



AGENDA

A meeting of **the Sport and Recreation Reference Group** will be held on Cammeraygal Land at the Ros Crichton Pavilion Council Chambers, 200 Miller Street, North Sydney at 6:00 PM on Tuesday 9 May 2023.
The agenda is as follows.

Therese Manns
GENERAL MANAGER



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Table of Contents

1. Confirmation of Minutes	3
2. Disclosures of Interest	3
3. Committee Reports	4
3.1. <i>Council as a Child-Safe Organisation</i>	<i>4</i>
3.2. <i>School Infrastructure NSW - Asset Sharing</i>	<i>8</i>
3.3. <i>2022/23 Capital Works Project Updates.....</i>	<i>11</i>
3.4. <i>Sports Field Fees and Charges 2023/24</i>	<i>24</i>
4. General Business	27
5. Closure	27

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 November 2022, copies of which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

2. Disclosures of Interest

Nil.

3. Committee Reports

3.1. Council as a Child-Safe Organisation

AUTHOR	Helen Connell, Business Partner People & Culture
ENDORSED BY	Shane Sullivan, Executive Manager Governance
ATTACHMENTS	Nil
CSP LINK	5. Our Civic Leadership 5.1 Lead North Sydney's strategic direction 5.2 Strong civic leadership and customer focussed services

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview regarding Council's compliance as a Child Safe organisation and background as to actions taken to date.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The NSW Government amended the Children's Guardian Act 2019 to include the Child Safe Scheme. It came into operation on 1 February 2022. The amendment will enable the Office of the Children's Guardian (OCG) to audit an organisation's systems and processes to ensure compliance with the Child Safe Scheme. Council is working with the Sport and Recreation Committee to ensure the obligations under the Child Safe Scheme are met by Council and the Committee's members.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the Sport and Recreation Committee receive a verbal update and presentation on this topic.

Background

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

There were several recommendations and new pieces of legislation that arose from the findings of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. On 15 December 2017 the Royal Commission presented a final report to the Governor-General, from the five-year inquiry into institutional responses to child sexual abuse and related matters. The report was made up of 17 volumes and contains 409 recommendations. Both the Australian Government and the NSW Government responded to the recommendations in June 2018.

National Redress Scheme

On 5 March 2020, LGNSW hosted a special briefing with the NSW Attorney-General, the Hon. Mark Speakman MP, to understand new obligations under the National Redress Scheme for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse. The National Redress Scheme was part of the Federal Government's response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The NSW Government committed to the National Redress Scheme back in March 2020, and with this commitment councils were signed up to the Scheme. Councils, and mayors specifically, have obligations under these reforms. While historical cases of child abuse in councils and council-run institutions are expected to be rare, mayors may be asked to personally apologise to past victims if abuse has occurred within their institution, ie Family Day Care.

The NSW Government's response focused on three areas: justice for victims; criminal justice and sentencing; and child safe institutions and prevention.

Councils as leaders in the community and providers of services to children have a responsibility to ensure councils are child safe institutions. One key recommendation from the NSW Government Response for councils is 6.12 which states:

With support from governments at the national, state and territory levels, local governments should designate child safety officer positions from existing staff profiles to carry out the following functions:

- a. developing child safe messages in local government venues, grounds, and facilities*
- b. assisting local institutions to access online child safe resources*
- c. providing child safety information and support to local institutions on a needs basis*
- d. supporting local institutions to work collaboratively with key services to ensure child safe approaches are culturally safe, disability aware and appropriate for children from diverse backgrounds. (Accepted in principle)*

Child Safe Committee

In December 2020, Council's Child Safe Committee was formed to bring together representatives from across the organisation to develop an action plan to ensure Council was meeting the key outcomes of being a Child Safe Organisation.

The Action Plan is based on the 10 Child Safe Standards being:

1. Leadership and culture
2. Children's participation
3. Families and communities
4. Equity and diversity
5. Suitability of workers
6. Complaint handling
7. Knowledge and skills
8. Physical and online environments
9. Continuous improvement
10. Policies and procedures

Currently representatives include People & Culture, Communications & Events, Community Development, Library Services, Parks & Reserves, Youth Services, Family Day Care, Rangers & Parking Services, Parking Stations, Road Safety, IT, Procurement, Bush Regeneration and Leisure & Aquatics.

Changes to the Children's Guardian Act 2019 requires the head of a child safe organisation, in this case, the General Manager, to ensure the Child Safe Standards are implemented through systems, policies and processes.

The Children's Guardian (Child Safe Scheme) Act has recently legislated that head of agency of a child safe organisation must have a working with children check (WWCC). The General Manager and any staff who act in the role must have a Working with Children Check.

Council can demonstrate its compliance through meeting the basic requirements outlined in Section 8D of the Children's Guardian Act 2019:

- Statement of the organisation's commitment to child safety
- Child Safe Policy
- Code of Conduct
- Complaint Management Policy & procedure (Reportable Conduct)

- Human Resources Policy
- Risk Management Plan

Consultation requirements

Community engagement is not required.

Legislation

The NSW Government amended the Children's Guardian Act 2019 to include the Child Safe Scheme. It came into operation on 1 February 2022.

3.2. School Infrastructure NSW - Asset Sharing

AUTHOR	David Manson, Manager Parks & Reserves
ENDORSED BY	Peter Massey, Acting Director Open Space and Environmental Services
ATTACHMENTS	Nil
CSP LINK	1. Our Living Environment 1.4 Well utilised open space and recreational facilities

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to present information on how asset activations can open public schools for joint and shared use of school facilities within the North Sydney LGA. This includes use outside of school hours as well as during school holidays to help provide more active open space to the community.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides information on the potential for Council to:

- collaborate with Schools Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) on joint use and shared use of school facilities outside of school hours; and
- increase the availability and use of active infrastructure within the North Sydney LGA.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. THAT** the report be received by the Sport and Recreation Reference Group.
- 2. THAT** Council's Parks and Reserves Manager continues to liaise with SINSW on shared use of school facilities.
- 3. THAT** the Sport and Recreation Reference Group thank Tessa Pentony of SINSW for her attendance at the meeting.

Background

The SINSW Asset Activation team work with stakeholders on providing shared/joint use of school facilities outside of school hours.

The Asset Activation team made contact with Council's Manager of Parks and Reserves in late 2022 to discuss options for shared use of Public-School facilities within North Sydney.

Report

Within the North Sydney LGA there are four Public Schools:

- Anzac Park,
- Cammeray,
- Neutral Bay, and
- North Sydney.

and three (public) High Schools:

- Cammeraygal,
- North Sydney Boys, and
- North Sydney Girls.

These schools have sporting infrastructure such netball/basketball courts, futsal courts, and cricket practice nets that could be utilised outside of school hours by the local community and/or sports clubs.

SINSW can review what community use is already in place as well as opportunities for additional use at these schools. This would be for both indoor and outdoor sporting facilities.

Considering North Sydney's severe shortfalls in sporting infrastructure there is an opportunity to bridge that gap. The Asset Activation team has been very supportive to date and has been cooperative in providing guidance to Council.

Options

The Sport and Recreation Reference Group has the following options in relation to this matter:

1. Take no action
2. The recommended option

These options are assessed in the table below.

Option	Finance/Resourcing	Risk/Opportunity	Consultation
1.	Currently no additional financial or resourcing issues.	Continuing issues with the supply of sporting infrastructure outweighing the demand.	Under this option there would be no community consultation undertaken.
2.	Currently no finance or resourcing issues.	An increase in the amount of available sporting infrastructure for community use.	Consultation between Council, Schools and neighbouring residents around the terms and hours of use.

Option 2, is recommended for the following reasons:

- Minimal financial or resourcing issues. Requirements in Finance and Resourcing
- Will aid in providing additional sporting infrastructure for use by the community and sporting clubs.

Consultation requirements

Community engagement is not required.

Financial/Resource Implications

There are no financial/resource implications associated with this report.

Legislation

There are no legislative requirements or considerations required as part of this report.

3.3. 2022/23 Capital Works Project Updates

AUTHOR	David Manson, Manager Parks & Reserves
ENDORSED BY	Peter Massey, Acting Director Open Space and Environmental Services
ATTACHMENTS	Nil
CSP LINK	1. Our Living Environment 1.4 Well utilised open space and recreational facilities

PURPOSE:

To inform the Sport and Recreation Reference Group members of the status of the capital works projects within the current financial year 2022/23.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report presents an update on capital works projects that are scheduled to be completed within the current financial year 2022/23.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Sport and Recreation Reference Group receive this report.

Background

As part of Council's Delivery Plan, the following Sport and Recreation projects were scheduled to be undertaken through the current 2022/23 financial year

- St Leonard's Park Masterplan
 - Lighting Upgrade
 - Playground Upgrade
- Coal Loader
 - Tunnel #2 resurfacing
 - Pop Up Bar
- Playgrounds
 - Merret Playground Upgrade
 - Fred Hutley Playground
 - Prior Ave Playground
- Anderson Park Plan of Management Implementation – Sports field and Exercise Equipment projects
- Brennan Park Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- Forsyth Park # 2 – New Cricket Wicket
- Hume Street Park
- 1A Henry Lawson Ave – Return to Parkland
- Gore Cove Reserve Walking Track
- Tunks Park Amenities Block Upgrade

Projects Allocated in the 2022/23 Financial Year

St Leonard's Park Masterplan

Southern Lawn

Stage 3 of the St Leonards Park Masterplan is now open with the new raised pathway crossing through the much-improved landscape features.

The landscape improvement works on the Southern Lawn area of St Leonards Park provide a wider raised pathway, improved lighting, improved drainage, low level gardens to soften the North Sydney Oval wall, seating, and picnic areas.



Playground Upgrade

On Monday 13 February the senior section of the playground was opened to the public and it has been much enjoyed from day one. The senior section of the playground is a brand-new extension to the refurbished junior playground, which was opened to the public before Christmas 2022.

The exciting new section of the playground offers a great entertainment hub for older children who can enjoy fun and challenging outdoor activities. The playground is fitted out with a combination of climbing, swinging, spinning and balancing play activities. Custom-made monkey bars, climbing sandstone boulder and a 'goofy' balancing beam will keep that age group entertained. An introduction of a sky surfer gives older children a chance to explore new ways of playing, managing space and height of the experience. An innovative zip line proved to be one of the favourites and clearly satisfies the needs and expectations of all children. Elevated 'hang out' baskets located on the top of the climbing structure, 360 degrees basket swing, two picnic settings and ample options for seating make this playground comfortable for all visitors.



The official launch of the new St Leonards Park Playground took place on Sunday 26th February. The event resulted in a fun event featuring a ceremonial ribbon cutting, free face painting, giant bubbles, ice cream and coffee for playground visitors.



Coal Loader

Tunnel #2 resurfacing – The surface of the main public tunnel will be resurfaced to remove any potential hazards that are currently identified. Council was successful in obtaining a grant for \$116,500. Council allocated \$118,500.00 taking the total to \$235,000.00. It is expected that the project will go to tender in May 2023 and construction be completed by the end of the current financial year.

Pop Up Bar – Some components of the pop up bar such as plumbing/electrical provision and bi-fold dooring is planned to be installed at the Coal Loader this financial year. Council have allocated \$261,000.00 to this project. It is expected that the project will go to tender during April of this year and construction be completed by the end of the current financial year. There are insufficient funding to complete all of the originally planned design.

Playgrounds

Fred Hutley Reserve - Council have allocated \$282,000.00 to the refurbishment of this playground that is now complete.

The unique custom design play equipment is a response to a beautiful leafy garden setting, within which the play space is located. The playground offers a vast variety of experiences and a pleasant environment for parents and carers with adequate mix of formal and informal seating, new water bubbler and improved site access.



Prior Ave Reserve – Council have allocated \$170,000.00 to the refurbishment of this playground. At present the design and community consultation has been completed. The project are out for quotations with construction programmed for May and June 2023.

Merret Playground – This project was originally placed on hold due to the status of the Waverton Bowling Club land ownership. A report went to Council in March and now that the outcome of the ownership has been determined Council resolved to proceed with the Merrett Playground upgrade.

New quotations will need to be sought through April with construction to be scheduled for June 2023.

Hume Street Park – Crows Nest has an additional 800m² of much-needed open space with the creation of a new plaza between Hume Street and Hume Lane. A central grassed area with perimeter planting joins the 400m² pedestrian link between the plaza and popular Willoughby Road.

This project was funded by the NSW Government through the Precinct Support Scheme and North Sydney Council.



Forsyth Park # 2 Cricket Wicket - The old wicket had a cracked in 2 pieces and the southern end would always hold a significant puddle of water. The new wicket has been installed over the top of the old one and is 28 meters in length (3 meters longer than the old one). It now sits a little higher than the surrounding turf to ensure that any water runs off the pitch itself.



Anderson Park Masterplan

Anderson Park has been closed for use since September 2022 to undertake the reconstruction works identified in the Anderson Park Masterplan. Specifically, the Stage 2 Sports field relocation and upgrade.

This project (along with the fitness stations) benefited from Grant funding of \$782,062.50 through the Greater Cities Sport facility Fund 2020/21.

Works included:

- New LED Sports Field lighting;
- Relocation of the Sports field further west;
- New irrigation system;
- Extensive drainage to the sports field area;
- 2 new synthetic Cricket wickets; and
- New turf surface of Santa Ana Couch.

The field opening has been pushed back a few weeks due to drainage construction delays which has affected the turf recovery rate. There are still a couple of items that need to be finalised, but the field was opened for use as of the Monday the 24th of April 2023. Photos below taken from the east and west of the site.





Exercise Equipment - Recently installed outdoor gym equipment, along the foreshore of Anderson Park provides an opportunity for more casual exercise enthusiasts who will appreciate the beautiful surrounding while they exercise. This exercise hub offers easy to use equipment which allows for cardio, cross training and strength workouts. Complemented by casual seating and planting, it blends well with the surrounding landscape. This project was funded by Rotary Club of North Sydney Sunrise and it commemorates 100 years of Rotary in Australia.



Gore Cove Reserve Walking Track - Last year, Council was successful in obtaining \$179,000 in grant funding from the NSW Government for the purpose of upgrading the Gore Cove track. This funding provides a unique opportunity to upgrade the track using large-dimension

sandstone blocks as the primary building material. Apart from being a natural track construction material with aesthetic appeal, the main advantage of using sandstone is the superior longevity it provides (compared to timber) in both wet and dry conditions.

Stage 1 of the upgrade project was completed in late January 2023, delivering over fifty sandstone steps, water-bars, a new raised boardwalk, and a refurbished footbridge (see images below).



Stage 2 of the project will focus on a relatively inaccessible 650 lineal metre section of the track that is north of the track entrance from Shirley Road, Wollstonecraft. Delivering the heavy sandstone block materials to where they are needed along this section of the track, without causing damage and disturbance to bushland vegetation, presented a major challenge to the project. To overcome this issue, Council engaged a specialist aerial operations contractor to deliver the required materials by helicopter.

On the 23 March Helicopter Lifting Services Pty Ltd lifted over forty one-tonne bags of sandstone blocks from Balls Head Reserve carpark and delivering them to four pre-determined drop points along the Gore Cove track.



Tunks Park Amenity Building Refurbishment- In October 2022, North Sydney Council successfully completed an upgrade of an existing changeroom located at the western end of Tunks Park.

The refurbished building offers a modern facility for players and their supporters. It provides easy access to shade, shelter and toilets. As part of the upgrade, Council improved configuration of the internal spaces which now offer two separate changerooms making it suitable for male and female participants. An addition of a new canteen assists clubs in fundraising effort through the provision of a new fitted out kitchen, a serving window, an extension of a veranda roof and a concrete slab. The refurbished facility also provides new accessible toilet and shower, generous storeroom, and a water fountain.

This project was funded by the 2021/22 Greater Cities and Regional Sport Facility Fund (\$135,090) in association with North Sydney Council.



1A Henry Lawson Ave – This site has recently been transferred to the ownership of North Sydney Council from the NSW Government.

Council will be demolishing the existing building, removing the fences and the site will become public open space, providing the missing link which was dividing the two halves of Henry Lawson Reserve.

Under plans currently being developed, heritage elements including the historic slipways, sandstone walls and former building footprints will be retained and incorporated into the new section of park.

A Development Application will be lodged for the demolition work. Plans will be finalised once demolition works are complete.



Brennan Park Outdoor Fitness Equipment – Brennan Park has been allocated \$30,000.00 for the installation of some fitness equipment. This project has yet to begin but is expected to be completed by April 2023

Consultation requirements

Community engagement will be undertaken in accordance with Council’s Community Engagement Protocol.

Financial/Resource Implications

Funding for these projects is included in the adopted 2022/23 capital works budget.

Existing Council staff were allocated to implement the project management of each of these projects.

Legislation

The legislative requirements were considered and undertaken for all of these projects.

3.4. Sports Field Fees and Charges 2023/24

AUTHOR	David Manson, Manager Parks & Reserves
ENDORSED BY	Peter Massey, Acting Director Open Space and Environmental Services
ATTACHMENTS	Nil
CSP LINK	1. Our Living Environment 1.4 Well utilised open space and recreational facilities

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Sport and Recreation Reference Group members with information on changes and additions to the Sports field fees and charges structure commencing on July 1st, 2023.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- All existing and proposed sports field fees and charges have been assessed under Council's Revenue Policy.
- 3 new Sports field fees and charges are proposed.
- 1 change to an existing Sports field fee is proposed.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the Sport and Recreation Reference Group receive the report on amended sports fields fees and charges.

Background

Fees and charges are determined by Council each year. They contribute towards providing services and facilities and maintenance of the same.

All existing and proposed fees and charges have been assessed according to the nature of the services being provided. Factors that have been considered in the consideration of the proposed fees and charges include partial cost recovery, market pricing competitiveness (pricing of similar service providers), legislative constraints (non-discretionary fees) and - subsidies (capacity to pay).

New Fees

Variations proposed to the Schedule from the previous financial year's Schedule are summarised in the table below:

Category	Fee or Change	Summary/Change rationale
<i>Sporting Fields</i>	<i>Hourly rate additional grounds staff weekends for seniors, juniors/schools and social/casual.</i>	<i>To partially recover labour costs associated with weekend hire of sports fields.</i>
<i>Sporting Fields</i>	<i>Hourly hire fee touch football seniors, juniors/schools and social/casual.</i>	<i>To introduce a specific rate for touch football which is justified due to the impact on playing surfaces.</i>
<i>Sporting Fields</i>	<i>Hourly hire fee turf cricket wickets seniors, juniors/schools and social/casual.</i>	<i>To introduce the NSROC standard flat hourly rate for wicket hire in place of daily weekday/weekend rates.</i>

Actual fee changes from the previous financial year's Schedule are summarised in the table below:

Category	Fee or Change	Existing Fee	Proposed Fee
Turf Wickets – Tunks Park	Daily rate to hourly rate	\$425.00/day	\$58.00/hour
Turf Wickets – Bon Andrews	Daily rate to hourly rate	\$419.00/day	\$65.00/hour
Additional grounds staff weekends	New	\$0.00/hour	\$65.00/hour
Touch Football Fields	New	\$0.00/hour	\$45.00/hour

Discontinued Fees

The following table lists the fees proposed to be discontinued, including the rationale.

Category	Fee or Change	Summary/Change rationale
Sporting Fields	Daily weekday/weekend turf cricket wicket seniors, juniors/schools and social/casual.	Replaced by the NSROC standard flat hourly rate for wicket hire in place of daily weekday/weekend rates.

Consultation requirements

Community engagement will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Protocol.

Financial/Resource Implications

User charges and fees are an important source of income to partially offset maintenance and capital work costs borne by Council.

Legislation

In accordance with sections 405 and 608(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, a schedule of fees and charges must be prepared annually as a provision within Council's annual Statement of Revenue Policy.

4. General Business

- Update on North Sydney Olympic Pool
- Update on future Capital Works budget allocations

5. Closure