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To Byron Shire Council,

RE: Submission Draft Bangalow Sports Field Plan of Management Review ('Review')

Bangalow Blue Dogs Soccer Club is one of the Northern Rivers oldest football clubs and have called the Bangalow Sports Fields home just a few years after its inception in 1970. The Club has over 500 registered players and members aged 5-55+ and the affiliated Summer 6's competition hosts over 360 games and 760 players annually. Therefore, regarding the Bangalow Sports Field Plan of Management Review, we collectively represent the major stakeholder pursuant to the core objectives set out in s 36F *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW).

The Blue Dogs acknowledge the hard work and effort of the Byron Shire Council (BSC), particularly Damian Kelly and his team in Sports and Recreation, in driving the Review and seeking invaluable input from the various sports users. We thank @leisure Planners for their work on the Review and are generally pleased with the Draft, particularly the inclusion of netball courts and new cricket nets.

Our submission identifies two broad areas of feedback. Feedback 1 focuses on the Draft Bangalow Sports Fields Plan of Management and removing restrictive language that could be construed too narrowly, which in any case is irrelevant and/or unnecessary on this document. Any future development on the site must be approved and supported by BSC negating the need for overly prescriptive information and detail. Longer term needs are difficult to predict and limiting statements could easily have unintended consequences. This will become more significant as the Northern Rivers continues to grow and develop. Second, Feedback 2 identifies key actions to be undertaken on the Bangalow Sportsfields Landscape Master Plan which underpin the outcomes of the Review.

Feedback 1 - Draft Bangalow Sports Fields Plan of Management ('PoM'/'Plan')

Section 2.2 Future demand (p13)

- **Currently reads:** “to accommodate social basketball and wheelchair sports”.
- **Should read:** “accommodate other sports including but not limited to social basketball and wheelchair sports”.

Section 2.3 The amenities buildings (p14)

- **Currently reads:** “However, only one central change room and social facility are feasible”.
- **Note:** Remove statement as irrelevant or in any case contrary to the Governance Outcomes provided to allow for flexibility over time (PoM, p 27).

Section 3.2 Specific objectives by facility/ area - Change rooms and toilets 1 (p17):

- **Currently reads:** “storage centrally located (not to the south in flood-prone land) to serve all sports users in the vicinity of, or the current location”.
- **Should read:** “storage centrally located to serve all sports users in the vicinity of, or the current location”.
- **Note:** The current wording is contrary to what BSC have advised regarding temporary storage/change facilities on the fields in the form of containers and the like, particularly in the short term. Any storage/change facility would need to be approved by Council anyway making the detail redundant.

Section 3.2 Specific objectives by facility/ area - Change rooms and toilets 3 (p17-18):

- **Currently reads:** “Provide in the same footprint access to toilets and storage for other sports using facilities in the north of the Sports Fields”.
- **Should read:** “Provide access to toilets and storage for other sports using facilities in the north of the Sports Fields”.

Section 3.2 Specific objectives by facility/ area - Play space 1 (p20):

- **Currently reads:** “Upgrade the playground in the current location in view of the playing fields and the main central changing rooms”.
- **Should read:** “Upgrade the playground in the vicinity of the playing fields and the main central changing rooms”.
- **Note:** The current location of the playground is highly dangerous and poses an unacceptable risk to path walkers and children as identified in the PoM. Driver visibility in the carpark is poor and children can easily run onto the road, particularly when parents leave children unattended and unsupervised in the play space.

Section 3.2 Specific objectives by facility/ area - Rugby pitch (p 21):

- **Currently reads:** “Note this only is possible on Oval 2.”
- **Note:** this sentence should be deleted as there are also possible options on Shultz Oval (Oval 1).

Economic outcomes (p26):

- **Note:** The economic outcomes generated by the direct use of the sports fields is significantly understated in the PoM. Accurately acknowledging the economic outcomes created by the sporting groups use of the site is fundamental when sporting clubs or council applying for successful grants and thus requires more. “Per week” should be included in the currently reading on Summer 6’s as well as a more detail explanation of the future economic benefit of sport club growth on local businesses and employment opportunities.

Part 5 Permissible uses and occupancy of the land (p28-29):

- **Note:** Permissible uses need to be updated to reflect changes outlined in this submission.

5.3 Existing agreements (p 30):

- **Note:** User agreements should be increased from 12 months to 5 years. Short user agreements are a barrier to grant funding which has been highlighted by Football North Coast, Donna Johnston from BSC and others with expertise in grant writing such as Sid Cramp.

Feedback 2 - supporting Landscape Masterplan (‘LM’)

Key Actions listed on the Bangalow Sportsfields Landscape Master Plan Dwg No: LMP01 of 6.

Planning changes:

- Relocate playground to allow construction of a sufficiently sized multi-sport changeroom facility.
- Reposition cricket nets and amend netball court and club support facilities to accommodate two rugby fields.
- Delete all “white” line markings on the fields because they are not correct and contrary to maximising the fields of play.

01 Ovals:

- **Currently reads:** Reconstruct all fields of play and provide better drainage and irrigation. Where feasible increase the level to minimise the impact of flooding.
- **Should read:** Reconstruct all fields of play, carry out bulk earthworks, construct retaining structures, re-route walking track and complete other necessary work to accommodate the following fields while still maintaining two cricket fields:

- 1 No 120m x 70m Lit senior full-size rugby field.
- 1 No 110m x 60m U10&11 Lit rugby field.
- 4 No Lit senior full size soccer fields.
- Provide better drainage and irrigation. Raise Shultz Oval levels to above flood level and where feasible increase the level of other fields to minimise the impact of flooding.

02 Cricket Practice Nets:

- **Currently reads:** Remove old and relocate the cricket practice nets. Add a third bay.
- **Should read:** Remove old and relocate the cricket practice nets. Add a third bay and position to suit new Rugby field layout.

02A Cricket Screens:

- **Add new item:** Remove existing permanent screens and replace with mobile screens.

03 Change Rooms:

- **Currently reads:** Redevelop the sports change rooms. Provide for all genders and all abilities in a central location.
- **Should read:** Remove old and construct new multi-sports change rooms with undercroft, 8 unisex accessible changerooms, referee rooms, multi-club meeting room, canteen and dry stores, PWD and unisex bathrooms, public address /presentation space, spectator balconies and storage areas with dedicated carparking (approx. 650m²).

05 Netball Courts:

- **Currently reads:** Two lit netball courts side by side, with multi-sport markings to include tennis.
- **Should read:** Two lit netball courts, with multi-sport markings to include multiple sports such as tennis, futsal, basketball and pickle ball.

10 Playground:

- **Currently reads:** Undertake immediate repairs to the playground and surrounds. In the long term, redevelop the play space to increase accessibility and play value.
- **Should read:** Undertake immediate repairs to the playground and surrounds. In the long term, remove old and construct a new play space adjacent the skate park and between new fields with increased accessibility and play value. Consider improving skatepark, providing bump track, etc.

Finally, preceding and throughout the PoM consultation phase, the Blue Dogs have been in open and supportive communication with the other sport users including the Rebel's Rugby, Bangalow Community Cricket, Bangalow Tennis Club and Bangalow Netball Club. We recognise the multi-

purpose nature of the grounds and commit to continued positive outcomes for all users of the Bangalow Sports Fields. This submission has been developed in close consultation with the Rebel's Rugby Club.

We look forward to a final polished PoM and LM and using this document to strategically plan for grant funding. This supports each of the sports clubs to grow, thrive and serve the Bangalow and wider community.

Yours sincerely,

Bangalow Bluedogs Committee