs has had a trend of increasing during the past 3 years, and this trend is predicted by clubs to generally stabilise for seniors, but continue for junior membership in the next 5 years (particularly for junior soccer and rugby league, AFL, and netball).

14. There is a significantly higher participation rate by the community in “unorganised” recreational/sporting activities when compared to “organised” activities (club and centre-based), which is against general industry trends, suggesting there could be further latent demand for formal sporting and health & fitness space. Alternatively, industry research shows that people who have obtained higher levels of education are generally more inclined to participate in health & fitness activities (formal or informal) – and the Leichhardt LGA has a comparatively high proportion of people who have obtained higher levels of education.

Policy and Planning

15. Establish a framework (policy) to enable Council to prioritise new/improved sporting and recreational facility and open space developments.

16. Council has a leadership role in ensuring sustainable sports club management.

17. Junior sports participatory programs are essential for sustainable sports clubs.

18. The provision of opportunities to engage in recreational activities should be integrated and linked to other Council planning objectives.

19. Asset maintenance and renewal will continue to be a challenge for Council and sports clubs to address, due to competing demands on available funds.

20. Flexibility in design/use of sports facilities will ensure long-term return on investment.

21. There are no dedicated women’s recreational/sporting facilities in the LGA.
22. Diversity in playground provision and youth facility provision will need to be planned.

23. Effective, safe and well located linear links between existing open space areas, sports and recreation facilities, and other commuter destinations will be critical as a means to compensate for the low provision of diverse open space areas in some precincts of the LGA.

24. Council has a role in increasing the availability of recreational programs and services which are accessible and affordable for a range of target population groups.

25. Investigate an appropriate framework to increase the availability of resources to fund new/improved recreation/sporting facilities and services.

26. The appropriate allocation of useable active and passive open space will be required for any future large residential development planned for the Rail Corridor and Harbour Foreshore precincts.

13.2. **Sports Facility Needs Assessment**

This section documents the outcome of the sports facility needs assessment for the Leichhardt LGA by assessing current provision against current / future need and industry benchmarks (for selected sports), and identifying recommendations for new/improved facility development to address over / under supply. The analysis has been synthesised into a table which assesses each sport separately (see Section 13.2.3).

Please note that the analysis reported in Section 13.2.3 was carried out during the initial strategy development process and its outcomes were subject to review during the Public Exhibition period after receiving feedback and additional input from residents, sporting clubs, other stakeholders and Councillors. The summary and assessment of submissions received during the Public Exhibition of the draft report are contained in Appendix 16.

The outcomes from the preliminary analysis have been retained in the report to provide readers with a comprehensive understanding of the basis for the development of the initial strategic directions presented to Council and the community in the draft report, and how these were subsequently varied following the Public Exhibition to achieve the strategic directions ultimately endorsed by Council (refer Sections 13.2.4 and 14.6 No. 2).

13.2.1. **Drivers of Demand**

Several “Drivers of Demand” for new/improved sports facilities in the Leichhardt LGA have informed the analysis process, and these include:

1. The current and predicted population growth across the Leichhardt LGA (from 48,705 people in 2001, to 52,052 by 2011).

2. The “older” demographic profile and higher proportion of Australian-born residents (existing and predicted) as key characteristics of current and future communities.

3. Industry trends and average participation rates of NSW residents in selected sporting activities, as tools to predict future participation levels.
4. Current high level of success being experienced by State Sporting Associations in engaging primary aged children into sports development programs, and subsequent growth in junior sport, especially soccer, AFL, rugby league and netball.

5. Industry benchmarks for the provision of selected sporting facilities, i.e. ratio of facility per head of population (see Section 6.4).

6. The current number, distribution and condition of existing sporting facilities (both within the Leichhardt LGA and the surrounding municipalities), and their capacity (or otherwise) to absorb increased demand.

13.2.2. Sports Facility Planning Principles

The following Principles were used to “test” the appropriateness of various options and scenarios considered during the sports facility needs analysis process.

- Provision of a range of sports, and sports facility types.
- Provision of a minimum number of grounds/fields/courts at any one site to assist the long-term viability of user groups.
- Maximise opportunities for multi-use and shared-used of sports infrastructure.
- Maximise opportunities for joint-use of sporting and recreation infrastructure at Education sites, or other publicly-owned sites.
- Maximise opportunities for existing sports grounds to improve their capacity to accommodate increased sports usage.
- Provision of safe surfaces and playing conditions.
- Equity of provision of new/improved sports facilities for people of all ages, ability and gender.

13.2.3. Demand Assessment By Sport

The table on the following pages has to be read having regard to these notes:

1. Theoretical Participation Figures are calculated using the 2003 NSW participation rate for that sport (the figure in brackets), and the projected population of 52,052 people in the Leichhardt LGA by 2011.

2. Industry Benchmarks are available for the following sports facilities only (see Section 6.4):
   - Rugby League field.
   - Cricket Oval.
   - Indoor multipurpose sports court.
   - Lawn Bowls green.
   - Netball (outdoor).
   - Soccer (outdoor).
   - Tennis court.
### Demand

#### Aerobics/Fitness/Gym/Weights

- Demographic profile ("old") of Leichhardt LGA is not consistent with traditional profile of gymnasium users.
- However, older adults are an emerging market, due to impact of recent research supporting strength conditioning as a legitimate preventative strategy against weakening bones.
- Current high participation by Leichhardt LGA residents (3rd most popular activity), and activity was ranked equal 5th as a nominated activity for future participation by residents in the LGA (6%)\(^{17}\).
- Theoretical participation of combined aerobics/fitness/weights (18.9%) is 9,838 people.
- High potential demand for new/extended facilities demonstrated by high membership and patronage in health & fitness at Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre (at capacity with current facilities).
- There are 3 public health & fitness facilities available within the Leichhardt LGA.
- Market demands may influence facility provision by private sector providers.

### Recommendation for Leichhardt LGA to 2011

1. Endorsement of draft Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Redevelopment Plan which proposes a new 390sqm gym and 305sqm group fitness room, however, provision should be made for a future doubling of the size of the gym to approximately 800sqm, to meet likely future demand.

2. Consider including a new public health & fitness gymnasium and associated facilities as part of any future new indoor sports and recreation centre for the Leichhardt LGA.

3. Should the feasibility of including health & fitness facilities within a proposed future new indoor sports and recreation centre not be viable, Council should facilitate the establishment of an additional fitness gymnasium in the Leichhardt LGA by the private sector.

4. Endorsement of draft Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Redevelopment Plan which proposes replacement of the 50m main pool, a new 25m x 6 lane multipurpose pool, a new leisure pool with interactive water features, and new program pool.

5. Development of the leisure pool at the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre should be given a higher priority than the provision of additional aquatic program space, if staging of the wet areas has to occur.

6. Undertake the necessary upgrades and maintenance to the Dawn Fraser Pool to ensure its continued operation.

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\(^{17}\) Source: Household telephone survey.
### Demand

- Current high participation by Leichhardt LGA residents in swimming (2nd most popular activity for adults, and the most popular activity for children).
- Swimming was ranked 1st as a nominated activity for future participation by residents in the LGA (21%).
- Theoretical participation (17.5%) is 9,109 people (adults), however, this includes all swimming (backyard pools, ocean, etc). The actual participation is greater when children’s participation is taken into account.
- There are significant cultural, heritage and tourism outcomes from the operation of the Dawn Fraser Pool.

### Athletics

- Low participation in and demand for senior track and field athletics.
- Theoretical participation (0.6%) is 312 people (adults).
- Negative growth in senior track and field athletics registrations (Nationally), and stable participation in little athletics registrations in NSW (up to 40,000 children)\(^\text{18}\), including the Sydney inner west region.
- Existing little athletics facility in the Leichhardt LGA is at King George Park (sole tenant during summer). Centre has increased the number of registered participants by 9% in the past 3 years.

### AFL

- Rapidly growing sport in NSW, evidenced by 16% growth in registered participants in the junior AFL development program (AusKick) in the past 3 years in Sydney (53% in Inner Sydney)\(^\text{19}\).
- Demographic profile of Leichhardt LGA, although "old", suggests possible future demand for AFL, given that there is over 4,500 children under 9 years of age.
- There is currently no AusKick centre or junior/senior AFL club based in the Leichhardt LGA, however, anecdotally there are large numbers of children participating in AusKick centres at Drummoyne Park, Jubilee Park and elsewhere.

### Recommendation for Leichhardt LGA to 2011

7. No additional athletics facilities required in the Leichhardt LGA.
8. Co-locate little athletics and cricket at King George Park in summer, by introducing a centre cricket wicket (synthetic pitch).
9. Facilitate the establishment of an AusKick centre within the Leichhardt LGA, with a possible location being the sports field at Sydney Secondary College (Balmain Campus).
10. Establish a new AFL sports ground (165m x 125m) in the Leichhardt LGA, with possibilities being one of:
   - Redevelop the existing sports ground on Waterfront Drive (Callan Park).
   - Redevelop the existing open space area off Glover Street (Callan Park).

\(^\text{18}\) Source: Interview Little Athletics Association NSW, 2005.
\(^\text{19}\) Source: Interview AFL NSW, 2005.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demand</th>
<th>Recommendation for Leichhardt LGA to 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park and in Concord(^{20}).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Theoretical participation (1.0%) is 520 people (adults).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• There are no AFL sports grounds in the Leichhardt LGA.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Current demand exists for a locally based AusKick centre in the Leichhardt LGA, with likely future demand for a junior AFL club.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• No public school in the Leichhardt LGA has a sports ground, so little opportunity exists to establish a centre within a public school. (Historically, AusKick centres are either based at primary schools or at sports grounds where a junior/senior AFL club is a tenant).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Baseball</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Low participation base, however, stable registration numbers and demand for baseball in Sydney(^{21}).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• New development program (“Try Baseball”) launched by Baseball NSW this winter has proved successful in attracting interest amongst children – actual take-up of club membership not known at this stage.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• No support for additional facilities expressed through the community consultation, however, the Boomers Baseball Club has indicated previously that it’s vision for baseball in the Leichhardt LGA is to develop a multi-field complex in Callan Park.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Good quality baseball facility (1 senior field / 1 junior field) located in the Leichhardt LGA at Blackmore Oval. The Boomers Baseball Club has increased its membership in the past 3 years (13%).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Upgraded lighting at Blackmore Oval will enable the Club to increase its use of the senior baseball field, thereby improving the capacity of the Club to meet some of its current and likely future increase in demand/participation.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cricket</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Overall growth in participation and interest in cricket in Sydney in the past 5 years(^{22}).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Little growth in junior and senior cricket in the Leichhardt LGA in the past 3 years,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. No new baseball fields required in the Leichhardt LGA.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Upgrade the floodlighting at Blackmore Oval to enable increased use of the facilities at night for competition baseball.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Establish a new senior cricket oval (synthetic wicket) at King George Park (to co-locate with Little Athletics).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{20}\) Ibid.  
\(^{21}\) Source: Interview Baseball NSW, 2005.  
\(^{22}\) Source: Interview NSW Cricket Association, 2005.
### Demand

perhaps due to limited ground availability.

- Theoretical participation (2.6%) is 1,353 people (adults).
- Benchmark data identified a shortage of cricket ovals in the Leichhardt LGA. (Validated by the number of ovals from outside of the LGA that the Balmain Cricket Club has to utilise).
- There are 2 senior ovals and 2 junior ovals currently available in the Leichhardt LGA.
- No capacity to utilise Education land to meet shortage of ovals.

### Recommendation for Leichhardt LGA to 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Establish a new cricket oval (to co-locate with AFL), with possibilities being one of:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Redevelop the existing sports ground on Waterfront Drive (Callan Park).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Redevelop the existing open space area off Glover Street (Callan Park).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Develop a new “wet” hockey pitch on Leichhardt Oval No. 2, only after additional sports fields become available in Callan Park for those current users which would be displaced from Leichhardt Oval No. 2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Until such time as additional sports fields become available in Callan Park retain Leichhardt Oval No. 2 as a turf rectangular field for both formal sporting use and general use by residents.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that the Council Resolution from the Ordinary Meeting of the Leichhardt Municipal Council held on 13 December 2005 required the deletion of Recommendations No. 15 and No. 17 above, and the addition of the following direction …

“Develop a new “wet” hockey pitch on Leichhardt Oval No. 2”.

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peak usage times (afternoon/evening during the week, and all day on weekends).

- The draft Leichhardt Park Plan of Management identifies Oval No. 2 as a possible site for a new all-weather hockey pitch, however, concerns with this proposal have been identified by existing user groups and the Department of Lands. The concerns with this proposal largely centre on the fact that it will result in the alienation of public open space (through fenced pitch area) and the negative impact on the current user groups whose activities would in most instances have to be displaced.

- Two alternate options to Leichhardt Oval No. 2 to site a new all-weather hockey pitch were identified during this study, being:
  - Lambert Park.
  - Callan Park.

- A preliminary assessment of the feasibility of re-using Lambert Park for hockey concluded that it would not be achievable (see Section 13.3).

- Similarly, there would be constraints with the use of Callan Park. However, a preliminary assessment of possible sites in Callan Park identified that the western edge of the open space area off Glover Street may have some potential as a possible site for a synthetic hockey field, as this site would minimise any detrimental effect on the visual amenity of the Park which would likely result from a fenced hockey field being developed in a more central location within the Park (see Section 13.3).

### Indoor Courts

- Current participation rates of Leichhardt LGA residents in the indoor sports of basketball, volleyball, table tennis, badminton and indoor soccer are lower than National / State levels – likely to be largely due to a lack of a quality, public indoor sports and recreation centre within the Leichhardt LGA.

- No indoor court space available within the Leichhardt LGA, with the closest indoor facilities located at Glebe PCYC, Peter Forsyth Auditorium, Ultimo Community Centre and Five Dock.

- A locally-based indoor sports courts would allow training to occur at a local venue with competition matches to be retained at

18. Develop a new multi-court indoor sport and recreation centre in the Leichhardt LGA (or two 1-2 court centres, with one north and south of the City West Link).

19. Undertake a detailed financial analysis of the development and operation of any new multi-court indoor sport and recreation centre, and an investigation into possible site options, including Rail Corridor and Harbour Foreshore.

20. Actively engage potential funding partners and other stakeholders, such as schools, other Government
### Demand

- **Indoor recreation centres** allow potential for a variety of both active and passive recreational activities and services to be offered within a community.

- **Industry benchmarks** and data show that it is generally more feasible to have one multi-court facility which can in turn benefit from economies-of-scale, rather than provide 2 – 3 single court facilities throughout an LGA.

- There is a general trend of some outdoor sports moving indoors (protection from weather), such as netball.

- **Theoretical participation** for basketball (3.3%) is 1,717 adults, however, would be considerably higher if children were taken into account.

- **Theoretical participation** for volleyball (0.6%) is 312 people (adults).

- **Benchmark data** identified a possible shortage of 5 indoor courts.

- Significant support and advocacy from community groups for the provision of indoor programmable space for the conduct of recreation activities.

- Demographic profile of Leichhardt LGA, although “old”, suggests existing and continued future demand for indoor courts, given that there is over 11,500 children and young adults aged under 24 years (the most active age for basketball participation).

### Recommendation for Leichhardt LGA to 2011

- Agencies, the private sector, and peak sporting associations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lawn Bowls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall rate of participation</strong> in and demand for lawn bowls in the Leichhardt LGA has increased in the past 3 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benchmark data</strong> identified the current provision of 5 greens in the Leichhardt LGA will be adequate to cater for future demand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theoretical participation</strong> (2.8%) is 1,457 people (adults).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demographic profile (“old”) of the Leichhardt LGA suggests there will be continued demand for lawn bowls, however, there was no support for additional facilities expressed through the community consultation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are increasing numbers of recreational options for older adults/retirees, such as touring, other educational programs, and other sports, which may impact actual need</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21. No new lawn bowls facilities required in the Leichhardt LGA.
Demand

for new facilities in long-term.

• The three existing clubs, Balmain Bowling Club, Gladstone Park Bowling Club and the Leichhardt Bowling & Recreation Club are well distributed throughout the Leichhardt LGA. This and the fact that there are 2 large clubs in the Marrickville LGA just over the boundary means most residents have convenient access to a lawn bowls facility.

Netball

• 2004 saw a decline in the number of registered netballers in NSW following a 4 year period of sustained growth (current number of registered players is 107,000)\textsuperscript{24}.

• In the Leichhardt LGA, the Tigers Netball Club is the only organised netball group, and has had continued growth in the past 3 years (to 26 junior teams and 15 senior teams).

• Theoretical participation (2.8%) is 1,457 people (adults), however, would be considerably higher if girls were taken into account as a significant number of netballers are aged under 25 years.

• Netball has been and continues to be the highest participation sport by females, therefore, an ongoing need for local access to netball courts for training can be expected.

• There are currently no dedicated public netball courts available in the Leichhardt LGA, an unusual occurrence for any LGA across Australia, given the tradition and history of the sport as the favoured activity for girls/women. The closest dedicated courts are located at Richard Murden Reserve (Haberfield), and dual use courts with basketball are planned for Gladstone Park and Mort Bay Park (Balmain Peninsula).

• The typical organisational structure for netball is for an association to become established with a regional catchment (usually an LGA), with matches played at a multi-court regional venue, but training confined to local standard public courts or school courts.

• There is a likely future demand for indoor netball courts, consistent with the gradual shift in the sport from outdoors to indoors, particularly at the elite level, and to a lesser extent for women (largely due to player comfort and risk management).

Recommendation for Leichhardt LGA to 2011

22. Redevelop the Cohen Park tennis courts into a shared 2 court netball and tennis facility to provide a quality local outdoor netball training facility for the Tigers Netball Club.

23. Upgrade the amenities block at Cohen Park to improve the change amenities, and where possible, provide a small clubroom for the Tigers Netball Club.

24. Any new indoor court space provided throughout the Leichhardt LGA should have provision for netball use, i.e. courts need to be multipurpose.

25. In the longer term, monitor the need for additional outdoor netball courts, with possible options for new courts being:

− Redevelopment of the existing single tennis court at Birchgrove Park into a shared netball and tennis court facility.

− Development of new shared 2 court public netball and tennis court facility in Pioneers Memorial Park (at a site adjacent to the Sydney Secondary College on the Derbyshire Road boundary) (The feasibility of this option will require further investigation as it may contravene those sections of the Cemeteries Act which have direct implications for the management of Pioneers Memorial Park).

26. In relation to the proposals above for new/upgraded outdoor netball courts, night lighting may be required to ensure the courts are usable for training during winter.

\textsuperscript{24} Source: Interview Netball NSW, 2005.
### Demand

- Junior netball continues to be a popular outdoor activity.

### Rugby League

- Comparatively stable participation rates in rugby league across the Leichhardt LGA, however, the Balmain & District Junior Rugby League reported a 30% increase in the number of teams in its competition in the past 3 years\(^\text{25}\).
- Theoretical participation (1.6%) is 832 people (adults).
- Overall growth in participation and interest in rugby league at the junior level is likely to continue to increase in the Leichhardt LGA, given the high number young adults and children, and the strong traditional links to the sport through the Wests Tigers NRL team.
- The actual growth of the sport for the next 5 – 10 years is likely to be impacted, however, by the growth of AFL across this region. It can therefore be predicted with some confidence that future increases in participation may only be small.
- Benchmark data identified an adequate supply of rugby league fields in the LGA, however, the Leichhardt Junior Rugby League Football Club has indicated that the 1 field at King George Park (shared with soccer) was not adequately meeting the club’s needs.

### Recommendation for Leichhardt LGA to 2011

- 27. Develop 1 new rectangular field at the Callan Park Balmain Road field for possible use as a rugby league field (or soccer field).
- 28. Relocate rugby league from King George Park to the proposed new Balmain Road field (or relocate soccer).
  
  The training and playing conditions for winter sport will be improved at King George Park with the relocation of one of the codes.

### Rugby Union

- Increased interest in and participation in rugby union across the Inner West Region\(^\text{26}\).
- Theoretical participation (1.0%) is 520 people (adults).
- Overall growth in participation and interest in rugby union is likely to continue to increase at both senior and junior levels, given the high profile of the Australian Wallabies and the continued gentrification of the Leichhardt LGA (impacted by traditional roots of participation at private schools).
- The actual growth of the sport for the next 5 – 10 years is likely to be impacted, however, by the growth of AFL across this region. It can therefore be predicted with some confidence that future increases in participation may only be small.

- 29. No new rugby union fields required in the Leichhardt LGA.

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\(^{25}\) Source: Balmain & District Junior Rugby League Executive, 2005.

\(^{26}\) Source: NSW Suburban Rugby, 2005.
**Demand**

- Only current club within the Leichhardt LGA is the newly formed Balmain Rugby Club (50 members – 2 teams), now sharing Blackmore Oval with the Leichhardt Wanderers Junior Rugby League Club.
- Co-location appears sustainable as each code is played on different days of the weekend in winter (Union – Saturday; League – Sunday).

**Soccer**

- Strong and sustained growth in male junior / senior soccer, with significant increases in female junior / senior soccer across NSW in the past 5 years\(^{27}\).
- In the Leichhardt LGA, there have been substantial increases in the number of junior and senior players in the past 3 years, with most clubs predicting that growth will stabilise for senior players in the next 5 years, but will continue to increase for junior players, thereby continuing to put pressure on existing fields.
- Soccer ranked 7\(^{th}\) as the most popular activity for adults in the Leichhardt LGA, and 2\(^{nd}\) for children. Soccer also ranked highly (3\(^{rd}\)) as a future desired activity to participate in.
- All Leichhardt soccer clubs identified as a major priority the need for additional grounds to improve training and match conditions.
- Theoretical participation (5.3%) is 2,759 people (adults), however, would be considerably higher if children were taken into account.
- Benchmark data identified a shortage of soccer fields exist in the Leichhardt LGA.

**Recommendation for Leichhardt LGA to 2011**

30. Upgrade the quality of the playing surface and training lights at Leichhardt Park No. 3.

31. Develop 1 new soccer field at Callan Park, being an additional field at Waterfront Drive sports ground (or 2 new fields on the open space area off Glover Street, if Waterfront Drive becomes the site for AFL/cricket).

Further capacity exists to provide an additional soccer field at the Balmain Road field in Callan Park, if this site is not utilised for rugby league (see Rugby League above).

Recommendation No. 31 will provide Council with the opportunity to:
- Consolidate the training and match day requirements for the Balmain District Soccer Club to the 2 field facility at Waterfront Drive, Callan Park.
- Reduce the intensity of use of Easton Park and Birchgrove Park in winter through the above relocation.
- Improve conditions for the remaining soccer activities at Easton Park, and the remaining soccer and rugby league activities at Birchgrove Park.

Further, the Rugby League recommendation to develop the Balmain Road field at Callan Park into a new rugby league venue will:
- Reduce the intensity of use of King George Park in winter through the relocation of rugby league.

---

\(^{27}\) Source: Soccer NSW, 2004.
**Demand**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation for Leichhardt LGA to 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Improve conditions for the Leichhardt Saints Soccer Club at King George Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Provide an opportunity for the expansion of soccer activities at King George Park.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tennis**

- The overall rate of participation in and demand for tennis in the Leichhardt LGA is comparable to the participation rate in tennis in all of NSW.

- Tennis was ranked 5th as the most popular recreation activity for adults in the Leichhardt LGA, and 3rd for children.

- Similarly, tennis was ranked 2nd (11%) as the preferred activity for future participation by people in the Leichhardt LGA.

- Demographic profile (“old”) of the Leichhardt LGA supports a continued demand for tennis facilities (it is a whole-of-life activity), whether for junior coaching and competition, social tennis, or night tennis.

- Organised tennis participation in the Leichhardt LGA is largely provided by the North Western Suburbs Tennis Association (at the Birchgrove Park Tennis Courts), although two regional facilities are available just over the boundary in the Marrickville LGA, with a lower grade facility also available in close proximity at Richard Murden Reserve (Haberfield).

- Theoretical participation (9.8%) is 5,100 people (adults).

- Little support for additional tennis facilities expressed through the community consultation, despite the fact that the benchmark data identified a significant shortage of courts.

32. Redevelop the Cohen Park tennis courts into a shared 2 court tennis and netball facility (see Netball above).

33. Monitor the need for additional tennis courts in the long-term, with a possible option being to develop a new shared 2 court public tennis and netball court facility in Pioneer Memorial Park (at a site adjacent to the Sydney Secondary College on the Derbyshire Road boundary). *(The feasibility of this option will require further investigation as it may contravene those sections of the Cemeteries Act which have direct implications for the management of Pioneers Memorial Park).*

34. Any new public tennis courts should ideally be flexible for netball use as well.
### 13.2.4. Summary of Proposed Future Provision of Outdoor Sporting Opportunities

The following table identifies a preferred scenario for the future provision of organised outdoor sporting activities (by venue and sport) in the Leichhardt LGA. The proposed future directions are a combination of:

- Recommendations outlined in the above demand assessment for sport (Section 13.2.3); and

- Council-endorsed amendments and additions to these recommendations following a review of the feedback and input from residents, sporting clubs, other stakeholders and Councillors during the Public Exhibition period (October / December 2005). (The summary and assessment of submissions received during the Public Exhibition of the draft report are contained in Appendix 16).

Current uses are shown in black, with proposed new uses in *blue italics*.

The strategic importance of attaining future access to the current open space sites at Callan Park as a strategy to resolve the existing and expected future demand for additional sports grounds is highlighted in the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport / Recreation Facility</th>
<th>Proposed Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leichhardt Park</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Leichhardt Oval</td>
<td>Wests Tigers (NRL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Leichhardt Oval No. 2</td>
<td>Rugby League</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Soccer</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Hockey (only if current soccer uses can be relocated to an alternative venue, and if rugby league uses can be relocated to new fields in Callan Park)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Oval No. 3</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Callan Park</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Glover Street Ground</strong></td>
<td>Rugby League (1 full size, 1 three quarter size)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baseball (1 permanent field, up 3 temporary fields – all shared with cricket)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cricket (shared with baseball)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Waterfront Drive Ground</td>
<td>AFL (1 oval shared with soccer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Soccer (2 fields shared with AFL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Balmain Road Ground</strong></td>
<td>Cricket</td>
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<tr>
<td>- <strong>Six-a-side modified soccer</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Blackmore Oval</strong></td>
<td>Rugby League</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rugby Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Six-a-side modified soccer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport / Recreation Facility</td>
<td>Proposed Use</td>
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<td>-----------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambert Park</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohen Park</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cricket (junior)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tennis</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Netball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pioneers Memorial Park</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Netball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birchgrove Park</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rugby League</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cricket</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tennis</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Netball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King George Park</td>
<td>Little Athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cricket</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Soccer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easton Park</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cricket (junior)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punch Park</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gladstone Park</td>
<td>Lawn Bowls</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Netball / Basketball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mort Bay Park</td>
<td>Netball / Basketball</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After considering the drivers-of-demand of “need”, “current availability/access to facilities”, “levels of participation” and “growth” - the priority for Council for the provision of additional sporting facilities would be:

1. Soccer.
2. Netball.
3. AFL.
4. Rugby League.
5. Hockey.
6. Cricket.
13.3. Analysis of Key Issues

This section provides an analysis of some of the key issues identified during the study. The issues have been assessed in a high level format by summarising the source of the issue (research and/or consultation), discussing the issue, and identifying proposed solutions and recommendations.

The key issues assessed and analysed are:

1. The projected population growth across the LGA, and the increased ageing of the population.
2. The participation rate by residents in physical activities is comparable to benchmarks.
3. The impact of the industry trend of a decline in the popularity and participation in structured sport and physical activity.
4. There is high value placed on the provision of quality open space areas for people to participate in “family recreation activities”.
5. Strong support for improved provision of recreation facilities and services for young people (15 – 24 years).
6. The need for improved provision of improved indoor, multipurpose, flexible, community recreation space.
7. Provision of an all-weather synthetic hockey field within the LGA.
8. Asset maintenance and renewal will continue to be a challenge for Council and sports clubs to address, due to competing demands on available funds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The projected population growth across the LGA, and the increased ageing of the population</td>
<td>Research / Consultation&lt;br&gt;• The Leichhardt LGA population is expected to increase by 3,350 people to 2011.&lt;br&gt;• The population of the LGA is slightly older compared to all of Sydney – a characteristic likely to continue with the increased population.&lt;br&gt;• Population growth is expected to occur across most areas of the LGA.&lt;br&gt;• Research highlights the importance of older adults being active and socially connected.&lt;br&gt;Discussion&lt;br&gt;• Council has only limited opportunities to increase the total area of open space and sports reserves within the LGA. However, Council needs to continue to identify opportunities to increase the provision of accessible public open space through strategic alliances with the State Government, and through continued strategic acquisition of new spaces, particularly in the suburbs of Annandale and Leichhardt.&lt;br&gt;• Development Plans for new residential areas, need to carefully consider the provision of quality and useable open space, and/or linkages to existing parks and recreation facilities.&lt;br&gt;• Council’s sports reserves which comprise only formal sporting facilities (such as Lambert Park and Blackmore Oval) should be assessed as to how they might be “de-sportised” as the need to provide quality open space areas for unstructured recreation activities continues. This direction does not mean the rationalisation of the sporting facilities,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Issue</td>
<td>Analysis</td>
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<td>rather utilising those open space areas which immediately surround sports areas (but have no direct sports use) for other compatible non-sporting recreational uses, e.g. family recreation areas, shade provision, walking paths, re-vegetation, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Callan Park and the Rail Corridor are important areas for future provision of public open space.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Provision of opportunities for older adults to engage in social recreation activities (both indoor and outdoor) will become more important.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Direct implications for Council include:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>− The need to facilitate delivery of appropriate range of programs and services.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>− The need to provide quality indoor areas, such as flexible and accessible program space, aquatic facilities, and fitness gymnasiuums.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>− The need to provide quality outdoor areas, featuring shade, seating, sealed paths, public toilets, etc in key open space areas/parks.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Possible Way Forward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Review, in the long-term, the effectiveness of the municipal-wide pedestrian and cycle networks to create the necessary linkages between the major parks and other community recreation facilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Accelerate the implementation of endorsed park Plans of Management (PoM) and master plans, particularly those elements of master plans which will deliver improved family recreation areas.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>• Prepare PoMs and master plans for those open space areas yet to have an endorsed plan, to guide their future upgrade and improvement, with particular emphasis on the provision of family recreation facilities, and where appropriate, investigate possible inclusion of innovative features such as mazes, informal sporting equipment, and public art.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Advocate for continued public access to Callan Park as a readily accessible, and quality park destination for residents.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Continue the endorsed land acquisition program, and identify potential new sites for purchase.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Plan for a new indoor community sports/recreation centre.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Increase provision of additional indoor water spaces at the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The participation rate by residents in physical activities is comparable to benchmarks</th>
<th>Research / Consultation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Household Telephone Survey undertaken during this study and the infield survey conducted during the Active Fun Day found identified levels of participation by Leichhardt LGA residents in sporting, recreation and physical activities at 74% and 97%, respectively. These compare favourably with the NSW average participation rate of 81.5%.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Of the people who do not participate in physical activity, the main reasons cited in surveys were ‘time constraints’, ‘not interested’ and ‘age’ - reasons which can not be directly influenced by Council, such as ‘lack of facilities’ and ‘poor quality of facilities’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The highest participation rates in the Leichhardt LGA are in the activities of walking, swimming, gym/weights, running/jogging and tennis - a mix of outdoor/indoor and sporting/non-sporting pursuits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• There is a limited range of recreation activity and open space settings available for Leichhardt LGA residents both within the municipality and in close proximity in neighbouring municipalities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Older adults and people from diverse communities are not accessing recreation services and facilities to the same levels as younger, Australian-born residents.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Average to medium levels of recreation participation will contribute to the health &amp; well-being of the community.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The average to medium levels of participation may be a result of:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>− Adequate promotional material being available for residents which is maximising their ability to source and access information about recreational options, e.g. articles, brochures, Council’s website.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Issue

**Analysis**

- The good standard and availability of outdoor recreation options for people, such as parks, bike paths, the Bay Run (validated by high satisfaction levels for the overall quality of parks at 83%).

**Possible Way Forward**

- Continue to maintain parks, sports grounds and other open space areas to the same high quality.
- Enhance further the current levels of promotion of recreation opportunities available within the Leichhardt LGA, such as articles in the resident newsletter, information on the website, brochures, information and directional signage in parks, etc.
- Continue the strategy of maximising opportunities for both active and unstructured recreation in key parks and reserves, through the park master planning process.
- Facilitate continued provision of programs and services for target population groups by internal/external providers, particularly in Leichhardt and Rozelle where the rate of participation by residents in physical activity is the lowest.

### Research / Consultation

**The impact of the industry trend of a decline in the popularity and participation in structured sport and physical activity**

- There is a National trend of decline in the level of participation in organised sport and physical activity, and an increased propensity for people to engage in unstructured, informal activities, such as walking, family recreation, bike riding, and other unstructured sporting activities.
- The Household Telephone Survey found that:
  - The most popular sporting, recreation and physical activities are walking, swimming, gym/weights, and running/jogging, activities which have a high incidence of unstructured, non-competitive participation.
  - The activities that people identified as ones in which they want to participate in the future are swimming, tennis and soccer.
  - The only ‘team’ sports in the top 8 future activities are soccer (3rd) and rowing (eq. 7th).
  - 91% of residents had visited a park situated within the Leichhardt LGA in the past 12 months, with the most popular activities being walking/jogging for exercise, walking the dog, and using/supervising children on a playground.
  - The 3 projects nominated by residents as their priority for future Council funding were parks maintenance, provision of bike paths and walking trails, new/upgraded swimming pool - projects supporting unstructured recreation activity experiences.
- Participation in organised sport declines with age, and the Leichhardt LGA is an ageing area, albeit not as rapidly as other LGAs.
- Presently in the Leichhardt LGA, a majority (71%) of the people participating in physical activity are doing so as an “unorganised” activity.
- Community consultation undertaken during the study identified a general preference for unstructured, informal activities, evidenced by the strong preference for the continued high maintenance of parks and provision of bike paths and walking trails, and lower preference for development and improvement of sports grounds (ranked 5th and eq. 8th, respectively).

**Discussion**

- Whilst there is a rising trend in sports club membership, a majority of this increase is attributable to increased junior participation, not senior.
- There is a need for Council to provide a range of environments and settings for people to participate in unstructured activities, which may include informal sporting facilities (e.g. tennis rebound walls, cricket practice nets, golf practice cages, etc) or non-sporting/recreation facilities (i.e. parks and open space areas and walking trails).
- The recreational needs of older adults will continue to be important.
- Council should continue to identify opportunities for increased open
space provision in the southern areas of the LGA to better balance the
provision and distribution of open space across the LGA.

- Indoor recreation opportunities for the broad community are generally
  limited to the Hannaford Centre, Lilyfield Community Centre,
  Annandale Community Centre, and the Balmain PCYC.
- Sports grounds are important for people/groups who wish to participate
  in both organised and unorganised sport (as “kick-about” venues), and
  the condition of their playing surface will impact the frequency of use
  by both types of users.
- Most sports grounds are at capacity (especially during winter) in relation
  to formal and organised sporting use, and the only short-term
  opportunity to develop new grounds within the LGA is at Callan Park.
- Personal health, fitness and well-being benefits are equally possible
  through participation in unstructured physical activity, as they are from
  organised sporting activities.

Possible Way Forward

- Ensure the quality of existing parks, sports grounds and other open
  space areas is maintained to a high standard.
- Ensure continued funding for infrastructure improvements at existing
  parks, bike/walking paths, and other open space areas.
- Ensure all parks and reserves (including those with sports grounds) are
  planned to provide relevant and accessible places and spaces for people
  to undertake unstructured recreation.
- Plan for a new community sports/recreation indoor spaces, which have
  the capacity to provide a range of informal recreation/social activities
  (whether provided directly by Council or by external providers), as well
  as capacity to provide formal sporting opportunities.
- Plan for new spaces at which residents/workers/visitors can engage in
  informal activity, such as tennis rebound walls, golf practice cages,
  basketball/netball half-courts, skate parks, and climbing walls, and
  ensure access is possible to all formal sports grounds for unstructured
  sporting activities.
- Continue the development of the integrated off-road and on-road
  bicycle and linear network to facilitate recreational cycling, walking and
  jogging, and which links with neighbouring LGA’s and regional trails.
- Support the continued implementation of park PoMs.

Research / Consultation

- Parks are highly valued by Leichhardt LGA residents as places for
  informal, unstructured recreation participation.
- The Household Telephone Survey found that:
  - Supervising children on a playground (3rd), BBQ/Picnic (4th) and
    family outing with children (7th) were highly ranked activities by
    residents in parks and open spaces.
  - 91% of residents had visited a Leichhardt LGA park in the past 12
    months.
  - 63% of these users visited parks at least once per week.
  - 83% of residents rated the condition of parks as either very good or
    good.
  - 75% of residents rated the overall distribution of parks as either
    very good or good.
  - As a priority for Council in the future, the continued maintenance
    of parks (1st), provision of bike paths and walking trails (2nd) and
    improved provision of recreational facilities in parks (7th) were all
    highly ranked by residents as preferred sport, recreation and open
    space improvement projects.
- Most popular activities undertaken in parks and open space areas were
  walking/jogging, walking the dog and supervising children on
  playgrounds.
- Provision of public toilets and BBQ & picnic areas both received the
  lowest satisfactory rating by residents in the Park Users Survey when
### Issue Analysis

- **26%** of respondents in the Park Users Survey indicated that they regularly use parks for dog exercise (ranked 1st), whilst the comment that *dog restrictions are excessive* (11%) was the most popular feedback received from people in the Park Users Survey (equal with *improve public toilet facilities*).
- Throughout Australia, it is becoming increasingly more popular for Councils to provide secure “dog parks”, that is, enclosed areas set aside permanently for dog exercise, and which may also contain equipment for dog play (See Appendix 12).

### Discussion

- Good provision of open space areas is highly valued.
- Popular attributes of parks identified through community consultation are access to public toilets, provision of visitor facilities (e.g. BBQs, playgrounds, paths, seats, bins), sense of feeling secure (lighting, minimal shrub plantings) and accessibility (paths).
- Older adults especially require good access to well located, clean public toilets if their use increased use of open space is to be encouraged. Stand-alone, automated, unisex toilets which self clean are now becoming increasingly more popular with local government authorities as alternatives to the traditional public toilet block in parks. (Refer Appendix 13 for more information on Excelloos).
- As residential expansion occurs, an increase in publicly accessible open space will be required.
- The provision for new parks and open space areas in urban renewal projects and new residential developments needs to be carefully planned, and where appropriate, investigate possible inclusion of innovative features such as mazes, water play features and sculptures.
- Continue to engage local communities about what their preferences and aspirations are for their local parks, particularly during the planning for new/improved parks.
- Minimise the use of fences in/around parks, to retain a sense of open space, and to ensure maximal flexibility of use and access for the community.
- Provision of authorised areas for dog exercise in parks may cause some conflict between dog walkers and other park users, so finding the right balance for the provision of land to fully meet the needs of both dog walkers and other users (such as sporting groups) will continue to be a challenge for Council.
- A “dog park” has the potential to create a new and innovative recreation activity for the Leichhardt LGA, whilst at the same time providing some relief to the “conflict” between people exercising their dogs, and other park users. Any new dog park will result in the partial alienation of some open space, and would have to be sited in a location with sufficient buffers to adjoining residences and businesses (noise from barking dogs). Possible site options include:
  - King George Park.
  - Mort Bay Park.
  - Eastern edge of Pioneers Memorial Park (along Derbyshire Road, adjacent to Sydney Secondary College).

### Possible Way Forward

- Council needs to continue to adequately resource the Strategic Environmental Planning Unit and Parks Maintenance Unit to ensure the high standards of park planning, development and maintenance continues.
- Prepare park master plans/Plans of Management for those open space areas yet to have an endorsed plan, to guide their future upgrade and improvement, with particular emphasis on the provision of family recreation facilities.
- Accelerate the implementation of endorsed park management plans, particularly those elements of master plans which will deliver improved...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Analysis</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>family recreation areas.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Undertake a Public Toilet Strategy whereby the current provision, distribution and condition of public toilets is assessed, and a strategy developed for their improved provision and distribution.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Investigate the establishment of a new dog park(s) in the Leichhardt LGA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong support for improved provision of recreation facilities and services for young people (15 - 24 years)</td>
<td><strong>Research / Consultation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The number of young people in the Leichhardt LGA in 2001 (estimated 5,200) as a proportion of the total population is lower than the average for all of Sydney.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The number of young people in the Leichhardt LGA as a proportion of the total population is likely to remain relatively constant in the forecast period to 2011, from which point it may decline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Research has identified that there are high numbers of young adults in the Leichhardt LGA who have a preference for participating in unstructured recreation activities, such as informal sporting activities, skating, and “hanging out” in parks to socialise, rather than participating in organised sporting activities. Many of these activity options are currently located outside of the Leichhardt LGA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• There is support from Leichhardt LGA residents to provide appropriate recreation facilities and services for young people (provision of places/activities for young people was the 8th ranked sport, recreation and open space improvement project by residents in the Household Telephone Survey).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• There is an identified lack of available indoor programmable space in the Leichhardt LGA suitable for young people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Discussion</strong></td>
<td>• There is one skate park, a quarter pipe, and an old concrete ramp in the LGA, with the latter two facilities only allowing limited skating experiences. Sufficient demand exists for a new and/or upgraded skate facility(ies).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• There are several informal recreation areas (2 basketball courts, two half basketball courts, and several cricket practice nets) distributed throughout the LGA, as well as the Balmain PCYC, but additional informal recreation facilities should be planned for with park upgrades (there was demand for these identified in consultation with young people).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Planned new facilities include a regional skate park at Leichhardt Park, a half basketball court at Mort Bay Park, and a new Youth Activity Zone at Elkington Park (to replace the existing quarter-pipe).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Services/programs/activities suitable for young people are restricted to holiday programs, Youth Week, the limited program at Martin Hall, Leichhardt, and the activities at the Balmain PCYC (albeit restricted to members and/or paying customers).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• For teenagers and young adults a range of unstructured play options are required. Consider installation of older aged playgrounds, i.e. equipment in which people can hang in or sit around, and informal sporting facilities such as golf practice cages, cricket practice nets, a climbing wall, and tennis rebound walls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• All young people and youth service providers identified a strong need for new indoor community recreation space for the Leichhardt LGA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Venues for recreation by young people should be located close to public transport and/or be geographically evenly distributed throughout the LGA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Possible Way Forward</strong></td>
<td>• Endorse the proposed regional skate facility identified in the PoM for Leichhardt Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Endorse the proposed Youth Activity Zone at Elkington Park (including new skate area).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Endorse the proposed new basket/netball court at Mort Bay Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Identify other options for providing/improving outdoor recreation spaces.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Issue

suitable for young people, with options to include:
- Installation of teenage play equipment at 36th Battalion Reserve, Marr Reserve, and Elkington Park (as part of the proposed Youth Activity Zone).
- Installation of a combined cricket net and golf practice cage at Easton Park.
- Installation of a golf practice cage at Birchgrove Park (adjacent to the existing single tennis court).

- Develop new indoor recreation space within the Leichhardt LGA and provide opportunities for young people to participate in formal recreation programs organised by service providers and/or Council, and in low-cost / free recreational play activities, such as informal sport ("drop-in").
- Ensure involvement of older teenagers and young adults in the planning and design of new/upgraded recreation facilities and spaces for young people.

### Research / Consultation

- The Leichhardt LGA does not have a large multipurpose Council-owned indoor recreation centre.
- There are 3 Council-owned community/neighbourhood centres (Hannaford Centre, Lilyfield CC and Annandale CC), each with some limitations in their design, size, accessibility and condition in relation to their capacity to accommodate the broad community recreation needs of many target groups.
- The Balmain PCYC, whilst community managed, does not have adequate space and programming options to accommodate the broad community recreation needs of many target groups.
- There are other public indoor community recreation facilities available within the Leichhardt LGA, however, these can generally be described as large halls or meeting spaces with adjoining kitchen facilities, which again are limited in their capacity to accommodate the broad community recreation needs of many target groups.
- There is also no public indoor sports centre.
- The Household Telephone Survey found that there was low current participation by adults and children in indoor recreation and sporting activities when compared to average participation levels across NSW, suggesting a possible latent demand. The survey did not identify support for the provision of an indoor sports centre.
- The development of a 'new indoor sports centre' was the 3rd ranked future sport, recreation and open space project identified by residents who took part in the Active Fun Day Survey.
- There was also support for access to indoor, flexible, community recreation space identified during the consultation with residents and specific target groups (young people, older adults, and people with a disability).
- There is a general trend towards increased utilisation of indoor centres for recreation, fitness and selected sports, mainly due to:
  - Personal safety concerns that some people have (especially females) for recreating outdoors.
  - The ability of indoor centres to provide a controlled and constant environment when compared to outdoors.
  - The number and range of "socially-based" sports competitions (such as netball) being offered indoors, when compared to traditional club-based activities conducted on outdoor courts/fields.

### Discussion

- The lack of indoor sports courts appears to have restricted the growth and development of specific sports at the local level, when compared to other LGAs of similar characteristics. Such sports include badminton, volleyball, basketball, netball and indoor soccer, and also indoor sporting opportunities for people with a disability.
### Issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Any new indoor space which comprises sports courts and/or a large auditorium sized area will improve the current suite of indoor community recreation facilities available in the Leichhardt LGA, thereby providing more flexible alternatives for service providers and recreation groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Where a dedicated user group (such as an association and/or sports club) or ‘anchor’ tenant is available at an indoor centre, the economic viability of the indoor centre will improve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The provision of a new indoor community recreation centre will provide an opportunity to:</td>
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</table>

### Possible Way Forward

- Develop a new multi-court indoor sport and recreation centre in the Leichhardt LGA (or two 1-2 court centres, with one north and one south of the City West Link).
- Undertake a detailed financial analysis of the development and operation of any new multi-court indoor sport and recreation centre, and an investigation into possible site options, including Rail Corridor and Harbour Foreshore.
- Actively engage potential funding partners and other stakeholders, such as schools, other Government Agencies, the private sector, and peak sporting associations.

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The following analysis of the provision of an all-weather synthetic hockey field is how the issue was presented in the draft report which was placed on Public Exhibition. The “Possible Way Forward” for this issue has subsequently been modified following feedback and input during the Public Exhibition period (refer Appendix 6 and the Council Resolution on page (i) of this report.

### Provision of an all-weather synthetic hockey field within the LGA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research / Consultation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Hockey is a sport with a traditional low participation base, however, registration numbers and demand for hockey in Sydney are stable – this is consistent with State participation of 0.9% in 2001 and 0.8% in 2003.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Glebe District Hockey Club increased its membership from 375 people in 2002 to 400 in 2004. There was increase in both junior and senior membership in this time, suggesting there is a sustainable trend of good transition from junior to senior ranks (not evident in some sports). There was also an increase in the participation of women.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Club is 75 years old in 2005 and has 8 men’s teams, 5 women’s teams, 10 junior teams and over 50 registered Minkey players. The Club conducts some junior training at Jubilee Oval, Glebe, however, has been unable to play competition matches locally since 2000 when turf pitches were no longer supported as viable venues by the Sydney Hockey Association.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Club lacks local access to a synthetic playing field for training and competition, compounded by the collapse of a previous plan to construct a synthetic pitch on the infield of the Harold Park Paceway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Club believes it’s membership is likely to further expand with the development of a locally-based synthetic field in the Inner West Region.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Issue

**Discussion**

- There is a history of in-principle support from the Leichhardt Council for the development of a new all-weather hockey field in the Leichhardt LGA for the Club following the collapse of a previous agreement to build a new pitch on the infield of the Harold Park Paceway (previously located within the Leichhardt LGA).
- Council has been constrained in its ability to address this issue, due to the lack of available open space within the LGA with capacity for conversion into a new sports ground.
- A subsequent investigation into a possible joint venture with Sydney Secondary College (Blackwattle Bay Campus) resulted in no suitable land being identified on Campus. More recently, the draft Leichhardt Park Plan of Management developed by Council, supported in principle “… a synthetic playing surface on Leichhardt Oval No. 2, subject to the requirements of current users”.
- A further resolution by Council on 23 December 2004 reaffirmed Council’s support:
  - “1. That Council reaffirms its support for an all weather hockey field on Oval No.2.
  - 3. That Council invite the Glebe District Hockey Club to submit a development application and this DA is expedited and reported to Council”.
- Discussions with current users of Leichhardt Oval No. 2 during the draft PoM exhibition period identified several constraints with the proposal to convert the existing turf field to a synthetic water-based playing surface (the ideal standard required for hockey). The key issues identified by user groups, included:
  - A synthetic “wet field” would be an unsuitable playing surface for competition and training by current users.
  - Likely displacement of teams currently utilising the field due to the likely usage profile of the field for hockey activities, and the lack of alternative available/suitable venues within the LGA (current profile of use by existing users shows the field is at capacity with rugby league and soccer activities during winter – the prime playing season for hockey).
  - Likely impact on parking in Leichhardt Park resulting from hockey participants/spectators.
  - Alienation of open space through fencing off the field – a necessary requirement to firstly ensure the activity can be safely played in the vicinity of other activities being undertaken in the park by people, and secondly, to protect the playing surface from unauthorised use which may lead to damage/vandalism.
- Further, the Department of Lands (site owner) has identified 13 issues/concerns in relation to the draft PoM proposal to convert Leichhardt Oval No. 2 to a synthetic playing surface (refer letter dated 25 July 2005).
- Although the current draft Leichhardt Park PoM has recommended that Oval No. 2 be developed into an all-weather hockey field, an alternative site clearly needs to be identified for the reasons outlined above, as well as:
  - The impact on current broad community use of the site for activities such as informal sport, rest and relaxation, dog walking, personal exercise activities, etc, that will result from the alienation of the open space.
  - The increased number of vehicle movements into and out of Leichhardt Park that will result from the new field (due to the expected high use most days of the week) and the impact this will have on the already constrained Park access system.
- Two possibilities for an alternate site for hockey other than Leichhardt Oval No. 2 - Lambert Park and Callan Park - were assessed at a “high level” during this study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Analysis</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>• Discussions with current users of Leichhardt Oval No. 2 during the draft PoM exhibition period identified several constraints with the proposal to convert the existing turf field to a synthetic water-based playing surface (the ideal standard required for hockey). The key issues identified by user groups, included:</td>
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<td>• Further, the Department of Lands (site owner) has identified 13 issues/concerns in relation to the draft PoM proposal to convert Leichhardt Oval No. 2 to a synthetic playing surface (refer letter dated 25 July 2005).</td>
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<td>- The impact on current broad community use of the site for activities such as informal sport, rest and relaxation, dog walking, personal exercise activities, etc, that will result from the alienation of the open space.</td>
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<td>- The increased number of vehicle movements into and out of Leichhardt Park that will result from the new field (due to the expected high use most days of the week) and the impact this will have on the already constrained Park access system.</td>
</tr>
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<td>• Two possibilities for an alternate site for hockey other than Leichhardt Oval No. 2 - Lambert Park and Callan Park - were assessed at a “high level” during this study.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analysis</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• In relation to Lambert Park, the development of a new all-weather synthetic hockey pitch at this site would necessitate the relocation of APIA Leichhardt to another site. The possible co-location of APIA Leichhardt with the Wests Tigers at Leichhardt Oval was investigated, however, following meetings with representatives from both organisations, it was concluded that this option is not viable due to a range of issues which could ultimately affect the ongoing viability of both groups as elite sports clubs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Whilst some constraints exist with the development of a hockey field in Callan Park, a preliminary investigation of site options has identified the western edge of the existing open space area off Glover Street as a possibility. The constraints on developing a new all-weather synthetic hockey pitch in Callan Park include:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>− Council does not own the land (Crown land).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>− Potential for some or all of the existing open space areas on the site not being available for development into active/passive recreation areas, but if available, there are potentially more urgent uses as new areas to support active sport (as outlined in Section 13.2.3 and 13.2.4).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>− A hockey field will be required to be fenced and public access will be restricted. (This issue would be mitigated if a fenced field was placed on an edge of Callan Park, such as Glover Street).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>− Alienation of any existing public open space area is not ideal in the Leichhardt LGA where there is currently a shortage of accessible open space.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A detailed investigation would need to be undertaken into the viability of the Glover Street site for hockey, if required, and its capacity to still accommodate other sporting uses on adjacent land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A financial analysis of the development and operation of a new regional “wet” hockey pitch needs to be undertaken by Council in conjunction with the Club, Hockey NSW, and other relevant stakeholders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Possible Way Forward</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Council should not support the development of a synthetic hockey pitch on Leichhardt Oval No. 2, unless the sports fields become available in Callan Park for those current users which would be displaced from Leichhardt Oval No. 2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Undertake a detailed financial analysis of the development and operation of a new regional “wet” hockey pitch.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Asset maintenance and renewal will continue to be a challenge for Council and sports clubs to address, due to competing demands on available funds

### Research / Consultation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Site inspections and feedback from clubs identified that some change amenity buildings do not appear to be of sufficient standard to meet the current needs of user groups, e.g. Birchgrove Park, King George Park, Callan Park and Leichhardt Oval No. 2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Some playing surfaces need to be upgraded to improve their condition and safety, e.g. Cohen Park tennis courts, and the basketball court at 36th Battalion Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The need to provide for new and improved recreation facilities and sporting facilities to meet community and stakeholder needs has been well documented in this report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Council has an annual Capital Works Program and a Community Funding Program which are the typical means by which funds are allocated for the improvement of existing facilities, and the development of new facilities/services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Discussion</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• There is evidence of ageing infrastructure and/or non-conforming facility provision at some sports grounds and recreation facilities throughout the LGA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• In most instances, the responsibility to improve and further develop sporting and recreational infrastructure is Council’s responsibility (particularly public sporting facilities, open space and park areas).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>• For leased facilities, the responsibility is generally a shared responsibility between the Council, tenant group, or other stakeholder(s).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Council’s capacity to fund sporting and recreation improvements is continually being challenged due to competition for funds from other Council projects and services. It is important that available funds for new/upgrade projects are utilised for projects with sustainable community benefit, or which respond to projects with demonstrable community need.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The consultation with some groups identified a desire for a more transparent, equitable and effective funding scheme for the development of sporting and recreation projects.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Possible Way Forward**

• A draft *Recreation Facility Development Funding Framework* has been prepared for consideration by Council (see Appendix 15).

• The Framework includes a set of criteria for assessing Capital Works projects and also a suggested weighting system to enable Council to prioritise projects.

The outcomes of this detailed analysis of key issues and the preceding demand assessment of specific sports form the basis of the *Leichhardt Council Recreation Plan* (see next Section). Feedback and input received from the community during the Public Exhibition period (refer Appendix 16) has also informed the *Recreation Plan*. 
14. LEICHHARDT COUNCIL RECREATION PLAN

From issues raised and research conducted, the Leichhardt Council Recreation Plan has been formulated utilising the following planning elements:

- Vision (or “Policy Statement”).
- Core Values.
- Principles.
- Key Objectives.
- Implementation Plan.

The details for each element follow.


The Vision for the planning, management and delivery of recreation services in the Leichhardt LGA is ……

“Leichhardt Council, predominantly through the leadership of the Strategic Environmental Planning Unit, shall contribute to residents achieving a high level of physical and mental well-being by ensuring there are equitable and accessible opportunities for residents of all ages, skill levels, cultures and abilities to participate in a diverse range of recreation and sporting pursuits”.

14.2. Core Values

The following Core Values for the Recreation Plan will be fundamental to the delivery of recreation services in the Leichhardt LGA. The Core Values are:

Community
We are committed to ensuring the community participates in and values recreation activity.

Partnership
We will work in partnership with the community to make decisions and deliver recreational services.

Planning
Decisions will be supported and justified by sound planning.

Integrity
We will ensure that the highest ethical standards in decision-making and service delivery are maintained.

Management
We will be as open as possible about all of the decisions and actions we take.

Quality Customer Service
We will strive to continually improve our service standards.

Sustainability
We will treat economic, environmental and social issues together from the outset in all our decisions.

Leadership
We will promote and support these Values through leadership, and by example.
14.3. Principles

The following Principles underpin the Recreation Plan:

1. Council will aim to provide a diverse range of accessible open space settings, and recreation facilities and services across the LGA.

2. Council will take a planned approach for the delivery of recreation services.

3. Council acknowledges that it has a responsibility for the provision of the infrastructure at public sporting and recreation facilities that is required for the “game to be played” (i.e. the playing surface/area, change amenities, and designated and safe access to/from the facility).

4. Council will aim to maintain playing surfaces to a level commensurate with the level of competition that the user group(s) participates in, and the level of use that the ground receives.

5. All new sporting and recreation facilities will provide access for people with a disability, and it shall be the aim of Council and user groups to have all existing facilities made accessible.

6. Council will support the provision of recreation facilities and services that cater for both regional and local level needs.

7. Council will provide recreation facilities and services, and allocate resources equitably according to age, gender, skill level, cultural background and ability.

8. Council will endeavour to encourage the community into recreational activities for the health, well-being and social benefits they provide.

9. Open space settings, and recreation facilities and services will provide safe and supportive environments for participants.

10. Council will provide recreation facilities which maximise shared usage and flexibility to meet changing community needs and aspirations.

11. A collaborative and partnership approach with community groups, government agencies, and the private sector will facilitate the provision of recreation facilities and services in the Leichhardt LGA.

14.4. Key Objectives

The Key Objectives of the Leichhardt Council Recreation Plan that will support achievement and delivery of the Vision for recreation services in the Leichhardt LGA are:

A. Provide a range of open space settings, and recreation facilities and opportunities.

B. Provide well-used and relevant open space areas and recreation facilities.

C. Encourage and support community involvement in sustainable club and facility management and development.
D. Facilitate diverse recreation program development (by either Council or external providers).

E. Provide effective management, support and resources.

14.5. Implementation Plan

Each Key Objective comprises of a number of Strategies for action and implementation over the period of the Recreation Plan.

Each Strategy has been prioritised for implementation, where:

- **High Priority** = 1 – 3 years.
- **Medium Priority** = 4 - 6 years.
- **Low Priority** = 7 - 10 years.

*Important Notes:*

The Implementation Plan does not commit any organisation to a responsibility for funding allocated projects. Commitment to, and allocation of, funds to particular projects will be determined following an analysis of the capacity of various organisations to provide required funds, an assessment of competing demands, and a clear understanding of priorities.

It must be recognised that depending on the scale and likely impact of selected projects and initiatives outlined in the Implementation Plan, further detailed and specific investigation of some recommendations and projects may be required.
### 14.6. Strategic Objective # 1

**Provide a Range of Open Space Settings, and Recreation Facilities and Opportunities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Priority</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Advocate for the retention of publicly-owned land located in the Leichhardt LGA for public recreation and sporting use:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Continue to monitor the status of the existing use of State Government-owned sites which have the potential to be developed in the long-term into sporting facilities or recreation areas for community use.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Continue to advocate to the State Government of the high need in the Leichhardt LGA for publicly-owned land of sufficient size to be developed into sporting fields.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Participate actively and energetically with the State Government in any planning process which assesses the long-term and strategic re-use of any large-scale State Government-owned sites within the Leichhardt LGA, including the land within the Rail Corridor, the land associated with the Rozelle / White Bay precinct, and the site of the former bus depot in Balmain Road (Leichhardt).</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Increase the availability of sporting facilities for those people/groups under provided for, and in areas of the LGA underprovided:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Redevelop the Cohen Park tennis courts (Annandale) into a shared 2 court netball and tennis facility, including floodlights.</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Upgrade the amenities block at Cohen Park to improve the change amenities, and where possible, provide a small clubroom for the Tigers Netball Club.</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Redevelop the existing single tennis court at Birchgrove Park into a shared netball and tennis court facility, with possible inclusion of floodlighting if the court is to be used as a netball training venue.</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Develop a new shared 2 court public netball and tennis court facility with floodlights in Pioneers Memorial Park (at a site adjacent to the Sydney Secondary College on the Derbyshire Road boundary), subject to detailed investigation of possible legislative constraints (or other alternate site).</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Install a combined cricket net and golf practice cage at Easton Park (Rozelle).</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) Install a golf practice cage at Birchgrove Park (adjacent to the existing single tennis court).</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Plan for new facility development where existing facility provision does not meet current and future demand:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Develop a new multi-court indoor sport and recreation centre in the Leichhardt LGA (or two 1-2 court centres, with one north and south of the City West Link).</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Undertake a detailed financial analysis of the development and operation of any new multi-court indoor sport and recreation centre, and an investigation into possible site options, including Rail Corridor, White Bay Precinct and Leichhardt Civic Precinct.</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Actively engage potential funding partners and other stakeholders, such as schools, other Government Agencies, the private sector, and peak sporting associations for joint development and operation of any new multi-court indoor sport and recreation centre.</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
d) Increase the provision of health & fitness areas at the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre (in accordance with the directions of the current master planning process). (If not possible, include a new public health & fitness gymnasium and associated facilities as part of any future new indoor sports and recreation centre for the Leichhardt LGA).

e) Redevelop the aquatic areas of the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre to both upgrade and increase the current provision of recreational and programmable water space (in accordance with the directions of the current master planning process).

f) Develop new leisure pool areas at the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre as a priority over the provision of other aquatic areas.
g) Extend the existing centre turf wicket area on Birchgrove Oval (from 4 to 6 pitches).
h) Develop 1 new soccer field at Waterfront Drive sports ground (Callan Park)
i) Develop the Glover Street sports ground (Callan Park) to incorporate two new rectangular sports fields, with shared use for cricket and baseball.
j) Relocate rugby league from King George Park to the proposed two new rectangular sports fields at the Glover Street sports grounds.
k) Relocate rugby league from Leichhardt No. 2 Oval to the proposed two new rectangular sports fields at the Glover Street sports grounds.
l) Relocate baseball from Blackmore Oval to the proposed new purpose-built and permanent diamond at the Glover Street sports ground.
m) Develop 1 new rectangular sports field at the Balmain Road sports ground (Callan Park) for use primarily as a soccer field, when the facilities become available.
n) Install a new cricket wicket (synthetic surface) at King George Park (to enable cricket to co-locate with little athletics), pending relocation of rugby league.

4. Provide for emerging sports and activities:

   a) Develop a new “wet” hockey pitch on Leichhardt Oval No. 2.
   b) Undertake a detailed financial analysis of the development and operation of an all-weather synthetic hockey pitch.
   c) Establish a new AFL oval at Waterfront Drive sports ground (Callan Park) with shared use with soccer and cricket.
   d) Investigate the practicality of developing a new all-weather six-a-side soccer facility in the Leichhardt LGA.

5. Have input into the planning phase for new recreation facility developments located on education sites:
(such as the proposed new field for Sydney Secondary College (Leichhardt Campus))

   a) Establish links with all Leichhardt LGA schools for the purpose of information sharing about current and future recreation facility developments both within and outside of education sites.
   b) Advocate the recreational planning expertise available in-house at Council, and the willingness of Council officers to become involved in the future planning of new recreational facility developments on education sites.
   c) Advocate on behalf of community sports clubs for access to appropriate new/upgraded recreation facilities on education sites.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. Improve the provision and quality of existing passive recreation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>facilities and open space to encourage increased use:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Continue to implement endorsed park Plans of Management and master</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plans, particularly those elements of master plans which will deliver</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>improved family recreation areas.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Prepare Plans of Management for those open space areas yet to</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have an endorsed plan to guide their future upgrade and improvement,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with particular emphasis on the provision of family recreation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>facilities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Continue the development of the integrated off-road and on-road</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bicycle and linear network to facilitate recreational cycling,</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walking and jogging.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Review the Leichhardt Council Bicycle Plan (1996) to assess the</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>impact of changing community needs, Government policy, the provision</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of new/improved recreation facility development, and the development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of linkages in neighbouring LGAs and Regional networks.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Promote the health and environmental benefits of cycling and</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walking.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) Enhance interpretation of trails and park features through signage</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and education to foster appreciation of specific open space areas.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g) Provide interpretive signage at appropriate locations in selected</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reserves to provide simple information in relation to their</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>environmental and heritage values (such as foreshore areas, Whites</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creek Valley Reserve, Leichhardt Park, Birchgrove Park and Illoura</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Continue the endorsed land acquisition program, and identify</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>potential new sites for purchase.</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Review and update the Leichhardt Open Space Strategy to reflect the</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>current changing nature of the LGA.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Prepare a Playground Strategy. (The Strategy should consider the</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>changing needs of residents/visitors, provision of a hierarchy of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>play spaces, increased diversity of play equipment, equitable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>distribution across the LGA, and provision of an “all abilities”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>playground).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
14.7. **Strategic Objective # 2**

**Provide Well Used and Relevant Open Space Areas and Recreation Facilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10. Upgrade the floodlighting at Blackmore Oval to enable increased use of the facilities at night for competition baseball.</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Continue to maximise the usage of Blackmore Oval by co-locating rugby league and rugby union activities in winter.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Upgrade the floodlighting at Birchgrove Oval to improve the safety and management of the use of the ground for sports training.</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Upgrade the quality of the playing surface and the training lights at Leichhardt Park No. 3.</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Continue to upgrade and maintain the Dawn Fraser Pool to ensure its continued operation.</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Assist clubs to promote and encourage participation in sport by females (particularly soccer, hockey and tennis).</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Minimise the use of fences in/around parks/reserves, to retain a sense of open space, and to ensure maximal flexibility of use and access for the community.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Undertake a Public Toilet Strategy (To assess the current provision, distribution and condition of public toilets, and to develop a strategic approach for their improved provision and distribution).</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Install teenage play equipment at 36th Battalion Reserve, Marr Reserve, and Elkington Park (as part of the proposed Youth Activity Zone).</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Develop a regional skate facility at Leichhardt Park (in accordance with the directions of the Leichhardt Park PoM).</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Continue to plan for the development of a Youth Activity Zone at Elkington Park (including a new skate area).</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Install a new basket/netball court at Mort Bay Park (in accordance with the directions of the Mort Bay Park PoM), with possible inclusion of floodlighting if the court is to be used as a netball training venue.</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Investigate the establishment of up to 2 new dog parks in the Leichhardt LGA, with possible sites being:</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- King George Park (northern precinct).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mort Bay Park.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Pioneers Memorial Park (along Derbyshire Road, adjacent to Sydney Secondary College).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Establish accessible, safe and appealing recreation and leisure facilities and spaces for people with a disability, by conducting an audit of existing sporting facilities and major parks, which should include an assessment of barriers such as accessible paths, parking areas, internal circulation capacities</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
24. Ensure affordable options are continued for people to participate in recreation activities, such as provision of free (unstructured) active recreation facilities in selected parks and open space areas, such as basketball half-courts, tennis rebound walls, bike paths, and golf practice cages.

25. Advocate the benefits to older adults of engaging in active lifestyles, by:
   a) Undertaking a promotional and awareness campaign informing older adults of the benefits of participating in an active lifestyle.
   b) Informing medical practitioners and other key stakeholders (e.g. as to the availability of health and fitness facilities and other “active” programs which might be suitable as options for treating/preventing some medical conditions of patients).
### 14.8. Strategic Objective # 3

**Encourage and Support Community Involvement in Sustainable Club and Facility Management and Development**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26. Consolidate the viability of existing sports clubs and associations, by:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Encouraging all groups to prepare strategic business plans.</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Providing and facilitating club training and professional development seminars for club volunteers in ‘best practice’ club administration.</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Establishing a target of at least one “junior” representative (U/18 years) to be an active member on the general committee of those clubs whose membership typically includes young people (junior clubs).</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. Increase the number of sports development programs and initiatives across the LGA, for example:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Develop a “Schools-Clubs Link Program”. <em>(This program is based on sports club personnel being available to local schools to conduct coaching clinics in schools, with the end benefit to the sports club being that the school children become familiar with, and then aligned with their local club (from where the coach belongs)).</em></td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Identify leading (successful) club administrators in the LGA, and enlist their support to participate in a “Club Administrator Mentoring Program”.</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Facilitate the organisation of coaching and umpire accreditation courses.</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. Increase voluntary involvement in the administration and management of sports clubs, by:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Promoting volunteerism in sports management through a one-off promotional campaign.</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Initiating a regular (say once monthly) information article in the local media introducing a club volunteer and describing his/her contribution and how the involvement has been mutually beneficial to both volunteer and club/group.</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Assisting clubs to have in place appropriate management structures to ensure all of the work is not left to a small few, and to ensure appropriate succession planning considerations are in place (should be incorporated into a Club Business Plan).</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Introducing a Council-sponsored annual recognition program for club volunteers and administrators.</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 14.9. Strategic Objective # 4

#### Facilitate Diverse Recreation Program Development (by either Council or External Providers)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29. Facilitate the establishment of an AusKick centre within the Leichhardt LGA (possible location being the sports field at Sydney Secondary College - Balmain Campus).</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

30. Ensure appropriate recreational programs and services are available for people with a disability, and/or their carers by:

- a) Continuing to support initiatives from Regional Agencies for the development and implementation of programs for people with a disability, particularly where access might be required to Council-owned/managed buildings or outdoor areas to conduct such programs.  
  - Ongoing
- b) Preparing and implementing a new policy (an “Inclusive Charter”) to encourage and support sports and recreation groups to provide inclusive recreation participation opportunities.  
  - M
- c) Facilitating improved linkages between disabilities’ service providers and facility managers (e.g. pools) and sports club representatives.  
  - H
- d) Continuing to facilitate training and education sessions for facility managers and club administrators in the area of dealing with people with a disability.  
  - Ongoing

31. Facilitate increased opportunities for older adults to access sport and recreation facilities and programs, by:

- a) Assisting existing locally based walking programs to expand, and by establishing neighbourhood walking programs in areas of the LGA where they do not currently exist.  
  - H
- b) Encouraging new, low impact health and well-being recreation activities (such as Tai Chi) in areas of the LGA where they do not currently exist.  
  - M
- c) Ensuring key recreation facilities are safe and secure for older adults (security lighting, car park provision, access into and around facilities).  
  - Ongoing
- d) Assessing the capacity of existing community and neighbourhood centres to accommodate older adult groups for informal recreation activities at affordable costs.  
  - M
- e) Encouraging sporting clubs/associations to start-up “seniors” or “veterans” teams and competitions.  
  - L

32. Increase the range of recreation facilities and activities available for young people by:

- a) Continuing to consult with teenagers and young adults to facilitate input into improving opportunities for young people to participate in unstructured recreation activities.  
  - Ongoing
- b) Providing new/upgraded skate facilities at Leichhardt Park (in accordance with endorsed PoM).  
  - H
- c) Providing new/upgraded skate facilities at Elkington Park (in accordance with endorsed PoM).  
  - M
- d) Providing “hang-out” spaces in selected parks, such as 36th Battalion Park, Marr Reserve and Elkington Reserve.  
  - L
- e) By providing new indoor recreation space for both informal and formal sporting and recreation activities.  
  - H
## 14.10. Strategic Objective # 5

**Provide Effective Management, Support and Resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33. Adopt as Council policy, the Vision, Core Values, Principles, Key Objectives and Strategic Directions outlined in the <em>Leichhardt Recreation Plan</em> report.</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. Adopt as Council policy the proposed <em>Recreation Facility Development Funding Framework</em> as outlined in Appendix 15 of the study report.</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35. Undertake a review every 3 years of the allocations procedures, booking systems, management protocols, and fees and charges for sporting and recreation facilities managed by the Strategic Environmental Planning Unit.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36. On a frequency of minimum every 5 years, monitor the effectiveness of the current provision of facilities and services against changing sport and recreation needs, and patterns of participation.</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. Ensure Council’s recreation and open space planning staff are at the leading edge of industry development and service delivery, by:</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Allocating necessary resources to allow recreation staff to subscribe to relevant industry journals, and to attend professional training and development seminars/conferences/courses.</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Encouraging staff to informally network with colleagues from other LGAs and with industry service providers to facilitate discussion and information sharing on recreational issues.</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38. Review the effectiveness of the current promotional information available for residents and visitors in relation to the recreation and leisure opportunities in the Leichhardt LGA, which should include details of accessibility.</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39. Establish links between Councils’ website and the website of user groups and relevant other community organisations (public and private groups) to improve the promotional opportunities for groups.</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40. Maximise external funding opportunities, by:</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Identifying all external funding bodies and collecting information on their respective programs.</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Maintaining a database of these funding programs, and in a timely manner distributing information about upcoming grants to clubs, associations, service providers and community groups.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Assisting clubs and community groups to prepare funding submissions to external agencies.</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41. Encourage sustainable turf management and maintenance practices, by:</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Researching options for sub-surface irrigation systems (where needed) and the re-use of storm water for irrigation.</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Introducing drought-resistant turf species to selected sports fields and high-use public open space areas to improve their long-term sustainability and use, and to reduce Council’s total water costs.</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42. Collect an annual statement from all user groups utilising Council-owned/managed facilities, which provides as a minimum, the membership profile of the group, the key activities and events of the group, and a list of</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
any facility and operational issues which require consideration by Council.

43. Undertake an independent assessment of the condition of all sports amenity buildings and associated infrastructure.

44. Pending the outcome of the Condition Audit, establish a rolling program to upgrade the change areas, umpire/referee rooms, canteen and storage areas in existing amenity blocks (particularly King George Park, Easton Park, Birchgrove Park, and Cohen Park).
15. **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

Leichhardt Council has the following options for sourcing funds to assist with the implementation of the *Leichhardt Council Recreation Plan*. Where grants programs are marked with a # symbol, additional background information is available in Appendix 11.

15.1. **Active Recreation and Sport**

**Council Sources**

- Council Capital Works Program.
- Recurrent Council allocations (grants programs for service initiatives and innovations).
- Section 94 Developer Contributions.
- User Fees and Charges.

**External Sources**

- # NSW Department of Sport & Recreation:
  - Capital Assistance Program.
  - Regional Sports Facilities Program.
  - Active Council Grants Scheme.
  - Active Communities Grants.
- Private Sponsorships and Grants.

15.2. **Passive Recreation & Open Space**

**Council Sources**

- Council Capital Works Program.
- Recurrent Council allocations (grants programs for service initiatives and innovations).
- Section 94 Developer Contributions.
- User Fees and Charges.

**External Sources**

- # NSW Department of Sport & Recreation:
  - Capital Assistance Program.
  - Regional Sports Facilities Program.
- # Departments of Environment and Heritage and Agriculture, Fisheries& Forestry:
  - Envirofund-Bushcare.
  - Rivercare.
  - Biodiversity.
- # Road & Traffic Authority:
  - Regional Cycleway Network.
- National Landcare.
- Private Sponsorships and Grants.
16. CONCLUSION

This recreation planning study commenced in 2004 and has identified a range of issues, opportunities and subsequent strategies for the future provision of sports and recreation facilities and services across the Leichhardt LGA for the next 10 years, and beyond.

The Leichhardt Council Recreation Plan provides Council and other stakeholders with the necessary planning direction to build upon the existing range of sport and recreation facilities and open space settings, and to improve efficiencies. The progressive implementation of the Plan will enable Council to continue to meet the changing needs and aspirations of residents and community groups.

The Recreation Plan will ensure a continued focussed approach is taken by Council in relation to the provision and management of recreational resources across the LGA, and will contribute to the effective delivery of appropriate infrastructure, facilities and services to increase participation by residents in recreation activity.
APPENDIX 1

Leichhardt LGA Demographic Profile
Leichhardt LGA Demographic Profile

The demographic profile of the Leichhardt LGA was reviewed to identify population characteristics and trends which may be important considerations when preparing a municipal recreation plan.

The demographic information was obtained from the following sources:

- Council’s Senior Strategic Planner.

Current Population

In 2001, Leichhardt had a population of 48,705, which was an increase of 9.7% from the previous Census period in 1996 when the population was 44,408 people.

In the 1996 and 2001 Census, the median age of people in the Leichhardt LGA was 35 years. The median age for all of Sydney was slightly younger at 34 years.

The highest proportion of people living in the Leichhardt LGA in 2001 was 30-34 years (13.1%), followed by those aged 25-29 years (11.6%). The age structure of the Leichhardt LGA is slightly different to that of all of Sydney with a higher proportion of its population in the middle age range (25-39 years) and older age range (50-59 years) whereas Sydney has a higher proportion in the younger ages (0-19 years).
Country of Birth

A majority (64.2%) of the Leichhardt LGA residents were Australian-born, which is higher than all of Sydney at 61.4%, but is a slight decrease from 1996 (66.5%). Of those residents not born in Australia, the three main countries of birth were:

- United Kingdom (7.9% of the total population).
- New Zealand (3.6%).
- Italy (2.5%).

Income

The following table shows the median income for Leichhardt LGA residents/households compared to all of Sydney, and identifies that the Leichhardt LGA has a higher median income across all areas measured (individual, family and household).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Leichhardt</th>
<th>Sydney</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean household size</td>
<td>2.4 people</td>
<td>2.7 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median weekly individual income</td>
<td>$700-799</td>
<td>$400-499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median weekly family household income</td>
<td>$1,500-1,999</td>
<td>$1,000-1,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median weekly total household income</td>
<td>$1,200-1,499</td>
<td>$800-999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Median Income - Leichhardt LGA vs Sydney

No. of Motor Vehicles and Method of Travel

Over 13.6% of all Leichhardt LGA dwellings do not have a motor vehicle, compared to 10.1% for all of Sydney, indicating that Leichhardt residents may rely more heavily on the use of public transport.

Population Change and Expected Growth

The Leichhardt LGA population is projected to increase by approximately 7% to 52,050 people by 2011, being an additional 3,347 people.

The largest area of growth is projected to occur in the 35 - 44 year age group (increasing by 2,110 people) and the 55 - 64 year age group, with an increase of 1,417 people. The only age group projected to decline is the 50 - 54 age group, where a decrease of 79 people (or 0.05%) is predicted.

The location of the population growth is not restricted to any one residential subdivision, but rather a number of urban renewal and in-fill developments throughout the LGA.
Variances Between Suburbs

The following table notes the population for each suburb of the Leichhardt LGA, and shows that Leichhardt (25.9%) and Balmain have the highest number of people.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suburb</th>
<th>2001 No.</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>% Growth 1996-2001</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annandale</td>
<td>8,228</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>+4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balmain (inc Balmain East and Birchgrove)</td>
<td>13,892</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>+26.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leichhardt</td>
<td>12,608</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>+4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilyfield</td>
<td>7,028</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>+1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rozelle</td>
<td>6,949</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>+0.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>48,705</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>9.7%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population by Suburb of Leichhardt LGA

The following information provides a snap-shot of the key demographic characteristics for each suburb:

- Balmain experienced growth in all cohorts between 1996-2001, with the highest growth in the 55+ years cohorts.

- The highest growth in the 0-14 years age cohort between 1996-2001 occurred in Balmain, followed by Lilyfield and Annandale, whilst there was negative growth in Leichhardt and only small growth in Rozelle.

- Annandale (72%) and Lilyfield (71%) have the highest proportion of Australian-born residents, whilst Balmain has the lowest (64%).
APPENDIX 2

Benefits of Participation in Recreation and Sport
Benefits of Participation in Recreation and Sport

The health and fitness benefits attained through regular participation in sport and recreation activities have been well researched and documented. A key benefit from regular participation in physical activity is a reduction in the onset of cardiovascular disease. Cardiovascular disease is a major health and economic burden for Australia, and is the country’s greatest health problem (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2000). Recent estimates of annual costs to the health system from cardiovascular disease were at $3.7 billion, accounting for approximately 40% of deaths in 1998 (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2000).

Recently, recreation participation has also been linked to the prevention and treatment of other physical and mental illnesses, and as a useful intervention strategy in reducing anti-social behaviour.

Mental Health

At any one time, mental health problems will affect one in four of the Australian population. Particularly at risk are the young and old, the socially isolated and new mothers.

It is estimated that $1.31 billion is spent annually in Australia on specialised mental health services and that each year about 2.9% of Australians experience a serious mental illness (approximately 500,000 Australians) and up to 22% of the adult population experience some form of mental health problem within any one year. At least 10-15% of young people are affected at any one time.

Research into mental health continues to link physical health with mental health. Participation in sport or recreational programs provides opportunities for socialising, building friendship networks, reducing social isolation and enhancing community well being. This ultimately leads to improved physical and mental health.

Civic participation (or volunteerism) has also been shown to be equally as important as participation in activities and recreational pursuits in promoting improved wellbeing. Volunteers stand out from other workers in having the highest levels of wellbeing. Mostly aged over 55 years, they enjoy high levels of satisfaction with their lives, work and leisure, health, sense of community connection and religion or spirituality. Many opportunities are available for volunteerism through the provision of recreation services.

Well-Being Through Open Space

Around the world there is a growing acceptance of the strong link between a healthy parks system that is accessible to everybody, and a healthy society. It has been documented that people need encouragement to see easy options that will contribute to their well-being. Along with the obvious benefits of open space for organised physical pursuits (e.g. sport), parks are also refuges from urban stress, places for families to get

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29 Source: “Together We Can Do Better” website.
30 Source: Ibid.
together for picnics, spots for people to enjoy numerous outdoor activities, and for children to safely explore the natural environment. Almost everyone’s physical and mental well-being is improved by visiting a park

Parks Victoria recently instigated an extensive promotional campaign espousing the benefits of regularly visiting and utilising parks. The clear and simple slogan Healthy Parks Healthy People implies that the environmental health of parks results in a healthy community and that spending active recreation time in a well cared for park environment leads to greater health and fitness of both individuals and society. Parks have enormous untapped health potential as they provide an opportunity for people to re-establish and maintain their health in a holistic manner. The components of health which parks can contribute to, include:

- Physical.
- Mental.
- Spiritual.
- Social.
- Environmental.

Council and other stakeholders have an opportunity to further promote the community’s use of the open space areas available within the Leichhardt LGA by supporting a broad health message in future promotional campaigns and related brochures.

Anti-Social Behaviour and Recreation Participation

Sport and physical activity programs provide an effective vehicle through which personal and social development in young people can be positively influenced. Sport has been shown to be an effective intervention strategy in reducing anti-social behaviour in some young people, with the key aspects being to reduce boredom in youth, and to decrease the amount of unsupervised leisure time.

Preventing and reducing boredom is important due to its reported links to depression, distractibility and loneliness

Social

Participation in sport and recreation activities can provide the following social benefits:

- Improving interpersonal skills.
- Establishing and nurturing satisfying relationships.
- Greater acceptance of, and respect for, differences in others.
- Becoming more adaptable and attuned to social change.
- An enhanced sense of belonging to a community.

Socially aware and confident people add to a community’s social capital, which underpins residents’ ability to deal with difficulties and support fellow residents.

Emotional

Emotional benefits gained through participation in sport and recreation activities can include the following:

- Enhanced self-esteem.
- Greater confidence in unfamiliar situations.
- Positive changes in attitude and mood.
- A willingness to express personal feelings, ideas and concerns.
- A heightened sense of belonging, which enhances people's ability to trust and form meaningful relationships.
APPENDIX 3

Leichhardt Sports Club Membership Trends
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity / Club</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2004 season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aquatic</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balmain Swimming, Water Polo and Lifesaving Club</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>32 36 40 28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leichhardt Swimming Club **</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100 100 160 40</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Aquatic Total</strong></td>
<td>304</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>132 136 200 68</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Baseball</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wests Boomers Baseball Club</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>140 13 103 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Baseball Total</strong></td>
<td>135</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>140 13 103 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cricket</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTS Balmain Cricket Club</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>121 67 79 109</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balmain &amp; District Junior Cricket Club *</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>N/A 324 36 360 0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cricket Total</strong></td>
<td>541</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>445 103 439 109</td>
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<td><strong>Lawn Bowls</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Gladstone Park Bowling Club</td>
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<td>72</td>
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<td>547</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>577</td>
<td>329 248 2 575</td>
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<td>Balmain Bowling Club</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>315 135 22 428</td>
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<td><strong>Lawn Bowls Total</strong></td>
<td>922</td>
<td>982</td>
<td>1095</td>
<td>712 383 24 1071</td>
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<td><strong>Rugby League</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Leichhardt Juniors RLFC</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>137 3 115 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leichhardt Wanderers Junior LC **</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>N/A 153 17 68 102</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balmain Tigers Rugby League Club</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65 0 0 65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balmain PCYC **</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>N/A 35 0 35 0</td>
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<td><strong>Rugby League Total</strong></td>
<td>385</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>390 20 218 192</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Running / Walking</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney Striders Running Club</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>N/A 300 100 0 400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sri Chinmoy Marathon Group</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balmain Tigers Little Athletics Centre</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>N/A 200 200 400 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balmain Association</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>N/A 38 112 0 150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Running / Walking Total</strong></td>
<td>1060</td>
<td>1040</td>
<td>1050</td>
<td>538 412 400 550</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Soccer</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leichhardt Saints Soccer Football Club</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>503</td>
<td>491</td>
<td>390 91 440 61</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melchester Rovers Football Club</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>N/A 42 0 0 42</td>
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<td>Balmain Tigers Soccer Club</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60 0 6 54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balmain Wanderers Soccer Club</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td>Balmain &amp; District Soccer Club</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>1150</td>
<td>1390</td>
<td>925 465 925 465</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leichhardt Tigers Soccer FC (Juniors) **</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>240 60 99 201</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leichhardt Tigers Soccer FC (Seniors) No data received</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Soccer Total</strong></td>
<td>1789</td>
<td>2076</td>
<td>2343</td>
<td>1717 616 1470 883</td>
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<td><strong>Tennis</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nth Western Suburbs Tennis Assoc</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>N/S N/S 184 276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tennis Total</strong></td>
<td>430</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>0 0 184 276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity / Club</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Trend next 5 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
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<td>------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Senior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glebe District Hockey Club</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>398</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balmain AFL</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tigers Netball Club</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>311</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balmain Terriers **</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rozelle Fencers</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leichhardt Community Basketball Club *</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balmain Rowing Club</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leichhardt Rowing Club</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>312</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balmain Sailing Club</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>229</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balmain Touch Football Association **</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leichhardt Bicycle Users Group **</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney Dragon Blades **</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Total</td>
<td>2366</td>
<td>2450</td>
<td>2564</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>7932</td>
<td>8349</td>
<td>8911</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** = Estimates only for 2002 and 2003
N/S = Not Stated, N/A = Not Applicable

- ** = Stable Membership
- = Increasing Membership
- = Decreasing Membership
APPENDIX 4

Sports and Recreation Facility Audit and Map
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserve</th>
<th>User Groups</th>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Council Owned / Managed Reserves (unless stated)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lilyfield</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leichhardt Park</strong></td>
<td>Stadium: Wests Tigers (NRL)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oval No. 2: Wests Tigers Rugby League Club, Balmain Tigers Rugby League Club, Leichhardt Tigers Soccer Club Oval No. 3: Leichhardt Tigers Soccer Club</td>
<td>1S</td>
<td>Play BBQ O 35 1 (residents only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2RL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 junior fields</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large passive park</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Part of Bay Run Course</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leichhardt Rowing Club</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Callan Park (State)</strong></td>
<td>Balmain District Soccer Club, Balmain Junior Cricket Club</td>
<td>1S</td>
<td>X X X X X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leichhardt Bowls Club (Private)</strong></td>
<td>Leichhardt Bowls Club</td>
<td>X X X X 2T X</td>
<td>1 X X X 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>William Stewart Park</strong></td>
<td>X X X X X X</td>
<td>Play BBQ X X</td>
<td>Part of Whites Creek Valley Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leichhardt</strong></td>
<td>Balmain Boomers Baseball, Leichhardt Wanderers Junior Rugby League Football Club, Balmain Rugby Club</td>
<td>X X 1RUL</td>
<td>Play BBQ X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blackmore Oval</strong></td>
<td>APIA Leichhardt Tigers (NSW Premier League)</td>
<td>1SL</td>
<td>Play BBQ X X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lambert Park</strong></td>
<td>X X X X X X</td>
<td>X X O X 1</td>
<td>Covered terraces along north side Social club/administration on south side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>36th Battalion Park</strong></td>
<td>X X X X X X</td>
<td>Play BBQ X X</td>
<td>Condition of basketball court is poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evan Jones Playground</strong></td>
<td>X X X X X X</td>
<td>Play BBQ X X</td>
<td>Condition of soccer field is poor Suitable for young junior cricket only Condition of tennis courts is poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annandale</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cohen Park</strong></td>
<td>Balmain District Soccer Club, Balmain Junior Cricket Club</td>
<td>1J</td>
<td>Play BBQ X X 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve</td>
<td>User Groups</td>
<td>Soccer Fields</td>
<td>Cricket Ovals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birchgrove</td>
<td>Balmain United Soccer Club, Balmain District Soccer Club, Balmain Wanderers Soccer Club (training only), Balmain Junior Rugby League Club, Balmain Junior Cricket Club, Balmain District Cricket Club, NW Tennis Association</td>
<td>2SL 1T 2RL X X</td>
<td>6SL 1E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birchgrove Park</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mort Bay Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>X X X X X X</td>
<td>Basketball Half-Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rozelle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King George Park</td>
<td>Balmain Little Athletics, Leichhardt Saints Soccer Club, Leichhardt Junior Rugby League Football Club</td>
<td>1SL X 1RL X X X</td>
<td>Athletics - 6 lane grass track - 2 shot put circles - 1 throwing cage Part of Bay Run Course Fitness Equipment Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Park</td>
<td>Balmain Wanderers Soccer Club (matches), Balmain Junior Cricket Club, Balmain District Soccer Club, Melchester Rovers Soccer Club</td>
<td>1SL 1S (junior) X X X X</td>
<td>X Play C X 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balmain</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punch Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>X X X X X 2PL</td>
<td>X Play X X 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gladstone Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>X X X X 1T X</td>
<td>Full Basketball Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elkington Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>X X X X X X</td>
<td>Dawn Fraser Pool Balmain Rowing Club Half Pipe Skate Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balmain PCYC</td>
<td>(Private)</td>
<td>X X X X X X</td>
<td>Indoor Multipurpose Court Boxing Ring Various Recreation Rooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balmain Bowling Club</td>
<td>(Private)</td>
<td>X X X X 2T X</td>
<td>X X X X X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 5

School Facilities Audit
## School Facilities Audit
### Leichhardt Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Sports Facilities</th>
<th>Available for Community Use Y / N</th>
<th>Current User Groups</th>
<th>Proposed New / Improved Facilities</th>
<th>Sports played externally</th>
<th>Facility used</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annandale North Public School</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>Various Sports</td>
<td>Cohen Park</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>2-3 per yr No room for sporting facilities on school grounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph: 9660 3972</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>removed</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>Bicentennial Park</td>
<td>1 per yr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>removed</td>
<td>Swimming - LTS</td>
<td>Leichhardt Pool</td>
<td>10-12 per yr</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>removed</td>
<td>Various Sports</td>
<td>Emmore Pool</td>
<td>1 per yr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>removed</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>Sydney Uni Gym &amp; Oval</td>
<td>20 per yr</td>
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<td>Athletics</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>removed</td>
<td>Cross Country</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>removed</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>removed</td>
<td>Cross Country</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>removed</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>
## School Facilities Audit

**Leichhardt Council**

### Available for Community Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Sports Facilities</th>
<th>Available for Community Use</th>
<th>Current User Groups</th>
<th>Proposed New / Improved Facilities</th>
<th>Sports played externally</th>
<th>Facility used</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orange Grove Public School</td>
<td>Multi-purpose outdoor court</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>Swimming - LTS, Swimming Carnival, Athletics, Athletics</td>
<td>Leichhardt Park, Aquatic Centre, Leichhardt Park, Aquatic Centre, Leichhardt Oval #2, King George Park</td>
<td>5-6 per yr</td>
<td>1 per yr</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>The school has installed removable rings on the outdoor court to combat vandalism.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rozelle Public School</td>
<td>Multi-purpose outdoor court (with netting over the top)</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>Swimming - LTS, Swimming Carnival, Various Sports, Athletics</td>
<td>Leichhardt Park, Aquatic Centre, King George Park</td>
<td>1 per yr</td>
<td>2 per week</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Friday afternoon sport has recently been disbanded.</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Brendan’s Public School</td>
<td>Multi-purpose outdoor court</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>Swimming - LTS, Swimming Carnival, Various Sports, Various Sports</td>
<td>Ermore Park, Aquatic Centre, Leichhardt Park, Aquatic Centre, Evans Jones Playground, Hillsby Park, Jubilee Park</td>
<td>10 per yr</td>
<td>1 per yr</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Leichhardt Park, Aquatic Centre, King George Park</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Columba's School</td>
<td>Multi-purpose outdoor court</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>Swimming - LTS, Swimming Carnival, Athletics</td>
<td>Tempo Pool, Enfield Pool, King George Park</td>
<td>8 per yr</td>
<td>1 per yr</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Leichhardt Park, Aquatic Centre, King George Park</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Fiaces School</td>
<td>Multi-purpose outdoor court</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Swimming - LTS, Swimming Carnival, Athletics</td>
<td>Tempo Pool, Enfield Pool, King George Park</td>
<td>8 per yr</td>
<td>1 per yr</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>War Memorial Park</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>School has large asphalt area that it used for sport and activities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sydney Secondary College</td>
<td>Soccer Field</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Balmain Girls Soccer</td>
<td></td>
<td>Swimming Carnival, Swimming Recreational, Rugby/Soccer/Touch, Cricket/Soccer, AFL</td>
<td>Leichhardt Park, Aquatic Centre, Dawn Fraser &amp; Drummoyne Pools, King George Park, Easton Park, Birchgrove Park, PCYC, Balmain, Balmain Bowling Club, Beam Park, Earlwood, Waterworth Park, Undercliffe, Gough Whitlam Oval, Tempe Reserve</td>
<td>1 per yr</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1/2 Soccer Field</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td></td>
<td>Swimming Carnival, Swimming Recreational, Rugby/Soccer/Touch, Cricket/Soccer, AFL</td>
<td>King George Park, Easton Park, Birchgrove Park, PCYC, Balmain, Balmain Bowling Club, Beam Park, Earlwood, Waterworth Park, Undercliffe, Gough Whitlam Oval, Tempe Reserve</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Indoor Multi-purpose court</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Dragon boat team, Church group, Bush dancing group</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td></td>
<td>Leichhardt Park, Aquatic Centre, Dawn Fraser &amp; Drummoyne Pools, King George Park, Easton Park, Birchgrove Park, PCYC, Balmain, Balmain Bowling Club, Beam Park, Earlwood, Waterworth Park, Undercliffe, Gough Whitlam Oval, Tempe Reserve</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outdoor Basketball court</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td></td>
<td>Swimming Carnival, Swimming Recreational, Rugby/Soccer/Touch, Cricket/Soccer, AFL</td>
<td>King George Park, Easton Park, Birchgrove Park, PCYC, Balmain, Balmain Bowling Club, Beam Park, Earlwood, Waterworth Park, Undercliffe, Gough Whitlam Oval, Tempe Reserve</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outdoor Netball court</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td></td>
<td>Swimming Carnival, Swimming Recreational, Rugby/Soccer/Touch, Cricket/Soccer, AFL</td>
<td>King George Park, Easton Park, Birchgrove Park, PCYC, Balmain, Balmain Bowling Club, Beam Park, Earlwood, Waterworth Park, Undercliffe, Gough Whitlam Oval, Tempe Reserve</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sydney Secondary College</td>
<td>Multi-purpose outdoor courts (2)</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>School has acquired land at the bus depot for development of a new rectangular field (estimated completion 2007)</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival, Swimming Recreational, Swimming, Netball, Basketball, Various Sports, Various Sports</td>
<td>Pioneers Memorial Park, Leichhardt Park, Aquatic Centre, Dawn Fraser &amp; Drummoyne Pools, King George Park, Easton Park, Birchgrove Park, PCYC, Balmain, Balmain Bowling Club, Beam Park, Earlwood, Waterworth Park, Undercliffe, Gough Whitlam Oval, Tempe Reserve</td>
<td>2-3 per yr</td>
<td>5-6 per yr</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indoor Multi-purpose court</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>School has acquired land at the bus depot for development of a new rectangular field (estimated completion 2007)</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival, Swimming Recreational, Swimming, Netball, Basketball, Various Sports, Various Sports</td>
<td>Pioneer Memorial Park, Leichhardt Park, Aquatic Centre, Dawn Fraser &amp; Drummoyne Pools, King George Park, Easton Park, Birchgrove Park, PCYC, Balmain, Balmain Bowling Club, Beam Park, Earlwood, Waterworth Park, Undercliffe, Gough Whitlam Oval, Tempe Reserve</td>
<td>4-5 per yr</td>
<td>4-5 per yr</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Secondary Schools

Every student at the school must play compulsory Tuesday afternoon sport.

School has acquired land at the bus depot for development of a new rectangular field (estimated completion 2007).
APPENDIX 6

Full Report - Household Telephone Survey
1. **CONSULTATION - HOUSEHOLD TELEPHONE SURVEY**

1.1. **Data Collection**

The results from this survey were obtained from a stratified random telephone survey of 450 residents who reside within the Leichhardt LGA. The interviews took place between the period 15th – 21st November 2004.

There were some limitations to the survey that should be taken into account in the interpretation of the data collected. The limitations were:

- The survey was conducted on weekend days between 10.00am and 6.00pm and weeknights between 4.00pm and 8.00pm.
- Only persons aged 15 years or above were interviewed.

1.2. **Profile of Respondents**

The key demographic characteristics of the survey sample are described below. Where appropriate, these characteristics have been used as the basis for cross tabulations in the data analysis.

The characteristics of the survey sample are generally consistent with the demographic profile for all of the Leichhardt LGA, suggesting that the survey results can be used with confidence as being reflective of the broader community’s views.

- The majority of respondents were female (54%).
- The highest proportion of respondents were aged 35 - 49 years (34%), followed by those 25 – 34 years (23%) and 50 - 59 years (20%).

![Age Structure of Survey Sample](image)

---

*stratcorp consulting*
• The largest proportion of respondents described their household as “couple/single with child(ren) 16 years and under” (28%), followed “older couple without children” (19%), “lone person household” (17%), and “young couple without children” (13%).

• The most common country of birth for those in the Leichhardt area is Australia (67%). Of those not born in Australian, the top 2 countries of birth were United Kingdom (9%) and New Zealand (6%).

• The table below shows how the survey sample was stratified according to the number of residents in each suburb as a proportion of the total population of the Leichhardt LGA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suburb</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>% of Total Population</th>
<th>No. surveyed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annandale</td>
<td>8,228</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>76</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balmain</td>
<td>13,892</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rozelle</td>
<td>6,949</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilyfield</td>
<td>7,028</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leichhardt</td>
<td>12,608</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>48,705</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>450</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1.3. Current Sport, Recreation and Fitness Activity Participation

A total of 74% of respondents had participated in sporting, recreation and fitness activities on a regular basis (i.e. at least once per month) in the past 12 months. This rate of participation is just below the 2003 State average of 81.5%.

The graph below shows the proportion of each age sector that participated in sporting, recreation and fitness activities. The highest participating age sector was the 25-34 age group (88%), which is unusual for this type of surveying where the 18-24 age group is typically the age cohort with the highest rate of participation. From the 25-34 age group, the level of participation declines with age to 43% participation for the 70+ years age group. This pattern of decline in participation according to age is consistent with National participation trends.

Cross tabulations revealed:

- Females (78%) had a higher rate of participation in sporting, recreation and fitness activities than males (70%), which are lower than the New South Wales averages 79.8% and 83.2%, respectively.
- Participation levels were the highest in Birchgrove (97%), Balmain East (96%), Lilyfield (88%), and Balmain (85%).
- The lowest participation levels were in Leichhardt (49%) and Rozelle (67%).
- Those households described as “couple/single parents with children under 16 years” (80%) were the most likely to participate in sporting, recreation and fitness activities whilst the lowest proportion of participants come from households described as “lone person households” (63%).

\[\text{Percentage (%)}\]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14-17 years</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24 years</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34 years</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-49 years</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59 years</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69 years</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70+ years</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.3.1. Popular Sport, Recreation and Fitness Activities

The following table shows that of those respondents who had participated in physical activities in the past 12 months, the two most popular sporting, recreation and fitness activities Walking and Swimming.

A comparison with the participation rates for all NSW residents is shown in the two right columns. All but two (bush walking, touch football) of the top 10 most popular activities for all NSW residents are included in the top 10 activities for Leichhardt residents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>NSW Overall</th>
<th>NSW Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Walking</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>36.0%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Gym/Weights</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Running/Jogging</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Aerobics/Fitness</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top 10 Sport and Recreation Activities

The main differences between Leichhardt participation rates with all of NSW include:

- Gym/Weights is more popular in Leichhardt where it is ranked 3rd overall, compared to NSW where it is ranked 14th.

- Aerobics/Fitness is not as popular in the Leichhardt LGA where it is ranked 9th overall, compared to NSW where it is ranked 3rd.
1.3.2. Type of Participation

The largest proportion of respondents’ participation was unorganised (71.0%), that is, participation in activities was on a casual or social basis, not with a club, association or at a centre.

![Pie chart showing type of participation]

1.3.3. Location of Participation

The majority (86%) of respondents’ participated in their chosen activity within the Leichhardt LGA.

![Pie chart showing location of participation]
Of those who participated outside of the Leichhardt LGA, 26% indicated that the main reason was “facilities not available locally.” The other main reasons were:

- Facilities used are close to my work (18%).
- Wish to participate with friends/family located elsewhere (16%).
- Facilities available locally don’t meet needs (10%).

**Cross tabulations revealed:**

- Residents from Leichhardt (33%) and Annandale (22%) are more likely to participate in activities outside of the Leichhardt LGA because “facilities are not available locally.”

### 1.3.4. Reason for Participation

The following table indicates that the majority of participants in sport, recreation and fitness activities participate for fitness benefits (59%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fitness</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Enjoyment</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fun</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Relaxation/Stress relief</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Lose/Maintain my weight</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Time with family/friends</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Have always played sport</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Social - meet new people</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Exercise</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Thrill of competition</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Walking the dog</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Reason for Participating in Physical Activity*
1.3.5. **Reason for Non-Participation**

Of those respondents (26%) who indicated that they did not participate in sport, recreation and fitness activities on a regular basis in the past 12 months, 36% cited as the main reason “lack of time”. Other reasons cited are included in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of time (family/work/study commitments)</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age - too young/old</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing, not interested</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical constraints (injury/illness/disability)</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of motivation</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need child care/babysitter</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know where sporting facilities are</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just moved into the area</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travelling</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cross tabulations revealed:**

- Those who indicated “lack of time” were most likely to be aged 35-49 years (13.6%) or 50-59 years (13.6%), were most likely to come from a household described as “group household” (15.9%).

- 76% of those who indicated that their “age” was the main factor preventing them from participating in sporting, recreation and fitness activities, were aged over 60 years.
1.4. Children’s Participation in Sport, Recreation and Fitness Activities

Of the 450 people surveyed, 130 (or 29%) have children under the age of 16 years still living at home. A range of questions were asked of these people about their children’s participation or non-participation in sport, recreation and fitness activities.

1.4.1. Rate of Participation

Of the 130 respondents who have children under the age of 16 years still living at home, 63% have children who had participated in physical activities on a regular basis in the past 12 months (excluding school sport).

The most popular activity was Swimming (24%), followed by Soccer (15%) and Tennis (10%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Gymnastics</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Cricket (outdoor)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ballet</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Athletics (track)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Dancing</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most Popular Activities for Children

1.4.2. Type of Participation

The majority (81%) of children’s participation was “organised” by a club, association or centre.

1.4.3. Location of Participation

The majority (79%) of participation in physical activities by children was undertaken within the Leichhardt LGA.

Of the 13 respondents who indicated that their children participate in sporting and recreation activities outside of the Leichhardt LGA, the main reason cited was “facilities not available locally” (62%). The other main reasons were:

- Facilities available locally don’t meet needs (15%).
- Wish to participate with friends/family located elsewhere (15%).

1.4.4. Reason for Non-Participation

The main reason for the non-participation of children in physical activity cited by respondents with children aged under 16 years still living at home was their “age” (85%).
1.5. **Future Participation in Sporting, Recreation and Fitness Activities**

Respondents were asked if there are any sporting, recreation and fitness activities that they or their families do not currently participate in, but would like to participate in on a regular basis in the future. The most popular activity was Swimming (21%), followed by Tennis (11%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Walking</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Gym/Weights</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Rowing</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Preferred Future Activities**

Cross tabulations revealed:
- Swimming was most popular amongst the 25-34 years age group.
- Soccer was equally as popular with males and females.
- Rozelle residents were more likely to want to participate in Golf in the future.
- 66% of those who said they would like to participate in Cycling in the future were male.
- Those who nominated Rowing were more likely to come from households described as “young couple without children” (37.5%) or “lone person household” (25%).
- The largest proportion of future Tennis participants come from households described as “couple/single with children 16 years and under” (30.4%).
- There was little interest in Walking as a future activity by those aged under 24 years.
1.6. **Sports Reserves and Indoor / Outdoor Recreation Facilities**

Respondents were asked to rate the overall quality and distribution of sports reserves and indoor / outdoor recreation facilities located within the Leichhardt LGA. For both questions, there were a large proportion of respondents who either ‘did not know’ or chose not to respond to the questions.

Very few respondents rated the quality (5%) and distribution (7.9%) of sports reserves and indoor / outdoor recreation facilities as “poor” or “very poor”. The following graphs illustrate the responses.
1.7. Current Use and Opinion of Parks and Open Space Areas

1.7.1. Usage of Parks and Open Space Areas

A majority of respondents (91%) had visited a park situated within the Leichhardt LGA in the past 12 months. The most popular activity undertaken (or reason for visiting) was “Walking/Jogging for Exercise” (37%) followed by “Walking the Dog” (12%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Walking/jogging for exercise</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Walking the dog</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Using/supervising children on a playground</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>BBQ/Picnic</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Playing informal sport (eg kick to kick)</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Place to sit and relax</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Family outing (with children)</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Bike Riding</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Most Popular Activities Undertaken at Leichhardt LGA Parks |

1.7.2. Frequency of Use of Parks

The following graph shows that Leichhardt parks and open space areas are used by 63% of respondents at least once or twice per week.
1.7.3. Rating Parks and Open Space Areas

Respondents rate highly the quality of parks and open space areas located within the Leichhardt LGA, with 83% rating them either “Very Good” or “Good”.

![Rating of the Quality of Leichhardt LGA Parks](chart1)

75% of respondents rated the overall distribution of the parks either “Very Good” or “Good”.

![Rating of the Overall Distribution of Leichhardt LGA Parks](chart2)
1.7.4. Rating of Playgrounds

The following graph shows that more than half of the respondents had no opinion (or knowledge) on the overall quality of playgrounds located within the Leichhardt LGA when asked during the survey. Of those who did have an opinion, a majority rated the overall quality of playgrounds favourably.

Similar to the previous question, a majority of respondents had no opinion (or knowledge) on the overall distribution of playgrounds located within the Leichhardt LGA. Again, of those who did have an opinion, a majority rated the overall distribution of playgrounds favourably.
1.7.5. Adequacy of Leichhardt Parks and Open Space Areas

Respondents were asked to comment on how well parks and open space areas situated with the Leichhardt LGA meet theirs and their family’s outdoor recreational needs. A scale of 1 to 10 was used to rate the adequacy of parks, where 1 was “Very Poorly” and 10 was “Very Well”.

The following graph shows that there is a high level of satisfaction expressed by respondents in relation to the degree to which Leichhardt parks meet their outdoor recreation needs – 83% rated them 6 out 10, or better in meeting their needs.
1.7.6. Preferred Facilities, Features or Settings within Parks

Respondents were asked to indicate facilities, features or settings that a park must have for them to use it. There was not one attribute that was clearly favoured by respondents. The most popular response was “good provision of trees and gardens” (11%), followed by “provision of playgrounds” (10%) and “provision of a path system” (9%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Facilities/features</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Good provision of trees and gardens</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Path system</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Shade/shelter</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Well maintained</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Public toilets</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>BBQ/Picnic areas</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Places to sit and relax</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Dog walking areas</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.8. Priority Sport, Recreation and Open Space Projects

Respondents were asked to nominate their top three sport, recreation or open space projects that they would fund over the next ten years if they were “in charge” of Leichhardt Council. The top 2 projects were “parks maintenance” (15%) and “provision of bike paths/walking trails” (13%).

Interestingly, the upgrade of swimming facilities did not rate highly (typically has in similar surveys carried out for other municipalities), and there was low support for the provision of indoor sports courts (rated 11th with just under 3%) even though there is no public indoor sports centre currently available in the Leichhardt LGA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Parks maintenance</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bike paths and walking trails</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Don’t know/no response</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>New/upgraded outdoor swimming pool</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>More sports grounds</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>New/upgraded indoor swimming pool</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Improved provision of recreational facilities in parks</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Places/activities for young people</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Improved quality of sports grounds</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Create larger open spaces</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 7

Full Report - Infield Survey Active Fun Day
1. **CONSULTATION – INFIELD SURVEYING AT ACTIVE FUN DAY**

The results from this survey were obtained from 90 face-to-face interviews conducted at King George Park, Rozelle during the Active Fun Day community event held on 28th November 2004.

No child under the age of 14 years was interviewed without the presence of a parent or guardian, in accordance with Market Research Society of Australia Code of Conduct.

1.1. **Demographics of Respondents**

The key characteristics of the respondents surveyed were:

- 51% of respondents were female, 49% male.
- The highest proportions of respondents were aged 35 - 49 years (48%), followed by 25 - 34 years (19%), and 50 – 59 years (13%).
- The largest proportion of respondents lived in the suburb of Rozelle (17%), followed by Leichhardt (10%), Lilyfield (9%), Annandale (7%), Balmain (6%) and Drumoyne (5%).
- For those respondents with families, the highest proportion were from households with “2 children at home” (30%), followed by “3 children” (19%), and “1 child” (12%).

1.2. **Current Participation in Active Sporting, Recreation or Fitness Activities**

Of the 90 people surveyed, 87 respondents (or 97%) or their family members participate in active sporting, recreation or fitness activities on a regular basis, being at least once per month. The most popular activities were Swimming (15%) and Walking (14%).

**Multiple responses accepted**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Rank in Leichhardt</th>
<th>Rank in NSW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running/Jogging</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gym/weights</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby League</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby Union</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aerobics/fitness</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch/Oz Tag</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dancing</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When compared to the most popular sports in for all NSW residents, the main differences include:

- Soccer is higher ranked in Leichhardt (3rd) than in NSW overall (9th).
- Gym/weights is ranked higher in Leichhardt (6th) than in NSW overall (14th).
Aerobics/fitness is not as popular in Leichhardt (ranked 11th) as it is in NSW (3rd).

Rugby League and Rugby Union are both more popular in Leichhardt (both ranked equal 8th) than NSW overall (where they are ranked 21st and 22nd, respectively).

There is reasonable correlation of results with the responses from the Household Telephone Survey, with the most notable variation being that Soccer was ranked 7th as most popular activity in the telephone survey.

Cross Tabulations Revealed:

- Swimming was more popular amongst males (56%), compared to females (48%).
- Of all the age cohorts, Walking was most popular for the 60-69 years age group (where 100% of respondents regularly participated in Walking). This was followed by those aged 50-59 years (58%) and those aged 18-24 years (55%).

Of the 3 respondents or their family members who do not currently participate in sporting, recreation or fitness activities on a regular basis, the main reasons cited were:

- Lack of time (family/work commitments).
- Nothing, not interested.

1.3. Location of Participation

The graph below shows a total of 59% of respondents participated in their preferred sporting, recreation and fitness activities within the Leichhardt LGA most of the time.

Cross Tabulations Revealed:

- Of those living in the Leichhardt LGA, respondents residing in the suburbs of Leichhardt (28%) and Lilyfield (13%) are the most likely to participate in sporting, recreation and fitness activities outside the Leichhardt LGA.
- Those aged 14-17 years are most likely to participate in sporting, recreation and fitness activities outside the Leichhardt LGA.
• Sports which were mostly participated in outside of the Leichhardt LGA included:
  – Gym/Weights (6).
  – Running/Jogging (6).
  – Cycling (6).
  – Rugby Union (4).
  – Swimming (14 people).
  – Basketball (3).
  – Soccer (12).

1.4. Rating Sports Reserves and Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Respondents were asked to rate the overall quality of sports reserves and indoor / outdoor recreation facilities located within the LGA. The graph below shows the majority of respondents (64%) rated their quality as either “Very Good” or “Good”.

![Graph showing the distribution of ratings for sports reserves and indoor outdoor recreation facilities.](image-url)

*Rating the Quality of Sports Reserves and Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Facilities*
Respondents were asked to rate the overall distribution of sports reserves and indoor and outdoor recreation facilities located within the Leichhardt LGA. The graph below shows the majority of respondents (58%) rated their distribution as either “Very Good” or “Good”.

![Graph showing distribution ratings](image)

### Rating the Distribution of Sports Reserves and Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Facilities

1.5. **Current Use of Parks**

76% of respondents or their family members, visit parks located within the Leichhardt LGA on a regular basis, being at least once per month.

The following table shows the main reasons for visiting parks, or the activities undertaken whilst in the parks. The most popular reasons / activities were “Walking/jogging for exercise” (18%), followed by “Using Playgrounds” (16%) and “Bike Riding” (10%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Walking/jogging for exercise</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Using/supervising children on a playground</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bike Riding</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Family outing</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Playing organised sport</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>BBQ/Picnic</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Walking the dog</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Place to sit and relax</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Playing informal sport</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Playing informal recreational activities</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Enjoy the flora and fauna</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Meeting friends</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The Main Reasons For Visiting / Main Activities Undertaken in Parks*
1.6. Rating of Parks in the Leichhardt LGA

Respondents were asked to rate the overall quality of parks and open space areas located within the Leichhardt LGA. The graph below shows the majority of respondents (84%) rated their quality either “Very Good” or “Good”.

Rating of the Quality of Parks in the Leichhardt LGA

Respondents were asked to rate the overall distribution of parks located within the Leichhardt LGA. The graph below shows the majority of respondents (68%) found their distribution either “Very Good” or “Good”.

Rating of the Distribution of Parks in the Leichhardt LGA
1.7. **Future Development of Sport, Recreation and Open Space**

Respondents were asked to nominate what sporting, recreation and/or open space projects should be priorities to receive funding over the next 10 years. The most favoured projects were “New/Improved bike paths and walking trails” (20%), followed by “Upgrading Leichhardt Oval (8%)”, and “New indoor sports centre” and “Development of Callan Park precinct (both 7%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>New/Improved bike paths and walking trails</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Upgrade Leichhardt Oval</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>New indoor sports centre</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Development of Callan Park Precinct</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>More sports grounds</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Improve parks maintenance</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>New/upgraded Outdoor Swimming Pool</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Upgraded playgrounds</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>More playgrounds</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>New/upgraded Indoor Swimming Pool</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Improved quality of sports grounds</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Dragon boat facilities</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cross Tabulations Revealed:**

- “Bike paths and walking trails” were most requested by those aged 50-59 years (33%).
- The largest percentage of respondents who nominated the “Upgrade of Leichhardt Oval” were aged 60-69 years (50%), followed by those aged 18-24 years (33%).
- Younger respondents (aged 14-17 years) favoured a “New Indoor Sports Centre” (50%) and “More Sports Grounds” (50%).
- Those residing in Lilyfield were the most likely to nominate the “Development of Callan Park Precinct” (25%).
APPENDIX 8

Full Report – Park Users Infield Survey
1. CONSULTATION – INFIELD SURVEYING AT LEICHHARDT PARKS

The results from this survey were obtained from a randomly administered infield survey of users visiting the following selected parks:

- Elkington Park, Balmain
- Gladstone Park, Balmain
- Birchgrove Park, Birchgrove
- Mort Bay Park, Birchgrove
- King George Park, Rozelle
- Whites Creek Valley Reserve, Lilyfield
- Leichhardt Park, Lilyfield
- War Memorial Park, Leichhardt
- Pioneers Memorial Park, Leichhardt

Two types of surveys were administered:

1. **Short Survey** - a 7 question survey designed to minimise inconvenience to people who did not have a lot of time to stop and answer questions, e.g. workers traversing the park in the morning on their way to work, joggers, and other fitness users.

2. **Long Survey** – an extended survey comprising 16 questions that sought information and feedback on a range of issues and opportunities about people’s use and levels of satisfaction with the quality and condition of parks. Respondents were typically visiting the parks for an extended period and were more receptive to taking part in the survey.

All surveys were administered by one-on-one interview at various times during daylight hours between the period 10th – 19th December 2004.

In total, there were 363 Short Surveys completed and 140 Long Surveys. The first part of the report collates the results from both surveys, whilst the balance of results reflect the 140 sample from the Long Survey.

There were some limitations to this survey that must be taken into account in the interpretation of the data collected. These are:

- The survey only includes people who visited the parks listed above during specific times.
- No child under the age of 14 years was interviewed without the presence of a parent or guardian, in accordance with MRSA Code of Conduct.

1.1. Profile of Respondents

This section summarises the demographic characteristics of the respondents surveyed. Where appropriate, these characteristics have been used as the basis for cross tabulations in the data analysis.

- The majority of respondents were female (52%).
- The highest proportion of respondents were aged 25-34 years (29%), followed by 35-49 years (26%) and 50-59 years (14%).
- Of those respondents from families with children still living at home, the highest proportion were from households with “2 children under 12 years” (17%), followed by “1 child under 12 years” (8%).
Of the total sample of 503 people:

- 75% were ‘Residents’ of the Leichhardt LGA.
- 19% were ‘Visitors’ to the Leichhardt LGA.
- 5% were ‘Workers’ in the Leichhardt LGA.
- 1% were ‘Tourists’ visiting the Leichhardt LGA.

The table below shows a detailed breakdown of the type of person (resident, visitor, worker, or tourist) using the Leichhardt parks selected for the survey.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park</th>
<th>No. of surveys</th>
<th>% of total surveys</th>
<th>Park User %</th>
<th>Resident</th>
<th>Worker</th>
<th>Visitor</th>
<th>Tourist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pioneers Memorial Park</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birchgrove Park</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elkington Park</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gladstone Park</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King George Park</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leichhardt Park</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mort Bay Park</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War Memorial Park</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites Creek Valley Res</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average User Type</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key outcomes from this analysis are:

- ‘Residents’ were the highest proportion of users in all parks.
- ‘Workers’ were only evident in the following five parks: Pioneers Memorial Park, Gladstone Park, King George Park, Leichhardt Park and Birchgrove Park.
• Leichhardt Park, Gladstone Park, Mort Bay Park and Whites Creek Valley Reserve attracted the highest proportion of ‘Visitors’.

• ‘Tourists’ were evident in Pioneers Memorial Park, Leichhardt Park and Birchgrove Park.

1.2. Frequency of Park Use

Of the total sample of 503 surveys, 76% of respondents could be considered regular park users (i.e. once a week or more).

Cross tabulations revealed:

• Of the respondents who were ‘Residents’ (75%), the predominant frequency of use was three or more times a week (61%), followed by once or twice per week (30%).

• Of the respondents who were ‘Visitors’ (19%), the predominant frequency of use was also three or more times per week (42%), followed by once or twice per week (25%).
1.3. **Length of Stay**

Of the total sample of 503 surveys, the highest proportion of park users were in the park for 31-60 minutes (27%), followed by 16-30 minutes (25%), and 1-2 hours (23%).

Cross tabulations revealed:

- ‘Residents’ (29%) were more likely to stay for 31 – 60 minutes duration compared with ‘Workers’ (17%).
- ‘Workers’ (50%) were more likely to stay for 16 – 30 minutes duration compared with ‘Residents’ (25%).

1.4. **Popular Activities**

The following table shows that the two most popular activities undertaken in parks by the total sample of 503 surveys on the days of the survey were ‘walking the dog’ (24%) and ‘walking/jogging/riding through the park’ (18%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Walking the dog</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Walking/jogging/riding through it</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Walking/jogging for exercise</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Place to sit and relax</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Meeting friends</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Using or supervising children on playground</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Playing informal sport</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Lunchbreak</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>BBQ/Picnic</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Playing organised sport</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Popular Activities Undertaken in Parks (on the days of the survey)
The following table shows the activities that respondents would undertake on a typical visit to the park. When compared to the previous table, the majority of activities are the same.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Walking the dog</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Walking/jogging for exercise</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Not applicable (first time user)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Place to sit and relax</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Travelling through it</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Playing informal sport</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Family outing</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Playing informal activities</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Playing organised sport</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Meeting friends</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Using or supervising children on the playground</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Main Activities Usually Undertaken in Parks

1.5. Favourite Things About Parks

All results from this point forward report on data collected from the Long Survey only (140 respondents). The Short Survey did not include these questions.

The table below shows that the things respondents most liked about the park they were using were ‘gardens/lake/water’ (22%), ‘large open space areas’ (15%), ‘close to home’ (11%) and ‘well maintained’ (9%). There were no significant differences between residents, workers and visitors in their response.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gardens/Lake/Water</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Large open space areas/places to run-around</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Close to home</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Well maintained</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Meeting place for people</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bay/harbour views</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Beauty/peaceful</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Flora and fauna</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Quiet</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Favourite Things About the Parks
1.6. ** Provision of Facilities  
Respondents were asked to rate the quality of provision of facilities within the parks on a scale of “Good”, “Average” and “Poor”. The following table below shows:

- Respondents are generally happy with the cleanliness, maintenance levels, and feeling of personal safety within the parks.
- The most unsatisfactory facility rated was the public toilets, with only 5% of respondents rating them “Good” and 31% of respondents rating them “Poor” (51% of respondents did not provide a rating).
- BBQ and picnic areas also received a less than satisfactory rating, with 16% rating them “Good” and 27% “Poor” (again, 45% did not provide a rating).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Avg</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cleanliness</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance of lawns, paths, gardens</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public toilets</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park furniture (seats, bins, drink taps)</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBQ and picnic area</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signage</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeling of personal safety</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car parking</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Rating the Provision of Facilities

1.7. ** Other Information

54% of respondents indicated that the park they were using was the closest one to their home. Respondents were asked what form of transport they had used to access the park:

- 64% walked.
- 34% by car.
- 2% public transport.

Respondents were asked to identify other parks and open space areas they had visited at least once per month. The top five parks were:

1. Birchgrove Park.
2. Elkington Park.
5. Callan Park.

The most popular activities undertaken at these parks were ‘walking the dog’, ‘exercise’, ‘relaxation’, and ‘playing informal sport’.
1.8. Quality of Parks & Open Space

The following graph shows that respondents are generally satisfied with the quality of parks and open space in the Leichhardt LGA, with 75% either “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied”.

An open-ended question invited comments from respondents about the quality and distribution of parks and open space areas in the Leichhardt LGA, or whether there were any new or improved facilities that respondents would like to see in parks in the future. The following table summarises the key responses as:

1. Dog restrictions are excessive (11%).
2. Improve toilet facilities (11%).
3. Retain parks and open space (9%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Suggestion/comment</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dog restrictions are excessive</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Improved toilet facilities</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Keep all parks and open space</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>New playground</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>BBQ in all parks</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>More bins and better litter control</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>BBQ areas for mort bay</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Develop fenced off areas of mort bay park</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Provide info regarding parks</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Well maintained</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Basketball courts for mort bay park (larger)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>More dog friendly areas</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>More seating</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>More Shade</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>More Off leash areas</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most Requested New or Improved Facilities
APPENDIX 9

Club Survey Feedback On Sports Facilities
## Facility Issues Identified by Clubs

### Leichhardt Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club / User Group</th>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Playing Area</th>
<th>Change Amenities / Clubhouse</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BASEBALL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Boomers Baseball Club</td>
<td>Blackmore Park</td>
<td>Club would benefit from additional funding for repair of playing field at end of football season</td>
<td>Currently ‘borrow’ facilities from Football Club - works well</td>
<td>Extra lighting required Not enough ground capacity - winter teams play games out of district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CRICKET</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balmain Cricket Club</td>
<td>Birchgrove Park</td>
<td>No issues - very happy with facility</td>
<td>Requires ongoing maintenance - but at present fulfils needs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOCKEY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glebe District Hockey Club</td>
<td>Federal Park (Sydney LGA)</td>
<td>Safe playing area Looking for permanent synthetic ground location</td>
<td>Access to toilet facilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RUGBY LEAGUE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leichhardt Juniors Rugby League Football Club</td>
<td>King George Park</td>
<td>Ground maintenance deteriorates rapidly throughout the Winter season</td>
<td>Need a clubroom Amenities need updating - toilets, showers and canteen</td>
<td>Lighting requires improvement - especially around car park Insufficient storage for equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOCCER</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leichhardt Soccer Football Club (Leichhardt Saints)</td>
<td>King George Park</td>
<td>Not enough grounds for training No indoor space Only 3 hrs available on Sat for juniors</td>
<td>No clubroom to hold meetings, or display trophies</td>
<td>Insufficient storage for equipment Canteen too small Inadequate toilets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easton Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>Playing surface deteriorates by mid-season due to overuse</td>
<td>Subject to vandalism and break-ins To far from the main playing field to be of value to spectators</td>
<td>The overall lack of playing fields means that many teams either never or rarely play scheduled ‘home’ matches at one of the ‘home’ grounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birchgrove Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>Poor lighting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohen Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>Playing surface deteriorates by mid-season due to overuse</td>
<td>Poor lighting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balmain &amp; District Soccer Club</td>
<td>Callan Park</td>
<td>No lighting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melchester Rovers Football Club</td>
<td>Eastern Park</td>
<td>Quality of grass cover poor Line markings on pitch are pretty much non existent</td>
<td>Cleanliness is an issue</td>
<td>Quality of nets Availability of pegs for nets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MISC</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balmain Swimming, Water Polo and Lifesaving Club</td>
<td>Dawn Fraser Pool</td>
<td>Competing for pool space Pool hours have been reduced Required to provide own lifeguards</td>
<td>Service of food and alcohol Opening hours of pool</td>
<td>Scheduling is the biggest issue. Pool is very popular and programs are hard to fit in - let alone social events</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 10

Performance Rating of Council By Clubs
### Club Survey Feedback – Rating of Council’s Performance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Very Good</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>DK / No Resp</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Responsiveness to Club enquiries/requests</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Sports field maintenance</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Pavilion maintenance</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Coordination of allocation of grounds/pavilions</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Assistance in seeking external funding grants</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Understanding sporting needs</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Liaison and communication with sports clubs</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Promotion of sports opportunities (clubs and facilities) which are available in Leichhardt LGA</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Club administration development and upskilling</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Sports club volunteer acknowledgement and recognition</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Managing the risk of the use of sporting facilities</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 11

External Grants Information
### Capital Assistance Program

- **Email**: info@dsr.nsw.gov.au
- **Telephone**: 131 302 or (02) 9006 3700

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept. of Sport &amp; Recreation</th>
<th>Funding Name</th>
<th>Grant Size Limits</th>
<th>Eligibility Criteria</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|                              | Capital Assistance Program    | 50 per cent of the net project cost – no specified limit.                           | • Within boundaries of NSW  
  • Project available for General Public use.  
  • Assists ‘not for profit’ sporting and recreational organisations and/or local government authorities to develop community oriented sporting and/or recreational facilities.  
  • Project should improve the safety for users and participants.  
  • Project must be able to commence within nine months and be completed within two years of the announcement date.  
  • Organisation must verify that all the funds will be available excluding the grant, to commence and complete the project immediately.  
  • Project must involve one or more of the following  
    o Construction of a new local sporting, recreation and/or physical activity facility.  
    o Enhancement of an existing facility by inclusion of additional features.  
    o Provision of ancillary and support facilities at existing venues.  
    o Provision of additional outdoor courts and playing areas.  
    o Improved access for under-represented and/or disadvantaged groups in the community. | Annual Grant  
  Applications close August. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept. of Sport &amp; Recreation</th>
<th>Funding Name</th>
<th>Grant Size Limits</th>
<th>Eligibility Criteria</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|                             | Active Council Grants Scheme | Not Available | • Focuses on the promotion of physical activity to improve communities.  
• For NSW local Councils only. | Annual Grant  
Applications close 30 June. |
|                             | Regional Sports Facilities Program | 50 per cent of the net project cost, up to a maximum grant of $200,000.  
Minimum grants of $40,000. | • Within the boundaries of NSW.  
• Project must assist not for profit sporting and recreational organisations and/or local government authorities to develop community oriented recreational facilities.  
• Project available for general public use.  
• Project should commence within nine months and be completed within two years of the announcement date.  
• Organisation must verify that all the funds are available to commence the project immediately.  
• Project must involve one or more of the following:  
  o Upgrading of an existing facility from local to regional to state and/or national standards  
  o Provision of ancillary and support facilities at existing venues.  
  o Improved access for under represented and/or disadvantaged groups in the community. | Annual Grant  
Applications close November. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept. of Sport &amp; Recreation</th>
<th>Funding Name</th>
<th>Grant Size Limits</th>
<th>Eligibility Criteria</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|                             | Active Communities    | Small Grants (not-for-profit organisations) $2,000 | Aims to increase opportunities for under-represented and disadvantaged people in NSW to participate in physical activity at a community level. Organisation must be:  
• Local Council (with evidence of community support).  
• Schools (out of school hours project only).  
• Not-for-profit community sport and recreation organisation.  
• Not-for-profit community organisation.  
• Community health centres.  
Additional information to be supplied via website closer to opening date. | Small Grants Applications close January. |
|                             | Grant                 | Large Grants $10,000 - $25,000 (over 3 years) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Large Grants Applications close July. |

Website: [www.dsr.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dsr.nsw.gov.au)  
Email: info@dsr.nsw.gov.au  
Telephone: 131 302 or (02) 9006 3700
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept. of Environment &amp; Heritage</th>
<th>Funding Name</th>
<th>Grant Size Limits</th>
<th>Eligibility Criteria</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.ea.gov.au/bushcare">www.ea.gov.au/bushcare</a></td>
<td>Australian Government Envirofund-Bushcare</td>
<td>Up to maximum grant of $30 000.</td>
<td>Bushcare funded activities to protect, enhance and increase the vegetation in the Australian landscape. A priority was to support community involvement in the management, protection and rehabilitation of Australia's native vegetation.</td>
<td>Annual Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone: 1800 303 863 Email: <a href="mailto:enviropfund@affa.gov.au">enviropfund@affa.gov.au</a></td>
<td>To request round two application: Email: <a href="mailto:ciu@deh.gov.au">ciu@deh.gov.au</a> 1800 065 823 <a href="http://www.nht.gov.au/envirofund">www.nht.gov.au/envirofund</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept. of Agriculture Fisheries &amp; Forestry</th>
<th>Funding Name</th>
<th>Grant Size Limits</th>
<th>Eligibility Criteria</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.afa.gov.au">www.afa.gov.au</a> Email: <a href="mailto:rivercare@affa.gov.au">rivercare@affa.gov.au</a></td>
<td>National Rivercare Program</td>
<td>Up to maximum grant of $30 000.</td>
<td>Refer website</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manager National Rivercare Program, Natural Resource Management Policy Division, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia GPO Box 858 CANBERRA ACT 2601 Telephone: (02) 6272 3932</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries &amp; Forestry, and Dept Environment &amp; Heritage</td>
<td>Funding Name</td>
<td>Grant Size limits</td>
<td>Eligibility Criteria</td>
<td>Timeline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.nht.nsw.gov.au">www.nht.nsw.gov.au</a></td>
<td>Biodiversity funding through the Natural Heritage Trust</td>
<td>Up to maximum grant of $30 000.</td>
<td>Refer website</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Heritage Trust Coordination Manager, Rural Investment Department of Land and Water Conservation GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone (02) 9228 6346 Fax (02) 9228 6451</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Road and Traffic Authority</th>
<th>Funding Name</th>
<th>Grant Size limits</th>
<th>Eligibility Criteria</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au">www.rta.nsw.gov.au</a></td>
<td>Regional Cycleways Networks</td>
<td>50 per cent of the net project cost – no specified limit.</td>
<td>In recognition of the fact that most cycling takes place on local roads, the RTA offers funding to local councils for the provision of approved bicycle facilities and the development of local bike plans. The RTA provides funds for cycle routes and facilities identified in Council Bike Plans.</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone 1 800 060 607 or (02) 8837 0198.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Name</td>
<td>Grant Size Limits</td>
<td>Eligibility Criteria</td>
<td>Timeline</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Development Grants Program</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
<td>The aim of the program is to encourage the participation of people from culturally diverse communities in all aspects of life in New South Wales.</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Services Grants Program</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
<td>Grants under this fund are to help communities build 'social capital' and a stronger, more resilient society.</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Website:**
- **Community Relations Commission:** [www.crc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.crc.nsw.gov.au)
- **Dept. of Community Services:** [www.community.nsw.gov.au](http://www.community.nsw.gov.au)

**Contact Information:**
- **Community Relations Commission:**
  - Name: Ms Jaya Chivukula, Project Officer, Funding Programs
  - Telephone: (02) 8255 6779
- **Dept. of Community Services:**
  - Mary-Jane Clark, Executive Director, Partnerships and Communities, Ministerial Office, GPO Box 5070 Sydney NSW 1044
APPENDIX 12

Sample Photos of Dog Park Equipment
Photographs of a Formal Dog Park (Nudgee Beach, QLD)
APPENDIX 13

Sample Photo of an Exceloo
Exceloo - self cleaning, automated public toilet
APPENDIX 14

Sample Photos of a Golf Practice Cage
Photographs of a Golf Practice Cage
APPENDIX 15

Draft Recreation Facility Development Funding Framework
POLICY CONTEXT

1. Introduction / Purpose

Leichhardt Council has two processes for funding the planning and development of recreation facilities and related improvement projects. These two processes are:

- Capital Works Program.
- Community Funding Program.

The Recreation Facility Development Funding Framework deals in detail with the first of these processes. It has been established to provide a strategic and transparent approach for the assessment and prioritisation of recreation-based Capital Works projects either generated internally or submitted to Council for consideration by a club or community group.

Requests for Capital Works will be reviewed, evaluated, prioritised and implemented using effective processes and sound financial management practices giving due consideration to Council’s long-term strategic goals and Vision, and its ongoing operational requirements.

2. Definitions

For this Policy, Capital Works will be defined as:

- Purchase or construction of new assets.
- Capital renewal of existing assets which will result in an increase in the service potential of an asset or extends the life of an asset.
- Capital expansion which extends the standard of an existing asset to provide a higher level of service.

3. Scope

This funding framework will apply to all requests for Council funds required to partially or wholly fund Capital Works projects (as defined above) to create, establish or improve recreation facilities or spaces, including open space areas, recreational or sporting buildings, sports playing areas, and associated related infrastructure.
4. Requests for Capital Works Projects

Requests for projects to be considered for inclusion in the Council’s Capital Works Program, are typically generated by one of the following ways:

- By resolution of Council.
- From a Councillor.
- Internally from Council staff.
- From the community.


Calling For Submissions

Council will call for submissions for Capital Works projects from those clubs, community groups and other organisations which are based in the Leichhardt LGA, and which have some responsibility for the use, care and/or maintenance of Council infrastructure.

Submissions will be called for in February each year. The closing date to receive submissions will be in early April to enable Council to assess eligible projects, consider a report in May, and prepare applications to the State Government’s (NSW Department of Tourism, Sport & Recreation) Capital Assistance Program (due in July) or Regional Sports Facilities Program (due in November).

Any Capital Works submissions or requests received earlier during the year will also be included with those received during the advertised period. All submission should clearly scope the project, identify the need and likely benefits to the end users, ideally be properly costed (quotations or detailed estimates from qualified quantity surveyors) and should also include a suggested funding break-up (i.e. how much will the Club/Group pay?, how much will Council be expected to pay?, and so forth).

Council’s Recreation Planning Unit will receive and review all submissions.

Preliminary Review

All submissions will be initially reviewed to establish whether a project proposal:

- Is a Council responsibility.
- Is consistent with the definition of a Capital Works project.

In some instances, it may be determined that a project is more appropriate to be considered under Council’s Community Funding Program, and where this is the case, the project submission will be referred to this process.
Formal Review of Eligible Submissions

Eligible projects will be reviewed and prioritised by the Recreation Planning Team in consultation with the Director Strategic Environmental Planning using the following evaluation criteria and weightings.

1. **Fit with Endorsed Corporate Planning Strategies and Reports**  
   a. Does the project help the Council meet its Vision?
   b. Is the project identified in an endorsed Plan of Management, Strategy Plan, etc., and what is its priority?
   c. Has the project been developed within an endorsed master plan or policy framework?
   d. Does the project enhance operational efficiency?
   e. Does the project provide for a base level of facility?
   f. Is the project a core responsibility of Council?

2. **Identified Need**  
   a. Has need been identified using effective means?
   b. Are there other community or private facilities nearby that could satisfy the need?
   c. How effective will the project be in meeting the identified needs?
   d. Are there better options to meet the need?
   e. Will the project value-add in some capacity as well meeting the identified need?

3. **Participation / Involvement**  
   a. Will the project increase the opportunity for residents to increase their participation in physical activity or passive recreation pursuits (for fitness and/or health & wellbeing benefits)?
   b. Will the project increase the attractiveness of a facility for spectators and other non-player/participants (for social and community development benefits/)

4. **Urgency**  
   a. Is the project urgent due to contractual, safety or legislative obligations (e.g. Disability and Discrimination Act, OH & S, Local Government Act)?
   b. Will the project satisfy a government initiative or attract seed funding?
   c. Is there an existing Council commitment to the project?
   d. Does the project respond to environmental considerations or a natural disaster?

5. **Financial Issues**  
   a. Is the project consistent with the definition of Capital Works?
   b. Is external funding committed, or is the likelihood of attracting future external funding high (government sources, community, private/sponsorship)?
   c. What is the cost/benefit of the project having regard to recurrent income, expenditure and external subsidy?
   d. Does an economic analysis of the project confirm viability (where applicable)?
   e. What impact will the project have on the life of an asset?
   f. Have the project risks been satisfactorily managed?
   g. What is the funding mix for the project? Does it maximise the use of Council funds?
The weightings for each criterion may change from time to time according to the overall priorities of Council, however, any changes to the weightings should be subject to formal approval by Council.

Where a project does not fulfil a majority of the criteria and is not recommended for funding, this will be formally communicated to the applicant group, however, the project will still remain on the Capital Works list for information and possible later consideration.

At the conclusion of the formal review process, a priority listing of all submissions will be available and will be referred to Council’s annual budget process for consideration for inclusion on Council’s Capital Works Program.

Following adoption of the Council’s Annual Budget, the Recreation Planning Team will formally advise all applicants that submitted a project(s), the outcome of the Capital Works evaluation and approvals process.
APPENDIX 16

Summary Report of Public Exhibition Process and Submissions
1. PUBLIC EXHIBITION PERIOD COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The draft Leichhardt Recreation & Open Space Needs Study Report was placed on Public Exhibition for a six week period during October / November 2005. The feedback received was considered as part of the process to prepare the final recommendations and key directions for the future provision of open space, recreation and sport for the Leichhardt Local Government Area, which have been outlined in Section 14.

This section provides an overview of the second round of consultation, including a summary of the process undertaken and an assessment of the feedback received. The amendments to the draft Study resulting from the Public Exhibition consultation have been incorporated into the final recommendations and key directions outlined in Section 14.

1.1. Public Exhibition Consultation Process

Leichhardt Council facilitated a second round of community and stakeholder consultation to seek feedback on the draft Leichhardt Recreation & Open Space Needs Study Report. The consultative process can be summarised as follows:

1. The draft Report was available for viewing for the period 10 October – 21 November 2005 at the following local public facilities:
   - Council’s Administrative Centre.
   - Leichhardt Library.
   - Balmain Library.

2. The draft Report was available for viewing on Council’s website.

3. An executive summary of the draft Report was distributed to all Leichhardt sports and recreation groups inviting feedback on the Report and the associated recommendations.

4. Precinct committees were sent a public exhibition notice and executive summary and invited to request a full document if required.

5. Articles and notices summarising the key findings and directions of the study, and inviting feedback were published in:
   - The Inner Western Suburbs Courier – a news article.
   - The Inner Western Suburbs Courier – a notice in the Council page for five weeks.

6. A Feedback Sheet was available at each of the public facilities where the draft Report was exhibited, and to residents and groups on request.

7. A presentation of the draft Strategy was given at the Environment and Recreation Committee meeting on Tuesday 4 October 2005.

8. A presentation of the draft Strategy was given at the Precincts 7 & 8 Committee meetings on Wednesday 19 October 2005.

9. A Sports Club Forum was held on Wednesday 9 November 2005 for sports groups to discuss the draft Strategy with Council representatives.

10. A meeting was held with a representative from the Boomers Baseball Club on Monday 21 November 2005.
In all, 13 completed Feedback Sheets and/or submissions were received from the following groups/individuals:

- **Residents/Resident Groups:**
  2. Sandra Jones, Pioneer Precinct.

- **7 Sports Groups:**
  1. Leichhardt Juniors Rugby League Football Club (x 2).
  2. Balmain & District Soccer Club.
  4. Leichhardt Saints Soccer Club.
  5. Glebe District Hockey Club.

- **Others:**
  1. Council’s Landscape Coordinator.
  2. Leichhardt Bicycle Users Group.
  3. Leichhardt Youth Council.

The following sections summarise and assess the key areas of feedback.

**1.2. Summary of Feedback**

In general, feedback supported the overall intent and directions outlined in the draft *Leichhardt Recreation & Open Space Needs Study Report*, including the range of recommendations for new/improved recreation facilities and services and open space development throughout the Leichhardt LGA.

The strongest objections received were largely related to the proposals outlining the future development and use of the 3 sports areas in Callan Park – not their future use as sports fields, but the actual sports designated to the respective sites.

The feedback and comments received are summarised below.

**1.3. Key Areas of Support**

Most respondents congratulated Council on commissioning the study and for preparing a strategic approach for the future provision of recreation facilities and services in the Leichhardt LGA. It was acknowledged that the research and analysis undertaken has clearly highlighted the needs of outdoor sporting groups and the shortage of available sports fields within the Leichhardt LGA to adequately cater for existing and future requirements of the community.

**1.4. Key Issues / Objections Raised**

The following provides a summary of the key issues raised by each submitter, an assessment and discussion of the issues raised, and concludes with either a statement or recommendation on how the specific area of concern should be dealt with in the strategy section of the final *Leichhardt Recreation & Open Space Needs Study*. 
1. The Leichhardt Juniors RLFC identified the following reasons for rejecting the proposal to relocate the home base of the Club from King George Park to the Balmain Road sports ground (Callan Park):

- Historic link to King George Park.
- The capital investments made by the Club towards infrastructure at King George Park.
- The reduced size of the playing space at the ground in Balmain Road, which would have the effect of reducing the number of matches that could be held concurrently, with the effect of decreasing canteen revenues for the Club and increasing the length of time volunteers would have to be on duty.
- Lack of amenities and other necessary supporting infrastructure at the ground in Balmain Road, such as change rooms, toilets, canteen, storage, flood lights and car parking.
- Safety concerns in relation to the close proximity of the sports field to Balmain Road and the risk of footballs being kicked onto the road.

**Stratcorp:** The study and its analysis of the possible future use of Callan Park for organised sport has had to consider all options for possible relocation of clubs. It is acknowledged that relocation of some groups from existing fields will end a long and historic association, however, we believe this to be the “thin edge of the wedge” in relation to establishing a sustainable future for clubs, albeit at a different location.

It is a similar scenario for capital investment made at sports grounds – potentially an opportunity cost for a more sustainable future. In other words, from time to time clubs will have to weigh up the benefits of relocating from a venue into which they may have invested club funds to a new site which can potentially provide a more sustainable future (whether this be through better standard facilities, being more centrally located to your catchment, or being co-located with a user group that can offer improved synergies).

Clubs rightly, should have to contribute, where possible, to the ongoing development of infrastructure at their allocated facilities. In most instances and depending on their level of contribution, a return on investment by the contributing club is quickly achieved after several years. Notwithstanding this, any requirement for the Leichhardt Juniors RLFC to have to relocate to a sports ground without any (or little) supporting infrastructure will require the development of new facilities, the cost of which will need to be negotiated between several parties, including the Council and tenant clubs, and any claim for compensation would need to be discussed at that point.

The reduced size in the playing area is acknowledged and is an issue unable to be resolved if the Club were to relocate to the smaller Balmain Road sports ground site. The current lack of amenities at each of the Callan Park greenfield sites would have to be addressed prior to their use as venues for formal, organised and regular sporting use.

The potential for some stray footballs to land outside of the Balmain Road sports ground area is acknowledged, and options for minimising this occurrence would need to be investigated, such as the installation of protective fencing.
In the draft Report it is recommended that soccer and rugby league would share the Glover Street sports ground and Leichhardt Juniors Rugby League Football Club would be located at the Balmain Road sports ground. In reassessing the potential for conflict between soccer activities and rugby league activities if co-located at the Glover Street sports ground and the fact the total available playing area at the Balmain Road sports ground is smaller than what is available at the Glover Street sports ground, it is recommended that the Leichhardt Juniors Rugby League Football Club be relocated to the Glover Street site rather than the Balmain Road site. Given this direction, it is therefore, recommended that the Balmain Road sports ground be developed as a rectangular field, with its primary use being soccer.

With this scenario, the APIA Leichhardt Tigers Soccer Club could be relocated from Leichhardt Oval No. 2 to the Balmain Road sports ground to share with other soccer clubs. This would also mitigate any safety issues identified above concerning the risk of rugby footballs landing on Balmain Road.

Recommend that the following amended directions be incorporated into the strategy plan:

i. Develop the Glover Street sports ground (Callan Park) to incorporate two new rectangular sports fields, with shared use for cricket and baseball.

ii. Relocate rugby league from King George Park to the proposed two new rectangular sports fields at the Glover Street sports ground.

iii. Relocate rugby league from Leichhardt Oval No. 2 to the proposed two new rectangular sports fields at the Glover Street sports ground.

iv. Relocate baseball from Blackmore Oval to the proposed new purpose-built and permanent diamond at the Glover Street sports ground.

v. Develop one new rectangular sports field at the Balmain Road sports ground (Callan Park) for use primarily as a soccer field, when the facilities become available.

A further issue raised by the Leichhardt Juniors Rugby League Football Club related to the potential risk to the safety of players that might result from the installation of a new concrete cricket wicket at King George Park. When proposing the new cricket wicket at King George Park, the Study Report does so in the context that formal rugby league use is relocated from the ground.

Chris Dunkerly
Balmain & District Soccer Club

2. The Club is concerned that the parts of the strategy dealing with the lack of available sports fields is almost wholly reliant on the future availability of the Glover Street and Balmain Road sports grounds in Callan Park, and further that previous attempts by the Club to gain permission to use these grounds have been unsuccessful.

Stratcorp: That is correct. The only viable short-term (2 – 5 years) solution to establish additional sports fields in the Leichhardt LGA is for Council and others to continue to lobby the State Government firstly, for retention of (in their entirety) the three existing areas in Callan Park designated as active open space areas, and secondly, to expedite the work necessary to bring them up to the required standard to accommodate regular sporting use.
The opportunity to utilise any portion of the large tracts of land within the Rail Corridor and the Rozelle / White Bay precinct is long-term, speculative, and potentially very expensive (even allowing for developer contributions, as a balance of provision for active and passive open space would be required). These issues were confirmed by Council’s planning staff as legitimate constraints to pursuing undeveloped land not owned by Council as sites for future sports grounds.

The decision and resultant timeframe in relation to Council gaining management control of Callan Park (and the sports fields) is not able to be quantified, however, a key outcome of this study has been the actual quantification of the magnitude of the shortage of available outdoor sporting areas in the Leichhardt.

**Recommend there be no change to the study report.**

3. The Club has indicated that joint-use of the Waterfront Drive sports ground for both soccer and Australian Rules football (AFL) during winter does not appear feasible.

**Stratcorp:** It is acknowledged that both codes could not use the sports ground concurrently for either matches and training. However, both codes could utilise the site (assuming it remains an unfenced “village green” space) for training and matches at different times as long as removable goals were used and temporary line paint was used for line marking. It is acknowledged that this arrangement could be labour intensive for both codes, however in the short-term, the requirement for AFL is expected to be for junior team participation only so the level of infrastructure and quality of ground presentation would not need to be to a senior competition standard.

Whilst further detailed planning for the optimum layout and configuration of the sports ground is required, a preliminary investigation has concluded that a feasible layout could incorporate an AFL ground in an east-west orientation encircling two senior sized soccer fields running north-south, which are separated by a concrete cricket wicket also orientated north-south.

An alternative for soccer could be that the soccer fields are used for junior training and matches, and for senior soccer, predominantly as a training base only. Senior team matches would then be accommodated at the Balmain Road sports ground (refer discussion and recommendation for Issue No. 1). However, given that a preliminary site assessment does conclude that senior soccer matches would be possible at the Waterfront Drive sports ground (on an alternating weekend day to AFL), the total number of new senior soccer fields in Callan Park could be a maximum of two (one additional one at Waterfront Drive and one at Balmain Road), with the Balmain Road sports ground being the purpose-built and permanent soccer field.

**Recommend that the current directions in the Strategy relating to the Waterfront Drive sports ground in Callan Park be retained.**

4. The Club has indicated that some existing sports fields, such as Leichhardt Oval No. 2 and Lambert Park, are not being fully utilised as sports fields, and that “season-creep” is unduly affecting soccer activities on grounds where joint-use occurs with cricket.

**Stratcorp:** The solutions to these matters are operational as they involve the allocation and management of bookings, and as such need to be explored by Council’s recreation team.

**Recommend there be no change to the study report.**
Daniel Munk  
**Balmain Tigers Rugby League Football Club**

5. The Balmain Tigers have indicated a preparedness to transfer their usage rights from Leichhardt Oval No. 2 and Leichhardt Juniors Rugby League Football Club from King George Park in the event that up to two new rectangular sports fields become available at the Glover Street sports ground site in Callan Park.

*Stratcorp:* Noted. The direction supported by the Balmain Tigers Rugby League Football Club is consistent with the amended direction for the use of the Glover Street sports ground described in the discussion and recommendation for Issue No. 1).

**Recommend there be no change to the study report.**

Debbie Wood  
**Leichhardt Saints Soccer Club**

6. The Club cites as a weakness of the draft study report the fact that there has been “no short-term solution to the lack of facilities for clubs been offered”.

7. Further, the Club does not support the proposal to install a cricket wicket at King George Park.

*Stratcorp:* There is no readily available short-term solution to the lack of facilities, due to there being no Council-owned/managed land of sufficient size available for re-use or development into a sports ground(s). As previously stated, the continued lobbying of the State Government for access to and use of the designated active open space areas in Callan Park is the most realistic and achievable short-term (2 – 5 years) solution to create significant new active sport areas.

In relation to the proposal to install a cricket wicket at King George Park, this proposal does create a new cricket oval, with the likely inconvenience to soccer considered minimal. Cricket wickets can be (and are regularly) effectively covered for safe use by winter sports, and any current problems with covered wickets, I would suggest, are the result of poor initial site preparation and/or choice of materials, and/or lack of ongoing maintenance and management of the covered strip.

Leichhardt Council installs rubberised cricket covers during recent winter seasons at Cohen Park, Annandale and Easton Park, Rozelle. They have proven to be very successful as they are safe and have a negligible effect on soccer matches.

**Recommend there be no change to the study report.**

Douglas Gannon  
**Boomers Baseball Club**

8. The Club requested that additional and up-to-date information relating to baseball participation levels be included in the study report, and that the Club advocates for the development of a permanent home for baseball at Callan Park (to allow the Club to expand, and to provide a summer and winter competition).
Additional information in relation to the participation levels of baseball in metropolitan Sydney and estimates for the inner west indicate that there has been a significant increase in the participation and demand for baseball in and around the Leichhardt LGA. The impact on the Boomers Baseball Club in the past few years has been an increase in membership to a level where the Club now is unable to accommodate all demand due to a shortage of facilities.

The Club currently has access to one senior field and 1 junior field at Blackmore Oval, the senior field not being a permanent cut-out diamond due to its encroachment onto the field of play required for rugby league. This shared use results in Council having to undertake costly and time consuming reinstatement works twice a year to accommodate each sport, and in the case of baseball results in a shortened season due the need for Council to access the ground at least a month before the commencement of the rugby league season to ensure reinstatement works to the diamond area have sufficient time to become established.

Whilst assessing the options for the layout of the Glover Street sports ground, it became apparent that a purpose-built and permanent diamond could be sited onto the sports ground whilst still providing for two rugby league fields, albeit one field being only approximately three-quarter size. This configuration of fields, whilst not ideal, will still meet the minimum requirements for the Balmain Tigers and also the Leichhardt Juniors Rugby League Club.

The main Sydney baseball competition is held on Saturdays during spring/summer. Although capacity exists for a concrete cricket wicket to also be located between the two rugby league fields, Saturday use of the Glover Street sports ground for baseball would restrict the use of the site as a formal cricket venue to Sundays. However, retaining the flexibility of use of the sports ground for cricket is supported, as Sunday use could be for a Sunday competition, or for use by local residents as an informal sporting opportunity during social gatherings by families, friends and/or corporates using Callan Park.

Relocating baseball from the Blackmore Oval will also provide an opportunity to better service the existing six-a-side summer soccer competition conducted by Balmain United Soccer Club. The competition was initially conducted at Birchgrove Oval, but has been relocated to Balckmore Oval this season. The relocation of baseball will reduce the intensity of use of Blackmore Oval.

The opportunity for the Boomers Baseball Club to participate in the Sunday baseball competition from a dedicated venue in Callan Park if the Glover Street sports ground was redeveloped to include baseball facilities, is a secondary and less important argument in support of baseball being accommodated at the site. The fundamental arguments favouring baseball facilities being provided at the Glover Street sports ground include the capacity of the Club to better meet demand for baseball participation in from within the Leichhardt LGA and beyond, and to provide more favourable conditions for the co-location with rugby league when compared to the present arrangements at Blackmore Oval.
Recommend that the following amended direction be incorporated in the strategy plan (as identified in Issue No. 1):

i. Develop the Glover Street sports ground (Callan Park) to incorporate two new rectangular sports fields, with shared use for cricket and baseball.

ii. Relocate baseball from Blackmore Oval to the proposed new purpose built and permanent diamond at the Glover Street sports ground.

9. The Club has also suggested that the report should outline longer term solutions to address the shortfall in sport facilities, which are based largely around the Council “claiming” State Government-owned sites located within the LGA.

Stratcorp: As previously mentioned in the discussion for Issue No. 2, the opportunity for Council to acquire or be delegated management responsibility for large portions of the expansive tracts of land within the Rail Corridor and the Rozelle / White Bay precinct is long-term, speculative, and potentially very expensive (if acquisition is required). Other smaller and more contained sites also exist throughout the LGA, such as the site of the former bus depot in Balmain Road.

Council should certainly continue to have discussions with the relevant Government authorities to advocate for the retention of public land for both structured sporting use and for unstructured, passive recreational use when these sites are being assessed for a changed use. It is appropriate that the Leichhardt Recreation & Open Space Needs Study Report detail a long-term strategic approach for Council to continue to lobby Government for the retention of publicly-owned land located in the Leichhardt LGA for public recreation and sporting use.

Recommend that the following additional strategy be included with the existing list of strategies supporting Strategic Objective # 1:

i. Advocate for the retention of publicly-owned land located in the Leichhardt LGA for public recreation and sporting use:

- Continue to monitor the status of the existing use of State Government-owned sites which have the potential to be developed in the long-term into sporting facilities or recreation areas for community use.

- Continue to advocate to the State Government of the high need in the Leichhardt LGA for publicly-owned land of sufficient size to be developed into sporting fields.

- Participate actively and energetically with the State Government in any planning process which assesses the long-term and strategic reuse of any large-scale State Government-owned sites within the Leichhardt LGA, including the land within the Rail Corridor, the land associated with the Rozelle / White Bay precinct, and the site of the former bus depot in Balmain Road (Leichhardt).
Eddy Crook  
Glebe District Hockey Club  

10. The Club outlined its concern that the recommendations in relation to the provision of a synthetic hockey field contradicted a previous Council resolution.

11. Further, the Club seeks a variation to the current proposed caveat for development of a field at Leichhardt Oval No. 2 from "..... only after fields become available in Callan Park", to "...... subject to the availability of an alternative facility for the relocation of current users".

Stratcorp: The current recommendation in relation to the provision of a synthetic hockey field has been determined following assessment of all available information and feedback from stakeholders, including the Department of Lands and Leichhardt Council.

In relation to point 10 above, Council officers have carried out the previous Council resolution and invited the Hockey Club to submit a DA, however the land owner (the Department of Lands) has written to Council and stated that the Department will withhold land owner’s consent to any development application for Oval No.2 until satisfied that a number of matters have been adequately addressed. Some of these matters include:

- Preparation of a municipality-wide recreation needs study and Strategic Recreation plan;
- Council being satisfied that the needs of current users are satisfactorily met and fit with the recreation needs study;
- Addressing the issue of relocating sports clubs, each of which are existing licensees;
- Addressing the flow-on effect of relocating affected sporting clubs onto other grounds, which are all operating at full capacity; and
- The demand and supply for a synthetic surface hockey facility vis-a-vis other activities being considered as part of the Strategic Recreation Plan.

The Balmain/Wests Tigers Rugby League Football Club has made a submission as part of this study stating that if the Club is to be relocated from Leichhardt Oval No.2, the only alternative the Club is willing to accept is the Glover Street sports ground in Callan Park. All possible alternatives for the relocation of the two current users have been investigated and at this stage the only alternative appears to be the Callan Park sports grounds.

Recommend that Recommendations 15 and 17 (Section 13.2.3) and the first sub-strategy of Strategy 3 (Section 14.6) in the draft Study be deleted and the following amended directions be incorporated in the Study Report …

Develop a new "wet" hockey pitch on Leichhardt Oval No. 2, subject to the availability of sports grounds within Callan Park or a suitable alternative facility for the relocation of each of the current users.
Sandra Jones
Pioneer Precinct

12. The Precinct Committee has requested consideration be given to the installation of some additional park furniture, fencing and other landscape treatments to Shields Playground & Park and to Marr Reserve.

Stratcorp: The information will be incorporated into Section 9.5 of the study report as a community submission. The suggestions are consistent with the directions in the report for future upgrade of parks.

Recommend the submission be included in Section 9.5 of the study report.

Vanessa Newell
Landscape Coordinator, Leichhardt Council

13. Suggested that the study report has a heavy emphasis on sport, and that further consideration should have been given to passive recreational pursuits.

Stratcorp: The study has undertaken an overall assessment of the current provision of recreation, sport and open space, has undertaken an analysis of key issues and opportunities, and has provided specific recommendations in relation to passive and active, and structured and unstructured pursuits. The current lack of provision of both outdoor and indoor sporting facilities was a key issue identified by Council, stakeholders and the community which warranted additional consideration and analysis.

The study does not reduce the supply of passive space. Additional passive open space is generated through Council’s S.94 Open Space and Recreation Plan and the actions of other Government authorities, e.g. Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority and Ballast Point. The treatment of these areas is addressed through the ongoing work programs of Council’s Parks and Streetscapes Department and master planning. For example, sitting and viewing areas at 2-8 Weston Street, East Balmain have been included in the Plan of Management.

Recommend there be no change to the study report.

Bob Moore
Leichhardt Bicycle Users Group

14. The Group has requested consideration be given to the development of some cycle facilities and circuits specifically for children, and has suggested War Memorial Park, Mort Bay Park and Pioneer Park as possible venues. Further, some additional suggestions for mobilising the community have been provided.

Stratcorp: The information will be incorporated into Section 9.5 of the study report as a community submission. It should also be noted that the Leichhardt Bicycle Strategy is being reviewed and updated by Council, and is considered to be a better medium by which specific bicycle issues in the broader context of recreation and transportation can be addressed.

Recommend the submission be included in Section 9.5 of the study report.
Leichhardt Youth Council

15. Concern expressed at the recommendation to install a new basketball/netball court in Mort Bay Park (Strategy No. 20), on the grounds that the designated area is unsafe.

Stratcorp: This upgrade project has been identified in the Mort Bay Park Plan of Management which was adopted by Council in November 2004. The concerns will be passed onto Council’s recreation staff for consideration when designing and developing options for the proposed facility.

Recommend there be no change to the study report.

Stephen Payne  
Resident

16. Suggested Council give consideration to the installation of an all-weather six-a-side soccer facility.

Stratcorp: This request will be incorporated into Section 9.5 of the study report as a community submission, and needs to be the subject of a more detailed feasibility in relation to its need, site options and management/maintenance requirements.

Recommend Strategy No. 3 have an additional action, being ...

“Investigate the practicality of developing a new all-weather six-a-side soccer facility.”

1.5. Amended Summary of Proposed Future Provision of Outdoor Sporting Facilities

The summary of the proposed future provision of outdoor sporting facilities throughout the Leichhardt LGA is contained in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport / Recreation Facility</th>
<th>Proposed Use</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leichhardt Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Leichhardt Oval</td>
<td>Wests Tigers (NRL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Leichhardt Oval No. 2</td>
<td>Rugby League</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Soccer</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hockey (only if current soccer uses can be relocated to an alternative venue, and if rugby league uses can be relocated to new fields in Callan Park)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Oval No. 3</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Callan Park</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Glover Street Ground</td>
<td>Rugby League (1 full size, 1 three quarter size)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baseball (1 permanent field, up to 3 temporary fields – all shared with cricket)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cricket (shared with baseball)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Waterfront Drive Ground</td>
<td>AFL (1 oval shared with soccer)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Soccer (2 fields shared with AFL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Balmain Road Ground</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Soccer (1 field)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sport / Recreation Facility</td>
<td>Proposed Use</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blackmore Oval</td>
<td>Rugby League&lt;br&gt;Rugby Union&lt;br&gt;Six-a-side modified soccer (Summer season)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lambert Park</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cohen Park</td>
<td>Soccer&lt;br&gt;Cricket (junior)&lt;br&gt;Tennis&lt;br&gt;Netball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pioneers Memorial Park</td>
<td>Tennis&lt;br&gt;Netball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birchgrove Park</td>
<td>Soccer&lt;br&gt;Rugby League&lt;br&gt;Cricket&lt;br&gt;Tennis&lt;br&gt;Netball</td>
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<tr>
<td>King George Park</td>
<td>Little Athletics&lt;br&gt;Cricket&lt;br&gt;Soccer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easton Park</td>
<td>Soccer&lt;br&gt;Cricket (junior)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Punch Park</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gladstone Park</td>
<td>Lawn Bowls&lt;br&gt;Netball / Basketball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mort Bay Park</td>
<td>Netball / Basketball</td>
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