

NORTH COAST

SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION PLAN

2018 - 2023



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

The North Coast region with its spectacular coastline, sub-tropical climate, and myriad of lifestyles – rural, coastal, bohemian and cosmopolitan, linked by the Pacific Highway is a great place to play sport and be active.

This is the first comprehensive Sport and Active Recreation Plan for the North Coast. It builds upon a strong base of existing surfing and coastal sporting events, high quality city-based sporting facilities

in Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour, Lismore and Tweed Heads, and vibrant community surf clubs all along the coast.

During the development of the plan, we heard from a wide cross section of community participants in the sport and active recreation sector who contributed their thoughts on enhancing active participation opportunities, attracting sporting events, designing sporting facilities including regional sporting hubs and creating integrated performance pathways for talented athletes. The core purpose

of the plan is to provide a platform for collaboration and coordination between the organisations who contribute to the planning, investment and delivery of sport and active recreation in the North Coast Region.

This Sport and Active Recreation Plan is complementary to the North Coast Regional Plan 2036 developed by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. The broader Regional Plan makes reference to an expanding walking and cycling network focused on centres and access to waterways. It suggests that the design of the network needs to consider equal access, shade, landscaping, seating, water bubblers, signage, changes in surface treatments and end of trip facilities such as showers and lockers

This plan takes into account the opportunities provided by the region's four cities, its two strategic centres of Ballina and Grafton and a network of attractive coastal and hinterland towns as key places for sporting and active recreation activities to occur.

This plan also draws on the concepts being considered in the development of the National Sports Plan by the Australian Sports Commission. The National Sports Plan is built around the four pillars of participation, performance, preventive health and integrity. The plan has also benefited from input from peak bodies Sport NSW and Outdoors NSW.

This document sets out the vision, outcomes and strategies which will ensure the North Coast region provides increased sport and active recreation opportunities to enhance the lives of its people, as members of healthier, more active communities.

I encourage everyone in the North Coast to get behind this plan and benefit from the opportunities it promises.



Stuart Ayres MP
Minister for Sport

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A NEW WAY OF DELIVERING SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION IN REGIONAL NSW

In April 2017, the Office of Sport embarked on a project to review and renew the way that sport and active recreation is planned and delivered in regional NSW.

The project was established to directly contribute to the vision of the Office of Sport:

“A vibrant and valued sport and active recreation sector that enhances the lives of the people of NSW.”

The project started from the view that a new regional sport and active recreation model would take a more “place-based” rather than a “one size fits all” approach. The ten service delivery regions of NSW were used as a starting point to develop a specific plan for each region of NSW.

Initial concept testing was conducted with key partner groups in April, May and June 2017. One of the central concepts tested was a planning and delivery model which consisted of six partner groups collaborating together. The six partner groups are outlined in Figure 1.

In October 2017, representatives from the six partner groups gathered in each region to commence the process of creating a customised regionally specific plan for their region.

This document represents the beginning of a collaborative approach across the region to the planning and delivery of sport and active recreation. The Office of Sport will provide the necessary coordination to enable the collaboration demonstrated during the workshop to continue into the future.

The language of many of the strategies attempts to accurately reflect the discussions of the planning workshop. This plan has retained the actual wording presented by workshop participants, so does not use formal planning terminology.

Finally, the six partner groups agreed that this Sport and Active Recreation Plan is not “set and forget”. As the region continues to evolve over the next few years, so will this plan.

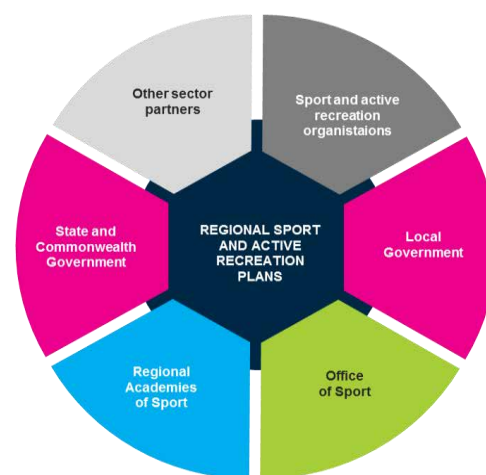


Figure 1. Six Partner Group Model



ROLES OF THE SIX PARTNER GROUPS

1. SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION ORGANISATIONS

- Providing the sport's "best case" position on an optimised delivery environment for each region
- Contributing to our evidence base for sport and active recreation
- Collaborating with Government (Local, State and Commonwealth) to identify sporting infrastructure and program needs
- Contributing to the development of Regional Sport and Active Recreation Plans
- Aligning service delivery with the Regional Sport and Active Recreation Plans
- **Partners could include:** State Sporting Organisations, Regional Sporting Associations, Local Clubs, Sport NSW, Outdoors NSW.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Funding, providing and managing sport and active recreation infrastructure and programs in local communities
- Collaborating with the community to identify sporting infrastructure and program needs
- Incorporating sport and active recreation into Community Strategic Plans
- Contributing to the development of Regional Sport and Active Recreation Plans
- Aligning service delivery with the Regional Sport and Active Recreation Plans

3. REGIONAL ACADEMIES OF SPORT

- Delivering pre-elite sport programs across their region
- Collaborating with sports, other key community organisations and high performance system partners to optimise performance pathways.

4. STATE AND COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT

- Providing the Office of Sport with relevant specialist advice and expertise
- Integrating sport and active recreation outcomes in agency planning
- **NSW Government partners could include:** Department of Industry, Destination NSW, Infrastructure NSW, Treasury, Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) Regional Coordination Group, Planning and Environment, Office of Local Government, Education, Health, Family and Community Services.
- **Commonwealth Government partners include:** Australian Sports Commission, Department of Health.



5. NGOs AND OTHER PARTNERS

- Collaborating with sports and other stakeholders to promote sport and active recreation sector
- Contributing to an evidence base for sport and active recreation
- Providing the Office of Sport with relevant specialist advice and expertise
- Integrating sport and active recreation outcomes in their planning
- **Partners could include:** Universities, TAFEs, Heart Foundation, ClubsNSW, Volunteering NSW, PCYC, YMCA, parkrun Australia, Parks and Leisure Australia, Fitness Australia, and Event organisers.



6. OFFICE OF SPORT

Sport and Recreation Services Group

- Lead implementation and activation of Sport and Active Recreation Plan.
- Facilitating contemporary and relevant services
- Providing opportunities for life long sport and active recreation experiences (from first experience to high performance)
- Leading local coordination
- Fostering new local partnerships
- Optimising Sport and Recreation Centres for sport and active recreation outcomes
- Managing our funding programs to support Regional Sport and Active Recreation Plans and their implementation

Sport Infrastructure Group

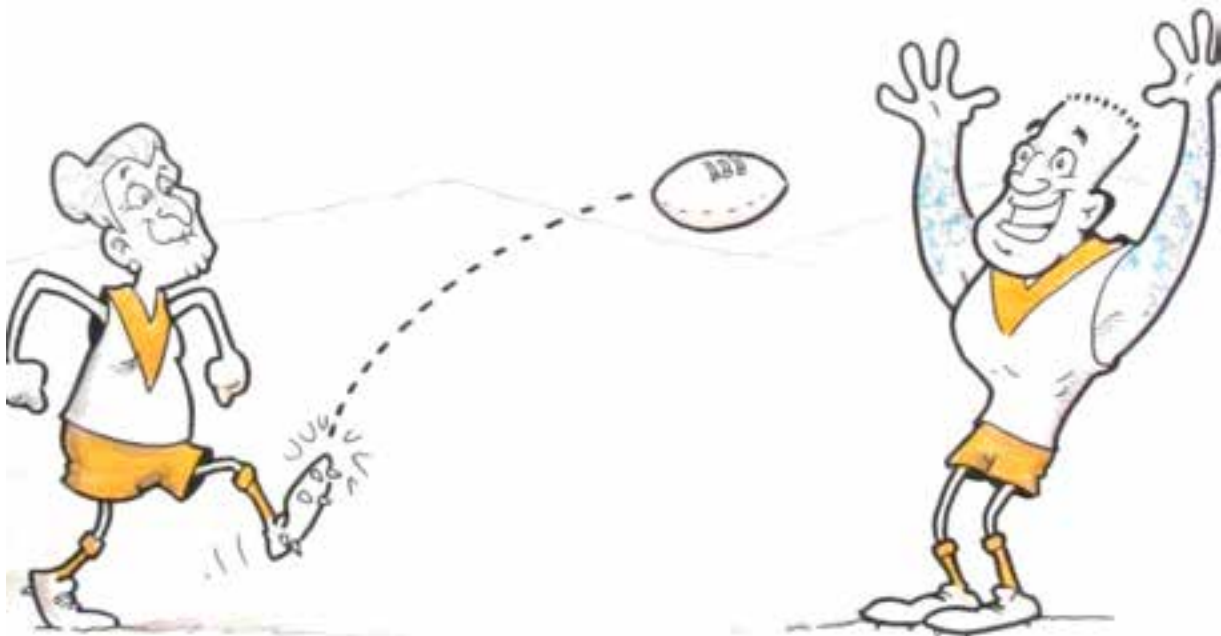
- Identifying current and future requirements for infrastructure
- Planning of community sport infrastructure
- Master planning processes
- Project feasibility support and advice to government, state and local partners
- Developing standards for facilities planning and development
- Best practice research in land and community development, environmental sustainability and urban design

Sport Development Group

- Capacity building for sport and active recreation organisations, including participation and inclusion strategies for under-represented groups
- Advice and strategies to support integrity in sport, including safeguarding children
- Support for and leveraging major sporting events
- Policy and strategy development, including building the evidence base for the value of sport and active recreation

VISION FOR THE NORTH COAST REGION*

PEOPLE OF ALL AGES and ABILITIES
ON THE NORTH COAST HAVE DIVERSE
OPPORTUNITIES IN PEOPLE FRIENDLY
SPACES TO PARTICIPATE IN
SPORT and ACTIVE RECREATION



*This vision was conceived and designed at the Regional Planning Day held on 17 October 2017.



INPUTS INTO THE NORTH COAST SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION PLAN

This plan reflects and builds on the outcomes of the regional planning day by incorporating other inputs as represented in Figure 2 below:



Figure 2. Inputs into plan



Destination NSW

OUTCOMES

After a series of consultation sessions in the region, six outcomes have been identified for the North Coast region:



INCREASED PARTICIPATION

of adults and children in regular sport and active recreation.



IMPROVED ACCESS

to sport and active recreation for everyone in the region, regardless of background or ability.



INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE PATHWAYS

for participants in sport.



FIT FOR PURPOSE FACILITIES

in the region.



VALUED REGIONAL SPORTING EVENTS

which are valued by the region.



EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION

within the sport and active recreation sector.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS



FEATURES OF THE NORTH COAST REGION



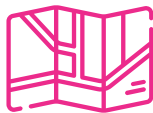
12 local government areas
4 cities (Tweed Heads, Lismore, Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie).
2 regional centres, and a network of vibrant rural towns



77% of population growth over the next 20 years will be in the 4 regional cities



15 World Heritage Areas – the most biologically diverse region of NSW



3 of the **5** busiest Regional NSW airports (Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour and Ballina-Byron)



Twin Towns of **Tweed Heads** and **Coolangatta** share education, health and sport facilities



OUTCOME 1

INCREASED PARTICIPATION

In order to achieve an increase in participation rates for adults and children in sport and active recreation, the following strategies will be explored.

Actions to support each strategy will be developed by working groups comprised of relevant stakeholders from the region.

Strategies suggested at regional planning day workshop

Strategy 1.1 – Develop a “Get off the couch together” program

Concepts to consider

- Create additional participation opportunities for parents and carers to be physically active whilst their children are training or participating in sport and active recreation.

Strategy 1.2 – Develop localised sport competitions

Concepts to consider

- Collaborate with stakeholders to develop round-robin team competitions across several adjacent local clubs to reduce travel time and costs.
- The program could enable the clubs to pool resources, provide venues, volunteers and officials every month. It also increases the accessibility of the relevant sport.

Strategy 1.3 – Promote modified format for sport including walking sports

Concepts to consider

- Modify rules and equipment of traditional sports to encourage older adults to participate.
- The program is aimed for older adults to allow for mobility impaired people to participate. Outcomes delivered could include increased participation and inclusiveness for the ageing demographic and the provision of organised sport for older adults.
- An existing example of this approach is walking Basketball.
- Flexible arrangements could include; pay-to-play, evening games, social focus etc...

NOTE: The concept of an integrated insurance scheme to cover children participating in multiple sports was discussed and it was agreed that the Office of Sport would advocate for this at the national level.



Strategies suggested from other input

Strategy 1.4 – Promote the Active Kids Voucher Program

- The Active Kids program provides a voucher of up to \$100 for parents / guardians / carers to contribute to the cost of their children's membership fees in approved sport and active recreation activities.

The program:

- A. supports increased participation of school-enrolled children in sport and active recreation;
- B. contributes to the delivery of the Premier's Priority to reduce childhood overweight and obesity by increasing physical activity levels in children; and
- C. aims to help change the physical activity behaviours of children and young people in NSW.

Strategy 1.5 – Plan for and promote child safe and child friendly environments

Concepts to consider

- Provide training for coaches, officials and leaders of clubs and active recreation organisations.
- Provide education and awareness to parents, carers and children on what to expect from activity leaders.

Strategy 1.6 – Support Councils to include and strengthen reference to sport and active recreation in their Community Strategic Plans (CSPs)

Concepts to consider

- Convene a forum for Councils to share and compare their sport and active recreation strategies in CSPs.
- Consider initiatives which cross Local Government Area(LGA) borders to gain economies of scale.

Strategy 1.7 – Support State Sporting Organisations (SSOs) to develop a regional participation strategy

Concepts to consider

- Convene a forum for the five sports with highest participation to develop specific regional strategies.
- Engage with other SSOs with regional strategies to learn from the experiences of those sports.

Strategy 1.8 – Attract and retain new Volunteers

Concepts to consider

- Establish a partnership with the regional branch of Volunteering NSW.
- Create a new style of volunteer incentive program based on loyalty points.
- Establish a partnership with Duke of Edinburgh's International Award units in the region to access award candidates as volunteers in sport and active recreation.



OUTCOME 2 IMPROVED ACCESS

In order to improve people's access to sport and active recreation in the North Coast, regardless of their background or ability, the following strategies will be explored.

Actions to support each strategy will be developed by working groups comprised of relevant stakeholders from the region.

Strategies suggested at regional planning day workshop

Strategy 2.1 – Engage non-active participants

Concepts to consider

- Target increased participation in groups such as young adults (15-20 years old), older adults, disability groups, as well as Culturally And Linguistically Diverse (CALD) groups.
- The program would aim to increase participation by changing how sports are delivered (e.g. through changing schedules).
- Develop a regional communication strategy on the benefits of physical activity.

- Engage local sporting heroes as ambassadors of sport and active recreation activities.
- Develop a “first-timers” incentive award scheme for individuals and sporting organisations.

Strategy 2.2 – Promote and develop school programs

Concepts to consider

- Introduce sport activities to school curriculum, leveraging programs such as the Active Kids Vouchers and Sporting Schools Program. Existing examples of this approach include the Clontarf foundations Football academy program, Auskick and Kanga Cricket.
- Outcomes delivered could include healthier communities and social cohesiveness.





Strategies suggested from other inputs

Strategy 2.3 – Enhance the Sport and Recreation Centre at Lake Ainsworth as a place for children to experience sport and active recreation activities for the first time

Concepts to consider

- Ensure all local schools are aware of opportunities for organised school activities at the Centre.
- Engage with local sporting clubs to offer training camps and outdoor activities for their junior members.
- Promote the range of active recreation opportunities to regional community groups.

Strategy 2.4 – Explore options for shared transport to sport and active recreation opportunities

Concepts to consider

- Seek engagement with local transport providers to consider alternative services.
- Formalise car pooling arrangements through clubs and organisations.
- Access local council vehicles during non-peak use times.

Strategy 2.5 – Expand opportunities for active travel

Concepts to consider

- Advocate for an expanded network of walking and cycling paths with shade, water bubblers, landscaping, and end of trip facilities such as showers and lockers.
- Use information and events to promote walking and cycling as a form of transport.
- Reuse parts of the Casino to Murwillumbah rail line to support cycling for pleasure and transport.
- Implement the Coffs Harbour Jetty 4shores Project including shared paths and interpretive walks.



Strategy 2.6 – Provide support to under-represented groups to access sport and active recreation opportunities

Concepts to consider

- Determine which groups are significantly under represented within the region and identify organisations who can adequately represent the needs of Indigenous, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) groups.
- Modify facilities and programs to enable access for people with disabilities, seniors and other under-represented groups.
- Consider the priorities referred to in the Office of Sport's 2018-2022 Women in Sport Strategy as a guide for supporting under-represented groups.

Strategy 2.7 – Develop a central information hub / clearinghouse / database / portal for all sporting organisations and participants

Concepts to consider

- Seek expressions of interest from regional Information Technology providers to develop the hub.
- Engage representatives from each partner group to identify and define content for the hub.

Strategy 2.8 – Support sport and active recreation clubs to attract new participants

Concepts to consider

- Provide training and skill development in marketing and promotion.
- Conduct cross-sport member attraction programs for sports with complementary winter and summer seasons.

OUTCOME 3

INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE PATHWAYS

In order to support sport performance pathways for participants in the region the following strategies will be explored.

Actions to support each strategy will be developed by working groups comprised of relevant stakeholders from the region.

Strategies suggested at regional planning day workshop

Strategy 3.1 – Continue with existing sport talent programs

Concepts to consider

- Most sports currently run a representative program, with participation staff to scout kids that are appropriate for the program – e.g. NRL, Soccer, AFL, Rugby Union, Netball, Hockey, Tennis, Baseball, Surf Life Saving, Cricket, Basketball, Swimming and Athletics.
- Most sports, particularly ones with paid staff in the region provide opportunities for talented kids to be developed.

Strategy 3.2 – Tailor delivery of sport and active recreation to population groups

Concepts to consider

- Tailoring sport and active recreation delivery to the different population demographics in the region, enabling people to remain active for longer. Good existing examples include a Tennis adaption called 'Pickle ball', wheelchair sports, and walking sports such as Football, or Basketball.
- Outcomes delivered include a healthier population, prevention of illnesses and the provision of education / awareness of sports.

Strategies suggested from other inputs

Strategy 3.3 – Embed the Foundation, Talent, Elite and Mastery (FTEM) pathway model established by the Australian Sports Commission in the region

Concepts to consider

- Promote the Australian Sports Commission's FTEM model of athlete development to athletes, parents, coaches and the wider community to assist athletes in the North Coast region to achieve their sporting goals.

Strategy 3.4 – Strengthen links between the North Coast Academy of Sport and other sector partners

Concepts to consider

- Facilitate athlete pathway planning sessions to maximise the collaboration between sports, system partners and providers of services in the region.

Strategy 3.5 – Improve coaching and officiating standards in the North Coast region

Concepts to consider

- Improving the quality of coaching and officiating will positively impact participation and high performance in the region. While each sport owns its own accreditation programs an action plan to develop coaches and officials in the Region should be developed. It will involve consultation between the Office of Sport, the North Coast Academy of Sport and State Sporting Organisations to ensure the plan best suits the region, has maximum impact and avoids duplication and date conflicts.

PATHWAYS CASE STUDY

Title: Far North Coast Rugby Pathways Program

Description: Lake Ainsworth Centre has developed a partnership with Bond University Rugby.

The centre provides Bond University with a team building weekend, preseason venue, and pathways program in conjunction with Far North Coast (FNC) Rugby.

The program is over three years:

Year 1: 2017 was a pilot program to determine the viability of the program in terms of perceived value to the club, take up by players, and an assessment by the centre to determine value. Team building /preseason weekend with the colts.

Year 2: 2018 saw the further development of the team building program, with the addition of the two senior grades and a recruitment weekend for local FNC Rugby players.

Year 3: 2019 January Pre-season training camp, February team building camp, 2 talent Identification programs mid-year, and end of year colt selection trials.

Partners: FNC Rugby and Bond University Rugby

Outcomes: A university team by its nature is restricted by the ebb and flow of eligible students, and ultimately quality of players. This program, being away from the university, in partnership with FNC rugby will provide a pathway for local players and scholarship opportunities.

Challenges/Solutions: The 2017 camp ran very well. It achieved all of its targeted outcomes, and was a significant hit with the players.

The Centre has upgraded its weights room facility and will be completing a renovation of the building to satisfy the needs of high performance strength and conditioning.





OUTCOME 4 FIT FOR PURPOSE FACILITIES

In order to provide contemporary, fit for purpose facilities in the region, the following strategies will be explored.

Actions to support each strategy will be developed by working groups comprised of relevant stakeholders from the region.

Strategies suggested at regional planning day workshop

Strategy 4.1 – Establish Regional Sporting Hubs in Lismore and Coffs Harbour and explore locations for regional sub-hubs

Concepts to consider

- Create multi-purpose facilities for sport and community purposes that will be accessible for the whole region.
- The location of the hubs should be determined by a collaborative approach and considered in the context of other community facilities and growth corridors.

Strategy 4.2 – Maintain and enhance regionally significant sports facilities

Concepts to consider

- Maintain Port Macquarie Regional Sport Centre as a regionally significant sports facility.
- Explore other locations for regionally significant sports facilities.

Strategy 4.3 – Develop a strategic infrastructure plan

Concepts to consider

- Provide a range of sport and active recreation facilities that meet current and future demand and the needs of traditional and new sports. The types of facilities would be expected to meet the needs of sports and Councils i.e. a range of national/state, regional, district/local and neighbourhood level facilities.

Strategy 4.4 – Develop Facilities Master Plan

Concepts to consider

- Develop a plan to inform investment in facilities. The development of a plan could help to reduce local council competition, reduce duplication, provide consistency of standards around planning, match facility planning to regional profile demand and identify locations for hubs and nodes.
- Outcomes delivered by the development of a plan could include improved standards, improved pathways to encourage athletes to stay in the area, facilities that meet demand (type and quantity), improved capacity to attract funding, and better collaboration.

Strategy 4.5 – Plan for female friendly sporting facilities

Concepts to consider

- Seek input from female members of clubs and organisations about their needs and wishes.
- Include female friendly toilets and change rooms in every new sporting facility.

Strategy 4.6 – Gain access to school facilities

Concepts to consider

- Convene an information session for primary and secondary school principals to discuss and agree on access possibilities.

Strategy 4.7 – Determine optimal uses for Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre

Concepts to consider

- Establish Lake Ainsworth as a centre for aquatic sports and triathlon.
- Review and plan for accommodation and facility upgrades to ensure the centre remains relevant to the North Coast region.





HUBS – OVERVIEW

At a regional strategic level, the Office of Sport is proposing a sustainable network of regional level sport and active recreation facilities that meet the needs of stakeholders and communities. This includes a model for regional sport hubs and/or regionally significant sport facilities (see Figure 3).

The planning for sport hubs supports local Councils and the sport sector aligning their objectives and priorities for a common purpose and vision. The planning also encourages stakeholders to identify priorities that focus on increasing participation, make a contribution to regional and economic growth, deliver sustainable assets that are well used and the design of 'facilities for all'.



HUBS – FEATURES OF HUBS. A REGIONAL SPORT HUB MAY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING FEATURES:

- a multi-sport facility, which may include a sport administration centre (e.g. Sports House) that supports participation at the community and pre-elite level.
- the capacity to host national, state and regional championships. The location of regional sport hubs may complement already established regionally significant sport facilities; that is, venues that are listed as Tier 3 facilities under the NSW Stadia Strategy (2012). There are 27 such facilities in NSW, with 11 in regional NSW.
- could include broader community facilities such as aquatic and fitness facilities and other types of development such as a school or tertiary institution
- a main site incorporating core sporting facilities and services, as well as supporting facilities and services.



HUBS – SUPPORT FACILITIES

Support facilities that could be connected to the core facilities (on-site or nearby) include:

- Health and fitness facilities/services
- General health and fitness
- Sports science
- Other allied health services
- Education and training facilities/services
- Aquatic facilities
- Additional administration for all sport and other partners.



SNAPSHOT OF THE 2017 NORTH COAST FUTURE NEEDS OF SPORT INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY

11 of 12 Councils participated in the Future Needs of Sport Infrastructure Study 2017

150 facility projects were submitted by the 11 Councils

- 108 sport facility projects
- 42 active recreation facility projects

Of the 150 facility projects:

- 12 were for national/state level facilities
- 58 were for regional level facilities
- 59 were for local level facilities
- 6 were for neighbourhood level facilities

In addition, 21 State sporting organisations submitted 43 sport facility projects.



REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT SPORTS FACILITIES

A project is considered “regionally significant” if it meets the following broad facility criteria:

- is a sport or recreation facility of regional level significance to a State sporting organisation
- meets the standards required to host major regional, state or national level competitions, events and/or training
- provides a range of participation outcomes (community, competitions, events and talent development)
- caters for a broad catchment across multiple local government boundaries, and
- delivers flexibility of use, high quality amenity, management and service levels.



Figure 3 – Regional Sports HUB Model

OUTCOME 5

VALUED REGIONAL EVENTS

Hosting sports events can provide a broad range of economic, promotional and community benefits to a region. Events have the ability to provide participation opportunities for local residents, showcase regional communities, increase or develop civic pride, enhance high performance pathways, maximise utilisation of local sporting and cultural infrastructure and drive overnight visitation, delivering an economic boost to local businesses and community organisations.

Local, state and national sporting organisations, councils, sponsors and the NSW Government and event management companies are all involved in the attraction and delivery of events to a region.

To ensure the benefits and legacy of hosting sports events are maximised, a collaborative approach should be employed, ensuring roles and responsibilities are clearly articulated and measures for success identified. In order to attract and host valued events to the region, the following strategies will be explored.

Actions to support each strategy will be developed by working groups comprised of relevant stakeholders from the region.

Strategies suggested at regional planning day workshop

Strategy 5.1 – Maintain and enhance existing successful sporting events

Concepts to consider

- Events to consider include:
 - National: Equestrian championships
 - Oz tag State / National Championships – Coffs Harbour
 - Touch State / National Championships – Port Macquarie & Coffs Harbour
 - Ironman – Port Macquarie
 - World Rally Championships – Coffs Harbour
 - National Basketball Championships – Lismore
 - Women's Ashes – Coffs Harbour.

Strategy 5.2 – Establish a Gala day

Concepts to consider

- Host a North Coast sport and active recreation gala day to celebrate sport and active recreation in the region. The festival would entail sports in different local areas. An existing example of a successful gala day is the Central Coast's sports festival, which is a weekend dedicated to all things sport, in the hope of encouraging and promoting active participation.
- The festival could provide an opportunity for local clubs to promote their sports and increase participation whilst also creating opportunities for participation and pathways for the community.

Strategies suggested from other inputs

Strategy 5.3 – Work with key stakeholders on events activation and legacy planning

Concepts to consider

- Identify additional mass participation events which may be hosted by the region.
- Identify and bid for additional high profile (national or world championship) events that may be hosted by the region.
- Establish a regional partnership with the North Coast Destination Network.

EVENT CASE STUDY

Title: Australian Little League Championships

Event Location: Lismore

Time of Year: June

Background Info: Following the successful hosting of the Australian Little League Championships in 2015, Lismore City Council, in partnership with Destination NSW, secured the rights to host the Australian Little League and Australian Senior League Baseball Championships from 2016 – 2020.

Both tournaments attract Australia's top junior baseball clubs, with the winning team from each event qualifying for the World Little League Championship and World Senior League Championship.

In addition to these two Championships, it has recently been announced that Lismore will also host the inaugural Australian Intermediate League Championship.

Approx no. Participants:
20 teams in Little League.
10 teams in Senior League.

Approx no. officials/volunteers:
100 across both tournaments

Approx no. spectators:
1,000 across both tournaments



OUTCOME 6

EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION

In order to facilitate collaboration within the sport and active recreation sector, the following strategies will be explored.

Actions to support each strategy will be developed by working groups comprised of relevant stakeholders from the region.

Strategies suggested at regional planning day workshop

Strategy 6.1 – Develop a North Coast sport and recreation taskforce

Concepts to consider

- The creation of a working group could assist with the implementation of this Regional Sport and Recreation Plan. The group may consist of representatives from all six stakeholder groups and their nominated representatives (similar to the ‘Breaking the Cycle Kempsey group’).
- The group could ensure accountability, reduce conflict between different parties, address the lack of structure and implement the plan.

Strategy 6.2 – Employ regional sport and recreation officers

Concepts to consider

- Create dedicated role(s) to coordinate sports exhibitions and ‘come and try’ events, as well as the integration of sport and physical activity into community events. Other activities include mapping events and activities to enhance promotion of physical activity. The officer could be the go-to person for all sport and active recreation events and grass roots level sport. An example of a similar approach comes from Clarence Valley Councils ‘Healthy Clarence’ scheme.
- The initiative creates a coordinated approach, sharing of tools and ideas for promotion and an avenue for sports to come together.
- Outcomes delivered could include empowering communities to have a go, creation of sport and active recreation opportunities, promotion and marketing to increase participation and shared resources / facilities between sports.

REGIONAL PLANNING DAY SNAPSHOT

On 17 October 2017, 31 leaders from the community, sport and recreation organisations and groups, NSW Government, and local Councils from the North Coast region came together at the C.ex Club in Coffs Harbour with the purpose of developing a first draft of sport and active recreation priorities for the region.

The day began with participants thinking about the unique character of the North Coast region, and its community, and to then work together to identify the opportunities and challenges for sport and active recreation from a number of perspectives.

The discussions and ideas discussed at the concluding event form the basis for this Sport and Active Recreation Plan. NSW Office of Sport will work closely with community leaders to continue and refine the plan and deliver on the suggested outcomes.

Strategy 6.3 – Promote more collaboration between schools and development officers

Concepts to consider

- Facilitate more collaboration between schools and sporting organisations, through planning days around accessing school environments for the delivery of sport and active recreation opportunities. This could help both groups to align around common goals.

**COLLABORATION
CASE STUDY**

Title: Sports Education for Northern NSW Football Clubs

Description: The North Coast Regional Office and Northern NSW Football (NNSWF) have developed a partnership whereby the Office of Sport delivers a range of training programs for the members of Northern NSW Football.

NNSWF identified its area of need (initially funding and member protection) and the Office of Sport developed presentations accordingly. To date funding workshops have been delivered in Lismore, Woolgoolga and Laurieton covering the general principles of applying for grants and the specifics of the Asian Cup 2015 Legacy Fund. A Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) Training Course and working with children check update was conducted in Ballina.

It is envisaged these topics will be offered again in 2018, together with Free Club Health Checks.

Partners: Programs have been delivered for Football Far North Coast, North Coast Football and Football Mid North Coast.

Outcomes: 42 participants attended the funding workshops, with 15 participants, representing 13 clubs, at the MPIO session in Ballina.

Perhaps the greater outcome however, was the partnership formed between the two organisations which will expand to encompass more topics and greater participation from football clubs across the north coast.

Challenges/Solutions: The process ran very smoothly with NNSWF responsible for the venues and promotion, and the Office of Sport providing presenters.

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES AND STRATEGIES

It is not possible to address all of these strategies in five years. They provide a list of possibilities which can be prioritised by the Sport and Active Recreation Steering Group over the life of the plan.

<p>OUTCOME 1 Increased Participation</p>	<p>OUTCOME 2 Improved Access</p>	<p>OUTCOME 3 Integrated Performance Pathways</p>
<p>Strategy 1.1 - Develop a “Get off the couch together” program</p>	<p>Strategy 2.1 - Engage non-active participants</p>	<p>Strategy 3.1 - Continue with existing sport talent programs</p>
<p>Strategy 1.2 - Develop localised sport competitions</p>	<p>Strategy 2.2 - Promote and develop school programs</p>	<p>Strategy 3.2 - Tailor delivery of sport and active recreation to population groups</p>
<p>Strategy 1.3 - Promote modified format for sport including walking sports</p>	<p>Strategy 2.3 - Enhance the Sport and Recreation Centre at Lake Ainsworth as a place for children to experience sport and active recreation activities for the first time</p>	<p>Strategy 3.3 - Embed the Foundation, Talent, Elite and Mastery (FTEM) pathway model established by the Australian Sports Commission in the region</p>
<p>Strategy 1.4 - Promote the Active Kids Voucher Program</p>	<p>Strategy 2.4 - Explore options for shared transport to sport and active recreation opportunities</p>	<p>Strategy 3.4 - Strengthen links between the North Coast Academy of Sport and other sector partners</p>
<p>Strategy 1.5 - Plan for and promote child safe and child friendly environments</p>	<p>Strategy 2.5 - Expand opportunities for active travel</p>	<p>Strategy 3.5 - Improve coaching and officiating standards in the North Coast region</p>
<p>Strategy 1.6 - Support Councils to include and strengthen reference to sport and active recreation in their Community Strategic Plans (CSPs)</p>	<p>Strategy 2.6 - Provide support to under-represented groups to access sport and active recreation opportunities</p>	
<p>Strategy 1.7 - Support State Sporting Organisations (SSOs) to develop a regional participation strategy</p>	<p>Strategy 2.7 - Develop a central information hub / clearinghouse / database / portal for all sporting organisations and participants</p>	
<p>Strategy 1.8 - Attract and retain new Volunteers</p>	<p>Strategy 2.8 - Support sport and active recreation clubs to attract new participants</p>	

OUTCOME 4
**Fit for
Purpose
Facilities**

[Strategy 4.1](#) - Establish Regional Sporting Hubs in Lismore and Coffs Harbour and explore locations for regional sub-hubs

[Strategy 4.2](#) - Maintain and enhance regionally significant sports facilities

[Strategy 4.3](#) - Develop a strategic infrastructure plan

[Strategy 4.4](#) - Develop Facilities Master Plan

[Strategy 4.5](#) - Plan for female friendly sporting facilities

[Strategy 4.6](#) - Gain access to school facilities

[Strategy 4.7](#) - Determine optimal uses for Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre

OUTCOME 5
**Valued
Regional
Events**

[Strategy 5.1](#) - Maintain and enhance existing successful sporting events

[Strategy 5.2](#) - Establish a Gala day

[Strategy 5.3](#) - Work with key stakeholders on events activation and legacy planning

OUTCOME 6
**Effective
Collaboration**

[Strategy 6.1](#) - Develop a North Coast sport and active recreation taskforce

[Strategy 6.2](#) - Employ regional sport and active recreation officers

[Strategy 6.3](#) - Promote more collaboration between schools and development officers



DELIVERING THE PLAN

As this is the first Sport and Active Recreation Plan, it is anticipated that responsibilities for driving and delivering the plan will evolve over time.

As a starting point, a **Sport and Active Recreation Steering Group** will be convened by the Office of Sport. It is envisaged that the Group will consist of the following members:

Chair: Regional Director, Northern Region (Office of Sport)

Members: Director, North Coast Region, Department of Premier and Cabinet
Executive Officer, Mid North Coast Regional Organisation of Councils (MIDROC)
Local Council representative
Executive Officer, North Coast Academy of Sport
CEO Sport NSW (or nominated sport representative), Sport NSW
CEO, Destination North Coast, Destination NSW
Regional Manager, North Coast (Office of Sport)

Secretariat: Office of Sport

Working groups will be established to pursue outcomes for specific strategies outlined in this plan.

An Evaluation Process and **Reporting Framework** will be considered during the first year of this plan.

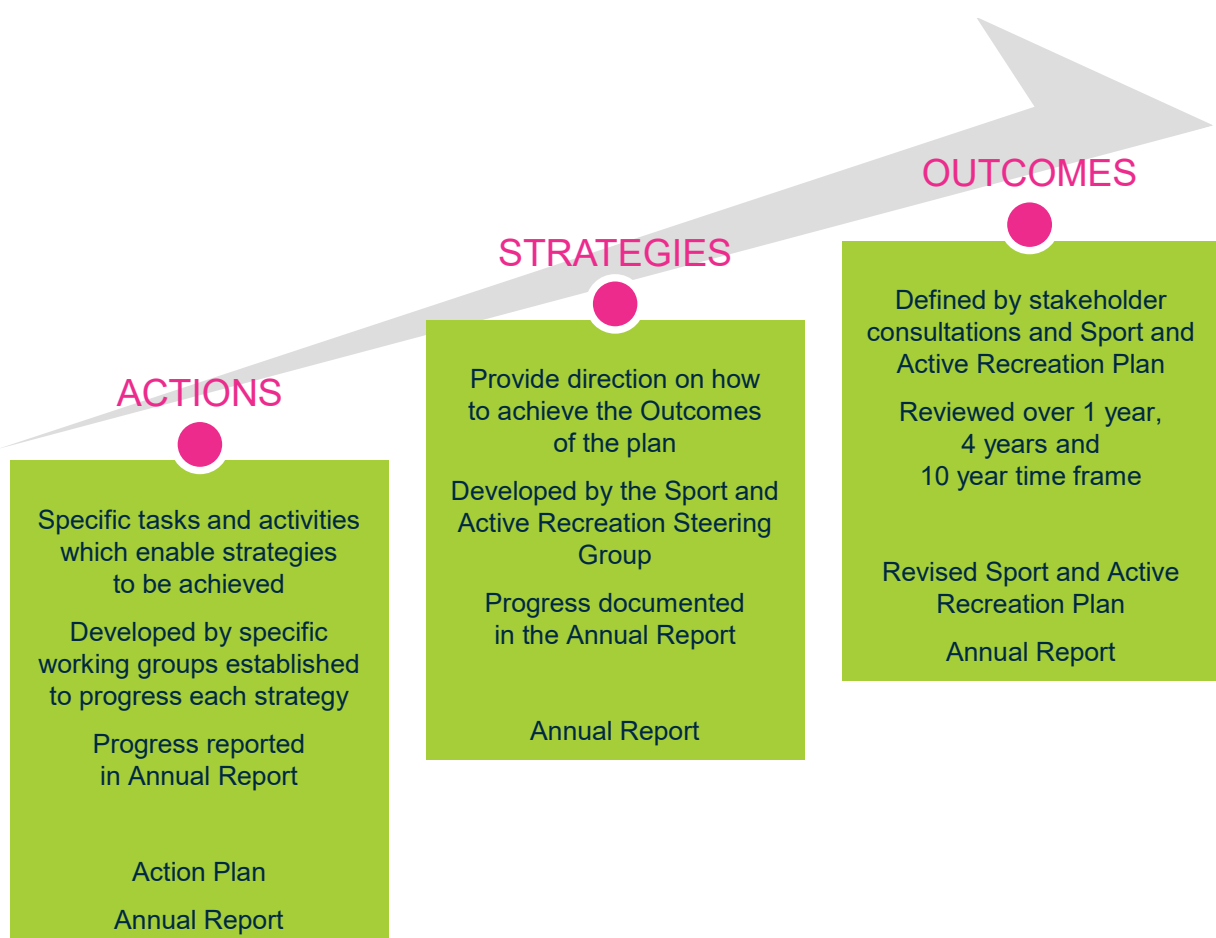


REVIEWING THE PLAN

The plan will be reviewed annually by the Sport and Active Recreation Steering Group through an Annual Report.

A revised plan for 2019 will be developed following the review of the 2018 plan.

The 2018 Report and 2019 Plan will be provided to the NSW Minister for Sport, CE of the Office of Sport and Chair of the Regional Executive Leadership Group convened by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.





ADDITIONAL RESOURCES


Resources

- NSW Office of Sport's 2017-2022 Disability Inclusion Plan
- NSW Office of Sport's 2018-2022 Women in Sport Strategy
- NSW Office of Sport's 2018-2022 Multicultural Inclusion Plan
- Multicultural NSW's Community Profiles
- Transport Roads and Maritime Walking Regularly Programs
- NSW Department of Planning and Environment North Coast Regional Plan







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The Office of Sport would like to acknowledge and thank all sector partners and members of the community that provided input into the development of this sport and active recreation plan.