

Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting

Business Paper

Notice is hereby given that a Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting of Parkes Shire Council will be held in the Parkes Council Chamber, 2 Cecile Street, Parkes, on Tuesday 6 August 2024 at 11:30 AM.



Kent Boyd PSM
GENERAL MANAGER

Order of Business

1	OPENING OF MEETING	4
2	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY.....	4
3	APOLOGIES	4
4	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	5
4.1	Minutes of the Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting held on 18 June 2024	5
5	DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS	6
6	LATE BUSINESS	7
7	OFFICERS' REPORTS.....	8
7.1	Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy	8
7.2	Master Plan - Cheney Oval and Harrison Park.....	82
8	REPORT OF CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTIONS	105

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Chairperson will declare the meeting open.

Meeting of Council committees are not recorded or streamed to the internet.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Parkes Shire Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri People who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land. I would also like to pay respect to the Elders past, present and emerging of the Wiradjuri Nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginal peoples from other nations who are present.

3 APOLOGIES

In accordance with clauses 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, apologies must be received and accepted from absent Councillors and a leave of absence from the Council Meeting may be granted.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 MINUTES OF THE SPORT AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 JUNE 2024
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IP&R Linkage: **Pillar:** Leadership

Goal: Our local government is open, accountable and transparent.

Strategy: Provide open and transparent decision-making and undertake the civic duties of Council with professionalism and integrity.

Annexures: **A. Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 18 June 2024**

RECOMMENDATION

That the receive and confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18 June 2024 appended at *Annexure A*.

5 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

All Council Officials must disclose and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at the meeting.

Council's Code of Conduct deals with pecuniary and non-pecuniary conflicts of interest and political donations, and provides guidance on how these issues should be managed.

Council Officials must be familiar with Council's Code of Conduct and their obligations to disclose and manage any conflicts of interest that they may have in matters being considered at this Council Meeting.

Note: Council Officials who declare an Interest at the Meeting are also required to complete a Declaration of Interest form.

6 LATE BUSINESS

7 OFFICERS' REPORTS

7.1 PARKES SHIRE OPEN SPACES STRATEGY

IP&R Linkage: **Pillar:** Community

Goal: Our community is safe, active and healthy.

Strategy: Provide sport, recreation and play space facilities that encourage participation and support healthy lifestyles.

Author: **Sue McGrath, Business Support Coordinator**

Authoriser: **Logan Hignett, Acting Director Operations**

Annexures: **A. [Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy](#)**

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. The draft Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy will be reported to Council seeking formal exhibition in accordance with the Parkes Shire Community Engagement Strategy.

BACKGROUND

Parkes Shire Council received funding under the NSW Resources for Regions grant program for the preparation of an Open Spaces Strategy to apply to the whole of the Parkes Shire.

The aim of the strategy is to undertake a comprehensive review of the existing open space network in the Parkes Shire to ensure that public open spaces are safe, functional, attractive, accessible and manageable in the local context.

The draft Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy has been informed by a review of best practice guidelines as well as local data and advice from sporting associations and park user groups.

Open Spaces Hierarchy Maps have been prepared for Alectown, Bogan Gate, Cookamidgera, Parkes, Trundle and Tullamore categorising open spaces as destination parks, local parks or low scale open spaces. There are also open spaces in the Parkes Shire that serve no useful community purpose under the new hierarchy, with some of these areas proposed for reclassification to operational land for alternate higher use or sale.

A series of new Masterplans have been prepared for the destination parks to visualise proposed new improvements and projects. A Priorities and Actions Table is also presented in the draft strategy to establish the new framework for open spaces management.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

Preliminary community engagement has informed the preparation of the draft Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy, including the findings from the Placescore Liveability Survey, MicroMex Survey and direct engagement with sporting associations and park user groups. The preliminary engagement findings underpin a desire for higher quality parks and playing fields in accessible locations. Less value is being placed on small 'pocket parks' with limited community purpose / embellishments.

Discussions with Council staff involved in the management of parklands and sporting fields suggest a need to rationalise / concentrate resources on destination and local parks. Key challenges confronting staff in providing high quality open spaces for community use include:

- Creating open spaces that meet a wide variety of user groups and respond to changing climates.
- Council's presentation team have a large number of open spaces that require maintenance across a large geographical area.
- Storm damage, vandalization, weed and animal management can often take away from ongoing improvements.
- Insufficient resources for funding maintenance, operations and new projects.
- Lack of coordination to optimise use of existing assets.

Open Spaces

The following open spaces have been identified for re-classification:

Rose Street Park	Moon Crescent Park	AE Fox Park
Beryl Logan Park	Boulder Hill Park	Ken Turner Park
Davey Park	Rotoract Park	Lions Play Park
Bernard Maguire Park	Vaucluse Place Park	

It is recognised that some of these parks are named after key persons who have made significant contributions to the Parkes Shire, with consideration to be given to the naming of new community facilities in honour of these people.

Destination Parks

Masterplans have been prepared for the following destination parks:

Cheney Park	McGlynn Park	Northparkes Oval
Pioneer Oval	Spicer Precinct	Kelly Reserve
Lions Memorial Park	Rotary Arboretum	Pac Park

Lindner Oval (Peak Hill) and Berryman Oval (Trundle) are assessed as local parks that function as the principal area of open space for these towns. For this reason, both Lindner Oval and Berryman Oval have received substantial infrastructure upgrades over the last Delivery Program. Up for discussion is whether a Masterplan should be prepared for each of these parks for the inclusion in the draft Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy prior to public exhibition.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

Should the Open Spaces strategy be endorsed, it involves conversion of Open Space land classified as community land to operational land in order to progress its sale or reuse

Land Classification: Under this Act, council land is classified as either "community" or "operational" land. Community land is typically reserved for public use, such as parks and open spaces, while operational land is used for the council's operational purposes.

Reclassification Process: Reclassifying community land (like parkland) to operational land requires a formal process, including community consultation and often a public hearing.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Works associated with development and implementation of the Open Spaces Masterplan have been wholly grant funded under the Resources for Regions Round 9 allocation. The funding will also cover costs associated with the planning process in converting community land to operational land.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are risks associated with implementation of the Open Space Strategy including community opposition if changes don't align with public expectations or if consultation is insufficient. Environmental impacts, such as habitat destruction and biodiversity loss, can arise if not properly managed. Financial constraints, such as budget overruns or insufficient funding, can impede implementation.

To address these risks, comprehensive planning, robust community engagement has occurred to date and the recommendation is to follow Council process in putting the strategy on public exhibition for 28 days and respond to any submissions received during this period to ensure all opinions and concerns are adequately addressed.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Feedback received so far provides valuable insight on the predominant use of open spaces across all demographics, including the needs and desires of residents for playgrounds, sports fields and passive recreation. It suggests the community is supportive of creating quality streets, parklands and sporting fields that are connected by shared paths for walking and riding, trees for shade and water features.

Public exhibition of the draft Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy provides opportunity for everyone to review the draft Strategy and provide written comments to Council prior to the finalisation of the document.

7.2 MASTER PLAN - CHENEY OVAL AND HARRISON PARK**IP&R Linkage:** **Pillar:** Community**Goal:** Our community is liveable, growing and connected.**Strategy:** Provide vibrant and welcoming town centres, streetscapes, public spaces and meeting places.**Author:** **Sue McGrath, Business Support Coordinator****Authoriser:** **Logan Hignett, Acting Director Operations****Annexures:**
A. Master Plan - Harrison Park Precinct [↓](#)
B. Master Plan - Cheney McGlynn Precinct [↓](#)
C. Baker Street [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Information within the report be received and noted, and;
 2. Cheney Oval and Harrison Park be endorsed for Master planning during the 2024/25 Financial Year.
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BACKGROUND

With consistent capital investment into the Open Spaces at Parkes Council, it is vital that the spaces are consistent with community needs and expectations. As such, Council is committed to undertaking two (2) masterplan's each year, over the next 3 years.

Cheney Oval is a key recreational asset within Parkes Shire, serving as a venue for sports, community events, and leisure activities. Given the growing demand for quality recreational spaces and the need to address community needs, a comprehensive master plan is essential to guide future development and management of the site given the recent closure of Baker Street and significant investment into de-salination of the Cheney Oval.

Harrison Park is the primary facility for soccer and with the increasing popularity and other recreational activities has placed growing demands on the park's infrastructure and facilities. The need to develop a master plan for Harrison Park arises from several factors, including the need to upgrade and expand existing facilities to accommodate more players and spectators, ensuring the park meets modern standards for safety, accessibility, and environmental sustainability.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

In considering the master planning report for Cheney Oval and Harrison Park, Council should weigh several critical issues. Community engagement is of significant importance as the updated plan must reflect the needs and desires of diverse stakeholders, including hockey, netball and touch football clubs, and residents, to ensure broad support.

Environmental sustainability is also a key consideration, requiring thorough assessments to mitigate potential negative impacts on the natural surroundings and ensure that developments are environmentally responsible acknowledging the salinity issues which are present at the Cheney Oval precinct.

Financial constraints pose another significant challenge; that Council must carefully evaluate budget allocations and funding opportunities to ensure the project's feasibility and avoid future financial strain. This precinct is founded on Crown Land and all master planning must be consistent with the Plans of Management which have recently been developed for this open space.

Council should also consider potential community opposition, which can be mitigated through transparent communication which will be undertaken during the master planning process.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

Subsequent request for quotation and procurement process is to comply with the Parkes Shire Council Procurement Policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Masterplans have been budgeted within the 2024/25 Capital Works Program and have an allocation of \$25,000 for each masterplan.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

There are no community consultation requirements required to inform the current stage of the project. Community consultation will be undertaken during the master planning stage of the project.

8 REPORT OF CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTIONS

In accordance with clauses 14.22 and 14.23 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, resolutions passed during a meeting, or a part of a meeting that is closed to the public must be made public by the Chairperson as soon as practicable. Such resolutions must be recorded in the publicly available minutes of the meeting.
