

## Palmwoods Sports Complex Master Plan 2013-2028









# Sunshine Coast Council Palmwoods Sports Complex Master Plan 2013 – 2028

#### FINAL REPORT

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### 1. Project Background

The Palmwoods Sports Complex (the Complex) is comprised of the Palmwoods Sport and Recreation Reserve (the Reserve), Briggs Oval and Grahame Rae Sports Ground (comprised of 'The Woods' Oval which hosts AFL/cricket and two rectangular fields to the west which host churches soccer). The facilities are important to the Palmwoods and surrounding communities, providing sport, recreation and community active living opportunities as well as contributing to the social fabric of the area. They are also a key contributor to the broader hierarchy of sport and recreation facilities across the Sunshine Coast hinterland and broader region. The three sites will be collectively referred within this report as **the Complex**.



Figure 1: – Aerial of Palmwoods Sport and Recreation Reserve<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Photo sourced from Google Map.



Figure 2: - Aerial of Grahame Rae Sports Ground and Briggs Oval<sup>2</sup>

With an estimated population of 7,388<sup>3</sup> in 2011, the Palmwoods Locality of Interest is expected to grow by 66% to an estimated population of 12,298 by 2026. The population of the neighbouring Nambour Locality of Interest is projected to increase from 16,309 as at 2011 to 25,854 by 2026. Without any increase in sports reserve land, these Localities of Interest are predicted to have a combined shortfall of over 23ha in sports reserve land by 2026 if population projections come to fruition.<sup>4</sup>

With this in mind, the need to ensure existing facilities are designed to accommodate maximised usage and functionality, meet the needs of the community and can service multiple disciplines will be particularly important within Palmwoods and surrounding areas.

Issues raised by clubs utilising the Palmwoods Sports Complex (subject of this Master Plan), during the consultation for the *Sunshine Coast Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2011 - 2026* included:

- Standard of clubhouses, lighting, water access and playing fields
- Impact from cross-over of summer to winter sporting seasons and difficulties associated with shared use
- Impact from flooding.

Some of the issues raised by Palmwoods community members in broader consultation for the Sunshine Coast Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2011 - 2026 included:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Photo sourced from Google Map.

<sup>3.</sup> Source: Sunshine Coast Council

Source: Sunshine Coast Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2011 - 2026

- Need for improved development planning to ensure usable/ functional green space
- Need for increased land for playing fields
- Playing areas impacted by over use
- Need for improved turf maintenance, irrigation and lighting
- Poor standard of infrastructure
- Inadequate shade
- Increased flooding generated by new developments on Grahame Rae Sports Ground
- Increased traffic impacting on safe access.

Given the inevitable growth of sport and recreation groups, in line with the broader Sunshine Coast population growth, it is essential that council determines a long-term vision for the site. The Palmwoods Sports Complex Master Plan 2013 – 2028 (The Master Plan) is an important step in determining how the Complex can continue to service user groups and provide a valuable community resource into the future given the diversity of users and competition for sport and recreation open space.

The Master Plan considers the interrelationships between:

- The functionality, configuration, usage and capacity of the sites, including the potential relationship with local schools and each of the sites
- The current character and functionality of the landscape
- Needs across various sports and recreation uses, including current and future tenants
- Emerging trends and issues
- Priorities, levels of service and resources
- Catchment area and population demographic demands (present and future)
- Events and sport and recreation delivery
- Car parking and traffic movement/management requirements
- Community expectations and needs
- The realities of the economic, social, environmental and legislative context of the time
- Alignment with council's Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2011 2026 and Open Space Strategy 2011
- Relevant planning constraints and opportunities, including environmental, flood immunity, land zonings, DA requirements etc.
- Current and proposed tenure arrangements.

#### 2. Background Research

#### 2.1. Literature Review

The following documents were reviewed as part of the background research process to set the study in context and to ensure study outcomes are aligned with council's corporate direction:

- Sunshine Coast Council Corporate Plan 2009 2014
- Sunshine Coast Community Plan: Looking Forward to 2030
- Sunshine Coast Open Space Strategy 2011
- Sunshine Coast Social Infrastructure Strategy 2011
- Sunshine Coast Sustainable Transport Strategy / Active Transport Plan 2011 -2031
- Sunshine Coast Biodiversity Strategy 2011
- Sunshine Coast Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2010 -2026
- Sunshine Coast Access and Inclusion Plan 2011 2016
- Sunshine Coast Aquatic Plan 2011 2026
- Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2011
- Sunshine Coast Difficult to Locate Sports Study 2009 -2028
- Sunshine Coast Place Making Charter: People, Place and Partnerships
- Healthy Neighbourhoods Report 2009
- Sunshine Coast Council Capital Works Program Listing 2011/2012 2021/2022
- Sunshine Coast Council Sports Field Maintenance Funding Program

Council have advised that no Master Plans or similar studies have been undertaken recently for sport and recreation facilities within the broader Palmwoods catchment. Those issues, needs or opportunities specifically relevant to the Complex or relevant to master planning of sport and recreation facilities from the review of documents, are documented below.

Table 1: Key issues, needs or opportunities emerging from background literature review

ISSUE/ STRATEGY RELEVANT TO STUDY	SOURCE
The Sunshine Coast Corporate Plan 2009 - 2014 is a key planning document outlining the priorities and strategies council will pursue over time to achieve its vision to become Australia's most sustainable region.	Sunshine Coast Council Corporate Plan 2009 - 2014
One of the key themes of the Plan is in the area of "Health and Wellbeing" which defines an active and healthy community as being one that is resilient and enhances people's quality of life.	
Council plays a role in community well-being through safety initiatives, preventative health and education programs, provision of community sport and recreational opportunities and facilitating community interaction. It also has responsibility for ensuring the region's preparedness to deal with natural disasters.	
The emerging priorities are:	
<ul> <li>Safe and healthy communities - Adopt and encourage 'crime prevention through environmental design' principles in the design of</li> </ul>	

ISSUE/ STRATEGY RELEVANT TO STUDY	SOURCE
public and private spaces	SOURCE
<ul> <li>Active lifestyles - Promote physical activity and recreation &amp; Support community-based sport and recreation organisations and programs.</li> </ul>	
The Sunshine Coast's first Community Plan documents the community's vision, values and aspirations for the next 20 years. The Plan specifies the vision of the Sunshine Coast is to be Australia's most sustainable region – vibrant; green and diverse. The Plan recognises that physical activity and recreation are all important components of the Sunshine Coast's current lifestyle and contribute to the physical and mental health of residents. On this basis, the region will retain and enhance its network of open space and protect waterways and beach foreshores.  The Plan also proposes that the region continue to offer a broad range of tourism experiences including major sporting, recreational	Sunshine Coast Community Plan: Looking Forward to 2030
and cultural events.  Finally, one of the prioritized community issues included the need to provide facilities for sporting, recreation and community activities.	
The Sunshine Coast Open Space Strategy 2011 concentrates on council controlled and managed open space and identifies key challenges and issues shaping open space on the Sunshine Coast. Further the Strategy provides policy direction to grow and enhance parks, sports grounds, recreation trails and reserves. The actions relevant to this study include:	Sunshine Coast Open Space Strategy 2011
<ul> <li>Identify sports grounds that have suitable attributes or capacity to support biodiversity outcomes and link core habitat areas.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Strengthen pedestrian links to parks and community hubs to im- prove transport options.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Identify park locations with opportunities for public transport, cycle links, and integration into transport planning.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Continue to apply the Desired Standards of Service (DSS) to ensure the land and embellishments are responsive to community values and changing needs.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Integrate whole of life costs into open space planning, landscape development and infrastructure selection.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Apply resource efficient and effective strategies in park and sports ground development (eg. water reuse and native planting).</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Ensure development in the open space network is accessible using the standards of universal access and safety.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Actively seek to reduce space lost to secondary uses such as car parking, commuter paths and storage areas.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Continue to engage with communities on detailed planning, management, and delivery in accordance with council's Community Engagement Policy.</li> </ul>	
The Strategy includes a direction to continue to investigate the establishment of district recreation parks to service the district needs of Palmwoods.	

ISSUE/ STRATEGY RELEVANT TO STUDY	Source	
The Sunshine Coast Social Infrastructure Strategy 2011 seeks to identify council's long-term direction for social infrastructure over which council has primary responsibility. The Strategy provides the framework for the planning and delivery of council's social infrastructure.  This Strategy does not make consideration for outdoor sporting facilities, however, it recognises the need to support and consider recommendations from other council endorsed plans and strategies.	Sunshine Coast Social Infrastructure Strategy 2011	
The Sunshine Coast Sustainable Transport Strategy 2011 - 2031 outlines the emerging priorities and key strategies council will pursue to deliver a sustainable transport system. Any parking and access solutions for the Complex will need to ensure the goals of this Strategy are addressed.	Sunshine Coast Sustainable Transport Strategy/ Sunshine Coast Active Transport Plan 2011 - 2031	
The Strategy provides a user hierarchy as detailed below:		
Consideration  Consider First  Pedestrians  Cyclists  Public transport users  Freight & specialist service vehicles  Consider Last  Other motor traffic		
The Strategy maps the proposed hierarchy and function of transport corridors for the Sunshine Coast until 2031 and guides the planning and implementation of transport to achieve a sustainable transport vision. The Strategy identifies a fundamental objective in active transport planning is to improve community mobility and amenity by providing connected networks and facilities based on people's needs and location.		
The goal within the Strategy is to provide pedestrians and cyclists with safe, comfortable, direct connections to homes, schools, work places, shopping areas, services, recreational opportunities and public transport. The Strategy outlines that planning will support and encourage walking and cycling as an alternative to private car use and as healthy recreational activity for all ages.		
The Strategy incorporates the <i>Sunshine Coast Active Transport Plan</i> 2011-2031 (Active Transport Plan) which provides additional detail and guidance in support of this Strategy.		
The Sunshine Coast Biodiversity Strategy 2011 – 2020 is the greenprint for the future of the Sunshine Coast region's natural assets. It outlines the emerging priorities and key strategies council will pursue to maintain and enhance the region's unique biodiversity for future generations.  A key focus of the Strategy is to protect, enhance and connect Sunshine Coast's natural assets using a range of existing and	Sunshine Coast Biodiversity Strategy 2011 – 2020	

ISSUE/ STRATEGY RELEVANT TO STUDY	SOURCE
innovative approaches.	
Strategies and actions focus on building green infrastructure across the landscape to strengthen and reconnect high value natural assets and optimise the services to the community that healthy, functioning ecosystems provide.	
The main purpose of the <i>Sunshine Coast Sport &amp; Active Recreation Plan 2011 - 2026</i> is to develop a robust document to guide current and future provision of facilities and services to meet the needs of the Sunshine Coast's diverse communities over the next 15 years. The Plan recommends making available the under-utilised ovals adjacent to Palmwoods Swimming Pool for junior AFL in the short term.  The Plan identified that there is a current shortfall of sports reserve land within the Palmwoods locality of interest of approximately 4.2ha and this shortfall is expected to grow to 9.3ha by 2026.	Sunshine Coast Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2011 - 2026
The Sunshine Coast Access and Inclusion Plan 2011 - 2016 sets out five key focus areas and aims to guide council towards improving access and inclusion for community members in the region. Under each of these focus areas a table of strategies has been developed that will direct actions to reduce physical, social and economic barriers.  The Plan identifies a series of elements for consideration aimed at reducing access barriers, including relating to the following focus areas:  Focus Area 1: Pedestrians, Parking and Transport  Focus Area 2: Community Facilities, Amenities and Open Space  Focus Area 3: Planning and Services  Focus Area 4: Training, Employment and Participation  Focus Area 5: Communication and Community Engagement.	Sunshine Coast Access and Inclusion Plan 2011 - 2016
The Sunshine Coast Aquatic Plan 2011 – 2026 was developed to inform and guide the planning, development and management of the aquatics network across the Sunshine Coast region through to 2026. The Plan recommends that council monitor usage and review facility planning prior to the expiration of the existing lease at the Palmwoods Aquatic Centre, however no upgrade or expansion was recommended.	Sunshine Coast Aquatic Plan 2011 – 2026
<ul> <li>The Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2011:</li> <li>Reviews existing legislation and both state and local policy to identify impacts on trail development;</li> <li>Analyses the current level of supply, range and diversity of existing signed recreation trails and the quality of council managed trails within the Sunshine Coast;</li> <li>Examines key issues relating to recreation trail provision for walkers, mountain bike &amp; horse riders within urban and non-urban environments.</li> </ul>	Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2011

ISSUE/ STRATEGY RELEVANT TO STUDY	Source
The Plan recommended:	
<ul> <li>Palmwoods Sport and Recreation Reserve acknowledge the exist- ing trail link around the southern part of the site, and the future trail proposed around the northern part of the site; and</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Briggs Oval and Grahame Rae Sports Ground acknowledge the existing trail link to and into this site.</li> </ul>	
The Sunshine Coast Difficult to Locate Sports Study 2009 – 2028 aims to attain a network of sustainable Difficult to Locate Sports precincts and venues that adequately cater for the growing needs of the Sunshine Coast community.  The study did not identify any key findings or recommendations for the Palmwoods locality.	Sunshine Coast Difficult to Locate Sports Study 2009 – 2028
A core objective of the <i>Sunshine Coast Place Making Charter</i> is to preserve and enhance the unique character of each place, which reflect the values of the local community. Infrastructure contributes significantly to the character of a place, the design of which requires a context sensitive approach that balances unique design solutions with standardised treatments.	Sunshine Coast Place Making Char- ter: People, Place and Partnerships
The Healthy Neighbourhoods Report 2009 identifies physical activity patterns and determinants and the influence of the local environment in the Sunshine Coast and Cooloola regions. It aims to classify the different health behaviours found within local areas and seeks to promote physical activity and access to healthy food. The study found:	Healthy Neighbourhoods Report 2009
<ul> <li>Respondents living in some areas (Gympie and Maroochydore) were found to have lower levels of sufficient physical activity;</li> <li>Those in full-part time work had lower levels of sufficient activity;</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>and</li> <li>A high percentage of those who report running out of food have children in the home.</li> </ul>	
The Sunshine Coast Council Capital Works Program 2011/2012 – 2021/2022 includes a forward allocation of \$225,000 in 2014/15 (indicative budget pending council approval) for the implementation of Palmwoods Sports Complex Master Plan recommendations.	Sunshine Coast Council - Capital Works Program Listing 2011/2012 - 2021/2022
The Sports Field Maintenance Funding Program aims to provide consistent, equitable and appropriate support for sports field maintenance across the region. Funding is a contribution towards field maintenance costs. The intent of the program is to partner with sporting organisations to maintain their facilities to district competition level.	Sunshine Coast Sports Field Maintenance Funding Program
In administering the Sports Field Maintenance Funding Program, council aims to:	
<ul> <li>Achieve the objectives of the Corporate Plan through the active</li> </ul>	

ISSUE/ STRATEGY RELEVANT TO STUDY	Source
engagement of sporting organisations;	
<ul> <li>Acknowledge the contribution of community sport clubs, and their volunteers, to the community in line with council's vision for the fu- ture;</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Provide a standard approach and framework to establishing new community partnerships and maintaining existing partnerships;</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Distribute funds in an equitable manner under the principles of good governance;</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Encourage long-term planning for cost-effective facility development;</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Ensure that funding is provided to eligible organisations on an equitable basis; and</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Encourage and work with organisations to enable groups to become more sustainable.</li> </ul>	

#### 3. Site Investigation and Constraints

#### 3.1. Site Overview

The Complex includes:

- Lot 20 SP214358 is the Palmwoods Sport and Recreation Reserve (approx 3.25ha) and accommodates tennis, cricket, scouts and girl guides. The Palmwoods Aquatic Centre and community skate facility are situated on separate lots. This site is State owned land with council acting as trustee. This land is designated as a Reserve for Recreation and Showgrounds.
- Lot 1 RP140553 accommodates Grahame Rae Sports Grounds (approx 7.2ha) and caters for AFL, cricket and soccer. This land is owned by council.
- Lot 2 RP196996 accommodates Briggs Oval (approx 2.5ha) and caters for rugby league and cricket. This site is State owned land with council acting as trustee.

The Palmwoods Sport & Recreation Reserve is bounded by Palmwoods - Montville Road (a major thoroughfare to Montville), Lingara Avenue and Dunning Street. This site has significant variations in land heights with the upper and lower cricket ovals being at vastly differing levels. Grahame Rae Sports Grounds and Briggs Oval are divided by Jubilee Drive, a major thoroughfare to the town centre and Nambour. Paynter Creek which flows at the northern and eastern section of Grahame Rae Sports Ground is subject to flooding and has a portion of remnant vegetation.

The clubs located at the Complex include:

- Nambour and Hinterland Australian Football Club
- Palmwoods Cricket Club
- Palmwoods Tennis Club
- Palmwoods Warriors Football Club (Soccer)
- Palmwoods Western Districts Junior Rugby League Football Club
- Guides Queensland (Palmwoods Branch)
- The Scouts Association of Australia, Queensland Branch, Palmwoods Scout Group.



Outlined below are the current tenure arrangements in place for user groups at the three sites:

**Table 2: Tenancy Arrangements at the Complex** 

PALMWOODS SPORT AND RECREATION RESERVE		GRAHAME RAE SPORTS GROUND		BRIGGS OVAL	
Tennis	Lease expires 31/10/19	AFL	<ul><li>Lease expired 30/09/10</li><li>Access, April - September</li></ul>	Rugby League	<ul><li>Lease expires 30/09/17</li><li>Access, April – September</li></ul>
Cricket	Lease expires 31/10/19	Cricket	<ul><li>Lease expired 31/03/11</li><li>Access, Octo- ber – March</li></ul>	Cricket	<ul><li>Lease expires 31/03/17</li><li>Access, October – March</li></ul>
Scouts	Lease expires 31/10/19	Soccer	License agreement		
Guides	• Lease expires 31/10/19		Expires 31/01/15		

The Palmwoods Sport and Recreation Reserve incorporates the Palmwoods Aquatic Centre which is leased to a third party operator.

All individual clubs are responsible for the maintenance of their playing areas and associated infrastructure. Council provides a part contribution towards the cost of maintaining the playing fields through its Sports Field Maintenance Funding Program. Further, clubs are responsible for all electricity, rates and other operational/administration costs. The majority of the capital development undertaken on the three sites has been a result of member fund raising and Government funding programs.

The Complex predominately services district level competitions and training, however occasional larger scale events are held by the majority of user groups. The majority of facilities are used over the entire year. All clubs have a strong reliance on volunteers.

Council has advised that no suitable sports reserve land has been identified within proximity of the Palmwoods Locality of Interest. Further, no forward budget has been allocated for the acquisition of land for this locality.



#### 3.2. Site Assessment and Utilisation

Outlined below is a site assessment summary for the three sites based on inspections undertaken by the study team and information supplied by council officers.

**Table 3: Palmwoods Sport and Recreation Reserve Site Assessment** 

Site attributes, constraints, functionality for purpose, visual amenity	<ul> <li>Situated on the western side of Palmwoods, running adjacent to the major connection way of Palmwoods - Montville Road</li> <li>Approximately 3.25ha in size</li> <li>State owned land with council acting as trustee</li> <li>Land is designated as a Reserve for Recreation and Showground</li> <li>The site is largely surrounded by residential development</li> <li>The impact of future lighting on residential allotments requires further exploration</li> <li>There are significant height variations across the site dropping rapidly from the main cricket field to the junior field. In particular, the area in the eastern most corner of the site is mapped as having a slope of between 15.0 – 19.99%</li> <li>The site is identified as Urban within the Strategic Plan 6</li> <li>The individual clubs are responsible for all operational costs including site maintenance, water, electricity, sewer, etc</li> <li>Combination of a variety of synthetic grass and hard court tennis courts, with six in total</li> <li>Playing fields and turf wickets are of a good standard</li> <li>Fields drain effectively</li> <li>Turf cricket wicket on the main oval supported by a synthetic cricket wicket on junior oval</li> <li>Tennis and cricket facilities appear to be well maintained</li> <li>Shared use toilet facilities recently upgraded adjacent to the main and junior cricket ovals</li> <li>Informal off-street parking only with the exception of a small number of sealed car parks at the aquatic centre</li> <li>Palmwoods Aquatic Centre is located on the site</li> <li>Sustainable transport considerations:         <ul> <li>Accessible from the town centre via off road pathways</li> <li>No pedestrian refuge to site</li> <li>Pathway in front of the swimming pool finishes at the car park</li> <li>Poor access from the south (Dunning St and Lingara Ave) for pedestrians and cyclists with a track worn through vegetation at this point.</li></ul></li></ul>
Water catchment/ hydrology	<ul> <li>A small portion of the site on the south western border is mapped within the stream network buffer of 100m to a waterway</li> <li>The site is serviced by town sewerage and water</li> <li>No water harvesting infrastructure on site.</li> </ul>
Facilities (Condition, presentation, standard etc)	<ul> <li>Tennis</li> <li>six courts (combination of four x grass and two x hard courts)</li> <li>Two-storey clubhouse including meeting space, disabled amenities and storage.</li> </ul>

#### Cricket

- Storage shed
- Main cricket oval with turf cricket wicket
- Junior cricket oval with synthetic cricket wicket.

#### Guides

Guides hut.

#### Scouts

Scouts hut.

#### **Aquatic Centre**

- Indoor program pool
- 25 metre heated pool with covered grand stand
- Wading pool.

#### **General Facilities**

- Local skate park
- Two public toilets (Situated adjacent to main and junior cricket ovals).

#### **Table 4: Briggs Oval Site Assessment**

#### Site attributes, constraints, functionality for purpose, visual amenity

- Situated on the northern side of Palmwoods Township, separated to the south of Grahame Rae Sports Ground by Jubilee Drive
- Approximately 2.5ha in size
- State owned land with council acting as trustee
- The site is surrounded by a retirement village to the south, rural residential to the west and Jubilee Drive to the north and east
- The impact of future lighting on the retirement village requires further exploration
- The land to the northern boundary of the site is mapped as being Area 2: land above 5m Above Height Datum (AHD) and below 20m AHD for acid sulphate soils
- The site is identified as Urban and Agricultural within the Strategic Plan 6
- The site includes one full-sized and junior rugby league fields and a central turf cricket wicket
- Aging practice cricket nets are situated in the south western corner of the site
- The individual clubs are responsible for all operational costs including site maintenance, electricity, water, sewer, etc.
- Playing fields and turf wickets are of a good standard
- The field experiences drainage difficulties, however this site recovers quicker than the adjacent Grahame Rae Sports Ground
- The new rugby league clubhouse is of a good standard, however the old change room/ canteen building requires upgrades
- Informal off-street parking situated at the southern end of the site
- Walk/cycle path network connectivity from town.

#### Water catchment/ hydrology

- The northern portion of the site is mapped as flood prone land
- The southern portion of the site is anticipated 1 in 20 Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) to be less than 0.5m flood depth with

	the northern half considered to be between 0.5m – 1.0m  The site is serviced by town sewerage and water  No major water harvesting infrastructure on site.
Facilities	Rugby League
(Condition, presentation, standard etc)	<ul> <li>1 x full sized field</li> <li>1 x junior field</li> <li>Shared use change room building</li> <li>Two-storey clubhouse.</li> <li>Cricket</li> <li>Shared use change room/canteen building</li> <li>Practice nets</li> <li>Main cricket oval with turf cricket wicket.</li> </ul>

Table 5: Grahame Rae Sports Ground Site Assessment		
Site attributes, constraints, functionality for purpose, visual	<ul> <li>Situated on the northern side of Palmwoods, separated to the north of Briggs Oval by Jubilee Drive</li> <li>Approximately 7.2ha in size</li> </ul>	
amenity	Council owned land	
	The site is bordered by rural residential and agriculture	
	<ul> <li>Paynter Creek flows at the northern and eastern section of the site, including a portion of remnant vegetation</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>The entire site is mapped as being Area 2: land above 5m AHD and below 20m AHD for acid sulphate soils</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>The site is mapped as being a Medium Hazard for bush fire prone areas</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>The area along the northern boundary of the site is mapped as a Conservation Management Area</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>The site is classified as Agricultural Protection within the northern boundary of the site adjacent to the creek and is considered to be Rural or Valued Habitat within the Strategic Plan 6</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>The site includes one full-sized AFL/cricket field, senior and junior soccer fields, cricket practice nets, AFL/cricket clubhouse, soccer clubhouse, public toilets and storage shed</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>The individual clubs are responsible for operational costs including site maintenance, electricity, water, sewer, etc</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Playing fields and turf wickets are of a good standard; however there are major maintenance constraints associated with the regular flooding of the fields</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>The fields have flooded on regular occasions over the past several years</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>There are minimal off-street parking options to service soccer, whilst AFL/cricket parking situated within the site is of an informal nature</li> </ul>	
	Sustainable transport considerations:	
	<ul> <li>Walk/cycle path network connectivity from town</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Additional section of pathway required heading west to link to</li> </ul>	

the soccer clubhouse

	<ul> <li>Opportunity to develop dedicated turning lanes into AFL/cricket car park</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Jubilee Drive speed limit is high in consideration of the usage at the site</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>No current provision of blue community facility signs from the nearest State Controlled Road</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Entrances to the road would require a bitumen spray seal (minimum) or asphalt as gravel crossovers present a road safety risk, especially to motorcycle riders.</li> </ul>
	■ The site has some biodiversity and linkage values with a riparian area to the north of the site identified as interim connecting habitat area. The site is bordered on its western and northern boundaries with 'Of Concern' riparian vegetation and future use will need to ensure appropriate vegetated riparian buffers are maintained and enhanced. This is also important in the context of the sports fields' location within the broader landscape as the waterway and the associated riparian vegetation provides a biodiversity corridor through the urban area to connect adjoining habitat areas.
Water catchment/ hydrology	<ul> <li>The entire site is mapped as flood prone land</li> <li>The entire site (with the exception of the southernmost area) is mapped within the stream network buffer of 50m and 100m to a waterway</li> <li>1 in 20 AEP flood depths are:         <ul> <li>Eastern section over 2.0m</li> <li>Middle section 1.6m – 2.0m</li> <li>Western section 1.0 – 1.5m</li> </ul> </li> <li>The site is serviced by town sewerage and water</li> <li>No major water harvesting infrastructure on site.</li> </ul>
Facilities (Condition, presentation, standard etc)	<ul> <li>AFL</li> <li>Shared use clubhouse, change rooms, toilets and storage</li> <li>Shared use full sized AFL/cricket field.</li> <li>Cricket</li> <li>Shared use clubhouse, change rooms, toilets and storage</li> <li>Practice nets (four wickets in total, three practice synthetic wickets have been developed)</li> <li>Shared used full sized main cricket/AFL oval with turf cricket wicket.</li> <li>Soccer</li> <li>2 x senior soccer fields</li> <li>Clubhouse.</li> </ul>

#### 3.2.1. Nambour and Hinterland Australian Football Club

Compared to three years ago, junior membership has decreased significantly from 243 to 139, while senior membership has increased significantly from 36 to 102. The increase in senior membership is as a result of the introduction of a senior side, expanding to three teams in the state competition. The club advised junior membership is decreasing due to inconsistency of

access to playing and training fields as a result of flooding and access conflicts with cricket. AFL lease The Woods Oval between April and September each year. The site is used Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons and evenings, all day Saturday and Sunday. The club is seeking to obtain 12 month continual tenancy to The Woods Oval in order to:

- Encourage junior participation earlier from January to March for pre-season training
- Provide AFL 9's as a summer program under lights in November to March
- Undertake Primary and Secondary school based term four and term one programs
- Avoid having to pack-up every six months, and
- Implement plans to upgrade the facility with funding already secured.

The AFL club has indicated its priority development needs are:

- Player amenities extension and refurbish existing toilets
- Field drainage and irrigation
- Extension of existing clubhouse with new change facility, umpires room and players facilities
- Extension of covered viewing deck and two minor stand installations
- Field restoration works including deep tyning and sand topdressing
- Identified areas of field depression being built up with sand and returfing, and
- Canteen/bar up-grades.

#### 3.2.2. Palmwoods Cricket Club

Compared to three years ago, junior membership has increased marginally from 80 to 85, while senior membership has increased from 75 to 90. The club considers this number of players manageable in consideration of the number of playing fields available within Palmwoods. Palmwoods Cricket Club lease The Woods Oval and Briggs Oval between October and March annually and have a continual 12 month lease at the Palmwoods Sport and Recreation Reserve.

The following sites are used by cricket for training and competition purposes:

- Palmwoods Sport and Recreation Reserve Saturday 8am to 6pm (summer)
- Briggs Oval Monday to Thursday 4pm to 6pm and Saturday 8am to 6pm (summer)
- The Woods Oval (Grahame Rae) Monday to Thursday 4pm to 7pm, Friday 4pm to 9pm and Saturday 8am to 6pm (summer).

Cricket and rugby league have recently agreed that ongoing access to the old change rooms/canteen at Briggs Oval will be granted to cricket based on the following terms:

- Continue 50/50 split of costs for ongoing maintenance and upgrades, including septic pump-out
- Both parties will work with council to identify opportunities for future funding to upgrade the building

- Council will provide a maintenance checklist to clubs for sign off at the end of each season
- Both clubs to share keys for access gate with one padlock
- Vehicles on the playing areas will be kept to a minimum
- One point of contact for rugby league to communicate with cricket.

Priority developments sought by the cricket club to further develop the Palmwoods Sport and Recreation Reserve include:

- Increasing the dimension of the main cricket oval
- Lighting the two cricket ovals
- Developing practice nets, and
- Developing a clubhouse with capacity for meeting room, change rooms and canteen.

#### 3.2.3. Palmwoods Tennis Club

Compared to three years ago, junior membership has decreased from 18 to 10, while senior membership has increased marginally from 50 to 55. The decrease in junior membership is considered by the club to be part of the broader trends being experienced by tennis on the Sunshine Coast in a highly competitive sporting and leisure environment. Tennis leases a portion of the Palmwoods Sport and Recreation Reserve with 12 month continual access. The site is used on Monday to Friday during the day and Monday/Thursday evenings.

Priority development needs identified by the tennis club are:

- Upgraded hard courts
- Improved court lighting, and
- Improved parking and access arrangements.

#### 3.2.4. Palmwoods Warriors Football Club (Soccer)

Current senior membership of 28 cannot be compared to three years ago as this data is not available. The increase in junior membership is considered by the club to be a result of broader increases in soccer participation generally and the effectiveness of the current committee. The club has a license to use the western rectangular fields of Grahame Rae Sports Ground the entire year and has recently entered into a new three year agreement with council. The site is used by the football club on Monday and Tuesday afternoons and evenings, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and all day Saturday.

Priority development needs identified by the soccer club are:

- Safety fencing along the road (Jubilee Drive)
- High safety barrier nets behind the competitive goals along Jubilee Drive
- Improved drainage along the competitive goal line (behind) on the competitive field
- Improved condition of the playing surface on the non-competitive fields

- Improved sub-surface drainage to the non-competitive fields
- Improved drainage to the surrounds of the non-competitive fields
- Concrete terraced steps to both sides of the clubhouse
- A shed to store maintenance equipment
- Improved access to parking
- Lights on the competitive field, and
- Complete restoration of all field surfaces.

#### 3.2.5. Palmwoods Western Districts Junior Rugby League Football Club

Compared to three years ago, junior membership has decreased from 120 to 100 members while senior membership is static at 30. The club considers the decrease in junior membership is the result of the current work and economic environment. Rugby league lease Briggs Oval between April and September each year. The site is used Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and evenings, Wednesday and Friday evenings, and all day Saturday.

Priority development needs identified by the rugby league club include:

- Decking in front of the new clubhouse
- Upgrade playing fields, and
- Upgrade old change rooms/canteen building.

Further, rugby league is seeking to reposition its main playing field to run north-south and to avoid having the cricket pitch on the playing area. The Laws of the Game for Rugby League Football require a senior field to be a minimum of 112m (including 6m in-goals) x 68m.

Note: Landscape Concept Designs were developed showing reconfigured north/south full sized rugby league field within Briggs Oval leased boundaries. It was determined during this process that the positioning of a field of this dimension running north/south is not feasible without impeding on the old change rooms/canteen building. Further, there is insufficient length to meet safety run offs.

#### 3.2.6. Palmwoods Guides and Scouts

Guides and Scouts provided information about their usage and satisfaction with current tenure arrangements at the Palmwoods Sport and Recreation Reserve. The Guides building is used for several broader community based activities. Parking and access was identified by both parties as being of concern, particularly if the site is expanded further in the future. Scouts use the adjacent junior cricket field for training and activity purposes.

Guides advised more secure fencing is being considered to make the area a safer environment for overnight camping activities. Scouts highlighted the steep slope below the main cricket oval to their lease area is difficult to maintain and prevents safe external access to the upper level.

#### 3.2.7. Palmwoods Aquatic Centre

The operator of the Palmwoods Aquatic Centre advised that any future expansion of the Palmwoods Sport and Recreation Reserve should consider improved parking and access. Competition for parking arises when multiple users are present at the site. The operator advised the minimum number of formal car parks at the Aquatic Centre is insufficient to service the full aquatic needs and is further impacted when additional activities are in use on the eastern side of the site.

The operator highlighted the undeveloped land to the west of the aquatic centre adjacent to the skate ramp as being important to be retained for any future potential expansion of the pool.

#### 3.2.8. Summary of Activity

Data supplied by current users of the Complex was provided to demonstrate activity in a typical week over the seven days of the week. A summary of the Complex activity is outlined in the tables below. For Monday to Friday, the following periods apply:

- Morning 8am to 3pm
- Afternoon 3pm to 6pm
- Evening 6pm onwards.

Saturday and Sunday periods are based on:

- Morning 8am to 12pm
- Afternoon After 12pm.

**Table 6- Palmwoods Sport and Recreation Reserve Activity Summary** 

USER	MONDAY		TUESDAY			WEDNESDAY			THURSDAY			FRIDAY			SATURDAY		SUNDAY		
	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon
Cricket																			
Tennis																			
Aquatic Centre																			

**Table 7- Briggs Oval Activity Summary** 

USER	MONDAY		TUESDAY			WEDNESDAY			THURSDAY			FRIDAY			SATURDAY		SUNDAY		
	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon
Cricket																			
Rugby League																			

**Table 8- Grahame Rae Sports Ground Activity Summary** 

USER	MONDAY			TUESDAY			WEDNESDAY			THURSDAY			FRIDAY			SATU	RDAY	SUNDAY	
	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon
Cricket																			
AFL																			
Soccer																			

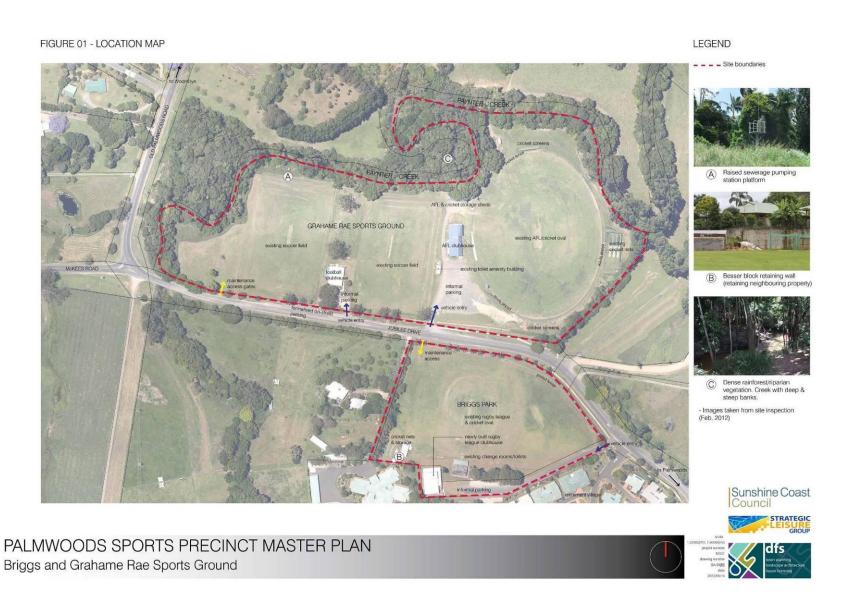
## 4. Planning/Constraints Overlays

Outlined below are a series of mapping overlays demonstrating current planning and constraint considerations for the Complex, including:

- Location
- Contours
- Flooding, wetlands and waterways
- Infrastructure
- Open space
- Ownership, and
- Existing pathways.



#### Map 1: Grahame Rae Sports Ground and Briggs Oval Location Map



Briggs and Grahame Rae Sports Ground

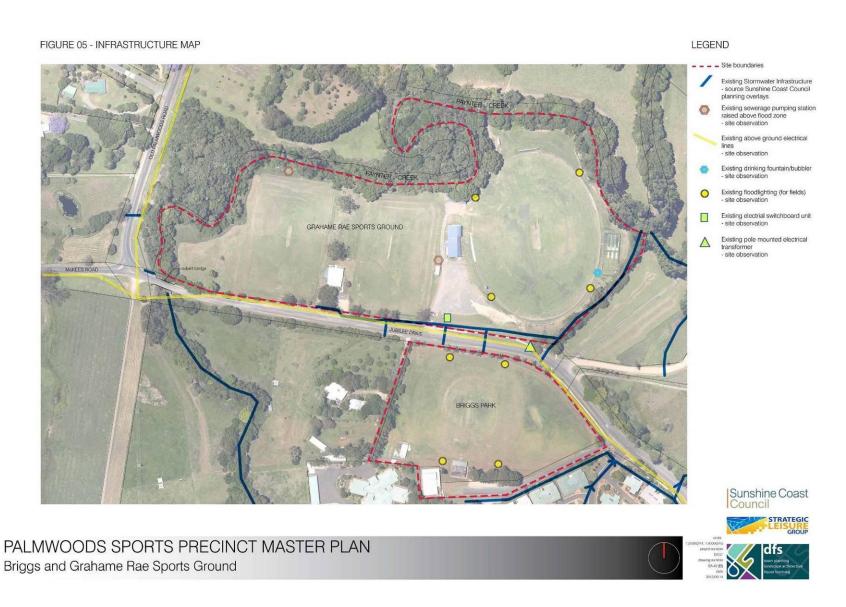
#### Map 2: Grahame Rae Sports Ground and Briggs Oval Contours



#### Map 3: Grahame Rae Sports Ground and Briggs Oval Flood Prone Areas; Wetland; Waterways and Watercourses



#### Map 4: Grahame Rae Sports Ground and Briggs Oval Water Infrastructure



#### Map 5: Grahame Rae Sports Ground and Briggs Oval Open Space



#### Map 6: Grahame Rae Sports Ground and Briggs Oval Ownership



#### Map 7: Grahame Rae Sports Ground and Briggs Oval Existing Pathways



#### Map 8: Palmwoods Sport and Recreation Reserve Location



**Map 9: Palmwoods Sport and Recreation Reserve Contours** 



Map 10: Palmwoods Sport and Recreation Reserve Flood Prone Areas; Wetland; Waterways and Watercourses



Map 11: Palmwoods Sport and Recreation Reserve Infrastructure



Map 12: Palmwoods Sport and Recreation Reserve Open Space



Map 13: Palmwoods Sport and Recreation Reserve Ownership



Map 14: Palmwoods Sport and Recreation Reserve Existing Pathways

