



Margaret Johns Park Kurri Kurri Plan of Management & Masterplan

















DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT

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1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction

This document is a Plan of Management and Masterplan for Margaret Johns Park, Kurri Kurri. It shall provide a practical means of establishing and implementing the future uses and management of the Park. The Plan of Management and Masterplan objectives, policies and actions described in this document should be seen as a framework for future works dependant on budgeting allocations for their implementation.

1.2 What is the Plan of Management and Masterplan

A Plan of Management is a formal planning document that provides guidance for the future development and management of public open space. It achieves this by identifying values affecting public open space and outlines how that open space can be improved, used, managed and maintained in the future.

A Masterplan often accompanies the Plan of Management. The aim of the Masterplan is to illustrate proposed on ground changes and elements of the Plan of Management.

1.3 Land to which this Plan of Management and Masterplan Applies

Margaret Johns Park is situated in Kurri Kurri. The sporting facilities located at this site can be accessed via Boundary Street and Northcote Street, with Northcote Street enabling access through a pedestrian walkway. Margaret Johns Park consists of 5.47 hectares of land which is owned by Cessnock City Council and comprises the following parcels of land – 160 Northcote Street, Kurri Kurri, Lot 1 DP 1153680 and Boundary Street, Kurri Kurri, Lot 437 DP 755231.

Margaret Johns Park consists of a sports field and associated amenities, an indoor Aquatic Centre, a Skate Park and a passive park area.

1.4 Objectives of this Plan of Management and Masterplan

This Plan of Management aims to:

- Provide a practical approach to the planning and management of Margaret Johns Park;
- Ensure that the public use and enjoyment of Margaret Johns Park be encouraged;
- Respond to current needs and opportunities as well as providing future directions;
- Reflect the values and expectations of the key stakeholders, the local and wider community and other users for the future use and enjoyment of Margaret Johns Park;
- Meet all legislative requirements;
- Be consistent with Council's Community Strategic Plan, its adopted Delivery Program and other strategies, plans and policies; and

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 Present a Masterplan that realistically indicates proposed physical changes and improvements.

1.5 Process of preparing this Plan of Management and Masterplan

The process of preparation followed the legislative requirements stated below. The process in relation to community consultation and the documents produced at each stage is detailed in Table 1.

1.5.1 Legislative Requirements

Margaret Johns Park is classified as Community Land under the Local Government Act, 1993. Under Section 35 of the Act, Community Land is required to be used and managed in accordance with this Plan of Management.

The Local Government Act, 1993 provides the following information relating to the process of preparing a draft Plan of Management. A Council must:

- Prepare a draft Plan of Management for Community Land;
- Give public notice of a draft Plan of Management by placing a copy of the draft Plan of Management on public display for a period of forty two (42) days;
- Consider all submissions received by it concerning the draft Plan of Management;
- Amend the draft Plan of Management accordingly in response to public submissions;
- Re-exhibit the draft Plan of Management if the amendments are substantial; and
- Give notice of the adoption of an amended Plan of Management if it is not re-exhibited.

Table 1: Process of Preparing this Plan of Management

TASKS	PROCESS AND CONSULTATION		OUTPUTS
Inception	Establishing process and defining project parameters.		Scope of Works
Background Information	Information gathering, observation of use of park, ascertaining stakeholders		Site Analysis
Consultation	Initial Community Consultation	Stakeholder meetings	Stakeholder Values
	Integration with other Council Sections: Recreation Services, Strategic Asset Planning		Council Staff Input
Prepare Draft Plan of Management and Masterplan	Reviewed by City of Cessnock		Draft Plan of Management and Masterplan

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Table 1: Process of Preparing this Plan of Management (cont)

TASKS	PROCESS AND CONSULTATION	OUTPUTS
Public Exhibition of Draft Plan of Management and Masterplan	Submission period of 42 days	Community responses and submissions to draft Plan of Management and Masterplan
Review of Submissions	Respond to submission	Revised draft Plan of Management and Masterplan
Finalisation on Draft Plan of Management and Masterplan	Re-exhibit Plan of Management and Masterplan if amendments are substantial	Final Plan of Management and Masterplan
Adoption of Draft Plan of Management and Masterplan	Resolution by Council	Adopted Plan of Management and Masterplan
Implementation	Establish priorities for implementation	Program of implementation

1.6 What is included in this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management is divided into the following sections:

Table 2: Structure of this Plan of Management and Masterplan

Section	Contents
Introduction	Background to the Plan of Management
Description of Margaret Johns Park Land Title, Building licence information, Natural/Physical, Cultural, Heritage, Maintenance	
Planning Context State government planning legislation, local planning context	
Basis for Management	Values of the community and stakeholders, overall vision, management policies and objectives
Masterplan and Action Plan	Proposed on the ground improvements and the actions required to implement management strategies
Implementation and Review	Proposed timeframe and process

This Plan of Management has been prepared according to the requirements of Division 2, Section 36 of the Local Government Act, 1993. A Plan of Management will satisfy the Local Government Act if the core objectives stated in Section 36 are met (refer Table 3).

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2.0 DESCRIPTION OF MARGARET JOHNS PARK

2.1 Location and Context of Margaret Johns Park

Margaret Johns Park is the western most park in Kurri Kurri. It is located on the corner of Northcote and Boundary Streets.

Margaret Johns Park is a longitudinal park, 5.47 hectares in size. The length of the park lies in a northwest-southeast alignment.

At the southern end of the Park is a sports field that includes a turf cricket wicket and rectangular sporting fields. The northern extent of the Park is passive parkland that includes a skate park and picnic facilities. Between these two distinctive areas, is located the Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre, in the mid section of the Park. This facility includes an indoor 25m swimming pool, leisure pool and dry facilities and has been designed with a view of future expansion, inclusive of an outdoor 50m pool and a dry activity room.

The land that comprises Margaret Johns Park previously existed as three separate and distinct sites. The sporting fields at the southern end of the site were known as Johns Park, while the open space area located to the north of the Aquatic Centre was formerly known as Lions Park. An outdoor public swimming pool was previously located where the newly developed indoor aquatic centre now stands.

The rationale for the redevelopment and renaming of this site was to link each of the three park areas together enabling Council to clearly define the nominated parkland. Further to this, the linking of the three sites allowed for improved infrastructure between facilities as they were combined use areas with increasing patronage.

2.2 Land Classification

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1993, the land that makes up Community Land must be classified into either one or a combination of any of the following:

- Natural Area (Bushland, Wetland, Escarpment, Watercourse, Foreshore)
- Sportsground
- Park
- Area of Cultural Significance
- General Community Use

Table 3 on the following page outlines the Community Land classification as per the Local Government Act, 1993.

Margaret Johns Park incorporates the following land classifications:

- Sportsgrounds;
- Parks; and
- General Community use.

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Table 3: Community Land Classification as per Local Government Act, 1993

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1993

SECTION 36 - CORE OBJECTIVES FOR MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY LAND

Land Classification	Core Objectives for Management of Land Classification
NATURAL AREA	<u>36E</u>
Land that is categorised as a natural area is to be further categorised as one or more of the following:	 (a) to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised as a natural area; (b) to maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting; (c) to provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land; (d) to provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion; (e) to assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995 or the Fisheries Management Act, 1994.
BUSHLAND	<u>36J</u>
	 (a) to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land; (b) to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land; (c) to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and (d) to restore degraded bushland; (e) to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores;(f) to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and (g) to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.



Land Classification	Core Objectives for management of land classification
WETLAND	<u>36K</u>
	 (a) to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of wetlands, with particular reference to their hydrological environment (including water quality and water flow), and to the flora, fauna and habitat values of the wetlands; (b) to restore and regenerate degraded wetlands, and (c) to facilitate community education in relation to wetlands, and the community use of wetlands, without compromising the ecological values of wetlands.
a) Escarpment	<u>36L</u>
	(a) to protect any important geological, geomorphologic or scenic features of the escarpment, and(B) to facilitate safe community use and enjoyment of the escarpment.
b) Watercourse	<u>36M</u>
	 (a) to manage watercourses so as to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of the in stream environment, particularly in relation to water quality and water flows; (b) to manage watercourses so as to protect the riparian environment, particularly in relation to riparian vegetation and habitats and bank stability; (c) to restore degraded watercourses; and (d) to promote community education, and community access to and use of the watercourse, without compromising the other core objectives of the category.
c) Foreshore	<u>36N</u>
	 (a) to maintain the foreshore as a transition area between the aquatic and the terrestrial environment, and to protect and enhance all functions associated with the foreshore's role as a transition area, and (b) to facilitate the ecologically sustainable use of the foreshore, and to mitigate impact on the foreshore by community use.
SPORTSGROUND	<u>36F</u>
	 (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and (b) to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.



Land Classification	Core Objectives for management of land classification
AN AREA OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE	(a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities; to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games; and to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management. 36H (1) The core objectives for management of community land categorised as an area of cultural significance are to retain and enhance the cultural significance of the area (namely its Aboriginal, aesthetic, archaeological, historical, technical or research or social significance) for past, present or future generations by the active use of conservation methods. (2) Those conservation methods may include any or all of the following methods: (a) the continuous protective care and maintenance of the physical material of the land or of the context and setting of the area of cultural significance; (b) the restoration of the land, that is, the returning of the existing physical material of the land to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material; (c) the reconstruction of the land, that is, the returning of the land as nearly as possible to a known earlier state; (d) the adaptive reuse of the land, that is, the enhancement or reinforcement of the cultural significance of the land by the introduction of sympathetic alterations or additions to allow compatible uses (that is, uses that involve no changes to the cultural significance of the physical material of the area, or uses that involve changes that are substantially reversible or changes that require a minimum impact);
	 (e) the preservation of the land, that is, the maintenance of the physical material of the land; and (f) in its existing state and the retardation of deterioration of the land. (3) A reference in subsection (2) to land includes a reference to any buildings erected on the land.
GENERAL COMMUNITY USE	Promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public: (a) in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and (b) in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).

2.2.1 What are the permitted uses for community land categories as "Sportsground"?

Based on the value objectives and Legislative core objectives, the uses that may be permitted on community land categories as "Sportsground" are:

- The playing of organised and informal sporting activities and the construction and/or the use of facilities to cater for these activities.
- Passive recreation activities and pastimes and the construction of facilities to cater for these activities.
- The construction of community facilities, restaurants and refreshment kiosks and the use of those facilities, restaurants and refreshment kiosks to allow individuals and groups to come together for social, community, educational, cultural, leisure and welfare activities.
- · Lease, license or the grant of another estate for:
 - the provision of public utilities and associated works and the purpose of providing pipes, conduits and other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or other public utility provider situated on the community land;
 - the playing of organised and informal sporting activities and the use of associated facilities including clubrooms, change rooms, public toilets, etc;
 - short term casual purpose as prescribed by the Local Government (General) Regulation, 1993 - Pt2A Clause 24 (see below);
 - refreshment kiosks and restaurants; and
 - community activities;
 - telecommunication towers;
 - markets; and
 - the management of facilities on behalf of Council.
- The dedication of road for road widening or land for road works of a minor character:
- Flood mitigation and water quality control works including construction of detention basins, realignment of water flow and banks, installation of pipes, gabion walls, culverts, ponds, wetlands and other structures to assist in the control of flood waters and treatment of water pollutants;
- Helicopter landings;
- The provision of off-leash areas for the exercising of dogs:
- Establishing, enhancing and maintaining vegetation to provide:
 - shade around playing areas;
 - a windbreak;



- enhanced scenic value or visual screening;
- habitat for native wildlife; and
- a suitable buffer for the protection of water quality and ecological processes in neighbouring watercourses or wetlands.

2.2.2 What are the permitted uses for community land categorized as "Park"?

Based on the value objectives and Legislative core objectives, the uses that may be permitted on community land categorised as "Park" are:

- The casual playing of games and the carrying on of informal sporting activities and the construction of facilities to cater for these activities.
- Passive recreation activities and pastimes and the construction of facilities to cater for these activities.
- The construction of community facilities, restaurants and refreshment kiosks and the use of those facilities, restaurants and refreshment kiosks to allow individuals and groups to come together for social, community, educational, cultural, leisure and welfare activities;
- Lease, license or the grant of another estate for:
 - the provision of public utilities and associated works and the purpose of providing pipes, conduits and other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or other public utility provider situated on the community land;
 - short term casual purpose as prescribed by the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005;
 - refreshment kiosks and restaurants; and
 - Community activities
 - telecommunication towers;
 - markets: and
 - the management of facilities on behalf of Council.
- The dedication of land for road widening or land for road works of a minor character.
- Flood mitigation and water quality control works including construction of detention basins, realignment of water-flow and banks, installation of pipes, gabion walls, culverts, ponds, wetlands and other structures to assist in the control of flood waters and treatment of water pollutants.
 - The provision of off-leash areas for the exercising of dogs.
 - Establishing, enhancing and maintaining vegetation to provide:
 - shade;



- a windbreak;
- enhanced scenic or recreational value or visual screening;
- habitat for native wildlife; and
- a suitable buffer for the protection of water quality and ecological processes in neighbouring watercourses or wetlands.

2.2.3 What are the permitted uses for community land categorised as "General Community Use"?

Based on the value objectives and Legislative core objectives, the uses that may be permitted on community land categorised as "General Community Use" are:

- Passive recreation and the construction of facilities to cater for these activities.
- The construction of community facilities, restaurants and refreshment kiosks and the use of those facilities, restaurants and refreshment kiosks to allow individuals and groups to come together for social, community, educational, cultural, leisure and welfare activities, eg community/neighbourhood centres; community halls; senior citizens', youth and children's centres; community based services; scout and guide halls; museums; art galleries; libraries; car parks.
- Lease, license or the grant of another estate for:
 - the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or other public utility provider situated on the community land;
 - the playing of organised and informal sporting and recreational activities:
 - short term casual purpose as prescribed by the Local Government (General) Regulation, 2005.
 - refreshment kiosks and restaurants;
 - community activities; and
 - car parking
 - telecommunication towers;
 - markets; and
 - the management of facilities on behalf of Council.
- The dedication of land for road widening or land for road works of a minor character.
- Flood mitigation and water quality control works including construction of detention basins, realignment of water flow and banks, installation of pipes, gabion walls, culverts, ponds, wetlands and other structures to assist in the control of flood waters and treatment of water pollutants.
- Helicopter landings.



- Establishing, enhancing and maintaining vegetation to:
 - shade around playing areas;
 - a windbreak;
 - enhanced scenic value or visual screening;
 - habitat for native wildlife; and
 - a suitable buffer for the protection of water quality and ecological processes in the neighbouring watercourses or wetlands.

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General Community Use **Sportsground** ABEF ABERDARE ST ABERDARE ST

Figure 1 - Map Outlining Land Classification



3.0 **LEASES AND LICENCES**

The Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre is the only facility located in Margaret Johns Park which is currently under a lease or licence. The information regarding this agreement is as follows:

Table 4: Current Licence Agreement in Margaret Johns Park			
CURRENT LICENCE	E AGREEMENT IN MARGARET JOHNS PARK		
Lessee / Licensee	New South Wales Council of Young Men's Christian Associations Incorporated (YMCA)		
Lease or Licence	Licence		
Lessor / Licensor	Cessnock City Council		
Term	2 years – expires 31 August 2014		
Lessor / Licensor Responsibilities	To provide a fit for purpose indoor aquatic and fitness centre for the residents of the Local Government Area (LGA) and surrounds.		
Lessee/Licensee Responsibilities	The YMCA shall ensure the following objectives are adhered to:		
	Services To foster, accommodate and provide the broadest possible range of sporting, leisure, educational and entertainment activities to meet the defined needs of existing and potential users.		
	Provide an equitable service to all persons without unreasonably discouraging those who wish to achieve individual excellence in their chosen pursuit.		
	To maximise use of the centre through the provision of quality activities which are consistent with appropriate and recognised standards in the Industry.		
	Promotion To develop effective two way communication between the Centre and user groups which enable management to identify changing needs within the community and inform existing and potential customers of the services and benefits offered by the centre.		
	To develop and promote a positive professional image which will help maintain a sense of community pride and user confidence that the centre is a well-managed and pleasant environment in which to enjoy their chosen pursuits.		
	Organisation To install and maintain efficient cost effective organisational and administrative systems. To engage the best and most qualified staff and provide training programs to maintain the		

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highest level of customer service.

Facilities

To provide the highest possible quality and standard of buildings, plant and equipment and regularly upgrade and refurbish to ensure that the standard is maintained.

To present facilities and equipment in a clean, safe and attractive manner at all times.

Finance

To be financially self sufficient from at least an operational standpoint and generate sufficient surplus funds to make meaningful contributions towards the cost of new capital works, refurbishment, plant and equipment.

To ensure that the community obtains value and return for its investment.



4.0 KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN MARGARET JOHNS PARK

The Stakeholders responsible for the management of facilities at Margaret Johns Park are listed as follows:

Table 5: Key Stakeholders

Table 5. Ney Stakeholders			
KEY STAKEHOLDERS OF MARGARET JOHNS PARK			
Cessnock City Council	Land Owner Maintenance		
	Provision of facilities		
New South Wales Council of Young Men's Christian Associations Incorporated (YMCA)	Licensee of Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre		
Sporting and community groups allocated use of sports fields and passive recreation areas:	Use of park in accordance with Cessnock City Council Fees and Charges Regulations and Conditions of Use for Sport and Recreation areas		
a) Rugby League			
b) Cricket			
c) Touch Football			
d) Youth Service Providers			

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5.0 MAINTENANCE

Margaret Johns Park, with the exception of the Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre, is maintained by Cessnock City Council. The maintenance of the Park includes the following:

- Sports field maintenance watering, top dressing, line marking, installation of goal posts, mowing, herbicide application for weed treatment and removal, maintenance of irrigation system.
- General turf maintenance for passive parkland watering, mowing, top dressing, herbicide application for weed removal, trimming.
- Garden bed maintenance watering, weeding, fertilising, pruning.
- Green maintenance pruning, removal of dead trees.
- · Repairs to and cleaning of built structures.
- Inspection and repairs to pathways, stairs, handrails, fencing.
- · Installation of regulatory signs.
- Rubbish removal.



6.0 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The only income source from Margaret Johns Park is from the fees and charges associated with "One Off Hire" fees and winter allocation floodlighting charges. The annual revenue raised through these sources is insignificant when compared to the maintenance and management costs.

The main costs associated with the management of Margaret Johns Park relate to the maintenance of the open space and the operation of the Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre via a Management Contract with the YMCA of Sydney.

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7.0 PARK USE

Margaret Johns Park is used in both an active and passive recreational capacity. The sports field is used by three regular sporting groups. There is a large sporting precinct that is utilised in the winter sporting season by rugby league. During this season, the site allows for 3 league fields with configuration of the fields classed as international, modified and mini. In the summer sporting season, the grounds are utilised for touch football and cricket and there is a curated turf wicket.

Council allocates use of the park to sporting groups on a seasonal basis as the playing of organised sport at the Park without a prior booking, impacts on the quality of the fields provided as it increases the amount of usage of the fields thus affecting quality of play for the sporting groups who have legitimately booked these grounds, and also increasing the cost of general maintenance of the Park.

The Park is also regularly used by local residents for informal exercise such as walking, skating, walking the dog and running. It contains numerous pathways which provide links to the facilities. In addition, these concrete pathways connect the towns of Weston and Kurri Kurri by traversing through Margaret Johns Park.

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8.0 Built Facilities and Park Furniture

The site contains a number of facilities including an indoor aquatic centre, a combined use cricket and rugby league field, a skate park and a passive park area. Each of these facilities will be analysed individually to present a more detailed overview.

8.1 Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre

The Indoor Aquatic Centre is centrally located at Margaret Johns Park with the Skate Park to the north of the Aquatic Centre and the sporting field to the south. The Aquatic Centre contains a number of features that benefits users.

8.1.1 Main Foyer

Automatic glass doors located at the entrance to the Indoor Aquatic Centre open up to the main foyer which is carpeted and leads to a reception area, kiosk, clubroom and gymnasium. A whiteboard is located at the entrance which provides information regarding swimming lesson times and upcoming events. Opposite the kiosk is a coin-operated drink machine and to the right of this is a public telephone. The exit door is to the right of the telephone. Amenities such as a television, plastic tables and chairs and a garbage bin are also available. The foyer is sectioned off from the main swimming areas. To gain entry to the swimming pools, patrons must walk through glass doors situated in front of the kiosk.

8.1.2 Reception

The reception area is located to the right upon entering the building. It contains a counter with computers situated upon it. The reception area is where patrons pay fees and make general enquires. A display is situated on the wall behind reception presenting various apparatus that is available for purchase. To the rear of the reception counter there are work offices.

8.1.3 Kiosk

A kiosk is located within the main foyer. This area contains equipment that allows for the cooking, preparation and serving of food including: serving benches, a drinks fridge, a coffee machine, a deep fryer, a bain-marie, a display cabinet, a menu board, a kitchen sink and a computer. To the rear of the kiosk is a dry storage area.

8.1.4 Dry Gym Facilities

The gym room is also located to the left of the main foyer. This room contains numerous types of fitness equipment, including treadmills, cross trainers, rowing machines, weights, exercise bikes and yoga mats/equipment. This room is carpeted and contains kitchen amenities consisting of tea and coffee facilities, kitchen cupboards and a sink.

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8.1.5 Main Pool

The surface within the pool area is concrete. The main pool is a heated 25 metre pool. This pool contains eight lanes with each lane divided by lane ropes. Situated at the western end of the pool are eight fibreglass diving blocks, one for each lane. The main pool dimensions are 25m (length) x 17.6m (width) x 1.2m average depth and the depth varies from 1 metre to 1.6 metres with the western end being 1.6 metres deep. The swimming pool contains two main access points. These access points are wide and are made up of metal hand rails and inbuilt stairs enabling users to walk in and out of the pool with ease. A hoist is also available which assists persons with a disability in and out of the pool.

8.1.6 Program Pool/ Leisure Pool

The indoor Aquatic Centre contains a heated program pool and leisure pool which is situated to the east of the main 25 metre swimming pool. The program and leisure pools are connected via a passageway which enables access between the two pools. The program pool is primarily utilised for Learn-to-Swim lessons for young children. The entrance to this pool is located at the south east corner and is in the form of a ramped walk-in entry containing a steel handrail and contains a spa seat. The program pool dimensions are 12m x 10m x 0.9m average depth. The leisure pool dimensions are 11m x 9m x 0.3m average depth. The leisure pool also has a beach entry which creates easy access to a number of water features including water fountains, water jets and sprays.

8.1.7 Concourse

Located on the southern side of the indoor complex is a tiered concrete seating area containing 3 seating levels and 3 stair access points. The eastern end of this area contains a steel hand rail. This concourse has a seating capacity of 150 people. Advertisements are mounted around the concourse wall behind the seating area. There are ten porthole windows located on the southern wall above the seating area. In addition to the concourse, there are plastic tables and chairs provided for seating, as well as metal benches which are situated along the northern and western walls.

8.1.8 Storage Rooms

A storage room is located at the western end of the complex near the concourse seating. This room contains cleaning materials, and electrical switches.

A plant room is located near the storage room.

A pool store room is located at the southern end of the complex near the storage room. Pool maintenance items are stored in this area including chemicals and cleaning equipment.



8.1.9 Lifeguard Station

The Lifeguard station is situated in the north west corner of the complex next to the pool store room. This area contains a desk with the front covered in a tiled mural "Valley Aquatic Swim Club". This section contains kitchen amenities consisting of cupboards, sink and a kettle. Various first aid information posters and pamphlets are attached to the surrounding walls. A fire alarm and fire extinguisher are also located within this area, as well as a PA system that can be utilised by the Lifeguards if needed.

To the rear of the Lifeguard station is the First Aid room. This area contains a strapping table and First Aid equipment.

8.1.10 Change Rooms

The centre contains male and female change rooms which are situated at the eastern end of the main pool hall. Both change rooms have timber bench seating with hooks above to place towels and other items. The floors are tiled and within the change area, there are two rubber mats located on the tiles. The change rooms also contain bathroom amenities consisting of showers, toilets, hand basins and hand dryers.

Located in between the change rooms are two accessible family rooms. These rooms are designed for families and/or persons with a disability and contain a baby change table, shower, bench seating, a toilet and a hand dryer.

A bubbler is located on the eastern wall of the Aquatic Centre between the two family rooms.

8.1.11 Ventilation and Heating

Heating of the Aquatic Centre is improved via a dehumidification system that extracts heat from the air on the pool deck into the pool heating system reducing water heating costs. Heating of the pool water is also achieved via a heat pump which is responsible for the transfer of heat. A reserve of natural gas is available if the two previous mechanisms are not adequate for heating the pools.

During the cooler months the pools are covered with blankets in the evening which allows for significant energy savings and maintaining the water temperature.

The building was designed to increase light and warmth exposure in winter months, and glass windows on the southern façade were designed smaller than others in the Centre in order to reduce heat loss.

8.1.12 Outside Area

The northern wall of the Aquatic Centre is glass and provides a view to the outdoor area. There are two retractable doors which can be



opened to air the facility. Alongside these are three double door exits which enable access to the outside grassed area. The outdoor area is fenced in which minimises the likelihood of trespassers and prevents children from exiting the Aquatic Centre unsupervised.

Situated in the outdoor area are two picnic shelters located at each end of the building. Located behind each picnic shelter is additional seating in the form of a park seat. Situated alongside the western wall on the outside of the complex are three reels for storage of the pool blankets when not in use.

A concrete veranda is located along the northern side of the complex which provides additional shading and shelter outside.

8.1.13 Surrounding Grounds

A bus zone is located near the main entrance to the Aquatic Centre along Boundary Street. Steel bike racks are also situated in this area. Security lights are in place around the perimeter of the building. Garden beds are located at the main entrance to the building and continue around the eastern wall. Entry to the Aquatic Centre is available via a concrete pathway that leads up to the building. The surrounding area is grassed and contains trees.

To the rear of the complex on the western side is a fenced in area. This area contains a vehicle access point to the aquatic centre. Two tanks are located within the fenced area behind the plant room. A large 45,000 litre concrete tank is utilised as a storage area for back washing and a 5,500 litre tank is utilised to irrigate the lawn areas of the Aquatic Centre.

8.1.14 Plant Room

The Aquatic Centre plant room, is a purpose built area within the facility for the purpose of housing the various plant equipment necessary for the heating, treatment, circulation and conditioning of the air and water supplying the pool hall, 25 metre lap pool and the smaller program and leisure pools within the Complex.

The lower plant area consists of a filter area, housing the Chadson water filters, with a bank of 2 x MHS 3000 filters servicing the program and leisure pool, and 3 x MHS 4500 filters servicing the 25 metre main pool. Water treatment is carried out by various components including, a bunded chlorine storage area with adjacent emergency deluge shower, Strantrol metering and dosing pumps and controller, ${\rm CO}^2$ control system, screened filters within the reticulation system and balance tank areas.

The heating of the pool and pool hall area, is carried out by a complex network of mechanical services, including but not limited to, a reverse cycle technologies AH and dehumidification unit and boiler system, AW120PH and AW65PH heat pump water heaters. Various components are located throughout the system consisting of various compressors, heating coils, condensing units, evaporator fan units and



circulating pumps, filters and control devices and plate heat exchangers and chemical dosing point, to supply the pools and pool hall area.

Circulation of the pool is primarily carried out by 2 x main Grundfos ISO circulating pumps for the 25mtr pool and 2 x Grundfos ISO circulating pumps incorporating stainless steel foot valves, pump strainers, check valves, isolation valves and flow switches located throughout the pipe delivery system. A backwash holding tank is also located adjacent to the plant room.

The plant room, houses the main electrical control distribution boards for the plant, including Siemens controllers, circuit breakers and isolators for the various components of the system. The balance tanks include water level sensors and a metered water fill point. The main service area has a wash basin with hot and cold water supplied from a 25L electric HWS. Potable water supplies are protected with appropriate backflow prevention devices. Extensive pipe work consisting of various PVC, PE, stainless steel and copper, are located throughout the plant room areas. Fire protection is provided by means of appropriate fire extinguishers located throughout the plant room area and hose reel located within the required service radius of the area.

8.1.15 Car Parking

Between the Aquatic Centre and sporting fields is an asphalt car park with a capacity for 97 cars. Additional car parking is also available along Boundary Street with formalised 26 x 90 degree rear to kerb angle parking and 11 x 45 degree rear to kerb parking. Accessible parking spaces are available at all formalised car parking spaces.

8.2 Sporting Field

The sporting field is an additional feature of Margaret Johns Park. It is located to the south of the Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre and car parking. The field is jointly used by local sporting teams throughout the year. The sporting field area also contains a curated turf cricket wicket, 2 x synthetic practice cricket nets and 4 x 20 metre steel floodlight poles. Two of the poles contain 6 lights and the other 2 poles contain 4 lights. Rugby league is played in the winter season, while cricket and touch football are played during the summer season.

8.2.1 Concourse

A four tiered 20 metre concrete concourse is located on the western side of the field. The concourse has a seating capacity of approximately 100 people.

8.2.2 Amenities Block

An amenities block is located at the northern end of the field. The building is complimentary to the Aquatic Centre, in that similar



materials and colours have been used for both. This reinforces that they are both part of Margaret Johns Park.

The amenities block contains two change rooms. Within the change rooms there is timber bench seating with hooks above to place towels and other items on. The change rooms contain bathroom amenities consisting of a toilet, a shower and a hand basin.

Located within this building is a male toilet, a female toilet and accessible toilet each containing bathroom amenities consisting of toilets and hand basins. These toilets are open to the public on a daily basis.

A referee's room is situated within the amenities block. This room contains bathroom amenities consisting of a toilet, a shower and a hand basin.

A kiosk is located in the middle of the building and provides a clear view of the field. The kiosk contains benches to serve and store food, a dry storage area and kitchen amenities consisting of a kitchen sink.

There are two storage areas situated in the amenities block. One storage area is designated for summer season sporting groups and the other for winter season sporting groups.

8.2.3 Automatic Irrigation System

There is an automatic irrigation system installed on the sporting fields at the site. The system contains 22 separate stations which is run off town water and has an ICC controller which is linked back to a Hunter Irrigation managed system which is located at Council's Depot. There is also an on site control system which is located in the amenities building.

8.2.4 Car Parking

In addition to the car parking described in point 8.1.15. Off road parking is available on the eastern side of the field. In addition there is a spill over dry car park situated behind the concourse on the western side of the field.

8.3 Skate Park

The Skate Park is located to the north west of the indoor Aquatic Centre. The Skate Park has been upgraded to consist of the following specific active elements: sub box / rainbow ledge, 6' quarter pipe, quarter pipe with 30 degree hip, 5' bank with rollover top, ledge and manual pad/rail street section, 'Bent Penny' angled 6' bank with lawn batter hill, quarter pipe with roll over and platform built up to snake run edge with curved ledge, 90' smooth hip. The Skate Park is utilised on a daily basis by young people and organised youth events are held on a regular basis.



8.4 Passive Park Area

The area of land on the corner of Northcote and Boundary Streets is open parkland. The passive park area is surrounded by timber car barrier fencing. There are mature trees scattered throughout the area as well as newly planted trees along the eastern fence line. This area contains a picnic shelter with two table settings, a public sulo bin, concrete pathway to the shelter, a bubbler and an electric pedestal barbeque. These facilities are in very good condition. Situated within the park is a floodlight which aims to increase the security of the site at night. The passive park area also contains automatic irrigation which contains 10 separate stations which runs off a booster pump and there is an onsite control system which is located in the aquatic centre.



9.0 Planning Context

9.1 Introduction

The following section details the primary Legislation and Acts that need to be considered in the preparation of a Plan of Management. It also details the impacts on how Community Land is managed in the preparation of a Plan of Management.

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1993 all public land owned by Council is defined as public land and according to the act, all public land has to be registered and classified as either operational or community land.

Operational Land tends to have no special restrictions on how Council manages, develops or disposes of that land. Community Land cannot be sold or otherwise disposed of by council, with restrictions placed on Community Land use and on grants of leases and licences. Margaret Johns Park is classified as community land.

9.2 Local Government Act, 1993

The Local Government Act, 1993 is the statutory document that provides the legal guidance for best practice to Local Government level management. Part of the Act defines the requirements for completing a Plan of Management for community classified land.

Section 35 of the Local Government Act, 1993 provides that "Community Land" can only be used in accordance with:

- The Plan of Management applying to that area of Community Land;
- Any law permitting the use of the land for a specified purpose or otherwise regulating the use of the land; and
- The provisions of Division 2 of Chapter 6 of the Act.

It is the Local Government standard for the development of Plans of Management to utilise Division 2, Section 36 as a guide as it will enable consistency in the presentation and adaptation of all future management plans throughout the City of Cessnock. Under this section a Plan of Management must identify and include descriptions of the following:

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Table 1: Preparation of a Plan of Management for Community Land

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1993

PREPARATION OF PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FOR COMMUNITY LAND

Items to be Identified

- a) The category of the land;
- b) The objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land;
- The means by which the Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets; and
- d) The manner in which the Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plans objectives and performance targets, and may require the prior approval of the council to the carrying out of any specified activity on the land.

Descriptions to be Included

- The condition of the land, and any buildings or other improvements on the land, as at the date of adoption of the plan of management, and
- b) The use of the land and any such buildings or improvements as at that date, and
- c) Specify the purposes for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements, will be permitted to be used, and
- d) Specify the purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or licence or otherwise, and
- e) Describe the scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development.

These principles provide the basis of the formulation of the Plan of Management for Margaret Johns Park.

Section 36 of the Local Government Act 1993 clearly sets out the core objectives for management of Community Land as detailed in Table 3.

Other legislation pertaining to the management of Margaret johns Park include:

9.2.1 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 establishes the statutory planning framework for environmental and land use planning in NSW through State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPP), Regional Environmental Plans (REP) and Local Environmental Plans (LEP). The EPA Act also sets out processes for approving development applications for structures and works on public and private land as set out in the Cessnock LEP.

9.2.2 Companion Animals Act, 1998

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The Companion Animals Act, 1998 aims to promote responsible animal ownership in NSW. Under the Act, dogs in public places must be on a lead under the effective control of a competent person, except in a declared off-leash area. Dogs are prohibited within 10 metres of children's play areas, food preparation / consumption areas, and recreation areas where dogs are prohibited by the local authority. If a dog defecates in a public place, the dog owner must remove and dispose of it in a rubbish receptacle. There is no dog off-leash area in Margaret Johns Park. The nearest off-leash dog area is at Varty Park, Weston.

9.2.3 Disability Discrimination Act, 1992

The Disability Discrimination Act, 1992 is a Commonwealth Act that aims to eliminate, as far as possible, discrimination against people with disabilities in many areas, including access to premises. It also aims to promote recognition and acceptance in the community that people with disabilities have the same fundamental rights as the rest of the community.

The Act covers a range of areas including sport and recreation, and access to premises. It requires that people be able to access any building which the public is entitled to enter or use through the primary entrance used by the general public. It further requires that people should have access to any services and facilities provided in those buildings.

The NSW Anti-Discrimination Act, 1997 also makes it unlawful to discriminate on the ground of disability.

9.2.4 Rural Fires Act, 1997

The Rural Fires Act, 1997 is carried out by the Rural Fire Service and supersedes the Bush Fires Act, 1949. It aims to provide for the prevention, mitigation and suppression of bush and other fires in Local Government Areas and Rural Fire districts. It also includes an aim of co-ordinating bush fire fighting and prevention, protection of persons from injury and death and property from damage due to fires. Under this Act, there is a continuous chain of command from the Commission to the fire-fighter within the NSW Rural Fire Service. There is also an emphasis on having regard to the principles of ecologically sustainable development when carrying out fire fighting and prevention activities.

Margaret Johns Park has no fire protection zones, so this Act does not apply.

9.2.5 Heritage Act, 1977

The NSW Heritage Act, 1977 aims to conserve the environmental heritage of NSW.

Proposed changes affecting sites on the State Heritage Register and the management of archaeological and maritime archaeological sites



are covered by this Act. The Heritage Act also applies to managing excavation that may affect archaeological relics.

Margaret Johns Park is not listed on the State Heritage Register, so this Act does not apply.

9.2.6 Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995

The aim of the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995 is to conserve threatened species, populations and ecological communities of flora and fauna state-wide. The main objectives are to conserve biological diversity, prevent the extinction of threatened species, promote the recovery of threatened or endangered species and reduce the pressures that threaten such species.

Where a threatened species or endangered local community (as listed by the TSC Act) occurs on community land, or has its habitat on community land the TSC Act applies to that site.

Along the western boundary alignment of Margaret Johns Park lays a parcel of land which contains part of the Kurri Sand Swamp Woodland. The boundary indicates that a minor portion of the Kurri Sand Swamp Woodland infringes within Margaret Johns Park. There are no works planned within the vicinity of the ecological endangered community.

9.2.7 Native Vegetation Act, 2003

This Act replaced The Native Vegetation Conservation Act, 1997 on 1 December 2005 and aims to promote and encourage the growth and restoration of native vegetation, and prevents the inappropriate clearing of native vegetation.

9.2.8 Noxious Weeds Act, 1993

Certain weeds are declared noxious under the Noxious Weeds, Act 1993. The Act prescribes categories which the weeds are assigned. These control categories identify the course of action which needs to be carried out on the weeds. A weed may be declared noxious in part or all of the State.



10.0 MASTERPLAN

10.1 Masterplan

A proposed Landscape Masterplan is illustrated in Figure 2. This Masterplan indicates works and actions that the Action Plan proposes for implementation in order to achieve the objectives and desired outcomes for Margaret Johns Park.

Key proposals to Margaret Johns Park include:

10.1.1 Management

- Maintaining existing sports fields as multi-purpose sporting
- Providing safe access throughout and around the Park.

10.1.2 Recreation

- Upgrading the existing Skate facility in line with the Masterplan as shown in Figure 3;
- Expanding Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre in line with the outcomes of the Aquatics Needs Analysis (in progress as part of the adopted FY12/13 Operational Plan);
- Installing a playground in the picnic area located in the northern section of the park; and
- Extending the concrete concourse to provide further spectator areas for the sporting fields.

10.1.3 Natural and Landscape

 Providing advanced stock tree plantings along the Boundary Street side of the Park;





11.0 IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLAN

Management Issues	Objective and Performance Targets	Means of Achieving Objective and Performance Targets	Assessment of Performance in Relation to Objectives and Performance Targets
Recreation Resources	To continually enhance and develop the buildings located at the site as resources become available.	The dry facilities at the Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre are expanded in line with the schematic design report completed by Prior Cheney. Buildings are enhanced and/or developed as required, based on their current condition.	Council recommendations. Feedback received from the community and key user groups.
	To continually enhance and develop the facilities at the site as resources become available.	Improvements to skate park and surrounds in line with the Skate Park Concept Designs.	
		Additional floodlighting on the rugby league training field/s.	
		Installation of a playground in the park area.	Council recommendations. Feedback received from the community regarding
		Expansion of concrete concourse to allow further spectator seating areas.	facilities.
		Planting of advanced stock trees.	
		Expansion of the wet facilities at Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre to include the construction of an outdoor 50m pool, splash area and indoor facilities.	
Community Competitions and Events	Encourage, organise and administer sporting and community events.	Allocation of recreational resources for sporting and community events to occur on a regular basis.	Records of frequency & types of events to be kept, as well as attendance figures.
	Promote sporting and community events through respective local, state and regional areas.	Events are recognised in media releases, advertisements and other forms of promotional material.	Level of media coverage and general awareness of events.



Implementation Action Plan (cont)

Management Issues	Objective and Performance Targets	Means of Achieving Objective and Performance Targets	Assessment of Performance in Relation to Objectives and Performance Targets
Partnerships with Stakeholders	Facilitate regular contact with stakeholders, such as key users, i.e. rugby league, YMCA.	Monthly meetings are undertaken with the YMCA. All other regular users are met on a needs basis.	Minutes from meetings are recorded and acted on.
		Contact details are kept up to date and contact is made as needed. Groups are contacted seasonally via the recreation services summer and winter allocations.	Assessed through Councils internal Customer Request Management System.
	Where necessary, any queries, requests or complaints are passed on.	Queries, requests and complaints are recorded and referred to the relevant party in a timely manner.	Complaints and requests are recorded via Councils internal Customer Request Management System and acted on in a timely manner.
	Provide financial reports for activities occurring in regard to the land.	Reports are available and provided when requested, e.g. licence agreement requirements, grant applications.	Information provided within financial reports.
Providing Support and Advice to Community Groups	Identify and communicate funding opportunities available to the sporting clubs and community groups.	Organisations are notified of Dollar for Dollar grant opportunities as well as other funding initiatives operating within Council. Clubs are notified of all non-government and government department grants that are available.	Number of grants applied for by community groups. Level of support from Council with preparation of grants. Number of successful applicants.
	Provide professional advice with regard to development concepts /designs and management issues.	Council maintains contact with local sporting clubs. When requested, Council provides accurate and prompt advice. Where appropriate Council may instigate a project.	Minutes from meetings are distributed and acted on.
	Where possible, provide funding support for developments and improvements made to Margaret Johns Park.	Appropriate projects are added to the City Operation Plan and Delivery Program, or alternate funding sources identified.	Amount of funding provided from Council or alternate source. Completion of projects in a timely manner.



Implementation Action Plan (cont)

Management Issues	Objective and Performance Targets	Means of Achieving Objective and Performance Targets	Assessment of Performance in Relation to Objectives and Performance Targets
Informal/Social Recreation	To encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games.	Margaret Johns Park provides areas where sporting activities and organised games can be conducted.	Number of activities and games conducted on an annual basis.
	To encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities.	Allocation of Margaret Johns Park for this type of use. Margaret Johns Park provides areas where recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities can be held.	Number of patrons attending organised events, number of people utilising passive park areas. Diversity of events.
	Maximise availability for passive recreational use within Margaret Johns Park.	Promote use of Margaret Johns Park outside peak sporting use, and limit organised activities in passive recreation areas.	Ongoing promotion of area by Council. Data is made available on attendance figures.
Communication	Ensure that activities and events are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.	Sporting Clubs, Community Clubs and Council develop and adopt consultation protocols.	Feedback is reviewed via Councils internal Customer Request Management System.
	Provide advance notice to nearby residents of any events/activities that may produce excessive noise or traffic congestion.	Nearby residents receive notice (verbal or written) of any such events/activities at least two days prior to the event taking place.	Feedback received from community regarding proposed events.
	Offer opportunities for residents to provide feedback in regard to the management of Margaret Johns Park.	Residents are provided with organisation and Council details.	Level of feedback received from community regarding management of Margaret Johns Park.
Licence Agreements	Ensure that all lease and licence agreements pertaining to Margaret Johns Park are current.	Renegotiate lease and licence agreements as they expire:	Lease agreements are reviewed as required.
			Specifically: New South Wales Council of Young Men's Christian Associations Incorporated (YMCA) expires 31 August 2014
	Ensure all lease and licence agreements are consistent with the core objectives for management of community land categorised as Sportsground.	Relevant legislation regarding lease and licence agreements is readily available when negotiating new lease and licence agreements.	Plans of Management are reviewed as required.



Implementation Action Plan (cont)

Management Issues	Objective and Performance Targets	Means of Achieving Objective and Performance Targets	Assessment of Performance in Relation to Objectives and Performance Targets
Licence Agreements (Continued)	Provide facilities on the land to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public. In relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land.	Negotiate and implement leases, licences and estates as required.	Leases, licences and estates are reviewed on an annual basis.
	To make provision for lease and licence agreements to extend to 21 years.	Licences are reviewed upon expiry and provision for 21 year licence is made by application to the Minister for Planning where appropriate.	Feedback received from Minister for Planning.
	Granting of leases and licences for the purposes of telecommunication towers, markets and the management of facilities on behalf of Council	Negotiate and implement leases, licences and estates as required.	Leases, licences and estates are reviewed on an annual basis.
Future Needs	Provide facilities on the land to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public. In relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public.	Where possible, implement the Masterplan for Margaret Johns Park.	Council recommendations. Feedback received from the community and key user groups.
		Margaret Johns is recognised in Councils Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan.	The plan is reviewed every five years.