



30 October 2025

Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council

Business Paper

4:00 PM Thursday

TEAMS Meeting

PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS
SPORTS COUNCIL
TERMS OF REFERENCE

Adopted: 18 May 2023

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council (PMHC) has resolved to appoint a Sports Council, to be known as the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council (the Sports Council).

The Sports Council shall comprise of representatives of the sporting clubs and sporting community as appointed by Council.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Port Macquarie Hastings Sports Council are to:

- Assist in the development, review and monitoring of the Recreation Action Plan 2023-2028 which assists PMHC in the identification for sport and sporting infrastructure.
- Consider the cumulative effects of PMHC's decisions on identification of priorities for sport and sporting infrastructure;
- Provide advice to PMHC on strategic projects and PMHC policies related to, or that may impact on the implementation of the Recreation Action Plan 2023-2028;
- Initiate increased communication between the sporting community and PMHC to ensure that all existing and future needs and requirements of sport are identified and considered;
- Work with PMHC to ensure that sporting and recreation facilities are provided and maintained to an acceptable standard;
- Raise funds and source grants which will assist in furthering the objectives of the Sports Council; and
- Provide input to the setting and review of fees and charges for sporting fields and recreation facilities.

The Port Macquarie Hastings Sports Council will not consider:

- Sport and recreation program development.
- Sports club development and capacity building.
- Day-to-day operational management of facilities including sport facility allocations.

3.0 MEMBERSHIP

Port Macquarie Hastings Sports Council is to be made up of:

- Two Councillors (to be determined by PMHC)
- One representative from the NSW Office of Sport
- Up to 4 staff representatives from PMHC
- Minimum of 8 members, representative of peak bodies and major sporting clubs and associations that utilise PMHC sporting facilities and grounds

Representation to include links with the following groups/categories:

- Women in Sport
- Emerging Sports
- Access for people with Disability

Members will be appointed by Councillors via a Council resolution following a formal nomination process.

Term of appointment will be up to a period of 2 years.

Should there be a need for the Sports Council to continue beyond this time, a re-appointment process will be undertaken for all members in accordance with the selection process outlined in these Terms of Reference.

Specific representatives may be invited to nominate.

Members will be selected to ensure a range of sport codes who represent a range of regions are selected for the Sports Council.

The Chairperson will be appointed by Councillors via a Council Resolution.

Vacancies that occur on the Sports Council will be filled by public advertisement and appointed through a resolution of Council.

Other PMHC staff, Government officers, advisors or individuals may be invited to attend meetings from time to time to provide expert advice, information or presentations in relation to the Sports Council's business.

4.0 CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillors, PMHC staff and members of this Sports Council must comply with the applicable provisions of PMHC's Code of Conduct in carrying out the functions as PMHC officials. It is the personal responsibility of members to comply with the standards in the Code of Conduct and regularly review their personal circumstances with this in mind.

5.0 REPORTING

The minutes for each meeting of the Sports Council shall be prepared and distributed to members and published on PMHC's website.

6.0 STAFF

The Sports Council has no delegated authority to employ or direct staff or consultants.

7.0 FINANCES

The Sports Council has no delegated authority to expend PMHC monies.

8.0 MEETING FREQUENCY

The Sports Council will determine its own meeting frequency, however, is expected to commence meeting outside of business hours from July 2023 and meet a minimum of 4 times per year.

9.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Members of this Sports Council must declare any conflict of interest at the start of each meeting or before discussion of a relevant item or topic. Details of any conflict of interest should be appropriately minuted.

Where members or invitees at meetings are deemed to have a real or perceived conflict of interest, it may be appropriate that they be excused from deliberations on the issue where the conflict of interest may exist and this is to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

10.0 MISUSE OF POSITION

No member can use information obtained through their position on this Sports Council for private purposes or private gain.

11.0 REVIEW

PMHC shall review the Terms of Reference at least every three years. If changes are proposed at least one-month notice in writing of the proposed changes will be forwarded to members of PMHC.

Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Member	12/11/24	04/03/25	25/03/25	27/05/25	22/07/25
Chairperson - Councillor Nik Lipovac	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Alternate Councillor Lisa Intemann		✓		✓	✓
Hastings River District Junior Cricket Association - Barry Spencer	A	A	✓	✓	A
AFL North Coast - Brad Greenshields		A	✓	✓	✓
Hastings Valley District Netball Association - Karmen Marchment		✓	✓	✓	
Hastings Valley Netball Association, Linda Dewbery					✓
Basketball NSW - Cristi Juffermans		X	A	X	✓
NSW Touch Football - David Stone		X	A	X	✓
Football Mid North Coast - Gregg McDonald		✓	✓	✓	✓
NSW Office Of Sport - James Turton		X	A	A	A
Cricket NSW - Kate Jackson		✓	✓	✓	✓
Cricket NSW - Trent Sigalas					✓
Tennis NSW - Sonia Close		X	A	✓	✓
Tennis NSW - Kylie Hunt				✓	
Port Macquarie Hockey Association - Simon Thresher		A	✓	A	✓
Group 3 Rugby League Referees Association - Tim Gumbleton,	A	A	✓	✓	
Port Macquarie Little Athletics - Trudi Wilmot		✓	✓	✓	✓
Hastings Valley Netball Association, Linda Dewbery					
Non-voting					
Director Community Planning and Environment - Melissa Watkins		✓	✓	✓	✓
Recreation and Community Strategy Manager - Katrina Boulet		✓		✓	✓
Group Manager Livable Communities - Lucilla Marshall		✓	✓	✓	✓
Manager Spaces and Places - Joel Heise		✓	✓	✓	
Secretariat Service - Kirsty Speelman	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Key: ✓ = Present

A = Absent With Apology

X = Absent Without Apology

Meeting Dates for 2025

25	February
27	May
22	July
25	November

Agenda

Items of Business

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Item: 01

Subject: Acknowledgement of Country

Recommendation

"I acknowledge that we are gathered on Birpai Land. I pay respect to the Birpai Elders both past and present. I also extend that respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people present."

Item: 02

Subject: Apologies

Recommendation

That the apologies received be accepted.

Item: 03

Subject: Confirmation of Minutes

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council Meeting held on 22 July 2025 be confirmed.

Item: 04

Subject: Disclosure of Interest

Recommendation

That Disclosures of Interest be presented.



PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS COUNCIL

Minutes

22 July 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)

Kirsty Speelman (Secretariat Service)

Community and Business Representatives:

AFL North Coast, Brad Greenshields

Basketball NSW, Cristi Juffermans

NSW Touch Football, David Stone

Football Mid North Coast, Gregg McDonald

Cricket NSW, Kate Jackson

Cricket NSW, Trent Sigalas

Tennis NSW, Sonia Close

Port Macquarie Hockey Association, Simon Thresher

Group 3 Rugby League Referees Association, Tim Gumbleton

Port Macquarie Little Athletics, Trudi Wilmot

Hastings Valley Netball Association, Linda Dewbery

The meeting opened at 4.01pm.

01 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered.

02 APOLOGIES

That apologies received from the following be accepted:

- Barry Spencer
 - James Turton.
-

03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Consensus:

That the Minutes of the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council Meeting held on 27 May 2025 be confirmed.

04 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest presented.

05 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil

06 Draft Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2025-2030

Consensus:

That the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council:

- 1. Noted the information provided in this report**
 - 2. Recommend the projects for inclusion in the Draft Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2025–2029, to be presented at the August 2025 Ordinary Meeting of Council.**
-

07 Sporting Venue Sponsorship Program Investigation

CONSENSUS:

That the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council:

1. Note the information contained in the April 2025 Council report in Attachment 1 - Investigate a Sporting Venue Sponsorship Program and the additional feedback from the Port Macquarie Hastings Sport Council.
2. Recommend that Option 2 Develop a policy be presented to the August 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting for consideration.
3. Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council to undertake a further review of the policy prior to adoption.

08 General Business

Consensus:

That the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council:

1. Council to distribute the Have Your Say website link for feedback on the proposed Sporting Fees and Charges.
2. Council to note the proposed NSW Cricket Carnival scheduled for December 2025.
3. Note that Cricket are advertising for a new curator. Inquiry raised regarding the outcome if the recruitment process is unsuccessful.
4. Note the current Committee's tenure concludes in October 2025. A revised charter will be prepared and presented to Council, followed by an Expression of Interest process for membership, and then returned to Council for adoption.

The meeting closed at 4.58pm.

Agenda

Item: 05

Subject: Disclosures Of Interest

Recommendation

That Disclosures of Interest be presented

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Name of Meeting:	
Meeting Date:	
Item Number:	
Subject:	
I, the undersigned, hereby declare the following interest:	
☐ Pecuniary: Take no part in the consideration and voting and be out of sight of the meeting.	
☐ Non-Pecuniary – Significant Interest: Take no part in the consideration and voting and be out of sight of the meeting.	
☐ Non-Pecuniary – Less than Significant Interest: May participate in consideration and voting.	
For the reason that:	
Name: Signed:	Date:
Please submit to the Governance Support Officer at the Council Meeting.	

(Refer to next page and the Code of Conduct)

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Pecuniary Interest

- 4.1 A pecuniary interest is an interest that you have in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to you or a person referred to in clause 4.3.
- 4.2 You will not have a pecuniary interest in a matter if the interest is so remote or insignificant that it could not reasonably be regarded as likely to influence any decision you might make in relation to the matter, or if the interest is of a kind specified in clause 4.6.
- 4.3 For the purposes of this Part, you will have a pecuniary interest in a matter if the pecuniary interest is:
 - (a) your interest, or
 - (b) the interest of your spouse or de facto partner, your relative, or your partner or employer, or
 - (c) a company or other body of which you, or your nominee, partner or employer, is a shareholder or member.
- 4.4 For the purposes of clause 4.3:
 - (a) Your “relative” is any of the following:
 - i) your parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, lineal descendant or adopted child
 - ii) your spouse’s or de facto partner’s parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, lineal descendant or adopted child
 - iii) the spouse or de facto partner of a person referred to in paragraphs (i) and (i)
 - (b) “de facto partner” has the same meaning as defined in section 21C of the *Interpretation Act 1987*.
- 4.5 You will not have a pecuniary interest in relation to a person referred to in subclauses 4.3(b) or (c)
 - (a) if you are unaware of the relevant pecuniary interest of your spouse, de facto partner, relative, partner, employer or company or other body, or
 - (b) just because the person is a member of, or is employed by, a council or a statutory body, or is employed by the Crown, or
 - (c) just because the person is a member of, or a delegate of a council to, a company or other body that has a pecuniary interest in the matter, so long as the person has no beneficial interest in any shares of the company or body.

Non-Pecuniary

- 5.1 Non-pecuniary interests are private or personal interests a council official has that do not amount to a pecuniary interest as defined in clause 4.1 of this code. These commonly arise out of family or personal relationships, or out of involvement in sporting, social, religious or other cultural groups and associations, and may include an interest of a financial nature.
- 5.2 A non-pecuniary conflict of interest exists where a reasonable and informed person would perceive that you could be influenced by a private interest when carrying out your official functions in relation to a matter.
- 5.3 The personal or political views of a council official do not constitute a private interest for the purposes of clause 5.2.
- 5.4 Non-pecuniary conflicts of interest must be identified and appropriately managed to uphold community confidence in the probity of council decision-making. The onus is on you to identify any non-pecuniary conflict of interest you may have in matters that you deal with, to disclose the interest fully and in writing, and to take appropriate action to manage the conflict in accordance with this code.
- 5.5 When considering whether or not you have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter you are dealing with, it is always important to think about how others would view your situation.

Managing non-pecuniary conflicts of interest

- 5.6 Where you have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter for the purposes of clause 5.2, you must disclose the relevant private interest you have in relation to the matter fully and in writing as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the non-pecuniary conflict of interest and on each occasion on which the non-pecuniary conflict of interest arises in relation to the matter. In the case of members of council staff other than the Chief Executive Officer, such a disclosure is to be made to the staff member’s manager. In the case of the Chief Executive Officer, such a disclosure is to be made to the mayor.
- 5.7 If a disclosure is made at a council or committee meeting, both the disclosure and the nature of the interest must be recorded in the minutes on each occasion on which the non-pecuniary conflict of interest arises. This disclosure constitutes disclosure in writing for the purposes of clause 5.6.
- 5.8 How you manage a non-pecuniary conflict of interest will depend on whether or not it is significant.

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- 5.9 As a general rule, a non-pecuniary conflict of interest will be significant where it does not involve a pecuniary interest for the purposes of clause 4.1, but it involves:
- a) a relationship between a council official and another person who is affected by a decision or a matter under consideration that is particularly close, such as a current or former spouse or de facto partner, a relative for the purposes of clause 4.4 or another person from the council official's extended family that the council official has a close personal relationship with, or another person living in the same household
 - b) other relationships with persons who are affected by a decision or a matter under consideration that are particularly close, such as friendships and business relationships. Closeness is defined by the nature of the friendship or business relationship, the frequency of contact and the duration of the friendship or relationship.
 - c) an affiliation between the council official and an organisation (such as a sporting body, club, religious, cultural or charitable organisation, corporation or association) that is affected by a decision or a matter under consideration that is particularly strong. The strength of a council official's affiliation with an organisation is to be determined by the extent to which they actively participate in the management, administration or other activities of the organisation.
 - d) membership, as the council's representative, of the board or management committee of an organisation that is affected by a decision or a matter under consideration, in circumstances where the interests of the council and the organisation are potentially in conflict in relation to the particular matter
 - e) a financial interest (other than an interest of a type referred to in clause 4.6) that is not a pecuniary interest for the purposes of clause 4.1
 - f) the conferral or loss of a personal benefit other than one conferred or lost as a member of the community or a broader class of people affected by a decision.
- 5.10 Significant non-pecuniary conflicts of interest must be managed in one of two ways:
- a) by not participating in consideration of, or decision making in relation to, the matter in which you have the significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest and the matter being allocated to another person for consideration or determination, or
 - b) if the significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest arises in relation to a matter under consideration at a council or committee meeting, by managing the conflict of interest as if you had a pecuniary interest in the matter by complying with clauses 4.28 and 4.29.
- 5.11 If you determine that you have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter that is not significant and does not require further action, when disclosing the interest you must also explain in writing why you consider that the non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances.
- 5.12 If you are a member of staff of council other than the Chief Executive Officer, the decision on which option should be taken to manage a non-pecuniary conflict of interest must be made in consultation with and at the direction of your manager. In the case of the Chief Executive Officer, the decision on which option should be taken to manage a non-pecuniary conflict of interest must be made in consultation with and at the direction of the mayor.
- 5.13 Despite clause 5.10(b), a councillor who has a significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter, may participate in a decision to delegate consideration of the matter in question to another body or person.
- 5.14 Council committee members are not required to declare and manage a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in accordance with the requirements of this Part where it arises from an interest they have as a person chosen to represent the community, or as a member of a non-profit organisation or other community or special interest group, if they have been appointed to represent the organisation or group on the council committee.

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SPECIAL DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARATION

*This form must be completed using block letters or typed.
If there is insufficient space for all the information you are required to disclose,
you must attach an appendix which is to be properly identified and signed by you.*

By <i>[insert full name of councillor]</i>	
In the matter of <i>[insert name of environmental planning instrument]</i>	
Which is to be considered at a meeting of the <i>[insert name of meeting]</i>	
Held on <i>[insert date of meeting]</i>	
PECUNIARY INTEREST	
Address of the affected principal place of residence of the councillor or an associated person, company or body (the <i>identified land</i>)	
Relationship of identified land to councillor <i>[Tick or cross one box.]</i>	☐ The councillor has interest in the land (e.g. is owner or has other interest arising out of a mortgage, lease, trust, option or contract, or otherwise). ☐ An associated person of the councillor has an interest in the land. ☐ An associated company or body of the councillor has interest in the land.
MATTER GIVING RISE TO PECUNIARY INTEREST¹	
Nature of land that is subject to a change in zone/planning control by proposed LEP (the <i>subject land</i>²) <i>[Tick or cross one box]</i>	☐ The identified land. ☐ Land that adjoins or is adjacent to or is in proximity to the identified land.
Current zone/planning control <i>[Insert name of current planning instrument and identify relevant zone/planning control applying to the subject land]</i>	
Proposed change of zone/planning control <i>[Insert name of proposed LEP and identify proposed change of zone/planning control applying to the subject land]</i>	
Effect of proposed change of zone/planning control on councillor or associated person <i>[Tick or cross one box]</i>	☐ Appreciable financial gain. ☐ Appreciable financial loss.

[If more than one pecuniary interest is to be declared, reprint the above box and fill in for each additional interest]

Councillor's Signature: **Date:**

This form is to be retained by the council's Chief Executive Officer and included in full in the minutes of the meeting

Last Updated: 3 June 2019

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Important Information

This information is being collected for the purpose of making a special disclosure of pecuniary interests under clause 4.36(c) of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW (the Model Code of Conduct).

The special disclosure must relate only to a pecuniary interest that a councillor has in the councillor's principal place of residence, or an interest another person (whose interests are relevant under clause 4.3 of the Model Code of Conduct) has in that person's principal place of residence.

Clause 4.3 of the Model Code of Conduct states that you will have a pecuniary interest in a matter because of the pecuniary interest of your spouse or your de facto partner or your relative or because your business partner or employer has a pecuniary interest. You will also have a pecuniary interest in a matter because you, your nominee, your business partner or your employer is a member of a company or other body that has a pecuniary interest in the matter.

"Relative" is defined by clause 4.4 of the Model Code of Conduct as meaning your, your spouse's or your de facto partner's parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, lineal descendant or adopted child and the spouse or de facto partner of any of those persons.

You must not make a special disclosure that you know or ought reasonably to know is false or misleading in a material particular. Complaints about breaches of these requirements are to be referred to the Office of Local Government and may result in disciplinary action by the Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government or the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

This form must be completed by you before the commencement of the council or council committee meeting at which the special disclosure is being made. The completed form must be tabled at the meeting. Everyone is entitled to inspect it. The special disclosure must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

¹ Clause 4.1 of the Model Code of Conduct provides that a pecuniary interest is an interest that a person has in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to the person. A person does not have a pecuniary interest in a matter if the interest is so remote or insignificant that it could not reasonably be regarded as likely to influence any decision the person might make in relation to the matter, or if the interest is of a kind specified in clause 4.6 of the Model Code of Conduct.

² A pecuniary interest may arise by way of a change of permissible use of land adjoining, adjacent to or in proximity to land in which a councillor or a person, company or body referred to in clause 4.3 of the Model Code of Conduct has a proprietary interest

Agenda

Item: 06

Subject: Business Arising From Previous Minutes

Item:	10	Date:	13/02/2024
Subject:	Sporting Fields and Recreation Facilities - Fees and Charges Review 2024/2025 FY		
Action Required:	Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council Committee members to bring feedback from the sporting clubs at the next Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council meeting.		

Item: 06

Subject: Post exhibition - Recreation and Open Space Action Plan

Presented by: Community, Planning and Environment, Melissa Watkins

Recommendation

The Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council:

1. **Note the information contained in this report**
2. **Recommend the Draft Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2025–2030, to be presented for final endorsement at the November 2025 Ordinary Meeting of Council.**

Executive Summary

The Recreation and Open Space Action Plan (ROSAP) sets the priorities for our recreational and sporting spaces throughout our region. It builds on our commitment to providing parks, sporting fields, and recreation areas with facilities that promote and contribute to the health and wellbeing of our residents and visitors.

At the 24 July 2025 meeting of the Port Macquarie Hastings Council, it was resolved:

That the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council:

1. *Noted the information provided in this report*
2. *Recommend the projects for inclusion in the Draft Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2025–2030, to be presented at the August 2025 Ordinary Meeting of Council.*

The draft Recreation and Open Space Action Plan (Attachment 1) was reported to Council at the Ordinary meeting on 15 August 2025. Council resolved to place the draft ROSAP 2024-2030 on public exhibition. The plan was subsequently placed on public exhibition from Wednesday, 3 September 2025 to Monday 6 October 2025. A summary of feedback is detailed in this report. Following the public exhibition no changes have been made to the Plan.

Recreation and Open Space Action Plan - Public Exhibition

The public exhibition period is now complete with the outcomes of the exhibition process discussed below. There is an Engagement Summary Report for this exhibition included as Attachment 2.

Community feedback on the Draft Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2025-2030 (ROSAP) reflected strong interest in improved access to recreation spaces, maintaining existing assets and ensuring facilities are inclusive and equitably distributed across the local government area (LGA).

Key themes included: maintenance and asset renewal; coastal and beach infrastructure; accessibility, inclusion and connectivity; safety at Flynn's Beach; equity across the LGA; affordable spaces for small groups and; organised sport and facility investment.

A total of 321 submissions were received, however, only 22 of these related to priorities listed in the plan. The majority of submissions related to the proposed community ocean pool at Oxley Beach, Port Macquarie.

It is important to note that the ocean pool is not a Council project or asset/facility and has not been included in the draft ROSAP on this basis. A fact sheet included in Appendix D of Attachment 2 summarises Council's current position on this community initiative. This Engagement Report acknowledges feedback on the ocean pool; however, it is focussed on the 22 submissions that will help shape the final ROSAP.

The ROSAP is an action plan for priority projects on Council owned and managed facilities, with this review focused on:

- Port Macquarie Hastings Strategic Sporting priorities
- Strategic planning/design projects - to prepare for future upgrades
- Asset renewal projects:
 - Assets that have reached the end of their useful life
 - Assets that are no longer fit for purpose
 - Assets that are not meeting current sport demand.

In general, respondents emphasised the need for greater investment in the maintenance and repair of existing parks, lighting and infrastructure before funding new projects. Beaches were identified as the area's most valued recreation spaces, with calls for improved facilities, safety, parking and upkeep to manage growing use and protect their natural character.

There was also support for expanding walking and cycling connections, enhancing accessibility and providing more low-cost community facilities for smaller sporting and social groups that struggle to access large venues.

Submissions related to active sport primarily came from Football, Table Tennis and Surf Life Saving stakeholders. Football commended the ROSAP's recognition of sport's role in community wellbeing and advocated for continued investment in football infrastructure to support growing participation, especially among women and youth.

Priorities of these submissions included improved drainage, lighting, and inclusive change facilities. The Table Tennis Club highlighted the challenges faced by smaller sporting groups in accessing affordable venues, noting that high stadium fees and scheduling conflicts with dominant sports like basketball often exclude them. They called for the development of low-cost, multi-use halls with basic amenities to support informal and non-competitive sports. The Surf Life Saving Club made a detailed submission urging the inclusion of the Flynns Beach Master Plan (2019) in the ROSAP, citing safety concerns and Coronial recommendations following a 2017 drowning. They proposed the redevelopment of the Surf Club as a critical public safety and recreation asset, integrating observation infrastructure, emergency access, and community facilities to support coastal safety and active beach use.

These submissions are acknowledged; however, no changes have been made to the Action Plan at this time. Planning is underway through the Places to Play Plan to work with these stakeholders to gather further detail, and projects may be prioritised in future versions of the Plan.

Internal Consultation

Ongoing Internal Consultation has occurred with.

- Group Manager Liveable Communities
- Spaces and Places Manager
- Recreation and Open Space Planner
- Parks and Open Space Coordinator
- Recreation and Community Initiatives Coordinator

-
- Recreation and Community Strategy Coordinator
 - Asset Officer
 - Parks Technical Officer
 - Future Asset Planner
 - Engagement Officer

Financial and Economic Implications

Projects identified for delivery in the Recreation and Open Space Action Plan are subject to priority review and budget endorsement through future Operational Plan development, they are also proposed to be identified in the 10-year Works Program and considered for submission to grant funding programs.

Actions

1. **Note the information contained in this report**
2. **Recommend the Draft Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2025–2030, to be presented for final endorsement at the November 2025 Ordinary Meeting of Council.**

Attachments

1. [!\[\]\(e8c8f0eceaa3aa92a69d5f8f3cf9fae9_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(b408897d2a6ded66b6cf51be7ca1c4c8_img.jpg\)](#) Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2025-2030
2. [!\[\]\(6c2e0969269e2ba2faabe8cf9168cbd4_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(73c7a8380b1526915bf71eea14770c32_img.jpg\)](#) ROSAP Engagement Report_October 2025

Recreation and Open Space Action Plan

2025-30

October 2025



PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS COUNCIL

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Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council	7	Appendix 1 - Completed actions 2023-25.	17
		Contact us.	19

Front Cover: Tacking Point Lighthouse
accessible walkway

Below: Vince Inmon Sporting Complex
Grandstand





Acknowledgement of Country

Yii Birrbay Barray

This is Birpai Country

Nyura yii gu mara la barray gu, nyaagi, ngarra g

You have come here, to Country to see, listen and remember

Gathay Nyiirun Wakulda

Let's all go together as one

We acknowledge that we are on Birpai Country and pay respect to all elders past and present. We acknowledge the ongoing connection to the traditional owners and custodians of the lands and waters of the Port Macquarie Hastings region.

This Birpai Country acknowledgement is delivered verbally at gatherings and as a written statement in formal Council documents.

Overview

We recognise the importance of sport and recreation as an integral part of our social fabric, generating community cohesion and attracting visitors to the region. Our region has some fantastic recreational resources including the Port Macquarie Coastal Walk, Port Macquarie Skate Space, many diverse play spaces across the region, our sporting facilities, and iconic beaches. It is vital that we work with the community to deliver and enhance these services and opportunities.

We need to be well prepared to continue the delivery of an appropriate level of recreational facilities and services into the future. This includes maintaining a commitment to the provision of sports facilities, providing for participation in unstructured activities and a variety of passive and active recreational pursuits.

Due to the increase in facilities and services provided to and required by the community, provision of these opportunities has become more complex. We plan, develop and manage suitable allocation of funding, resources and priorities to ensure all members of the community are offered the opportunity to participate.

The *Recreation and Open Space Action Plan* (the Plan) aims to provide us with the necessary framework to provide for sport and recreation facilities in the short to medium term.

04 Port Macquarie Hastings Council | Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2024-29

Andrews Park multi-use Courts

August 2025 update

This is an updated Plan which reflects current priority projects required to meet community needs along with facilities needed to meet forecast growth in the Port Macquarie Hastings.

The status of actions delivered from the *Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2024-29* is listed in Appendix 1.

The Plan has been revised to reflect:

- Port Macquarie Hastings Council Strategic Infrastructure Sporting Priorities
- An assessment of user groups needs today and into the future
- Opportunities to reduce overall project cost and minimise impact on user groups by aligning project stages where appropriate
- Asset renewal projects:
 - assets that have reached the end of their useful life
 - assets that are no longer fit for purpose
 - assets that are not meeting current sport demand
- Likely availability of funding sources and consideration of alternative funding sources
- Optimising the use of existing open spaces and recreation facilities
- Strategic Planning / Design projects - to prepare for future upgrades

This updated Plan identifies three timelines for delivery of priority projects:

- Immediate: 2025-26
- Short term: 2026-27 and 2027-28
- Medium term: 2028-29 and 2029-30



Waterlily Reserve
play space



Review

Every second year an annual report which details performance against the agreed outcomes within the Plan will be reported to Council for information.

The Plan will be updated on a two- year basis to ensure ongoing relevance and respond to emerging community needs, financial position of Council, ability to deliver within time frame and legislative requirements.

The Plan identifies a number of strategic planning actions as immediate priority for this financial year. Further actions or priorities may be included in the review of the *Recreation and Open Space Action Plan* following the review and development of these planning documents. The Places to Play Plan currently includes the following adopted Plans:

- Play Spaces Plan
- Skate Spaces Plan
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment Plan
- Outdoor Courts Plan
- Watercraft Access and Fishing Areas Plan
- Off-Leash areas and Designated Dog Parks Plan
- Community Gardens Plan

While much of the responsibility for progressing these priorities will rest with Council, the community and other stakeholders also share this responsibility. Council, its community, land managers and other government agencies each have a role to play. Priorities identified in the Plan may be brought forward should funding opportunities become available such as grant funding.

Advancement of priorities outlined in the plan is contingent upon securing appropriate funding.

Port Macquarie Hastings Sports Council

In May 2023 Port Macquarie Hastings Council (PMHC) resolved to appoint a Sports Council, to be known as the Port Macquarie Hastings Sports Council (the Sports Council). This is comprised of representatives of the sporting clubs and sporting community as appointed by Council. The current Sports Council is approaching the end of its two-year term. In the second half of 2025 expressions of interest will be invited for membership to the next term of the Port Macquarie Hastings Sports Council.

Benefits of the Sports Council

- The formation of a Sports Council provides significant opportunities for the clubs to take ownership of the prioritisation of future facility improvements and development in the LGA (Recreation Needs Study 2014)
- Formal, ongoing engagement with key local, regional, and state sport representative
- Implementation of a sports voice from local sport stakeholders with Council
- Transparent consultation to inform sport project priorities
- Early identification of priority projects to support strategic recreation planning

The objectives of the Sports Council are to:

- Assist in the development, review and monitoring of the *Recreation and Open Space Action Plan* which assists PMHC in the identification for sport and sporting infrastructure

- Consider the cumulative effects of PMHC's decisions on identification of priorities for sport and sporting infrastructure
- Provide advice to PMHC on strategic projects and PMHC policies related to, or that may impact on the implementation of the *Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2025-30*
- Initiate increased communication between the sporting community and PMHC to ensure that all existing and future needs and requirements of sport are identified and considered
- Work with PMHC to ensure that sporting and recreation facilities are provided and maintained to an acceptable standard
- Raise funds and source grants which will assist in furthering the objectives of the Sports Council; and
- Provide input to the setting and review of fees and charges for sporting fields and recreation facilities

At the July 2025 meeting, the Sports Council resolved to recommend the sport projects be included in the *Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2025-30*.



Immediate priority projects (2025-26)

STRATEGIC PLANNING - Immediate priorities

- Places to Play Plan - Sport Facilities Plan
- Places to Play Plan - Youth spaces
- Sports Insights
- Sporting Facility Asset Condition and Infrastructure Review
- Develop Sports Field User Pay Strategy

Project Type	Location	Facility	Project detail
Community Space	Lake Cathie/Bonny Hills	Jonathan Dixon Reserve, Lake Cathie	Amenities Upgrade
	Port Macquarie	Port Macquarie Community Centre	Design Development
Passive Recreation	Camden Haven	Henry Kendall Reserve Dog Park, Laurieton	Furniture Upgrades
	Camden Haven	Beach to Beach Walkway, Dunbogan	Continue Construction Section D5
	Port Macquarie	Various Port Macquarie Beaches	Beach Tubes - Undertake Investigation
	Port Macquarie	Flynns Beach Reserve, Port Macquarie	Improved pedestrian access and car park upgrades



Immediate priority projects (2025-26) cont...

Project Type	Location	Facility	Project detail
Planning/ Design	LGA Wide	Recreation facilities various	Accessibility Audit - 4 per year
	Port Macquarie	Town Beach Reserve, Port Macquarie	Develop Master Plan
Play Space	Camden Haven	Wallace Reserve, Dunbogan	Play Space Upgrade
	Camden Haven	Bruce Porter Reserve, Laurieton	Play Space Design & Construction
	Port Macquarie	Greenmeadows Reserve, Port Macquarie	Play Space Upgrade
	Port Macquarie	The Boom Reserve, Port Macquarie	Play Space Upgrade
	Wauchope & Surrounds	Bindi Close Reserve, Wauchope	Play Space improvements



Immediate priority projects (2025-26) cont...

Project Type	Location	Facility	Project detail
Sport Infrastructure	Camden Haven	Vince Inmon Sporting Complex, Laurieton	Complete Construction of Grandstand
	Camden Haven	Vince Inmon Sporting Complex, Laurieton	Construct replacement discus throwing area
	Port Macquarie	Port Macquarie Regional Stadium	Sport field renovations - field 2
	Port Macquarie	Findlay Park, Port Macquarie	Sport Field Drainage
	Port Macquarie	Thrumster Sports Fields, Thrumster	Finalise Detailed Design and Approvals
	Port Macquarie	Thrumster Sports Fields, Thrumster	Commence Construction (Stage 1)
	Port Macquarie	Wayne Richards Park, Port Macquarie	Develop Detailed Design for Stages 3 & 4
	Port Macquarie	Port Macquarie Regional Stadium, Port Macquarie	Replace grandstand seating
	Wauchope & Surrounds	Lank Bain Sporting Complex, Wauchope	Replace tiered seating structures
	Wauchope & Surrounds	Charlie Watt Reserve, Telegraph Point	Amenities Upgrade



Short term priority projects (2026-27 and 2027-28)

Project Type	Location	Facility	Project detail
Community Space	Camden Haven	Camden Haven Surf Club Building, North Haven	Planning approvals and Design of Building
	Camden Haven	Dunbogan Reserve, Dunbogan	Renewal of Amenities
	Camden Haven	Kendall Recreation Reserve, Kendall	Amenities Upgrade
	Port Macquarie	Port Macquarie Community Centre	Commence Construction
	Port Macquarie	Westport Park, Port Macquarie	Upgrade Amenities
Passive Recreation	Lake Cathie/Bonny Hills	Jonathan Dixon Reserve, Lake Cathie	Viewing Platform Investigations
	Port Macquarie	North Shore	Boat Ramp & Pontoon feasibility investigation
	Port Macquarie	Town Beach Reserve, Port Macquarie	Outdoor Fitness Equipment replacement
	Port Macquarie	Town Beach Reserve, Port Macquarie	Town Beach Skate Space signage renewal
	Port Macquarie	Shelley Beach North, Port Macquarie	Northern Beach Access Stairs Upgrade
Planning/ Design	Port Macquarie	Regional Stadium & Tuffins Lane, Port Macquarie	Develop Master Plan
	Port Macquarie	Town Beach Reserve, Port Macquarie	Town Beach Skate Space investigation of park lighting
	Wauchope & Surrounds	Fairmont Gardens Sporting Fields, Wauchope	Develop Master Plan

Short term priority projects (2026-27 and 2027-28) cont...



Project Type	Location	Facility	Project detail
Play Space	Port Macquarie	Hudson Avenue Park, Port Macquarie	Play Space Upgrade
Sport Infrastructure	Camden Haven	Vince Inmon Sporting Complex, Laurieton	Upgrade and extend synthetic cricket pitch field 3/4
	Port Macquarie	Port Macquarie Aquatic Facility	Commence Construction (Stage 1)
	Port Macquarie	Oxley Oval, Port Macquarie	Sports field reconstruction
	Port Macquarie	Tuffins Lane Sporting Fields, Port Macquarie	Sport Field Drainage environmental and planning approvals
	Port Macquarie	Wayne Richards Park, Port Macquarie	Sports Lighting Upgrade - Field 1 and 2
	Port Macquarie	Findlay Park, Port Macquarie	Upgrade softball dugout shelter and seating
	Wauchope & Surrounds	Andrews Park, Wauchope	Design New Amenities Building
	Wauchope & Surrounds	Fairmont Gardens Sporting Fields, Wauchope	Sport Field Drainage
	Wauchope & Surrounds	Wauchope Indoor Stadium, Wauchope	Amenities Upgrade



Medium term priority projects (2028-29 and 2029-30)

Project Type	Location	Facility	Project detail
Community Space	Camden Haven	Camden Haven Surf Club Building, North Haven	Building Construction
	Lake Cathie/Bonny Hills	Lake Cathie Library and Community Centre	Design and Construction of Facility
	Lake Cathie/Bonny Hills	Lake Cathie Foreshore, Lake Cathie	Surf Lifeguard Tower
	Port Macquarie	Sovereign Hills Library and Community Centre	Design and Construction of facility
	Wauchope & Surrounds	Ellenborough Reserve, Ellenborough	Renewal of Amenities
Passive Recreation	Camden Haven	Apex Park, Laurieton	Boating Facility Upgrade - Pontoon
	Camden Haven	Kendall Recreation Reserve, Kendall	Modified Basketball Court
	Camden Haven	Beach to Beach Walkway, Dunbogan	Construction of remaining pathways
	Lake Cathie/Bonny Hills	Community Hall Reserve, Bonny Hills	Multi use court upgrade
	Lake Cathie/Bonny Hills	Rainbow Beach, Lake Cathie	Construct Walkway
	Port Macquarie	Blair Reserve, Port Macquarie	Basketball Court Restoration
	Port Macquarie	Flynns Beach Reserve, Port Macquarie	Access stairs from Pacific Drive - Upgrade
	Port Macquarie	Flag Staff Hill, Port Macquarie	Stairs Upgrade



Medium term priority projects (2028-29 and 2029-30) cont...

Project Type	Location	Facility	Project detail
Planning/ Design	Port Macquarie	Lighthouse Beach Reserve, Port Macquarie	Develop Master Plan
	Port Macquarie	Port Macquarie/surrounds	Investigate opportunity for new skate space
	Wauchope & Surrounds	Lank Bain Sporting Complex, Wauchope	Develop Master Plan
	Wauchope & Surrounds	Blackbutt Park, Wauchope	Develop Master Plan
Play Space	Lake Cathie/Bonny Hills	Endeavour Park, Lake Cathie	Play Space Upgrade
	Port Macquarie	Amethyst Way Reserve, Port Macquarie	Play Space Upgrade
	Port Macquarie	Nottingham Drive Reserve, Port Macquarie	Play Space Upgrade
	Port Macquarie	Yarranwood Park, Port Macquarie	Play Space Upgrade
	Port Macquarie	Joeys Meadow Play Space, Thrumster	Play Space Upgrade
	Port Macquarie	Lighthouse Beach Reserve , Port Macquarie	Play Space Upgrade
	Wauchope & Surrounds	Timbertown Estate Reserve Play Space, Wauchope	Play Space Upgrade



Medium term priority projects (2028-29 and 2029-30) cont...

Project Type	Location	Facility	Project detail
Sport Infrastructure	Camden Haven	Vince Inmon Sporting Complex, Laurieton	Field 5 - reconstruction of field + replace field fence
	Lake Cathie/Bonny Hills	Rainbow Beach Sporting Fields, Lake Cathie	Commence Construction (Stage 2 - amenities building)
	Lake Cathie/Bonny Hills	Lake Cathie Sporting Fields, Lake Cathie	Expand sport field playing area - mini/mod fields
	Lake Cathie/Bonny Hills	Rainbow Beach Sporting Fields, Lake Cathie	Commence Construction (Stage 2 - cricket nets)
	Lake Cathie/Bonny Hills	Rainbow Beach Sporting Fields, Lake Cathie	Commence Construction (Stage 2 - multi use courts)
	Lake Cathie/Bonny Hills	Rainbow Beach Sporting Fields, Lake Cathie	Commence Construction (Stage 2 - multi use courts lighting)
	Port Macquarie	Port Macquarie Regional Stadium	Change room fit outs
	Port Macquarie	Findlay Park, Port Macquarie	Amenities Upgrade - toilet and change room renovation
	Port Macquarie	Dixie Park, Port Macquarie	Field leveling - mini fields
	Port Macquarie	Stuart Park Regional Sporting Precinct, Port Macquarie	Stuart Park Field 5 - field drainage and levelling
	Port Macquarie	Stuart Park Regional Sporting Precinct, Port Macquarie	Wood Street Field 4 - field drainage
	Port Macquarie	Tuffins Lane Sporting Fields. Port Macquarie	Sport Field Drainage construction



Medium term priority projects (2028-29 and 2029-30) cont...

Project Type	Location	Facility	Project detail
Sport Infrastructure Cont.	Port Macquarie	Thrumster Sports Fields, Thrumster	Commence Construction (Stage 2)
	Port Macquarie	Stuart Park Regional Sporting Precinct, Port Macquarie	Cricket Nets Upgrade
	Port Macquarie	Wayne Richards Park, Port Macquarie	Construction of synthetic athletics facility
	Port Macquarie	Macquarie Park, Port Macquarie	Netball facility - Access and Seating improvements
	Port Macquarie	Lighthouse Beach Reserve, Port Macquarie	Investigate opportunity for beach volleyball
	Port Macquarie	Findlay Park, Port Macquarie	Sport Lighting Upgrade - Field 1, 2 and 3
	Port Macquarie	Port Macquarie Indoor Stadium	Installation of mechanical air circulation system
	Wauchope & Surrounds	Fairmont Gardens Sporting Fields, Wauchope	Amenities and Access Upgrade
	Wauchope & Surrounds	Andrews Park, Wauchope	Construct New Amenities Building
	Wauchope & Surrounds	Hastings Regional Sports Fields, Wauchope	Construction of Stage One
	Wauchope & Surrounds	Andrews Park, Wauchope	Sport field reconstruction
	Wauchope & Surrounds	Andrews Park, Wauchope	Netball/Multi Court lighting

Appendix 1 - Completed actions 2023-25

- Kendall Skate Park, Kendall: Relocation
- Kendall Recreation Reserve, Kendall: Play Space Upgrade
- Vince Inmon Sporting Complex, Laurieton: Construction Cricket Nets
- Riverview Reserve, North Haven: Play Space Upgrade
- Kendall Recreation Reserve, Kendall: Kendall Skate Park - Stage 2
- Pilot Beach Reserve, Camden Haven: Play Space Upgrade
- Rainbow Beach Sports Fields, Lake Cathie: Finalise Construction of Stage 1
- Port Macquarie Aquatic Facility: Continue Pre-construction Activities
- Tacking Point Lighthouse Reserve, Port Macquarie: Accessible Ramp Design and Approvals
- Westport Park, Port Macquarie: Splash Pad Amenities
- Westport Park, Livvi's Place, Port Macquarie: Play Space Upgrade
- Tuffins Lane Sporting Fields, Port Macquarie: Sport Field Drainage Investigation
- Innes Lake Park, Port Macquarie: Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- Ashdown Reserve, Port Macquarie: Play Space Upgrade



Appendix 1 - Completed actions 2023-25 cont...

- Mimosa Park, Port Macquarie: Play Space Upgrade
- Tacking Point Lighthouse Reserve, Port Macquarie: Construction of Accessible Ramp
- Waterlilly Park, Port Macquarie: Play Space Upgrade
- Bain Park, Wauchope: Reserve and Play Space Upgrade
- Beechwood Tennis Facility, Beechwood: Lighting Upgrade
- Landrigan/Andrews Park Sports Field, Wauchope: Develop Master Plan
- Pappinbarra Reserve, Pappinbarra: Multi-Use Court Upgrade
- Old Park, Wauchope: Play Space Upgrade
- Ellenborough Reserve, Ellenborough: Reserve Upgrades
- Landrigan/Andrews Park Sports Field, Wauchope: Hard Surface Multi-Use Courts
- Sancrox Reserve, Sancrox: Multi-Use Court Upgrade
- Blackbutt Park, Wauchope: Sports Field Drainage
- Andrews Park, Wauchope: Nature Play Space Construction
- Vince Inmon Sporting Complex, Laurieton: Field Upgrades - drainage
- Rotary Park, Port Macquarie: Reserve and Play Space Upgrade
- Policy: Private Memorials and Commemorative Naming in Parks and Reserves
- Sancrox Reserve, Sancrox: Sport Field Upgrades
- Planning: Undertake a review of the 2015 bike plan
- Planning: Undertake a review of the pedestrian access mobility plan 2017



Contact us

Council welcomes the opportunity to hear if you have any questions, feedback or if you require a copy of the Plan.

You can contact us regarding this Plan:

Phone us:

(02) 6581 8111 (Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm)

Email us:

council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au

Visit us online:

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Visit us in person:

17 Burrawan Street, Port Macquarie, NSW, 2444

49 High Street, Wauchope, NSW 2446

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Monday- Friday 8:30am to 4:30 pm

Mail us:

PO Box 84, Port Macquarie, NSW Australia 2444

National Relay Service:

Number: 1300 555 727

TTY number: 133 677

SMS relay number: 0423 677 767

have
your say

Draft Recreation & Open Spaces Action Plan

Engagement Report

October 2025 | Version 1.0



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community feedback on the Draft Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2025-2030 (ROSAP) reflected strong interest in improved access to recreation spaces, maintaining existing assets and ensuring facilities are inclusive and equitably distributed across the local government area (LGA).

Key themes included: maintenance and asset renewal; coastal and beach infrastructure; accessibility, inclusion and connectivity; safety at Flynn's Beach; equity across the LGA; affordable spaces for small groups and; organised sport and facility investment.

A total of 321 submissions were received, however, only 22 of these related to priorities listed in the plan. The majority of submissions related to the proposed ocean pool at Oxley Beach, Port Macquarie.

It is important to note that the ocean pool is not included in the draft ROSAP and the fact sheet in Appendix D summarises Council's current position on this community initiative. This Engagement Report acknowledges feedback on the ocean pool, however, it is focussed on the 22 submissions that will help shape the final ROSAP.

The ROSAP is an action plan for priority projects on Council owned and managed facilities, with this review focused on:

- Port Macquarie Hastings Strategic Sporting priorities
- Strategic planning/design projects - to prepare for future upgrades
- Asset renewal projects:
 - Assets that have reached the end of their useful life
 - Assets that are no longer fit for purpose
 - Assets that are not meeting current sport demand.

In general, respondents emphasised the need for greater investment in the maintenance and repair of existing parks, lighting and infrastructure before funding new projects. Beaches were identified as the area's most valued recreation spaces, with calls for improved facilities, safety, parking and upkeep to manage growing use and protect their natural character.

There was also support for expanding walking and cycling connections, enhancing accessibility and providing more low-cost community facilities for smaller sporting and social groups that struggle to access large venues.

Verbatim feedback can be found in Appendix A and B and a summary of key themes is noted under Conclusion.

INTRODUCTION

Background

Council recognises that we need to be well prepared to deliver an appropriate level of recreational facilities and services into the future.

Sport and recreation are integral parts of our social fabric - and Council is committed to providing parks, sporting fields and recreation areas that contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors.

To deliver this commitment, we developed the **Places to Play Plan**, which included seven (7) sub plans that have now been adopted by Council.

In June 2025, we also engaged with the Port Macquarie Hastings Sports Council on this plan.

Based on feedback, the plan was reviewed and submitted to the August Ordinary Council Meeting, where Councillors resolved to place the revised draft Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2025-30 on public exhibition.

The updated plan reflects current priority projects required to meet community needs, along with facilities needed to meet forecast growth in our region. The plan covers three timelines for delivery of priority projects: 1) Immediate (2025-26), 2) Short-term (2026-27 and 2027-28) and 3) Medium-term (2028-29 and 2029-30).

Proposed ocean pool

As noted in the August 2025 Ordinary Council meeting minutes it is acknowledged that several newly-proposed projects have not been listed for inclusion in this review of the ROSAP due to:

- Further information being required - a suitable level of project planning is yet to be undertaken
- The project is not able to be supported
- Council's financial position
- The project being supported as a community initiated - club funded project only.

The Ocean Pool project has not been included in the draft ROSAP for the following reasons:

- The site of the proposed pool is not all under the ownership or management of Council
- The ocean pool is a community-led project via the Port Macquarie Tidal Pool Committee
- This project is currently in the early planning phase
- The project planning is progressing as a community-led project at this time via funding received by the Committee from the Australian Government
- Council previously resolved in 2018 that the pool was not a strategic priority of Council
- The Port Macquarie Aquatic Centre is currently Council's highest ranked Sporting Infrastructure Priority Project. This project will see replacement of the current failing aquatic asset
- The project does not align with the focus areas, mentioned above, of the draft ROSAP 2025-2029.

Engagement overview

The impact level was assessed as Level 2 - Moderate and the engagement level was inform to consult.

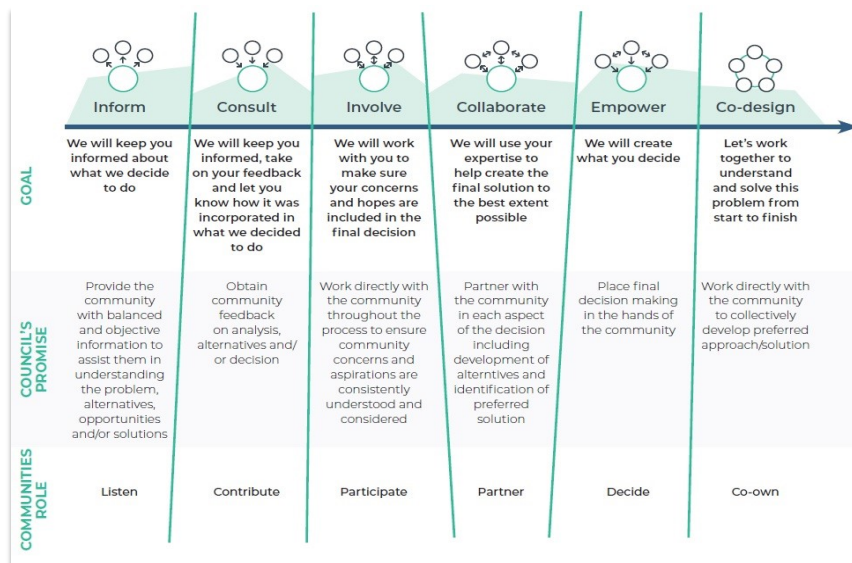
Overall, the focus of this engagement was to:

- Increase awareness of the updated plan
- Gather feedback from a broad and diverse range of stakeholders
- Ensure the engagement process is inclusive, transparent and easy to participate in.

Spectrum of participation

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council undertakes engagement using the industry standard IAP2 Spectrum of Participation, which is designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines Council's promise and the community's role in the decision-making process.

The level of participation for this project was consult. This means we asked the community to provide feedback on their preferred play space location. Council will consider this feedback when making decisions about this project.



ENGAGEMENT BREAKDOWN

Summary of engagement activities

Community engagement sought to attract input from current and future users of recreation and open spaces across the LGA during the public exhibition period from 3 September to 6 October 2025. Submissions were initially scheduled to close on 3 October, however, this was extended to allow for the migration to a new Have Your Say website in late September.

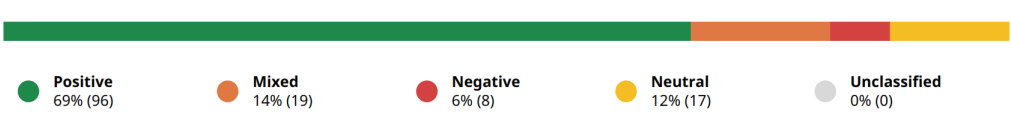
Engagement methods and dates are outlined below -

DATE	CHANNEL/ACTIVITY
3 Sept 2025	Have Your Say page published (submissions open until 6 October)
4 Sept 2025	Email to 206 previous submitters and targeted stakeholders
4 Sept 2025	Social media post with link to Have Your Say page
22 Sept 2025	Article in Council's Sports e-newsletter (sent to 579 subscribers)
23 Sept 2025	Article in Have Your Say e-newsletter (sent 5,393 subscribers)
1 October 2025	Reminder email encouraging submissions to 579 subscribers
2 October 2025	Second Sports e-newsletter (sent to 579 subscribers)

Have Your Say page summary

Total page visits	1,207
Number of submissions	139
Document downloads	383

Have Your Say page sentiment



CONCLUSION

Summary

The following points summarise key themes from the 321 submissions received via Have Your Say and email. Feedback relating to items in the ROSAP is summarised below, while key themes from ocean pool submissions can be found under 'Ocean Pool feedback'. Verbatim feedback can be found in Appendix A and B, while examples of engagement communications are included in Appendix C and Council's Ocean Pool fact sheet is in Appendix D.

Overall, submissions demonstrated strong support for maintaining and improving existing recreation assets, enhancing accessibility and connectivity, addressing safety at coastal sites, and ensuring equitable access to facilities across the LGA.

Maintenance and asset renewal

The general sentiment was that Council should prioritise the upkeep and safety of existing assets before committing to new capital projects.

There were concerns regarding the condition of existing recreation infrastructure and the absence of clear funding for maintenance and repair works in the Draft ROSAP. Respondents also cited examples of long-standing issues such as broken lighting, damaged floodlight poles and stormwater erosion.

Coastal and beach infrastructure

Submitters emphasised that beaches are the region's most valued recreation spaces, but are under growing pressure from high use and competing demands such as events and markets.

Feedback indicated that some coastal areas lack adequate facilities, parking and regular maintenance and called for greater investment in beach infrastructure and management to maintain safety, accessibility and amenity for residents and visitors.

Accessibility, inclusion and connectivity

There was strong support for improving accessibility and inclusivity in recreation planning. Submissions encouraged Council to expand shared pathways and cycling links to connect town centres, schools, reserves and community hubs. Improved lighting and safety features were seen as essential to encourage active transport and create safe walking and riding environments. Respondents also highlighted the importance of equitable access to facilities that promote physical activity and mental wellbeing across all age groups and abilities.

Safety at Flynn's Beach

The Port Macquarie Surf Life Saving Club made a detailed submission advocating for the inclusion of the *Flynn's Beach Master Plan (2019)* within the ROSAP. The submission referenced a drowning in 2017 and associated Coronial recommendations, stressing the need to integrate coastal safety infrastructure into recreation planning. The submission recommended that the Surf Club redevelopment be recognised as a key community safety, training, and emergency response facility, consistent with the plan's focus on inclusive, accessible, and activated spaces.

Equity across the LGA

Feedback from residents in smaller towns such as Kendall and Wauchope reflected concerns that regional communities are not receiving equal attention or investment. Respondents noted that planned upgrades often favour Port Macquarie and that smaller town projects are delayed or not prioritised.

Requests included improved footpaths and connections between town centres, new and upgraded sporting facilities and faster delivery of previously promised projects.

Affordable spaces for small community groups

Several submissions highlighted the challenges faced by smaller sporting and community groups in accessing affordable venues. Rising hire fees and limited availability of suitable spaces were said to disadvantage smaller, non-competitive, or informal groups such as table tennis, dancing, and fitness clubs. Community members called for the creation of low-cost, multi-use halls with simple amenities to better support these groups and promote social participation.

Organised sport and facility investment

Northern NSW Football provided a formal submission commending the intent of the ROSAP and its recognition of sport's role in community wellbeing. They reinforced the need for continued investment in football infrastructure to meet growing participation, particularly for women and youth. Key priorities included improved drainage, lighting and inclusive change facilities.

Ocean pool feedback

A substantial proportion of submissions on the ROSAP focused on the proposed Ocean Pool at Oxley Beach. The volume of responses demonstrates strong and ongoing community interest in the project, which has been discussed locally for many years.

While most submissions expressed support for the proposal, a smaller number raised objections or concerns. The feedback reflects both a high level of community passion for coastal recreation and differing views about how best to balance environmental protection, accessibility and Council's investment priorities.

Support for an ocean pool

The majority of submissions described the proposal as an inclusive and beneficial community asset. Key themes included:

- Disappointment that the ocean pool had not been included in the Draft ROSAP. Supporters felt this omission did not reflect community support. Several respondents urged Council to acknowledge the community's long-standing advocacy and consider incorporating the ocean pool as a future strategic project in subsequent revisions of the plan
- A safe and free public facility that allows people of all ages, abilities, and confidence levels to enjoy swimming in the ocean
- Particularly beneficial for older residents, people with disabilities, families with young children and those who find open surf conditions unsafe
- Promotes healthy lifestyles, reduces isolation and provide an affordable recreation option that encourages community connection
- Tourism and economic benefits - enhancing Port Macquarie's identity as a vibrant coastal destination and attracting visitors year-round
- Comparisons to ocean pools in other cities and coastal towns such as Forster, Newcastle and Sydney
- References to the long-running advocacy for an ocean pool, including petitions and feasibility work undertaken by the Port Macquarie Tidal Pool Committee
- The project expected to be funded externally, with only maintenance costs to Council.

Objections to an Ocean Pool

A smaller number of submissions opposed the proposal, expressing concern about potential negative impacts and questioning whether an ocean pool is consistent with Council's environmental and financial priorities.

Opponents cited the risk of environmental damage to the natural coastal landscape, including disruption to marine ecosystems and visual intrusion. Some questioned the suitability of the location, noting issues such as steep terrain, limited parking, narrow road access and potential conflicts with existing cycle lanes and pedestrian safety. Others raised concerns about the long-term maintenance burden on Council and ratepayers, particularly given existing challenges in maintaining parks, beaches, and other infrastructure.

A few respondents also expressed doubt about the claimed tourism benefits and questioned whether demand for such a facility justified the investment.

NEXT STEPS

Feedback will be considered at the Sports Council Meeting on 22 October 2025. Following this meeting, Council will communicate with those who have made a submission.

This Engagement Report will also be published on the Draft Recreation and Open Spaces Action Plan 2025-2030 Have Your Say page.

DISCLAIMERS

Feedback collected across all engagement activities is presented in summary form., Key themes have been identified across all submissions and de-identified, and verbatim feedback has been appended.

About verbatim feedback

De-identified, verbatim feedback is appended in some instances. Feedback that is not appended is summarised in this report, with verbatim responses shared with the strategic planning team and tabled with the Council Report for this project.

In addition to the length of some submissions, reasons for not appending these include:

- Detailed locations of properties
- Personal information
- Government agency responses

Community members can request to view verbatim submissions, any requests will be considered by our Governance team prior to release.

Data analysis and generative AI

Key themes throughout this report have been identified using generative artificial intelligence (AI). For the purposes of this report, generative AI refers to a system that can create content based on the data that we provide.

Prior to using AI our team would create a code frame (a list of themes) to tag feedback. This manual process is an effective method on smaller, single focused engagement projects (such as local playgrounds). It is not effective for use on engagement projects of this scale.

Benefits of using AI

Using AI to analyse large amounts of free text feedback in community engagement reporting offers significant benefits, including:

- Efficiency and speed: AI can process and analyse vast amounts of text data much faster than manual methods.
- Scalability: AI tools can handle large datasets without a loss in performance, making it feasible to analyse feedback from extensive community engagement activities like the Draft OP2024-25.
- Consistency and objectivity: AI provides consistent analysis, reducing the biases that can occur with human interpretation and ensuring uniformity in data evaluation.

Considerations in the use of AI

Perception of bias: AI models only work on the data that is inputted, and this may be perceived as under-representing marginalised groups or minority views.

Relying solely on AI for community engagement may overlook the importance of human interaction, empathy, and relationship-building in fostering trust and understanding within the community.

Attempts to address this are made through additional instructions. Further analysis of the AI-generated data provided is also undertaken to combat potential bias.

Human-centred engagement

AI is a tool that can assist the engagement reporting process. We are committed to human-centred engagement throughout our community across a range of engagement methods.

All themes generated using AI have been reviewed and interrogated to ensure that the sentiment represents the feedback received.

Privacy

No identifying information was included when using AI to analyse feedback.

Council staff work to a Code of Conduct and in accordance with our legislative requirements. This includes the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW), the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW) and the Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 (NSW). Further details are outlined in Council's Privacy Statement and Privacy Management Plan Policy.

These are available on Council's website, along with the Legislative Compliance Policy.

APPENDIX

Appendix A: Verbatim Feedback: Email submissions

Reference	Verbatim feedback
Maintenance works	I can't see any budget allocation in the Draft ROSAP for maintenance and repair works. The following are known to council, but no action appears likely to occur in the near future. 1. Lighting repair Wayne Richards 3 – south western flood lights – only one out of 3 working. See attached photo. Request for repair logged on council system in June 2025. When will these be repaired. 2. Floodlight poles repairs Dixie Park – Notice served by Essential Energy in January 2024 requiring 90 day action to repair. Email from you dated January 2024 advising Council would take on responsibility for repair (attached). Quote from PH Brown provided 24 June 2024 (email attached) to carry out repair work. When will this be actioned? 3. Stormwater/flood damage to drain/creek banks at Dixie Park. Unsafe condition with poorly maintained safety barriers. This is a safety hazard that should be rectified urgently.  
Beach maintenance and deteriorating infrastructure	The current plan fails to recognise the recreational importance of beaches in the LGA. Town beaches are: • under increasing access pressure from users, • lack the basic infrastructure, • existing infrastructure is poorly maintained and deteriorating, • lack adequate numbers of adjacent parking, and • are subject to additional pressure by Council seeing beach spaces as a location for Skate Parks, Markets and other community gatherings. Our beaches are probably the primary LGA recreational resource. They provide opportunity for active recreation such as surfboard riding, surfing or swimming or simpler activity such as walking or sun baking. Council needs to increase capital and maintenance expenditure to match the increasing demand on beach spaces and the value the community places on the areas.

Inclusion, sustainability and equitable access	Expansion and new build assets to increase options for alternate modes of mobility physically and therefore supporting and prompting mental wellbeing. This can be incorporated with the inclusion and extension of bike paths for connectivity of suburbs into CBD and across Port Macquarie suburbs and other CBDs in the LGA. Ocean pool at Oxley Beach - would increase overall wellbeing for residents and visitors alike, without the risk of swimming in the ocean and cost associated with entrance fees to public pools. Overall public infrastructure with long term vision to make it free and equitable access to all. Lead the way taking Port Macquarie to a competitive level with other regional/metro towns, for inclusion, sustainability and wellbeing of residents with an increase in public assets. Sure, there are plenty of outdoor fitness/gym areas, be great to have alternatives to these, like an increase in connectedness of bike paths and an ocean pool.
Port Macquarie Surf Lifesaving Club	<u>Overview</u> The Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2025–30 (the “Recreation Plan”) establishes strategic priorities for managing sport and recreation assets across the LGA. While the Plan recognises the value of beachfront recreation and coastal open spaces, its treatment of Flynnns Beach current planning is limited to <i>minor pedestrian access and car park upgrades</i>. In contrast, the Flynnns Beach Master Plan (2019) outlines a holistic design vision that integrates: • Surf Life Saving Club renewal or relocation, • Public promenade and beachfront access, • Safety, environmental rehabilitation, and visitor amenity, and • Accessibility and universal design. The Council adopted Flynnns Beach Master Plan (2019) has been ignored in the development of this Recreation Plan. Further Camden Haven Surf Club with fewer members and beach attendees is given significant consideration. Crucially, the Coroner’s Inquest into the 2017 Flynnns Beach drowning highlighted serious systemic and infrastructure gaps in beach safety management. These findings provide a compelling foundation for embedding infrastructure improvements for the Surf Club redevelopment into Council’s future recreation and safety strategy as an immediate priority. <u>Lessons from the Coroner’s Inquest: Relevance to Recreation Planning</u> The 2017 drowning at Flynnns Beach led to a Coronial investigation which identified a “perfect storm” of factors that contributed to the tragedy — including limited surveillance capacity, absence of a clear observation protocol, and challenging coastal topography. Key findings relevant to PMHC’s Recreation and Open Space framework include: <u>Need for Enhanced Observation Infrastructure</u> The Coroner recommended that observation towers and elevated sightlines be used effectively, with designated observers during patrol hours and improved visual coverage of unpatrolled areas. <i>Implication for Recreation Planning:</i> The Flynnns Beach Surf Club facility, whether refurbished or rebuilt, should be formally recognised as a public safety and recreational infrastructure asset — not just a club facility. Integrating an upgraded observation deck and surveillance technology aligns directly with recreation and risk management principles. Continued >

	<u>Integration of Technology</u> The Coroner recommended exploring drones or other remote technologies to assist in detection and flotation delivery. <i>Recreation Plan Link:</i> This aligns with PMHC's emphasis on <i>innovation in community safety</i> and <i>optimising existing assets</i>. The Surf Club redevelopment could include infrastructure to support drone deployment, surveillance cameras, and rapid-response equipment. <u>Public Education and Behavioural Design</u> The Coroner's findings reinforced the importance of clear visual communication—including signage, designated pathways, and hazard cues—to influence swimmer behaviour. <i>Recreation Planning Response:</i> The Master Plan's promenade and entry design, which improves connectivity and provides prominent safety signage, directly supports this recommendation. <u>Integrating Safety into Recreation Planning</u> Safety as a Core Component of Recreation The Recreation Plan's stated purpose is to "deliver appropriate recreational facilities and services into the future". PMHC Recreation plan given the Coroner's findings, safety cannot be separated from recreation at coastal sites. Flynn's Beach is not merely a "passive recreation area"—it is a high-traffic aquatic environment requiring purpose-built facilities for: • Lifesaving operations, • Training and patrol readiness, • Public education, and • Community engagement. <u>Design Alignment</u> The Flynn's Beach Master Plan already includes: • Tiered public seating integrated with access stairs, • Continuous pedestrian pathways, • Observation and viewing decks, • Stabilised slopes and upgraded seawall, and • Vehicle and emergency access ramps These features meet the Recreation Plan's design principles for inclusivity, safety, and environmental protection—but are currently unacknowledged within it. <u>Strategic Argument for Inclusion of the Surf Club Redevelopment</u> Public Safety Infrastructure The Surf Club functions as a community emergency operations base, not just a sporting club. Integrating its redevelopment into the Recreation Plan: • Ensures alignment with the Coroner's safety recommendations; • Provides an evidence-based rationale for funding prioritisation; and • Demonstrates Council's duty of care for coastal safety infrastructure. Continued >
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<u>Community Wellbeing and Activation</u> The proposed Surf Club facilities (in both options of the Master Plan) include multi-use community spaces, café/restaurant, and viewing terraces, supporting the Recreation Plan's objective of <i>inclusive and activated public spaces</i>. <u>Tourism and Economic Growth</u> A modernised surf club and beachfront precinct would attract visitors year-round, supporting PMHC's broader economic strategy by enhancing tourism amenities along the Coastal Walk corridor. <u>Recommended Amendments to the Recreation and Open Space Action Plan</u> <table> <tr> <th>Action Area</th><th>Current Status (Rec. Plan)</th><th>Proposed Inclusion</th><th>Rationale / Alignment</th></tr> <tr> <td>Flynns Beach Reserve</td><td>Pedestrian and car park upgrades</td><td>Incorporate Surf Club redevelopment (design, approvals, and construction stages)</td><td>Aligns with Master Plan and Coroner's findings; addresses beach safety and recreation needs</td></tr> <tr> <td>Coastal Recreation</td><td>Generic coastal projects</td><td>Add "Flynns Beach Surf Life Saving Hub" as a key strategic project</td><td>Recognises surf clubs as core community recreation and safety assets</td></tr> <tr> <td>Public Safety</td><td>Not explicitly linked to coastal infrastructure</td><td>Introduce category for "Integrated Recreation & Emergency Infrastructure"</td><td>Embeds safety in recreation planning</td></tr> <tr> <td>Technology & Innovation</td><td>Not specified</td><td>Explore drone surveillance and observation tech in partnership with Surf Life Saving NSW</td><td>Implements Coronial recommendation for new rescue technology</td></tr> <tr> <td>Community Education</td><td>Implicit through "passive recreation"</td><td>Explicit signage and awareness integration at high-risk beaches</td><td>Supports behavioural change through design</td></tr> </table> <u>Conclusion</u> The Coroner's Inquest into the 2017 Flynns Beach drowning provides powerful evidence that recreation and safety infrastructure are inseparable at Port Macquarie's beaches. The Flynns Beach Master Plan (2019) already delivers the blueprint for addressing those safety and community needs through integrated design, accessibility, and environmental sensitivity. Therefore, The Flynns Beach Surf Club redevelopment should be formally adopted within the PMHC Recreation and Open Space Action Plan (2025–30) as a priority coastal recreation and safety project, ensuring: • Alignment with Coronial safety recommendations, • Fulfilment of PMHC's public safety and community wellbeing obligations, and • Delivery of a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable coastal precinct.				Action Area	Current Status (Rec. Plan)	Proposed Inclusion	Rationale / Alignment	Flynns Beach Reserve	Pedestrian and car park upgrades	Incorporate Surf Club redevelopment (design, approvals, and construction stages)	Aligns with Master Plan and Coroner's findings; addresses beach safety and recreation needs	Coastal Recreation	Generic coastal projects	Add "Flynns Beach Surf Life Saving Hub" as a key strategic project	Recognises surf clubs as core community recreation and safety assets	Public Safety	Not explicitly linked to coastal infrastructure	Introduce category for "Integrated Recreation & Emergency Infrastructure"	Embeds safety in recreation planning	Technology & Innovation	Not specified	Explore drone surveillance and observation tech in partnership with Surf Life Saving NSW	Implements Coronial recommendation for new rescue technology	Community Education	Implicit through "passive recreation"	Explicit signage and awareness integration at high-risk beaches	Supports behavioural change through design
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Considerations re: smaller, less financial sporting clubs and community groups	Hi guys. Just a few comments about your Recreation and Open Space Action Plan. Obviously there is quite a lot going on in this area for which you should be complimented. From what I can see it is mostly about large groups. If I could add, there are a large number of people who play in small groups who are not really catered for in this area. These include a myriad of exercise groups, music groups, public speaking groups, dancing groups, jass and there are sporting groups such as table tennis. Literally hundreds of people, I belong to the Port Macquarie Table Tennis Club. Our story is similar to many of the other groups because we meet each other in the various playing halls. We all have the same difficulties. There are few halls where we can afford to play in. There is a trend to provide large stadium-type venues. In theory these are fine but in practice they are unsatisfactory for all people. Because they are contract-managed they have to charge equivalent to other stadium fees. For small groups \$50/hr is not economically feasible. We play for 2 to 3 hours so it becomes expensive for us and other small groups. In these stadium venues we find that the dominant sport, which is usually basketball, gets the preferred playing times and lesser sports get what is left over. These playing times are not usually suitable. They are only available at the times that the dominant sport does not wish to play. The others issue is that the dominant sport gets preference. If there is a special events which overlaps the smaller group's playing slot then that group gets cancelled. This is a very regular occurrence and it does nothing to help ongoing membership of the smaller groups. They can also be cancelled at short notice. We play in NSW country tournaments and all other table tennis groups complain of the same thing. Slowly they are being pushed out of their venues either because they have outgrown them and cannot find anywhere else or because of lease issues. The option is to play in these stadiums and that is rarely affordable. There is a big need in this town for a low cost hall that could accommodate the large number of sports and bodies who cannot afford the high stadium fees. Their requirements are simple. A roof, large floor area, toilets, a storage room and a basic kitchen. They do not require canteens, hot food and specialized facilities. They are only there for 1-3 hours. We tried to get a slot in the Police Boys Club but in our preliminary meetings it became obvious that there was a large number of sporting groups hoping to fill a limited number of suitable spots. I notice that there is a Sports Council. If this council has input into what I have just said then I am happy to volunteer to sit on it. I know of other similarly minded people who would also volunteer.
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Appendix B: Verbatim Feedback: Have Your Say submissions

Reference	Verbatim feedback
Wauchope sporting facilities overlooked	Yet again Wauchope has been sidelined in terms of providing more sporting fields or working on maintaining existing sports fields. e.g. no mention is made of the proposed sports fields on Port Lane just east of the railway line. There is no provision for such things as (i) extra turf cricket fields (ii) a 25 metre heated indoor pool (as was promised about 10 years ago). I STRONGLY recommend that you read my letter to the Editor of the Port Macquarie News of the Area which was published in last Friday's (Friday 19 Sept. 2025) edition. Unfortunately I was unable to attach a copy to this email.
Sports fees and charges	Unable to access the plan for some reason. All access to Outdoor spaces should be free of charge since we already pay our rates. Spaces have been given to Council as part of development plans. We could charge each rate payer an extra \$5 per quarter which should be more than enough to cover costs. Spaces have to be maintained whether someone is using the spaces or not so don't start charging clubs or sporting associations to use them. We are supposed to be encouraging healthy lifestyles, not price people out of exercise as fees/registrations would have to increase. Especially small associations.
Camden Haven play space	There are many elements to the Recreation and Open Space Action Plan. I can only talk to the Camden Haven area as the other areas are not in my line of sight. In the 'Immediate priority projects (2025-26)', in the 'Project Type', you have Play Space as a sub heading and the 'Facility' is showing Bruce Porter Reserve, Laurieton with the Project detail being 'Play Space Design & Construction'. I am curious as to why you want to put another playground within 200-300m of an existing playground?. There is a playground in Castle Street near the Rugby League and Soccer fields (Vince Inman). This appears to be a reckless waste of money. Why engage contractors to design and then construct a playground when you can upgrade an existing playground which is 200m from the toilet block at Bruce Porter Reserve. I can also imagine that the Laurieton Riverwalk Markets would not be thrilled about your ideas. I am not in favour of the construction of another playground which appears to be a waste of time and money. While we are at it, I would take issue with the safety and amenity of the playground which was recently created on Ocean Drive in North Haven. You have removed the swings and play equipment at Bunny's Corner and created a playground (of sorts) opposite 587 Ocean Drive, North Haven. The playground has been installed, but it is incomplete....the edge of the playground is less than 3 metres from parking spaces and less than 10 metres from the busy Ocean Drive. There is no fencing or separation from the playground that would prevent a young child from running on to the road....parents should be attentive, but they are preoccupied in a variety of ways; other children; babies; on their devices; coffee and a chat with other ums and and not watching the children. That said, a child can quickly elude a parent and be struck down. Do we not have a duty of care...this is really scary. I know a mum who had a child run on to the road and was killed. Everybody was deeply impacted by the tragedy. This is an accident waiting to happen and a little bit of fencing on the road side following the contour of the playground might prevent an unfortunate incident.

Library seating and safety	Library at Lake Cathie now a growing area with primary school would be wonderful for all ages especially those that don't drive and can't get to Laurieton library or into Port Macquarie on a regular basis.
Walk and ride paths	Renewal of the viewing platform in Jonathan Dixon reserve in Lake Keddie is well overdue. It currently is a complete Eye store and many Visitors have commented on how dangerous and ugly it is A new platform with seating would be well used by the local community. Need for bicycle stands in open spaces so locals can lock their bikes. More walking & cycling tracks needed currently so dangerous walking and cycling on busy single lane roads in Lake Cathie & Bonny Hills let's not have a fatality or bad accident local people want to Keep Fit but it's very difficult when it's so dangerous
Boat ramp, ocean baths, lighting	1. There is an urgent need for a boat ramp on the north side of the river at Riverside and/or North Shore. The community for many years have been safely using the ferry ramps to launch boats but with the new safety barriers this will no longer be possible. To have to take boats across the ferry will only add to what is an already overloaded service and will have most impact in the ferries in busy times, such as holidays, weekends and days of fine weather. Having no available boat ramp will negatively impact all residents on the North side of the river. 2. Having Ocean Baths at Port Macquarie will be a great asset to the community and should be supported by the council. I come from a location where the ocean baths were a pivotal community meeting place - where people of all ages, ethnicities, economic circumstances and abilities would gather to talk and to undertake exercise at whatever level suited them. It was a great mix of people in a nurturing, healthy environment. It is a safe swimming environment for both older and young children who are not strong swimmers, and also is a haven from shark attacks, something people are becoming increasingly concerned about. Community groups would hold events there and schools also utilised the space. I have seen also how an Ocean baths is an added tourist attraction and in this way it would enhance the local economy. 3. To have the Skate Park at Town Beach lit will encourage night usage of this activity. The Council will need to ensure that the lighting is quite strong, with no shadow points otherwise it could be dangerous. The lighting will also need continuous monitoring to ensure that there are no outages. Both factors make it questionable as to whether lighting the area would be a good move. Furthermore, if this activity is extended into evening hours there will be likely increased issues of noise, antisocial behaviour and interference with the breakwall walkway. Overall, the skatepark is a good day time activity but having its usage extended into nighttime usage does not appear of value, and hence lighting would not be good use of Council funds.
Pickleball, multiuse for existing facilities	Additional community accessible pickleball courts in Port Macquarie. There are courts (lines) on the basketball courts at rainbow beach, behind lake Cathie community centre and at Sancrox but there is nothing available for the community within Port Macquarie. Pccy, Westport have paid facilities but given the increased interest in Port Macquarie, there needs to be facilities available for the community. A suggestion is drawing lines on the netball courts in grant st or you could add lines to the outdoor basketball courts at the basketball stadium as the best options within Port Macquarie. Thanks for your time.

Connecting cycle paths. integrated planning, walk/ride to community hubs and facilities, lighting	I encourage Council to prioritise the expansion of shared pathways across the region. In addition to the coastal routes already planned, there is a strong need for more point-to-point walkways and safe off-road cycling tracks that connect town centres, suburbs, reserves, sporting fields, schools, and community facilities. Creating these continuous links will make walking, running, and casual bike riding a practical and enjoyable option for everyday travel as well as recreation. I also encourage Council to integrate this with the recently reviewed bike plan and pedestrian access plan so that future pathways are designed as a connected network rather than isolated sections. This will maximise their value by ensuring people can move safely and efficiently across the region without needing to rely on cars. Improved path lighting is also essential, particularly around Town Beach and other high-use areas, to ensure safe early morning and evening use throughout the year. These investments bring broad community benefits: they encourage healthier, more active lifestyles, reduce car dependency and congestion, improve accessibility for people of all ages and abilities, and enhance the region's appeal to visitors. Well-lit, well-connected pathways are a simple, cost-effective way to deliver long-term health, safety, and social benefits to the whole community.
Hitting wall	Blair Park Port Macquarie - I recall there was once a tennis hitting wall there. Can this be brought back. As far as I am aware there is NO public hitting wall in Port Macquarie. Please, we really need one.
Kendall half basketball court, Kendall to Kew footpath	As a long time Kendall resident I am disappointed that we only feature in the long term addition of a half basketball court at our skate park. The skate park was mostly funded by the state government under a grant. We desperately need the Kendall to Kew footpath addressed which falls within open space, walking, riding section. We need to join these two communities for the sake of safety which at the moment the road is not fit for ANYONE to safely walk along, let alone allowing children to ride to Camden Haven Highschool. We are a vibrant close community with many young families that deserve a footpath...surely
General comment on ROSAP	Very good - let's go!
Flynns beach safety and access, ocean pool	Fantastic that Flynn's beach safety and access is on the immediate plan. Too long it is a struggle to access Flynn's beach as a pedestrian with a pram. The parking is so difficult and it would be wonderful to see better pedestrian access along the parking too. We would love an ocean pool. As a family this would provide free access to a safe swimming area as we teach our kids to swim. Provide a safe location for those who are uncomfortable or learning to swim (too often, including a couple of weeks ago we have lost tourists visiting to dangerous surf). We have fond memories as Courtney kids visiting the Kiama ocean pools as a great place to access safe salt water by the beach.
More detail required in plan	For this to be a meaningful period of community consultation, some of the items in the draft plan require more detail. For example: "Wayne Richards Park, Port Macquarie Develop Detailed Design for Stages 3 & 4" is not very helpful unless the scope of works for Stages 3 & 4 is described.

Northern NSW Football	Northern NSW Football – Formal Response Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2025–30 (Port Macquarie-Hastings Council) Northern NSW Football (NNSWF) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2025–30. We acknowledge Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's recognition of the importance of sport and recreation as an integral part of the community's social fabric, and we commend the emphasis on providing parks, sporting fields, and recreation areas that contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors. Importance of Football in the Port Macquarie-Hastings LGA Football (soccer) is the highest participation sport in the Port Macquarie-Hastings LGA. The region's growing population, alongside significant increases in female and youth participation, requires that football facilities are planned, upgraded, and maintained to meet current demand and future growth. Football delivers widespread community benefit by: Promoting inclusion and accessibility across diverse cultural and social groups. Providing lifelong participation opportunities from grassroots juniors through to seniors. Contributing to health, wellbeing, and social cohesion outcomes that align strongly with Council's priorities. Alignment with the Action Plan NNSWF strongly supports Council's commitment to immediate, short-term, and medium-term facility investment across the LGA, particularly the prioritisation of: Thrumster Sports Fields – finalising detailed design and approvals and commencing Stage 1 construction. Tuffins Lane Sporting Fields – drainage investigation and future construction to ensure "more matches, more often" for the community. Rainbow Beach Sporting Fields – staged development of amenities and playing areas to support football participation growth. These projects are essential to ensuring football remains accessible to all participants, minimises disruptions caused by wet weather, and provides safe, modern, and inclusive facilities. Strategic Considerations We recognise the revised Plan reflects: Current priority projects to meet community needs and forecast growth. Strategic planning to reduce overall project costs, optimise use of existing spaces, and align with funding opportunities. NNSWF is committed to working with Council, the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council, local clubs, and other stakeholders to ensure football's infrastructure priorities are delivered in partnership. This includes advocating for drainage, lighting, amenities (with a strong focus on gender-neutral change rooms), and inclusive facilities that support the growth of women's and girls' participation in line with national and state football strategies. Conclusion Northern NSW Football acknowledges and supports the Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2025–30. We encourage Council to continue recognising football as the region's highest participation sport and to ensure that investment in football facilities remains at the forefront of delivery. This will guarantee that the sport continues to provide significant economic, social, and health benefits to the Port Macquarie-Hastings community. We look forward to ongoing collaboration with Council to deliver quality facilities that allow residents and visitors to enjoy the game of football in safe, inclusive, and sustainable environments.
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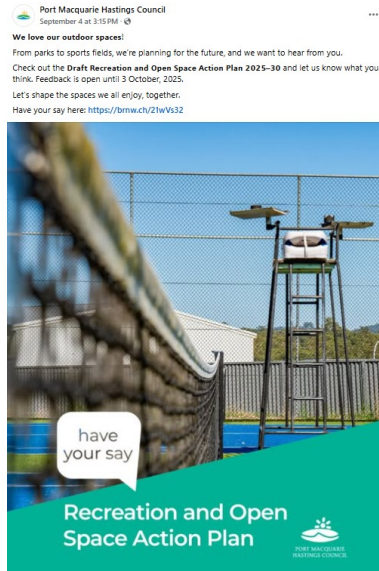
Smaller towns overlooked	Whilst the promised plans are a great idea, it's too long to wait. Smaller towns outside of Port Macquarie CBD are never made to feel a priority. Kendall has a huge retirement village with over 300 new homes being built, yet the town has had no appropriate upgrades to support the massive surge in older residents. We need a suitable footrest from Monterey connecting Kendall to Kew so the older residents, and school children have safe access to Kew and other services. Currently they walk or ride on the road and is completely unsafe. The half basketball court was promised to residents as an immediate project once the skate park was completed. Again, rural towns like Kendall are left forgotten and not prioritised; then we wonder why crime rates spike as there's little support and services in place for our people.
Accessibility	Expansion and new build assets to increase options for alternate modes of mobility physicality and therefore supporting and prompting mental wellbeing. This can be incorporated with the inclusion and extension of bike paths for connectivity of suburbs into cbd and across Port Macquarie suburbs and other CBDs in the LGA. Ocean pool at Oxley Beach - would increase overall wellbeing for residents and visitors alike, without the risk of swimming in the ocean and cost associated with entrance fees to public pools. Overall public infrastructure with long term vision to make it free and equitable access to all. Lead the way taking Port Macquarie to a competitive level with other regional/metro towns, for inclusion, sustainability and wellbeing of residents with an increase in public assets. Sure, there are plenty of outdoor fitness/gym areas, be great to have alternatives to these, like an increase in connectedness of bike paths and an ocean pool.
Praise for wide range of interests covered, ocean pool survey	It's great to see the diversity of projects to cater for a wide range of interests and ages within the community. The projects appear to be realistic and worthwhile. I wanted to state that I am pleased to see the proposed Ocean Pool is NOT included in the plan. I believe the current proposed location at Oxley Beach to be totally inappropriate. I am also frustrated by the misleading statements indicating high levels of support from the community. The survey on which this is based made no mention of location and was based on a statistically small and unrepresentative sample. I hope Council opposes the development I have previously written to the Mayor and GM outlining my concerns in greater detail.

Draft Recreation and Open Spaces Action Plan

Appendix C: Communications

Social media

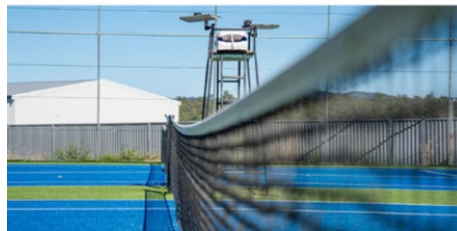
A post highlighting the draft plan was published on Council's social media channels on 4 September 2025.



Have Your Say E-newsletter

The monthly e-newsletter, featuring an article on the draft plan, was sent to 5,393 subscribers on 23 September 2025.

New projects on Have Your Say



Draft Recreation and Open Space Action Plan

We recognize that sport and recreation play a vital role in the health and wellbeing of our community. We are committed to providing parks, sporting fields, and recreational areas that benefit both residents and visitors.

This plan outlines priority projects to meet current community needs, along with facilities required to support forecast growth in our region.

You can [review the plan and provide your feedback](#) up until **Friday 3 October 2025**.

Have your say

Sports E-newsletter

Emails distributed to 579 subscribers on 23 September and 2 October 2025.



Recreation & Open Space Action Plan 2025-2030

At the August 2025 Council meeting, the draft **Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2025-2030 (ROSAP)** was resolved by Council to be placed on Public Exhibition.

The ROSAP is Council's strategic framework for planning, prioritising, and delivering recreation and open space projects across the Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area. It brings together priorities for sport, play, community spaces, and passive recreation to ensure that the region continues to provide high-quality facilities that meet the needs of a growing and diverse community.

Sporting clubs and associations have directly contributed to the Plan by nominating projects for inclusion through the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council, ensuring that the priorities reflect local needs and the voices of community sporting groups.

Follow this link to view the plan and provide your feedback [Draft Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2025-30 | Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Have Your Say](#)



DRAFT Recreation & Open Space Action Plan 2025-2030

Time running out to have your say

From parks and recreational areas to sports fields, we're planning for the future, and want to hear from you.

Check out the [Draft Recreation and Open Spaces Action Plan 2025-30](#) on Council's Have Your Say page and let us know what you think before **5pm on 6 October 2025**.

The plan outlines priority projects to meet current community needs, along with facilities required to support forecast growth in the region.

The plan covers three timelines for delivery of priority projects:

- 1) Immediate (2025-26),
- 2) Short-term (2026-27 and 2027-28)
- 3) Medium-term (2028-29 and 2029-30).

Sporting clubs and associations have directly contributed to the plan by nominating projects for inclusion through the Port Macquarie Sports Council, ensuring that the priorities reflect local needs, and the voices of community sporting groups.

Let's shape these spaces we all enjoy, together.

Appendix D: Council's fact sheet re: the proposed Port Macquarie Oxley Beach tidal/ocean pool

This fact sheet can be found on the Draft Recreation and Open Spaces Action Plan Have Your Say page, as well as the Oxley Beach Reserve webpage.

Proposed Port Macquarie Oxley Beach tidal/ocean pool

Project Summary



Proposed tidal/ocean pool location at Port Macquarie's Oxley Beach.

The Port Macquarie Tidal Pool (also referred to as an Ocean Pool Project), is a community initiative driven by the Port Macquarie Tidal Pool Committee (PMTPC), which formed in 2016 in response to strong community interest, including a petition with approximately 15,000 signatures.

While not a council project, Council understands that the project proposes the construction of a tidal/ocean pool at the northern end of Oxley Beach, selected after a comprehensive Feasibility Study that assessed ten potential coastal sites. The proposed pool includes:

- An Olympic-sized 50m pool with accessible features for people with disability and vision impairments.
- A wading and recreation area.
- Associated amenities, including changerooms, seating, and landscaping.
- Potential inclusion of Indigenous interpretation and education elements.

To date, the Committee has completed:

- Detailed site, engineering, environmental, and social impact assessments
- Stakeholder and community consultations, with 75% support shown in surveys
- Engagement with Native Title stakeholders and Crown Lands
- Design development and preliminary cost estimates (approx. \$10.5 million)
- Secured \$4.95 million in Australian Government funding for planning

The project's next steps include obtaining landowner consent from Crown Lands, and preparing Planning Proposal and a Development Application for submission.

Secure funding to construct the tidal/ocean pool.

As this is not a Council project for more information please contact
info@portmacquarieoceantool.org.au



pmhc.nsw.gov.au
email: council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au
socials: [@pmhcouncil](#)

Ph: 6581 8111



Council's position

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council has maintained a consistent position of **non-involvement in the development, funding, or delivery of a tidal/ocean pool**. Council has provided support for planning development purposes, as it does for any development proposal. Specifically Council has provided the following direction:

- In May 2018, Council formally resolved that an ocean tidal pool was not a strategic priority.
- In July 2023, Council resolved to provide in principle support for the Committee to progress planning activities, including landowner consent for lodging a Planning Proposal.
- Council's resolution made clear that this does not imply or commit council to:
- Funding the project.
- Future ownership or operational responsibility.
- Ongoing maintenance or management of a tidal/ocean pool.

The tidal/ocean pool project is not a Council project.

Council's current strategic priority for aquatic infrastructure investment remains the redevelopment of the Port Macquarie Aquatic Centre, which is planned and led by Council to meet long-term community needs.

With the existing Port Macquarie pool reaching the end of its useful life having been built in 1966, community engagement on a new aquatic centre has been under way for nearly 20 years. Planning for a new aquatic centre at Macquarie Park is now well under way with the approval of the development application in 2024.

Council will continue to respond to planning and development related processes as required but has no active role in delivering or resourcing the tidal/ocean pool project.

The process

Planning Proposal (PP) - The project requires on an amendment to the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) as a pool is not a permitted use in the existing zone. An amendment to the LEP is required to either change the zoning of the subject land from C2 Environmental Conservation to RE1 Public Recreation or to permit a recreation facility (outdoor) on the land. This requires the lodgement of a Planning Proposal request to Council. A PP can take up to 18 months to complete and it requires approval from the State Government.

Development Application (DA) - Once the use is permitted (i.e. the PP is approved) a DA is required to be lodged and approved. The DA for this project would be regionally significant and would be required to be assessed by Council but ultimately determined (approved or refused) by the State Regional Planning Panel.

Owners Consent - The land is partially owned by Crown Land and as such, in addition to Council's approval, Crown Lands approval is required for an application to be lodged.

Issues - A list of issues to be addressed by the Tidal/Ocean Pool Committee as the proponent was provided to the proponent on 24 May 2024. These issues must be addressed by the proponent not Council or its staff as ultimately Council will be assessing the information and it needs to remain independent.





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Item: 07

Subject: **Sporting Venue Sponsorship Policy Update**

Presented by: Community, Planning and Environment, Melissa Watkins

Recommendation

The Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council note the information contained in the report

Executive Summary

Following the April 2025 Council Resolution 11.10 to investigate a Sporting Venue Sponsorship Program, and subsequent feedback from the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council in July 2025, Council considered Item 13.14 Investigating a Sporting Venue Sponsorship Program at the August 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting. At that meeting, Council resolved:

1. *That the information contained in the report be noted; and*
2. *That a further report including a draft Sporting Venue Sponsorship Policy be presented to the November 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting.*

In response, Council has progressed work to incorporate sporting venues into an update of Council's existing Sponsorship Policy. This approach aligns with the direction previously endorsed, to establish a clear and consistent policy framework before activating any formal sponsorship program. The updated policy will provide clarity, transparency, and equity for future sponsorship opportunities while ensuring alignment with community expectations and safeguarding existing club-level partnerships.

Discussion

Council officers have been working collaboratively with the Group Manager Commercial and Business Services to integrate sporting venue sponsorships into the broader Council Sponsorship Policy review currently underway.

The review process provides an opportunity to:

- Establish clear parameters for sponsorship at Council-managed venues as a whole, including sporting venues.
- Ensure any future opportunities are guided by policy, with a focus on community benefit, transparency, and equity.
- Avoid duplication or competition with existing club sponsorships.
- Enable Council to respond appropriately to unsolicited sponsorship offers for regional-level facilities.

Feedback received from the Sports Council and local sporting clubs earlier in 2025 has been instrumental in shaping the draft policy amendments. In particular, the following themes have been recommended for embedded into the updated framework:

- Club Involvement: Sponsorship opportunities will require consultation with tenant sporting clubs or user groups.

- Local Sponsorship Capacity: Recognition that local business sponsorship resources are limited, and that Council's approach must not adversely impact grassroots relationships.
- Flexibility and Transparency: Inclusion of an Expression of Interest (EOI) mechanism for collaborative, community-driven sponsorship proposals.
- Cautious Implementation: Establishment of a policy foundation first, with any future activation to occur only following further consultation and Council endorsement.

Internal Consultation

Internal engagement has occurred with the following:

- Group Manager Business and Commercial Services
- Spaces and Places Manager
- Recreation and Communities Strategy Coordinator
- Group Manager Liveable Communities

External engagement is yet to be undertaken beyond the engagement that has occurred to date with the Sports Council.

Financial and Economic Implications

While a formal Sporting Venue Sponsorship Program could potentially generate modest revenue for Council, the financial opportunity in a regional context such as Port Macquarie-Hastings and with the venues available remains limited. Local sponsorship markets are primarily small-scale and in-kind, with most support already directed toward individual clubs and community-led initiatives.

By embedding Sporting Venues into the broader Sponsorship Policy review, Council is taking a prudent approach that ensures that any future sponsorship opportunities are considered on their merit, in alignment with community expectations and Council's strategic objectives.

Importantly, this policy-based approach minimises the risk of diverting funds away from grassroots sporting clubs or creating competition for limited local business sponsorship capacity. It also reduces the likelihood of Council incurring unnecessary administrative or operational costs associated with managing a standalone sponsorship program.

In the longer term, a clear and well-defined policy framework will enable Council to respond efficiently to sponsorship proposals for larger regional facilities, ensuring that any financial benefits are realised transparently, equitably, and in a manner that supports both Council and community outcomes.

Actions

Note the information contained in the report.

Attachments

Nil

Item: 08

Subject: Port Macquarie Hastings Sports Council EOI Process

Presented by: Community, Planning and Environment, Melissa Watkins

Recommendation

The Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council:

1. Note the Information the report.
2. Promote this information to the broader sporting community.

Executive Summary

The current committee, Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council, has reached the end of the 2-year term.

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council staff are preparing to open Expressions of Interest for new members of the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council. The Sports Council provides an important advisory and advocacy role, representing the interests of local sporting clubs, associations, and State Sporting Organisations across the Local Government Area.

The upcoming EOI process aims to ensure broad and equitable representation from a variety of sporting codes and geographical areas within the region. The EOI will be open from Friday 21 November 2025 at 9:00 am to Tuesday 23 December 2025 at 5:00 pm, allowing sporting clubs and organisations to nominate representatives through a formal process.

It should be noted that the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council Charter is currently under review and will require adoption by Council at the November 2025 meeting. The EOI process will proceed in alignment with the updated Charter. Staff will promote the EOI via the PMHC Sports Eblast, Council website, and direct email to sporting clubs, associations, and SSOs, and a copy of the endorsed Charter will be included as part of the nomination information.

Eligibility and Nomination Requirements

To be eligible for nomination, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Each Nomination must be formally nominated by the executive or governing committee of their respective sporting club, association, or recognised peak body.
- Each Nomination must include a letter of endorsement from the nominating organisation confirming that the nominee is an authorised representative of that organisation.
- Each Nominee will have a strong understanding of local sporting issues and a demonstrated commitment to advancing sport and recreation opportunities within the Port Macquarie-Hastings LGA.

-
- Self-nominations will not be accepted.

Following assessment, recommendations for appointment will be made to Council for endorsement in February 2026. Nomination does not guarantee membership. Appointment recommendations will be made to ensure representation across a diverse range of:

- Sporting codes, and
- Geographical areas within the Port Macquarie-Hastings region.

Internal Consultation

- Spaces and Places Manager
- Recreation and Community Strategy Coordinator
- Group Manager - Liveable Communities
- Group Manager - Governance

Financial and Economic Implications

The Sports Council provides economic and social value through improved collaboration, more efficient allocation of sporting resources, and better alignment between Council investments and community needs. Strengthening relationships with local sporting groups can also enhance external funding opportunities and shared investment outcomes.

It is noted that membership of the Sports Council is voluntary, and no payment or reimbursement will be provided for time served by members.

Consequently, there are no direct financial costs associated with member participation, and administrative support will be managed within existing operational budgets.

Actions

- 1) **Note the Information the report.**
- 2) **Convey the information to the broader sporting community.**

Attachments

Nil

Item: 09

Subject: Post exhibition - Proposed Sporting Fees and Charges

Presented by: Community, Planning and Environment, Melissa Watkins

Recommendation

The Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council note information presented in the report.

Executive Summary

A presentation will be provided to the Port Macquarie Hastings Sports Council to update the committee following the public exhibition period undertaken for the proposed sporting fees and charges.

The consultation period of the proposed sporting fees and charges was undertaken between Monday 21 July 2025 and Monday 18 August 2025.

Following the closure of the consultation period a Councillor briefing was undertaken on Thursday 4 September.

The Sporting Fees and Charges engagement report can be found as Attachment 1.

Internal Consultation

Ongoing internal consultation is undertaken with:

- Manager Spaces and Places
- Community and Recreation Strategic Coordinator
- Community Engagement Coordinator
- Liveable Communities Group Manager

Financial and Economic Implications

At this stage, engagement has been undertaken which is intended to inform and seek feedback from the Sports Council on the proposed user-pay models. No decision has been made, and no financial changes are in effect.

The purpose of this engagement was to gain an understanding of the community's preferences, concerns, and priorities before any model is considered by Council at a Council meeting.

Actions

1. Note the information presented

Attachments

1.  Sporting Fee Engagement Feedback september 2025



Sporting Fees & Charges Engagement

Port Macquarie Hastings Sports
Council

October 2025

Purpose

- Remind Committee of the three possible fee models.
- Share community engagement results.
- Highlight key themes and considerations for decision-making





Engagement Recap (What We Asked)

- **Per Field Model:** ~\$3,000–\$4,000 average per club.
- **Per Participant Model:** \$25–\$35 per participant (~10,000 participants).
- **No Fee (current model):** \$1.23M maintenance budget, ~\$370k shortfall.
- **Goal:** Explore sustainable, equitable options to fund maintenance.

Benchmarking

We've looked at what other councils do across NSW. This helps us understand different approaches, what works well, and what might suit our community best.

- **Tamworth – Per Sqm Per Hour Model**
 - Regional Level Field - 0.0138 Per sqm per hour = \$110
 - District Level Field - 0.0103 Per sqm per hour = \$82
 - Local Level Field - 0.0064 Per sqm per hour = \$51
- **Coffs Harbour – Per Field Model**
 - Between \$2500-3020 per season
- **Mid - Western Regional Council – Per Participant**
 - Junior - \$19 Per Season
 - Senior - \$46 Per Season

Engagement Snapshot

- Pre engagement January to April 2025
- Engagement from 9 July to 24 August 2025
- Strong engagement on Have your Say -
 - Total visits - 2620.
 - 610 Downloads
 - 214 new registration
- Strong engagement and representation across codes.
- Challenge - When asked if they want “no fees,” community preference is naturally high, but feedback also gave important insights into challenges and alternatives.





Engagement Snapshot

- Survey responses: **300+**.
 - Channels:
 - Have Your Say,
 - Sports Council meetings,
 - Petition,
 - Outreach at sporting events,
 - Pop ups,
 - Online and face to face workshop
- Face to Face engagement **200+**

Feedback on Per Field Model



- **Responses:** 56
- **Key themes:**
 - Many consider the model **too costly**, especially for volunteer-run or smaller clubs.
 - Concerns that fees would be **unfair when multiple clubs share a field**.
 - Some suggest a **staged introduction** to allow adjustment.
 - Perception that Council should **improve efficiency and reduce other costs** first.
- **Sample comments:**
 - *"Fees are far too high...could stop a lot of sporting activities."*
 - *"This would be very unfair on smaller clubs."*
 - *"Would make cricket unaffordable with multiple fields required."*

Feedback on Per Participant Model



- **Responses:** 55
- **Key themes:**
 - Seen by some as a fairer approach (larger clubs pay more, smaller less).
 - But concerns about administration burden and accuracy of reporting membership.
 - Families with multiple players fear costs will become unaffordable.
- **Sample comments:**
 - *“Far too expensive for Council to administer.”*
 - *“This could work if membership reporting is simple and transparent.”*
 - *“Participant charges are ridiculous for families with multiple players.”*

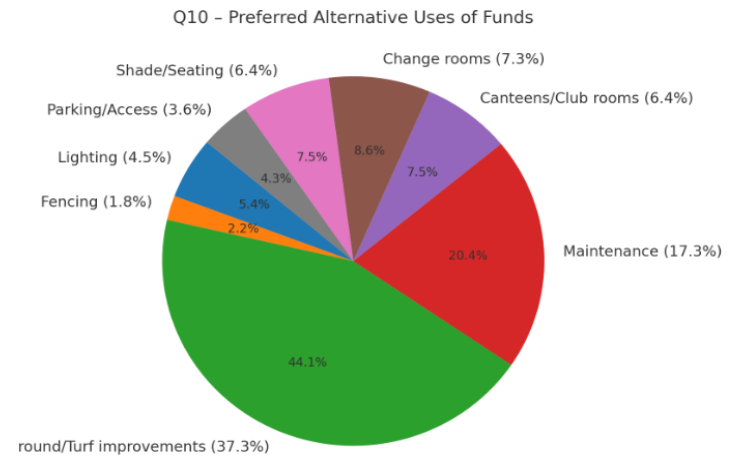


Feedback on No Fee Model

- Strongest preference overall.
- Responses: 274
- Key themes:
 - Strong preference to keep fields free of charge.
 - Concern that fees would increase registration costs and exclude disadvantaged families.
 - Clubs highlight already strained memberships and finances.
 - Emphasis that sports deliver health, wellbeing and community benefits.
 - Clubs highlighted existing contributions (maintenance, cleaning).
- Sample comments:
 - *“Most feasible if we want our children to continue playing sport.”*
 - *“Additional fees would increase costs and exclude low-income families.”*
 - *“Clubs already contribute by maintaining and cleaning facilities.”*

Feedback on Preferred Alternate Use of Funds

- Top priorities (110 responses):
 - Ground/Turf improvements – 37%
 - Maintenance – 17%
 - Change rooms – 7%
 - Canteens/Club rooms – 6%
 - Shade/Seating – 6%
 - Lighting – 5%
- Clubs want existing fields improved first before new works.
- **Key themes:**
 - Facility upgrades (change rooms, canteens, lighting, fencing).
 - Ground improvements (better turf, drainage, shade).
 - Ongoing maintenance remains a top priority before new works.
- **Sample comments:**
 - “Club rooms, lighting, fencing at Wayne Richards Park.”
 - “Keeping the grounds up to scratch for our kids.”
 - “Upgraded change rooms and canteen facilities.”



If determined that Council fees were charged and revenue would be used for embellishments - Any projects or improvements identified would be chosen from the ROSAP priorities.

Key Themes

- Affordability & fairness critical to clubs.
- Fees seen as barrier to participation, especially for families.
- Strong call for Council to improve maintenance and efficiency first.
- Preference for investment in facilities, turf, and amenities.



Considerations

- Engagement provided clear insights but expected “no fees” preference.
- Important balance: financial sustainability vs. accessibility.
- Community values sport as a social, health and wellbeing driver.
- Feedback provides a foundation for further discussion and refinement.





Next Steps

- Determine approach to fees
- Explore if any phased/staged or hybrid options are appropriate.
- Report to Council with options
- Maintain ongoing dialogue with sporting community.

Questions/Discussion



Thank you

We value the role sport plays in building a healthy, connected, and active community.



Item: 10

Subject: Port Macquarie Sports Council - Future Dates

Presented by: Community, Planning and Environment, Melissa Watkins

RECOMMENDATION

That the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council adopt the following dates for future meetings:

Wednesday 25 March 2026 at 4:00pm

Wednesday 24 June 2026 at 4:00pm

Wednesday 30 September 2026 at 4:00pm

Wednesday 16 December 2026 at 4:00pm

Discussion:

Proposed dates for future Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council Meetings are as follows for endorsement by the Sports Council:

1. Wednesday 25 March 2026 at 4:00pm
2. Wednesday 24 June 2026 at 4:00pm
3. Wednesday 30 September 2026 at 4:00pm
4. Wednesday 16 December 2026 at 4:00pm

Attachments

Nil

Item: 11

Subject: General Business

Presented by: Business and Performance, Keith Hentschke

Nil

Attachments

Nil