



SPORT AND RECREATION PLAN MEDIUM TERM IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

Community Consultation Feedback and Comments

Public Consultation 11 May 2020 to 31 May 2020



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS

The following is the Community feedback for the medium-term implementation guidance for the Sport & Recreation Plan that was developed by West Coast Council.

It was distributed both online and as hard copies to our agencies as well as electronic copies to relevant community groups for feedback.

The consultation period was 11-31 May 2020, but late feedback was accepted.

Name: Anna Caville

Town: Strahan

I'm disappointed in reading the goal posts at Strahan and Zeehan will be disposed of.

living directly across from the Strahan oval, on a regular basis I see individuals and families kicking the footy using the goal posts for football practice & basic exercise.

The junior football is also played on the Strahan oval and it would be terrible to see that taken away from the Strahan community. Junior football in each town is a chance for grandparents/parents/aunts/uncles and friends to catch up, buy lunch and support the junior football association.

Junior football also supports the town as well as many stop off at the local takeaway shops/cafes/supermarkets etc on their way out of town for a bite to eat or pick up some groceries.

It's great to see Strahan will be getting a gym, this is something that the community has been screaming out for a long time. A room for exercise/yoga classes Would be ideal.

We do wonder if the multipurpose room will be large enough to host the major town events that get held in the current hall eg. cuppa for cancer (100+) , seniors Xmas luncheon (100+), Weekly playgroup, large funerals that the local church isn't large enough for (150+), CWA weekly meetings .

We would also hope the multi-purpose room/ hall would contain a kitchen & bathrooms for the above events as well as for the junior football canteen.

My personal suggestion would be to keep the current outdoor tennis court and erect a large roof/cover over it, so it's still outdoors but does have protection from the rain so it's still able to be used over winter months, therefor allowing funds to be allocated to a indoor squash court which is of interest to people in town they've mentioned they'd like to have here.

It's unfortunate that many things are being taken away from our towns, as someone who does not yet have children but would like to, I am already questioning whether we will continue to live on the west coast with so many limited resources and opportunities for children & young adults, to remove even more I believe will see many families making the move off the west coast..

Name: Mary Brown
Town: Zeehan

Good morning,

I have had a read through the sport and recreation plan and I do not agree with the removal off the grandstand nor the football posts in Zeehan.

I think it is a well-used area and I often see people down there training. The goal posts are used by many.

It's also very sad that the skate park will be taken away. I strongly disagree with the majority of the plans in all towns.

Name: Scott Dickson
Town: Queenstown

To whom it may concern
I would like to propose a future project for the youth in our community. I believe it would bring our community together in reaching our youth and young families. Also a additional bonus would be the ability to bring in tourism from the Tasmanian skate and scooter communities via contests and word of mouth.

At this present moment the skate park is unusable due to rocky surface and unfortunately poor design. There are no facilities at the skate park to encourage families nor is there anything for the avid bmx riders in town.

If it was at all possible a perfect solution for our youth would be a purpose built skate and bmx park on the existing space provided. A partial undercover area plus a family friendly bbq area with possible lighting provided. A pump track surrounding the park would provide for the younger youth plus the bmx riders who wish to improve their skills.

This sort of project would provide not only a outside activity for all our youth but also an area that family and community groups.

I encourage the council to have a look at the provided link which shows <https://convic.com/projects/esperance-skate-park/> .

I would love to talk to the council on thoughts about the skate park upgrade. The advantages it can bring to the Queenstown and West Coast communities plus the health benefits for our youth certainly qualify a deep consideration toward this proposal.

Please don't hesitate to contact me on 0468 400 165 to discuss any details. This is something I am very passionate about.

Name: Mel Sullivan

Town: Zeehan

I viewed a lot of feedback last night on Face book regarding the Goal posts being removed from the Zeehan Football oval.

The oval is used regularly by both young and old.

Not only Zeehan resident but children from across the WC come together to play mini league and Auskick each year from the oval.

Men also train on the oval and locals use it as a place to come together and do some exercise.

Would the goal posts be removed and replaced or removed for good? – Mel Sullivan

Name: Toby Lutwyche

Town: Queenstown

Feedback for the WCC Sport and Recreation Plan Medium Term Implementation Guide:

- Agree with the removal of the Zeehan GS but there needs to be an alternative option when sporting events are held there. I suggest the WCC invest in a portable grandstand (hopefully with a roof somehow) that can be taken across the WC for events such as footy games (additional seating in sunnier spots), junior sports (especially at Zeehan/Strahan), Strahan Picnic, Rosebery Carnival , Unconformity, Rosebery Festival etc. If possible then don't charge through the roof or it won't be used.
- Tullah gym, I understand the need for a health and wellbeing centre in each town, but what data support this? How much would be spent for the amount of use?
- I agree that both the Queenstown and Rosebery grounds need drainage work. If the WCC want Zeehan to be the Hub for cricket, then that ground needs some serious drainage upgrade.
- If there anything wrong with the Queenstown Tennis Courts? Surely the maintenance wouldn't be large for that area each year?
- Why are we not replacing skate parks in the other three towns? Is this due to ongoing cost of equipment as data (schools could get this data from kids) would surely support having skate parks in each town
- Long-term vision is to support one oval for football, when and how will this be decided? If we still have 2 football clubs going

Overall, I think the plan looks quite good. I understand that council only have a specific amount of money and we need to maximise it throughout all facilities. However, due to the location of where certain hubs will be, it may mean that associations cease to exist as people won't be willing to travel etc.

Name: Fegan Family

Town: Queenstown

In relation to the West Coast Sport and Recreation Plan, particularly the Queenstown Tennis Courts, I would like to propose an alternative to; the disposal of the Queenstown Tennis Courts.

Pertaining to the council's plan with the block of land and current equipment in place, at the Queenstown Tennis Court, I would like to propose the sale of said facility to myself.

Not only would the local Queenstown community benefit from long term advantages of keeping the tennis court but, the West Cost Council would additionally be able to charge rates on said land.

I have the funds and business management skills required to keep the Queenstown Tennis Courts in operation whilst undertaking repairs and upgrades to eventually create semi-undercover tennis court facility.

I strongly believe that communities that participate in sport and recreation develop strong social bonds, are safer places and the people who live in them are generally healthier and happier than places where physical activity isn't a priority.

Name: Ryan McGowan

Town: Rosebery

To whom it may concern.

Just wanting to show my disappointment with the sports and rec plan that has been advertised on your webpage. I know this idea of dividing asset's to one per town has been on the table for a few years now, But it is not practical for locals and will not work as you may hope. For us in Rosebery, if these resources are not here it is more beneficial for us to travel to Burnie rather than Queenstown or Strahan as they are of the same distance. If people are going to have to travel for these resources, they are just going to move there instead. Thats less kids in the schools and less volunteers in community groups which we should be trying to encourage growth into.

I understand that we may need to lose a few items along the way, but the amount of equipment on this list is so disappointing. All the houses in these towns are still owned and pay rates, where does all this money go now?

Have mining companies and local businesses been approached to help with funding for repairs for some of these?

Community groups could do fundraisers for repairs if approached. My wife and 3 kids will be heartbroken to see some of these items removed.

Thank you for your time

Name: Brian Mathewson

Town:

To whom it may concern

I would like to put forward my views on the West Coast Sport and Recreation plan that has been presented for public comment.

Looking at the proposal as a local Queenstown resident of 52 years and seeing the changes on the west Coast in that time I understand that due to population decline we have to make changes in our towns.

There for I will put my opinion into dot points to make it simple.

- Swimming pools at Queenstown and Zeehan and the season should be 4 months not 3 Months. This is to make the most of our fine weather, as any local will tell you that some of our best weather does happen in March.
- Football ovals in Rosebery and Queenstown should stay that way, as we have 2 competitions and 2 separate high schools with their school football comp as well. The Queenstown gravel oval is heritage listed and should be maintained as a football ground anyway. They are also utilised by the Primary and High Schools for events and athletics carnivals.
- I think in regard to indoor sports (netball and basketball) that the need for a stadium in Rosebery and Queenstown would be enough to cover the West Coast area.
- I think that the cricket ground being solely in Zeehan is a good idea provided that the towns of Queenstown, Rosebery, Strahan and Zeehan get their practice cricket pitch areas upgraded, so clubs can practice or even kids had somewhere to go to have a game of cricket.
- Squash courts in Queenstown and Rosebery should be considered for coverage of the entire West Coast.
- Skate parks need to be in all towns due to there being very few activities after school for older kids. We have to remember that it is not only skate boards being used now, as we also have scooters being used in these parks. Looking at the exiting skate parks as follows.

Queenstown-Needs removal as is 2nd hand and all steel.

Rosebery concrete base with steel ramps.

Zeehan concrete base with steel ramps.

Strahan is all concrete.

Why not spend money on making our skate parks all concrete with galvanised handrails that apart from an annual pressure clean there would be very little maintenance required and would never wear out.

Queenstown skate park could be designed to be installed at Hedley Faulds Park in the CBD and would then be under CCTV cameras and near the playground.

- I don't believe it is a good idea to have upgraded playgrounds to cater for teenagers as they will congregate in these areas and vandalise the equipment.

Parents take their young children to these playgrounds so they can play and be free of the hassle of competing with older kids and bullying.

Name: Ian Wotherspoon
Town: Granville Harbour

Thank you to West Coast Council for inviting input in relation to the above plan. The Advocate's story quoting the Mayor on May 27 made me aware of the matter and subsequently I obtained the detailed paper (from the Zeehan Post Office)

I agree with almost every point raised with respect to the reasons for the need to rationalise facilities in our region, while upgrading some. The fact today's mining companies appear to be no longer as community minded as their predecessors certainly has not helped. One can only assume Council has done all it can with respect to gaining support from the current companies.

It's a sad situation, but a sign of the times and the reasons are likely to continue.

Personally, I have no issue with items listed in the proposed rationalisation/improvements other than:

1. Zeehan Oval and the proposed removal of goal posts.

There remains a likelihood that on occasions the Queenstown Crows or Rosebery-Toorak football clubs may seek to use the ground for the occasional training run as alternatives to their own grounds (particularly as the Zeehan ground is more similar to the grounds on the north west coast on which finals are played) And who knows; there may be a day when two clubs of significance may be enticed to play on the West Coast's BEST football ground, as they have in the past. The removal of the goal posts would be detrimental to these possibilities. For what purpose are they being considered for removal? But I do support the concept of the ground being primarily for cricket and junior sports.

2. Removal of grandstand.

Unless it's a safety issue which cannot be rectified without significant cost being borne, it's removal would be disappointing. It's an iconic building, having been refurbished when the ground was upgraded in 1972 - almost half a century ago, and providing a stark contrast to the 'modern' clubrooms adjacent to it. It is part of history.

Congratulations to whoever compiled the Plan and Implementation paper. No doubt there will be some howls but we all need to be realistic.

Name: Allan Harvey

Town:

Dear West Coast Council

I am writing in response to your sport and recreation plan. I am totally aghast at this plan being placed forward in the first place and am worried it will be carried through in the near future. These sporting grounds and facilities and other sporting premises should be maintained and encouraged, not shut down or certain services removed. Yes, somethings could need tweaking but this wholesale change is difficult to understand.

The West Coast Council should be encouraging people to live, stay, work and raise families here. To encourage new families to move here. To encourage families to Stay here. To WANT to be here!

Sharpening the pencil to save money, will end up costing way more in the future, with less people = ratepayers and businesses leaving the area for a better lifestyle offered elsewhere.

I have been actively involved in different sporting bodies around all the towns on the West Coast and have relished playing and coaching on home and away grounds around this great area. Each town has something different and unique at the respecting sporting grounds. Also whenever a home team has a game of whatever sport is on offer, participation at a younger level is greatly enhanced. Playing football, cricket and other sports at only one or two certain grounds will kill player levels and interest in other towns and eventually this interest falls away. It is very difficult to retain and entice new participants already, but this will be a killer blow. I served on the Zeehan Primary School Association for a long time as a member and Chairperson and had to fight a very real fight to keep that and other schools in the area open in years past. I regularly used the words of encouraging people to want to stay here and keep them here amidst the change of working rosters, closing of businesses, loss of services to the West Coast area etc. To find now that the West Coast Council wants to make changes of this magnitude disappoint me in ways I can't explain. As a member of the Western Tasmania Cricket Association and President of Zeehan Cricket Club, no one from the West Coast Council has formally or informally asked me for any input into this plan before being lodged. That is also disappointing.

I sincerely hope this plan does not bear fruit and goes ahead in the current format without further considerations taken.

Name: Annette Van Betlehem

Town:

Dear People at Council,

I'm sorry I waited til the last day to respond to the strategy, but I downloaded it and got the message that the PDF is an 'invalid format'. So, what can I do? Can't read it. My question is: how you have addressed the need for off leash exercise areas in all west coast towns. You are the only council in Tasmania that does not provide the essential service to socialise puppies and dogs. Last year Council committed to a feasibility study. What was the result of that study? I can bring you many signatures to support the need for this essential service.

Please let mellow what you need to get this issue addressed.

All the best to you, West Coast Council.

Name: Johan (Fox) Mulder
Town: Queenstown

Good day All

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and the transparency is appreciated.

Despite the negative, uninformed comments on Facebook, I have reviewed the MT GUIDE and can't fault it. Sound and logical decisions made with a very small budget and I fully support it.

As a believer in the MTB Strategy, I am convinced that we will see positive effects on the West Coast including population growth in the MT. We must just be a patient and if we persevere and we will see the 2025 STRAT deliver as well as the MTB Strat will pay off when the trails open.

My comment as follows due to recent observations and developments and is for information only and food for thought but with little resources this can have a big return on investment and achieve many objectives:

More people are turning to bicycles to enjoy some fresh air now that coronavirus restrictions are starting to ease. Bike shops across Australia are seeing their sales accelerate. I could not get a size XL bike in Tasmania this week due to the shortage. For the last couple of weeks, bike shops in Burnie's staff have been greeted each day with a steady line of customers. Demand for a set of two-wheels has cranked into full gear since the start of the pandemic. Bicycles and repair services nearly doubled in comparison to the previous year during the same period. Low-end consumer bikes were also selling out in supermarkets and adventure shops.

The best way to describe it is like a toilet paper syndrome. Just like toilet paper it's hard to come by. Bikes flew off shelves as more people turned to riding as a way to get exercise and fresh air and getting the kids outside and away from games and phones.

Bike shops in Burnie are also inundated with bicycle repairs as people dust off their old bikes. I was shocked it would take like three weeks to get a service booked in. People are definitely getting out more. Smaller bike shops are also sold out because people are trying to support their local and smaller businesses.

“Exercise is now more important than ever”

Exercise & Sports Science Australia (ESSA) is reminding all Australians that exercise remains as important as ever to help keep our population healthy.

“Most Australians are currently nervous about the potential impact of COVID-19, and we wanted to take the opportunity to remind everyone that we should still consider physical activity for two key reasons. Firstly, research does show that exercise can support our immune system and secondly, exercise is proven to support our mental health,” explains Anita Hobson-Powell, Chief Executive Officer of ESSA. Some contemporary evidence shows that leading a physically active lifestyle reduces the incidence of communicable (e.g., bacterial and viral infections)

and non-communicable diseases (e.g., cancer), implying that immune competency is enhanced by regular exercise bouts.”

Other recent research supported this fact by establishing that those who undertake strenuous exercise such as marathon runners tended to report less annual sick days.

We all understand that exercise supports our physical health, however, during times of crisis such as this, it is the first activity we tend to ignore. Being active can not only keep us healthy, it can also help us fight off infection.

“Exercise is also unique in that it can boost our mental health, and during this anxious time it’s more important than ever to keep our minds clear and focused.”

ESSA is not only urging young people to move more; people of all ages should engage in physical activity. In 2018, a study by University of Birmingham and King’s College London found that 125 non-smoking amateur cyclists aged 55 to 79 still had the immune systems of young people.

There are currently no bicycle shops on the West Coast, but the bike boom is hitting here as well. There are more people out cycling especially children. This boom in cycle sales and spike in enthusiasm for a healthy lifestyle change should be exploited to ensure the momentum is kept and these bikes don’t end up in the back of the garage and the resolutions for a healthy life does not fade like new year’s resolution after a few weeks. The main consideration is to ensure the people of the West Coast stay healthy and active to be able to fight COVID-19 immune systems that can combat similar future diseases.

Mountain biking has numerous benefits for physical fitness, but more so now the ones it delivers to mental health. Mental health is an extremely important subject that has been getting increasing coverage over recent years and rightly so. Mental health issues can affect anyone and come in various guises. Most of us will either have experienced one of these issues or will know someone who has, whether that person talks about it or not. With the multitude of stresses faced in modern life and now with COVID-19, it’s more important than ever to find ways to cope with these issues.

That’s where mountain biking on the West Coast comes in and the role of council to possibly support the local MTB Club. This adrenaline-fuelled sport has all the necessary ingredients to help people boost their mental wellbeing or cope with mental health issues. With setting up bike wash and basic service stations as well as infrastructure at fairly low cost will and can support the MTB start and achievement of 2025 objectives including the sport and recreation plan.

Name: Aaron Burdon

Town: ?

Hi just a question just wondering if the goal posts will be replaced at Sheehan and Strahan one the old ones are removed? Thanks

Name: Amelia Reeves

Town:

To whom it may concern,

After reading this document I am concerned by the decisions/ suggestions. If as a west coast, we need to reduce costs and upkeep then we need to have a long vision and start to think what are the most use and important facilities. Would it make more sense to make each town the main area of something...? So, if we have to keep Queenstown oval as its historical and they have the best swimming pool. Then what facility will Zeehan have? Would a large indoor facility for all basketball, netball, volleyball, squash etc be best there. what would be best for Rosebery? Who lives there? A gym, football oval and cricket? Strahan?? Hockey and Soccer fields and tennis? With an indoor facility that you finally have a grant for our playgroup, funerals when larger than our church.

If you are just going to spend money to try and keep all going, what happens when all have to close?

Also let's think about what sports are currently supported. Where are the residences of the people who play them?

Anyway, but to the guide you actually put out for community consultation... Personally, I dont understand how taking down the goal posts in Strahan is going to affect your cost of upkeeping the oval? You will still need to mow it either way. Indoor Tennis in Strahan sounds interesting. Is there a strong interest for this? Personally, Strahan would prefer an area they can play netball, basketball and indoor sports and operate play group out of it. We need an indoor space we can access when there are large funerals as well. Skate park is nice but not as valuable as having local sporting opportunities for our younger population. Just my personal opinion.

Name: Kylie Jensen

Town: Queenstown

To whom it may concern,

I realise that the consultation period has closed, however, if you take away the skatepark you are going to have a large amount of people using stairs, front entrances, walls and any other object that kids can use to jump off, grind on. If you take away the Tennis Courts, you are leaving no enjoyment for people in Queenstown. My children use the skatepark, they enjoy what they have. We have toured all the skateparks on the West Coast and even the Burnie skatepark, the Queenstown skatepark is the best one. If you want to do something for kids in Queenstown, put a cover over the half pipe, so it can be used 365 days of the year.

I won't be able to afford to drive my children to Strahan daily for them to use the concrete skatepark. Consider the other families in the same situation.

Please allow my comment to be included in your decision. I have 5 children who love using both the tennis courts and the skatepark. Please don't take it.

Name: Active Strahan

Town: Strahan

ACTIVE Strahan Inc. Feedback for West Coast Sport and Recreation Plan – Medium Term Implementation Guidance

ACTIVE Strahan is an incorporated group of 9 people who work to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of our local town and the greater West Coast region, through providing programs, infrastructure, and events, that result in creating a great liveable community.

We would like to congratulate council for their vision and courage in attempting to provide facilities across 5 towns on an equitable basis, using extremely limited funds. We appreciate that this is not a challenge specific to the West Coast, but rather something that many rural municipalities throughout Australia are currently facing due to a demographic shift to larger populated areas.

In commenting on the *Sport and Recreation Plan Medium Term Implementation Guide* and the proposed changes, ACTIVE Strahan has utilised available statistics, spoken with different facility users and sourced feedback from within our committee.

2.2 Sport and Recreation Facility Service Level

We are incredibly supportive of all points of 2.2 and would like to suggest that:

- WCC consider employing a fitness instructor who would work equally between each town as it is cost prohibitive to bring someone on a regular basis, from outside the West Coast. Our rationale is that facilities are better utilised when there is structured activity on a regular basis.

2.2 For the region

In each town with a school an outdoor area managed to support school activities (potentially managed in conjunction with other sports).

- ACTIVE Strahan requests WCC to consider, the physical distance between the recreational ground and the Primary School when decisions are being made regarding future implementation of a gym and multipurpose room for Strahan and the current oval (green space).

2.3 Implementation of Changes

GYMS

- *Test the feasibility of Council supporting fitness programming at gyms (and multi-purpose rooms). See ACTIVE Strahan's comment 2.2*

SWIMMING POOLS

- ACTIVE Strahan believes maintaining 3 full sized heated pools to service just over 4,000 residents is overcapitalising and a reduction of one is a no-brainer.
- The Zeehan pool was utilised by many Strahan families last summer with the feedback that it was well maintained, clean and appeared to be supported by the West Coast communities.

The provision of additional shading and running water in the female change room showers would encourage further usage.

ACTIVE Strahan supports the retention of the Zeehan pool as this is a fair compromise, with travel being similar, for both Strahan and Rosebery residence.

- Our organisation supports the upgrade of the Queenstown pool, to competition level, as Queenstown already has a swimming club. Children who represent the WC, in other areas of the state, either at club or school level, will not be disadvantaged if they are used to training in a higher performing facility.

OUTDOOR RECREATION GROUNDS

Remove goal posts from Strahan Oval at the end of life and maintain the grassed area as open space for junior sport activities.

- It would be ACTIVE Strahan's opinion that maintaining the football ovals in all towns was important, so the children have somewhere to conduct training, even if they must travel for game-day. Maybe other towns have school ovals that fulfill this need, rather than a council maintained facility but Strahan Primary do not have an oval nor does Strahan have a replacement facility, other than the existing oval, so the Strahan children will certainly be disadvantaged.
- If the removal of the goal posts becomes a reality, is there an opportunity for WCC to have removable / portable compliant goal posts, soccer nets, hockey goals etc so that the anticipated, grassed open space for junior sport activities, can be fully utilised.

INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Where funding allows provide multi-purpose rooms (not designed to support competition) at Strahan, Zeehan, and Tullah.

The multipurpose room at Strahan should allow indoor/covered tennis if funding allows.

- The Strahan community are excited at the prospect of having their first indoor gym; however, it is important that with any redesigning of the existing Rec. Hall, that current users are still able to access a replacement facility, eg: CWA and Playgroup as Strahan, has no other community building available.

TENNIS COURTS

Replace the outdoor tennis courts with an indoor or covered option where funding allows in Strahan.

- ACTIVE Strahan was unaware that Indoor Tennis was "a thing" and so with this in mind we make the following comments:
- Our organisation would embrace something new being offered as part of the proposed Strahan multi-purpose facility and ask if the net structure and floor anchor-point placement allows for interchangeable net systems ie: badminton, volleyball
- Is indoor tennis a game suitable to all ages?

- ACTIVE Strahan would seek to work with council, in a financial capacity, to have a qualified a person run some information / skills sessions around this sport, which we feel would nurture accelerated usage.

Comments addressed to ACTIVE Strahan

- “Playing Basketball and Hockey locally I tend to agree with supporting and improving the existing facilities in Rosebery and Queenstown”
 - “The numbers for basketball participation have been dropping (hence the mixed comp this year)”
 - “Hockey (like basketball) is struggling to get committee members”, the comps are already running out of the one place”
 - “Outdoor pursuits are definitely on the increase and is an area of focus, to consider, when attracting people to live on the West Coast”.
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Name: Leigh Styles- Sec of Strahan Mt Lyell Picnic Committee

Town:

Dear Dr. Midson,

I write in my capacity as Secretary of the Mount Lyell Strahan Picnic Committee Inc. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the West Coast Sport and Recreation Plan – Medium Term Implementation Guide.

Please find our comments below:

The West Coast Sport and Recreation Plan – Medium Term Implementation Guide does address issues relating to the West Strahan Beach precinct (picnic grounds) which are specifically mentioned in the West Coast Sport and Recreation plan (2018), and the West Coast Sport and Recreation Plan 2010 – 2020.

From the West Coast Sport and Recreation plan (2018):

2.22. Precinct C Strahan: Resolve current issues relating to the Macquarie Harbour Sailing Club facility and beach access.

From the West Coast Sport and Recreation Plan 2010 – 2020:

Page 21: West Strahan Beach: Maintain the amenities to the required standards and so they remain fit for purpose.

Page 113: Ownership Responsibility for maintenance [of West Strahan Beach] rests with Council.

Page 113: Stabilisation work will be required at West Strahan Beach because the beach sand is washing away.

Our specific concerns relate to:

1. The erosion of West Strahan Beach, the sand washing away, and the likelihood of West Strahan Beach in remaining a fit for purpose and safe swimming beach for locals and visitors;
2. The maintenance of the running track at West Strahan Beach Picnic Grounds;
3. Vehicular access servicing the Macquarie Harbour Sailing Club;
4. The movement of sand affecting the running track at West Strahan Beach Picnic Grounds.

We ask that these matters be considered as part of the West Coast Sport and Recreation Plan – Medium Term Implementation Guide.

Name: Gabrielle Moore

Town: ?

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in regard to the Sport and Recreation Plan, as a born and bred West-Coaster I am appalled by the plan the West Coast Council has put forward for the community.

As a child I always loved my town and now I have my own family it is disappointing to see the town's recreation be decreased to one playground (which isn't securely fenced). I always see children playing at the skate park and having fun, this will be a surprise for them when they have nowhere to take their scooters and bikes - I know it was bad enough for me when I was a teenager and all the playgrounds were removed from each end of town.

In the plan, it is stated that there will be one competition pool and one other swimming facility and you will continue investments towards them both, however, there was no intention of WCC trying to save our Rosebery Pool because it was going to be too expensive. Does this mean the money saved from our pool will be going towards the others? I'd be happy to support the Zeehan Pool if this was to continue to remain open.

As for the hockey facility section, I have been playing hockey for nearly 20 years and am currently the secretary of the Rosebery Women's Hockey Association. We have had no communication from the WCC in regard to potential upgrades, which is concerning. If there were upgrades, this would definitely boost our fees for the season, which would mean we would have to increase our registrations. I just don't see how this would be viable and the money you obviously have planned for this should be used towards something else here in Rosebery that will encourage our locals to stay.

You have stated in the plan that the West Coast is declining and will likely continue to decline. The way this plan is set out, this is what the West Coast Council want. There won't be enough facilities here for people with growing families, like myself. We encourage younger females to play hockey as this is the only thing that is really left for children in our town.

If you push all the locals out, there will be no-one left to teach these children to love this place. I have always defended the West Coast to those that decide to move away but now I am second guessing myself. It feels like we are going from a beautiful community to a tourist destination.

Please reconsider your plan as it could potentially ruin the West Coast.

Name: Annie McKay
Town: Strahan

Dear Council

I would like to submit feedback to the proposed Sport & Rec Plan Guide.

Firstly - in these times I know it has been difficult to provide community consultation, but I feel this feedback process has not worked for the council to receive good quality feedback from all the community. There are many that do not, for many reasons do this type of communication.

Secondly, I understand that Councils financials are at the base of decisions making but you must consider the wellbeing of the community also. If major closures are undertaken, you are not making the west coast an attractive place to live and at the end of the day this is how you will increase your rate base.

Thirdly - I requested to have access to a council document to be able to prepare this feedback and from the GM down was not given access to this information. So the details I was to contain are not being presented.

I agree that funds must be used wisely for the ratepayers - but removing goals posts from ovals, and not maintaining skate parks is not the answer - we need to encourage sporting activities, especially for the kids. I would suggest encouraging volunteer groups to create more sporting opportunities thus more use of facilities to follow.

A sponsorship arrangement could be entered into with supporting business to sponsor a facility - eg MMG sponsors Rosebery's skate park and covers the annual cost of the maintenance. Pringles IGA sponsors Zeehan skate park maintenance for examples.

Can other facilities be leased to groups for a peppercorn lease - but they maintain the facility / grounds?

The community will always feel betrayed with closures of facilities if not conducted in collaboration correctly. Also, it has the effect of the West Coast closing down that also sends the message to residents that this is not a great place to live & work.

It would be great to see some really smart and creative thinking in this space and not just the black and white of closures.

Thanks for letting me put forward this feedback and please do not hesitate to contact regarding.

Name: Zeehan RSL Committee

Town: Zeehan

Dear Councillors

The Zeehan RSL committee on behalf of its members and community would like to submit the following feedback on Council's sport and recreation plan implementation strategy document.

Reviewing the document, we understand the need for cost saving and that historically assets have been many and widespread making a high standard of facilities unmaintainable. On the note of disposal of the Zeehan Rugby ground and the specialisation of our oval for cricket we agree this is a good solution to the issues faced by this council in keeping our community supplied with quality facilities.

We agree with the removal of the grandstand but only if replaced with an undercover veranda that is constructed to run the full length of the front of the club rooms (not just canteen frontage) to allow for an appropriate multi usage area for gathering at events that is sheltered out of the weather.

However, Zeehan will have a strong reaction to the removal of our skatepark. Our points are as follows:

1. Skateparks provide a healthy and beneficial physical outlet area and gathering space for our teenagers, Zeehan's skatepark is very well utilised. This is because it is perfectly located to complement our existing town park and its multipurpose use and is visible from the Main Street which discourages anti-social behaviour from our youth.
2. Youth do not have the means to travel to Strahan just to utilise a state park. Strahan is not a practical location for ALL of the West Coast youth to enjoy and utilise a skatepark.
3. Where do they go? The pool & gyms are fantastic facilities, but they have limited opening times and/or costs to enter. We understand the cost for use is low, but it would be ignorant to assume that it is so low that all families can afford to access for their teenagers.
4. The plans states that additional play equipment or other things will be put in to replace the skatepark once it is removed. What will these things be? Play equipment does not service the same demographic as skatepark equipment does. We do not support the removal of the Zeehan skatepark given the lack of clarity and strategy on how our teenagers will be provided with a physical and social facility of equal community value upon its removal. The plan does not provide sufficient information as to the proposed outcomes after the skatepark removal, for the community to provide constructive feedback on that removal.
5. The installation of a good skate park should be a one-off cost (if built correctly) with very little maintenance ongoing. Perhaps rather than removal you could earmark the skateparks as a project which will receive active attention in seeking and securing a grant for its replacement with a better constructed skatepark at end of life?

We are happy to meet to discuss solutions going forward and how our organisation and community can play a role in ensuring our teenagers are provided the best possible outcome.

Name: Mandy Maine

Town: Zeehan

I would just like to let you know my concerns with regards to this plan. Being a Zeehan Resident for all of my adult life, I am saddened by the plans for Zeehans sporting and leisure areas.

Firstly the removal of the goal post at the Zeehan Oval. This ground is by the far the best junior football ground on the West Coast especially with regards to parking. How are our younger footballers able to utilise this facility without goal posts. Afterall kicking goals is the number one aim of football and practice would be impossible without them. I often see children and men practicing and training at this ground, including men who play more senior football on the coast. Surely if the age and deteriorations of the posts is of concern they could be replaced with more durable version when the time arises. I am aware that this would cost the council but im sure the Zeehan community could aid in some way. I noted that you were aiming at two viable football grounds on the West Coast, but how would this work with the mini league. The major way for the junior clubs to raise funds is through canteen sales on the days of their home games, without home games Im sure some of the clubs would fold.

I am also concerned with the removal of our skate park. Im unsure why a concrete version wasn't initially put there as Im sure that would by far be less expensive in the upkeep. On any day of the week, when the weather is fine that park is full of children and teenagers enjoying the park. I am even aware of families travelling from other towns on the West Coast to use our skate park. This is pretty much the only form of entertainment (possible to do as a solo activity) our older children and teenagers can utilise in our town, at their leisure, whenever they want.

I have noticed your push for bike tracks and trails around the west coast, but seriously not everyone can afford a bike and many of them require vehicle access to where they are. As children and young teenagers don't have driver licenses that make this activity out of the question for their recreation. Yes they may get their parents to take them but that also required the parents being able to ride alongside them, and again not possible all the time.

By leaving the goal posts at our Football oval and our Skate Park in our town our children can have the simple pleasures that most children grow up with. Just try to imagine your childhood without these simple pleasures.

I really feel that these two decisions will affect the outdoor life of our children immensely. I know my grown up children use both these facilities almost daily and as I have regularly witnessed the people of Zeehan still do.

Name: Jane Delaney- John

Town: Strahan

I would like to thank the council for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the Sport and Recreation Plan designed to meet the current and emerging needs of the community. Budgeting and planning both during a climate of population decline, ageing community and covid19 pandemic which has further eroded the rates base makes planning at this time extremely challenging and decisions acute when there are competing priorities evident throughout the local government area which sit within the responsibility of the local government jurisdiction. That having been said there are also a number of opportunities to be considered as well as a reflection on the strengths and weaknesses inherent in the plan which may with a little more strategic targeting bring about sound recreational and wellbeing outcomes for the community.

One factor which raised some consideration is the statement and subsequent influence this statement has made to the decision regarding end of life or allocation of life of recreational infrastructure" Most sport and recreation infrastructure was created at a time when the population was up to four times its current level..... As population declined usage of facilities has reduced dramatically. " . while this statement is true what appears to be a glaring absence in the plan is the consideration of the tourism numbers and family tourism numbers being experienced now and in the future where play equipment and recreation may have a positive economic impact if planned well. Consideration of corporate and state and federal government funding potential injection of funding also needs to be integral to the planning as well as perhaps even staged allocation of funding. For example, young families travelling to the region may stay longer if playground equipment provides an enjoyable experience, especially targeting townships with high visitor numbers. Instead of skate bowls due to their high cost of build and maintenance the creation of skate like features and also training tracks for mountain bike experiences could also be created and rather cheaply to bring elements of a broader tourism experience within townships thereby encouraging use and patronage of the more arduous bike tracks being created as a signature experience to the region. Multipurpose indoor spaces for recreational uses need more consideration as does the healthy lifestyle needs of the elderly. Limited consideration of these are included nor do there appear to be any play and recreational equipment planned for visually impaired and physically disabled participants. Healthy lifestyles improve the wellbeing of our community the plans should take into account more recent place planning methodology to assist Council in achieving these outcomes. Perhaps a forum with UTAS and Early and Early and middle childhood providers, sport and recreational providers and institutes and Seniors advocacy groups and interested community and corporations could be hosted by council to look at ways in which to integrate and advance both the economic and healthy and wellbeing outcomes which may be achieved for both our tourism and community sustainability. research has shown that a rich and diverse facility and multifaceted recreational place offer increases attraction of families and others to a region as well as acts as an attractor to increase tourism visitor numbers and stay within a region. We place poor emphasis on potential water and endurance sports and recreational pursuits and even less on applying contemporary wellbeing planning for our ageing community. By overlaying an economic strategy over the recreational and sporting plan for the region I believe a more relevant plan could be created which values the sport and recreational interests of our current communities while building on sustainable recreational outcomes which both our communities and visitors to the region can enjoy. I hope this feedback assists Council in their challenging decisions.

Name: Helen Caville

Town: Strahan

We the strahan CWA branch would like to make comment on the west coast sport and recreation plan.

The obvious removal of the current recreation hall at Gaffney street strahan, and replacement with a gym and multipurpose room.

Your report Suggests the multipurpose room would be suitable for fitness classes and further into the report the area would also allow for indoor covered tennis.

While we appreciate what we have now, may not be in the future, the CWA would like acknowledgment of the area being available to us for our continued regular meeting space and also a secure area for storage of tables, chairs and equipment we regularly use for community events, funerals and social gatherings.

As planning proceeds for the new multipurpose room/gym, we would appreciate the opportunity to have input into the placing of public areas, storage and accessibility for our members and senior citizens who regularly attend events held at the hall.

I, and our members of the CWA look forward to liaising with council, to help provide a useful, accessible and community friendly multipurpose area, that will compliment both the council and the Strahan community.

Name: Kathy Mawer

Town: Rosebery

My name is Kathy Mawer and I am a parent and resident of Rosebery and have been born and raised here and am now doing the same with my own family. My response to the Sport and Rec Guidelines document that is out for community consultation is in relation to the Rosebery pool closing.

I am very much against this happening as in the summer months it is the only activity opened to the Rosebery people both for their physical and mental health. The pool over the summer months is a major social attraction where people like myself can go with their kids and in fact teach them to swim as I did this summer with my daughter who is 3 years old at the time.

Every day that the pool was open I and my daughter attended for several hours each time. I was able to teach my daughter about water safety, to swim, how to behave around pools and I feel that the major things the pool is important for are the health and well-being aspects along with the social aspects for our community. I am unable to do this by email so have rung the Community Development Officer and had a long talk with him and he has offered to type it up and submit it for me so that I can have my say.

Please do not close our pool. I understand its cost to maintain but for a community like Rosebery it is very important. If there was a bus service to Zeehan, I doubt I would use it every day as the trip to Zeehan over summer can take up to 40 minutes because of the tourism traffic on the road.

Name: Joanne Bonner

Town: Zeehan

My name is Joanne Bonner, I have lived in Zeehan for 49 years. I just have some questions about your Sport and Recreation Plan.

I don't know why you would even think about removing our goal post from the oval. No wonder our population is declining because we have nothing to offer anyone, we just seem to loose more and more. We have junior football that use them and also have kids that play football away that cannot always make it to training that also use them. Zeehan has the best ground on the West Coast and plenty of car space and is central. Last year we held the Auskick carnival at Zeehan and teams came from all over the North West Coast, it was a huge success and could not have been held at any of the other footy grounds as there would not have been enough room for all the cars.

Why would you pull down our Grandstand? It's not that long ago that you fixed it and it still looks in good condition. People use the grandstand at cricket and also junior football. The Grandstand has been in Zeehan longer than me and most of you, so I would think it may nearly fit into the heritage category.

The Rugby field. When you stop maintaining that, let's hope it does not become overgrown by gorse. And the skate park , well what a shame that would be because that also gets used by the kids and I know people from other towns bring their kids to play on our skate park because it is big and not rusty.

Obviously, it is all about money and I understand that, but you still need these thing in your town for the community. Me as a rate payer does not see much of the money put into Zeehan you only have to look at our footpaths compared to our neighbouring town's. Maybe you need to re- think wasting money on a new West Coast Council Logo when the one we have already looks good.
