

# Consultation Report – Draft Plan of Management Byron Bay Recreation Grounds



## Introduction

Community consultation is an important component in the development of a Plan of Management (PoM) for community land. Byron Shire Council has promoted an open and transparent approach to the community consultation process by providing many opportunities for stakeholder groups and members of the community to be involved in the development of the Plan. Council acknowledges and thanks everyone for all their feedback, all of which has been taken into account. It is not always possible to accommodate everyone's requests, particularly when different sectors of the community are asking for different things.

Triggering the need for a review of the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds Plan of Management 2002 (adopted by Council Resolution in 2003) was the endorsement by Council in 2016 of the Byron Bay Town Centre Master Plan (BBTCMP) which was developed following significant community consultation. The Byron Bay Recreation Grounds ('the Grounds') were identified as one of 12 key Town Centre Precincts and 1 of the 6 Catalyst Sites.

In preparation of the draft Plan of Management, a Communication Strategy was developed to engage with the key stakeholders (including all current users and surrounding residents) and the community, specifically in relation to the use, operation and management of the grounds.

It is important that community consultation continues through to the public exhibition and public hearing. At these stages the community will have a further opportunity to make final comments and submissions. This process enables the community to have ownership in the development and adoption of the final Plan of Management.

Each of the stages of consultation that informed the development of the final draft Plan of Management is listed below, together with information on the key issues arising in the consultation stage and those have been considered.

## Stage 1: Community Consultation – Byron Bay Town Centre Masterplan

The award-winning consultation that was conducted during the development of the Masterplan resulted in:

- Over 2,000 individual comments received during the four engagement periods from Oct 2014 to Sept 2015.
- 800 BIG Ideas generated from the initial consultation Bay Lane Activation event demonstrating an appetite for change.
- High awareness of the project with over 33,000 page views on the standalone website.
- Strong support from local media with publication of media releases on the project
- Community presentations during formal public exhibition attracted 288 attendees plus 159 direct conversations at community touch points eg Farmers Markets and Library Foyer exhibition.
- 145 submissions were received through the final stage formal exhibition period.

Running parallel with the Masterplan development, the consultants were asked to prepare a first draft Plan of Management (2015 PoM) for the Grounds.

In June 2016, after the final round of exhibition consultation, Council endorsed the Masterplan. Of the 145 submissions received during public exhibition stage, 65 of them related to the Grounds. The submissions:

- raised concerns about the secondary status of the Grounds and focused on the need to retain the sporting nature of the precinct for youth and adult games; or
- were in support of increasing passive recreation and connectivity at the Grounds.

**This duality in submissions has been a consistent theme throughout all consultation; the sports clubs using the Grounds have sought to at least maintain their current active sport uses and others support use of the Grounds for a broad range of passive recreation, community and social activities.**

**However, it has never been a case of the Grounds only being able to support one or the other of these, because they can be complementary and both uses can be accommodated at the Grounds, which is what the final draft PoM seeks to do.**

Having considered the submissions, Council resolved to make a change to the endorsed Masterplan that confirmed that both the requested active and passive uses as well as connectivity were to be short term priorities for the Grounds – see part 2 of the Resolution 16-294:

*“That Council endorse the amendments detailed in the Byron Bay Town Centre Draft Masterplan Amendments Log to the plan for final endorsement including changes to*

*... Catalyst Site 6 – Byron Recreation Ground Short Term Priorities summary as detailed below in the "Proposed adjustments to the Byron Bay Town Centre Masterplan". These amendments to be included in a final Masterplan document.*

*Proposed adjustments to the Byron Bay Town Centre Masterplan include:*

*... Catalyst Site 6 - Byron Recreation Grounds*

*Short Term Priorities [2016-2021]*

*The Byron Recreation Ground should retain its role as a local sporting, recreation and community resource that is used for a range of compatible activities for all ages, with a focus on children and youth. The Cavanbah Sports Centre should remain Council’s focus for facilities for higher grade competitive sports. The Byron Recreation Ground should be strongly linked to the Town Centre, Sandhills Scrubland Walk and foreshore reserves, local schools and adjoining residential areas. The community should continue to play a vital role in planning for future improvements and use. (Spooner/Richardson)” [emphasis added]*

The final draft PoM was prepared in accordance with Res 16-294 and all of the provisions of the Masterplan that relate to the Grounds.

## Stage 2 – Consultation with Users and Key Stakeholders

Key stakeholders were identified for direct consultation including:

- Byron Bay Football Club
- Byron Bay Rugby Union Club
- Byron Bay Cricket Club
- Byron Bay Croquet Club
- Byron Bay Tennis Centre
- Byron Bay Net Ball Club
- Byron Bay Scouts
- Byron Bay RSL
- Byron Bay Community Centre
- Byron Bay High School
- Byron Bay Primary School
- Byron Bay Community School
- Adjoining owners and residents
- George Feros Retirement Village
- Byron Bay Boot Camp
- Personal Trainers – incl. ‘Hit like a girl’
- Community and social media groups such as:
  - *Save Our Local Amenity – Byron Bay (social media)*
  - *Know what I miss about Byron Bay? (social media).*

Meetings between the key stakeholders and Dr Greg Downes, a consultant engaged by Council, were held in late 2017 and their key issues and comments are noted in below.

The consultant was requested to ensure that the information provided to all key stakeholders was consistent and included the following statement:

*Council administration has a view to consult with the community regarding the use of the grounds and the subsequent Plan of Management changes necessary should the community support a wider range of use and to enable the grounds to contribute financially to the overall running costs incurred by Council.*

## Stage 3 – Community Survey

Micromex Research was engaged in February 2017 to undertake a community survey to gauge other users and the wider community's views.

A survey of residents was conducted, with the objectives to:

- understand the current frequency of use, and travel to the grounds;
- explore the reasons for attending or not attending the grounds;
- identify the importance of facilities at the grounds, and residents' satisfaction with the performance of those facilities;
- understand the potential activities residents would like to participate in at the grounds; and
- identify residents' support for Council to undertake improvements at the grounds.

The sample consisted of a total of 302 residents. Residents were selected by means of a computer based random selection process using the electronic White Pages. Refer to #E2017/19327 for a full copy of the survey results.

## Stage 4 – Public Exhibition of Draft Plan of Management (first round)

Council resolves to place the final draft Plan of Management on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. The notice to place the Plan on exhibition specified a period of not less than 42 days over which time submissions could be made.

The public exhibition process was commenced on 9 November but was withdrawn by Council resolution on 14 December 2017.

Details of the submissions received and responses are provided below.

## Where to From Here

Council will need to place any future draft Plan of Management on public exhibition again (round 2).

A public hearing held by an independent person in accordance with sections 40A, 41 and 47G of the Local Government Act 1993 will be required for changes in categorisation, and this will provide another opportunity for any users or community who have not been involved yet to have their say.

## Attachments:

Attachment 1– Key Issues Arising from Stages 1, 2 and 3 Consultation and responses

Attachment 2 – Stage 4 Public Exhibition 9/11/2017 to 14/12/2017 – Written and telephone submissions and responses (includes extracts from Byron Bay Town Centre Masterplan relating to the Grounds)

Attachment 3 – On-line Petition extracts and responses.

## Attachment 1 - Key Issues Arising from Stages 1, 2 and 3 Consultation and responses

- **Categorisation of the land**

All current users interviewed as part of the stage 2 consultation disagreed with Council's intention to change the categorisation of the Grounds from part 'General Community Use' and part 'Sportsfields' to all 'General Community Use'. All users requested that the land categorisation remain as 'Sportsground'. [This is assumed to mean that the Users requested that the current categorisation part 'General Community Use' and part Sportsfields' remain.]

During Stages 1 and 3 wider community consultation there was majority support for increasing general community use of the Grounds.

In the Community Survey the highest level of appeal for activities at the grounds for residents of the area include:

- Events at 78%;
- Organised sport at 77%;
- Passive recreation also at 77%; and
- Entertainment at 76%.

Nearly two-thirds of respondents indicated that they would like Council to explore opportunities that raise the revenue from the grounds usage, which could be reinvested back into the site for maintenance and improvement.

To accommodate the community feedback supporting use of the Grounds for events, passive recreation, entertainment, commercial activities and broad community use, all of which must be compatible with and fit around with the current active sport uses, Council proposed to re-categorise the Grounds to 'General Community Use'.

- **High usage**

High usage of the grounds for a wide variety of active and passive activities and general community use was a common theme.

*"The community expressed a desire for longer term priorities to consider the existing buildings and facilities be upgraded to better cater for the recreation ground users. Also expressed was the desire to cater for alternative uses such as small events, markets and community fetes that don't negatively impact the quality of the sports facility and its residential surroundings"*

The consultation stages yielded the following information:

- Stage 1 Community Consultation:

Confirmed, the Grounds are used extensively by a large number of sporting groups, schools, community groups, walkers, dog walkers, passive recreation users and commercial activities. The Ground is identified as a significant green space in the town and identified as a Catalyst Site.

The Grounds are identified as being well used but an under-utilised asset, particularly during the week.

They were said to be well equipped with tennis, soccer, hockey, rugby, cricket, croquet and basketball/netball facilities. The Grounds were identified as having a wide range of organised sport offerings for community, however, they were identified as under-utilised and the public facilities were identified as being of a poor standard.

o Stage 2 User Consultation:

Feedback included:

- The Ground is used extensively by a large number of sporting groups, schools, fitness clubs, community groups, walkers and passive recreation users.
- The Ground is essential to the development of sport and recreation in Byron Bay.
- Schools also rely on the Ground for student play, sport training and competition due to lack of space.
- The Ground is home to a number of historic sports and community structures (Scout Hall and Croquet Club) which provide a cultural and heritage aspect.

o Stage 3 Community Survey:

Almost two-thirds of residents surveyed had visited the Grounds in the last 12 months.

The primary reasons of those who had visited the Grounds in the last 12 months were to:

- 'watch sporting games' (74%);
- 'pay respect to the ex-servicemen at the Memorial Gates' (67%);
- 'walking access' (61%).

Residents aged under 50 and those with children under 18 at home were significantly more likely to visit the Grounds for 'organised sport', while females were significantly more likely than other users to go to the Scout Hall.

Other notable reasons for visiting the site include:

- sitting and relaxing (49%);
- event participation (45%);
- informal ball games (41%);
- playground use (25%);
- scout hall use (21%);
- picnics and family outings (21%);
- personal training/ bootcamp (15%).

Of interest, 9% of residents had not visited the Grounds because they incorrectly believed that they Grounds were only available for organised sport.

While this is down from 21% in 2003, which is positive, it indicates that some residents living near the Grounds are not using this valuable because they mistakenly believe they cannot.

For a full copy of the community survey results see #E2017/19327.

- **Convenience, safety, visibility, access. A safe, easy to access sporting centre for Byron Bay**

- Stage 1 Community Consultation:

The Grounds have poor passive surveillance and little activation, especially at night. Feedback requested that safety, visibility and access be integrated into public space design to provide a feeling of welcome and safety. Feedback also included ideas of creating safe pedestrian and bike paths to improve access and movement.

- Stage 2 User Consultation:

It was reported that all users expressed the importance of the Grounds in the provision of sporting fields and facilities in the centre of Byron Bay. This was said to be particularly important in relation to the schools (Byron Bay Primary, Community and High Schools), which were said to use this space daily. The close proximity, ease of access and associated safety for students and sporting club members was noted as paramount in them achieving their individual sporting pursuits.

- Stage 3 Community Survey:

Of the two-thirds of residents who had visited the Grounds in the last 12 months, those aged 65+ were significantly less likely to have used the Grounds, while those with children under 18 were significantly more likely.

The average number of times residents visited in a year was 11, with 38% having visited less than 10 times a year, 29% up to 26 times a year, 23% up to 100 times a year and 9% more than 100 times a year.

Of interest, 'car' was the predominant method of travel to the Grounds at 74% with walking at 24%, cycling 17% and bus 1%.

- **George Feros Retirement Village residents use and access**

The Stage 1 (and public exhibition consultation) identified the importance of the Grounds for passive recreation for older residents and users and support for retention of the Croquet Club.

The Stage 2 direct consultation with the George Feros Retirement Village reported that the introduction of the café attached to the tennis centre has created a new and exciting opportunity for residents of the George Feros village. It was reported that residents frequently access the café through the Recreation Ground. Feedback indicated that improved pedestrian access from the walkway along Tennyson Street to the café would improve the ability of residents to access the café.

- **Memorial**

Consultation at all stages provided feedback on the value to community of the Memorial.

- Stage 2 User Consultation:

During stage 2 direct consultation with the Byron Bay RSL Sub Branch, feedback was provided on the Grounds as a memorial, including the playing fields, memorial gates and entrance in Tennyson Street. Historical references were provided to the consultant along with documentation advising of the register of the *Byron Bay War Memorial Gates and Memorial Park Sports Fields* in the register of War Memorials in NSW.

The RSL requests that no change to the categorisation of the land be made in reference to its memorial status.

This request can be accommodated, as the Memorial and Memorial Gates are currently categorised General Community Use and no change in categorisation is proposed. The draft PoM also proposes to re-categorise the rest of the Grounds to General Community Use. The objectives of that categorisation are to provide space to *“meet the current and future needs of the local community ... in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare”*. This categorisation and objectives are more consistent with the Memorial values of the site than the objectives of the current Sportground categorisation (which are limited to *“encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits ... involving organised and informal sporting activities and games”*).

○ Stage 3 Community Survey:

Paying respect to the ex-servicemen at the Memorial Gates was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest reason for visiting the Grounds at 67%.

As a facility at the Grounds, residents indicated that Memorial Gates were of the 4<sup>th</sup> highest importance to them (with an extremely high importance rating of 4.29 out of 5) and that they were extremely satisfied with the Gates (with a satisfaction rating of 4.63 out of 5).

● **Improvement to current amenities**

○ Stage 2 User Consultation:

The consultant reported that the Byron Bay Football Club, Rugby Union and Cricket clubs all identified the poor quality and operational ability of their current amenities buildings. It was reported that both the Byron Bay Football Club and Rugby Union/Cricket have plans for the extension and improvement to their respective amenities buildings.

○ Stage 3 Community Survey :

The survey results showed that overall 98% of residents that visited the Grounds were at least “somewhat satisfied” with them. This result was consistent across all demographics and is an outstanding result.

In terms of the breakdown:

- 24% of users were Very Satisfied
- 50% of users were Satisfied
- 24% of users were Somewhat Satisfied
- 1% were Not Very Satisfied
- 1% was Not Satisfied at All.

The survey included a ‘quadrant analysis’ which combines the stated importance to residents of their needs and their level of satisfaction with delivery in relation to these needs. This identifies the items that are of the highest priority but which currently have the lowest levels of satisfaction. The identified highest priority for improvement was ‘public toilets’ followed by ‘the sports club amenities’.

● **Commercial use of Ground (unauthorised)**

○ Stage 2 User Consultation:

Feedback raised concerns that increasing numbers of personal training businesses and Byron Bay boot camp are utilising the space daily. Some complaints have been received from residents in



relation to noise (early morning) and other sports users such as Netball for damage done to goals and vegetation.

○ Stage 3 Community Survey :

Nearly 2/3rds (64%) of residents were supportive of Council exploring opportunities to raise revenue from the Grounds usage, enabling reinvestment into the site's maintenance and improvements. The result was similar across all demographics and users and non-users of the Grounds.

A café at the grounds got an overall support rating of 2.99 (out of 5) from the residents surveyed. Support for a café was higher among users of the Ground (3.17 rating) than non-users (2.71 rating).

The draft PoM proposed to authorise commercial activities, such as personal training businesses, so that will provide Council the opportunity to licence operators and include terms and conditions in their licences to address issues such as scheduling, noise and the areas of the Grounds that can be used etc. Being able to licence these activities would also provide a small revenue source (to help with maintenance) and also reduce compliance expenses (as experience indicates once activities become licenced they become self-regulating with the licensed operators ensuring unlicensed activities do not occur).

● **Condition of amenities**

○ Stage 2 User Consultation:

The consultant reported that the major sporting user groups, in particular, football, rugby union, cricket and netball, provided feedback that the change rooms, storage and toilet facilities were out-dated and inadequate. Schools also raised concerns in relation to toilets specifically. It was reported that the football, rugby and cricket clubs all have plans for the expansion and improvement of the current amenities. It was noted that all sporting groups currently share the amenities provided on the Ground.

○ Stage 3 Community Survey Consultation:

The greatest gap between resident's importance and satisfaction levels with amenities was about the condition of the public toilets (i.e. they are in most need of improvement). The Quadrant Analysis indicated that residents feel improvements are most necessary for 'public toilets' and 'the sports club amenities' and that the facilities that Council should also look at maintaining to their current higher levels of satisfaction included 'the general upkeep of the facilities', 'the condition of the sports fields', and the 'Memorial Gates'.

● **Parking**

○ Stage 1 Community Consultation:

Parking and traffic management were raised as high priority matters generally in the Stage 1 community consultation on the Masterplan, not but specifically with regard to the Grounds.

○ Stage 2 Stakeholder Consultation:

Consultation was taking place at the time that paid parking had been recently introduced in Byron Bay. Feedback indicated that at that time some people, in an effort to avoid paying parking fees, were utilising the adjacent free parking spaces on the boundaries of the Recreation Ground and that was creating access issues for those attempting to use the Scout Hall, Croquet club and Tennis centre

in particular. At the time complaints had also been received from adjoining residents (Tennyson Street) in relation to illegal parking practices on private land due to the high demand for parking space outside of the paid parking region. Since that time there has been two reviews of the scheme including areas around the Recreation Grounds.

○ Stage 3 Community Survey:

Residents rated their support for timed (4hr limit and no limit for residents living on those streets) and untimed parking around the grounds.

Support for timed parking rated 3.03 overall and untimed 3.64 overall (on a scale where 0 = not supportive and 5 = very supportive).

In travelling to the Grounds, the survey indicated that 74% of users drive; 24% walk; 17% cycle; and 1% travel by bus, confirming that parking around the Ground is an important issue.

● **Passive recreation**

○ Stage 1 Community Consultation:

The importance of the Grounds as a large green passive recreation space was noted in the feedback resulting in the Grounds becoming a Catalyst Site in the Masterplan.

○ Stage 2 Stakeholder Consultation:

Feedback noted that the area situated between the Byron Bay Community Cabin and the tennis courts had been previously earmarked as an area suitable for passive recreation but that the area is now used by personal trainers and their clients and needs to be refurbished. Feedback was also received that the installation of suitable seating, lighting and improved amenity will create an area more suitable for those who use the Ground for walking, reading and quieter pursuits.

○ Stage 3 Wider Community Consultation:

Passive recreation was one of the top 4 main activities residents would like to take part in at the Byron Recreation Ground, rated at 77% equal with organised sport also at 77%.

Of the 14 reasons current users gave for using the Grounds, 11 of them were passive recreation activities including:

- 67% paying respect at the Memorial;
- 61% walking for access;
- 49% sitting and relaxing;
- 41% playing informal ball games on the fields;
- 25% children's playground;
- 21% using Scout Hall;
- 21% picnics and family outings;
- 10% jogging;
- 7% using Girl Guides Hall;
- 3% playing Frisbee.

The 3 active reasons for using the grounds were:

- 74% watch sport games;
- 48% play organised sport;
- 45% event participation eg Rugby Union 7's Carnival.

- **Potential Activities: Events, entertainment, art and skate park.**

No feedback was provided during the Stage 2 Stakeholder Consultation as to what other potential activities could be undertaken at the grounds.

The Stage 3 Community Survey found that:

- 78% of residents would like to take part in 'events' at the grounds;
- 77% would be interested in 'entertainment';
- 67% noted their interest in public art installations;
- 57% would like to be able to attend markets at the grounds;
- 53% would like to use a dog exercise area;
- 52% a skate park;
- 48% are interested in personal training at the grounds.

- **Illegal parking and camping**

The Stage 2 Stakeholder Consultation feedback noted at that time there had been an increase in illegal camping along both Tennyson and Cowper streets is creating problems for parking and amenity issues for residents and users of the Recreation Ground. The situation was said to have worsened as a result of the introduction of paid parking.

The Stage 3 Community Survey did not identify illegal parking or camping activities as an issue.

NB this is a broader issue Council is addressing across Byron Bay and a PoM for any community land would not address it specifically.

- **Drainage and parking Carlyle Street**

The Stage 2 User Consultation provided feedback that parking and access to the Ground from Carlyle Street is in poor condition. It was said that the absence of appropriate drainage, curb and gutter results in damage done to the grass and vegetation lining the southern side of the Ground during wet weather and often results in flooding and associated issues for residents of Carlyle Street.

The Stage 3 Community Survey did not identify drainage or parking in Carlyle Street as an issue.

NB there is an action in the draft PoM to address this issue.

- **Leases and Licenses**

The Stage 2 User Consultation provided feedback that the current lessee of the tennis centre had raised a number of issues in relation to the current lease agreement with Council that related to the tenure of the agreement, condition of the courts and associated responsibilities.

It was reported that the Byron Bay Football Club identified a potential leasing arrangement with Council in relation to the area of land used by the club. The Club provided feedback that they believe that such arrangement would be beneficial to both Council and the club in the future management and development of the Ground.

- **Northern boundary of the ground with Crown land**

Both Stage 1 Community Consultation and Stage 2 User Consultation provided feedback that there is a possible encroachment from the Grounds onto the Sandhills Estate (Crown land) to the north and

that the boundary needs to be formally identified and a natural barrier/fence erected to provide a deterrent for loose balls often lost in the vegetation and also allow for better environmental management of the Sandhills Area.

- **Revenue raising opportunities for the grounds**

The Stage 2 User Consultation feedback related to only to revenue raising opportunities for user groups. The feedback did note that boot camps and personal trainers currently use the grounds and a café operates at the tennis courts.

In the Stage 3 Community Survey, almost 2/3rds (64%) of residents supported Council exploring revenue raising opportunities. This result was statistically similar across the demographics and between users and non-users of the Grounds.

## Attachment 2 - Stage 4 Public Exhibition 9/11/2017 to 14/12/2017 - Written and telephone submissions and responses

Author	Summary of Comments/Issues as they relate to the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds (Grounds)	Response
<p>Croquet Club Member E2017/106894</p>	<p>Where are young school children going to play?</p>	<p>Still at the Grounds.</p> <p>The draft Plan of Management (Plan of Management) provides for young people and school students to continue to play at the Grounds.</p>
	<p>What happened to the 2 previous studies, where is that information and why council not is using either of these studies.</p>	<p>Consultation from the Byron Bay Town Centre Masterplan, the earlier draft Plans of Management and the most recent Open Space and Recreation Needs Assessment processes has all been taken into account and used to prepare the draft Plan of Management.</p> <p>The most recent draft Plan of Management is in a modern template format and the earlier two drafts contained proposed actions for works at the grounds which were not deliverable.</p> <p>The other difference in the recent draft Plan of Management is that it proposes that the categorisation of the Grounds change from being partly 'Sportsfields' and partly 'General Community Use' to being all General Community Use.</p> <p>This would mean the Grounds can still be used for sports and the sportsfields will remain but it would give more flexibility for other members of the community to use the grounds for passive recreation and community uses that are compatible with the sportsfields and sports clubs' uses.</p>
	<p>Whether a child at Byron Bay Primary School, a scout, soccer, rugby, cricket, netball or croquet player or anyone who has thrown a frisbee, flown a kite with their kids the</p>	<p>Agree. These some of these are types of 'passive recreation' and the draft Plan of Management acknowledges the importance and value to community of both active and passive recreation uses.</p>

Author	Summary of Comments/Issues as they relate to the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds (Grounds)	Response
	BB Memorial Rec Grounds nurture ALL age groups of our community. The lessons learnt, values gained make for the type of citizen that a community like ours need.	
	I believe the community does NOT want this V5 plan of management adopted.	Noted.
	The BB Memorial Rec Grounds cannot support the markets or any massive commercial activities that would happen under the adoption of the V5 plan of management.	Expert advice is that the Grounds could support managed temporary use for compatible uses like markets, outdoor cinemas or some commercial activities.  Concerns that future activities would be 'massive' are acknowledged but any activity at the Grounds, under any PoM, must be of a scale and intensity that is compatible with the site and surroundings and current uses.
Teacher Byron Bay High School & member of BB Rugby and Cricket Clubs E2017/107538	I am often [at the Grounds] 4-5 times a week ... year round and I know for certain that these grounds are used for sporting, health and fitness activities, every day of the week.	Agreed.
	My major concern is the clause that allows large scale commercial use of these grounds: "commercial use (for example but not limited to markets, filming, events, cinema, outdoor/indoor entertainment, gymnasium, primitive camping, training camps etc);"	Noted.  The clause does not refer to 'large scale' commercial uses. The scale and intensity has to be compatible with the site and surrounds and other uses (including sports club uses) at the Grounds.  In the community survey, nearly 2/3rds of residents indicated support for Council exploring ways to raise revenue from the Grounds that can be reinvested back into improvement and maintenance of the Grounds.
	A market, for example, would decimate the grounds and	Noted, but expert advice is that managed temporary use of parts of the

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	<p>make them unfit for use for most sports.</p> <p>Primitive camping and regular indoor/outdoor entertainment would have a similar effect.</p>	<p>Grounds for compatible and occasional markets would not damage the sportsfields.</p> <p>The intent of the draft Plan of Management is for example, to permit managed temporary primitive camping that is associated with other uses of the site, eg to support a cricket or rugby training camp.</p> <p>The clause does not refer to 'regular' entertainment. Similar to above, any occasional or temporary use for entertainment would have to be compatible with other uses and the site and surrounds.</p>
	<p>The loosely termed "not limited to" opens up a whole range of possibilities that could possibly change our beautiful sports grounds into something completely different</p>	<p>The use of the term 'not limited to' is intentional, to provide flexibility. There are types of commercial activities emerging all the time that haven't been thought of yet.</p> <p>The significant value of the Grounds to community is acknowledged and the Plan of Management will not grant a social licence to an inappropriate use of this important public asset, only community can do that.</p> <p>The current prescriptive Plan of Management however, provides an artificial bureaucratic barrier to community creatively using the Grounds to meet modern and emerging community needs.</p> <p>An example is the emergence of commercial 'boot camp' businesses operating in public spaces. Due to inflexible Plan of Management's that do not allow commercial activities written in the past, many public spaces are off limits to boot camp activities even though they are an entirely compatible use that can generate small amounts of revenue but it all helps maintain open space.</p>
	<p>If these changes were to occur I fear that this will be a</p>	<p>There is no intention to push any club from any existing ground to the</p>

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	stepping stone for council to try and push sporting clubs from the recreational grounds to other locations such as Ewingsdale.	<p>Cavanbah Centre at Ewingsdale.</p> <p>The population and financial resources of the Shire, only 1 'regional standard' (some call them district standard) is able to be provided. After significant investment with community support and due to the central location, the Cavanbah Centre is now the Shire's single regional/district standard facility and competitions requiring regional/district standard facilities can be accommodated at The Cav.</p> <p>If Clubs want to choose to move their base to the Cavanbah Centre to take advantage of the higher standard facilities for training, games and competition they can, but it is their choice. If they want to stay at a local/town standard facility for training, games and competition they can do that too.</p> <p>Council will continue to maintain a network of local/town sports facilities around the Shire, including the Grounds.</p>
	Kids should not have to walk or ride that far to go to soccer or cricket training	<p>Agreed. The draft Plan of Management confirms that the Grounds are to be retained for use by children and young people in particular.</p> <p>The draft Plan of Management and Council resolutions acknowledge that Grounds are "<i>valued for providing local sporting activity opportunities</i>" that can be "<i>used for a range of compatible activities for all ages, but <u>with a focus on children and youth</u></i>".</p> <p>The draft Plan of Management contains actions to ensure that it is managed as a "<i>local facility within the broader shire-wide network of active open space</i>" to provide sportsfields and facilities for active recreation to a local/town standard.</p>
	In our modern society, health, fitness and social wellbeing	Agreed.



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	are paramount in a thriving community.	
	Sports clubs are often unrecognized backbones of this community.	Agreed.
	By creating this plan council is bowing down to commercial interests who will eventually try to force community sporting clubs out of town in the future.	<p>Not agreed.</p> <p>In the community survey, 64% of the representative community sample confirmed that they want Council to explore opportunities that raise revenue from the Grounds' usage that could be reinvested back into the site for maintenance and improvement.</p> <p>The Plan of Management needs to allow some compatible commercial activity if Council is to do this, otherwise maintenance and operating costs will fall either to ratepayers, schools or clubs and, besides grants, there will be no funding available for any improvements. Any commercial activity will have to be compatible with and of a scale that is appropriate to all current uses on the Grounds and the surrounds.</p>
	Allowing the recreational grounds for commercial use and or removing easily accessible sporting facilities from central Byron Bay would be a shocking abdication by Byron Shire council.	See above responses, the draft Plan of Management does not do this.
Marvel Street resident E2017/108195	I want the Rec grounds to be catering for those over 50 years which I understand is over 60% of the shire's population.	Noted. The Grounds are an important resource for all age groups including those over 50 years.  (ABS 2016 Census data indicates 42.2 % of the Shire's population is over 50)
	This means that catering for our older residents through facilitating up to 60% of total Rec Grounds usage is only fair.	The draft Plan of Management does provide for recreation and use by all age groups and abilities, including older residents.

Author	Summary of Comments/Issues as they relate to the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds (Grounds)	Response
	<p>My suggestion is to include in your usage plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enclosed permanent dog exercise area eg at far northern end of Grounds.</li> <li>2. Allowing dogs to be walked on leads through the path that crosses the Rec Ground.</li> </ol> <p>Please take these suggestions seriously and consider implementing.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The new format of the Plan of Management does not list each specific activity. Rather it is broad to ensure that all types of both active (sport) and passive recreation can occur on the Grounds.</p> <p>Passive recreation includes activities like dog walking/exercise as well as walking, reading, picnicing, kite flying, Frisbee, yoga, mediation, informal games etc. So the draft Plan of Management would allow this request to be accommodated.</p> <p>NB Reviewing dog walking and exercise areas across the Shire is likely to be a priority action in the broader Shire-Wide Recreation Action Plan, because this has also recently arisen during other consultation as well, eg on Community Strategic Plan.</p>
<p>President of the Byron Scout Group (phone conversation) E2017/108671</p>	<p>In relation to QBL (1.1 Background), how are each of the QBL's measured, particularly the economic outcomes?</p>	<p>Social and Cultural and Environmental Benefits are often intangible and difficult to quantify. They are usually measured by reference to outcomes.</p> <p>A set of Health and Wellbeing indicators for our community is being developed as part of the Community Strategic Plan project. Those indicators will be able to be used to measure Social and Cultural and Environmental Outcomes for community.</p> <p>An example of a Health and Wellbeing Indicator is Volunteer Participation rates (as an indicator of an inclusive and engaged community). Activities at the Grounds that facilitate volunteering, like Scouts, can be valued against such an indicator. Other common health and wellbeing indicators include participation in cultural and physical activities (like Scouts), satisfaction levels, happiness, health or safety etc.</p>

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		<p>Other existing measures can also be used to look at social, cultural and environmental outcomes, such as mechanical measures (% of time and space of the Grounds is being used, numbers of people utilising the Grounds, % of time fields are operational, noise generation, maintenance demand, crime statistics etc). Activation and use of space by groups such as Scouts could be positively valued against many of these measures.</p> <p>Governance Outcomes are generally measured in terms of levels of community satisfaction, levels of engagement and financial outcomes for Council etc.</p> <p>Economic outcomes relate to what economic benefits the community gets. These are generally measured in terms of direct and indirect economic benefit to community, vocational training opportunities and job creation. An example of an existing measure is the accepted rate of community economic benefit that a 'sports tourist' generates eg a person who visits to participate in a sporting event like a sport training camp that could be held on the Grounds in future if new opportunities the draft Plan of Management include primitive camping for example.</p>
	<p>What does "positively contribute to the health and well being of community as well as the financial sustainability of the Council" actually mean, particularly financial sustainability? Eg self funding rec grounds versus increased cash flow for the Council.</p>	<p>A positive contribution to the health and well being of the community are contributions that meets a need of community and add to the social capital of the community – Byron Scouts is a great example of an organisation that does this.</p> <p>A positive contribution to the financial sustainability of Council can refer to actions that result in reduction in expenditure (such as reduced maintenance costs due to more efficient maintenance regimes) through to revenue to Council that can be reinvested back into the community services and facilities (an example on a sportfields is sponsorship advertising</p>

Author	Summary of Comments/Issues as they relate to the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds (Grounds)	Response
		<p>revenue, which has been possible since Council adopted its Sponsorship Policy in 2013). Only a few Council facilities have capacity to generate more revenue than they cost to operate (First Sun Caravan Park is an example) but most, even with a compatible commercial uses still operating at a loss (including for example Council pools and the Cavanbah Centre).</p>
<p>Pacific Vista Drive residents (2) 2017/109115</p>	<p>During the recent Masterplan process and consultation, Byron residents (ie ratepayers) delivered a clear and overwhelming message to Council ... hands off the Rec Ground and fund it properly</p> <p>The message could not have been clearer from residents.</p> <p>The message back from Council, especially the Mayor, was that these two amenities would be kept, improved, and funded properly.</p>	<p>The draft Plan of Management does not propose any change to any of the current uses.</p> <p>With regard to the consultation during the Masterplan process, the Report to Council's 9/6/2016 Meeting (when Council endorsed the final Masterplan) contained the following information in relation to consultation during exhibition of the draft masterplan:</p> <p><i>" A number of submissions communicate concern about losing the recreation grounds as the home ground for Byron Bay Football Club and instead seek establishment of club house facilities and support to retain the grounds for both you and adult games. However, other submissions received support reducing noise impacts and increasing broader community use of the grounds."</i></p> <p>Attached to that report was a Exhibition Comments Summary and Response Report which, in relation to the Grounds, noted that <i>"65 submissions were received"</i> that raised a concern about the proposed secondary status of the Grounds and <i>"other comments were in support of increasing passive recreation ..."</i>.</p> <p>After considering all the feedback received during the exhibition, the Council Resolution adopting the Masterplan confirmed that the Grounds would retain its role as a local sporting facility.</p>

Author	Summary of Comments/Issues as they relate to the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds (Grounds)	Response
		<p>Part 2 of Res 16-294:</p> <p><i>“That Council endorse the amendments detailed in the Byron Bay Town Centre Draft Masterplan Amendments Log to the plan for final endorsement including changes to ... Catalyst Site 6 – Byron Recreation Ground Short Term Priorities summary as detailed below in the "Proposed adjustments to the Byron Bay Town Centre Masterplan". These amendments to be included in a final Masterplan document.</i></p> <p><i>Proposed adjustments to the Byron Bay Town Centre Masterplan include:</i></p> <p><i>Catalyst Site 6 - Byron Recreation Grounds Short Term Priorities [2016-2021] The Byron Recreation Ground should retain its role as a local sporting, recreation and community resource that is used for a range of compatible activities for all ages, with a focus on children and youth. The Cavanbah Sports Centre should remain Council’s focus for facilities for higher grade competitive sports. The Byron Recreation Ground should be strongly linked to the Town Centre, Sandhills Scrubland Walk and foreshore reserves, local schools and adjoining residential areas. The community should continue to play a vital role in planning for future improvements and use. (Spooner/Richardson)”</i></p> <p>The draft Plan of Management is consistent with the adopted Masterplan that included the change that Council made by Res 16-294.</p> <p>* See below for extracts of relevant provisions from the Masterplan as they related to the Grounds.</p>

Author	Summary of Comments/Issues as they relate to the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds (Grounds)	Response
	<p>Despite this, it seems that Council Executive have taken the opposite proposal to Council in a scurrilous back-door move. They want to move the pool and change the usage at the Rec Ground. Who's in charge here? Councillors, stand your ground please.</p>	<p>The Draft Plan of Management has been prepared in accordance with Council Resolution 16-294 and the provisions of the Council adopted Masterplan.</p>
	<p>How sad it is that, once again, Byron residents have to rally to protect the basic town amenities. Make no mistake, this town will mobilise to protect the current usage of these two amenities.</p>	<p>Noted. There is no proposal to change any of the current uses of the Grounds.</p>
	<p>Perhaps the word on the street is off the mark but I think some formal statement is required from Council that both these amenities will be retained and improved. They are the jewels in the crown for this town.</p>	<p>Correct, the word on the street that current uses will change is off the mark.</p> <p>The value of the Grounds for all current uses is acknowledged and the draft Plan of Management seeks to support them continuing.</p>
<p>Centennial Circuit Resident E2017/</p>	<p>For over 15 years a diverse mix of men, women and children we have been playing touch football 3 times per week. This is a casual game and is inclusive of anyone who wants to play.</p> <p>Being able to play in the rec ground for so many years has been a treasure and we would love to keep it this way.</p>	<p>Great.</p> <p>There is no proposal to change any of the current uses and this type of use is supported by the draft Plan of Management.</p>
<p>Cowper Street Resident E2017/109133</p>	<p>The Recreation Grounds were built by world war veterans for the community to use as recreation and sporting fields – they need to be kept as sporting fields and community use for ALL ages as people also walk, run, play with their dogs, use it for personal training in groups and as</p>	<p>The significant value of the Grounds Gates and Memorial is acknowledged in the draft Plan of Management.</p> <p>The draft Plan of Management will allow continuation of the sporting fields and all the additional passive recreation uses listed.</p>

Author	Summary of Comments/Issues as they relate to the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds (Grounds)	Response
	<p>individuals etc – the grounds need to stay intact for these activities. No heavy vehicles or markets or commercial activities are appropriate for these fields.</p>	<p>There is no proposal to change any of the current uses of the Grounds.</p> <p>Expert advice is that parts of the Grounds are underutilised and that the Grounds can accommodate compatible additional uses.</p>
	<p>They are constantly used on a daily basis and are much loved by the community, they are definitely not under-utilised.....there is constant 'life in the park'.</p>	<p>Agreed the Grounds are much loved and used by community.</p> <p>The expert advice and community survey results indicate that, at least parts of, the Grounds are under-utilised and that some in the community (9% of the resident sample) incorrectly believe that the Grounds are not available for passive recreation or general community use.</p>
	<p>They are well positioned and easy to get to by everyone..... having to transport whole teams of locals out to the sporting fields is costly and when transport is not available could cause difficulties for parents who can't run their children out and/or pick them up. If children have to walk, ride or skateboard out to the sporting fields there are traffic and safety issues involved as well as incredible inconvenience!</p>	<p>Council resolution 2016-294 confirms:</p> <p><i>"The Byron Recreation Ground should retain its role as a local sporting, recreation and community resource that is used for a range of compatible activities for all ages, with a focus on children and youth. The Cavanbah Sports Centre should remain Council's focus for facilities for higher grade competitive sports."</i></p> <p>The draft Plan of Management confirms that Grounds will remain as sportsfields to a local/town standard catering for children's and youth sports and adult sports to that local standard as well.</p>
	<p>These grounds are already set up for the community with lights for twilight games or training, which are used regularly.</p>	<p>Agreed, this is appropriate for local/town standard sporting facility and the draft Plan of Management confirms that this use can continue.</p>
	<p>The Rec Grounds could be improved with more permanent</p>	<p>Agreed. This is also identified in the Town Centre Masterplan.</p>

Author	Summary of Comments/Issues as they relate to the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds (Grounds)	Response
	<p>shade and seating and aesthetic landscaping - making them even more useable.</p>	<p>The draft Plan of Management creates this potential for use for active sport as well as broader community uses compatible with the current active sport use.</p> <p>For example the draft Plan of Management has actions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Install drinking bubblers and water bottle refill stations</li> <li>- Have seating at the Grounds to a standard that is appropriate for the level of active and passive use.</li> <li>- Prepare a landscape plan in consultation with users.</li> <li>- Install park benches and picnic facilities.</li> <li>- Leverage grant funding to upgrade both passive and active recreation facilities.</li> </ul>
	<p>What are the outcomes from previous surveys by consultants as to the use of these fields?</p> <p>Why is this being surveyed yet again when this sort of information should already be available?</p>	<p>There have been 2 independent surveys as to the use of Grounds, one in 2003 and 2017. For the 2017 survey results – see E2017/19327; and 2003 survey results – see #DM403354.</p> <p>The draft Plan of Management is consistent with the feedback provided in the 2017 survey.</p> <p>Council has consulted with community and users on a number of occasions including extensively during the Town Centre Masterplan development, via consultants during the preparation of draft Plan of Management and community survey in 2017 and most recently during preparation of the draft shire-wide draft Open Space and Recreation Needs Assessment. All of the community and user feedback from all of those processes was taken into account in preparation of the draft Plan of Management.</p> <p>In some cases, Council cannot simply rely on what it has already done, but is legally required to carry out particular types of community consultation,</p>



Author	Summary of Comments/Issues as they relate to the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds (Grounds)	Response
		as is the case when preparing a Plan of Management.
Suffolk Park Residents (3) E2017/109142	I am writing to request the rec fields in Byron be maintained at their current usage.	Noted. There is no proposal to change any of the current uses of the Grounds.
	All our family use these fields for sporting/recreational activities on a regular basis all year around.	The Grounds will remain a sporting facility to a local/town standard catering for children's and youth sports and adult sports to that local standard as well.
	<p>Our daughter goes to Byron public school and these fields are easily accessible to the school grounds for after school activities.</p> <p>The school has grown so much in the past years resulting in a loss of open space for the kids. These rec fields can also be utilised by the school during school time for sporting activities</p>	<p>The value of the proximity of the Grounds to the local schools is acknowledged.</p> <p>The draft Plan of Management contains a Strategy to <i>"continue schools' use of the Ground"</i> and an action to <i>"develop a usage agreement and fee regime for continued School Use of the Ground in consultation with schools"</i>.</p> <p>The action to have an agreed fee regime is only intended to formalise arrangements in a transparent, publicly available agreement that sets out the extent of school use and contribution. Formalising use might also open up new opportunities to discuss potential to open up school assets for broader community use in return for their use of public grounds, which could deliver positive outcomes for both community and schools in a cost-neutral way.</p>
	We also appreciate the historical value of these fields. We believe they need to be maintained to honour the WW1/WW2 veterans intended use as recreational fields	The significant value of the Byron Recreation Grounds Gates and Memorial is acknowledged in the draft Plan of Management.
	We live in Suffolk park and appreciate having these fields	Agreed. The value of the Grounds to community given its location is

Author	Summary of Comments/Issues as they relate to the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds (Grounds)	Response
	easily accessible	significant.
Byron Bay resident E2017/109144	<p>I am a born and bred local and I feel very strongly re our Memorial Recreation Grounds.</p> <p>I firmly believe that our community must maintain the current usage of these grounds.</p> <p>They must be kept as sporting fields.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The significant value of the Byron Recreation Grounds Gates and Memorial is acknowledged in the draft Plan of Management.</p> <p>There is no proposal to change any of the current uses of the Grounds.</p> <p>The draft Plan of Management confirms that Grounds will remain a sporting facility to a local/town standard catering for children’s and youth sports and adult sports to that local standard as well.</p>
	<p>The grounds are utilized by all ages, not only as sporting fields but the open space is used for walking and training.</p> <p>I see this myself as I am a member of the local Croquet club. These grounds must stay intact.</p>	<p>Agreed. The draft Plan of Management will allow both active sport and passive (walking and training) recreation to continue at the Grounds.</p> <p>Noted. There is no proposal to change any of the current uses, including the Croquet club.</p>
	Markets and commercial activities cause damage to the playing fields. The large vehicles on the fields cause tyre ruts and this will ruin the playing fields.	<p>The concerns are noted and it is agreed that large vehicles on playing fields in some circumstances can cause damage. There is no intention to allow large vehicles onto parts of the Grounds if damage is going to result.</p> <p>Expert advice does not support the concern that managed compatible temporary use of parts of the Grounds for occasional markets or commercial activities would damage the sportsfields.</p>
	Transporting students to other venues will cost money not to mention the inconvenience and safety issues.	Noted. There is no proposal to change any of the current uses and the draft Plan of Management contains an action to formalise arrangements with schools for their continued use.

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		<p>Council resolution 2016-294 confirms:</p> <p><i>“The Byron Recreation Ground should retain its role as a local sporting, recreation and community resource that is used for a range of compatible activities for all ages, with a focus on children and youth. The Cavanbah Sports Centre should remain Council’s focus for facilities for higher grade competitive sports.”</i></p> <p>It is common throughout Australia that players have to travel to regional/district facilities for state, district or regional level sports.</p>
	<p>I have heard rumours re the scout hall. The scout group must maintain the hall with community ownership.</p>	<p>The draft Plan of Management, as is usual, does contain a rule requiring public competitive processes for leases.</p> <p>But the draft PoM proposes to give the Scouts an exception to the rule. This would mean that so long as they continue to deliver the best overall outcomes for community, Council can directly enter into a lease with them without going through a competitive process.</p> <p>All of the Grounds including the hall will remain in community ownership.</p>
	<p>The Veterans intended use for the ground was for recreation / sporting fields.</p>	<p>The value of the Byron Recreation Grounds Memorial Gates is acknowledged in the draft Plan of Management, with actions to work in partnership with the RSL to manage and maintain the memorial.</p>
	<p>I believe that there were 2 previous studies completed by 2 consultants. The community have not to my knowledge been given any of this information.</p>	<p>This is correct.</p> <p>The draft Plan of Management was reviewed by the consultants engaged to develop the Masterplan. However, it was in a format that was too complex for what was required and included every ‘wish list item’ as an proposed actions without them having been assessed for cost or feasibility. It was</p>

Author	Summary of Comments/Issues as they relate to the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds (Grounds)	Response
		<p>also prepared prior to the final exhibition of the Masterplan and Council resolved to make changes to the Masterplan which then had to be reflected in the revised Plan of Management.</p> <p>After adoption of the Masterplan, Council engaged a consultant to start preparing a revised draft Plan of Management, then a community survey was conducted (the same as occurred to inform the current 2002 Plan of Management) and when staff resources became available a final draft Plan of Management was prepared based on all the feedback.</p> <p>In that process, the format of the Plan of Management has been modernised to make it simple as possible, to encourage community to read it (it went from a 46 pages to 24) and to make it as flexible as possible so that in future, as uses and recreation change over time, the plan can stay current and not become an artificial bureaucratic barrier to community using the Grounds the way they want to in future.</p>
	<p>Again I repeat, please keep the Memorial Recreation Fields as for their current usage.</p>	<p>Noted. There is no proposal to change any of the current uses of the Grounds.</p> <p>The draft Plan of Management does provide for broader community and passive recreation uses compatible with the current uses. This is consistent with the feedback and requests for this from community, Council resolutions and the adopted Masterplan.</p>
	<p>Almost every city or town in the world has a large green/recreation space at its centre that is valued not just as monetary asset but more importantly for what it gives to the community.</p>	<p>Agreed. The draft Plan of Management acknowledges this and states the Grounds have:</p> <p><i>“...social, cultural, historical, recreational, natural and future generational values, which are all significant at a local level.</i></p> <p><i>The primary value of the land is its intrinsic worth as publically valuable open space centrally located with easy access.”</i></p>

Author	Summary of Comments/Issues as they relate to the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds (Grounds)	Response
	<p>The value of this town would be significantly diminished if these Memorial Receptions Grounds became nothing more than a commercial venue.</p>	<p>Noted. There is no proposal to change any of the current uses of the Grounds.</p> <p>The draft Plan of Management does provide the potential in future for some compatible and appropriate scale commercial opportunities to help in reducing maintenance and operation costs or generating small amounts of revenue that can be reinvested back into the community services and facilities (an example on a sportfields generally is sponsorship advertising revenue as per the Sponsorship Policy Council adopted in 2013).</p> <p>There is no proposal to turn the Grounds into 'just a commercial venue' but just like kiosks attached to a swimming pool are common, small commercial opportunities can support community uses and help with costs of maintaining or even upgrading sportfields, halls and community buildings. An example of a future commercial opportunities, is the café adjacent to the tennis courts.</p>
<p>Tennyson Street resident E2017/109164</p>	<p>As a resident living directly opposite the Recreation Grounds for 15 years, my submission is to leave them in their current usage. I see them every day being used by residents, sporting clubs, training sessions, schools, parents and children playing and bonding and visitors. A quiet open green space. They are crucial to maintaining an area of community for those who still live in this town.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>
<p>Unknown - email address provided only  E2017/109829</p>	<p>As I understand it these grounds are memorial dedicated sports grounds.</p>	<p>There is an acknowledgement in the draft Plan of Management of the social, cultural and historical value of the Memorial.</p>

Author	Summary of Comments/Issues as they relate to the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds (Grounds)	Response
<p>Massinger Street resident E2017/109848</p>	<p>I have read the DRAFT Plan of Management Byron Bay Rec Grounds. Nothing in the draft plan reads in any way that the Recent Grounds are in danger of being lost. YET the talk around town and the papers and the school ground is that this space is at risk...</p> <p>I have wondered why we are all panicked when the Draft Plan suggests merely an expansion of uses, not a reduction of space.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>
	<p>I believe that the scepticism and cynicism comes due to a distinct lack of community good news!</p> <p>Everywhere we look at the moment development is happening in Byron; Shirley St has been an on going development festival, west Byron project is coming, the bus stop is coming, the bypass is coming, Bunnings is here, Suffolk was saved, plots that have been bush for decades suddenly have units on them, even the bushland has thinned out at the top of Massinger St!</p> <p>We get very little in the way of Good Community News relating to new green spaces, playgrounds, bush walking tracks, etc. So of course we are scared about what a change of zoning “really” means.</p> <p>Why doesn’t council provide the local newspapers with some info on why re zoning could be good for us? Put the people’s minds at rest.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Council tries to get good news stories and accurate information out about projects. Sometimes the response from community is Council is providing too much information and at other times the concern can be not enough information is provided.</p> <p>In this case, there appears to have been misinformation circulating in the community and Council’s attempts to get accurate information out there have so far been unsuccessful. This response to submissions is another opportunity to try to get information to community.</p>
	<p>Personally I would love to visit an outdoor cinema a few</p>	<p>Noted. See above confirmation of retention and ongoing commitment to</p>

Author	Summary of Comments/Issues as they relate to the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds (Grounds)	Response
	times in the year. Equally I would love the precinct to have a healthy café, I might even like some exercise stations...but I wouldn't want any of this if it meant less green space or the cricket and rugby and soccer players had to move. Despite the fact that I play none of these sports.	community use of green space and maintenance for active sports at the Grounds.
	With kids at the Community School, I know how important the Rec Grounds are to our students' physical education and would hate to think that the schools access would change much if at all.	Noted. See above.
	Anyway this email is only meant to convey to you at council, that the people I speak to are reasonable and it would be great if we could read some words from you that are not council speak in a draft plan.	Thank you and noted.
Cowper Street resident E2017/112726	I am concerned that there is a possibility for Council to limit or change the use of the Recreation Grounds. I own a property at 36 Cowper Street Byron that is across the road from the soccer fields and enjoy the many sports that are played on the grounds day and night. The grounds are in constant use by people of all ages and I would like to see this continue. They are like the "village green" and a meeting place for the community.	Noted.  There is no proposal to limit or change the use of the Recreation Grounds.  The draft Plan of Management is intended to maintain current uses and encourage more community and passive recreation use, compatible with the current active sport uses.
	I would not like to see any commercial activity moved onto the playing fields as this would obviously have an impact on the sports played there.	Noted. In the community survey, nearly 2/3rds of residents support Council exploring ways to raise revenue from the Grounds that can be reinvested back into improvement and maintenance of the Grounds.  The Plan of Management needs to allow some compatible commercial

Author	Summary of Comments/Issues as they relate to the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds (Grounds)	Response
		activity if Council is to do this, otherwise maintenance and operating costs will fall either to ratepayers, schools or clubs and besides grants, there will be no funding available for any improvements. Any commercial activity will have to be compatible with and of a scale that is appropriate to all current uses on the Grounds and the surrounds.
	Moving some of the sports to the Cavanbah Centre would generally necessitate extra travel for participants and spectators and be very inconvenient for parents etc.	<p>Noted. There is no proposal to change any of the current uses.</p> <p>Council resolution 2016-294 confirms:</p> <p><i>“The Byron Recreation Ground should retain its role as a local sporting, recreation and community resource that is used for a range of compatible activities for all ages, with a focus on children and youth. The Cavanbah Sports Centre should remain Council’s focus for facilities for higher grade competitive sports.”</i></p> <p>It is common throughout Australia that players have to travel to regional/district facilities for state, district or regional level sports.</p>
	So I would like to see the Recreation Grounds kept for the current users and if possible upgraded so as the community can continue to enjoy this special facility right in the middle of town.	This is what the draft Plan of Management seeks to achieve.
Unknown email address only E2017/112728	It has come to my attention that the Byron council wishes to use the Memorial Recreation Fields, down near Tennyson Street, including the Scout Hall, for commercial purposes ...	This is incorrect. See above.
	As a user of the Scout Hall I'm appalled that the council would consider rezoning the Rec Fields which were gazetted in perpetuity for community use as a Memorial Park in memory of the local diggers who fought and died in	<p>The Grounds are not being rezoned.</p> <p>The Grounds is current categorised part “General Community Use” and part “Sportsfields”. The draft Plan of Management proposes to categorise the</p>



Author	Summary of Comments/Issues as they relate to the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds (Grounds)	Response
	WW 1 & 2.	<p>whole Grounds as “General Community Use”.</p> <p>This means that active sport and all current uses can continue and in future there will also be potential for all parts of the Grounds to be used for community use compatible with the current uses, including active sports and the Scout Hall.</p> <p>The value of the Byron Recreation Ground Memorial Gates is acknowledged in the draft Plan of Management, with actions to work in partnership with the RSL to manage and maintain the memorial.</p>
	If you want Byron to thrive then you have to consider the next generation that are coming up and they need an area to work and play and not everyone in Byron is filthy rich.	The significant value of the Grounds to future generations is stated in the draft Plan of Management.

Some extracts from the adopted Masterplan as they relate to the Grounds include:

Pages 36-37:

- *“Key actions and initiatives to guide open space in the centre are .... The Recreation Ground should transition to a secondary sporting facility, which is used for a range of compatible activities for all ages, but with a focus on children and youth. The BRG should be strongly linked to Town Centre, Sandhills Estate and foreshore reserves, local schools and adjoining residential areas”.*
- *“Recreation Ground to focus on local sporting activities, particularly flexible, informal recreation opportunities”*

- Examples were provided of some of the flexible, passive recreation opportunities eg:



Open lawn areas provide space for a wide range of activities including picnics, informal games or relaxing.



Temporary outdoor library's can be integrated into the open space network, increasing participation and use.



Open air cinema's encourage night time activity as well as providing a revenue stream.



Table tennis and other small scale activities encourage participation and can become destinations for community.

Page 58:

Identifies the Grounds as a space providing opportunities for spontaneous performing art



Page 60:

- *“Recreation Ground to focus on local sporting activities, particularly flexible, informal recreation opportunities”.*

Page 61:

- *“Strengthen the Recreation Ground’s role as an informal [passive] recreation hub for the community”.*

Page 86:

- *“The Byron Recreation Ground should retain its role as a local sporting recreation and community resource that is used for a range of compatible activities for all ages, with a focus on children and youth. The Byron Recreation Ground should be strongly linked ....”.*

Page 114

- Grounds should be better linked to the Sandhills Estate

Page 120-121 – Short Term Priorities

- Introduction as per Council Resolution 16-294 above.
- Key Projects:
  - Basketball and netball court upgrade.
  - Development of a natural play Playzone for Children
  - Hall upgrade to “*cater for a flexible range of community uses*”
  - Improvement works – adequately maintain the Grounds so that it “*supports the future children and youth within the local area. Small and flexible local events can be accommodated including but not limited to outdoor cinema’s and school activities. In addition community gardens can be located on under-utilised land complementing the Sandhills Community Hub offering.*”
- Delivery Guidance “*...community emphasised short term priorities to retain sports usage within the grounds through continued use of the recreation grounds for local sports groups. There was also aspiration to encourage more local community passive recreation uses – like picnics, kit flying, small gatherings ...*”
- Pictorial Guidance:



Flexible sealed basketball, netball and grass courts



Provide space for non organised sports and recreation



Continue children's organised sport



Potential for additional uses including outdoor cinema

#### Page 122-123 – Long Term Priorities

- Introduction *“The long term potential ... is to establish a Recreation Circuit that supports informal activities such as walking, fitness, cycling and jogging. Through allowing an informal circuit around the ... Ground, easy access to adjoining Sandhills Community Hub and Sandhills Scrubland Walk can be achieved”*
- Key Projects: Recreation Circuit and Wetland Walk.
- Delivery Guidance: *“The community expressed a desire for longer term priorities to consider the existing buildings and facilities be ungraded to better cater for the recreation ground users. Also expressed was the desire to cater for alternative uses such as small events, markets and community fetes that don't negatively impact the quality of the sports facility and its residential surroundings”*
- Pictorial Guidance included:



Boardwalks provide access across wetlands



Fitness stations around the path circuit provide recreation

Page 150 – 10 Priority Projects - Number 10 Byron Bay Recreation Grounds: *“Initial improvement works and maintenance should be undertaken to provide small and flexible spaces for a variety of community uses including but not limited to cinema, school activities and youth sports”.*



## Attachment 3 – On-line Petition Extracts and Responses

An online petition at change.org was started during the Nov-Dec 2017 public exhibition and contains the following statement. As at 12 January 2017 it had 454 signatures. It not possible to determine how many of those are from residents or users of the Grounds.

### Save the Byron Bay Memorial Recreation Ground – ACT NOW

Byron Bay Memorial Recreation Grounds Users Group



#### Sign this petition

454 have signed. Let's get to 500.

First name  
Last name  
Email

Share with Facebook friends

Sign

Byron Shire Council's latest Draft Plan of Management for the Byron Bay Memorial Recreation Grounds contains objectives that will change the nature and purpose of the Grounds from active playing fields and sporting facilities to a more "passive" recreation area and a venue for expanded commercial activities. You can read more at Facebook: "Save the Byron Bay Memorial Rec Grounds". Despite Mayor Simon Richardson's emphatic assurances (over almost 2 years) that no-one would be forced out of the Rec Grounds, these objectives remain part of the newly released Plan. If enacted, this plan has the potential to desecrate over 100 years of Byron history, disintegrate our sports clubs and devastate our sporting community. We'd like to see Draft V5 scrapped and the current Plan of Management revisited. Please sign and comment and help save this vital community facility.

Comments in relation to the above statement follow:

Author	Summary of Comments/Issues as they relate to the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds ('Grounds')	Response
Byron Bay Memorial Recreation Grounds Users Group	... latest Draft Plan of Management ... contains objectives that will change the nature and purpose of the Grounds from active playing fields and sporting facilities to a more "passive" recreation area.	It is correct that the Plan of Management proposes to re-categorise the Grounds from being partly 'Sportsfield' and partly 'General Community Use' categories to all 'General Community Use' category.  This however will not change the nature of the Grounds, it will still permit and encourage active sport uses by all ages but it will also allow for additional uses for passive recreation and general community use that is compatible with the active sports uses. The purpose is to allow more people to use the valuable

Author	Summary of Comments/Issues as they relate to the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds ('Grounds')	Response
		Grounds for uses that are compatible with the sports clubs use of the sportsfields for active sport.
	Despite ... assurances (over almost 2 years) that no-one would be forced out the Rec Grounds, these objectives remain part of the newly released Plan.	See above. There is no proposal to change any of the current uses of the Grounds or to 'force anyone out' of the Grounds.
	If enacted, this plan has the potential to desecrate over 100 years of Byron history, disintegrate our sports clubs and devastate our sporting community.	<p>If adopted, the Plan of Management will confirm sports clubs and all current sports continue use and it contains actions to preserve the historical importance of the Grounds.</p> <p>Council has recently completed a shire-wide Recreation Needs Assessment that covers both active (sport) and passive (community and social) recreation. This work is being done to develop a shire-wide strategic plan for the long-term provision and management of open space and sportsfields. Council has done this to proactively support and grow the shire's sporting community and also promote and encourage passive recreation, both of which are vital contributors to health and wellbeing.</p>
	We'd like to see draft V5 scrapped and the current Plan of Management revisited.	Noted.

An extract of *some* of the reasons people stated that they had signed the petition and responses follow:

Author	Reason for Supporting Petition	Response
Marianne Kempnich	Have watched many games on these grounds, right from when Robbie Kempnich played as a little tacker, my own family through visiting games, to the Byron Bay Kempnich family still out there playing. Byron Bay soccer needs these grounds. They are a big part of the community.	Noted. There is no proposal to change any of the current uses of the Grounds.

Author	Reason for Supporting Petition	Response
Jack Wright	I'm signing because there's many more knees that need to be grazed on them bitumen netty courts for good mems in the future.	Noted. There is no proposal to change any of the current uses of the Grounds.
Kane Meade	It's the right thing to do for the Byron Bay community and the future generation	Noted. There is no proposal to change any of the current uses of the Grounds.
Jodie Di Costanzo	It is important for future children and families.	Agree.
Satish Sthapit	It belongs to locals, it belongs to kids.	Agreed, the 16-294 Council Resolution acknowledges the importance of the Grounds to young people and children.
Ryan Gray	I played football there for 5 years	Noted.
Sharon Turner	I do not believe that the town folk of Byron Bay will benefit form the council not supporting the youth and health of the ratepayers.	<p>Council is supporting the youth and health of ratepayers, residents and visitors alike. The draft PoM retains this important green space for all types of active and passive recreation for people of all ages and abilities.</p> <p>In addition, Council has just recently completed a shire-wide Recreation Needs Assessment to inform a long-term shire-wide Recreation Action Plan, to ensure that open space and sportsfields are well managed to meet not just current but future recreation needs of the community.</p>
Tracey Timperley	The Rec grounds are one of the Byron Bays fantastic community areas. Growing up here I used the grounds for hockey, netball, basketball, school sport, Oleander carnivals and then our boys have utilised the grounds for soccer, cricker, rugby etc. It would be such a shame to take this community area away from the community.	<p>The PoM will to keep this community area for community. There is no proposal to change any of the current uses, including sports.</p> <p>The draft Plan of Management also provides additional opportunities for passive recreation, broader community use and commercial activities that are compatible with the surrounds and with use of the Grounds for active sports and the other current uses.</p>
Brian Donnellan	The Rec Ground is the sporting Hub of Byron – and must stay that way.	<p>Noted. There is no proposal to change any of the current uses of the Grounds, including the local sports uses.</p> <p>The Cavanabah Centre is the Shire's single district/regional standard sporting facility and a network of local/town standard sports facilities will continue to be maintained throughout the Shire, including at the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds.</p>



Author	Reason for Supporting Petition	Response
Craig Johnson	Leave them alone.	Noted.
Danny Varley	Save iit!	Noted.
Lucy Chastine	Community spiriy and keeping people fit is vital!	Agreed, see above confirmation that Council is supporting active and passive recreation at the Grounds and throughout the Shire.
Bernadette Coates	My kids grew up playing soccer and netabll there and other kids deserve the right.	Agreed. There is no proposal to change any of the current uses of the Grounds, including local soccer and netball.
Ryan Walker	Kinds sport and fitness is important	Agree, see above.
Vivien Bushell	Children need GOOD recreation facilities especially in these smaller communities.	Agreed, see above.
Andrea Libonati	It would be very wrong and said to witness one day the fields in the heart of Byron become something else. I hope it will never change so No speculative or lucrative initiatives to be proposed please. Respect children and people and voices please.	Noted. There is no proposal to change any of the current uses of the Grounds.  64% of residents surveyed indicated that they supported exploration of opportunities to raise revenue from the Ground usage, enabling reinvestment into the site's maintenance and improvements. Any revenue raising would have to be compatible with all current uses, with the use of the Grounds by community and with the surround neighbourhood.
Lisa Apostolides	It is a much needed and must used centraly playing field area.	Agreed and it is also heavily used for passive recreation (eg school use) as well. However, at times, it is under-utilised.
Jennifer Dixon	Sport grounds are essential for our children to participate in sport. My children are now adjults and lived in the Northern Rivers growing up playing sport. Please keep these sport grounds for future families who particpate in our culture of Aussie sport.	Noted. There is no proposal to change any of the current uses of the Grounds.
Dario Pittis	It's my duty	Noted.
Bradley Wodiske	You will devastate the convenience of the sporting grounds to parents living in Suffolk Park if you change to the	Noted. There is no proposal to change any of the current uses of the Grounds.

Author	Reason for Supporting Petition	Response
	Cavanbah Centre. You will create traffic for the entire shire that is already at an extreme. If you are forced to make this change than at least have buses that run regularly so kids can take the bus rather than rely on their parents to be stuck in traffic afer work. I'm completely gainst moving the grounds to the Cavanbah Centre and you should serious look at the consequences of doing so as you will creating a huge traffi issue.	<p>Council has resolved that the Recreation Grounds will stay a local/town standard sportsfields for you junior and adult competition, along with the shire-wide network of local/town sportsfields eg Tom Kendall Oval or Shara Boulevard facility.</p> <p>The Cavanbah Centre is the Shire's only district/regional standard facility and any competition requiring facilities to this standard can be held there. It is usual throughout Australia for people participating in state, district or regional level to travel to a state or district/regional facility.</p>
Emma Taylor	An important and close rec ground for our kids to play on or have easy access to from their schools.	Agree, see above.
Irina Tennant	Leave this place alone.	Noted. There is no proposal to change any of the current uses of the Grounds.
Susan Spargo	The rec grounds are an improtant part of the Byron community for adults and children. I believe it is an area that makes Byron maintain its feeling of being a community. It is well utiliesd by many groups and if antying the facilities need to be improved for the community people that use it. It has huge historic value in Byron Bay.	Agree. The draft Plan of Management acknowledges and contains actions to support all of this.
Neroli Jager	I want ot ensure that the Byron Rec Grounds are maintained well for use for sporting and recreation groups and clubs	<p>Noted. There is no proposal to change any of the current uses of the Grounds, including Sports Clubs' use.</p> <p>The draft Plan of Management also provides additional opportunities for passive recreation, broader community use and commercial activities that are compatible with use of the Grounds for active sports and the other current uses.</p>
Sue Beckers	I oppose any developoment of this sporting area and memorial gates and scout hall should be left as is. The RSL just spent \$180k on improvement to his memorial.	<p>Noted. See above.</p> <p>In relation to the Memorial the draft Plan of Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Includes a requirement to "manage and maintain the War Memorial Gates" and an action to "Have a partnership arrangement with the RSL that addresses maintenance and upkeep and use for commemorations</li> </ul>

Author	Reason for Supporting Petition	Response
		<p>and ceremonies.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gives the Scouts an ‘exception to the rule’ status so that they do not have to compete in a public competitive process to be able to lease the Scout Hall if that is what the community wants.</li> </ul>
Anna Steadman	We really need these sports grounds in town where all the kids can ride/walk to sport after school. Plus people of all ages use it to kick the football around.	Agreed. There is no proposal to change any of the current uses of the Grounds, including uses by children and schools and for informal (passive) recreation.
Kane Meade	It’s the right thing to do for the Byron Bay community and future generation	Noted. The draft Plan of Management acknowledges the value of the Grounds for future generations.
Rebecca Klein	The sports grounds are great for getting community together, handy for local schools, great to have a central space to meet and play with family and friends.	Agreed. The draft Plan of Management provides for both active (sport) and passive (informal and social) recreation use of the Grounds. Its value as a central green space is also acknowledged in the draft Plan of Management.
Natalie Young	Please let’s keep an area that is within walking distance for residents to enjoy playing and watching sports at.	Noted. That is the intention of the draft Plan of Management.
Tony McCabe	The Rec belongs to the community and we’ve got little enough green space as it is.	Noted. There is no proposal to change any of the current uses of the Grounds.
Gary Hennessy	It’s a recreation ground for recreation not a development ground.	There is no proposal to change any of the current uses of the Grounds, including sports or passive recreation.
Rosina Grieves	Community should be what Byron is about – the Rec Grounds provide an invaluable community resource – leave them alone – fix the roads and bypass instead.	Noted. The significant value of the Grounds to the community is acknowledged and actions included to preserve that value including in the draft Plan of Management.