
CAR20/019 NAROOMA SPORT AND LEISURE PRECINCT
PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

OP0053-S006

ATTACHMENT 1

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS AND RESPONSES

During the public exhibition period, 30 external submissions and five internal submissions were received on the Narooma Sport and Leisure Precinct draft Plan of Management (POM).

Submissions were received from individuals, as well as the following groups/clubs/businesses:

- Narooma Charters
- Montague Arts and Crafts Society
- Rotary Club of Narooma
- Animal Welfare League
- Narooma Dog Training Club
- Narooma Rugby League Football Club
- Narooma School of Arts & Soldiers' War Memorial Hall Inc.
- Narooma Historical Society

In addition to the changes recommended to the draft POM in response to submissions as grouped by theme below, number of typographical errors have been amended in the document, as well as minor adjustments to formatting and some text to improve clarity and consistency.

NATA Oval

External Submissions

The majority of the external submissions (25) were opposed to the draft Plan of Management action 4C *'Improvements are made to NATA Oval to refocus from an open 'sporting' oval' to a more park-like look and feel including features as described in the landscape masterplan'*.

Aimed at meeting Management Objective 4 'Improve usage of underutilised infrastructure', the draft landscape master plan had proposed realigning inner portions of the NATA Oval fenceline to allow circulation around the perimeter of the off-leash area, and the planting of shade trees and additional seating.

Submissions rejected any alteration to the space available on NATA Oval, particularly for dog training activities held each weekend and also the regular markets. The use of the site as an emergency evacuation area during the 19-20 Black Summer bushfires was also cited as evidence to retain maximum open space. A number of submissions noted that additional shade or seating would be beneficial, as long as they did not impose on the open space available.

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Response

Amend the landscape master plan to remove realigned fenceline and perimeter trees. Retain some proposed trees to provide shade for some bench seats and screening of Narooma Easts Holiday Park. Amend corresponding references in the POM accordingly.

Add references to the use of NATA Oval (and the Leisure Centre) as emergency evacuation sites during the 19/20 bushfires.

Visitors Information Centre Building

External Submissions

Four submissions commented on the current and future use of the Narooma Visitors Information Centre, the museum feature as well as the centre layout for various uses and quality of the public toilet facilities. Key concerns were possible cessation of the tourist information function, citing selected findings from the 2019 report *A National Perspective on Visitor Information Servicing*. Concerns were raised about the specific mention of a potential future use of the building being for local art, noting the Council-endorsed Arts and Community Centre that is proposed for development nearby. Another supported the use of the building for this local art purposes.

Internal Submissions

Two internal submissions provided comment on the current and possible future leasing arrangements for the Visitor Information Centre building under the Plan of Management and the status of the Visitor Information Servicing Review. One submission highlighted the existing landscaping of the flat area to the north-west of the building and its accessibility, indicating that proposed mounding would reduce accessibility.

Response

Separate draft Plan of Management action 4A regarding feasibility studies/business cases for future opportunities associated with the Swimming, Leisure and Visitor Information Centres to two actions, and add specific new action 4B, *'Determine future opportunities for the Visitor Information Centre building based on the outcomes of the 2020 Visitor Information Centre Review and appropriate expression of interest processes'*. External submissions were forwarded for consideration as part of the Visitor Information Centre Review.

The Plan of Management already specifies retention of the museum feature within the Visitor Information Centre building and upgrades of the public toilet facilities.

Remove specific references to future use of the Visitor Information Centre building for local art purposes (noting this will not preclude this as a possible future use).

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Amend the proposed design of the area to the north-west of the Visitor Information Centre on the landscape master plan to incorporate existing trees and provide enhanced accessibility and passive surveillance.

Bill Smyth Oval

External Submission

A submission by the Narooma Rugby League Football Club discussed the proposed developments for Bill Smyth Oval, particularly the establishment of a new full-sized rugby league playing field and supporting amenities. The submission presented the perception that the Rugby League clubs would move exclusively to the proposed second field.

Key issues raised were:

1. Concern that the 'footprint' of the proposed second amenities building was smaller than the existing amenities building, representing a lack of parity between the field amenities. It was suggested that the new building could be two storey.
2. Additional features considered essential by the club, including video camera recording area (to meet Group 16 requirements for all games to be videoed); enclosed scorer/timekeeper area; lighting to meet NRL standards to enable night games.
3. Fewer spectator viewing locations around the second field in comparison with the existing field, specifically for major game days. Suggestion were made for additional options, including undertaking vegetation clearing of the hill overlooking the field, with approval from the Wagonga Local Aboriginal Land Council, to accommodate spectators and possible tiered bench seating; establishment of a viewing 'hill' in the south-western corner of the field, elevated spectator seating as part of the new amenities building; designated senior/disabled parking along the field edge.

Response

Nil changes recommended.

All proposed developments in the POM are subject to detailed design and approvals and will incorporate consultation with user groups and key stakeholders. Specific features of the proposed amenities building and spectator viewing options will be determined as funding for projects becomes available, noting that Council is unlikely to support construction of a multi-storey amenities building due to the significant build and maintenance costs and accessibility requirements for multi-storey buildings.

The Plan of Management does not specify single-sport use of the existing or proposed second field at Bill Smyth Oval, therefore rugby league games anticipating large numbers of spectators can continue to be played on the existing field.

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Cultural Heritage

External Submissions

Two submissions cited the lack of reference to existing cultural heritage/interpretive information within the Reserves, as well as a perception that the term 'cultural history' within the draft Plan of Management appeared to only refer to Aboriginal history, omitting the rich wider cultural and shared history of the area.

Response

Incorporate recognition of existing cultural heritage information and the wider shared cultural history of the area into the POM.

Swimming Centre Expansion

External Submission

One submission queried the possible use of the upgraded Swimming Centre for tourist information and charter bookings and whether charter operators would be consulted with during the development of this function.

Response

Plan of Management action 4C specifies that review and design work for Reserve infrastructure developments will involve relevant user groups and stakeholders and will be reported to a Working Group to be established for the project.

Environmental Management

Internal Submissions

Two internal submissions provided comment on the potential impact of developments on natural areas, particularly the sensitive foreshore area. Possible future erosion control measures and suitable coastal species for use along the foreshore were suggested.

Response

Amend Plan of Management Action 7A to read '*Appropriate detailed assessments are undertaken of natural areas to ensure proposed uses or developments are appropriate and managed in ways that respond to natural area needs - e.g. environmental sensitivity, erosion control, fire mitigation activities and weed control*'.

Add the list of suitable coastal species to suggested plant species lists in the POM and landscape master plans.