

Minutes

May 2025

Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council

Present

Councillors and Staff:

Councillor Nik Lipovac (Chairperson)

Councillor Lisa Intemann (Alternate)

Director Community Planning and Environment (Melissa Watkins)

Group Manager Liveable Communities (Lucilla Marshall)

Recreation and Community Strategy Manager (Katrina Boulet)

Spaces and Places Manager

Kirsty Speelman (Secretariat Service)

Community and Business Representatives:

AFL North Coast, Brad Greenshields

Football Mid North Coast, Gregg McDonald

Cricket NSW, Kate Jackson

Tennis NSW, Sonia Close

Group 3 Rugby League Referees Association, Tim Gumbleton

Port Macquarie Little Athletics, Trudi Wilmot

The meeting opened at 4.02pm.

01 Acknowledgement Of Country

The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered.

02 Apologies

Consensus:

That apologies received from the following be accepted:

- Simon Thresher
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03 Confirmation Of Minutes

Consensus:

That the minutes of the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council Meeting held on 25 March 2025 be amended to include Item 06 – Proposed Sporting Fees and Charges 2025-2026, with the addition of a fourth option: no change to the proposed fees and charges.

04 Disclosures Of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest presented.

05 Business Arising From Previous Minutes

Consensus:

That the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council note it received the following feedback on the Sporting Fields and Recreation Facilities – Fees and Charges Review for the 2024-2025 financial year at the meeting:

- AFL North Coast requested that, if fees are to be introduced, consideration be given to clubs either receiving a refund, being charged a discounted rate, or being provided access to alternative Council indoor facilities at a reduced cost during extreme weather events or impacted seasonal use.
 - Football Mid North Coast requested an extension of the season into October and indicated a willingness to collaborate with other sporting clubs to coordinate shared use of fields during extreme weather events or impacted seasonal use, such as in 2025.
 - Cricket NSW indicated a preference for a per-user fee model.
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- Hastings Valley Netball Association expressed openness to implementing a per-court fee structure.
 - Rugby League advised that no changes to fees and charges are preferred. However, if changes are implemented, they request that these do not increase the administrative burden on club volunteers.
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06 Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2024-2029 Status Report and 2025 Plan Review

Consensus:

That the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council:

1. Note the information contained in this report.
 2. Note the priority projects identified for inclusion in a future revision of the Recreation and Open Space Action Plan.
 3. Note that further (final) input is to be provided to Council by 6 June 2025.
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07 Sporting Venue Sponsorship Program Investigation

Consensus:

That Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council:

1. Note the information contained in the April 2025 Council report in Attachment 1 Investigating a Sporting Venue Sponsorship Program.
 2. Note the Sporting Venue Sponsorship options presented.
 3. Note that further input is to be provided to Council by 30 June 2025 and will be discussed at a future meeting.
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08 Sports Field User Pay Model - Community Engagement Plan

Consensus:

The Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council:

1. Note the information contained in this report
2. Discuss the Sports Field User Pay Model - Community Engagement Plan
3. Note that further (final) input regarding the proposed Engagement Plan is to be provided to Council by 6 June 2025.

09 Standing Item: Request for Project Upgrades

Consensus:

That the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council note the discussion on requests for project upgrades.

10 Standing Item: Opportunities for optimising activation of Recreation Spaces

Consensus:

That the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council note the discussion on opportunities for optimising activation of recreation spaces and that no additional opportunities were identified.

11 Sporting Events Calendar

Consensus:

That the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council note the Sporting Calendar for upcoming events from 1 May to 31 July 2025.

12 General Business

Consensus:

That the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council note

1. The amendment of the next meeting date from 26 August 2025 to 22 July 2025.
 2. Note that AFL NSW has requested sports field closure decisions be brought forward from 2:00pm to 10:00am on Fridays, along with early notification regarding the availability of sports fields.
 3. That Council will follow up on the outstanding Cricket NSW bond refund.
 4. That Mid North Coast Football has requested Council explore the option of rolling over bond payments annually.
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The meeting closed at 6.07pm.