



SPORT & RECREATION PLAN TO 2024 Vision And Directions

July 2020



LIVE IT
PLAY IT
ACTIVE LISMORE

INTRODUCTION

VISION TO 2024

Lismore City Council will foster a diverse range of sustainable sport and recreation opportunities which respond to identified community needs and provide economic benefits where possible by capitalising on the unique strengths of the region.

PROJECT AIM

Develop a sport and recreation plan for Lismore City Council and prioritise current and projected needs until 2024.



PROJECT APPROACH

STAGE 1

Review of Sport and Recreation Plan 2011 - 2021

01

Inception & Background Research

02

Internal Council Consultation

03

Preliminary External Consultation

04

Current Status and Direction

STAGE 2

Development of Sport and Recreation Plan to 2024

01

Community Engagement

02

Information Analysis

03

Draft Plan

04

Public Exhibition & Finalisation





KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

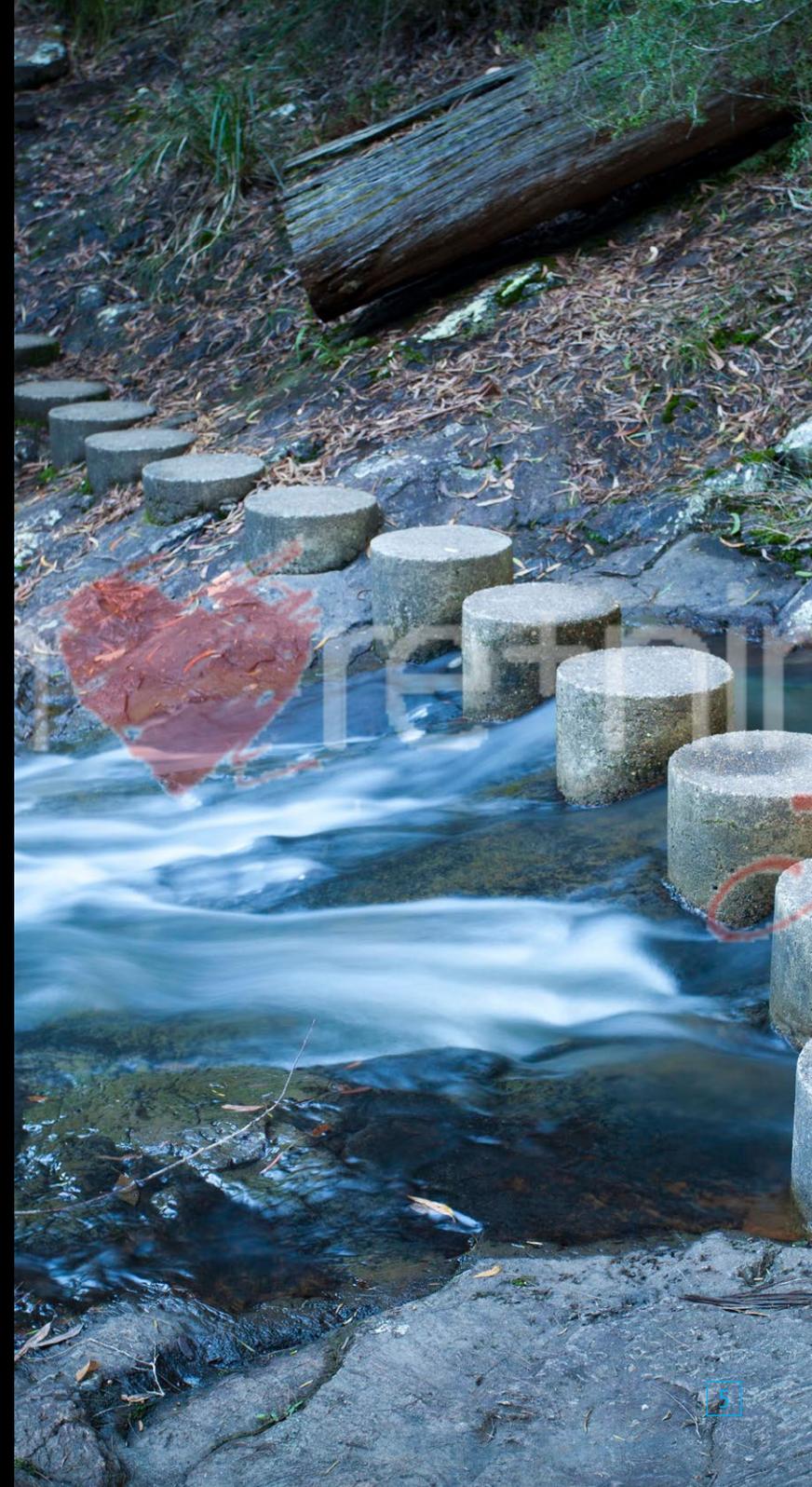
SINCE COMPLETION OF 2011 SPORT & RECREATION PLAN

CENTRAL CITY SPORTS PRECINCT	
Oakes Oval Redevelopment (\$2.8 million)	✓
Crozier Field (\$300,000)	✓
Crozier Field (\$160,000)	💰
Oakes Oval Stage 2/ Crozier Field (\$6 million)	💰
Regional Netball Centre (\$150,000)	✓
Regional Netball Centre (\$290,000)	💰
Regional Tennis Centre (\$100,000)	✓
Marist Brothers Cricket Nets (\$110,000)	✓
Mortimer Oval Amenities & Pathway (\$488,000)	✓
Dawson Street Amenities (\$242,000)	💰
ALBERT PARK PRECINCT	
Wilsons Walking Track (\$250,000)	✓
International Baseball Centre (\$2 million)	✓
International Baseball Centre (\$4.95 million)	⚡
Regional Basketball Centre (\$275,000)	💰
HEPBURN PARK PRECINCT	
Regional Hockey Centre (\$1.5 million)	✓
Goonellabah Cricket Nets (\$110,000)	✓
Hepburn Park Lighting (\$225,000)	✓
Regional Hockey Centre Grandstands (\$152,000)	💰

REGIONAL PARKS	
Kadina Park (\$221,000)	✓
Heritage Park (\$350,000)	💰
OTHER SPORT	
Riverview Park Amenities (\$60,000)	💰
International Mountain Bike Track (\$269,000)	💰
Clifford Park Upgrade (\$1.68 million)	✓
Thistles Soccer Lighting (\$171,000)	✓
OPEN SPACE	
Rail Trail Business Case (\$90,000)	⚡
VILLAGES	
Balzer Park Playground (\$150,000)	✓
Nimbin Fitness Park (\$35,000)	✓
Nimbin Skate Park (\$485,000)	✓
Planning & design for Nimbin Rainbow Road Walking Trail Stage 2	✓
OTHER	
NORPA Event Sign (\$206,000)	💰
Sport and Recreation Fund Distribution (\$1 million+ since 2011)	💰

✓ Completed
 ⚡ Underway
 💰 Funded

Note: Funding for various projects has been provided by Council, government, sport and community organisations.





KEY FINDINGS



PHYSICAL INACTIVITY, OBESITY AND MENTAL HEALTH

Lismore LGA:

- « Higher rates of physical inactivity and obesity.
- « Suicide hotspot.
- « Mental health is the top health concern of residents.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY + ACCESS TO NATURE = IMPROVED PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH



WALKING AND CYCLING

- « More walking/cycling opportunities was the most commonly raised issue.
- « Walking is low cost, easily accessible, and the most popular physical activity in Australia.

WALK/CYCLE-FRIENDLY STREETS + WALKING/CYCLING TRAILS = ECONOMIC & HEALTH BENEFITS AND ADDRESSING COMMUNITY DEMAND



LISMORE AS A SPORTS HUB

- « Previous & current investment in Albert Park, Hepburn Park and Oakes Oval/ Crozier Field strengthened status as sports hub.

= OPPORTUNITY TO ATTRACT EVENTS, SPORTS TOURISM & ECONOMIC BENEFIT



RAIL TRAILS

- « Compelling evidence of economic benefit nationally and internationally.
- « Strong community support.
- « Region's natural characteristics are compatible.

= OPPORTUNITY FOR ECONOMIC BENEFIT + ADDRESSING COMMUNITY DEMAND IN THE REGION



ACTIVE RECREATION

- « Lower community satisfaction with recreation opportunities compared to sports fields.
- « Demand for improved recreation opportunities around parks, river, outdoors.

GREATER EMPHASIS ON INFORMAL RECREATION = ADDRESSING COMMUNITY DEMAND



BARRIERS TO ADDRESS

- « Barriers to participation - accessibility for people with a disability, public transport, perceptions of safety, and lack of public toilets.

WHOLE OF COUNCIL APPROACH = REDUCTION IN PARTICIPATION BARRIERS



LIMITED RESOURCES

- « Multiple demands.
- « Limited Council resources.

EVIDENCE-BASED DECISIONS + PARTNERSHIPS = SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



INCREASING COSTS & EXPECTATIONS

- « Maintenance costs are increasing along with public expectations for high quality places and spaces.

POLICY + PRIORITISATION + COMMUNICATION = MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

Each action in the 'Recommendations' section of this document responds directly to one or more of these Key Findings, and corresponding symbols have been used to demonstrate these links.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



GOALS

Four themes and associated goals have been identified which respond to the research findings of this study.

01

ENHANCE OUR COMMUNITIES

Develop or upgrade sport and recreation facilities that improve resident's quality of life.

02

ACTIVATE OUR PEOPLE

Raise the level of physical activity participation by residents of Lismore region to at least the national level by 2024.

03

GROW OUR ECONOMY

Increase economic growth through sport and recreation.

04

MAXIMISE OUR RESOURCES

Improve the planning and sustainability of facilities and resources.



Photo courtesy of design team ink

TOP PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

01

Deliver Lismore Parklands.

02

Increase physical activity participation and develop a Walking and Cycling Strategy.

03

Continue to develop Lismore as a Sports Hub.

04

Support Rail Trail development.

05

Develop an Open Space Strategy.

06

Ensure existing and new facilities are sustainable.

This document provides a summary of key recommendations. Further detail is contained within the accompanying full report.





RECOMMENDATIONS

THEME 1: ENHANCE OUR COMMUNITIES

Develop or upgrade sport and recreation facilities that improve resident's quality of life.

1.1



Implement the Oakes/ Crozier Field redevelopment strategy to deliver a Central City Sports Precinct by 2022.

1.2



Implement the Lismore Parklands Master Plan to provide a Destination Park for the City by 2023.

1.3



Develop an Open Space Strategy to enhance the provision and maintenance of Lismore's parks network within the next two years.

1.4



Enhance sport and recreation within villages, particularly walking/ cycling, park improvements, and Nimbin pool.

1.5



Create a riverside open space network as a hub for recreation.



THEME 2: ACTIVATE OUR PEOPLE

Raise the level of physical activity participation by residents of Lismore region to at least the national level by 2024.

2.1



Prepare a Walking and Cycling Strategy to encourage increased participation in walking and cycling for recreation, commuting and fitness.

2.2



Partner with other agencies to establish an 'Active and Healthy Lismore Task Force' to increase physical activity and reduce obesity.

2.3



Continue to deliver active infrastructure in public spaces including sports facilities, exercise equipment and playgrounds.

2.4



Play an advocacy role to encourage active lifestyles through marketing and promotion.

2.5



Deliver or support programs which stimulate participation in physical activity.



THEME 3: GROW OUR ECONOMY

Increase economic growth through sport and recreation.

3.1



Clearly identify the contribution of sport and recreation to the Lismore economy and grow that by 5% per annum.

3.2



Capitalise on prior investment and continue to develop Lismore as a Sports Hub for spectator events or mass participation events (where facility developments are sustainable).

3.3



Support planning and development of the Casino to Eltham Rail Trail as a high priority for economic development, participation in walking & cycling, and generation of associated business opportunities.

3.4



Assist Northern Rivers Rail Trail Inc. to develop a sustainable management and operational model for the Casino to Eltham Rail Trail.

3.5



Deliver economic benefit by improving the walkability and cyclability of the CBD and villages (actions to be identified in the Walking and Cycling Strategy (refer 2.1).

3.6



Capitalise on the region's natural characteristics by facilitating greater access to outdoor recreation opportunities. In particular, develop a Mountain Bike Strategy to explore the potential for positioning the Northern Rivers as a mountain bike hub for events, tourism and recreational riding.



THEME 4: MAXIMISE OUR RESOURCES

Improve the planning and sustainability of facilities and resources.

4.1



Ensure that development of new facilities is evidence-based, affordable and sustainable.

4.2



Target a minimum peak time occupancy rate of 80% for indoor sports courts at Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre.

4.3



Review Council's fees and charges policy for sports facilities to improve equity and deliver a more strategic cost recovery regime.

4.4



As leases expire, review tenure arrangements for clubs on land owned or controlled by Council to ensure consistency and equity.

4.5



Help clubs to be more resilient and self-reliant by providing support such as training.

4.6



Develop an 'Adopt a Park' program which encourages residents to help care for parks, open spaces and paths/trails in the region.

4.7



Ensure adequate staffing to implement this plan.

4.8



Pursue creative funding strategies, partnerships, and community capacity building to maximise available resources and outcomes.

4.9



Investigate a special rate levy to support implementation of this plan.



HEAD OFFICE

Level 6, 60 Albert Road
South Melbourne VIC 3205
p (03) 9698 7300
e vic@otiumplanning.com.au
w www.otiumplanning.com.au
ABN: 30 605 962 169
ACN: 605 962 169

LOCAL OFFICE - BRISBANE

Suite 8, 29 Mt Cotton Rd
Capalaba QLD 4157
Contact: David Mason
p (07) 3823 5688
e qld@otiumplanning.com.au



LISMORE CITY COUNCIL

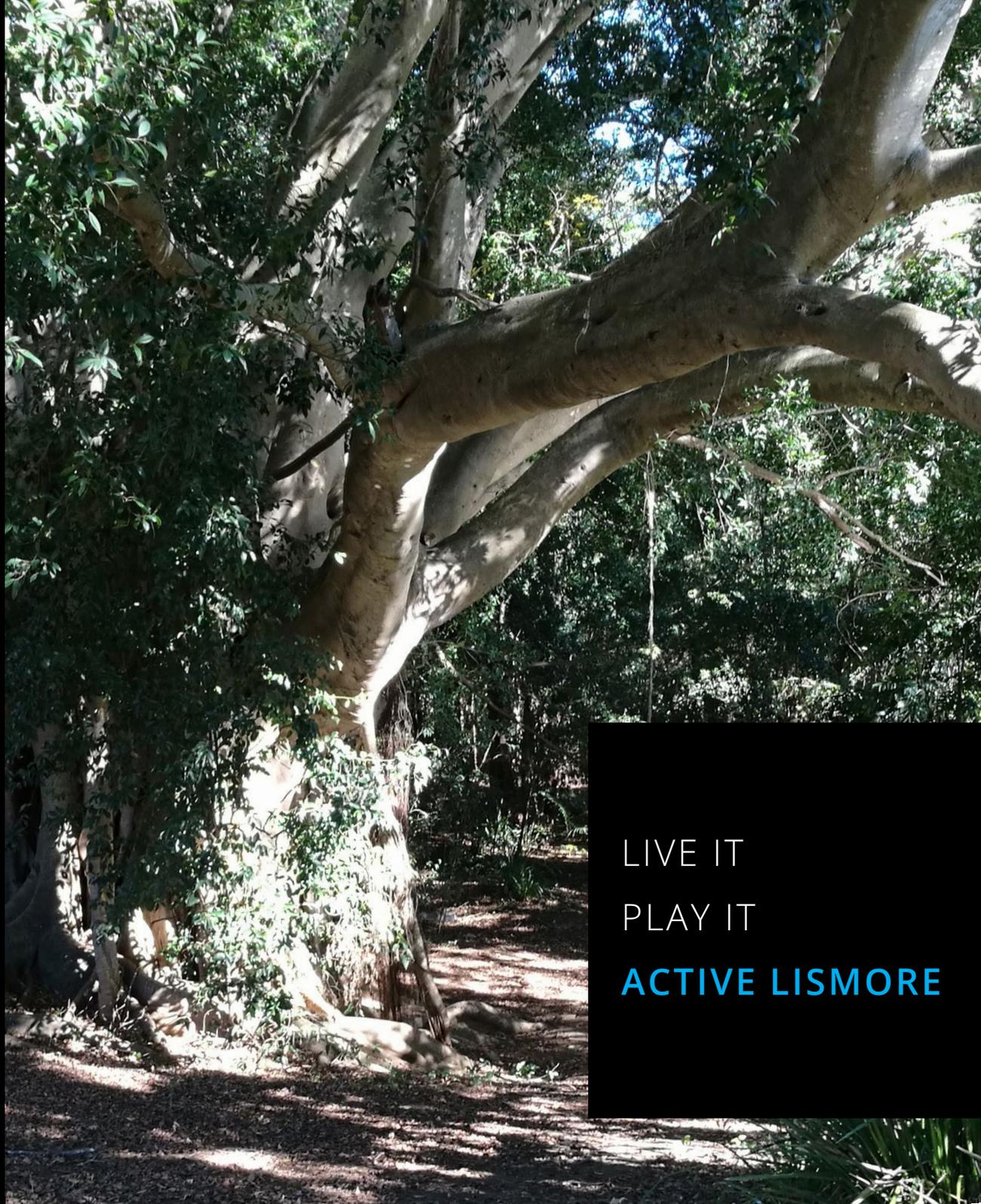
43 Oliver Avenue
Goonellabah NSW 2480
p 1300 87 83 87
e council@lismore.nsw.gov.au
w www.lismore.nsw.gov.au

*Lismore City Council acknowledges
the people of the Bundjalung Nation,
traditional custodians of the land on
which we work.*

Delivery of all recommendations contained in this report would be beyond the capacity of Council to fund in its own right. Therefore, external funding and partnerships will need to be sought.

Lismore City Council has undertaken this project in partnership with Otium Planning Group. Otium Planning Group undertook background research, consultation and data analysis. Lismore City Council assisted with community engagement. Strategic directions and recommendations were formulated as a collaborative effort between Council officers and Otium Planning Group's consulting team.

IMAGES: Unless stated otherwise, all photos in the document have been supplied by Lismore City Council.



LIVE IT
PLAY IT
ACTIVE LISMORE