

**Northern Tasmanian Municipal Organisation  
(NTMO) Recreation Committee:  
Regional Recreation Planning Project 2000  
our Future Game Plans**

**Report No. 1 – REVIEW OF REGIONAL  
RECREATION PLANNING 1980 – 1999**

‘Establishing past achievements from planning and  
areas of continued focus for the Recreation and  
Sport Industry in Northern Tasmania’

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Compiled for  
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Incorporating partnership activities between Launceston City Council and the Tasmanian Office of Sport and Recreation and fostering regional approaches to sport and recreation planning and management through working together with regional councils including Break O Day, Dorset, Flinders, George Town, Northern Midlands, Meander Valley and West Tamar.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We acknowledge the support of the professional officers at the eight Local Councils in Northern Tasmania and the Office of Sport and Recreation in Launceston and Hobart. Specific mention is made of the assistance of Kerry Forrest at the Launceston City Council library and Linton Kerber of Office of Sport and Recreation for their efforts in identifying and searching out a large range of planning documents which have proven useful to this review exercise. Linton Kerber completed the initial review of the Tamar Estuary 2020 draft plan and an edited version of his report is provided.

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## Acronyms

ESC - Elphin Sports Centre

FRI - Facility Rating Index

IFM - Indoor Facility Managers

LGA - Local Government Area

LISA - Launceston Indoor Sports Arena

MAST - Marine and Safety Tasmania

NRM - Natural Resource Management

NTMO - Northern Tasmanian Municipal Office

OSR - Office of Sport and Recreation (Tasmania)

PCYC - Police Citizens and Youth Club

TIS - Tasmanian Institute of Sport

## **Section 1 - Introduction to the Regional Recreation Industry Study**

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### ***The Northern Regional Recreation Planning Project 2000: Expected Deliverables***

The 'Future Game Plans' overall project goal states that the Recreation Committee of the Northern Tasmanian Municipal Organisation will consult the recreation and sport industry and then endorse for implementation a recreation planning framework. In seeking to establish a recreation planning framework the objectives of the overall project were:

- To adopt a planned approach to recreation industry development.
- To improve the viability of the recreation industry.
- To improve cooperation in facility and infrastructure provision and maintenance.
- To facilitate increased community participation through improving recreation opportunities. (and)
- To identify and pursue increased funding opportunities, and
- To achieve a common vision through working and communicating together cooperatively.

The individual projects within the overall project were to be produced in a relatively short period of around six months within overlapping phases. Phase One was to produce two reports; one as a review of regional recreation planning from 1980 to 1999 and the other as an analysis of recreation participation and demographics in Northern Tasmania. Phase Two was to produce three reports; one as a regional recreation facilities inventory, the second as a data base of organisations and events and the third as this industry study report based on an economic analysis of the regional sport and recreation market. Phase Three was to produce two more reports; one to identify issues, needs, demands and make an assessment of these and the other as recreation planning and policy guidelines. Phase Four was to bring together the findings of these seven reports and provide a strategic recreation plan for Northern Tasmania.

The key outcome of the overall project was to be a composite of the eight reports and was expected to deliver a recreation planning framework for Northern Tasmania underpinned by:

- quality information,
- assessments of regional sport and recreation needs,
- guidance for the development of relevant systems and policies,

## **Section 1 - Introduction to the Regional Recreation Industry Study**

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- strategies for marketing opportunities and facility provision,
- opportunities for better management of infrastructure, facilities and services,
- links to existing plans and strategies and
- the identification of a regional context.

This final outcome is anticipated to follow the industry study and may include provision of a draft for community comment prior to formal endorsement by the NTMO Recreation Committee.

### ***Overview of Report No.1***

Future Game Plans aims to establish a Northern Regional Recreation Planning Framework for Northern Tasmania. A review of existing plans and reports on Sport and Recreation allows past recommendations to be assessed and determine if implementation of the recommendations were effective.

It is anticipated that some past recommendations are still to be implemented and there may be relevance in considering them in the current planning context.

The industry study (to create Report No.1) is therefore designed to contribute to the development of the strategies for sport and recreation industry planning and management. The study may enable the NTMO Recreation Committee to identify strategies which historically are either readily able to be implemented or which are difficult to achieve in our regional context.

### ***Results Expected from the Industry Study - A Planning Tool in Strategy Development***

The review study will identify plans and reports for review. A simple prioritisation system will be applied to ensure that those plans and reports, which have the greatest regional significance, are reviewed in the first instance. Through a process of review it is anticipated that categories will be able to be established including:

- Indoor Facilities
- Outdoor Recreation, Trails and Open Space

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- Community Recreation, Development and Participation

Further evaluation of the material reviewed will determine:

- Common issues / themes / problems
- Recommendations which are regionally significant
- Recommendations successfully implemented

The review will attempt to link the study to Future Game Plans by establishing the continuing relevance of the recommendations of past planning efforts to sport and recreation in the region in 2000 and beyond.

## **Section 2 – Sources of Information for Review**

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Plans and reports on sport and recreation were drawn from a number of sources.

The reviewers relied on the knowledge of the Steering and Working Group members of the Future Game Plans project. Subsequently, representatives from each Council in Northern Tasmania and the Office of Sport and Recreation were consulted. As well, the library services in the State Office of Sport and Recreation and the Launceston City Council were a further source of material.

The sources of information for review have been identified as follows:

### ***Local Government Authorities – Councils***

Information was received from seven of the eight councils in the northern region, including:

- Break O’Day Council.
- Dorset Council
- George Town Council
- Launceston City Council
- Northern Midlands Council
- Meander Valley Council
- West Tamar Council
  
- Flinders Council has not provided any reports. It is understood that the Council has not undertaken any previous recreation planning.

### ***State Government Departments***

The following State Government Department have provided plans and report for review:

- Department of Primary Industries, Water, and Environment
  - Parks and Wildlife Service
  
- Department of State Development
  - Office of Sport and Recreation
  - Tourism Tasmania

## Section 2 – Sources of Information for Review

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- Department of Health and Community Services
- Marine and Safety Tasmania

### ***Other information sources***

- Australian Sports Commission
- Business North
- Tamar Region Natural Resources Management

### Section 3 – Identification and Prioritisation of reports / plans for Review

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Over the previous 20 year period a large number of reports and plans which directly or indirectly impact on sport and recreation in the Northern Tasmania region have been completed. A complete list of documents identified and collected for review is provided in Table 2.

Due to the large amount of relevant material it was determined that the review process should be prioritised. A three tier review rating system and criteria was established and applied to the task (Table 1).

**Table 1: Review Priority Rating System**

Rating	Review	Criteria
High	Must be reviewed	Completed document. Strategic in outlook. Regional significance.
Moderate	Should be reviewed	Completed document. Strategic in outlook. Local significance, with regional impacts.
Low	Review if possible	Draft or discussion papers or promotional documents. Local significance.

**Table 2: Plans / Reports Identified for Review**

Commissioning Authority and Title of Report / Plan	Prioritisation	Review Completed	Review Required
<b>Launceston City Council</b>			
• February 1983 – Urban Launceston Sports Survey	High	√	
• 1984 – Launceston Sports Development Committee Report	High	√	
• 1987/88 – Recreational Study	High	√	
• May 1989 – Cataract Gorge Reserve Inquiry Report	Moderate	√	
• 1989 – Cataract Gorge Reserve Discussion Paper	Low		No
• 1990 – Urban Recreational Trails	High	√	

### Section 3 – Identification and Prioritisation of reports / plans for Review

Commissioning Authority and Title of Report / Plan	Prioritisation	Review Completed	Review Required
<b>Launceston City Council (Continued)</b>			
• 1990 – Playground Survey	Moderate	√	
• August 1991 - The Gorge Report	Low		No
• May 1992 – Inveresk Railway Terminal Redevelopment Study	Moderate	√	
• July 1992 – Inveresk Railway Terminal Redevelopment Study	Moderate	√	
• 1995 - An Overview of Recreation Needs in Ravenswood	Low		No
• April 1996 - Cataract Gorge Reserve Management Plan	Moderate		Yes
• August 1996 - Northern Suburbs Bikeway Options Project	Moderate	√	
• July 1997 – Youth Spaces Consultation Project	Moderate	√	
• November 1997 - Planning Report for a Central Skate, Blade and Bike Facility	Moderate	√	
• December 1997 - Punchbowl Reserve Bushland Management Plan	Moderate	√	
• February 1998 - A Time to Act: Skaters Task Force – Final Report	Moderate	√	
• 2000 - Draft Climbing Strategy	Low		No
• 2000 – Draft Open Space Policy	Low		Yes
<b>Regional Plans / Reports</b>			
• October 1994 - Indoor Recreational Facilities	High	√	
• 1996 – Tamar River Environs Study	Moderate	√	
• 1999 – Tamar Region Natural Resources Management Strategy	Moderate	√	
<b>State or Federal Government</b>			
• August 1997 - Statewide Walking Tracks Strategy	High	√	
• 1998 – Crusin’ without Brusin’ – 4WD Brochure	Low		No
• 1998/1999 - Recreational Water Report	Moderate		Yes
• 1999 – Tasmanian Attractions Survey	Moderate		Yes

### Section 3 – Identification and Prioritisation of reports / plans for Review

Commissioning Authority and Title of Report / Plan	Prioritisation	Review Completed	Review Required
<b>State or Federal Government (Continued)</b>			
• 1999 – Tourism 21 – Update	Moderate		Yes
• 2000 – Active Australia Policy	High	√	
<b>George Town Council</b>			
• November 1987 - Community Sport and Recreation Profile	Low		No
• 1988 – Forward Social Plan	Moderate	√	
• 1990 – Community Resource Plan	Low		No
<b>Northern Midlands Council</b>			
• 1996 – Sport and Recreation Needs Study	Moderate	√	
• April 1996 - Survey Sporting/Community Groups seeking financial assistance	Low		No
<b>Meander Valley Council</b>			
• 1996 – Needs Survey	Moderate	√	
• 1996 – Municipal Facility Replacement Cost and Market Valuation	Low		No
• 2000 – Strategic Sport and Recreation Plan 1999-2008	Moderate	√	
<b>West Tamar Council</b>			
• April 1992 – Tailrace Recreation Park Strategy Plan	Low		No
• 1997 - Bike Plan	Moderate	√	
• 2000 – Draft Tamar Estuary 2020 – Tamar Estuary and Foreshore Management Plan	Low	√	
<b>Dorset Council</b>			
• 1999 – Bridport Foreshore Management Plan	Moderate	√	

### Section 3 – Identification and Prioritisation of reports / plans for Review

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Commissioning Authority and Title of Report / Plan	Prioritisation	Review Completed	Review Required
<b>Dorset Council (Continued)</b>			
• 1997 -Scottsdale Recreation Grounds – Strategic Management Plan	Moderate	√	
• 1996 – Bridport Foreshore Strategic Framework	Moderate	√	
• 1995 – Marine and Coastal Management Strategy	Moderate	√	
<b>Break O’Day Council</b>			
• 1995 – Marine and Coastal Management Strategy	Moderate	√	
• 2000 – Moving Forward Break O Day – Sport and Recreation Plan 2000 – 2010	Moderate	√	

## Section 4 – Review and Evaluation of Reports

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Section 4 of the report contains a detailed review and evaluation of the reports that have been identified and prioritised. Where practical the original recommendations contained in the various reports have been highlighted in *bold italics*.

The reviews have been grouped under the following headings:

- *Indoor Facilities*
- *Outdoor Recreation, Trails and Open Space*
- *Community Recreation, Development and Participation*

### ***Indoor Facilities***

#### **1994 - Tamar Region Indoor Recreation Facilities**

##### **Introduction**

This report identified the following major indoor sports facilities in the Tamar Region:

- Silverdome
- Elphin Sports Centre
- Police Citizens and Youth Club
- Newstead College
- Launceston College
- University of Tasmania
- Inveresk Railway Yards Site
- Launceston YMCA

The above facilities are seen to be regionally significant in Northern Tasmania. However, each indoor facility needs to be marketed in such a way as to increase community utilisation, yet continue to be financially viable.

##### **Silverdome**

The Silverdome is a multipurpose indoor facility, which has the capacity to hold 8000 people for any major sporting or concert event. The Silverdome sports stadium can be converted to cater for a wide variety of sports, including cycling, basketball (4 courts), indoor hockey (2 courts), volleyball (4 courts), netball, boxing, gymnastics, wrestling, tennis, indoor bowls, judo and running events and exhibitions, concerts and other special events.

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Listed below are 1994 Tamar Region Indoor Recreation Facilities study recommendations and the outcomes of implementation in relation to the Silverdome:

1. In 1997, the Tasmanian Institute of Sport (TIS) and the Sporting Hall of Fame moved into the complex. Also at this time, the Office of Sport and Recreation moved into the site.
2. Iaddilation to is97, tto

## **Section 4 – Review and Evaluation of Reports**

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9. In addition to the recommendations stated in 1994, Northern Tasmanian Netball Association proposed to enclose two courts situated at the Tasmanian Netball Centre. It was proposed that Government fund the enclosure with the cost being \$1.5 million. This proposal was unsuccessful, as the Silverdome has the capacity for 4 indoor netball courts, which are currently used for some major netball events, however are poorly utilised during the week. The proposal of enclosing the two courts at the regional netball centre needs to be further discussed and analysed, as well as investigating the feasibility of utilising the Silverdome for a weekly netball roster.

### **Elphin Sports Centre**

The Elphin Sports Centre (ESC) is owned by the State Government and leased in part by Launceston City Council. Currently, a committee manages the facility on a non-profit basis with members being drawn predominantly from the three sporting associations using the two halls that make up the ESC. The associations include Northern Tasmanian Amateur Basketball Association, Northern Tasmanian Badminton Association, and Northern Tasmanian Table Tennis Association. Other major users include Hwarang Martial Arts, Northern High Schools Sports Association, and Housewives Basketball and Badminton. In the 1994 study, the Elphin Sports Centre had recently been unsuccessful in attaining \$1.65 million from the Federal and State Government to upgrade the existing facility.

Listed below are 1994 Tamar Region Indoor Recreation Facilities study recommendations and implementations in relation to the Elphin Sports Centre:

1. The review of centre pricing and budgeting strategies as a means of increasing income levels to permit a more realistic future asset maintenance and to contribute towards capital investment on the site has been implemented over the last 6 years. However, this recommendation needs to be reviewed further as outstanding issues relating to funding of maintenance and redevelopment remain.
2. Evaluation of the feasibility of utilising/managing the Newstead College gym/stadium in the evenings as an additional facility to the centre. Not progressed and no further action by ESC Management likely.
3. The review of programming, marketing and pricing options for encouraging better utilisation during the day by schools and other community groups revealed that it had a limited effect on the usage of the facility.

### **Police Citizens and Youth Club**

The Police Citizens and Youth Club (PCYC) contains a number of indoor facilities including a trampoline hall, gym, meeting room, weight gym, air rifle range and manual arts room. The club supports the following activities: Aikido, Judo, Tae Kwon Do Karate, gymnastics, jazz dancing, trampolining, weight training, air rifle shooting, senior citizens club use (eg. Indoor bowls, snooker), and associated recreational use by a number of primary schools. The PCYC received \$250 000 from the Federal Government to construct a single basketball stadium that

## **Section 4 – Review and Evaluation of Reports**

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was completed, but has been a source of complaint amongst some residents due to noise levels. Much of the concern has been abated due to noise reduction measures.

Listed below are 1994 Tamar Region Indoor Recreation Facilities study recommendations and implementations in relation to the Police Citizens and Youth Club:

1. Initiate action designed to maximise the potential use of the new hall for existing user groups and other community use. The PCYC continues to offer a range of activities that change regularly with varying levels of uptake amongst the community.
2. The existing problems with the old buildings were addressed as funds permit and with set priorities. Some progress has been made in upgrading areas throughout the facility and there remains a priority to complete refurbishment of the old offices for the purposes of childcare and office space.

### **Newstead College**

Alanvale College was planning the construction of a site at the Elphin Showgrounds in 1994. This site was constructed in 1996 and is known as Newstead College. The College has a basketball stadium, two storage rooms, changerooms, resource room, and classroom facilities. These facilities are utilised by the students during school hours; however, out of school hours the facility is used by Netball and Basketball Associations, and Tae Kwon Do. The facility has also been used for major events such as the Careers Expo.

Listed below are 1994 Tamar Region Indoor Recreation Facilities study recommendations and implementations in relation to Newstead College:

1. The College facilities are currently used outside school hours, however consideration for maximising the potential community use of the gym/hall facility outside the hours used by the College should be investigated.
2. As per the recommendation relating to ESC, further investigation of the potential for co-operative use of Newstead College in conjunction with the needs of the ESC to have additional hall facilities is required.

### **University of Tasmania**

The University of Tasmania has indoor facilities attached to the Centre for Human Movement. These facilities include one basketball court, squash court, gym and weights area, dance studio, meeting room, and equipment store. The Centre for Human Movement recently upgraded and developed a Human Performance Laboratory that is utilised by Exercise Physiology students, however, is also open to the community. The gym and weights room has also been upgraded. This area has been expanded to meet the needs of the patrons. University students predominantly use all of the above facilities, however, they are open for community use.

## **Section 4 – Review and Evaluation of Reports**

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Listed below are 1994 Tamar Region Indoor Recreation Facilities study recommendations and implementations in relation to the University of Tasmania:

1. Investigation of the scope for developing program schedules, which allow local community use, given the general lack of indoor facilities in the north of the city. This has progressed considerably in the last few years, as a manager has been employed for running the gym facilities and the community uses the facility regularly.
2. The development of the Human Performance Laboratory aims to attract community groups to the facility for testing. However, to attract community groups to the facility, marketing and promotion needs to occur. The cost/benefit of this proposal needs to be investigated and viability determined. The Tasmanian Institute of Sport has moved location since the 1994 IFS and has now established a separate Human Performance Laboratory at the Silverdome site. The University Human Performance Laboratory is now only used for teaching and research undertaken by the University.

### **Launceston College**

Launceston College has an indoor sports complex, which contains gym hall, recreation hall, indoor pool, hydrosarge, sauna, two squash courts, climbing wall, and human performance laboratory and classrooms. These facilities are utilised by the Northern Tasmanian Volleyball Association, several basketball teams, swimming groups, Tamar Rowing Club, squash players, and rock climbers.

Listed below are 1994 Tamar Region Indoor Recreation Facilities study recommendations and implementations in relation to Launceston College:

1. This facility is widely used by the community, and subsequently the centre has been leased to cater for community needs. In the past the College has held Expos and other sporting events. The shared use of the facility between students and the community needs to be encouraged to continue within the bounds of ‘competitive neutrality’. The model adopted for sports centre management may serve as a model for other government owned facilities.

### **Inveresk Railway Yards Site**

The Inveresk Railway Yards Site was the proposed area to locate a school of Visual and Performing Arts by the University of Tasmania; and it was also the proposed site for an exhibition and convention facility by the Royal National Agricultural and Pastoral Society. Both of the above proposals have been or are in the process of being implemented.

Listed below are 1994 Tamar Region Indoor Recreation Facilities study recommendations and implementations in relation to the Inveresk Railway Yards Site:

1. The current exhibition/convention facility provides a similar activity focus to that of the Silverdome. Both facilities cater for conventions and this leads to competition between the two facilities. The 1994 recommendation that the two facilities need to cater for

## Section 4 – Review and Evaluation of Reports

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different activities has not been achieved and further investigation in relation to this should occur. It may be possible to achieve this outcome through a formal strategic alliance or possible uniform ownership of these facilities.

### Launceston YMCA

The Launceston YMCA indoor facility was upgraded in the 1980s, and now provides two halls that contain basketball courts, gym with a range of weight and fitness equipment, meeting and management area, and a play centre. The facility is used for social basketball and badminton, programs for disabled people by the New Horizons Club, indoor social bowls, table tennis, aerobics, aero circuit fitness training, children programs including gymnastics, trampolining, basketball, ju-jitsu, judo, tiny tots playgym, indoor netball, and play centre programs.

Listed below are 1994 Tamar Region Indoor Recreation Facilities study recommendations and implementations in relation to the Launceston YMCA:

1. The YMCA needs to continue the present role given the high level of community use and the social rather than competitive activities. Given the success of the Launceston YMCA in their Kings Meadows location encouragement should be provided to investigate feasibility of providing further services in locations within Launceston which are not fully serviced, eg: Central City.

### Overall Recommendations

The October 1994 Tamar Region Indoor Recreation Study addressed the maintenance, development and management problems associated with indoor sporting facilities in the Tamar Region. In order for these problems to be resolved, strategies were suggested with the aim of being implemented in the future.

1. ***Funding from the State Government and Launceston City Council needs to be indicated in a 3-5 year strategic plan relating to indoor facilities in the region.*** To date this has not occurred, but is a requirement of Future Game Plans.
2. ***Liaison between all parties (ie. State Government, Launceston City Council and facility managers) should be arranged every 4-6 months to discuss issues, exchange information, foster Co-operative efforts, and review options for future funding.*** This has occurred in a very ad hoc manner, with the development of an Indoor Facility Managers (IFM) network to try and overcome the communication difficulties between the facilities.
3. ***A development fund between Government, Council, managers and users needs to be investigated for future establishment. An asset maintenance schedule should also be developed for each facility.*** Again, this is occurring ad hoc. Some facilities are keeping a record of their asset maintenance while others are not. New funding from the state Government has been granted for the year 2000 and is aiming to overcome problems associated with asset maintenance.

## Section 4 – Review and Evaluation of Reports

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4. *Establishment of a Facility Managers Group that can meet on a regular basis to discuss issues, exchange information, considers mutually beneficial actions, options for meeting user needs, and marketing efforts.* The development of the IFM network again caters for this recommendation; however, it remains an ad hoc meeting group. The review and continuation of this approach would require consideration of the needs of rural facility managers and outdoor, indoor and aquatic facility managers.
5. *The possibility of sharing equipment between facilities.* This recommendation has not been accomplished and is a low priority in regards to the present study.
6. *Development of National and State Championships events calendar for the region.* The development of a calendar has not occurred, but would be extremely beneficial to the region. This recommendation is part of the brief for Future Game Plans.
7. *Investigation of the opportunities for co-operative effort has not yet been implemented,* but is part of the brief for Future Game Plans.

### Other Indoor Facilities

Halls and community centres in the Tamar region are often duplicated in the same community areas, as there is not a single governing body, but individual providers. An example of this is in Ravenswood, where there is a school sports hall, community hall, church hall, and community centre with gym /hall facility all within close proximity of each other and all are being poorly utilised. The utilisation of these facilities needs to be addressed and a community governing body established.

The development of sporting facilities at former industrial sites has also been proposed in the past. Kings Wharf and the Inveresk Railway are the main areas under proposal. To date, the only facilities added to these sites are the Homepoint Pontoons at Kings Wharf, and the School of Visual and Performing Arts and Exhibition and Convention facility at the Inveresk Railways Site. Also, adjoining Inveresk is the York Park community oval. The Launceston City Council is completing a \$6.4 million upgrade of York Park to cater for international standard events, such as Australian Football, Rugby, Soccer, Cricket and other large commercial and community events such as the Olympic Torch Relay. York Park will now include a major grandstand that will provide corporate facilities and a function room that will require careful management to maximise the community and economic returns that may be derived.

### Overall Recommendations

The Tamar Region Indoor Recreation Inventory in October 1994 revealed that nearly all indoor facilities were being under-used for major periods, day times being most significant of all. Under-use was greatest when there was no management present; however, it is evident that marketing, promotion and programming initiatives would assist considerably in increasing use. The levels of under-use at some facilities suggest that over-provision has occurred, and future development processes should address this problem.

## **Section 4 – Review and Evaluation of Reports**

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A minority of indoor facilities excluded community use. Where a need arise, these groups should be encouraged to change their access policies and no public monies should be allocated to them until this occurs.

## Section 4 – Review and Evaluation of Reports

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### ***Outdoor Recreation, Trails & Open Space***

#### **1989 - Cataract Gorge Reserve Inquiry**

In March 1989 the Cataract Gorge Reserve Inquiry report presented several recommendations to the Launceston City Council to improve the existing Reserve. A number of accidents at the site had been a catalyst for the undertaking of the inquiry. The recommendations were as follows:

1. ***Nothing should be done to alter the natural state of the First Basin water to increase its appeal for swimming or develop a false sense of security. Steps should be taken to discourage swimming in the area.*** This has been implemented, as the Council has not made the basin more suitable for swimming and has definitely not encouraged the facility be used for swimming as the drownings in 1989 highlight the lack of safety in this particular area. It was also recommended that the Basin needed to develop an interpretation centre highlighting the dangers of the Basin and the removal of the canoe operation.
2. ***A public education campaign should be developed in conjunction with the Media and the Department of Sport and Recreation to concentrate on the risks associated with swimming in cold fresh water and the natural hazards of the First Basin.*** In recent times, the scare of algae blooms existing in the water at the Basin received media attention and may have influenced the public's usage of the Basin for swimming. Marine and Safety Tasmania (MAST) run an ongoing public safety campaign, which is currently supporting the above recommendation of educating the people of the risks of the facility.
3. ***Supervision of the pool area to be increased over the summer months and during peak usage times to control behaviour.*** This recommendation continues to be implemented, with a security guard being employed from November through to February to monitor the grounds.
4. ***Information should be obtained on the characteristics of the First Basin eg. temperature, length, breadth, depth and displayed on signs in the reserve to increase public awareness.*** Implementation of this recommendation has occurred over the past ten years. Currently, several signs are displayed around the Basin Reserve to make the public aware of the First Basin characteristics, aiming to improve the safety of the facility for all users.
5. ***The Parks and Recreation Department should conduct a review of play equipment.*** The review of play equipment at the site is on-going and ensures all equipment is maintained and meets safety standards.
6. ***Council should consider methods of closing access to the car park areas at night to control after hour's hooliganism.*** Boom gates have been put in place to prevent vehicles entering the carpark and causing damage.
7. ***The purchase of TV surveillance device and radio communication units should be evaluated by Council to control and prosecute vandals and troublemakers.*** This has

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not been implemented in the past and the necessity of implementing a security system is not a high priority as vandalism at the reserve has diminished.

8. ***Signage leading to and within the reserve to be reviewed and altered where necessary.*** This has been implemented and is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that signs are legible and not damaged.
9. ***A program of work required to refurbish the pool is to be prepared and submitted to Council for consideration.*** Over the past decade the pool has undergone minor works and maintenance, however needs to be reviewed functionally, to determine its working life. The Launceston City Council has in 2000 proposed a number of redevelopment options for the First Basin recreational area, including upgrading, moving and removing the swimming pool. The community consultation exercise that accompanied the proposals received very high support for the retention of the First Basin swimming pool.
10. ***Negotiations should be commenced by Council with the Minister for Police for regular allocation of officers to patrol the reserve during the day and night in times of peak usage.*** This recommendation has not been implemented as a regular patrolling officer would require financial assistance from the Council/Government.
11. ***A program of works is to be developed by the Director of Parks and Recreation to address the issues identified by the public consultation process, eg. Restaurant cleanliness, litter and broken glass, wasps, seat colours etc.*** This recommendation has been implemented and will continue to be reviewed to ensure safety of the facility. The proposals for redevelopment address this concern.

The above eleven recommendations appear to be the standard for a Risk Management Plan. The recommendations are sound business practice and should be utilised by other councils in the region.

### 1990 - Urban Recreation Trails

In 1990 the recreational value and potential users of the Urban Recreational Trails in the Launceston City area were reviewed. The following recommendations were proposed:

1. ***A single-use trail system is not a feasible proposition. Any urban trail system is best proposed as a multi-use system for activities such as walking, jogging and bikeriding.*** This has occurred, however more trails need to be involved in multi-use.
2. ***The maintenance of existing recreation trails should logically take precedence over the construction of new ones.*** This recommendation has been supported and should continue to be supported.
3. ***Maps to be produced of all urban recreation trails in the City of Launceston.*** This has occurred, however more maps need to be produced.
4. ***There should exist a “Maintenance Plan” whereby all recreation trails in the City of Launceston are checked at least once a year.*** This has occurred by default, and should be continued in aid of keeping all trails safe for users.

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5. *A management structure should be in place to safeguard against ad-hoc development.* This is currently occurring and further review should occur on a regular basis.
6. *A long-range plan should be to develop a system of interconnected urban recreation trails throughout the City of Launceston.* Although this is occurring, more structure still needs to be implemented.
7. *Consideration should be given at the planning stage, particularly in new and developing areas, for the provision of cycle routes and “linear parks” along waterways, ridgelines and appropriate man-made easements.* More urban planning needs to occur in the future when developing new sites.
8. *Identify strategic links required to extend the Urban Recreation Trail Network currently existing in Launceston, and provide public access where possible.* This recommendation has occurred in the past, however should continue to be implemented in the future.
9. *Place a high priority on the implementation of a “Bicycle Strategy Plan” in the Launceston City Area. The aim should be to cater for the needs of cyclists of all ages and not just children.* The formation of the Launceston Bicycle Committee has aimed to implement the strategy plan, however has not been as successful as possible and more investigation and support needs to occur.
10. *In terms of encouraging greater use of recreation trails in the Launceston City Area, the following (3) factors should be given the highest priority –*
  - *Proper maintenance*
  - *Provision of bike paths*
  - *Better signage of trails*

Maintenance and provision of bike paths are occurring to some extent, however still need to be the focus of the Launceston City Council. Signage of bike trails is poor and needs to be rectified in the future.
11. *Develop a range of themes for district (and/or regional level) trails so that they take on citywide significance.* This recommendation needs to be further reviewed.
12. *Encourage community involvement in the development and maintenance of trails.* This is occurring, however more involvement from the community is required.
13. *Implement an on-going program of site surveys for major urban recreation trails (eg. Trevallyn State Recreation Area and the Cataract Gorge) to provide up-to-date information on activities provided, usage levels and origin of visitors.* This recommendation has not been implemented in the past and further investigation is required.
14. *Promote community awareness of the City’s recreation trails.* This has occurred, however has been very limited. Further review is required.

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### **1995 - Break O'Day & Dorset Marine and Coastal Management Strategy**

In 1995 the Dorset and Break O'Day Councils produced a Marine and Coastal Management Strategy which focused on the north east and east coasts of Tasmania. The following categories identify the impact of recreation:

1. Low impact recreation – boating, fishing, swimming, sailing, walking and sightseeing.
2. Medium/high impact recreation – power boating, organised sporting events and off road vehicles.

To manage the above impacted recreational activities, ten principles of management were derived from Federal and State policies and agreements. These principles are the basis upon which all management must be conducted. They set the parameters for both management practice and the operation of any management system. The ten principles are as follows:

1. The use and development of resources must be determined by the inherent and potential values of those resources, rather than the demand for their use or development.
2. Development or use of a resource should not occur where there is a risk of irreversible environmental damage.
3. Lack of full scientific knowledge about a resource or the consequences of its use must not be used as a reason for allowing development (Precautionary Principle).
4. Development and use of resources must recognise limitations imposed by natural, biological and physical processes operating in the coastal zone.
5. The use and development of resources should maximise long term community benefit and not impose costs on future generations, those that do not gain any benefit from the use or development of resources, or be at the expense of the values of different resources.
6. Resources for management need to reflect real needs rather than merely responding to problems as they emerge.
7. The principle of best practice must apply to management at all times.
8. Development or use rights must not be given away without associated responsibilities being identified and assigned.
9. Management requires a regional approach, which is not based on administrative, tenurial or physical boundaries.
10. Management must be based on partnerships between all stakeholders.

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### 1996 - Northern Suburbs Bikeway Options Project

In August 1996 an assessment of the community needs and the options for the extension of the bikeway system in the northern suburbs was conducted. The following recommendations were formulated and are listed in order of priority:

1. *The Launceston City Council should instigate a process for the implementation of the Northern Suburbs Bikeway Options Project, including the establishment of a Launceston Bikeway Planning Committee.* This recommendation has been implemented, however further investigation should be undertaken in regards to the support and functioning of the committee.
2. *The Launceston City Council should consider the range of identified opportunities for improving the safety of cycling on existing streets within the City.* This has occurred, however investigation regarding future safety of cycling should be addressed.
3. *The Launceston City Council should pursue opportunities for achieving bikeway links within its development and approval processes.* The implementation process has occurred, however more opportunities are still available.
4. *The Launceston City Council should instigate a program for upgrading and maintaining existing bikeways within the Northern Suburbs.* The Launceston Bicycle Committee has been formed to deal with planning programs for maintenance of bikeway. Although this has been occurring, further maintenance is still required.
5. *The Launceston City Council should investigate the feasibility for developing the identified new bikeway options for the Northern Suburbs.* Again this has occurred, however further investigation is required.
6. *The Launceston City Council should proceed towards the preparation of a Bikeway Plan for the Launceston City Area.* This recommendation has not been implemented and further review is required.

### 1996 - Tamar River Environs Study

The study was a joint initiative of the Northern Tasmanian Regional Development Board and the 3 Tamar River Councils – Launceston, West Tamar and George Town. The Tamar River and environs is a nationally significant recreational waterway, estuarine environment and economic resource. It is significantly undervalued and degraded and the recommendations in the study are a call to action. The Tamar provides major opportunities for recreational boating, fishing, water sports, tourist driving and cycling. The goal for the Tamar River and its environs is to become a prime recreational and tourist area with a national profile.

The essential initiatives to achieve the goal as it pertains to recreational outcomes are:

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- Progressive improvement to the environment of the river, water quality improvement; removal of sediment and invasive plants and pests; foreshore rehabilitation works, and re-establishment of the estuarine habitat in key areas.
- The progressive construction of public facilities to support private and commercial use of the river as a major waterway offering a wide variety of pursuits.
- Provide a single performance based system of land and water management and development approval, that is locally based and State supported, to replace existing complicated jurisdictional arrangements.

The essential recreation projects, which have emerged from the study, are:

- A network of publicly accessible jetties and floating pontoons at key locations.
- International standard wetland interpretation and information centre at the entrance to the Tamar Island Reserve.
- Developing Launceston as a major gateway to the Tamar Valley by bringing more people and activity to the water's edge.
- Managed development of the cultural heritage and marine environment at Low Head.

### **1996/99 - Bridport Foreshore Strategic Framework 1996 & Management Plan 1999**

The Dorset Council's 'Bridport Foreshore Strategic Framework - 1996', includes the following objectives:

1. Public access be provided to all coastal areas.
2. Appropriate and ecological sustainable recreational use and enjoyment consistent with the conservation of the areas natural values be provided.
3. Conservation of bio diversity and other natural cultural values in the area for the long term.
4. Ensure that the use of the area's natural resources is ecologically sustainable.

The objectives are important at a local level and have regional implications.

The 'Bridport Foreshore Management Plan' was prepared in November 1999 to deal with problems associated with the management and resource use in the Bridport foreshore area. Eight recommendations were proposed and are as follows:

1. Undertake an extensive weed eradication program.

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- 7. Adoption of realistic funding to achieve results, with funds being sought from the Federal Government's Natural Heritage Trust to start the upgrading and walking tracks and interpretation works.*
- 8. Adoption of a common track classification system on Crown lands with promotion of a simplified system to users based on easily conveyed information about the classification of 'walk', 'track' and 'route' with a general difficult assessment of 'easy', 'moderate' and 'hard'.*
- 9. Foster the development of common standards for track design, construction and maintenance between various land managers.*
- 10. Continue to manage all walking tracks on Crown Lands with existing or available resources to achieve basic requirements for user safety and natural resource management.*
- 11. Development of training programs and services to ensure the right messages for promoting and marketing walking tracks at the frontline of the tourism industry.*
- 12. Investigation of the opportunities for increasing volunteer and community support for the management of walking tracks eg. Adopt-a-track, joint ventures with walking clubs.*
- 13. Fostering of additional research into walker numbers, expectations and demands and increased monitoring of tracks and their conditions and levels of use.*
- 14. A brief review of the Strategy every year by the Inter Agency Working Party and a major review within 10 years.*
- 15. Strong consideration to the use of local community resources in the implementation of the Strategy, so as to maximise the potential for economic and social benefits within Tasmanian community.*

The 15 'Walking Track' recommendations have been implemented to a limited extent. The Northern Tasmanian region should participate in reviews of this strategy and co-ordinate, where possible, regional multi-use trail strategies into statewide planning and development.

### **1997 - West Tamar Bike Plan**

In 1997 the West Tamar Council was presented with a Bike Plan which aimed to provide safe cycling tracks for all cyclists. The proposal has been partly implemented, however needs to be reviewed on a regular basis. The bike plan is a good example of a planned approach and should be reviewed and utilised by councils prior to designing and implementing new facilities within particular regions.

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### 1997 - Punchbowl Reserve Bushland Management Plan

In December 1997 a management plan for the Punchbowl Reserve was presented. The Plan provides some sound strategies for risk management of open space. The recommendation to ‘develop links to other reserves’ points towards establishment of trails between open space which is a key strategy for increasing and enhancing recreation opportunities. Within the plan several management actions were provided as follows:

1. ***Ensure no illegal vehicular access to any bushland.*** This recommendation has been implemented and should be reviewed on a regular basis.
2. ***Develop links to other reserves.*** Implementation of this recommendation has started and needs to continue until sound links are developed between reserves.
3. ***Install interpretive signage focusing on bushland.*** This has not occurred and needs to be further investigated.
4. ***Monitor bushland around orienteering areas.*** This has been implemented and it was shown that no major damage to bushland has occurred as a result of orienteering.
5. ***Apply for adequate funding for all maintenance and capital works.*** Funding has been applied for, however needs to be reviewed in the future.
6. ***Implement Fire Management Plan.*** This recommendation has been implemented and should be reviewed on a regular basis.
7. ***Progressive removal of Crack Willow.*** This has been occurring and should continue to occur until all crack willow has been removed.
8. ***Monitor pedestrian traffic for bridge.*** This has been implemented to a degree, however is no longer applicable as the old bridge has been upgraded to cater for the needs of pedestrians.

### 1999 - Tamar Region Natural Resources Management Strategy

In 1999 the Launceston City Council, George Town Council and the West Tamar Council worked closely together to present a strategy, which summarises the principles of natural resource management on a regional level.

Four objectives of the strategy were to:

1. provide background information covering the natural resources of the region;
2. identify issues relating to the allocation and use of the regional resources;
3. prioritise the natural resource management issues for the region; and

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4. identify goals, actions and priorities to address these issues.

The above objectives were presented in the strategy plan, which is a prime example of an effective natural resource management strategy plan. This plan should be reviewed on a regular basis and integrated into the Future Game Plans as common issues / themes / problems and opportunities are identified and which may be addressed in partnership.

### **2000 - Tamar Estuary 2020 – Tamar Estuary and Foreshore Management Plan (Draft)**

Linton Kerber of the Office of Sport and Recreation (OSR) undertook a review of the Tamar Estuary 2020 Plan and has provided permission to reproduce an edited version for the Future Game Plans project.

The draft plan has identified the following strategies for recreation on the Tamar River:

1. The need for a recreational boating strategy for the Tamar to monitor, educate and regulate recreational boat use,
2. The need to identify and protect the few remaining natural areas of regional significance and prioritise for preservation,
3. The need to develop a regional open space strategy,
4. The need for jurisdictional clarifications and planning guidelines to coordinate effective planning between state and local government. This will enable clear guidelines for development, as well as ensuring that the natural characteristics of the Tamar Estuary are conserved (as they are under threat from degradation).

The Tamar Estuary 2020 Plan establishes a strong link between the natural environment and recreation opportunities and how the Plan would benefit sustainable recreation opportunities through effective planning incorporating a modified ‘recreation opportunity spectrum’ approach.

The Plan is a non-statutory policy document. The Plan provides planning guidelines and processes that protect sustainable recreation opportunities for the community. Other considerations include:

1. Recognition of the link between the Tamar Estuary 2020 Plan and the Tamar Region Natural Resource Management (NRM) Strategy, and the potential impact or influence they will have on recreation planning and development issues for the Tamar Region.

The NRM strategy for example, also notes:

- The need for a recreational boating strategy to monitor, educate and regulate boat use,
- The need to identify and protect areas – (including vegetation, geological features, water bodies) of regional significance and prioritise for preservation,
- The need to develop a Regional Open Space Strategy based on habitat benefits.

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2. Recognition of the need for such a Plan as it relates to recreation:
  - Outdoor recreation opportunities are often closely associated with the biophysical, social and managerial attributes of the site. Consultations and final recommendations evidence this in the Plan where a ‘recreation opportunity’ relates to the outcome/experience derived from a combination of the desired recreation activity, skills of the individual, equipment required, setting, expectations, etc. Note that individuals may have varying experiences from the same combination of activity and setting.
  - According to a ‘recreation demand hierarchy’ describing the ‘recreation opportunities’ sought by individuals in natural areas, the Plan highlights many issues pertaining to conserving natural areas.
  - Individuals seeking natural recreation opportunities may display ‘limits of acceptable change’ associated with disturbances/degradation of these natural areas.
  - Degradation or alterations affecting natural areas can negatively affect the ‘recreation opportunity’ sought by the individual, therefore affecting participation patterns described by an individual’s movement to another site that meets their intended recreation opportunity experience. This ‘recreation succession’ is little understood in the Tamar Valley with respect to participation patterns and use of natural areas.
3. There is evidence through the Vegetation Mapping and Analysis contained in the Plan that:
  - There is degradation of crown reserve areas by disturbance, weed introduction (ie: boneseed and blackberry), stock and clearing. Such degradation and modification of natural areas and their adjacent lands have the potential to impact upon nature based tourism and recreation opportunities.
  - There are relatively small amounts of pristine vegetation in the Tamar Estuary – therefore there is a need to protect what remains for the benefit of nature based recreation. Recreation should naturally be limited to what is compatible with this objective.
  - It was noted that problems exist in planning schemes being incompatible between Councils, and between Councils and the Crown land zoning systems. A system of zoning and land planning that improves sustainable recreation opportunities is highly desirable.
  - Acknowledges that the need for jurisdictional clarifications and planning guidelines are predominantly land management issues, which do not directly influence the core business of The Office of Sport and Recreation, but influences the planning and development operations of our core clients (ie: local Government and recreation organisations or projects that require planning approvals and access through local government, Parks and Wildlife service and Forestry).
4. The following organisations / groups and the partnerships they may forge are acknowledged as crucial to the success of regional (outdoor) recreation planning in Northern Tasmania:

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- The NTMO Recreation Committee has an important role as a regional recreation planning group, and its representation of participating Councils as land managers with direct responsibilities for recreation planning and development.
- The Parks and Wildlife Service has the role of land manager with respect to Crown lands and reserves.
- Forestry Tasmania has the role of managing forests for sustainable multiple uses.
- Maritime and Safety Tasmania's (MAST) role with respect to recreational boating.
- The role of the Tamar Estuary Strategic Review Group in monitoring the plan, and the role of the NRM Reference Group with respect to NRM Strategy issues such as a recreational boating strategy and a regional open space strategy.

### **2000 - Draft Launceston City Council Open Space Policy**

The policy is draft and has not been before Council. A small selection of principles, policy statements and strategies are listed:

- Principle 1 - Local Government is one partner in a range of agencies who have responsibility for provision of Public Open Space.
- Policy Statements A – Partnerships will be sought to address a range of development and management issues for Open Space, including use of school land, issues with crown, unused rail lines, private land owners, etc
- Strategy 1 – Open Space Hierarchy – Regional Category: A significant, area with at least city/municipal wide catchment; can host a variety of opportunities; may have intrinsic values which make it unique; its impact and/or aesthetic appeal may be significant; it could have high tourism or heritage impact and it may have a high level of sporting competition.

Once the draft document is ratified it would be appropriate to undertake a complete review to identify the full relevance to regional recreation planning and management.

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### ***Community Recreation & Sport Planning, Development & Participation***

#### **1984 - Sports Development Committee Report**

In 1984 the Launceston Council produced a Sports Development Committee Report containing several recommendations, most of which have been implemented over the past 15-16 years.

Below is a list of the recommendations with outcomes of implementation.

1. ***The land neighbouring the NTCA ground in Launceston known as the Glebe be purchased as a matter of priority. This to enable the development of a cricket, tennis, bowls and indoor sports complex in the area.*** This has been successfully implemented as the Launceston Indoor Sports Arena (LISA) was constructed in the mid 1980's, consisting of indoor and outdoor tennis courts. This facility remains an important element in the recreation and sport services provided in the region. The Glebe also underwent construction of a basketball stadium added on to the existing ESC, the relocation of the NTCA No.2 ground, and the addition of adequate car parking facilities to cater for the ESC. The entire complex is seen as a hub of sporting activity and requires a master planning approach to ensure appropriate facility standards and management practices are achieved.
2. ***A program should begin immediately to redevelop Churchill Park as a hockey centre, which restores the sport's confidence and standards. The Committee believes that a program should be undertaken immediately to provide a minimum of four more pitches on the site, with an adequate facility for all being prepared beforehand.*** This recommendation was implemented, however was short lived. Churchill Park is no longer used for hockey, as relocation to the St. Leonards Complex occurred within the last 5 years. The new facility has two synthetic hockey fields, and is known as the 'Home of Hockey'.
3. ***The Education Department should, through the Launceston City Council, provide a long-term lease on Ogilvie Park to the Northern Tasmanian Soccer Association. The NTSA then to take over its development as:***
  - a. ***A home for junior soccer.***
  - b. ***Headquarters of the NTSA with the Matric Soccer Club continuing to use it as its home ground.***

Ogilvie Park has been the home for junior soccer for the last few years, however, relocation to a new site has been proposed due to the ground conditions at Ogilvie Park. Since this recommendation the changeroom facilities were upgraded, however need to be redeveloped and maintained to a suitable standard. Further review is required in conjunction with junior soccer and as part of a strategic planning approach for soccer. In addition to junior soccer utilising the facility, the softball association has also been a regular occupant of Ogilvie Park in the past.

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4. ***A first class turf pitch be developed at York Park, to be used for a limited season as proposed by the NTCA for Windsor Park.*** This recommendation is still relevant and should be progressed in the current project. In addition to this recommendation, the committee suggested that York Park be used as the home of the Mowbray Cricket Club. However, Mowbray now use Invermay Park and have established clubrooms at the facility. This allows another team to make York Park their home ground. This should be further investigated in order for York Park to be fully utilised during all seasons, although it is acknowledged that other sports / providers may also use York Park during summer season.
5. ***The new gymnasium proposed for Launceston Community College site be the Headquarters of northern volleyball. The Northern Volleyball Association should be involved in planning the centre.*** This recommendation has been implemented and is utilised by College students in addition to the Northern Volleyball Association.
6. ***Vigaro, which at present uses York Park during summer, be re-established on Churchill Park hockey area.*** This was the case for the 1999/2000 season; however, Vigaro does not currently have a home base and the establishment of a ‘home’ for the sport is required.
7. ***Soccer at present established at Invermay Park to move to the new oval at the Glebe.*** This has not occurred. Soccer clubs have formed at many different sites around Launceston. These include: Birch Avenue – Newstead (2 pitches), Harley Parade – Prospect (1 pitch), Soccer Italian Club – Prospect (2 pitches), Dover Village – Mowbray (1 pitch and space), and Windsor Park – Riverside (1 pitch and space). A strategic planning approach should assist the soccer community to address emerging issues regarding facilities and other needs.
8. ***An area of recreational land at Hardwicke Street, West Launceston, be developed as a sports area to serve the growing needs of West Launceston – Summerhill area.*** This has not been implemented, however, there is a playground with equipment and toilet block at Stanley Street to cater for children in the area. The Stanley Street site is also used infrequently by groups such as Gridiron. Hadspen community is currently undertaking feasibility and planning work to construct a recreational ground and indoor facility. Harley Parade complex has been considerably developed over the last 4-5 years and in combination with the Hadspen facility should cater for the needs of West Launceston. It is important to note that Meander Valley and the Launceston City Council should work closely together to address the needs of the Western Suburbs.
9. ***No development should be undertaken at the Launceston Swimming Centre that prevents the extension of the major Olympic pool to eight lanes as soon as funds permit. The committee recommends strongly against the proposed location of a learner’s pool next to this pool, as this would prevent the provision of two more lanes.*** The City must look at providing a pool capable of hosting first-class swim meets. Since this recommendation, the learner’s pool was removed and redeveloped without disturbance of the Olympic pool. The proposed new aquatic centre for Northern Tasmania has the potential to provide the city with a high quality regional recreation and sport asset.

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10. ***The Kate Reed Reserve area being considered as a site for a pacing track be retained for future playing fields for the city.*** This has not been implemented, however a pacing track now exists at Mowbray, replacing the track at Elphin (which has become a school and housing development). The Kate Reed Reserve remains relatively pristine and should be included in outdoor recreation strategy development related to open space and trails.
11. ***The Lilydale Commission consider its minimal contribution to the provision of playing fields in the Launceston area, investigate development of a sports oval in the Newnham – Rocherlea area.*** Currently, there are two recreational grounds in the area, those being the well developed Archer Street ground and the cricket ground at the Brooks High School which is used by both school and community. Feasibility for developing recreational areas within ‘French’s Land’ on Lilydale Road, Rocherlea are also being progressed by Council and the community. The development is a local recreation project, but thought should be given to the risk management requirements associated with two major recreation facilities being intersected by a major road to the North-east (Lilydale Road).
12. ***The St. Leonards Council redevelops the former cycling velodrome as a soccer centre, with particular view to night soccer.*** This has not been implemented, however has been redeveloped as a BMX centre.

### 1987/88 – Recreational Study

In December 1987, a recreation study of the Launceston region commenced and was completed in November 1988. The report is a good example of a recreation blueprint for a large and complex municipality. At the conclusion of the study, sixteen recommendations were presented. Below is a list of the recommendations and reasoning behind their implementation over the past 12-13 years.

1. ***Except in the case of new subdivisions, future parkland acquisition should not be considered a priority.*** Over the past ten years the Launceston Municipality has developed, and future developments are occurring outside the region. This process is known as Urban Creep, and this will continue to occur as the Launceston region continues to grow. The current project needs to address other municipalities on the outskirts of Launceston to review open space parkland because of the development in those areas at present. An example of this is Blackstone Heights and Prospect. These areas are being developed at an increasing rate, with new subdivision and estate development being the prime focus of the parklands. The Launceston City Council is currently proposing a regional park to be cultivated at Youngtown. This park is not a high priority at present, however has been purchased by the Council to be developed at a later date. In conjunction with the first recommendation, the following points were also stated:
  - In new developments, larger parks should be provided to lower maintenance costs. However, issues such as sewerage need to be addressed when developing new recreational areas. This point needs further investigation, with specific attention

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being directed towards how Meander Valley and West Tamar regions approach this situation.

- Linkages between existing parks should be provided where practical, for example, multi-use tracks for walking, running and cycling.
2. ***Participate with the competitive swimming organisations to conduct a feasibility study on an international standard swimming centre.*** This recommendation has ultimately led to the formation of a stakeholder / planning group, presentation of submissions and feasibility studies to the Launceston City Council. The feasibility study indicates that development of a Regional Aquatic Centre in the Launceston Municipality is feasible. Further research has established possible sites and the feasibility of redeveloping the current Launceston Swimming Centre, however more investigation is required. The development of an appropriate indoor swimming facility for the Northern Tasmanian region remains a priority recommendation and should be further reviewed in the current study and a strategy developed to address not only the needs of the Launceston community, but the broader region.
  3. ***Review access design guidelines for recreational facilities to enable usage by a full range of community members (aged, young, disabled).*** This has occurred in the past, examples include the Launceston Swimming Centre, York Park, and community halls (disabled toilets and ramps). The access committee has completed an audit and has been progressively implementing it. The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) applies in this situation, however, some anomalies exist. For example, the heritage buildings in Launceston do not provide disability access. Under the DDA, to lease such a building would mean the addition of ramps to cater for the disabled. Ramps at the front of these buildings would be impractical, as the ramp would consume the majority of the footpath. In relation to the young being able to use recreational facilities, this is not always possible due to safety issues. This area should be investigated further in the current project. In 1997 a consultation project was researched and written to determine the relationship between young people and public spaces in Launceston.

A Youth Survey presented the following recommendations:

- (a) ***The Council needs to support the development of a range of recreational facilities for young people including skating, blading and biking area, and underage activities such as raves, dances and band nights.*** Since this proposal, implementation of a skate park was completed in 1999 at Royal Park and appears to be utilised by youth regularly. Underage activities are becoming more apparent as interstate and local bands are performing underage matinees to cater for the youth of society.
- (b) ***The following key public spaces need to be enhanced to better cater for young people Royal Park, Civic Square, the Mall and Windmill Hill Swimming Centre.*** The addition of the Skate Park to Royal Park has taken the youth away from civic square and the mall and encourages skate boarders and bladers to utilise the facility. The facility is easy to access with transport into the city via metro buses catering for the majority of the suburbs of Launceston. Windmill Hill (Launceston) Swimming Centre is undergoing review and the proposed indoor aquatic centre would better cater for the youth throughout the year rather than a seasonal recreational facility,

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although it is acknowledged that redevelopment work at the First Basin may need to retain a swimming pool as this is still a culturally important recreation venue for youth.

4. ***Examine the possibility of returning the Little Theatre to community use when current lease arrangements expire.*** This has not occurred and is not a priority in the present study.
5. ***Encourage the further concentration of sporting facilities to improve utilisation and accessibility.*** This recommendation has been addressed over the past few years with developments occurring to facilities to improve conditions and therefore increase usage patterns. This recommendation needs to be addressed on a continual basis, as to keep the facilities in the Launceston area at a high standard and therefore attract community involvement. The York Park upgrade is prime example of this. The current upgrade is valued at \$6.4 million and should be completed by the end of 2000. Ogilvie Park is the facility for Junior Soccer Development. This facility continues to have problems with drainage and for Junior Soccer to continue to utilise the facility, these drainage problems need to be addressed, or relocating of Junior Soccer may be an alternative option. The feasibility of the Western Knights/Soccer Italian Club or the Riverside Olympic Soccer Club becoming the “*Home of Soccer*” in the Launceston region is a proposed development for the future. The current project should further investigate the feasibility of this recommendation. Any review of the structure of junior / senior soccer so that Senior / Junior clubs work in partnership on the same playing site will have an impact on facility needs.
6. ***Undertake further research to develop standards on the number of people that can be accommodated by a facility (ie. how many people can be adequately accommodated in 1 week by a tennis court?).*** This will enable clearer judgements on adequacy of provision. The current project does intend to report on this recommendation by identifying strategies related to performance indicators (See recommendation 12 below)
7. ***Develop a “Recreation Opportunity Spectrum” (ROS) classification for the City using the Recreation Inventory as a base.*** This recommendation has not occurred due to the difficulty of the task. The Office of Sport and Recreation has submitted some resources on a modified ROS that may be appropriate for use in the regional open space context.
8. ***Review Council’s continued operation of the Mowbray Pool.*** The recommendation has been reviewed and operation of the facility has continued. The leasing of the facility needs to be constantly reviewed, and planning needs to begin to take place in regards to the outcome of the facility once the new aquatic centre is developed. One option may be for the Launceston City Council to sell the facility to the University of Tasmania for use by the Centre for Human Movement for teaching purposes, student use and with continued community access if feasible.
9. ***Extend the Recreational Study to incorporate cultural activities and facilities.*** This has been achieved in the past and is being incorporated in the present study with the development of a Cultural Plan as part of the State / Council partnership agreement.
10. ***Conduct further analysis on the use of synthetic surfaces for a wider range of sports.*** Over the last few years this recommendation has been achieved, with the development of synthetic surfaces for sports including hockey (St. Leonards), netball (Hoblers Bridge &

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St. Helens), athletics (St. Leonards), tennis (LISA, Longford, Hart Street, St. Marys, Sunnyhill, and University) and cricket (multiple local cricket grounds have synthetic surfaces – Trevallyn, Scotch Oakburn, St. Patricks), and lawn bowls (Kings Meadows & East Launceston). York Park is undergoing an upgrade, which involves the development of an advanced natural surface. Some sports have no desire to implement synthetic surfaces due to risk of injury to players; these sports include both soccer and football. This recommendation needs no further action taken.

11. ***Conduct a review of playgrounds focusing on location, usage and design.*** A review focusing on playgrounds has been performed and the rationalisation of location, usage and design revealed the Northern and eastern suburbs as the major area for playground need and usage. This recommendation should continue to be reviewed on a regional basis.
12. ***Implement an on-going program of site surveys for major facilities to provide current information on activities, usage levels and origin of visitors.*** This has been achieved, as two years ago the Launceston Swimming Centre recorded user profiles to document details and monitor performance. A more complex measurement of performance indicators is undertaken through the CERM PI Studies originating in South Australia. This method has not been undertaken in Tasmania, but may be able to be undertaken as part of the Future Game Plans initiative. Both models may prove useful for the Launceston City Council and should continue to be addressed on a regular basis.
13. ***Adopt a policy defining the extent to which users should pay for the costs of providing and maintaining recreational facilities based on maintenance cost models for a variety of recreational settings.*** This recommendation has not been achieved and should be further reviewed in Future Game Plans.
14. ***Develop a program of facility disposal or renovation using the Facility Rating Index as a guide.*** The Facility Rating Index (FRI) was applied and a number of decisions relating to open space carried out in the years following the report. Currently, Launceston City Council Recreation Planners believe a new rating system is required due to a number of shortcomings with FRI. For example, the FRI fails to score natural areas adequately; for example, if a bushland reserve has no modern equipment it automatically scores 0, which is not a true reflection of the areas value. In a regional context this a revised or new FRI should be incorporated into a Regional Open Space planning policy.
15. ***Review all land in the City currently zoned for recreational purposes to determine if rezoning is appropriate.*** In 1996, the local town-planning scheme implemented the zoning process, however this recommendation needs to be reviewed and all zoning needs to be clarified.
16. ***Promote community awareness of the City's recreational facilities.*** This is currently being performed on a regular basis with the use of marketing and advertising, and needs to continue in order to receive greater community support.

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### 1988 - George Town Forward Social Plan

In 1988 George Town City Council prepared a Forward Social Plan which was a study of the community services and resources currently available in the George Town Municipality and a projected plan of the services anticipated in the future. In regards to sport and recreation, the following recommendations were presented:

1. *The Community Centre structure needs to be reviewed constantly and the management committee needs to conduct a comprehensive review of the Centre and its usage annually and present a written report to the Council.* The recommendation has been implemented; however, continual review of the facility needs to occur.
2. *The council must ensure:-*
  - *That all beaches and beach reserves in the Municipality are accessible to the public.*
  - *All reserves are adequately serviced with toilet blocks, play areas and picnic facilities.*
  - *That service clubs and groups are encouraged to participate in the development of the beach areas.*

This recommendation has been implemented, and is a lower priority in the current project. The Tamar River has a network of pontoons established which has improved access to the river.

3. *The development of a Holiday Caravan Park with all attendant services.* This has not been implemented and is not a concern in the present study.
4. *Council owned Community Halls should be provided across the Municipality to cater for a wide range of community groups.* This recommendation is relevant to the regional recreational planning project and policy and strategies need to be established to achieve an appropriate level of facilities and services for the region.
5. *The Municipal Council must ensure that all organisations are aware of the availability of the government grants and that the Council Community Officer is able to assist with the application forms if necessary.* This has been implemented in the past, however needs constant review where funding is required.
6. *The Council continues to monitor the needs of children's playground area and develops amenities and play facilities in these areas whenever possible.* This recommendation needs to be reviewed broadly across the region.
7. *The Council should give consideration to setting aside rate funds and pursuing special "one-off" grants from the government specifically to upgrade and beautify the Sports Complex.* This recommendation needs to be reviewed in the future, however, at present; Facility Management and Maintenance Planning should be in operation.

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### 1992 - Inveresk Railway Terminal Redevelopment Study

In 1992 the southern portion of the Inveresk Railway Terminal was the proposed site for the new Launceston Showgrounds, and the inclusion of a new secondary college was proposed for the northern portion. The development of showrooms on part of the Invermay Road frontage and the creation of parkland on the remainder of the site was also proposed.

Launceston Agricultural Society conducted their first show at Inveresk in 1998 utilising the whole site and relocating buildings and developing further infrastructure. The Inveresk site will be an education / learning precinct also, with the University of Tasmania Art School, the Launceston Institute of TAFE Art School and the Queen Victoria Museum scheduled to begin relocation around 2001. The three organisations will utilise the large Stone Building as a centre. Inveresk has also a theatre, large and small convention centres, and considerable office space, which are all currently being well utilised. Inveresk is now the major cultural, recreation and community precinct within Launceston.

### 1996 - Northern Midlands Sport and Recreation Needs Study

In March 1996, the Northern Midlands completed a Sport and Recreation Needs Study and two major recommendations were presented and considered to have the highest priority for implementation.

1. *The development of local recreation committees.* The current project needs to address the success of the recommendation and the feasibility for future use of such committees.
2. *Employment of a Community Development Officer to meet Council Staffing Requirements.* This recommendation has not been implemented, however, this year the Council has applied to enter into a partnership with the State Government to employ a full-time Youth and Recreation Officer. The outcome of this application and implementation should be subject to ongoing review in a regional context, as it may become a model for other Councils in Northern Tasmania to follow.

### 1996 - Meander Valley Needs Survey

In March 1996, the Meander Valley Council a Needs Survey and presented a report regarding the findings. Each Municipality in the region presented specific needs in terms of sport and recreation facilities, and as a region the following needs were presented:

1. *New and upgraded safe and secure playgrounds for young children.* This need has not been addressed. However, the Council should implement a Playground Survey as administered by the Launceston City Council to assess playground equipment and condition, safety, maintenance, etc. This survey is an extremely useful resource and the sharing of such resources should be available across the regions.
2. *New and improved recreation facilities and more activities for children and youth.* There have been no new developments of note. Currently, the Hadspen Recreation Committee is investigating the feasibility of developing a green field's recreation facility in Hadspen. Western Knights have developed a clubroom at Prospect and Launceston

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City have proposed to undertake a similar development, making the combined site a potential centre for soccer, and minor league cricket.

3. ***A well managed indoor, heated, public swimming pool towards the Western end of the Municipality.*** The feasibility of this task was assessed and reported not to be financially viable. In addition to the cost of the facility, the proposed Aquatic Centre in Launceston is providing the entire Northern Region with indoor swimming facilities, and the construction of another indoor swimming centre may not be viable. A sustainable policy position in respect of indoor aquatic facilities needs to be established for the region.

### **1997 - Dorset - Strategic Management Plan - Scottsdale Recreation Grounds**

The major recreational plan for the Dorset Municipality is the Strategic Management Plan for the Scottsdale Recreation Grounds prepared in 1997. The entire plan is based on a staged approach aiming to upgrade and improve the existing facility. To date, the football field and the swimming pool area has been completed with other facilities still to be constructed. A consultant group designed the plan and in doing so consulted all parties that utilise the facility. This is an excellent example of a strategic management plan for a multi – purpose recreational complex and should be shared among other councils to design new or upgrade existing recreational facilities.

### **1997 - Planning Report for a Central Skate, Blade and Bike Facility**

In November 1997 the Launceston Skaters Task Force consulted with young people and the wider community with the aim of providing a planned approach to the development of a skate, BMX and blade facilities in Launceston. The following recommendations were presented:

1. ***Willis Street is developed into a central skate venue.*** This did not occur, as Royal Park became the Skate Park.
2. ***Royal Park is upgraded to remain as a skate venue, but skaters concerns regarding safety are primarily addressed. Minor upgrading may incorporate the slab beside the half pipe.*** This recommendation has occurred, and Royal Park is the central venue for skating in Launceston.
3. ***Civic Square is adopted as a restricted ‘street skate’ venue.*** This recommendation is still under investigation, and should be determined by December 2000.
4. ***The Willis Street site is developed into a “youth space”.*** This has not been implemented and no further review is required.
5. ***This report is tabled before a Council Portfolio meeting, to seek support for the recommendations and advice from the Council.*** This has occurred and the result being the construction of the skate park.

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6. ***Access issues are pursued and resolved.*** The difficulty of accessing Royal Park stems from the individual. Crossing the northern outlet is dangerous and has resulted in one injury to date. Paterson Street is the safest access point and this should be signed appropriately.
7. ***Consultation is conducted to include:***
  - ***Residents and businesses around the proposed sites***
  - ***Council aldermen seeking support for developments***
  - ***The wider community: seeking publicity and support***
  - ***Skaters and their supporters (parents etc)***

This did occur, as all involved parties were consulted.

8. ***Agreement from skaters and the general community will be sought through a second community skater's forum.*** This recommendation was implemented and agreement was supported at both forums.
9. ***Final draft of this document, and approval sought through Council.*** The final report was presented to the Council and the construction of the skate facility soon commenced.

### 1998 - A Time to Act: Skaters Task Force – Final Report

In 1998 the Skaters Task Force produced a report designed to provide appropriate information to determine a possible site for a skate park. The recommendations made by the Skaters Task Force were as follows:

1. ***That the site selection and design criteria are adopted by council within a strategic planning approach to all skate facility development in Launceston.*** This recommendation was implemented and Royal Park was the site to undergo construction.
2. ***That the Council commits itself to as Transport trial: addressing the issue of restricted skater's routes around Launceston.*** To date this recommendation has not been implemented as new state transport laws are to be implemented in the future.
3. ***That the Council incorporates transport routes to the central skate facility.*** This has been implemented, as multi-use trails are accessible to users.
4. ***That further development of the central skate facility is supported beyond this budget allocation.*** This recommendation has been implemented with a skate facility being constructed at Ravenswood. However, more investigation is required to determine the feasibility of skate parks in other suburban areas.
5. ***That future issues such as roofing, suburban sites, education and awareness, health and safety are supported and addressed.*** This has been reviewed, however further review is still required, especially in terms of state wide management issues such as code of conduct and safe skate.
6. ***Whether it is selected as a site or not, the current ramp at Royal Park is upgraded (expanding the existing slab, incorporating a rail and smoothing the roughcast concrete***

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*around the ramp) without using the central budget allocation.* This recommendation has not been implemented, as the entire Royal Park facility has become the central skate venue.

7. *That in future, either planning towards roofing (not enclosing) aspects of the site is encouraged.* This has not been implemented and is not a priority at present.

### 1999 - Meander Valley Strategic Sport and Recreation Plan 1999-2008

Meander Valley community has adopted a 10-year local recreation plan in May 2000. No implementation has occurred at this time, but it is expected that some of the recommendations will be actioned in the coming financial year beginning July 2000. The report contains a total of 56 strategy recommendations that are based on the 6 key areas in which Council can influence sport and recreation. The 6 key areas with selected strategy recommendations of regional significance are listed:

1. **Developing** operational capacity in respect of facilities, programs and services through policy co-ordination, staff and training, information and monitoring.
  - 1.1.1 - Integrate the proposed sport and recreation policy framework into Council's strategic planning approach for community services within its Strategic Plan.
  - 1.1.2 – Adopt a strategic planning approach which focuses on the greater centralising of regional facilities into the larger settlements across the Council area based on a hierarchy of provision, area specialisation and allowing for progressive rationalisation of facilities which provide limited benefits to the community.
  - 1.1.5 – Assess community sport and recreation needs as a basis for all future decisions on development priorities and locations. This should include: 1) monitoring facility use and user capacity; 2) monitoring population growth and change and for assessing the implications to facility, program and service provision; 3) monitoring changes in sport and recreation demand and for assessing the implications to facility, program and service provision; 4) using the policy principles and development guidelines to establish a mechanism for assessing new development proposals not identified in a needs study.
  - 1.1.9 – Review the provisions of Council's Planning Schemes to ensure the objectives of the Sport and Recreation Strategy are consistent with the zoning and planning controls.
  - 1.2.1 – Consider the option for employment of a Youth and Recreation Officer to monitor needs and strategies for sport and recreation, to facilitate improved sporting and recreation program and services development and delivery within Council and the community with a primary focus on links to youth needs. Responsibilities would include the implementation of key elements of the Strategy, liaison with clubs and groups, on-going research and consultation, monitoring community needs, identifying / revising priorities and strategies, coordinating and facilitating community initiatives.
2. **Promoting** existing quality facilities, programs and services through improved information.
  - 2.1.1 - In conjunction with sporting and recreation groups, develop an overall Promotion Strategy to encourage increased participation in sport and recreation activities.

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- 2.1.5 - Encourage and assist the development, promotion and marketing of high priority need group development programs by sporting and recreation clubs.
  - 2.1.6 - Encourage sporting clubs and recreation groups to instigate at least one 'Try and Learn' program each year, as a way of encouraging greater interest and leisure opportunities for the community.
3. **Assisting** existing sport and recreation organisations to meet community needs through management and funding assistance.
- 3.1.1 - Encourage and assist sporting clubs and recreation groups to develop Business Plans for their facilities and activities.
  - 3.1.5 – Further develop Council's knowledge, information and referral skills to assist clubs and groups with advice on planning and design aspects for developments that will be multi-use facilities.
  - 3.1.6 – Facilitate the ability for clubs and groups to combine their resources in securing better business arrangements eg. Insurance and liability brokerage, purchase of equipment, maintenance and repairs etc.
  - 3.1.7 – Encourage the adoption of asset maintenance and replacement budgeting by clubs and groups for the sites and facilities they own.
  - 3.1.9 - Encourage the integration of community sport and recreation into school programs, which then may lead onto increased participation and parent support.
4. **Initiating** actions to improve existing sporting and recreation facilities, programs and services through planning.
- 4.1.1 - Instigate the preparation of Master Plans for key regional and district sporting and recreation areas / facilities within the Meander valley on the basis of 2-3 plans per year.
  - 4.1.3 – Upgrade sporting grounds, pavilions, indoor sporting facilities and related facilities throughout the Meander Valley to a suitable standard for regional competition for a variety of uses.
  - 4.2.1 – Initiate and upgrade marketing of sport and recreation facilities.
  - 4.2.5 – Adopt a vandalism management system for major sporting and recreation facilities.
  - 4.2.6 – Implement a Sign Program for the sports and recreation facilities and ensure all parks and reserves are given a name and signposted. Ensure signage system is consistent with Tasmanian Visitor Information System.
5. **Planning** for the provision of new or additional facilities, programs and services based on community need.
- 5.1.2 - Consider the feasibility of the following options for a small indoor pool: 1) a small aquatic centre within an existing indoor site; 2) a joint partnership with the Education Department for a community pool; 3) Upgrading and better utilising any existing school based aquatic facilities for the whole of the community.
  - 5.1.3 - Develop a strategic outline for the promotion and positioning of Meander Valley as a regional hub for bushwalking, caving, angling, horse riding and cycling – catering for both visitors and residents of the municipality.
6. **Encouraging** co-operative approaches between government, industry and community stakeholders.
- 6.1.2 - Coordinate grant submissions to State and Federal Governments for new and upgraded regional sport and recreation facilities.

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- 6.1.3 - Organise two forums each year (summer and winter) with representatives of sport and recreation groups to present the direction and priorities being pursued by Council, to discuss issues and ideas of concern to user groups, and to inform them of implementation of the plan, revised priorities, opportunities for assistance etc.
- 6.1.4 – Seek greater access to sport and recreation facilities at schools and other institutions by: 1) liaison with the District Superintendent of Education; 2) establishing a mechanism for cooperation with School Principals as regards potential access by community groups; 3) identify ‘models’ of community access eg Bracknell Primary School; 4) consider ways of assisting with insurance costs and issues as a means of enabling more open use in areas where limited resources exist to provide new or upgrade existing facilities.

### **2000 - Moving Forward Break O Day – Sport and Recreation Plan 2000 - 2010**

Break O Day community has adopted a 10-year local recreation plan in May 2000. No implementation has occurred at this time, but it is expected that some of the recommendations will be actioned in the coming financial year beginning July 2000. The report contains 6 Action Plans with a total of 19 strategies that are recommended for implementation. The 6 focus areas with selected strategy recommendations of regional significance are listed:

#### ***1. Effective planning, resourcing and coordination***

- 1.1 – Establish a peak body, incorporating the Break O Day Council and the community to be responsible for the operational planning, resourcing and coordination of the Action Plans in this strategic plan.
- 1.2 - Appoint an effective fulltime sport and recreation officer to implement this plan and work with youth.
- 1.3 – Use a model to encourage a sharing culture amongst clubs and facilities, whilst maximising the joint utilisation of the sport and recreation assets and resources of the municipality.

#### ***2. Facilities***

- 2.4 - Develop a coastal cycle way
- 2.5 - Develop an all weather bowls green in the municipality

#### ***3. Events***

- 3.3 - Develop a major ‘Break O Day Sports Expo’ or ‘Break O Day Lifestyle Festival’ as a whole community event capable of projecting the lifestyle image of the area and generating profits to support sport and recreation in the area generally.

#### ***4. The environment, water resources and eco-tourism***

- 4.1 - Manage the access to the pristine environment of Break O Day.
- 4.3 - Develop a showcase camping area as an example of the best ways to enjoy the environment with minimal impact.

#### ***5. Marketing, awareness and local pride***

- 5.1 - Plan the marketing of the municipality as a Lifestyle Centre.

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- 5.2 - Utilise electronic media technologies to promote the region and to build awareness and local pride.

### 6. Skill building

- 6.1 - Improve sport and recreation abilities through improved coaching.

## 2000 – Active Australia Policy of the Australian Sports Commission

Active Australia is the central policy framework for the work of Federal, State and Local Governments in their collective efforts to improve participation in physical activity, particularly sport and recreation, and the subsequent benefits that may be derived by the community, individuals and the sport and recreation industry.

Regional planning in Northern Tasmania must take into consideration the Active Australia policy. The following outline of Active Australia has been reproduced from the Active Australia and Office of Sport and Recreation web pages.

### What is Active Australia?

Active Australia is a national framework that brings together government and community organisations under a shared vision to coordinate a range of programs designed to increase physical activity.

Regardless of their age, gender, skill level, ability or disability, Active Australia encourages people to participate, and encourages sport and recreation providers to respond to diverse needs and interests.

Active Australia was developed after broad consultation with, and will involve, the sport and recreation, health, and physical and outdoor education sectors of the sport and recreation industry.

### What is the thinking behind Active Australia?

*Vision: All Australians actively involved in sport, community recreation, fitness, outdoor recreation and other physical activities.*

#### *Principles:*

- Equity in access to opportunities, regardless of socio-economic status, race, age or gender, ability or geographic location,
- Lifelong involvement,
- Enjoyment, excitement and satisfaction,
- Diversity and choice of activities,
- Quality services and experiences,
- Safety whilst allowing for personal challenge.

*The three objectives of Active Australia are to:*

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- Increase lifelong participation  
*Participation should not be limited by age, but the degree and form of involvement may vary at different times in an individual's life.*
- Realise the social, health and economic benefits of participation  
*Participation brings social, health and economic benefits for individuals and communities, including improved personal well-being, a greater sense of community, reduced health care costs, and increased employment, tourism, productivity, manufacturing and export of sport and recreation services and products.*
- Develop quality infrastructure, opportunities and services to support participation.  
*Continuous improvement in the delivery of physical activities, and supportive environments, will enhance the quality of the experience for participants, and if people enjoy and are satisfied with their experience they will be more likely to continue their involvement.*  
*The intent is for the community to benefit from becoming more active, without negative impact on individuals or the environment.*  
*Active Australia also recognises that people will gain health benefits from physical activity whether it is structured or incidental.*

### **How is Active Australia implemented?**

Government and non-government, and profit and not for profit agencies at the national, state and local levels and involved in Active Australia.

National and state Active Australia Working Parties coordinate the involvement of the peak industry sector bodies, ie sport, community and outdoor recreation and fitness, local government, community and government health agencies, and schools.

Active Australia recognises that people are becoming more discerning in their leisure activities, and that they want tailor-made activities that are enjoyable, safe and easily accessible. So, Active Australia promotes participation and seeks to continually improve the way in which sport and recreation organisations operate and provide participation opportunities.

To assist continuous improvement, the sport and recreation industry developed the Active Australia Provider program.

### **What's the Active Australia Provider Program?**

The program provides organisations with some basic tools to help them take a fresh look at their operations, fill gaps, find new ways of doing things, and bring in new participants.

Organisations that undergo the process are recognised as Active Australia Providers and they can display the Active Australia logo as a statement of their commitment to increasing participation, providing quality opportunities, and developing their organisation.

The value of participation is sometimes intangible, but it contributes to our national identity, lifestyle, community, and social wealth.

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### **The Active Australia School Network**

Childhood and adolescence are prime times for developing the skills and habits necessary for lifelong physical activity. Schools and teachers therefore play a critical role.

To this end a nationally coordinated schools network - an Active Australia Schools Network, has the potential to provide a unique opportunity for schools, teachers, parents and students to be involved with other "like minded" schools across Australia who have a strong commitment to a physically active culture within their school and community.

The Active Australia Schools Network provides a national framework which promotes opportunities for support through the sharing of experiences, and access to relevant resources from around Australia. As such, it complements state based initiatives and can become a strong catalyst for cultural change within schools.

### **The Active Australia Local Government Network**

A national network of councils committed to improving the quality of the sport and physical activity opportunities available for their communities. Councils are Network councils are committed to the Active Australia goals and using them in their policies and practices.

Local councils play crucial but varying roles relating to sport and physical activity including: providing and maintaining the facilities where activity occurs, providing financial support and planning advice to clubs and organisations, and employing sport and recreation professionals to co-ordinate community activities.

By joining the network, councils are able to share common experiences, programs and activities as well as benefit from the many ways in which they will be able to access Active Australia opportunities.

### **Benefits for the community**

Some of the participation benefits for the community are:

- A stronger social fabric
- Improved community health
- Enhanced non-family support networks, particularly through organised activities
- Decreased anti-social behaviour
- Increased community self-reliance and identity.
- Sport and recreation structures at the community level often serve as models for other community programs which have a strong reliance on volunteer support.
- Growth in the sport and recreation services industry benefits our economy, as do savings on health expenditure arising from a fitter more healthy population.

### **Benefits for individuals**

Physical activity can provide a range of benefits including:

- Enjoyment and satisfaction
- Increased personal confidence and self-awareness
- Improved health, fitness and overall wellbeing
- Increased enjoyment of exercise and the social contact it brings

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- Reduced symptoms of anxiety and depression
- Increased ability to deal with stress
- Improved self-esteem
- Sport and recreation have also been found to contribute to a reduction in delinquent and self-destructive behaviour, and a more disciplined attitude in young offenders.
- Physically active students have been found to be more attentive, with enhanced memory, learning, creativity, problem solving and mood state for up to two hours after exercise.

### **Benefits for the sport and recreation industry**

The sport and recreation industry can benefit from Active Australia in many ways, particularly if involved in the Provider program: Active Australia providers can:

- Keep existing members longer
- Encourage new members to join
- Improve management of their organisation and activities
- Receive national recognition for their commitment to Active Australia.
- Active Australia Provider status indicates to the community that the organisation is:
- Committed to the goals and values of Active Australia,
- Striving to improve and develop as a consequence of its own self-assessment,
- Prepared to continue improving, and has
- Achieved a certain level of organisational development.
- These benefits in turn will enhance the viability and growth of the sport and recreation industry - a growth that is exciting and dynamic.

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### ***Common issues / themes / problems -***

The following are the commonly identified issues, themes and problems emerging from previous recreational planning studies reviewed. The Future Game Plans should identify strategies that may further address these if they still persist in the current planning context.

- A planned approach to new and redeveloped facilities.
- New facility developments to be based on the needs and capacity of the community and must avoid duplication of existing facilities that may be suitable with appropriate maintenance and re-development.
- Multi-use of indoor and outdoor facilities.
- Maintenance, management and marketing of facilities to maximise usage.
- Greater co-operation between facility providers.
- Assistance to facility managers to establish appropriate management / budget plans so as to maintain facilities to highest possible standard.
- Encourage the use of Education Department and University of Tasmania facilities by the community, where they do not conflict with commercial providers.
- Specific facility development funding is required from the State Government.
- Levels of under-use at some indoor facilities suggest that over-provision has occurred and further planning and development processes should address this problem.
- Hubs of sporting activity should be created and maintained to relevant standards required for growth of the industry.
- Encourage the further concentration of sporting facilities to improve utilisation and accessibility.

### ***Identifying recommendations that are regionally significant and should be considered for further review and inclusion in Future Game Plans.***

Numerous recommendations under review remain relevant to the current regional planning being undertaken in Northern Tasmania. The following listings, which have been drafted from the review notes, provides an introduction to possible regional recreation strategies:

1. Funding for facilities needs to be addressed strategically.

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2. Liaison between all parties (ie. State Government, Launceston City Council and facility managers) through the establishment of a Facility Managers Group.
3. Development of National and State Championships events calendar for the region.
4. Regional Recreation and Sporting hubs / major facilities require a master planning approach to ensure appropriate facility standards and management practices are achieved.
5. A first class turf pitch be developed at York Park. This should be further investigated in order for York Park to be fully utilised during all seasons, although it is acknowledged that other sports / providers may also use York Park during summer season.
6. Vigaro does not currently have a home base and the establishment of a 'home' for the sport is required.
7. The redevelopment and maintenance of Ogilvie Park should be considered as part of a strategic planning approach for junior and senior soccer.
8. A strategic planning approach should assist the senior soccer community to address emerging issues regarding facilities and other needs.
9. Any review of the structure of junior / senior soccer so that Senior / Junior clubs work in partnership on the same playing site will have an impact on facility needs.
10. Meander Valley and the Launceston City Council should work closely together to address the recreation needs of the Western Suburbs of Launceston.
11. The development of appropriate indoor swimming facilities for the Northern Tasmanian region remains a priority. A sustainable policy position in respect of indoor aquatic facilities needs to be established for the region.
12. The Kate Reed Reserve remains relatively pristine and should be included in outdoor recreation strategy development related to open space and trails and which should be derived from a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum approach.
13. There should be on-going reviews of access to facilities and recreation and sport opportunities for all people within the regional community, particularly special needs groups.
14. Mowbray Swimming Pool may be sold to the University of Tasmania for use by the Centre for Human Movement for teaching purposes, student use and with continued community access if feasible.
15. A review of playground needs, including consideration of location, usage and design.
16. Review and establish a transparent and equitable pricing policy in respect of use of recreational facilities based on cost models for a variety of recreational settings.
17. Review planning schemes within the region as they fall due and ensure zoning for recreational purposes is consistent with the Future Game Plans.

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18. A comprehensive strategy to plan, develop, maintain and market a regional multi-use recreation trail network should be established.
19. Tamar Region NRM provides a plan pertaining to outdoor recreation areas in the region and this plan should be reviewed on a regular basis and integrated into the Future Game Plans as common issues / themes / problems and opportunities are identified and which may be addressed in partnership.
20. The Northern Tasmanian region should participate in reviews of the Statewide Walking Track strategy and co-ordinate, where possible, regional multi-use trails strategies into statewide planning and development.
21. Develop of links between open spaces / reserves ideally require the establishment of trails, which is a key strategy for increasing, and enhancing recreation opportunities.
22. A regional approach to providing safer bikeways and roadways for pedal cyclists is required, incorporating planning and development processes, maintenance of existing infrastructure and development of new infrastructure as part of a Statewide approach.
23. The regional needs of skaters and other small-wheeled vehicles, such as scooters, must be investigated, ensuring greater access for the whole community to these forms of recreational transport.
24. Redevelopment options for the First Basin recreational area, including upgrading, moving and removing the swimming pool should take account of the outcomes of the community consultation exercise that accompanied the proposals.
25. Risk Management Planning resources and training should be provided to Local Councils for the benefit of the industry and the community.
26. The employment of Youth and Recreation Officers by some Local Councils should be seen as a pilot and serve as a model for other Councils to consider once they have completed local recreation plans.
27. Regional recreational planning, policy and strategies need to have the capacity to establish an appropriate level of facilities and services for the region.
28. Local Councils and sport and recreation industry members must continue to have access to funding opportunities.
29. All Local Councils should implement a Playground Survey, such as that administered by the Launceston City Council, to assess playground equipment and condition, safety, maintenance, etc. This would be the basis for a regional review of playgrounds.
30. Improve the operational capacity of managers and organisations that are responsible for facilities, programs and services through policy co-ordination, staff training, information and monitoring.
31. Continue to assist and where possible improve assistance to existing sport and recreation organisations to meet community needs through management and funding assistance.

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32. Continue to encourage co-operative and partnership approaches between government, industry and community stakeholders.
33. Develop recreation and sport events throughout the region, particularly those which have a combined participation / commercial benefit.
34. Adopt the Active Australia vision, principles and objectives to meet regional and local needs in Northern Tasmania.

### ***Relevance of the Review to Future Game Plans***

The review of Regional Recreation Planning (1980 – 1999) has identified a considerable amount of recommendations that are still relevant to regional recreation planning in Northern Tasmania in 2000.

The reviews that have been completed indicate that there has been a considerable amount of productive recreation planning in Northern Tasmania. Some of the highlights from these reports that demonstrate the benefits of the regional perspective to sport and recreation planning include:

- York Park / Inveresk / North Esk / Glebe recreation and sport precinct.
- Launceston Skate Park.
- Local Recreation Planning.
- Northern Athletic Centre.
- Northern Hockey Centre.
- pontoons along the Tamar River improving access for recreational users.

The Future Game Plans holds considerable promise for further improving the sustainable outcomes that may be achieved by the recreation and sport industry in Northern Tasmania. It offers a planned approach on a regional scale combined with a commitment to community and stakeholder partnerships to ensure ownership, progress and ultimately success.