



## **Community and Recreational Facilities Strategy (CRF)**

### **Submission prepared by Southern Highlands Water Polo**

The following Submission has been prepared by Southern Highlands Water Polo (SHWP) in response to the exhibition of the Community and Recreational Facilities Strategy (CRF) and Councils request to provide feedback. Our Members and supporters have been encouraged to make Submissions and complete the Survey as requested on Council's YourSay Community Engagement Page.

Our Club has been active in the Highlands for over 42 years, with recent lack of appropriate public facilities seriously impacting our ability to provide effective competitions. One impact was the destruction of our Clubhouse in a vandal fire at Mittagong Pool in January 2017, unfortunately, many of our records (and a lot of valuable equipment) were destroyed in that fire. As a consequence, many records and data of Club history are anecdotal.

Please visit the SHWP [website](#) where there is a wealth of information on our [Club activities, history](#) and [Gallery](#).

#### **Signed**

**Craig Moore (President)**

**Tony Springett; (Patron)**

**Carl Phillips; (Patron)**

Per

**Miles Lochhead (Patron)**

**2 August 2023**



## CLUB BACKGROUND:

Around 1978/79, Bowral Pool staff Kevin Connors and Tony Fahey worked on developing the Bowral Water Polo competition that we know today as Southern Highlands Water Polo (SHWP). Tony Springett OAM supported the pool staff and became the Club's first President. The Club celebrated 25 years of existence in the 2004-05 season and planned to celebrate 40 years during the season 2019-20.

Covid played havoc with plans and the celebration was postponed (3 times!) until 8 October 2022, when the event was finally held at the Mittagong RSL, a long-time supporter of our Club. Recently, local Water Polo competitions have also been challenged by pandemic impacts with season length reduced and player numbers affected. The Club has however continued to offer a range of competitions and training, the latest of which being the 2023 Winter Training currently attracting around 70 participants.

The Bowral Water Polo Competition actually started on 6 February 1980, a Wednesday, with the 6 teams (see [SH News story 6 February 1980](#)). Until the mid 90's, all competitions were played at Bowral Memorial Pool, Mondays for the Senior Comp and Tuesdays for Juniors, with players enduring many seasons of sometimes bitter conditions in the unheated water. Heating of all local pools was undertaken from around 1996 with Mittagong Pool first enjoying a new gas system which warmed the water to around 24 degrees – many a time the gas 'blew out' and we were reminded of the early days playing in very cold Highland water! Around this time, the Club relocated competitions to Mittagong and adopted this site as 'home ground'. In 2015, Frensham School opened the Centenary Pool at Mittagong and thanks to the support of the school and operators, 'Aquabliss', the Club has been able to use this wonderful facility to date. Mittagong and Bowral Pools have also been used since 2015, especially for Junior competitions and the many representative events held in the Highlands.

In 1998 at Mittagong Pool, with support from a Council Grant and a number of generous material and labour contributions from the Water Polo community, a Clubhouse was built. The Clubhouse was shared with Mittagong Swimming Club and local schools providing useful shelter and a store for much of the Club's equipment and records. Unfortunately, the Clubhouse was lost in a vandal fire in 2017 with much Club equipment, and sadly records, destroyed. The saga of Mittagong Pool is another story that has been covered in the media and elsewhere, suffice to say that our 'home ground' has only been available for around 14 weeks over the last 6 seasons due to what is now regular flooding of the site. The majority of games are now played at Aquabliss Centenary Pool in Mittagong.

The Club has hosted around 7 NSW Water Polo Country Club Championships over the years, the first in 1983 and the most recent in 2020 just before the Pandemic hit. The Club also has produced 2 National Representatives (Erin and Kelly Douglass), 9 State Players (Heather Rouen, Gary Grant, Rob Langford, Kate Scruton, Ben Douglass, Jenny Balla, Jack Cockington, Lauren Balla and Elise Balla) plus a number of Juniors who have represented the Club over the years at various levels. Daniel Marsden, captain of the Australian Men's Olympic Team in 2000 supported training for our Juniors around the Sydney Olympics and was guest speaker at the 40th Anniversary Dinner. Older members of the Club have also attended senior and Masters events over the years, the highlight



being the 1997 Australian Masters Games where our Men's team won the coveted Wooden Spoon!

The Club has supported many thousands of players over its rich history with teams in Flippaball, Juniors, Seniors A & B Grade plus dedicated Women's competitions over the years. During the post-Olympic era, the Club boasted over 30 teams in annual competitions and was understood to have the largest Junior Competition in NSW around that time. Development of Junior players has been a major feature over the years of water polo in the Highlands. The atmosphere and spirited competition on Junior Comp nights is a pleasure to watch with many players continuing their water polo involvement in senior school and beyond.

Supporting the competitions has been a legion of administrators and referees – we thank them all, and the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was an opportunity to acknowledge their support. The Club also has enjoyed the support of four Patrons for many years. Sadly, our Patron, Australian Water Polo captain at 2 Olympics and a playing legend all the way into his seventies – Ray Smee – passed away in 2019 which was a huge loss to water polo and our Club. Currently, founding President Tony Springett OAM, legend of Sydney Uni Water Polo Club, Carl Phillips, and Miles Lochhead are our Patrons. Tony was President for over 18 years and has been active at poolside and in the background for the whole life of our Club. Carl moved to the Highlands in the 90's and has been involved as an administrator and player over the years bringing a wealth of knowledge to the Club – and an uncanny ability to attract financial support – over his time, and Miles, the most recent addition to Patron ranks, has served the Club in many capacities over the years including 10 years as President. A whole chapter could (and has been) written about Ray who was extremely generous with his time and support for the Club over more than 2 decades. Many Junior players (and Seniors for that matter) have benefitted from Ray's talents as a player and coach. Over the years 14 Club stalwarts have been recognised as Life Members, many still supporting the Club in various ways.

Over the years, Club Members/players have included many staff of Wingecarribee Council (represented on regular occasions in 'Council' teams) and two Councillors (Nick Campbell-Jones and Garry Turland). Members (including Life Members) have participated in a number of council committees, consultations and most recently the 'Sport, Recreation & Leisure Community Reference Panel' (Miles Lochhead). Despite this involvement, there has been limited success in influencing decision making that supports the development of our sport and as a result we face a very uncertain future – we therefore welcome this Strategic direction and encourage Council to continue engagement with all Stakeholders impacted by this strategy throughout its finalisation and resultant actioning.

SHWP has created a page on its [website](https://www.revolutionise.com.au/shwpolo/home/) which contains all documents and links associated with the Strategy Exhibition and this Submission.



## SUBMISSION

The Draft CRF Study and Strategy was presented at the 21 June Ordinary Council Meeting 2023 and was open for public exhibition for the required 28 days (once prepared for exhibition). Proceedings of that meeting can be viewed [here](#). The full Council Agenda and Report is available [here](#).

Council's Community and Recreational Facilities provide spaces for a range of activities including, sporting and recreational activities, social service provision, cultural and artistic activities, and spaces for learning, sharing and celebration. (*Astrolabe 2023*)

Council engaged consultants, Tredwell Management Services, to deliver a document in response to a high-level brief (*approved at the Ordinary Council Meeting of 24 November 2021*). The following points have been extracted (*edited*) from Council's Report of 21 June and attempt to explain developments to date. The points below provide an assessment of the draft Strategy/Study process against Council's Scope of Works developed to deliver the Strategy:

**1/** A review and summary of Council's facilities to identify the viability of the existing assets including utilisation, condition, life expectancy and proposed renewal date:

- Tredwell completed a comprehensive high-level audit and condition assessment of Councils existing 581 facilities (see *CRF Study Appendix B*).

**2/** A needs analysis for the community and recreational facilities based on current and future demographic trends and current government policy and strategies:

- Tredwell completed a precinct-based needs analysis which considered infrastructure needs based on population triggers, community consultation, facility audit, emerging demands & trends and the planned New Living Areas. Tredwell also completed an assessment of the previous Wingecarribee Open Space, Recreation, Cultural and Community Facilities Needs Study 2004 which informed the current developer contributions plan (see *CRF Study, Appendix A & C*).

**3/** A strategic framework for the equitable provision of community and recreational facilities now and into the future considering social demographic target groups, facility type and purpose, and geographic areas (or hubs):

- Tredwell has partially covered this item within the precinct-based needs analysis. (see *CRF Study*)

**4/** An implementation plan with recommendations for funding and rationalising of Council's existing community and recreational facilities assets:

- Although Tredwell identified infrastructure needs through the precinct-based analysis, consideration of funding models for infrastructure was not completed. (see *CRF Study*)

**5/** High level cost estimate and funding model for the delivery of the strategy (including renewal, disposal, consolidate, maintenance and management of community and recreational assets) against benchmark infrastructure costs:



- Tredwell has partially covered this item within the precinct-based needs analysis through an estimation of each item being of either low (<\$200k), medium (\$200k-\$1M) or high (\$1m+) financial resource requirements. (see *CRF Study and Strategy*)

**6/ Recommendations for ongoing stakeholder engagement:**

- Tredwell delivered on this component through the outcomes of both the *Section 8 Vision and Principles* and *Section 9 Precinct Based Analysis*. (see *CRF Study and Strategy*)

**7/** As part of understanding demand for community and recreational facilities, the Consultant will be required to conduct a demand analysis that will identify the provision of: a Regional Sporting Hub, a Destination Playground and an Aquatic and Fitness Centre. Potential business cases are to be developed for some key scenarios:

- Business Cases are to be developed following Council's adoption of the CRFS. The document produced by Tredwell does fulfil the majority of the Scope of Works as described within the Project Brief. The reframing of the Scope of Work, to exclude the Business Cases from within the CRFS, and the differing expectations for the Business Cases did create disruption through the delivery. (WSC 2023)

Further from Council's Report of 21 June:

"The final draft from Tredwell (see *CRF Study*) provided comprehensive data and delivered an extensive assessment of Council's existing facilities and projected needs. There however was a need for a more succinct and comprehensible version of the Strategy to link all findings from the Tredwell study. Council therefore engaged Astrolabe Group to bring together the research and engagement outcomes into a concise, easy to understand Strategy for Community and Recreation Facilities in the Shire. Given the significance of the Strategy, it was considered important that the Strategy was not only robust and evidence based but was also easy to understand by the community and key stakeholders."

In Summary relevant to point **7/** above, the Draft Strategy Report (see *CRF Study*) comes up with a series of 'Strategic Directions' as below, which if adopted and combined with 'Precinct Actions', will form the basis of ongoing Actions to deliver the Strategy.

SHWP notes proposed Strategic Directions in the Table below and offers commentary on each:





## Strategic Direction 1 (SD1) - Aquatic Facilities

Strategic Review	Strategic Direction	Comment
<p>The provision of aquatics facilities in the Shire is currently above population demand requirements for most components. The Shire is not projected to require an indoor 50m pool based on population demand. However, it is noted that there is currently no access to competition level swimming facilities for the community. The closest 50m competition pool is located within the Wollondilly Shire Council area to the north of the Shire. The climate is also a key factor for consideration, in determining the mix of indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities. Wellness and rehabilitation components such as spa/sauna's are also currently under provided within the Shire.</p>	<p><b>a) Regional Aquatic and Leisure Facility</b> Development of a major or regional aquatic's facility towards the north of the Shire will enable servicing to a wider catchment including the key service centres of Mittagong and Bowral. A regional centre would enable a number of aquatic, leisure and community elements to be provided in a single location increasing construction and operational feasibilities, and improved user outcomes. The provision of indoor facilities will also ensure year-round access for the community.</p> <p><b>b) Mittagong Swimming Centre</b> Reconstruction of the Mittagong Pool in its current location is not feasible, the site should be included in a wider Master planning process for the Mittagong Oval precinct that investigates alternate uses for the site, having consideration to the flood affectivity. This should include consideration of rehabilitating the site and enhancing its natural aquatic qualities and the potential to increase recreational access.</p> <p><b>c) Bundanoon Swimming Centre</b> The facility at Bundanoon is at the end of its asset lifecycle and in need of renewal. It is recommended that a detailed cost benefit analysis be undertaken of the facility to determine the feasibility and wider community benefit of renewing this asset.</p>	<p><b>a) Southern Highlands Water Polo (SHWP) supports the provision of an Aquatic Facility in the north of the Shire to replace the Mittagong Pool (see (b) below).</b> <i>Our sport has been challenged for appropriate facilities with Mittagong Pool regularly experiencing operational issues due to flooding, especially since 2016 – this site has only been available sporadically from 2016 with our Club having to rely on the Frensham Aquabliss Facility in Mittagong for the majority of our competitions. Bowral Pool has also been utilised for competition/events however, is not suited for water polo due to being only 6 lanes wide and of insufficient depth for competition.</i> <i>It is noted that competition for both sites has resulted in difficulties scheduling enough games to cater for our growing sport. Further, there is no scope to expand under these existing conditions.</i></p> <p><b>b) SHWP supports rehabilitation of Mittagong Pool being very mindful of flooding and other engineering issues. There is scope to use this site as a potential Destination Playspace which would allow for heritage aspects of the site to be accommodated and the popularity / extreme beauty of the site to be capitalised as part of rehabilitation / development of such a playspace.</b></p> <p><b>c) SHWP supports the refurbishment of Bundanoon Pool with a view to maintaining this site. We are aware of significant local support to continue the site as an aquatic facility, particularly for local residents and tourism.</b></p> <p><i>It is noted that Bowral Pool requires rehabilitation / upgrade</i></p>



		as it is considered "in poor condition". SHWP supports the investigation of a Bowral Pool upgrade to 'Aquatic Leisure Centre' status as potential to address Strategic Direction 1.
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## Strategic Direction 2 (SD2) – Indoor Sporting Facility

Strategic Review	Strategic Direction	Comment
<p><b>The provision of indoor sporting facilities should be considered as a multipurpose facility, designed to cater for a range of indoor sporting, recreational and cultural pursuits.</b></p> <p><b>Based on the provision rates for the largest indoor sport, Basketball, the Shire requires a population-based provision of 3.25 facilities at a population of 70,000 (2041).</b></p> <p>Currently the Shires largest facility is a privately operated facility located in the Moss Vale Precinct in the south of the Shire. Based on the geographic catchment, this will service the southern population centre of Moss Vale and its surrounds, however, there is a need and opportunity for a larger multipurpose indoor space to service the northern part of the Shire.</p>	<p>Provision of a large multipurpose indoor facility is recommended in the northern part of the Shire, providing access to residents in Bowral, Mittagong and the northern villages within the 15 minute travel catchment.</p> <p>Providing a new facility on public land would allow Council to fund the facility through development contributions and ensure that new development contributes appropriately towards new and improved infrastructure to meet the needs of our communities.</p> <p>As this would be a new facility, it is recommended that further investigation be undertaken to find a site that supports an integrated community hub delivery model, which will maximise efficiencies, and provide improved community outcomes.</p>	<p>SHWP supports the development of a multi-purpose indoor facility in the North of the Shire. As noted in the Strategy, co-location of facilities has significant merit in terms of efficiency, cost and operational benefit.</p> <p>SHWP also notes that the planned upgrade of Lackey Park in Moss Vale, in conjunction with the provision of the Southern Highlands Multi-Purpose Indoor Sports Centre (upgrade of the existing Moss Vale Basketball Stadium – see Lackey Park Masterplan Report uploaded to the SHWP <a href="#">website</a>) should it proceed, will provide the major indoor sporting venue for the Shire, and any other indoor facilities to the North should be designed to complement such plans already well underway for Lackey Park.</p>



Strategic Direction 3 (SD3) – Destination Playspace		
Strategic Review	Strategic Direction	Comment
Having considered the geography and population centres (now and future) it is recommended a network of higher order play spaces (including Destination Play spaces) are planned for focusing on the catchments that service the population centres of Moss Vale, Mittagong and Bowral.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Investigate the opportunity to provide a Destination Play space within the Moss Vale Precinct.</li> <li>2. Identify a site within the northern part of the Shire (Mittagong area) to deliver a destination play space that includes water play features.</li> <li>3. Ensure any upgrades of existing play spaces within the Bowral and Burradoo Precincts considers opportunities to enhance creative and nature play for a range of age groups and abilities.</li> </ol>	<p><i>SHWP fully supports the provision of Destination Playspaces in strategic locations as proposed. There is evidence these types of facilities are growing in Regional NSW and provide a range of activities. It is noted that co-location with other recreational/leisure components again complements efficiencies as noted above. Further, there is scope to upgrade underutilised facilities or sites requiring upgrade, such as Mittagong Pool, which will no doubt be considered in assessing suitable sites.</i></p> <p><b><u>(see further comments in Survey content below)</u></b></p>

Council also proposed a series of Questions, in the form of a [Survey](#), with a view to assisting residents contribute to the finalisation of the Strategy and associated Actions. The Survey Questions are reproduced in full below and include SHWP responses.

SHWP would welcome the opportunity to further comment on 'Shire Wide' and 'Precinct' Actions listed in the Fact Sheet on Council's YourSay page once refined as a result of this Strategy Exhibition phase.

Should readers of this Submission wish to comment on the content, the Club can be contacted at [shwp@outlook.com](mailto:shwp@outlook.com).





## SURVEY

The Council Survey Questions have been reproduced below including SHWP responses.

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### Community and Recreational Facilities Strategy Survey

At the Extraordinary Council Meeting of 26 April 2023, the draft Community and Recreational Facilities Study and Strategy (CRFS) were considered by Council for endorsement to proceed to public exhibition. At this meeting it was resolved that consideration of the draft Community and Recreational Facilities Study and Strategy was to be deferred until the following further information be presented to Council. We would now like the community to provide any feedback on the following comments:

Downloaded from YourSay Wingecarribee website:

<https://www.yoursaywingecarribee.com.au/community-and-recreational-facilities-strategy>

#### 1. What parts of the Strategy do you strongly agree with?

- The Strategy provides opportunity to plan and act for a 20+ year period.
- Priority Projects detailed on (Strategy P21 & Pp25-30).
- Shire Wide Actions and Precinct Actions detailed in Fact Sheet on the YourSay page.
- Adherence to Planning Principles outlined on (Strategy Pp21, 22).
- Outlined Challenges and Opportunities on (Strategy Pp23, 24), especially benefits for co-location of facilities; optimising utilisation and opportunity for recreational tourism.
- As stated in the Project Brief to consultants (Objectives P9) "14. Make recommendations with regard to ongoing stakeholder engagement and encourage greater collaboration between council, the community and stakeholders on the planning, delivery and management of the community and recreational facilities".



## **2. What parts of the Strategy do you believe can be improved or that you disagree with?**

- The Strategy and supporting documents could benefit from a clear Summary that explains the Strategy adoption/action process more completely showing links to the various aspects of Strategy development and outcomes.
- Priority Projects and Precinct Actions do not necessarily flow through to 'Actions for the Shire', (Strategy P34), and are not clearly linked to Strategic Directions.
- The formatting of the main Strategy and associated Appendices is not consistent.
- The linkage between the Astrolabe Strategy and the Tredwell 'Report/Study'? are not clearly explained, with a lot of unnecessary duplication of information.
- "What we heard Precinct C", (Strategy P43), is duplicated and not relevant to "What we heard Precinct D", (Strategy P47).
- As acknowledged in the Community Consultation Meeting held 25 July 2023, the evolution of the Project has resulted in all community and recreation facilities being aggregated into one Strategy. This has resulted in an overly complex process (a total of 581 facilities/sites investigated) with the risk that some components will be 'lost' or not prioritised relevant to the needs of various stakeholder/organisations. There would perhaps be some benefit in differentiating between 'Community' and 'Recreational' facilities/services in the resultant report and action process.
- SHWP feels that more information needs to be provided on how the various Strategy outcomes can/will be funded.
- There is limited information on proposed process/timelines and resourcing for implementation of various Strategic and Shire Wide 'Precinct Actions'. There needs to be greater transparency and accountability for same e.g. approved Action Plan (short, mid and long term) with associated KPI's.

## **3. Is the proposed indoor aquatics facility appropriate to meet the needs of our communities in the northern part of the Shire?**

- Whilst SHWP strongly supports the concept of an indoor aquatic facility for the North, there is not enough detail provided as to the location, design and componentry of the Aquatic Facility to determine its suitability for a range of activities.
- SHWP propose that major stakeholders (to be determined by components), including swimming and water polo communities, be consulted thoroughly in the planning stages to ensure that the ultimate facility is 'fit for purpose'.
- Relevant to above, SHWP recommends that any new facility be developed to Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA) – now [World Aquatics](#) standard to ensure that such facility can host Regional, State and even National events. FINA is relevant to aquatic standards, SHWP also recommends that other planned development of sporting facilities also experience the same high level of development as warranted by demand. Although development to such standards would involve significant cost, return from the ability



to attract premier events in the short and long term would far outweigh such costs – there has been much research into cost/benefit of sporting/cultural events and their benefit to local populations and economies.

Case in point, Australia has just topped the Gold Medal count at the current World Aquatics championships with team members coming from a diversity of regional localities across our nation – athletes benefit tremendously from high level competition afforded by location of competitive events outside capital cities.

The Shire is recognised as being at the centre of the 'Aerotropolis' (Sydney/Badgerys Creek/Canberra airports), within easy reach of significant populations for sporting and cultural events which could be serviced by venues of International standards with the added attraction of all the non-metro benefits/ambience of a regional Shire that is the Southern Highlands.

#### **4. Do you have any ideas for the existing Mittagong Pool site?**

- Due to existing precinct 'hub' components (golf; PCYC; rugby league; tennis; mountain biking etc) and proximity to public transport and growth centres to the north, the site would lend itself ideally as a 'destination play space'.
- Priority Projects as mentioned above include "*identify a site in the Mittagong area to provide a destination playground with water play*". The Mittagong Pool site could accommodate water play, capitalising on some of the existing infrastructure which could be reused/repurposed to service such activities.
- The kiosk and change rooms could also be repurposed in their current locations.
- The site could also perhaps benefit from existing improvements at the Mittagong Golf Club to support events and provide catering options.
- Parts of the existing Golf Course could also be repurposed to complement 'playspace' components, particularly mountain biking.
- With such redevelopment, bike/walking track style linkages to the Mittagong township, Lake Alexandra, and any existing/developed mountain bike or walking tracks are essential – featured walls such as 60' Falls, 40' Falls and the Boxvale Track are all within walking distance of the Mittagong Pool precinct.
- Any rehabilitation/development of the existing locality should be sympathetic to the extensive heritage/history of the site. As many long-time locals would know, the site was once called Boswell Park and contained many unique features including a zoo in its former life.
- Environmental factors relevant to its location in a water course could be used positively with any site redevelopment.
- Should this site be redeveloped, consideration should be given to upgrade access via a roundabout at the existing entrance on the Old Hume Highway. This could benefit access and safety for existing users of the precinct/hub.



#### **5. Would you like to see a new indoor sports facility in the northern part of the Shire?**

- The Strategy does not fully consider the extent of work undertaken with planning for Lackey Park and associated upgrade of the Moss Vale Basketball Stadium ([Lackey Park Masterplan & Regional Hub Feasibility Analysis](#)). Should this proceed, such proposed 'Hub' would be the natural 'premier indoor facility' for the Shire – especially if developed to international standards. Should relevant growth and sporting participation be experienced, the development of a further large facility in the north may be warranted.
- As per planning principles and efficiencies afforded by co-location of a range of activities at one site as per the 'hub' model, co-located indoor facilities at the proposed Aquatic Facility may be a possibility.
- Council (or State) owned land could be utilised for such future facilities, for example Ironmines Oval and land around the Renwick development.

#### **6. What other uses do you see as appropriate as part of an integrated community hub / multi-purpose facility (i.e. training and meeting rooms, café, free working spaces etc)?**

- As above, according to need and demand. The more diverse the facility is the more efficient development, construction and use will be. Traffic and access will no doubt be a major factor with co-location, especially if there are major events planned at the same time across disciplines.
- Sports administration is perhaps the major factor in success of clubs in contemporary sport, with challenges of resourcing administration, officials etc a perennial issue. With co-location, sports administration efficiencies can be realised reducing cost and lightening the burden on dwindling volunteer support. Such support could be in the form of paid administrators who could assist a variety of sports with administration and promotion requirements.

#### **7. What would you like to see in a new Destination Play Space?**

- There are many contemporary Regional Destination Play Spaces that have been developed by local government in recent times. An excellent recent example is the [Boongaree Play Park at Berry](#) which has a range of components that ensure visitors of all ages and capabilities are catered for.
- Destination Play Spaces should ideally be co-located with other recreational/cultural precincts and facilities.
- Although the Southern Highlands experiences cold periods, water play, as per Strategy Recommendation in 'Priority Projects', should be collocated with other play space features.
- Such Play Spaces should also be linked to other facilities and local 'hubs' via walking and cycling tracks.



**8. Is the proposed transition from single use facilities to an integrated community hub approach a better way of meeting the communities social and recreational infrastructure needs?**

- Such benefits are highlighted in responses above and relate to efficiencies of development and use, which all relate to reduced cost of provision.

**9. Should facilities in smaller villages be more adaptable and flexible to cater for a broader range of uses?**

- Yes, development or refurbishment of such facilities should be consistent with a 'theme' that relates to the unique environment and locality which is the 'Southern Highlands'.

**10. Any additional comments regarding the CRFS**

- There is considerable detail of many aspects relating to Community and Recreational Facilities in documents currently on Exhibition relevant to the Strategy. It is noted that the Community had an opportunity to provide feedback at a Community Drop in Session provided on 25 July and via Submissions such as afforded by this Survey. There is further scope through Council's recently formed 'Sport, Recreation & Leisure Community Reference Panel' for consultation – an essential 'consultation' component in the process as there are no councillors at present to represent the broader interests of the community.
- As this Strategy will determine direction and action for the next 20 years, SHWP considers it essential that stakeholders are fully informed and consulted during this period of Strategy refinement and adoption.
- Finally, many of the components that make up Community and Recreational Facilities, as evidenced in the Tredwell Draft Study and associated documents, are in urgent need of repair, refurbishment or replacement. Council has an obligation to provide a range of appropriate facilities to support recreation, leisure and community locally. As there is some urgency in addressing these needs, Mittagong Pool and the Mittagong Playhouse being just two relevant examples, we asked that the highest priority be given to planning, financing and provision of proposed components of this Strategy.
- SHWP thanks Council for the opportunity to participate in this Strategy development and looks forward to further consultation in the near future.

