

Noosa Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2018



Noosa Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2018
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Disclaimer

This document has been developed by Noosa Shire Council's Community Development Team in consultation with many sport and active recreation clubs' community members who completed surveys and/or attended community forums. We also thank the residents of Noosa Shire who responded to surveys or provided other input into the study.

The Community Development Team is also grateful for the support and guidance provided by the Community Reference Group, Council officers, Councillors, representatives of government agencies, educational institutions and non-government agencies who gave freely of their time to provide input into the study.

Information contained in this document is based on available information at the time of writing. All figures and diagrams are indicative only and should be referred to as such. This is a strategic document which deals with technical matters in a summary way only. Council or its officers accept no responsibility for any loss occasioned to any person acting or refraining from acting in reliance upon any material contained in this document.

Acknowledgments

Council acknowledges the Kabi Kabi people as the Traditional Owners and original custodians of this land and pays respect to their Elders past, present and future.



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1

Executive Summary

Providing a clear direction for the future of sport and active recreation in Noosa

Noosa is recognised as one of Australia’s most desirable places to live, work and visit, thanks to its outstanding beauty, mild subtropical weather and enviable lifestyle. It is also renowned for its active population, ranging in all ages and abilities. The Noosa Sport and Active Recreation Plan aims to provide a clear direction for the future development of the sport and active recreation sector in the Noosa Shire.

Council conducted extensive community consultation to provide evidence for this plan that included a resident participation survey, workshops with local sports clubs, interviews and surveys with commercial operators and a document review of local, state and national policies and strategic plans.

From this consultation the following principles were identified as being integral to the future of Noosa’s participation in sport and active recreation. These consequently form the basis of this Plan:

Principle 1 – Participation: Noosa’s priority is to provide for grass roots participation in a wide variety of sport and active recreation activities.

Principle 2 – Quality Outcomes: Our coaches, instructors, administrators and trainers are suitably qualified for best practice delivery of their sport or activity. Our clubs are well governed and our facilities fit for purpose.

Principle 3 – Choice: Residents and visitors have choice over the activities they participate in and who provides those activities to them. Our facilities and public spaces will encourage formal and informal physical activity catering for a wide range of ages, abilities and interests.

Principle 4 – Efficiency: The effective and efficient use of resources through coordinated partnerships between not-for-profits (NFPs), commercial and government providers.

Principle 5 – Environmentally Responsible: All providers of sport and active recreation facilities aim to achieve best practice use of natural resources and technologies to minimise the impact on our environment.

The nature of physical activity is changing nationally, with the following trends emerging that will impact Noosa and consequently inform the motives of this Plan:

- A perfect fit – people are looking for unstructured sporting opportunities to fit into their busy lifestyles;
- From extreme to mainstream – this trend recognises the rise in alternative and fast-paced sports;
- More than sport – broader benefits to society of sport;
- Everybody’s game – the diversification of sporting participation to include all ages and abilities;
- New wealth, new talent – new areas that have increasing wealth are participating in sports
- Tracksuits to business suits – the corporatisation of sports.

This plan aims to provide a vision that brings together all levels of government, not for profits, and commercial operators providing sport and active recreation in Noosa. It identifies the need for significant change in the delivery and planning of physical activity in the Shire which requires innovative and future focused leadership.



Definitions

The following terms and abbreviations have the meanings assigned to them.

Term	Meaning
Sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has formalised rules, competition and conditions of play • has a formalised structure and a recognised representative body at a regional, state and/or national level
Active recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • activities that require some level of physical exertion as a core element (above a baseline level) and are undertaken by people for enjoyment in their own free time with a reasonable expectation that participation will increase physical fitness • may include indoor or outdoor activities
ASC	Australian Sports Commission (Commonwealth)
DNPSR	Department of National Parks Sport and Racing (Qld)
Facility	A physical place at which sport or active recreation is undertaken
NFP	Not For Profit. An organisation that is operating for its purpose and not for profit or gain (either direct or indirect) of its individual members
QPWS	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Physical activity	Encompass all activity undertaken as either a sport or active recreation
Services	Tangible and intangible mechanisms that provide for participation in sport and active recreation
SLO	State Level Organisation
Sport and active recreation providers	Organisations or individuals (can be commercial or NFP) who provide sport or active recreation activities to residents or visitors

2

Introduction

A guiding document for the continued development of sport and active recreation in Noosa

2.1 Purpose of the Noosa Sport and Active Recreation Plan

The development of a Noosa Sport and Active Recreation Plan (the 'Plan') was a recommendation of the 2016 Noosa Social Strategy. Its purpose is to provide a guiding document for the continued development of the sport and active recreation sector in the Noosa Shire. The Plan aims to provide an understanding of the current position and potential for future development of the local sport and active recreation sector including participation, facilities and service provision. It identifies the providers of services and facilities to Noosa residents and actions for future development in terms of participation, facility development and service provision.

2.2 Rationale for Sport and Active Recreation Planning

Sport and active recreation planning focuses on the providers, places and enablers of physical activity participation. Planning for physical activity participation is important for local government as it is core to the health and well-being of a community. The Commonwealth Government identifies nine National Health Priority Areas (NHPAs) which significantly contribute to the burden of disease. These are largely preventable (and/or manageable), contribute significant cost to individuals and communities, and have the potential for a range of strategies that can be implemented to improve health in these areas. The NHPAs are:

- Obesity
- Cardiovascular health
- Mental health
- Injury prevention and control

- Arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions
- Asthma
- Diabetes mellitus
- Cancer Control
- Dementia

Low rates of physical activity and poor access to recreational facilities are identified risk factors for seven of the nine NHPAs (all except cancer control and asthma). A summary table of the biological, behavioural, social and physical environment risk factors is included as Appendix 1. The proposed Noosa Community Health Plan (a recommendation from the 2016 Noosa Social Strategy) will address NHPAs in more detail, however the Noosa Sport and Active Recreation Plan focuses on ensuring physical activity participation, and the providers of opportunities for residents are supported and developed. Effectively planning for programs, facilities and services that promote physical activity participation will have significant benefits for the health and wellbeing of the community.

2.3 Scope and methodology

2.3.1 Scope

Sport and active recreation activities included in the scope of this plan have been identified in Appendix 2. Included activities are determined by those that fit within the definitions of 'sport' or 'active recreation' (see page 5 'Definitions') and that have been identified as available to residents of the Noosa Shire.

Consideration was also given to include activities residents have said they participate in, which require travel outside of the Shire to access.

Providers of sport and active recreation services and facilities within the scope include not-for-profit, government and private entities operating within the Noosa Shire.

Not included in the scope of this plan are:

- Non-competitive, passive activities where physical exertion is not a core element of the activity eg fishing, picnicking, camping
- Activities addressed in other Council plans such as the Noosa Local Economic Development Plan, and the Open Space Strategy
- Management solutions for activities occurring on land that isn't owned or controlled by Noosa Council
- Sports that have been identified to be included in a Regional Difficult to Locate Sports Facility Planning Project. A Regional Difficult to Locate Sports Facility Planning Project has been funded by the Queensland government and is earmarked for completion in the 2017/18 fiscal year. Noosa Council will work with Gympie and Sunshine Coast Councils to develop a Regional Plan across the three LGAs for:
 - Competitive powered water sports
 - Shooting (all disciplines)
 - Aviation (including hang gliding, paragliding, aero models, and light aircraft)
 - Motorcycling sports (competitive and recreational)

2.3.2 Methodology

An outline of the methodology is outlined in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Plan Methodology



2.4 Consultation

Extensive consultation was conducted to inform this plan which included:

- 350 resident participation surveys (296 online, 54 face to face)
- Staffed pop up information/survey stalls at Peregian Beach, Noosa Junction, Noosaville, Tewantin and Cooroy.
- Liaison with 32 sport and active recreation business operators
- 38 NFP club surveys
- NFP club workshop
- Staffed pop up displays in Cooroy and Noosaville Libraries
- Feedback opportunity via *Your Say Noosa* website
- Discussions with Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing staff (Sport and Recreation and QPWS)
- Discussions with regional and state level sporting organisations

The results of these consultations are provided throughout the Plan.



3

Vision

This vision has been developed as a result of extensive consultation and formulated by the Noosa Sport and Active Recreation Plan Community Reference Group. It provides a focal point for all providers of sport and active recreation in the Shire. Feedback from the Draft Plan indicates 87.5% of residents who provided feedback on the vision agreed with it. The vision uses the term 'everyone' to be inclusive of residents, tourists and visitors, across all age groups, all levels of ability, across culture and socio-economic status. The term 'increased' in the vision is an acknowledgment that there are improvements to be made to ensure equity in the accessibility of opportunities for everyone.

Increased opportunities for everyone to participate in sport and active recreation, so they can achieve life-long physical and mental health benefits.



4

Principles for Sport and Active Recreation Development and Planning in Noosa

As a community Council aims to provide opportunities for all residents and visitors in the Shire to be physically active. Council will work collaboratively with sport and recreation operators and other levels of government to provide the best outcomes for our residents and visitors. Principles that reflect the sentiment and aspirations of the residents of the Shire have emerged from this Plan's consultation process. These principles are intended to guide future planning.

Principle 1 - Participation

Noosa's priority is to provide for grass roots participation in a wide variety of sport and active recreation activities.

Principle 2 - Quality outcomes

Our coaches, instructors, administrators and trainers are suitably qualified for best practice delivery of their sport or activity. Our clubs are well governed and our facilities fit for purpose.

Principle 3 - Choice

Residents have choice over the activities they participate in and who provides those activities to them. Our facilities and public spaces will encourage formal and informal physical activity catering for a wide range of ages, abilities and interests.

Principle 4 - Efficiency

The effective and efficient use of resources through coordinated partnerships between NFP, commercial and government providers.

Principle 5 - Environmentally responsible

All providers of sport and active recreation facilities and services aim to achieve best practice use of natural resources and technologies to minimise the impact on our environment.



5

Targets

The following proposed targets, which align to the above stated principles, will provide direction for the achievement of the vision. The indicators provide a measure by which assessment and progress can be measured. The following table provides five primary targets for this Plan.

Table 2: Targets

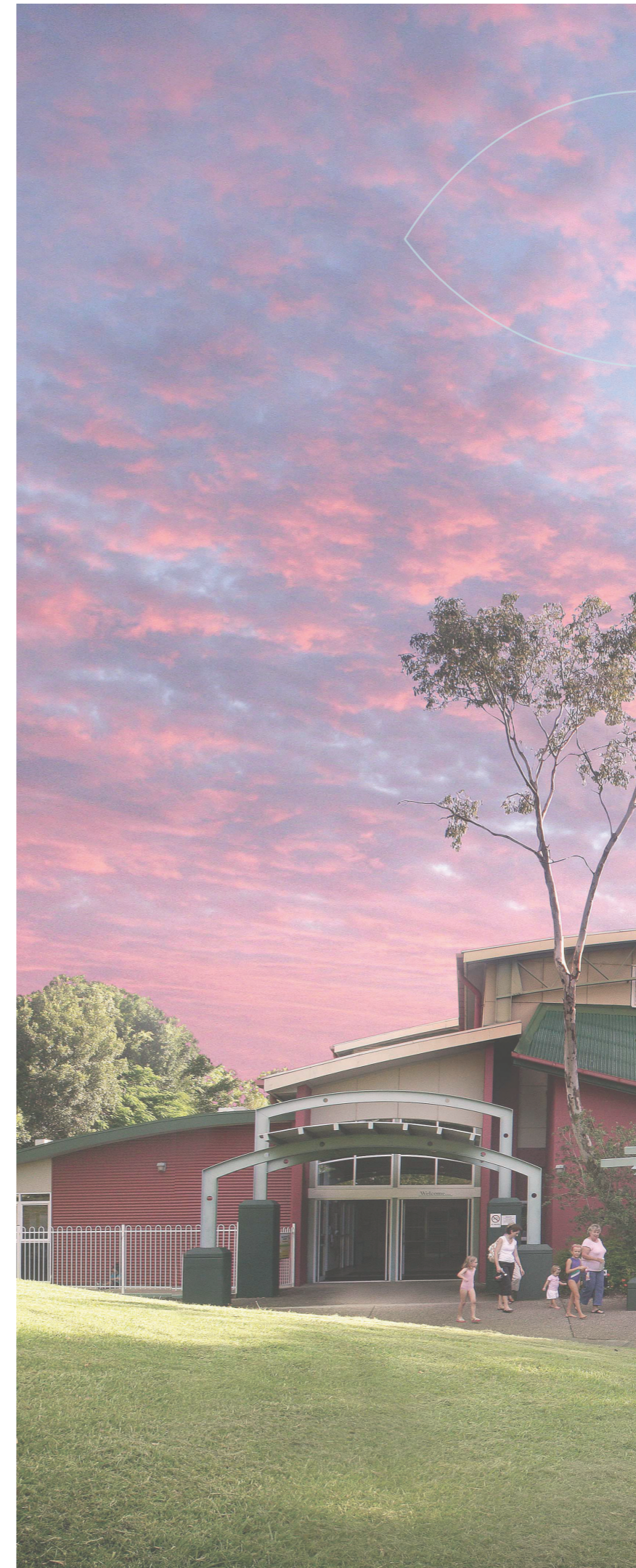
Target	Indicator
Life-long participation	Number of opportunities for sport and active recreation participation available in Noosa across all age ranges (0-5yrs, 5-18yrs, 18-64yrs, 65yrs+)
Best practice delivery of sport and active recreation	Percentage of appropriately accredited coaches, officials and trainers conducting activities in Noosa (includes NFP and commercial providers)
Choice of facilities and services	Diversity of facilities, providers and activities
Efficient use of spaces and facilities	Occupancy rates and/or membership numbers (as relevant) of public and private facilities and spaces providing sport and active recreation opportunities
Environmentally responsible management practices	Water/energy consumption rates Number of LED lit facilities Number of management plans (e.g. waste, water management, organic turf management) developed, implemented and reported

“Noosa is absolutely blessed with fantastic cycling infrastructure; we should keep moving forward and make it even better.”
- Community member

6

Planning context

Noosa Shire -
Different by Nature



6.1 Local Planning and Policy

The Noosa Council Corporate Plan sets out Council’s long term strategies and priorities and details Council’s vision: “Noosa Shire - different by nature”. Council’s Operational Plan details the significant initiatives Council will undertake each financial year.

Noosa Council has a number of additional plans, strategies and policies that impact on, contribute to, or complement this sport and active recreation plan. These include:

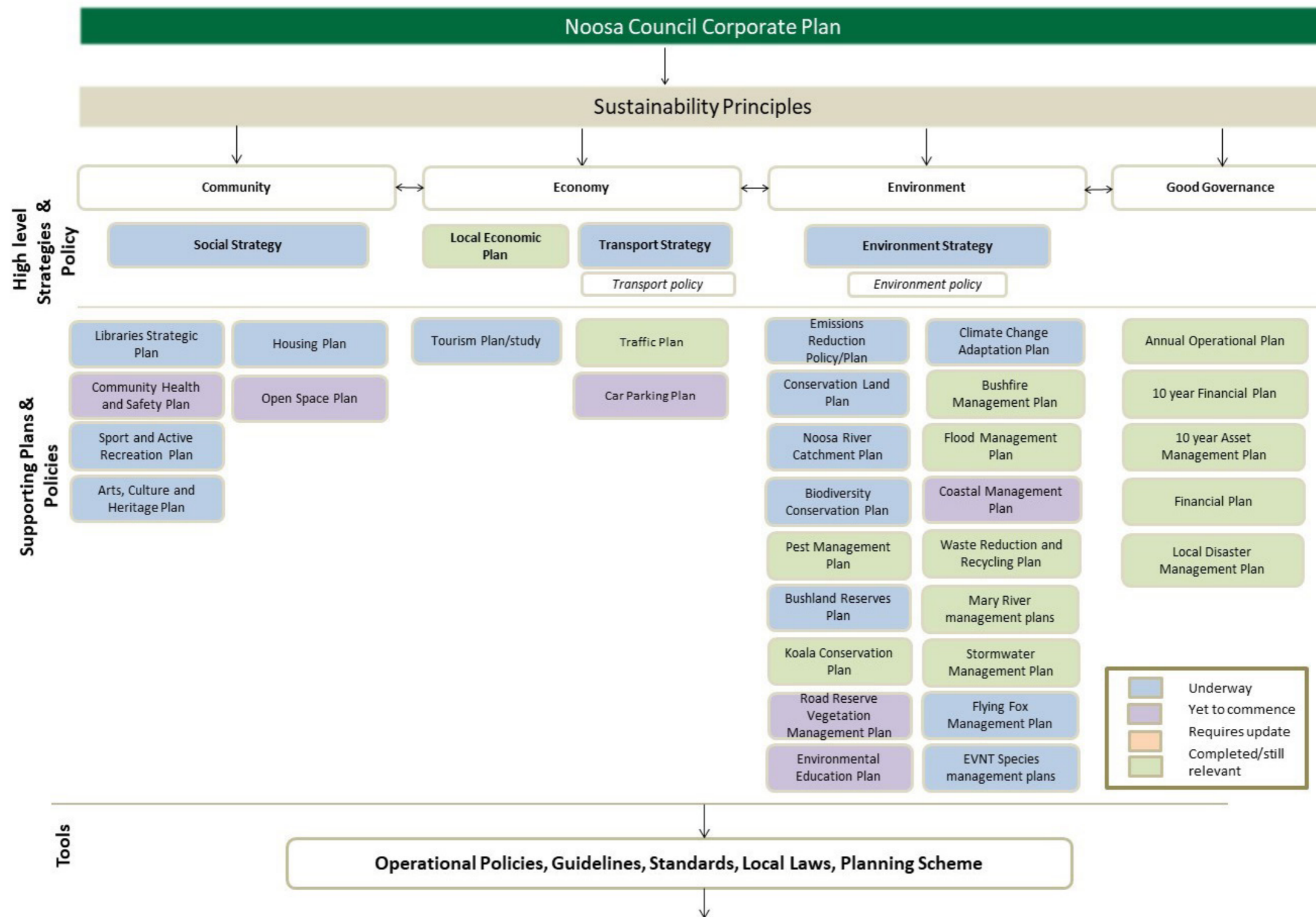
- Asset Management Policy
- Commercial Use of Community Land Policy
- Community Grants Policy
- Community Purpose Land and Infrastructure Tenure Policy
- Emission Reduction Policy
- Events Policy (proposed)

- Noosa Community Health Plan (to be developed 2017/18)
- Noosa Local Economic Plan (2016)
- Noosa Open Space Study (2017)
- Noosa Recreation Parks Plan (under review)
- Noosa River Plan (under review)
- Noosa Social Strategy (2016)
- Noosa Sustainability Principles
- Noosa Transport Strategy

- Noosaville Foreshore Land Use Master Plan (under development)
- The Noosa Plan (under review)
- Zero Emissions Strategy

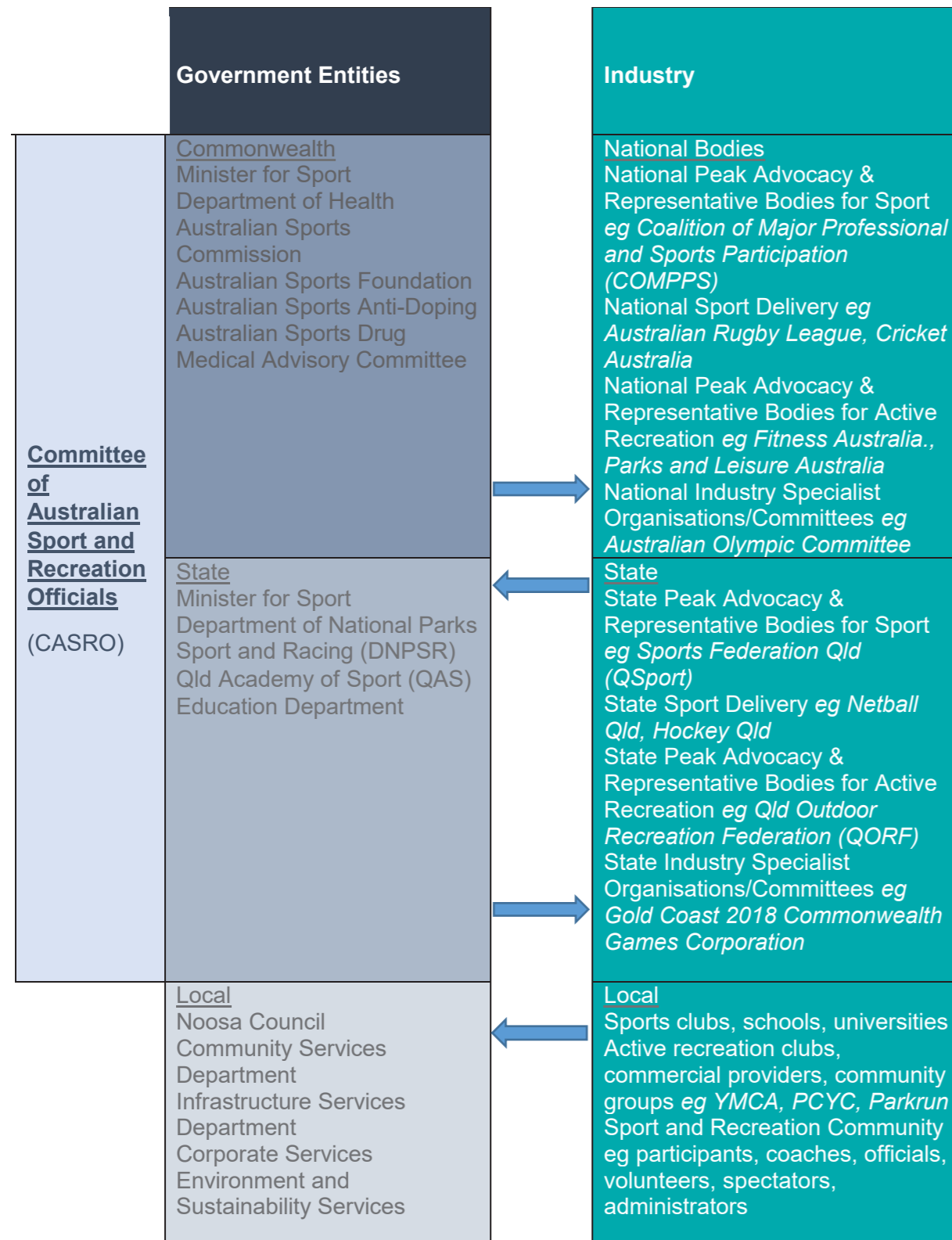
Below is the Draft Noosa Council Policy Framework that shows the context of the Sport and Active Recreation Plan among other policies (see Figure 2).

Figure 2:
Noosa Council’s Policy Framework



6.2 State and National Planning and Policy

Figure 3 below shows the structure of Australian Sport which includes government, not-for-profit and commercial providers.



6.3 National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework

The National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework, endorsed by the Commonwealth and State and Territory Ministers for Sport and Recreation in February 2011, provides the basis for continued collaborative work between Governments and includes clarification around the role of each layer of Australian sport. The Framework provides a guide for the development and alignment of policies, strategies and programs for Governments, and defines priority areas for cooperation with underpinning objectives and measures.

6.4 The Australian Sports Commission (ASC)

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) is a corporate Commonwealth entity within the Australian Government's Department of Health portfolio. The ASC is Australia's primary national sports administration and advisory agency, and the cornerstone of a wide-ranging sports system. On behalf of the Australian Government, the ASC plays a central leadership role in the development and operation of the Australian sports system, administering and funding innovative sport programs and providing leadership, coordination and support for the sport sector.

Valuable research and data is developed through the ASC (in particular Ausplay Surveys) which provide a basis for evidenced based planning for physical activity at a local level.

Council is best placed to act as a conduit and distributor of this relevant information to local sport and active recreation providers to assist in development of local services and programs.

6.5 Queensland Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing (DNPSR)

DNPSR aims to ensure that Queenslanders lead active and healthy lifestyles through participation in physical activity by:

- developing and delivering a suite of funding programs to support community sport and recreation needs;
- providing education and training programs that contribute to building the capacity of the sport and recreation sector;
- providing resources for parents and teachers aimed at encouraging all Queenslanders, particularly young people, to be more physically active;
- managing purpose-built sport and active recreation facilities, including the Queensland Recreation Centres; and
- developing elite athletes at the Queensland Academy of Sport.

A strong relationship between Council, DNPSR and local sport and active recreation providers will ensure funding and other resources are maximised for local eligible organisations with a flow on effect of better services, programs and providers at a local level.

6.6 Industry Peak and Representative Bodies

Each industry peak and representative body provides the strategic intent for its own sporting activity.

Generally operating on a not-for-profit basis and funded by government they provide industry advocacy, resourcing and support to providers of their activity.

The extent and level of strategic planning and direction varies between sports with more popular, professional and larger participatory sports such as AFL, cricket, and netball having well established policies and frameworks, whereas smaller sports such as baseball or table tennis have these to a lesser degree.

For the purpose of this Plan a review of 57 State Level Organisations (SLOs) governing sports known to be participated in by Noosa residents was conducted. Facility development plans and strategic plans were identified, with the review focusing on the impact of these documents on Noosa. Further detail about the facility development plans is included in Section 9.

Strategic Plan development for State level sporting organisations is tied to State government funding, therefore a common practice. The results of the review of the Strategic Plans is included as Appendix 3. Common themes through the Plans were:

- Increasing participation
- Appointment of Development Officers at a regional level to assist local clubs
- Increasing the participation of women and girls
- Improving infrastructure, particularly lighting
- Linking/building better relationships with local government



Understanding the key strategic directions of state bodies enables Council and local providers to align planning and strategic priorities, maximising the opportunities to leverage state resources for the local community.

6.7 Noosa Council

Noosa Council has a number of roles within the development and delivery of sport and active recreation services and facilities in the Shire. These include:

- Provision and management of land for providers of sport and active recreation eg tenure to commercial and NFP sport and active recreation providers, permits
- Provision, management and maintenance of public infrastructure used for sport and active recreation activities eg parks, roads, pathways, cycle paths etc
- Provision of sporting facilities and services eg Noosa Leisure Centre, Noosa Aquatic Centre
- Development of policies and plans eg Noosa Sport and Active Recreation Plan, Noosaville Foreshore Land Use Management Plan
- Community development staff to assist NFP clubs in matters of governance, planning, external grant submissions and other support
- Funding to sports clubs eg Sports field maintenance and community grants, water rebate

Council officers also work collaboratively and network with other councils, state government representatives and peak bodies to advocate, maximise opportunities and access resources relevant to Noosa. This also reduces the risk of duplicating services on a regional level.

As an example, the Sunshine Coast Council and the University of the Sunshine Coast continue to have a significant resource and financial investment in the development of facilities to cater for elite athletes for both competition and training. Noosa is well placed to partner and leverage this investment through supporting strong athlete development pathways, rather than duplicate or compete with such facilities and services.

“Not for profit clubs like this one need continuing and ongoing support in most areas to ensure their viability for the long term.”

- Local sports club

7

Current participation trends in sport and active recreation activities



7.1 National Participation Trends

Evidence demonstrates the way people participate in sport and active recreation activities is changing. The Australian Sports Commission commissioned the CSIRO to report on the mega trends in Australian sport. The key trends and the implications for Noosa are summarised in the table below.

Table 3. Summary of mega trends in Australian sports

Trend	Brief summary	Implication for Noosa
A perfect fit	<p>Participation moving away from traditional, structured, club-based sports.</p> <p>Whilst sporting clubs are an important contact and entry point for boys and girls, organised sport and the 'club' are less important to our sport and active recreation participation as we age.</p>	<p>Greater importance of individualised activities and physical activity providers in Noosa's sport and active recreation sector.</p> <p>Clubs, volunteers and facilities still of importance, especially for boys and girls, yet pressure being felt in this sphere from trend two. If local clubs want to maintain participation across life stages, clubs will need to change and adapt to meet the changing needs/trend especially as Noosa's population is ageing. Diversifying opportunities beyond traditional competitive participation is required.</p>
From extreme to mainstream	<p>This trend recognises the rise in alternative and fast-paced sports.</p> <p>These sports involve complex motor skills and some form of thrill-seeking danger. Together they have a strong element of lifestyle and self-identity components (enthusiasts use the sport to build their identity).</p> <p>Social media plays a role in the popularity of these sports.</p> <p>Boosted by sports such as surfing, BMX and skateboarding achieving Olympic status, the profile of alternative and fast-paced sports will increase.</p>	<p>Emergence of formalised clubs and competitions where traditionally these sports have been informal and unstructured 'recreation'. Formalisation of service delivery with the accompanying development of coordinated pathways, community and elite competitions and facilities will impact on local resource allocation and service provision.</p> <p>Potential need for limited public funds to be directed to these sports, especially where participation rates are significantly increasing.</p> <p>Greater use of 'informal' recreation venues/facilities such as skate parks and mountain bike trails impacting on maintenance and demand for new infrastructure development. This is particularly relevant to Noosa Shire where outdoor activity participation is higher due to conducive climate and natural environment.</p>

Trend	Brief summary	Implication for Noosa
More than sport	Broader benefits of sports to society such as improvement in physical and mental health and wellbeing, crime prevention, social development (social capital) and international relations and economic (trade and tourism) development, for example, are increasingly being recognised by government and other entities.	Importance of physical activity as a preventative health measure, especially given the increase in obesity rates. Initiatives that target low participatory groups are attracting funding and resources from State and National governments eg women, indigenous, etc. Partnerships with the health sector will become more formal and important.
Everybody's game	Greater understanding and recognition of sports' diverse consumer base and its importance on development of their sports. Diversification of sport and active recreation consumers and preferences: aged, female, multi-cultural and linguistic diversity.	As Australia's population ages, sport and active recreation provision will need to match these changes in the sport consumers. Challenge/opportunity for Noosa's sport and active recreation sector to capture and grow these opportunities. This will impact on resource allocation and service provision. Potential for public funds to be directed to the preferences of these consumers.
New wealth, new talent	Aspect of globalisation. Population and income growth through Asia will create new markets and opportunities (challenges) for the sport and active recreation sector.	Noosa physical activity providers have the opportunity to capitalise on the potential for increased (casual) international participation with the expansion of the Sunshine Coast Airport. Increases the need to work with tourism bodies for the promotion of local product. Considerations will be needed to provide a balance of resource allocation between tourist and resident needs/expectations particularly in regards to sporting events.

Trend	Brief summary	Implication for Noosa
Tracksuits to business suits	Corporatisation of sport; achieving more with less. Market forces to exert pressure on sport and active recreation, with winners and losers. Community-based (primarily volunteer-based) sports are increasingly expected to become more business-like in their operations. Commercial operators filling the gap of consumer need not being picked up by not-for-profit physical activity providers.	Noosa clubs and not-for-profit physical activity providers (including sports) need to adjust operations to a 'business-like' approach in order to survive in an increasingly competitive sector. Diversity of activities provided, greater understanding of consumer needs and quicker responses to trends will assist local providers 'stay alive'. Government and peak bodies will need to support required changes in club operations and culture. NFP providers should look to partnerships and learnings from the commercial sector. Greater investment needs to be given to new models of operation to better meet consumer need and changing participation trends.

7.2 AusPlay Survey

The AusPlay Survey, commissioned by the ASC, is the largest physical participation survey in Australia. The results of the most current survey (2015-2016 data) provide the participation data for National and State figures provided in the tables used throughout this Plan.

It is a continuous survey with over 20,000 adults surveyed each year with additional fieldwork happening throughout the year.

It captures a wide variety of activities which allow for a distinction to be made between sport-related activities (e.g. team sports, athletics, golf) and non-sport-related physical activities (eg gym activities, bushwalking).

Summary of AusPlay Survey Key Findings

- Sport clubs are not the main choice for participation in sport or physical activity in Australia for adults aged 18 years and over.
- While sport remains an important form of activity throughout life, non-sport-related physical activity becomes more important as we age.
- While sport clubs are the main avenue for both girls and boys, throughout childhood boys (50%) are more likely to be active through club sport than girls (33%).
- Women are more likely to participate in sport or physical activity for physical and mental health reasons and to lose or maintain weight than men. Men are more motivated by fun/enjoyment and social reasons than women.

Given the way people participate in physical activity alters over life-stages, it is important to understand the basic demography of the local population. Noosa's population is projected to increase 0.8% per year over 25 years compared to the Qld population increase

of 1.7% per year over the same time period. Our population is older than the state average with a greater proportion of our population aged over 65 years. Our median age is projected to continue to be significantly higher than the rest of the State.

Population by age for Noosa and Queensland

Table 4. Population comparisons by age Noosa Vs Qld

LGA/State	Age Group									
	0-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65+	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Noosa	9,233	17.3	5,305	9.9	10,554	19.7	16,432	30.7	11,991	22.4
Qld	943,992	19.8	647,983	13.6	1,327,470	27.8	1,173,195	24.5	686,214	14.4

Source: ABS 3235.0, Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2015

Median Age Projections for Noosa and Queensland

Table 5. Median Age Projections Noosa Vs Qld

LGA/State	As at 30 June			Change 2016-2036
	2016	2026	2036	
Noosa	47.0	49.0	50.6	3.5
Qld	37.3	38.7	39.9	2.6

Source: Queensland Government Population Projections, 2015 edition (medium series)



7.3 Physical Activity Participation Data

The AusPlay survey questions formed the basis of an online and face-to-face survey conducted by Noosa Council for the purpose of this Plan, in an attempt to provide local comparative data. The Noosa data is based on 350 resident survey responses (296 online and 54 face-to-face).

The local data should be used with caution as the high rate of reported participation (98% for Noosa compared to 59% nationally) suggests people with an interest in or currently participating in physical activities were more likely to complete the survey than people without an interest in physical activity. However the data does provide a useful insight into the habits of people who are participating in physical activity.

7.3.1 All Physical Activity Participation

The following tables show the participation data reported for the top ten of any type of physical activity for adults over the age of 15 years. It provides a comparison between Noosa and the national responses. It indicates that people in Noosa are more likely to participate in outdoor activities within the natural environment.

Furthermore the local survey indicated that 73% of respondents stated that one of the main reasons they participate in physical activity was 'to enjoy the outdoors'.

Table 6. Participation data according to Noosa Survey (all activities)

NOOSA Activity (top 10)	% of cases (n = 350)
Swimming at beach/ waterway	50.9%
Walking (recreational)	50.0%
Mountain Biking	46.9%
Bushwalking	40.3%
Cycling	37.8%
Swimming in pool	37.2%
Surfing	19.7%
Canoeing or Kayaking	19.7%
Weight training at gym or in group	17.2%
Gym classes (eg circuit, group classes)	15.6%

Table 7. National Participation data (all activities)

NATIONAL (AusPlay) Activity (top 10)	% pop
Walking (recreational)	42.6%
Fitness/gym	32.1%
Athletic, track and field	15.8%
Swimming	14.5%
Cycling	11.7%
Football/soccer	5.8%
Bushwalking	5.4%
Golf	5.2%
Tennis	4.8%
Yoga	4.4%

7.3.2 Structured/Organised Physical Activity Participation

The following table ranks the membership data from structured and organised activities within the Noosa area (including government, not-for-profit and commercial).

For activities where memberships were not available, annual participation data was used and divided by the number of weeks of the activity season or 12 months (if no season existed).

This data has been extracted from survey data collected from organisations, State level GIS membership mapping and phone interviews. It is recognised that some organisations did not respond with membership or participation data which may slightly understate the figures provided below.

Commercial providers were asked whether their activity catered predominately for tourists or locals. Overall it was a fairly even split with approximately 50% catering more for tourists. Of interest was that gyms reported that they either significantly serviced locals or tourists (no less than an 80:20 ratio) whereas paddle sports that were predominately equipment hire businesses reported marginally catering more for locals than tourists (approx. 60:40 split).

Golf clubs, which have the second highest membership data, also have a significant rate of participation by local visitors and tourists (not counted in the data below), with one provider noting only 50% of rounds are played by members.

*Table 8. Top 20 organised and structured activities in Noosa by membership (*denotes where data was participation based)*

Rank	Activity	Rank	Activity
1	Gym (incl indoor group fitness)	11	AFL
2	Golf	12	Lawn Bowls
3	Tennis	13	Skateboarding
4	Gymnastics	14	Surfing Lessons*
5	Soccer	15	Cricket
6	Netball	16	Athletics
7	Paddle sports* (including kayaking, canoeing, outriggering, SUP)	17	Oztag
8	Basketball	18	Personal Training
9	Rugby League	19	Futsal*
10	Rugby Union	20	Aqua Classes*

Gyms reported the highest number of memberships for any physical activity with 4,548 memberships reported. Golf (1958), Tennis (1330), gymnastics (1081) and soccer (1046) make up the top five organised physical activities in Noosa. Aqua classes rounded out the Top 20 list with 241 people per week reportedly participating in classes.

7.3.3 Individual Spend on Physical Activity

The Noosa participation survey indicated that locals spend more than the national average on physical activity participation. Noosa residents reported spending \$1,000 per person per year on being physically active, compared to the National average of \$875.



8.1 Existing Facilities and Management

Noosa is well serviced in terms of sport and recreation facilities and services. Our residents participate in 55 different sport and active recreation pursuits that fall under the scope of this Plan. There are 144 organisations identified as providing physical activity opportunities to Noosa residents and visitors. The table below indicates that almost half of the organisations identified in Noosa are privately or commercially run. This clearly demonstrates the national trend of the increasing commercialisation of physical activity participation and a need for council to work with private and NFP organisations to increase physical activity levels of residents.

Table 9. Number and type of organisations providing physical activities in Noosa

Organisation Type	Number of Organisations	% of total
Not For Profit (NFP)	69	47.9%
Commercial	64	44.4%
Schools	9	6.3%
Other Government		
(NSC, State eg QPWS)	2	1.4%
Total	144	100%

In terms of facility provision, Council control/ manage approximately one third of the facilities where physical activity occurs, with private ownership a significantly higher proportion (see table 10).

This highlights a risk to future service and facility provision if the private owners decide to exit the market. It is therefore in the community's best interest to ensure these providers continue to see viability in offering these facilities to the public. It also demonstrates a need to recognise the shift from the model of predominately government provision of sport and active recreation facilities and services.

Table 10. Ownership/management of facilities providing sport and active recreation in Noosa

Facility ownership/ management responsibility	Number of Facilities	% of total
Total facilities available	86	100%
Commercial or privately owned (including NFP freehold)	39	45.3%
Council Controlled/ managed	29	33.7%
Other Government Controlled/managed	18	20.9%

8.2 Outdoor Sports Facilities

Noosa has nine outdoor open sports field sites (servicing cricket, athletics, AFL, rugby union, rugby league, Oztag, touch and soccer) with Noosa District Sport Complex and Cooroy Sports Complex hosting multiple fields catering for a range of sports.

Playing fields at Cooroy Sports Complex, Noosa District Sports Complex and Girraween Sports Complex offer seasonal tenure to two or more clubs over the same playing surface to accommodate for traditionally winter and summer based sports.

This latter model of tenure is proving problematic for local clubs with sports introducing longer seasons and off-season competitions which require 12 month use of fields.

Extensions of seasons is also a concern from an asset management perspective as playing surfaces are not receiving adequate time to allow annual maintenance programs and growth of turf to recover from intensive over-use. This is compounded by a predominately volunteer-run maintenance program which struggles to adequately deal with complex turf management issues. This is in addition to escalating facility maintenance, increasing emphasis on meeting safety standards and on-going operational responsibilities eg power, water.

In 2016 Council commissioned an independent turf specialist to undertake a sports field audit to assess the condition of 22 volunteer maintained sports fields in the Shire. The audit results showed despite the clubs' willingness to provide the best possible fields, turf management skills, resources and funding were lacking with general turf management principles (eg mowing heights or field usage) not being followed while more complex areas (eg nutrition, pests and diseases) were difficult for clubs to know that underlying problems existed. The assessments identified some risk maintenance issues that need to be addressed which are beyond the capabilities of the volunteers.

Noosa has 10 outdoor court sites accommodating netball and tennis. Tennis Qld is currently undertaking extensive facility and club audits to develop 10 year maintenance and infrastructure plans in extensive consultation with local governments and local clubs.

LGA based reports from Tennis Qld will provide clear evidenced-based direction for tennis participation and facility development in the Shire with a proposal to partner and source external funding to meet financial implications raised in the report.

Queensland Netball has secured State government funding to develop a state-wide facility development plan in the 2017/18 fiscal year. The introduction of a successful national team based on the Sunshine Coast (Sunshine Coast Lightning) is having a positive impact on local interest and participation in netball with junior participation increasing significantly in the last three years.

Currently the Noosa District Netball Association use outdoor courts at Noosa District Sports Complex, indoor courts at Noosa Leisure Centre and at Good Shepherd Lutheran College. Netball would benefit greatly from an increase in indoor court space in order to accommodate a growing membership.

Eleven outdoor sites that are 'single use' (golf courses, lawn bowls, croquet, equestrian/pony club) have been identified in the Shire. These sites are a mix of commercial freehold, NFP freehold, Council and State owned properties. Golf courses and pony clubs in particular require extensive land parcels that contribute significantly to the calculation of land area allocated to 'sport and active recreation' purposes across the Shire. Significant costs are also attributed to these sites due to the specialised nature and maintenance required of the playing surfaces.

Golf clubs are unique in that they service a large membership and visitor (local and tourist) market, with local clubs working together for the tourist market, but competing in attaining local visitors and memberships.

Lawn bowls is experiencing a decline in memberships nationally with Roy Morgan Research reporting a 25% decline in participation over the last 15 years. This is further evidenced by closures of lawn bowls clubs nationally which has also been experienced locally with the closure of the Noosa Heads and Peregian Bowls Clubs and significantly low membership of the Cooroy Bowls Club.

Pomona Showgrounds is a unique site in that it caters for a range of 'single use' outdoor facilities ie tennis, pony club and an indoor facility exclusively used for squash. These showgrounds provide a significant service to the hinterland community and would benefit from the development of a master plan over the site to provide a focus and strategic plan for future participation and facility development.

When considering the expansion of existing sport precincts, attention must be given to the important environmental constraints that are common across many sites in Noosa. The protection of significant vegetation, environmental and fauna habitat areas reduce the likelihood of expansion of existing facilities, particularly for field sports requiring significant open space.

Environmental values are held in high regard in Noosa and although expansion of sports grounds is constrained, vegetation around sport facilities adds to the visual amenity, provides shade and a physical barrier between residential areas and playing spaces. Master plans for multi-use sports facility sites (eg Cooroy, Noosa District) need to be reviewed, updated and/or endorsed to provide a clear direction of future improvements required. Site development plans should be developed for smaller and single use sites which will assist in the evidenced-based identification of future works.

Car parking around outdoor sports venues is of concern with onsite car parking facilities beyond capacity at peak times, forcing cars to park on surrounding road verges or in residential streets. Not only does this pose an annoyance to residents, but creates a hazard when children are exiting vehicles road-side in 60-80km speed zones. This is particularly evident at venues such as Noosa Golf Club, Read Park (Tewantin), Noosa AFL grounds and the Girraween Sports Complex.

Consideration must also be given to reviewing the current tenure and management of shared-use playing fields under Council control to better maintain valuable community assets and support volunteer based clubs in focussing on their core business of providing physical activity to the community.

8.3 Indoor Sports Facilities

Thirty seven indoor sports facilities have been identified across the Shire and provide for badminton, basketball, netball, table tennis, indoor bowls, boxing, cheerleading, volleyball, gyms, gymnastics, martial arts, rock climbing and tenpin bowling. This includes school facilities funded under the Building the Education Revolution initiative of the Federal Government.

These facilities are predominately single use, fit for purpose, with the exception of Noosa Leisure Centre which provides for a range of indoor competitive and social sports. The majority of these facilities are commercially operated exposing a risk to the provision of these activities if commercial operators no longer see viability in their operation. It is for this reason Council has a role to play to support commercial provision of sport and active recreation in line with resident demand for those activities.

According to Queensland Badminton, Noosa has some of the best access to facilities for badminton in the state despite having no Qld Badminton affiliated or competitive players. Queensland Volleyball have stated that they are deliberately not promoting volleyball in the Noosa LGA as there is no access to an appropriate indoor facility. Single use indoor sports facilities should be investigated for inclusion of other purposes as demand for indoor sports space increases.

Indoor facilities are constrained for expansion by environmental protection and residential growth. Commercial operators requiring large indoor facilities commonly use industrial zoned land requiring a Material Change of Use (MCU) for legal occupancy as it is cost prohibitive to operate in legally zoned land or adequate sized spaces, with sport and recreation zoning non-existent. Council could consider allowing commercial operators to co-locate with NFP organisations on 'community' or 'sport and recreation' zoned land where there is significant community benefit which may partially address this matter.

Multi-use, indoor sports facilities experience peak usage times where users compete for limited space at the same times, however outside of these times there is an under-utilisation of these same spaces eg school halls outside of school times, Noosa Leisure Centre between 11am and 3pm weekdays.

Consideration should be given to diversifying activities through targeted programs within off-peak times in these facilities to maximise space usage.

Consideration should be given to an expansion of these facilities to accommodate peak demand in conjunction with an increase in specific programming during off-peak times.

The draft Wallace Park Precinct Master Plan Review 2013 recommended an increase in the court space at Noosa Leisure Centre which was also identified as a need in the 1998 Master Plan.



"The barrier is that everyone wants to play at the same time - late afternoon early evening, and there is only three courts here."

- Local sports club

8.4 Aquatic Facilities

Seven aquatic facilities throughout the Shire are provided by Council, local schools and private operators. Council subsidises the use of Education Qld school pools to enable community use outside of school hours.

The trend in aquatic facility provision nationally is moving away from competitive pools (25m and 50m lap lanes) to greater recreational use facilities. This is reflected by a steady decline in competitive swim club memberships at the same time as an increase in self-reported participation in 'swimming'. Noosa has predominately 'lap lane' facilities and one stand-alone public splash park in Tewantin.

Demand for a hydrotherapy or 'warm water' pool in the Shire has been identified, particularly given the aging demographic of the Shire. Currently the only access to a hydrotherapy pool is via the Noosa Hospital. A dedicated warm water pool would allow far more locals to experience the benefits of gentle exercise in a warm water environment and would also provide an all-weather option for infant and pre-school swimming lessons.

Sports such as water polo that require a significant proportion of pool space and specific depths for competition are struggling to find adequate space for training and competition, often turning away members and travelling outside of the Shire to access facilities.

Additionally, there are currently no competitive diving pools in the Sunshine Coast region and Diving Qld is looking to source a suitable venue outside of Brisbane.

Given the significant costs in establishing and running aquatic facilities, partnerships between Council, schools and private providers should be investigated for any future facility expansion and provision. As the solely Council managed aquatic facility in the Shire, the Noosa Aquatic Centre would greatly benefit from the development of a facility master plan which would consider demand based expansion of facilities such as a zero depth pool, warm water pool etc

8.5 Schools

The Education Department recognises the importance of physical activity in the health and wellbeing of children and young people. Schools provide opportunities to all students for:

- as part of the Health and Physical Education learning area
- in the delivery of other learning areas
- in school sport
- in school-organised activities before and after school and during lunchbreaks
- through unstructured independent and group play (children) and recreational physical activity (young people) during significant class breaks.

The use of school grounds for community sport purposes is often flagged as a solution to combat a shortage of community land for sport. Nine out of sixteen schools in Noosa currently offer facilities for community sport use. The common issues surrounding use of school facilities for club-based sport are:

- Use is dependent on the principal of the day;
- Often playing spaces are too small for competition eg insufficient run-off or safety zones;

- Often sites are single court or single field facilities meaning clubs must spread across numerous venues impacting on the sense of 'home ground' and club culture;
- None or very limited on-site storage;
- None or limited access to essential amenities for club operation eg toilets/change rooms, canteen facilities;
- Occasionally limited to junior competition due to restrictions on adult presence in school environment; and

School will always have priority access, potentially leading to postponement or cancellation at short notice of competition due to school functions/ events. Consideration should be given to partnerships in future development of sports facilities on school-controlled land to ensure designs incorporate the need for community use.

This may include financial investment in the construction and management from sources other than education providers.

Council should seek to partner with Education Qld at a regional level to provide a consistent and considered approach to further investigation of expanding the use of school grounds to accommodate community use including future development of facilities.

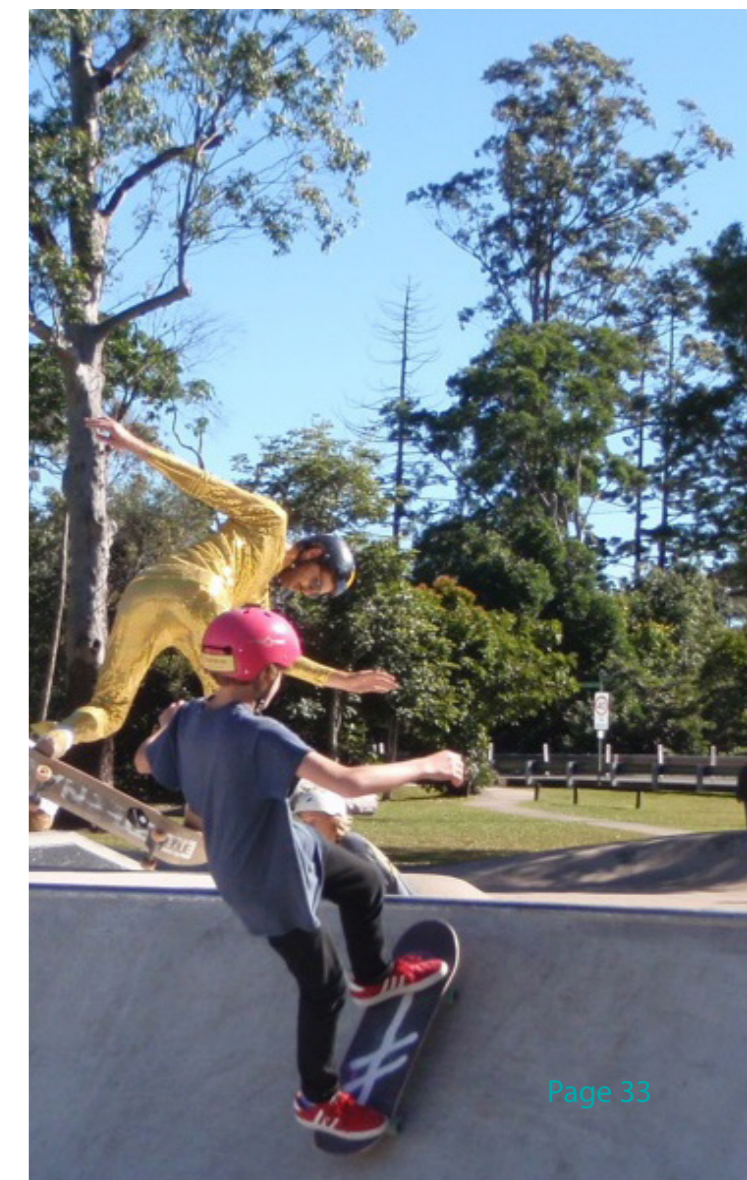
8.6 Skate Parks

The Noosa Shire has seven local skate parks spread across the Shire. As skateboarding is a sport included in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, it is predicted that these facilities will have increased usage.

The Australian Skateboard Federation (ASF) is the peak national body for skateboarding and are increasing localised competitions and workshops nationally in an effort to establish athlete development pathways and identify athletes for elite competition.

South East Qld has been earmarked as the future national hub for skateboarding. The Shire's skate parks are small-scale with duplicated styles, elements and experiences which only service local catchment areas.

Council intends to progressively upgrade these facilities, however this should be done in a co-ordinated manner and in consultation with ASF to ensure a range of experiences across the Shire and best design practice and principles are used.



8.7 National Parks

A significant number of National Parks are used for sport and active recreation purposes (within the scope of this plan). The following gives a summary of the Parks in the Shire and their uses.

Table 11: National Parks and their sport and active recreation use.

Main Activities	Events
Noosa National Park	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking (Coastal walking track and other tracks) • Jogging/ fitness • Using the park to access surfing/ swimming locations • Picnicking • Viewing (Day Use Area/ Laguna Lookout) 	Headland Section is not utilised for competitive or large group events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noosa Food and Wine Festival (small part) • Noosa Blue Swim (access to Tea Tree Bay; no competitive leg in the Park) • Running event in East Weyba section • Local Club Surfing competitions
Tewantin National Park	
Broken up into sections for activities. Southern section (Wooroi) is for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountain biking • Multi use trail • Jogging/ fitness • Commercial operators x 4 for mountain biking. Northern Section (Tinbeerwah) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rockclimbing • School/group adventure activities (e.g. ride/climb/walk) • Commercial operators - for climbing Ringtail/Yurol Section <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross country mountain biking (not downhill) • Horse trail • Commercial operators for guided horse tours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noosa Hill Climb • Street Luge • Club mountain bike events (small) • Mountain bike leg of multi sports event. • Multi sports events (run / swim / ride) in the Yurol/Ringtail section • Adventure Racing • Orienteering
Tuchekoi National Park	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking • Fitness • Horse riding • Cross country mountain bike riding 	No commercial operators for this park King of the Mountain running event plus two other charity runs/walks during the year Adventure Racing
Great Sandy National Park	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushwalking • Surfing/swimming/boating • Picnicking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kayaking/canoeing • Horse riding

Council has a role to act as an advocate for residents to ensure that planning within National Parks in Noosa has input from sport and recreation providers and residents in the use and planning of these spaces. This is particularly important as the rise in participation and demand for adventure sports continues.

8.8 Beaches and Waterways

Beaches, rivers, coastal waters and water reservoirs are major contributors to the sport and active recreation network. "Swimming at a beach or natural waterway" ranked as the highest physical activity pursuit for respondents of Noosa's Physical Activity Participation Survey.

Noosa's extensive coastline spans from Teewah, Noosa North Shore, Noosa Spit, Main Beach through to the open beaches of Sunshine Beach, Sunrise Beach, Castaways Beach, Marcus Beach and Peregian Beach. The Noosa River, Lake Weyba, Lake Cootharaba, Lake Cooroibah and Lake MacDonald all provide venues for water-based sport and active recreation pursuits for locals and visitors.

The state government through Maritime Safety Queensland and Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM), has responsibility for management of on-water activities (ie boating and commercial jetties) while Council has responsibility for the foreshore and other land areas not in private ownership (eg erosion works, foreshore commercial permits).

The Noosa River Plan is currently being reviewed and updated with an expected completion in late 2017.

It will identify key pressures on the river including recreational demand and outline Council's intention to take on management of some on-water activities.

Water access and on-land storage are major issues for a number of water sports including sailing (large and small craft), rowing, kite surfing, canoeing, surfing, dragon boating, kayaking and outrigger canoeing. The Noosaville Foreshore Land Use Master Plan will provide recommendations for the foreshore of Gympie Tce and is expected to be finalised in late 2017.

Commercial operators provide a significant proportion of non-powered water sports participation including stand up paddling, surf lessons, kayaking and kite surfing, with businesses running weekly groups or using SMS messages to encourage participants to get out on the water in favourable conditions. Commercial and NFP operators require permits or formal tenure arrangements to conduct these activities on public land. This however, must be balanced with the expectations of the general public to also freely access these spaces.

Noosa has a long and proud history as a surfing mecca. The topography lends itself to a series of excellent point breaks and expansive sandy beaches which attract residents and visitors in significant numbers. In 2016 the Noosa headland and adjacent beaches became a National Surfing Reserve and it is intended to submit an application to be recognised as a World Surfing Reserve in late 2017.

The Noosa Shire is home to three surf clubs: Noosa Heads Surf Life Saving Club, Peregian Beach Surf Lifesaving Club (under the management of Noosa Heads Surf Life Saving Club), and Sunshine Beach Surf Life Saving Club. Surf clubs have a vital role in the community providing surf patrol and rescue services, surf sports competitions and education and community service.

Surf clubs often use local swimming pools for flat water training. Similarly to other volunteer based sports clubs, surf clubs are experiencing a rise in operational and equipment costs and an expectation to provide year-round activities (winter lifesaving sports competitions) with some clubs now patrolling 12 months of the year.

The changing nature of volunteerism is affecting surf clubs with clubs reporting that volunteers are not wanting to commit to extended periods of time which has forced training and patrol activities to adapt.

8.9 Cycle Ways, Pathways and Trails Network

Noosa has an extensive walking and cycle network that caters for a variety of fitness levels in both the hinterland and coastal regions. Walking, mountain biking, bushwalking and cycling were four of the top five most popular physical activities for residents according to the Noosa Physical Activity Participation Survey. Activities such as cycling, mountain biking, adventure racing and bush walking are major contributors to a continuously growing 'adventure tourism market' and provide the opportunity for nature-based tourism that can be of great economic benefit to hinterland villages.

The Noosa Trail Network provides a series of eight multi-use trails (total length approximately 90kms) suitable for bushwalkers, mountain bike riders

and horse riders. Due to the linear nature of trails, they invariably transverse multiple tenures which can raise issues of liability, safety, connection, maintenance etc.

The Noosa Trail Network will be the focus of a Tourism Noosa led Noosa Trail Master Plan to be developed in 2017/18. This Master Plan will aim to outline the future development, management, opportunities and key actions necessary for walking and bike trails on the Noosa Trail Network.

Cyclists comprise users of varying age and abilities from competitive sports to commuter to the family on a recreational ride. Cyclists have varying skill levels and needs. When developing cycling/ pathways infrastructure, consideration should be given to cyclists who have not developed their road sense (eg children and inexperienced adults) through the provision of adequate off-road facilities and safe road crossing facilities (particularly around schools and sporting venues). Wayfinding signage (in line with Noosa Design Principles) along walking and cycle path networks is essential infrastructure that should be an inclusion when planning and constructing any pathway to further encourage regular use in addition to landscaping that provides natural shading along routes. Across the Shire 'gaps' or 'missing sections' in trails and pathways have been identified which need to be addressed in line with the Noosa Transport Strategy, Principle Cycle Network Plan SEQ and the Priority Routes identified for Noosa.

Mountain biking is experiencing a rapid growth, particularly in Noosa. The upgrade of tracks in the Tewantin National Park (Wooroi section) has seen a significant increase in use, putting significant pressure on trails and surrounding vegetation with the need for amenities identified as a major concern for the public in the Noosa Physical Activity Participation Survey.

Trails used by mountain bikers also exist in the Noosa National Park linking Peregian and Noosa, the Great Sandy National Park, Tinbeerwah, Tuckekoi National Park and Woondum National Park.

Feedback provided on the Draft Sport and Active Recreation Plan indicate that both approved and unapproved trails are being used by mountain bike riders across the Shire.

The Sunshine Coast Cycling Club which operates regionally, has expressed the need for a public velodrome in the region to meet the training and competition needs of track cyclists. The closest velodrome is in Brisbane. A feasibility study would be required in partnership with neighbouring LGAs, Cycling Qld and local stakeholders to inform the demand and location of any future regional velodrome.

Given the high participation numbers, the increasing use of on-road and off-road trails and the requests for additional infrastructure for cycling, the Shire would benefit from the development of a cycle/bike plan that provided an evidence-based and 'master planned' approach to all types of cycling and the required infrastructure to meet current and future demand.

This would require significant input and consultation with surrounding LGAs, QPWS, SLOs, and local stakeholders. This Plan would incorporate the findings and key recommendations from other developed and developing plans including the Noosa Trail Network Master Plan and Noosa Transport Strategy.

8.10 Events

Noosa is home to a number of large scale sporting events. It is estimated that sporting events contribute approximately \$25 million each year to the local economy. The following is a list of these annual events:

- Noosa Summer Swim (Feb)
- Noosa Festival of Surfing (March)
- Ultraman Australia (May)
- Noosa Ultimate Sports Festival (May)
- Sunshine Coastrek (July)
- Pomona King of the Mountain (July)
- Noosa Strade Bianche (August)
- Hydrothon Noosa (Sept)
- Noosa International Rugby Sevens Festival (October)
- Noosa Triathlon Multi Sports Festival (Oct-Nov)
- Sunshine Coast Masters (Dec)
- World Series Swim Open Days

A survey of NFP sporting organisations was conducted in preparation for this Plan in which they were asked about events hosted at their venues.

Of the 38 clubs that responded to the survey 64% of clubs had hosted a major sporting event or carnival at their grounds with 50% of respondents also reporting hosting non-sporting events at their grounds in the last three years.

Clubs reported that 65% of these events occurred annually. There exists an opportunity to better coordinate these events and develop partnerships with commercial operators and Tourism Noosa to enhance the "Noosa experience" and economic benefit to the broader community. This may also require capacity building for clubs in event management.

9

State Facility Plans

In the preparation of this plan a review of 57 SLOs was conducted. Forty one of the 57 SLOs reported not having a facility development plan nor had intentions of developing one within the foreseeable future. Nine peak bodies reported either having commenced or had plans in developing facilities plans in the near future with six gaining State funding to produce these plans by June 2018. Council has a role to ensure local clubs and facilities make the most of the opportunities of these proposed plans and assist in collating

localised data and facility information to advocate for local services/facilities where required. Demographic and other data useful for facilities planning should be shared with the peak bodies to assist in evidence based planning for the Shire.

Only eight of the peak bodies had facility development plans for their sports. Below is a summary of the key points of these sports:

Peak Sporting Body	Key Points
AFL Qld Ltd	Facilities Plan 2014-2020. Key focus is securing ovals and ongoing facility planning. Have invested approx \$100k in facilities in Noosa across last 5 years. Further upgrades works required at Weyba Rd (change room expansion, drainage on second field, capacity issues on main field and spectator opportunities). Wide range of GIS planning and demand modelling tools and data available.
Qld Cricket Association Ltd	Interim only and high level only. Recognises insufficient facilities for girls and women, lacking lighting for matches and Premier Grade fields not of a high enough standard. Identifies Sunshine Coast as a key growth area (particularly for juniors). Has received State funding and will develop a new plan with far more detail in 2017. Has done 12 months of data collection across the State as a pre-cursor to the Infrastructure Strategy.
Polocrosse	No clubs in the Sunshine Coast area (and no development planned). Focus is the Darling Downs and to the west. Morgan Park in Warwick is the 'home' and will be hosting the 2019 World Cup.
Qld Gymnastics Assoc Inc	By 2031 high demand is forecast for facilities on the Sunshine Coast. Nothing for Noosa specifically planned (Note: the Noosa Gymnastics club is undergoing a major expansion of the Bicentennial Hall).
Rowing Qld Inc	Have a plan but is outdated and being reviewed during 2017.
Qld Rugby League Ltd	State wide Facilities Strategy 2015-2026. The facilities available for rugby league in the Noosa LGA have not been identified as red flag concerns in the Strategy.
Qld Rugby Union	Plan is outdated and in need of review.
Qld Softball Assoc	State Facilities Direction Plan 2013. Identified actions (1) light diamond (2) identify opportunities for mid-week social softball.

In terms of future facility development, the following organisations identified that they are either currently undertaking or intend to undertake in the near future State-wide facility development plans:

- Queensland Basketball Inc
- Qld Cricket Association Ltd
- Q Squash
- Tennis Qld
- Football Qld
- Hockey Qld
- Mountain Bike Australia Inc
- Qld Netball Assoc Inc
- Qld Little Athletics Association Inc

The Department of National Parks Sport and Racing (DNPSR) has indicated that future funding rounds for SLOs may require the development of state-wide facility development plans for each sport. This will have a significant impact on the number of plans available for review in the future.

Additionally, a significant GIS project is currently being undertaken by DNPSR to capture facility, infrastructure investment and membership data of local clubs by sport which will map and provide LGA comparative data publicly.

Council and local providers of sport and active recreation activities have a responsibility to engage with the peak bodies in the development of strategic and facility development plans to ensure Noosa needs are supported in the broader context. Local data should be provided to contribute to these plans.



10

Identified issues and needs

As part of the consultation process for the development of this Plan local organisations were surveyed and phone interviewed, and not-for-profit clubs were invited to attend a workshop to articulate their future needs and suggestions for the development of sport and active recreation in Noosa.

The public participation survey also provided for general comments and suggestions for the sector. The following is a summary list of identified needs and concerns from these consultations.

Not for Profit Clubs

- 86% of responding NFP clubs indicated that they face specific barriers to increasing their membership. The need for a facility upgrade was the most common barrier listed.
- A perception exists that increasing participation fees to cover operational costs will make participation too expensive.
- Significant reliance on volunteers, who are becoming harder to engage, recruit and retain.
- Extended seasons, changing game formats and/or increasing memberships requiring an increase in playing spaces or cap on membership growth.
- Conflict between co-located clubs where seasonal use has now extended to year-round seasons.
- Need for lighting to extend playing times into evenings, particularly for outdoor sports to avoid playing during heat of the day (temperature increase due to climate change) and maximising field usage.
- Restriction on growth due to lack of access to indoor court facilities.
- Difficulty in maintaining facilities using volunteer labour and expertise, driving focus away from core activity of physical activity provision.
- Lack of local facilities for specific sports, specifically track cycling and water polo.
- Greater communication and collaboration between local clubs to share resources and learnings - needs to be Council driven.
- Need for additional indoor sports facilities to accommodate existing peak demand (specifically Futsal, basketball and netball).

Commercial Operators

- Potential over supply of gyms and personal trainers in Noosa.
- Operators (activity instructors, personal trainers etc) operating in public spaces without Council permits.
- Potential for government and businesses to better network and collaborate on decision making and initiatives that promote physical activity (health benefits) in the Shire.
- Co-location of commercial operators with NFP clubs.
- Difficulty in accessing affordable indoor space zoned appropriately for use (eg use of industrial zone land for sport purposes).
- Longer permit periods for commercial operators (beyond three years).
- Enforcement and/or extension of six knot speed limit on Noosa River.

General Public

- 95 (27%) of respondents to the public survey provided general comments about sport and active recreation in Noosa.

- 32% of comments were positive with 45% neither negative nor positive.
- 40% of comments related to cycling with 27% requesting facility improvements (eg trails, taps, toilets), 17% requesting an increase in bike trails and 12.4% relating to on-road cycle safety.
- Comments about off-road trails for either cycling, horse riding or walking made up 32% of all comments.
- Better off-road cycle links between Sunshine Beach and Noosa, Tewantin and Hinterland, Lake Entrance Boulevard and Noosaville.
- Toilet amenities at Wooroi Day Use area.
- Increase mountain biking options (Wooroi being overused).
- Adventure playground in Cooroy.
- Access to free/low cost activities/facilities for children with special needs.

All the above points have been considered in the formulation of the recommendations of this plan.

“The state of volunteerism is changing. People still want to volunteer but they don’t have to time to commit for extended periods.”
- Local sports club



11

11.1 Land Use

The land used for sport and active recreation is owned and managed by a number of entities including:

- Private freehold (commercial)
- Private freehold (not for profit)
- Education institutions
- State land where a NFP has direct tenure with the state
- State land where the State manages and controls the activities on site eg National Parks
- Council freehold
- Council managed, where council is trustee on behalf of the state

The following table provides the breakdown of the proportion of land area currently used for sport and active recreation purposes. This demonstrates only 21% of the land area identified comes under Council control, further evidencing the need for Council to support and collaborate with other land owners for the purpose of providing residents with sport and active recreation opportunities.

Table 13 Break down of land area used for sport and active recreation purposes in Noosa

Owner/Manager	Land Area (ha)	Percentage of land area used for sport and active recreation
Commercial/freehold	253.74	21%
National Park (where known sport and active recreation takes place)	622.73	51.5%
Controlled by State (club leases directly from State)	64.72	5.4%
Schools	13.52	1.1%
Council controlled (freehold or trustee)	253.83	21%
Total	1208.54	100%

11.2 Priority Infrastructure Plan

The Priority Infrastructure Plan (PIP) provides a calculation of the existing and future requirements for land for sport and active recreation for the Shire which is under the management or control of Council. The current PIP has two relevant categories for land use for sport and active recreation: 'Outdoor Sport' and 'Indoor Sport and Community'. A revision of the land allocated for outdoor sports revealed that approximately 20% of the land allocated is constrained by significant vegetation or environmental protection, therefore unusable for sport purposes.

A review of the land identified for future provision shows that either the land is not fit for sport use or is not in a location where demand and population growth is not anticipated to create demand for additional facilities. A review of the land allocated as "Indoor Sport and Community Use" defines indoor sport alongside cultural venues such as The J, public libraries, arts venues and community halls. A review of the land used for indoor sport purposes indicates only 23% of land identified in the current PIP is used for indoor sport. The following is therefore proposed (subject to further review) for the next LGIP to inform the new planning scheme:

- Recognise that land allocated for sport and active recreation has a minimum of 80% usable area.
- Remove the Cootharaba future land acquisitions and replace with an increase in land around the Noosaville/Sunshine Beach area where population growth indicates a future demand for sports facilities.
- Remove the parcel on Cooyar St, Noosa Heads (lot/plan 15SP177649) currently identified for future sport development and investigate the inclusion of an expansion of fields at the Girraween Sports facility.
- Maintain the identified parcel in Yurol Forest Pomona for future development of low impact sport use eg mountain bike or walking trails.

- Separate "Indoor Sport" and "Community Facilities" with the purpose of accurately reflecting indoor sport use and future requirements.

Any future land acquisitions should meet other land requirements in the current PIP (eg Q100, 5% gradient etc) subject to further review. Master planning over larger multi-use sports facilities and facility development plans over single use and smaller facilities should be undertaken to inform the development of the new LGIP. These site plans should align with the State Level Organisations Facility Development Plans that will be a priority for SLO funding from DNPSR over the next 1-5 years.

Council to also consider and work collaboratively with Sunshine Coast and Gympie Council and continue to consider the implications on Council open space and recreation resources for communities both in and outside our Shire's boundaries e.g. land now leased to House with No Steps.



"Changes in the junior structure means that we really only have one oval, as our second oval is no longer large enough to host competitive junior grades on."

- Local sports club

12

Implementation of the Plan

Council, State Government, commercial and NFP operators will play an important role in achieving the best outcomes for the Noosa community through sharing responsibility for the delivery and commitment to the recommendations and actions of this Plan.

The cost of implementing all of the key initiatives in this strategy is beyond the capacity of Council alone. To this end, partnerships and strategic alliances between government, businesses, community groups and individuals are vital to achieve Noosa's aspirations for sport and active recreation.

12.1 Measurement, Reporting and Review

In order to ensure that this Plan is a useful document, Council in partnership with key stakeholders will:

- Develop a detailed action plan to appropriately resource and deliver recommendations of the Plan
- Identify responsible agencies and partnership opportunities
- Set up a sport and recreation advisory group
- Report against the action plan every twelve months
- Monitor and respond where appropriate to emerging issues and opportunities
- Review the action plan every five years.

"I have seen the sport and local trails evolve in an amazing way. I hope that this continues into the future."

- Community member

13

Recommendations

Indicative timeframes:

Short 1-3 years

Medium 3-5 years

Long 5-10 years



Strategy	Action	Timeframe	Partners/Stakeholders
<p>1 Ensure Council policies, plans and strategies consider the implications of the sport and active recreation sector and where possible increase enablers and reduce barriers to physical activity participation in the community.</p>	<p>1.1 Ensure the Noosa Plan reflects the changing needs of the local Sport and Active Recreation sector in relation to future land requirements and land use provisions.</p>	Short	<p>Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Development • Strategic Land Use Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Facilities • Environment and Sustainable Development
	<p>1.2 Provide input into the new Local Government Infrastructure Plan (LGIP) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying land acquisition requirements to meet future Sport and Active Recreation needs to 2036 including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removing the existing Cootharaba future land acquisition and instead identify future land requirements around the Noosaville/Sunshine Beach area where population growth indicates a future demand for sports facilities. • Removing the parcel on Cooyar St, Noosa Heads (lot/plan 15SP177649) currently identified for future sport development and instead investigate the expansion of playing fields at the Girraween Sports facility. • Maintaining the identified parcel in Yurol Forest Pomona for future development of low impact sport use eg mountain bike or walking trails. • Identifying future upgrades and embellishment to sport and active recreation land; • Separate “Indoor Sport” and “Community Facilities” with the purpose of accurately reflecting indoor sport use and future requirements. 	Short	<p>Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Development • Strategic Land Use Planning • Environment and Sustainable Development <p>State Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property • Community Facilities
	<p>1.3 Develop Desired Standards of Service (DSS) for sporting facilities and venues (requirement for LGIP).</p> <p>Recognise that land allocated for sport and active recreation requires a minimum of 80% usable area.</p>	Short	<p>Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Development • Environment and Sustainable Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Land Use Planning • Community Facilities • Property
	<p>1.4 Develop and seek endorsement of the Noosaville Foreshore Land Use Master Plan.</p>	Short	<p>Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property • Strategic Land Use Planning • Community Development • Parks and Gardens • Economic Development <p>Community and Commercial stakeholders</p>

Strategy	Action	Timeframe	Partners/Stakeholders	
	1.5 Develop and seek endorsement of the Noosa Community Health Plan.	Short	Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property • Strategic Land Use Planning • Community Development • Parks and Gardens • Economic Development 	Community and Commercial stakeholders
	1.6 Ensure Sport and Active Recreation is considered in the review of the Noosa River Plan.	Short	Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property • Strategic Land Use Planning • Community Development • Parks and Gardens • Economic Development 	Community and Commercial stakeholders
2 Plan sport and recreation facilities and spaces to meet existing and future trends, needs and demands.	2.1 Develop new or review existing master plans for multi-use and large sporting precincts. (Cooroy Sports Complex, Pomona Show Grounds, Noosa District Sports Grounds, Girraween Sports Complex, Noosa AFL). The Master plans to incorporate best practice sustainable design. Explore opportunities for external funding.	Med-Long	Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Development • Strategic Land Use Planning • Infrastructure Planning, Design and Delivery • Asset Management • Property • Economic Development • Environment and Sustainable Development 	Noosa Show Society (Noosa Show Grounds, Pomona) with support from Council. State Sporting Organisations Community and Commercial stakeholders
	2.2 Develop site-specific development plans for small and single use sports grounds. Incorporate best practice sustainable design.	Short-Med	Clubs (on freehold or leased sites) with support of Council. Community and Commercial stakeholders	State Sporting Organisations
	2.3 Develop and seek endorsement of a facility masterplan for Noosa Aquatic Centre including carpark and vacant land that outlines and prioritises future developments (infrastructure and operational).	Medium	Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Facilities • Property 	
	2.4 Develop and promote a Noosa Trail Network Master Plan that promotes the sustainable use of the trail network.	Short	Tourism Noosa Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Development • Environmental Services • Economic Development 	State Government • Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service Community and Commercial stakeholders

Strategy	Action	Timeframe	Partners/Stakeholders
	2.5 Work towards a regionally connected network of trails that accommodate equestrian, cycle and walking activities. eg coastal and hinterland trail networks.	Med-Long	Tourism Noosa Council • Community Development • Environmental Services • Economic Development
	2.6 Develop a shire-wide bicycle/cycle plan which considers competitive, recreational (including mountain biking), active transport elements and trail/route connectivity across the Shire which includes a review of the Principle Cycle Network Plan SEQ and the Priority Routes identified for Noosa, and the feasibility of competitive cycling infrastructure eg velodrome etc.	Short-Med	Council • Community Development • Infrastructure Planning, Design and Delivery
	2.7 Advocate for Noosa's sports providers to be represented in the strategic and facility development plans of state and regional level sporting organisations.	Ongoing	Council • Community Development
	2.8 Continue to develop maintenance and improvement plans for informal recreation venues/facilities such as skate parks and trail networks based on demand and in line with any relevant master planning.	Ongoing	Council • Asset Management Australian Skateboarding Federation
	2.9 Review the management models used for sports facilities that are owned or controlled by Council with the view of prioritising the core activity of the club.	Long	Council • Property • Community Development
	2.10 Partner with the State Government and sport and recreation organisations to enhance womens participation in sport and to develop functional and inclusive female change rooms and amenities.	Short	Council • Property • Community Development
3	Work cooperatively with Sunshine Coast and Gympie Councils to ensure the region's sport and active recreation needs are met.	3.1	Develop and endorse the Regional Difficult to Locate Sports Facilities Plan in partnership with Gympie and Sunshine Coast Councils.
		Short	Council • Property • Community Development • Infrastructure Planning, Design and Delivery • Asset Management • Environment and Sustainable Development

Strategy	Action	Timeframe	Partners/Stakeholders
	3.2 Continue to collaboratively work with neighbouring local governments to plan, advocate and deliver sport and active recreation facilities and services where those facilities are utilised by residents of both LGAs eg St Andrew's College Aquatic Facility, House with No Steps etc.	Ongoing	Tourism Noosa Council Sunshine Coast Council Community and Commercial stakeholders • Community Development • Community Facilities • Property Schools
	3.3 Continue to liaise and co-operate with the University of the Sunshine Coast and Sunshine Coast Regional Council to ensure regional level facility development for elite athletes	Ongoing	Council Sunshine Coast Regional Council • Community Development University of the Sunshine Coast Local clubs/regional/state associations
4	Use localised, evidenced based data to inform decision making processes.		
	4.1 Develop a comprehensive database of sport and recreation providers and facilities, noting predominate user/target groups, services provided, membership data and facility usage rates, changing trends or emerging needs.	Medium	Council State Government • Community Development • Sport and Recreation Services Community and Commercial stakeholders Schools
	4.2 Develop a statistically reliable survey to monitor and report on physical activity participation in Noosa Shire every three years.	Medium	Council State Government • Community Development • Sport and Recreation Services University of the Sunshine Coast
	4.3 Contribute to and review data in the DNPSR Sports Planning Tool (GIS) and promote other data collection for sports planning and participation trends (eg Ausplay Survey) to assist in local development and decision making.	Ongoing	Council State Government • Community Development • Sport and Recreation Services
	4.4 Ensure State/National bodies have access to localised data that will improve broader decision making and benefit Noosa's sport and active recreation industry.	Ongoing	Council State Government • Community Development • Sport and Recreation Services State and National Sporting Bodies
5	Encourage partnership opportunities for government, non-government, commercial and not for profit organisations where there is significant benefit to the community (including Programs, events and facilities)		
	5.1 Investigate the option for the co-location of commercial, NFP sport and active recreation providers on Council owned/ managed sports facilities. Identify land use planning implications for the New Noosa Plan.	Med-Long	Council: Community and Commercial stakeholders • Community Development • Strategic Land Use Planning • Property • Environment and Sustainable Development
	5.2 Continue to provide sport field maintenance and community project grants, building insurance cover and water rebates to eligible not for profit sport and active recreation providers.	Ongoing	Council • Community Development • Property
	5.3 Update the "sporting events" resource guide and marketing collateral.	Long	Council Tourism Noosa • Community Development Community and Commercial stakeholders

Strategy	Action	Timeframe	Partners/Stakeholders
	5.4 Encourage the development of Hinterland Specific Mountain Bike Events and/or Adventure Racing.	Medium	Council • Community Development Tourism Noosa State Government • Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service Community and Commercial stakeholders
6	Deliver a diverse range of sport and active recreation opportunities that respond to existing and future demands, trends and community need	6.1 Provide a clear focus and market position for the delivery of services at the NAC and NLC. Include the allocation of resources for evidenced-based community programming with the view of increasing the physical activity of particular target groups.	Short-Med Council • Community Facilities Community and Commercial stakeholders
	6.2 Continue to apply to State and other targeted funding programs where there is an identified need (eg Get Out Get Active, Game On Qld, Female Facilities Program etc) to increase the physical activity participation of identified 'low-participatory' groups. Ensure that sport and recreation programs are spread across the Shire and provide reasonable access for residents eg hinterland, across all demographics.	Ongoing	Council • Community Development • Community Facilities State Government • Sport and Recreation Services Community and Commercial stakeholders
	6.3 Continue to engage with not-for-profit and commercial operators in the delivery of new initiatives/programs that promote physical activity.	Ongoing	Council • Community Development • Community Facilities Community and Commercial stakeholders
7	Balance the increasing demand for commercial use of public spaces with resident expectations of access to these spaces	7.1 Support commercial providers that comply with Council permit conditions in public spaces through the development of a "Council Permitted trainer" tag and public awareness campaign.	Short Council • Property • Community Engagement • Community and Commercial stakeholders
	7.2 Monitor the number of permits issued for high use public areas such as foreshores, beaches and parklands.	Ongoing	Council • Property
8	Increase the available space for indoor sports activities to accommodate existing and future growth eg netball, futsal, basketball etc	8.1 Conduct a detailed audit of school facilities with the view to identifying functionality for community use.	Short-Med Council • Community Development • Community Facilities Schools Education Qld and Independent Schools
	8.2 Identify single use indoor facilities in the Shire and assess the potential for expansion to a multi-use facility suitable for community use where there is an identified need.	Short-Med	Council • Community Development • Community Facilities Schools Education Qld and Independent Schools

Strategy	Action	Timeframe	Partners/Stakeholders
	8.3 Identify potential partnerships for school facility upgrades or new infrastructure projects to support community use.	Short-Med	Council • Community Development • Community Facilities
	8.4 Review the operations of the Noosa Leisure Centre and develop a business case for possible expansion which considers the financial projections, facility mix, viability and management arrangements to meet the needs of indoor sports.	Medium	Council • Community Facilities
9	Develop greater links with schools (primary and secondary) to ensure increased physical activity opportunities for students and the broader community. (participation & facilities)	9.1 Implement Walk and Ride to Schools Programs as recommended in the Noosa Transport Strategy.	Short Council • Infrastructure Planning, Design and Delivery
	9.2 Seek funding to implement a cycle skills program for Noosa schools.	Short	Council • Infrastructure Planning, Design and Delivery • Community Development
	9.3 Continue to promote the Commonwealth funded Sporting Schools program and advocate for the inclusion of additional schools and associated funding for the Noosa area.	Short	Council • Community Development Sporting Schools
	9.4 Continue the Council funding model for Education Qld Pools.	Ongoing	Council • Community Facilities
	9.5 Facilitate applications and apply to relevant grant programs (State, Commonwealth or other) to contribute to new infrastructure on school (state, independent, private) land that will accommodate identified high community need.	Ongoing	Council • Community Development • Community Facilities
	9.6 Develop local agreements for use of school facilities outside of school hours with local school principals with the support of the Regional Office of Education Qld.	Short-Med	Council • Community Development • Community Facilities
	9.7 Continue to deliver Come and Try Sports Days including a Commonwealth Sports Gala Day (in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games) and assist with the promotion of 'sign on' dates for all sporting clubs in the Shire.	Ongoing	Council • Community Development • Community Facilities

Strategy	Action	Timeframe	Partners/Stakeholders
10 Support the professional development of the local sport and active recreation sector	10.1 Continue to deliver and enhance a range of tools and opportunities to develop the professional capacity of sport and active recreation providers that improve governance/business practices and pathways for athletes, coaches and administrators including: a. Training b. Professional networking opportunities c. Resources and online tools d. Industry Facebook group e. Mentoring programs f. Marketing	Ongoing	Council • Community Development • Economic Development Local sport & active rec providers (NFP & Commercial) Regional /State club level organisations Chambers of Commerce
11 Prioritise and encourage environmentally friendly infrastructure development and management practices in sports facilities	11.1 Provide training and develop action and management plan templates including guidance materials for environmentally friendly practices for sport and active recreation providers .Include reducing water, financial costs and energy consumption rates, reducing waste and increasing organic turf management practices.	Short-Med	Council • Community Development • Waste and Environmental Health • Environment and Sustainability Development
	11.2 Support sport and active recreation providers through initiatives that increase and/or maximise the use of sporting and active recreation facilities and spaces including: • installation or upgrade of lighting (LED preferred) • solar • water harvesting • renewable energy • flood mitigation works • directional and educational signage • mapping • promotional materials eg social media etc	Ongoing	Council • Community Development • Infrastructure Planning, Design and Delivery • Asset Management • Environment and Sustainability Development • Community Facilities State Government • Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (in their public spaces) • Sport and Recreation Services

Strategy	Action	Timeframe	Partners/Stakeholders
12	12.1 Support an application for Noosa headland and adjacent beaches to become a World Surfing Reserve.	Short	Council • Community Development State Government • Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
	12.2 Provide input and assist with local community engagement in the planning and management of parks and forests managed by the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing (DNPSR).	Short	Council • Community Development • Infrastructure Planning, Design and Delivery • Asset Management
	12.3 Advocate for new or upgraded infrastructure (eg amenities, way finding signage etc) to respond to increasing use of parks and forests managed by DNPSR. Seek partnerships between DNPSR, Council and NFP organisations to source funding for improved infrastructure in these parks and forests.	Ongoing	Council • Community Development • Infrastructure Planning, Design and Delivery • Asset Management
13	13.1 Provide a report to Council and the community on the progress of actions in the Noosa Sport and Active Recreation Plan every five years with a review of the plan in 2024.	Medium	Council • Community Development
	13.2 Develop an annual priorities action plan for consideration in Councils budget process.	Short	Council • Community Development