

Generic Sportsgrounds Plan of Management















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INTRODUCTION

Sportsgrounds facilitate formal and informal sporting activities at the local, district and regional level. They provide opportunities for people to access a variety of sporting opportunities close to their place of residence.

Sportsgrounds hold a significant importance to the community from a social economic and cultural perspective. Increasingly it is being recognised that the ability for people to find a satisfying use of their leisure time is important in order to maintain and improve their quality of life.

Sporting activities can provide for the development of skills for all ages and create opportunities for social interaction among local residents. Larger events bring economic benefits to the local economy through expenditure on local services such as accommodation and food and promote the development of the community identity. A community can develop a sense of pride in its achievements, whether they be the accomplishments of the local soccer club, the availability of first class facilities, or the development of a local resident into a state, national or even international champion.

The proper management of Sportsgrounds allows Council to respond to the changing needs of the community, enhance the quality of life for residents and ensure these areas are retained to provide recreational and sporting opportunities for future generations.

This document is a Generic Sportsground Plan of Management. It applies to Council owned community land categorised as "Sportsground" under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

What is a Plan of Management?

A Plan of Management provides a framework for the management and development of community land. Plans of Management provide Council with a current inventory of resources and general guidelines for the future development of community land. This enables Council to budget and source funds for the future maintenance, improvement and development of community land.

Aims of this Plan of Management

This Generic Sportsground Plan of Management aims to:

- provide a practical approach to the planning and management of community land;
- ensure that the public use and enjoyment of community land 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 community land;
- meet all legislative requirements; and
- be consistent with Council's Community Strategic Plan, adopted Delivery Program, Property Management Plan and other adopted strategies, plans and policies.

Land to which this Plan applies

This Generic Sportsground Plan of Management applies to community land that is owned by Council and categorised as "Sportsground" under the *Local Government Act 1993*. Community land is land which is owned by the Council for the benefit of local residents and visitors and legislated under the *Local Government Act 1993*. Schedule A outlines the location and description of the land covered by this Generic Sportsground Plan of Management.



A locality map and maps that identify multiple categories within a parcel of community land are also included.

Land which is not covered by this Generic Sportsground Plan of Management

Land that is not covered by this Generic Sportsground Plan of Management includes:

- community land covered by a site specific Plan of Management;
- Council owned land classified as operational land;
- land covered by a recovery plan (such as containing Kurri Sand Swamp Woodland Endangered Ecological Community Recovery Plan);
- drainage reserves;
- land affected by cultural heritage; and
- land which is owned or managed by other entities. This includes Crown land where Council is the trust manager of the land. Crown land is managed in accordance with the Crown Lands Act 1989 and therefore this land is not included in this Generic Sportsground Plan of Management.

What dealings can Council have in Community Land?

- Council may grant a lease or licence on community land, but only in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*;
- Council has no power to sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of community land, except for the purpose of enabling that land to become, or be added to, a Crown reserve or land reserved or dedicated under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974;* and
- Council may grant any other estate in community land to the extent permitted by the *Local Government Act 1993.*

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Plans of Management are public documents and as such require consultation with key stakeholders and analysis of community feedback prior to their formation. This includes interested community groups, sporting groups, local land owners and local residents. Section 38 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council to publicly exhibit a draft Plan of Management. A Council must:

- place a copy of the draft Plan of Management on public display for at least 28 days;
- give public notice of the draft Plan of Management specifying that submissions may be made not less than 42 days after the draft plan is placed on exhibition;
- consider all submissions received concerning the draft Plan of Management;
- if appropriate, amend the draft Plan of Management accordingly in response to public submissions;
- re-exhibit the draft Plan of Management if the amendments are substantial;
- hold a public hearing into the draft Plan of Management; and
- give notice of the adoption of an amended Plan of Management if it is not re-exhibited.

As this Generic Sportsground Plan of Management refers to a large number of parcels of community land, it is not feasible to conduct targeted consultations for each parcel. Any major developments or embellishments to community land arising from this Plan of Management will be subject to further community consultation.



LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The following section details the primary legislation that needs to be considered in the preparation of a Generic Sportsground Plan of Management.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, public land is defined as any land vested in or under the control of the council but does not include:

- a) a public road, or
- b) land to which the Crown Lands Act 1989 applies, or
- c) a common, or
- d) land subject to the Trustees of Schools of Arts Enabling Act 1992, or
- e) a regional park under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

Local Government Act 1993

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires that Council must have a Plan of Management for all community land. A plan may apply to one or more areas of community land, providing all the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* are fulfilled.

Section 35 of the Local Government Act 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 Part 2, Division 2 of Chapter 6 of the Act.

Table 1 specifies the items which much be identified in a Plan of Management for community land.

Table 1: Preparation of a Plan of Management for community land

Section 36 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1993 PREPARATION OF PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FOR COMMUNITY LAND

Items to be Identified [s36(3)]:

- a) the category of the land;
- b) the objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land;
- c) 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.

Other legislation pertaining to the management of Community Land include:



Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) 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 EP&A Act also sets out processes for approving development applications and enabling development to proceed on public and private land through alternative processes known as exempt or complying development.

Companion Animals Act, 1998

The *Companion Animals Act 1998* aims to promote responsible animal ownership in NSW. Under the Companion Animals 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.

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 *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* 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.

Rural Fires Act, 1997

The *Rural Fires Act 1997* 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 coordinating bush firefighting 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 firefighting and prevention activities.

Heritage Act, 1977

The *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 1977* also applies to managing excavation that may affect archaeological relics. Community land and which is affected by a heritage item is not included in this Generic Sportsground Plan of Management as it will be covered by a site specific Plan of Management.



Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995

The *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) aims 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), or its habitat occurs on community land, the TSC Act applies to that site.

Native Vegetation Act, 2003

The *Native Vegetation Act 2003* aims to promote and encourage the growth and restoration of native vegetation and prevent the inappropriate clearing of native vegetation. Native vegetation must not be cleared except in accordance with development consent granted in accordance with the Act, or with a property vegetation plan. Clearing of native vegetation that is unprotected regrowth is permitted. The clearing of native vegetation that comprises only groundcover is permitted if the vegetation comprises less than 50% of indigenous species of vegetation and not less than 10% of the area is covered with vegetation (whether dead or alive). Where community land contains Native Vegetation, it will be managed in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Noxious Weeds Act, 1993

The *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* aims to reduce the negative impact of weeds on the economy, community and environment of the State of NSW. Council is responsible for administration of the Noxious Weeds Act. This includes:

- Development, implementation, coordination and reviews of noxious weed control policies;
- Development and implementation of noxious weed control programs;
- Inspection of lands under Council control;
- Control of noxious weeds on Council lands including certain public roads;
- Ensuring that occupiers of private and public lands carry out their legal obligations to control noxious weeds; and
- Issuing Section 64 certificates in relation to property sales/transfers.

Other Statutory Provisions

Council has many adopted policies which could affect how community land is used. Relevant legislation, plans and policies that guide the management of community land identified in this Generic Sportsground Plan of Management are available on Council's website (www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au). Council is continuously updating its policies in an effort to improve its services to the community.

Each year Council adopts its own Operational Plan, derived from the four year Delivery Program, which focuses on the financial aspects of Council's operations. The Operational Plan identifies key projects and the allocation of funding to the management of its community infrastructure, such as roads and footpaths, community centres, parks, sporting fields and natural areas in terms of services and capital projects. Much of the major infrastructure within the local government area is in critical need of significant repairs and maintenance. In addition, Councils Property Management Plan identifies all land and buildings owned and managed by Council and provides a framework for the management of the land.



Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) and Community Land

All Plans of Management prepared by Council take into consideration the philosophy of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD). The National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development defined ESD as "development that improves the total quality of life, both now and in the future, in a way that maintains ecological processes on which life depends". There are a number of guiding principles of ESD relevant to local councils. These principles are:

- Integration the effective integration of environmental, social and economic considerations in decision making.
- Ecological integrity to protect ecological diversity and maintain essential ecological processes and life support systems.
- Continual improvement declining environmental situations means there is an imperative to take immediate action to become more sustainable.
- Equity within and between generations fairness and equal access to opportunities both in our lifetimes and future generations; and
- Precautionary behaviour where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason to postpone measures to prevent it.

As community land is for the enjoyment of current and future generations, ESD principles underpin Council's approach to its management of land and forms an important part of this Generic Sportsground Plan of Management.

CATEGORISATION

Section 36 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires that community land be categorised into the following categories:

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

This Generic Sportsground Plan of Management deals specifically with community land categorised as a "Sportsground". Clause 103 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 provides guidelines for categorising community land as a "Sportsground":

"Land should be categorised as a sportsground under section 36 (4) of the Act if the land is used or proposed to be used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games".

CORE OBJECTIVES

Section 36(F) of the Act states that the core objectives for community land categorised as 'Sportsground' are:

- 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.



Section 46(2) of the *Local Government Act* requires that Council can only grant a lease, licence or another estate (other than in respect of public utilities) for a purpose that is consistent with the core objectives applying to each category of community land. The use and development of community land should be generally compatible with both the intended function of the land and the wider community context.

PERMISSIBLE USES FOR SPORTSGROUNDS

This section outlines the general uses and forms of development which may occur on Community land categorised as Sportsground. Cessnock City Council intends to facilitate a wide range of uses and activities within its buildings and recreational and sporting facilities which will increase the vitality and general enjoyment of the land while having a minimal impact on the surrounding area.

The permissibility of development proposed for community land is to be considered in accordance with the Cessnock Local Environmental Plan (2011). Plans of Management cannot override, or replace, or stand in place of planning instruments such as Local Environmental Plans.

The proponent of any development of land covered by this Generic Sportsground Plan of Management must provide written details of any proposal with Council's Development Services and Recreation Services who will determine whether the proposed development will receive in principle owner's consent from Council.

Section 47E(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* states that a development on community land requires Council approval (i.e. Council are not permitted to delegate the authority of approving development) if:

- a) the development involves the erection, rebuilding or replacement of a building (other than a building exempted by or under subsection (2) from the operation of this paragraph), or
- b) the development involves extensions to an existing building that would occupy more than 10 per cent of its existing area, or
- c) the development involves intensification, by more than 10 per cent, of the use of the land or any building on the land, or
- d) the location of the development has not been specified in the plan of management applying to the land and the development is likely, in the opinion of the council, to be unduly intrusive to nearby residents.

Section 47E(2) states that the following buildings are exempt from subsection (1) (a):

- a) toilet facilities;
- b) small refreshment kiosks;
- c) shelters for persons from the sun and weather;
- d) picnic facilities;
- e) structures (other than accommodations for spectators) required for the playing of games or sports;
- f) playground structures;
- g) work sheds or storage sheds;
- *h)* buildings of a kind prescribed by the regulations.

Note: the aforementioned reference to Section 47E of the *Local Government Act 1993* was current at the time of writing this Plan of Management. It is advised that all applications for development on community land refer directly to the *Local Government Act 1993* at the time of lodging.



Signage

Permissible signage includes signs that are erected by Council to regulate various activities under Section 632 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, signs advising the reserve name and/or facilities contained within it, directional signs and traffic signs. Any signage that is not specifically exempt under an Environmental Planning Instrument will require an application for development consent. Council will determine development applications for signage by assessing applications in accordance with the EP&A Act and the Cessnock Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan.

Special Events

For special events such as carnivals, trade shows, circuses and other commercial use, Council will consider all applications for use, as these special events fall outside the scope and responsibility of the delegated body. Any approvals will be accompanied by conditions and a fee. A bond may apply to ensure any necessary restoration works are undertaken. Applications for special events will need to be prepared in consideration of Council's Development Control Plan and adopted Fees & Charges.

Sale of Alcohol

The sale of alcohol by a sporting committee, club, or group requires the approval of the NSW Office of Liquor Gaming and Racing through the issue of a Limited Licence. When making application for the use of an active recreation area for the sale of alcohol, applicants are required to comply with any requirements of both the Office of Liquor Gaming and Racing and Council. The licence must be produced for Council in each instance. Council may prohibit the drinking of alcohol within certain sportsgrounds, either completely, or between certain hours. These sportsgrounds may have signs prohibiting certain activities under s632 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Use of Land for Community Facilities

The provision of community facilities within sporting areas may restrict the potential expansion of existing recreational facilities. Every attempt should be made to accommodate community facilities although the allocation of a portion of the land for the exclusive use of a community group on a sportsground should only be permitted in special circumstances. For example if the activity enhances, promotes or is ancillary to the use and enjoyment of the area for public recreation.

Infrastructure and Facilities

Council may construct or approve construction of a variety of facilities on community land. Projects proposed by sporting/community groups must accord with Council's own strategic plans. Council may request that a written proposal be submitted outlining a description of the project, proposed location, estimated costs, scaled plans, justification for the proposed works, future maintenance requirements and other elements relevant to the project.

Temporary Storage Buildings

Sporting groups or community organisations may obtain Council approval to locate a temporary structure on the land. The period will be determined in the consent. Any temporary storage facilities must be of a colour which blends in with either the reserve or the adjacent amenities building. Approval for temporary storage of sporting or maintenance equipment will only be permitted on the assumption that an approved permanent structure will be forthcoming.



LEASES AND LICENSES

A lease/licence is a contract between a land owner and another entity, granting that entity a right to occupy an area for a specified period of time. The main difference between a lease and licence is that a licence does not permit the sole, or exclusive, use of the area. Licences may be granted to formally recognise and endorse shared uses.

This Generic Sportsground Plan of Management authorises existing lease and licence agreements until the end of their current term. These leases or licenses may be renewed or changed in future to reflect changes in community needs. The requirement that a lease or licence be consistent with the core objectives came into force on 1 January 1999. Leases or licences formally signed before that date do not need to comply and may continue until the end of their term.

Where a lease or licence arrangement has been entered into with Council for community land, subleasing or sublicensing of any portion of that land must be with the approval of Council and in accordance with the requirements of Section 47C of the Act and Clause 119 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005."

Council will consider leasing areas of the land covered by this Generic Sportsground Plan of Management in accordance with the relevant Core Objectives and relevant Council plan or strategy including, but not limited to, Council's adopted Property Management Plan and Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan.

Council will consider entering a lease or licence agreement for the following uses, as defined by the Local Government Act and EP&A Act, for community benefit:

- the provision of public utilities and associated works and the purpose of providing pipes, conduits or 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 2005 –Clause 116 (see' Short Term Casual Licence' below);
- refreshment kiosks and restaurants;
- community activities;
- telecommunication towers;
- camping grounds;
- markets; and
- the management of facilities on behalf of Council.

Public Notification

All leases, licences or grants of other estate (including sub-leases and sub-licences) must be advertised and the community notified in accordance with the provisions of Sections 47 (terms greater than 5 years) and 47A (terms less than 5 years) of the Local Government Act 1993 Council is required to allow the community at least 28 days to make a submission for all leases and licences on community land.



Short Term Casual Licence

Short term licences and bookings may be used to allow Council to program different uses at different times, allowing the best overall use. Clause 116 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 provides a number of uses for which Council may grant a short term casual licence on community land:

- a) the playing of musical instruments, or singing, for a fee or reward,
- b) engaging in a trade or business,
- c) the playing of a lawful game or sport,
- d) delivering of a public address,
- e) commercial photographic sessions,
- f) picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings,
- g) filming sessions,
- h) the agistment of stock.

The use or occupation of community land for these purposes is prescribed only in accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*.

Fees and Charges/Conditions of Hire

Council sets fees and charges for use of facilities in order to:

- maximise opportunities for use;
- allocate and regulate use;
- contribute to cost recovery; and
- improve fairness and equity.

Council's adopted fees and charges are reviewed annually and can be viewed on Council's website at <u>www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au</u>

Operating committees/incorporated bodies/allocated user groups can make recommendations to Council regarding appropriate fees for the facilities that they manage although are not empowered to set or apply fees without Council approval.

Council facilities are allocated and approved for use by Council or an appointed Committee subject to the conditions of hire determined by Council. Failure to comply with these conditions may result in a user forfeiting the opportunity for future use of Council facilities.

KEY ISSUES

Impact on adjacent residents

Sportsgrounds have both positive and negative impacts on adjacent residents. Living in close proximity to a large open space area provides for enhanced amenity for residents. Having quality facilities close to home and becoming involved in the management and operation of a particular facility through the operating committee or local club represents a positive impact. Potential negative impacts may include large numbers of users on the reserve at particular times, increased noise, rubbish, car parking issues, loss of privacy, glare from floodlighting and possibly an increased level of vandalism directed at sporting facilities.



Dogs

Walking a dog is a recognised recreational activity for many people. However, this should not impinge on the quality of the recreational experience for other users. Dogs can have a detrimental impact on the amenity due to defecation, barking, aggression, non-compliance with leash laws and other nuisance behaviour. Dogs are not permitted to be walked 'off a leash' unless they are within one of Council's designated dog exercise areas. Signs are installed at various locations describing the permitted usage of the area.

Dog clubs are required to seek Council permission to conduct dog obedience and training activities on community land and they are responsible to ensure all community land, including sporting areas remain free of dog excrement.

Parking

Sportsgrounds attract numerous user groups and some car parking is required to be provided within the park. Car parking areas should be located away from children's play areas (as there is a potential safety issue) and they should minimise the impact on the park they serve.

In general, the only vehicles permitted to leave the designated access road and drive through a park are emergency and service vehicles. Council does not authorise car parking on any community land, apart from within the designated parking areas. However, for large scale events, some grassed areas may be utilised for overflow parking, if approved by Council.

Shared use of buildings

A number of clubs or sporting codes use Council sporting facilities (except where leased). Over time, use arrangements may change. Increasing female participation in a number of traditional male sports may necessitate changes in land use patterns. Amenities buildings should be designed to facilitate multiple use of the amenity (e.g. change rooms are suitable for both males & females and canteens that have secure storage for more than one user group).

Maintenance

Maintenance of the facilities is an essential consideration when designing sportsgrounds. Council is required to meet appropriate standards whilst facing ever-increasing workloads and stringent budget allocation.

Community land identified within this Generic Sportsground Plan of Management is maintained by Cessnock City Council or by other parties under a lease or licence agreement, management agreement or in accordance with section 355 of the *Local Government Act* 1993.

The maintenance of sportsgrounds includes but is not limited to the following:

- watering, top dressing, line marking, installation of goal posts, mowing, herbicide application for weed treatment and removal, maintenance of irrigation system.
- Tree maintenance including pruning and removal of dead trees.
- Repairs to and cleaning of built structures.
- Inspection and repairs to pathways, stairs, handrails and fencing.
- Installation of regulatory signs.
- Rubbish removal.



The frequency of inspection of facilities is dependent upon a number of factors which will vary from year to year. For example, after prolonged periods of wet weather tractors may not be able to enter some areas for several weeks due to soil consistency and poor drainage. Poor access for maintenance purposes could prove costly in the long run. When planning future sportsgrounds, emphasis should be placed on low maintenance facilities.



SPORTSGROUND MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND ACTION PLAN

This section outlines the direction for the management and development of the parcels of land included in this Plan of Management and has the following aims:

- to formulate objectives;
- to ensure consistency with the core objectives of the "Sportsground" category of the land;
- to develop performance targets that will define the way that Council will achieve its objectives;
- to provide actions (or means of achievement), which is the way that Council will achieve its targets; and
- to provide performance measures for each action.

Management Issue	Objective	Performance Target	Means of Achieving Objective and Performance Target	Manner of Assessment
Provision of sportsgrounds	Ensure an equitable and functional distribution of sportsgrounds throughout the LGA.	To create and maintain appropriate sportsgrounds within proximity to residential areas reflective of community needs.	Review areas of community land that may be suitable for the development and/or relocation of a sportsground. Provide for funding of sportsgrounds through Council's budgeting process (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan). Consider areas of new subdivision development where public reserve dedication could be used towards the establishment of a sportsground.	Community feedback. Consistency with Council's Strategic Property Review, ROSSP Guidelines and the Cessnock LEP and DCP.



Management Issue	Objective	Performance Target	Means of Achieving Objective and Performance Target	Manner of Assessment
Maintenance	Ensure that sportsgrounds are maintained fit for purpose.	Ensure sportsgrounds are maintained to standard.	Maintain sportsgrounds in accordance with Council's maintenance schedule and guidelines. Adequately provide for maintenance works in annual budget.	Review maintenance in accordance with maintenance schedule. Community feedback.
Facility utilisation	To provide sportsgrounds that accommodate for a diverse range of sporting types and uses.	Manage allocations of facilities to achieve optimum use. Ensure all sporting facilities meet the minimum requirements of the design guidelines of Councils Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan.	Review existing sportsgrounds in accordance with design guidelines. Investigate funding sources for upgrading facilities to meet user group requirements. Consider all proposed sportsgrounds in accordance with the Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan Liaise with stakeholders regarding the use of sportsgrounds with a view to rationalising the allocation of grounds to ensure that maximum use is obtained. Review allocations to ensure sports are compatible with other user groups and the facility's intended use.	Community feedback. Monitoring of facility utilisation. Outcome of Recreation Needs Study.



Management Issue	Objective	Performance Target	Means of Achieving Objective and Performance Target	Manner of Assessment
Access	Ensure all sportsgrounds provide adequate access for participants and spectators.	Ensure that each facility is accessible in accordance with the relevant standards. Ensure each facility provides for pedestrian access and connectivity with the surrounding area. Provide adequate car parking at all sportsgrounds.	Review car parking and pedestrian accessibility provisions at all sporting facilities. Give consideration to car parking in all site specific Master Plans. Review existing and provide future car parking in accordance with Council's Development Control Plan (DCP), Engineering Guidelines and Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan (ROSSP). Consider pedestrian connectivity at sportsgrounds in the preparation of the cycleway strategy and pathways program.	Consistency with Engineering Guidelines, DCP and ROSSP.
Public Liability	Minimise opportunities for risk of injury on sportsgrounds.	Ensure Council and sporting user groups are adequately protected from risk and public liability. Ensure all council facilities meet current Work, Health and Safety standards.	Periodically review registered users to ensure they are adequately protected by liability insurance and adhere to the requirements of their 'conditions of use'. Undertake periodic risk assessments at all sports facilities.	Number of public liability claims on sportsgrounds. Consistency with Engineering Guidelines.



Management Issue	Objective	Performance Target	Means of Achieving Objective and Performance Target	Manner of Assessment
		Ensure users comply with the requirements of their 'conditions of use'.	Respond promptly and appropriately to claims of dangerous behaviour and/or damaged infrastructure.	
Public Liability (cont.)			Review existing facilities in accordance with Council's Engineering Guidelines.	
			Ensure regulatory signage is current and appropriately located.	
Naming of sportsgrounds and assets.	Ensure that all Council sportsgrounds and assets are appropriately identified.	Name all Council sportsgrounds and assets in accordance with Council policy. Ensure that all named sportsgrounds and assets are identified by appropriate signage.	Initiate consultation with community to establish names for unnamed sportsgrounds and assets where required. Provide budgetary item for the establishment of sportsgrounds and asset signs.	Number of sportsgrounds and assets appropriately named with signs.
Environment	Minimise the impact of sportsgrounds on surrounding natural areas.	To manage sportsgrounds so as to maintain the ecological values of surrounding natural areas.	Identify sensitive natural areas adjacent to sportsgrounds.	Assess Key environmental indicators for natural areas.



Management Issue	Objective	Performance Target	Means of Achieving Objective and Performance Target	Manner of Assessment
Environment (cont.)	Minimise the impact of sportsgrounds on threatened and endangered species.	Ensure all potential impacts to threatened and endangered species are managed in accordance with relevant Acts and Regulations.	Determine management requirements and development constraints for the protection of those natural areas. Implement necessary environmental management practices and development constraints.	
Anti-social behaviour	Ensure sportsgrounds are safe for use.	Minimise instances of anti-social behaviour at all sportsgrounds.	Implement 'CPTED' (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles in the design of new and upgrade of existing facilities. Refer all illegal activity to the NSW Police.	Monitor frequency and outcomes of incidences reported. Consistency with the provisions of the Cessnock DCP.
Social, Cultural and Heritage Values	To maintain social cultural and heritage values of Council's sportsgrounds.	Ensure all works undertaken at Council's sportsgrounds are in accordance with the heritage controls listed in the LEP and DCP	Consider social, cultural and heritage values in the alteration, construction and utilisation of sportsgrounds.	Compliance with the relevant heritage controls listed within Cessnock DCP and LEP.



Management Issue	Objective	Performance Target	Means of Achieving Objective and Performance Target	Manner of Assessment
Facility Management	Ensure that all lease and licence agreements are consistent with the core objectives. Establish and maintain volunteer management committees where appropriate.	Ensure that all lease and licence agreements are current. Ensure all volunteer management committees operate in accordance with their agreement.	Periodically review lease, licence and management committee agreements. (Re)negotiate lease and licence agreements as they expire in line with Council's Property Management Plan. Provide ongoing assistance, support and information to volunteer management committees.	Outcomes of lease, licence and management committee reviews.



REVIEW

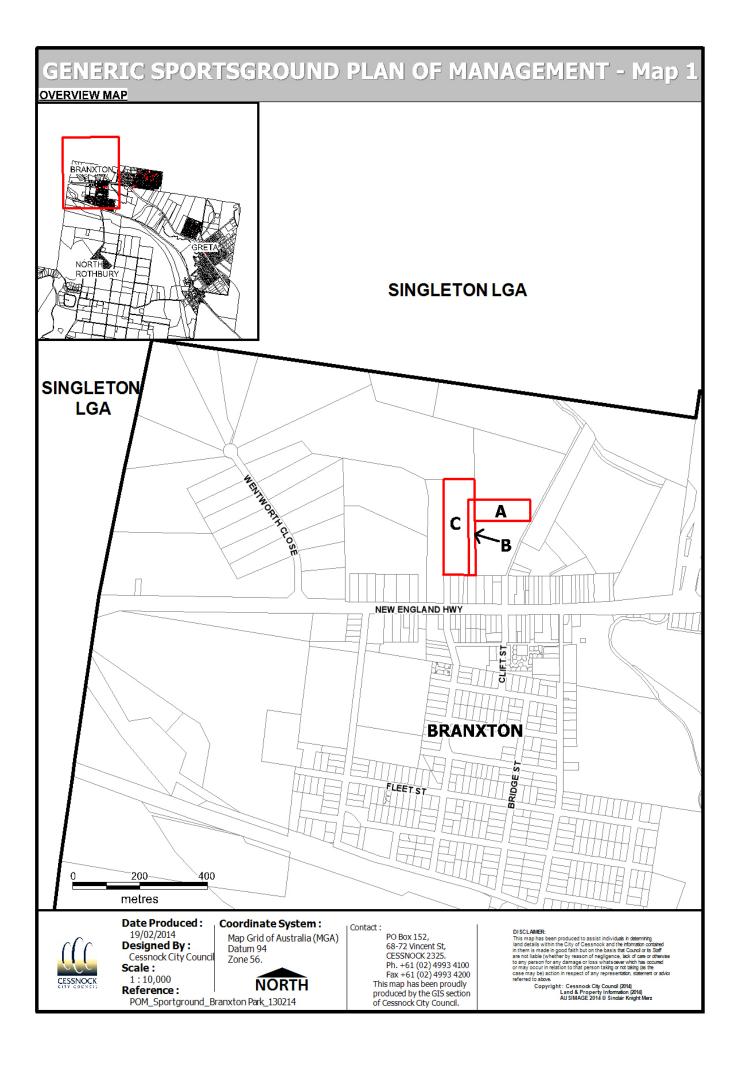
Strategic reviews of this Plan of Management will occur at five year intervals. A review will entail elements of the performance of this Plan of Management in order to assess its alignment with community values, changing community needs and to reflect changes in Council priorities. The community will have an opportunity to participate in reviews of this Plan of Management. Significant parcels of community land may be transferred from this Generic Sportsground Plan of management to a "site specific" plan of management in the future. The appropriate revision and consultation process will be undertaken at these times.

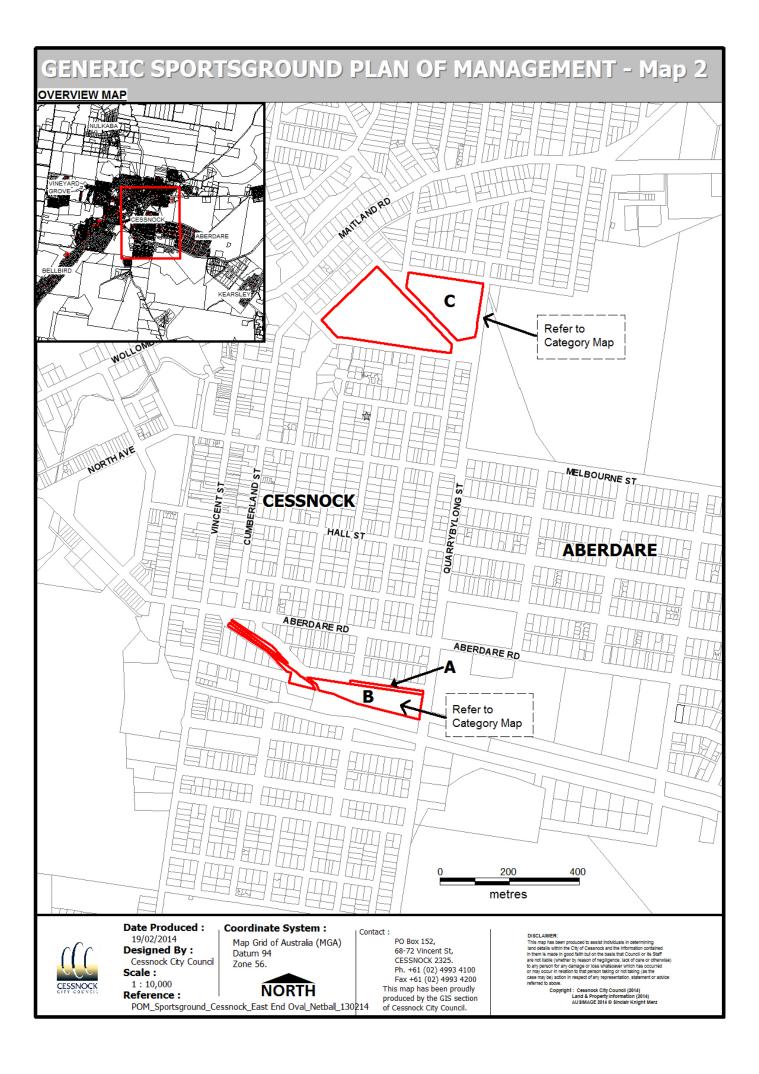


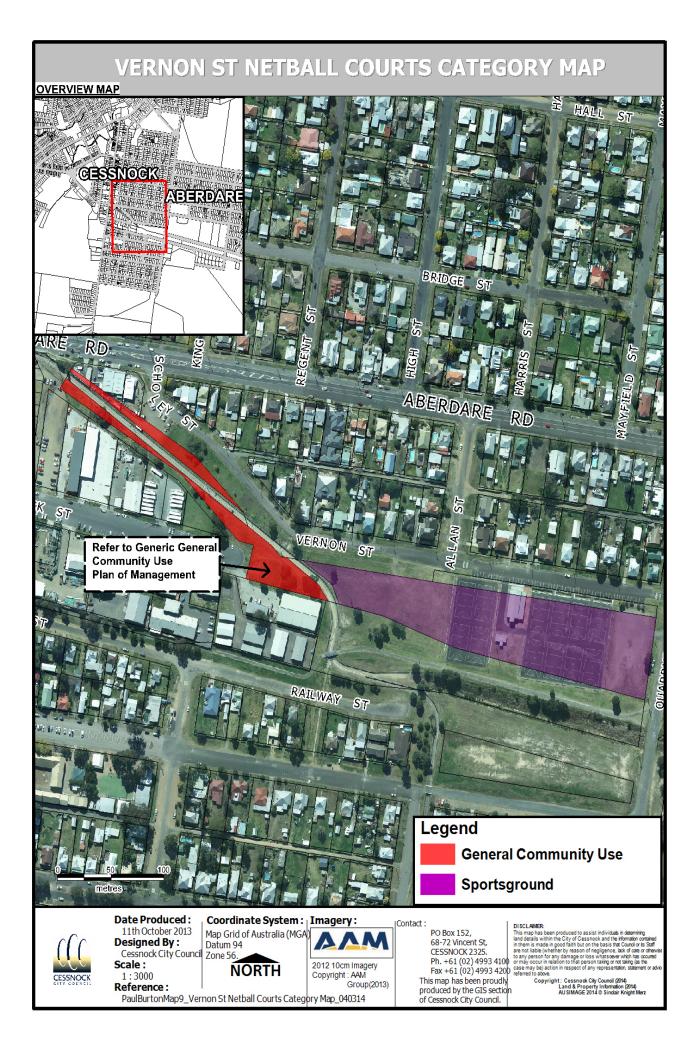
SCHEDULE A

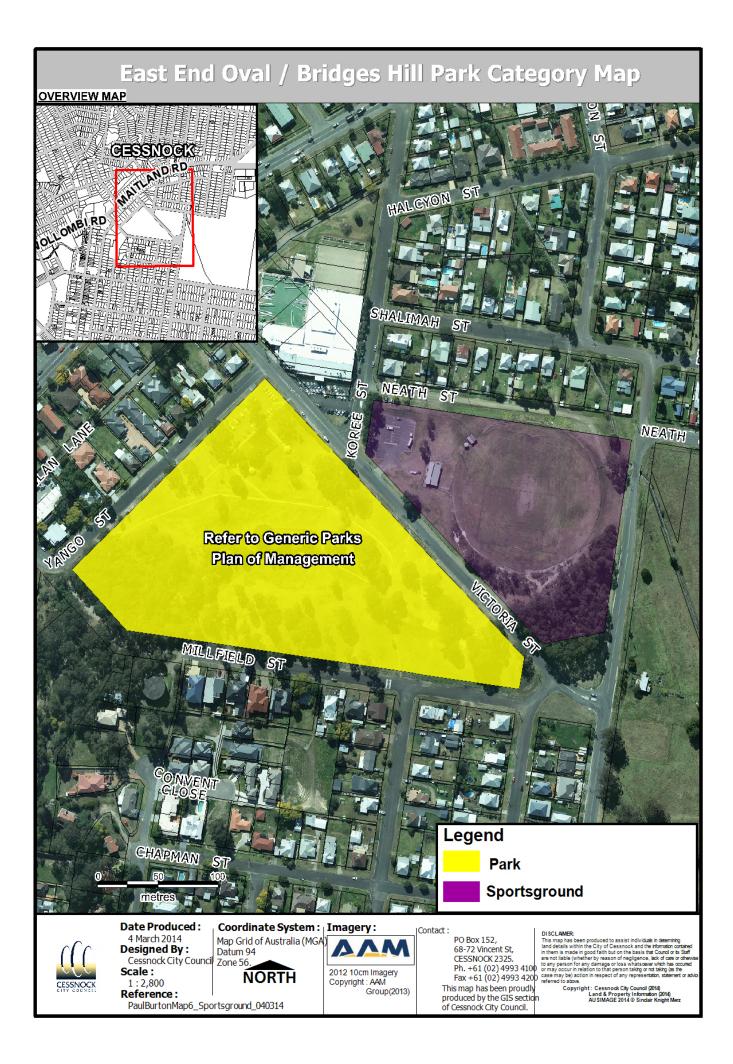
Parcel Number	Title	Property Address	Town	Description	Categorisation	Map Ref
507,479	Lot 155, DP 1133636	6 John Rose Ave	BRANXTON	Branxton Park	Sportsground	1-A
5,232	Lot 1, DP 156375	8 John Rose Ave	BRANXTON	Branxton Park	Sportsground	1-B
503,476	Lot 2, DP 1049557	79 Maitland St	BRANXTON	Public Reserve	Sportsground	1-C
25,426	Lot 1, DP 822114	Vernon St	CESSNOCK	Netball Courts	Sportsground	2-A
974	Lot 51, DP 1146804	Vernon St	CESSNOCK	Netball Courts	Sportsground / General Community Use	2-B*
15,032	Lot 35, DP 133522	1 Millfield St	CESSNOCK	East End Oval / Bridges Hill Park	Sportsground / Park	2-C*
508,434	Lot 2882, DP 1158212	24 Congewai St	KEARSLEY	Jeffery Park	Sportsground / Park	3-A*
507,711	Lot 7, DP 1140055	107 Lang St	KURRI KURRI	Netball Courts	Sportsground / General Community Use	4-A*
507,709	Lot 5, DP 1140055	Mitchell Ave	KURRI KURRI	Netball Courts	Sportsground	4-B
8,728	Lot 1, SEC 39, DP 758590	Greta St	KURRI KURRI	Booth Park	Sportsground / Park	4-C*
9,046	Lot 1, SEC 45, DP 758590	15 Allworth St	KURRI KURRI	Central Park	Sportsground	4-D
19,008	Lot 1, DP 1089923	Maitland Rd	MULBRING	Mulbring Park	Sportsground	5-A
19,003	Lot 2, DP 1089923	Maitland Rd	MULBRING	Mulbring Park / Bushfire Brigade	Sportsground / General Community Use	5-B*
13,094	Lot 241, DP 755259	Carrs Rd	NEATH	Equestrian Arena	Sportsground	6-A
508,196	Lot 1, DP 1151642	63 Carrs Rd	NEATH	Equestrian Arena	Sportsground	6-B
12,100	Lot 138, DP 755259	Hebburn St	PELAW MAIN	Pelaw Main Centenary Park	Sportsground	4-E
27,020	Lot 64, DP 755259	Tomalpin St	PELAW MAIN	Public Recreation	Sportsground	4-F
509,409	Lot 7, DP 1177000	1 Abermain St	PELAW MAIN	Jacob's Park	Sportsground	4-G
14,899	Lot 7 SEC: 15 DP 758926	Maitland St	STANFORD MERTHYR	Equestrian Arena	Sportsground	7-A
14,902	Lot 6 SEC: 15 DP: 758926	Maitland St	STANFORD MERTHYR	Equestrian Arena	Sportsground	7-B
14,904	Lot 5 SEC: 15 DP: 758926	Maitland St	STANFORD MERTHYR	Equestrian Arena	Sportsground	7-C
14,905	Lot 4 SEC: 15 DP: 758926	Maitland St	STANFORD MERTHYR	Equestrian Arena	Sportsground	7-D
503,924	Lot 100, DP 1039335	5 Negro St	WOLLOMBI	Tennis Courts	Sportsground	8-A
503,925	Lot 101, DP 1039335	9 Negro St	WOLLOMBI	Tennis Courts	Sportsground	8-B
506,122	Lot 509, DP 1098835	2979 Paynes Crossing Rd	WOLLOMBI	Tennis Courts	Sportsground	8-C

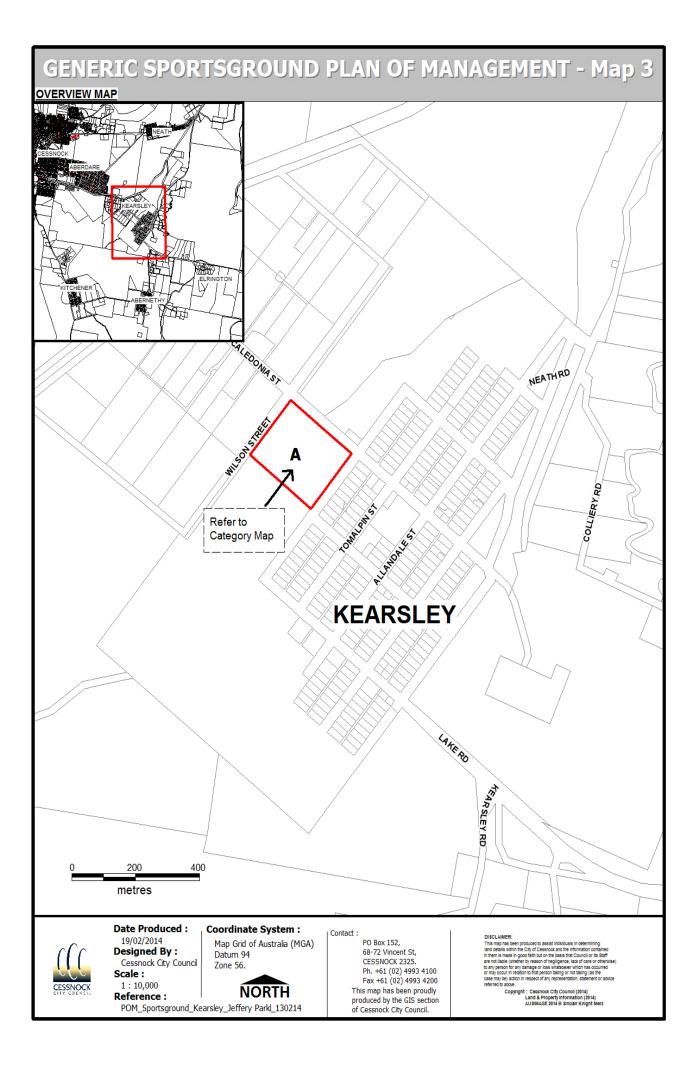
* Denotes category map included

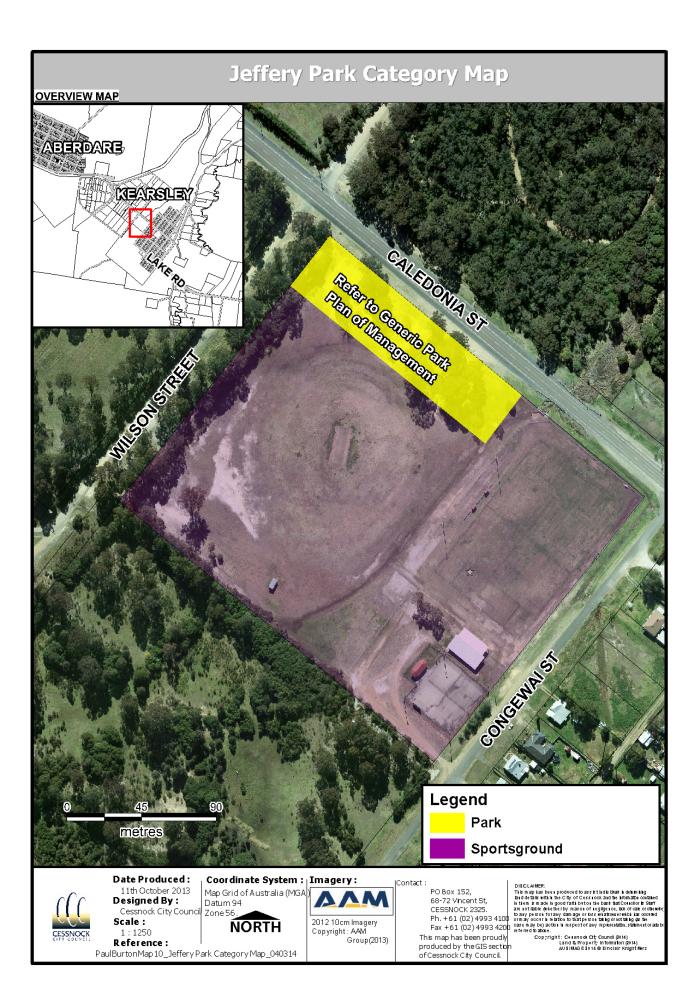


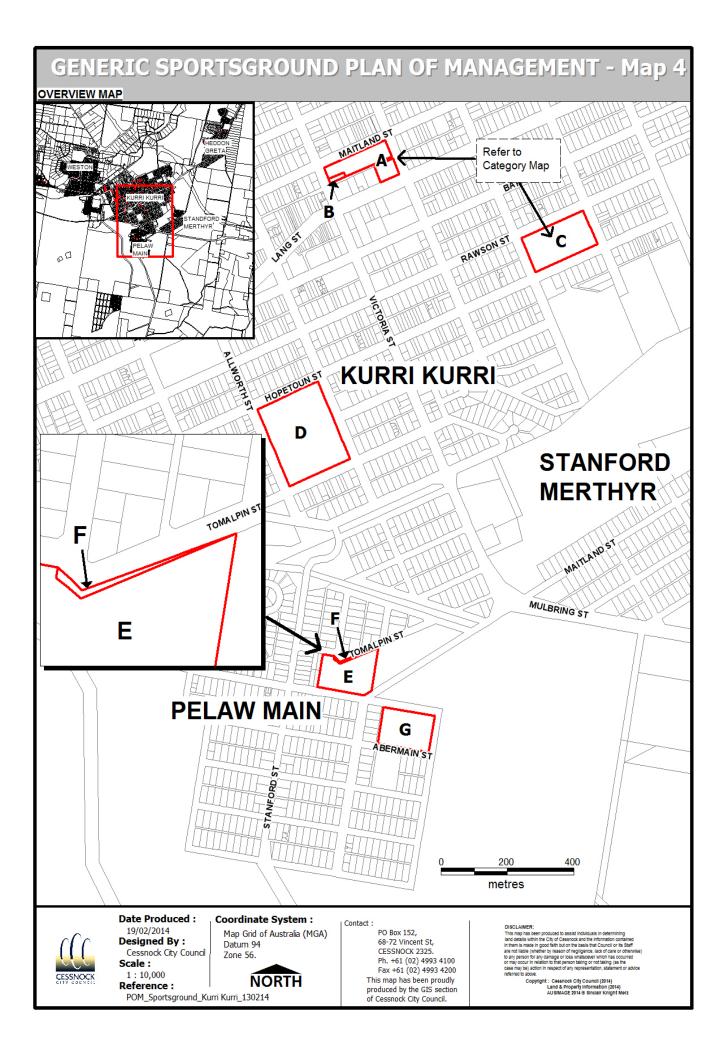










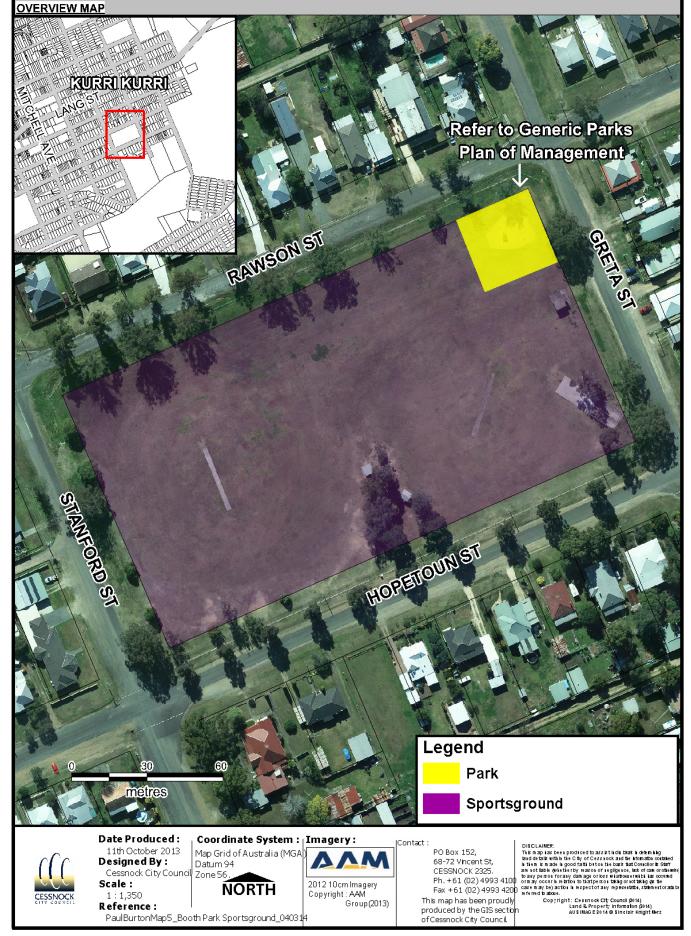


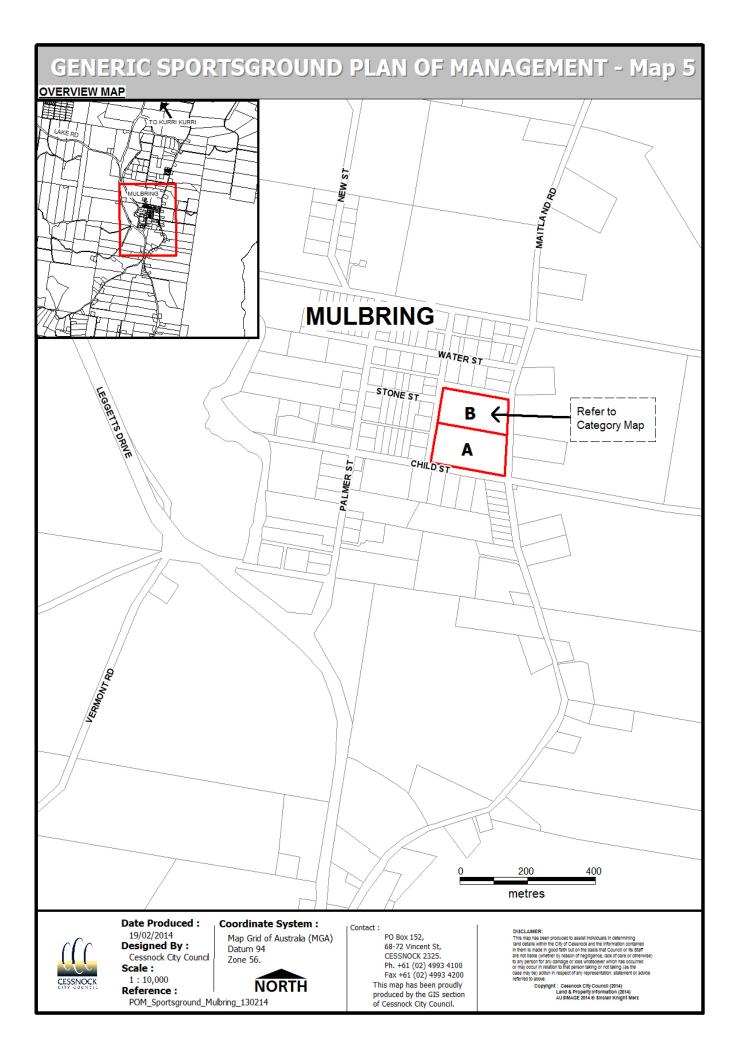
Lang Street Netball Courts Category Map

OVERVIEW MAP



Booth Park Category Map





Bushfire Brigade / Mulbring Park Category Map

