



Cricket Facilities

Perth Metropolitan Region

Strategic Plan 2006-2015

September 2006

Table of Contents

	page
Executive Summary	iv
Recommendations	vi
1 Report 1 – Scoping Report	
1.1 Relationship Maps for Cricket in Western Australia	1
1.2 Field Requirements of Various Levels of Play	15
2 Report 2 - Needs Assessment	
2.1 Introduction	16
2.2 Methodology and Consultative Process	16
2.3 WA Cricket Philosophy	19
• Local Government Relationship	
• Partnership practice	
2.4 Profile and Trends of Existing and Potential Clients	22
2.4.1 Participation in Sport and Physical Activities in Western Australia	22
2.4.2 Physical Activity Levels of Western Australian Adults	23
2.4.3 Sport and Active Recreation Injuries in Australia Report - Medibank Private	23
2.4.4 Facility Demand - Sport Growth Capacity	24
2.4.5 Developing a Strategy for the Long - Term Strength of Australian Cricket	24
2.4.6 A Review of Cricket in Western Australia	25
2.4.7 Demographics	26
2.4.8 Cricket Membership	28
2.5 Cricket Facility and Club Sustainability Criteria	33
2.6 Facilities Audit	34
• Local Government Inventory and Assessment	
• General Condition	
• Components	
• Catchments	
2.7 Overview of Outcomes of the Consultation Process	39
• Drivers in Individual Decision Making to Play Cricket	
• Local Government Advisory Groups Perception of Facilities	
2.8 Reference Groups Perception of Facility Gaps and Duplications	43
2.9 Facility / Sports International Standards	43
2.10 Identification of Gaps and Duplications	44
2.11 Analysis and Synthesis of the Information Gathered	44
3 Report 2A - Facility Development	
3.1 Introduction	45
3.2 Hierarchy of Facilities	45
• Components	
• Current club facilities disposition	
• Role of School Cricket Facilities	
3.3 Assessment of Facilities	48
3.4 Exit Strategy	48
3.5 Identification of Future Cricket Facility Requirements	50
• Locations , timeframes , public transport	
3.6 Barriers to Facilities Plan Implementation	60
3 Report 3 - Policy Development	
4.1 Introduction	63

4.2	Zoning	63
4.3	Collocation, relocation	
4.4	Management Structure for the Sports Facility	64
4.5	Disposal non-performing facilities	64
4.6	Development of new cricket facilities	65
	• Need determination procedures	
	• Triggers required for facility to be endorsed	
4.7	Funding Application Endorsement	66
4.8	Review Mechanisms for Updating Policies	67
5	Report 4 - Strategic Plan	
5.1	Introduction	68
5.2	Local Government Cricket Grounds	69
5.3	Current Location Senior Cricket Clubs	70
	• District Cricket Club Boundaries	
5.4	Current Senior Cricket Club Grounds	72
5.5	Junior Cricket Club Grounds	78
5.6	Implementation Plan	84
5.7	Partnership / Communication Plan	87
	• Inter agency	
	• Internal cricket	
	• Partnership Communication Plan Details	

Appendices

- (1) Field Requirements for Various Levels of Play
- (2) Australian Bureau of Statistics Demographics
- (3) Cricket Australia Alternative Venue Guidelines
- (4) Projected Youth Population (5-19 years) and Market Penetration Targets
- (5) Projected Adult Population (20-39 years) and Market Penetration Targets
- (6) Bibliography
- (7) Local Government Authorities Draft Report Comments

Acknowledgements

Stirling Sport and Recreation Solutions acknowledges the role of the Project Reference Group on overseeing and contributing to the preparation of this Cricket Facilities Strategic Plan. The Plan reflects what is considered to be a realistic first planned approach to the provision of cricket facilities in the Perth Metropolitan Region for the 10 year period, 2006 - 2015. It is also the basis for ongoing discussion between the parties involved in cricket facility development and management.

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Executive Summary

- **Cricket Structure**

Cricket has evolved in Western Australia with a structure where there is now one cricket body on which the various cricket associations are represented. This has been the perception of the general public who would assume the WACA to be the State Sporting Association responsible for the sport overall.

The new structure includes having three people on the WACA Board from the Statewide Cricket Committee who's representation is to include the six major stakeholders from community cricket (Junior community, Senior community, country, indigenous, schools, women's) and grade cricket.

The commitment of the WACA Board is to embrace the entire cricket community in its structure and to have one voice for cricket. The new structure allows for this to happen.

There is also a proposal to have WACA grade clubs involved in the administration of junior community cricket so there would exist a formal relationship between grade and community club at the community level. That proposal is currently being considered by all stakeholders with a hope of general agreement.

The Cricket Australia affiliate for Western Australia is the WACA. It schedules cricket fixtures for a range of competition levels; is host for international and national level cricket matches; and also undertakes cricket development programs using a metropolitan and statewide regional officer program.

Organisational charts in the Report illustrate each cricket association acts independently of each other. They schedule and implement annual cricket competitions and operate with separate groups of volunteers. In recent times structural and operational changes within the WACA have paved the way for improved coordination and communication with the WACA and across these various associations.

The WACA and the separate cricket associations responsibilities have not extended to contributing to facility development. This will now become a responsibility of the State Wide Cricket Committee.

- **Needs Assessment**

This plan is a result of efforts by Department of Sport and Recreation to develop a planned and systematic approach for the provision of sports facilities in the Perth Metropolitan Region. Local Government Authorities support this endeavour. As a consequence, this study on cricket facilities is one of a number of similar studies which are to be undertaken for other sports.

A clear focus for all stakeholders when planning for cricket facility provision should be on the needs of the player. This will be more easily achieved through recognition and use of the "facilities planning triangle" outlined in section 2.3 under WA Cricket Philosophy.

In a statistical sense, the 30 Perth Metropolitan Region Local Government Authorities currently provide 278 grounds for the conduct of cricket. This figure does not include wickets located at Primary Schools or Private Schools. Further, Local Government Authorities report that 37 change rooms / toilets, 30 social amenities and 3 toilets require upgrading. A requirement to construct 8 change rooms / toilets and 4 social amenities was also reported.

Club and facility sustainability are seen as two inter-related factors.

Cricket administrators have recognised the following factors as contributing to club and facility sustainability:

- * Demographics
- * Planning framework
- * Community engagement
- * Extended community benefit
- * Governance

- * Financial viability
- * Usage patterns

- **Facility Development**

The State Government, Local Government Authorities, the WACA and related cricket associations need to aim for the provision of a network of cricket facilities across the Perth Metropolitan Region.

The network of facilities can comprise a mixture of provision from the following areas:

- * Local Government Authorities
- * State and Private Schools
- * Tertiary Education Institutions
- * WACA Ground

The existence of a network of cricket facilities is more easily achieved through partnerships with a variety of other agencies.

From a strategic perspective, a preferred level of cricket facility provision should desirably be based on:

- The geographic spread of facilities across the Perth Metropolitan Region. As a general rule of thumb, GIS mapping of selected cricket club memberships, shows a dense catchment area in a five kilometre radius around the facility, followed by a broad scatter across surrounding Local Government areas.
- The level of cricket facility provision, considering population growth across regional groupings of Councils and individual Local Government Authorities, especially where they are projected to experience particular suburb growth pressures.
- The accessibility of cricket facilities across the Perth Metropolitan Region including opportunities for collocation and joint provision.
- A classification of different facility scale and provision to satisfy the needs of different cricket player markets.
- The existing and projected level of supply and demand.
- Public Transport availability.

A hierarchy of cricket facilities has been developed that will allow for cricket and local Government Authority planners to provide for facilities required for casual neighbourhood cricket to interstate competition.

Most Local Government Authorities will be requested for additional cricket facilities over the next ten years if the cricket playing target market penetration rate sought by the WACA is achieved.

Local Authorities are also facing pressures for approvals to permit alternative use of land as residential densities increase and urban development continues. There is a need to safeguard access to and prevent loss of existing sport, recreation and amenity space and facilities. This particularly applies to field sports such as Cricket since large areas of flat playing fields are attractive for alternative development proposals.

This Plan includes a recommendation that the WACA consider the introduction of club synthetic wicket replacement subsidy for over a 10 year period.

Local Governments will need to examine strategies that include reactivating unused or developing new cricket fields and cricket authorities change fixturing and scheduling practices to meet these pressures.

A statutory requirement ensuring the availability of open space for the construction of sports fields is critical for the successful continuance of cricket as a sport, especially in new residential areas.

- **Policy Development**

Policies developed as a result of undertaking this report are designed to allow stakeholders in Cricket to work towards provision of good quality accessible facilities appropriate to meet the various needs of the “cricket family” through the implementation of the following overall policy objectives:

- (1) Increase the quality and capacity of existing cricket facilities to meet the needs and aspirations of the various Cricket Associations and clubs.
- (2) Maintain and increase the current quality of cricket facility provision to meet the identified needs of local clubs.
- (3) Improve accessibility to existing cricket facilities for cricket clubs and other community groups.
- (4) Increase the demand for cricket facilities through encouraging participation through cricket development initiatives.
- (5) Improve the health of Western Australians by providing high quality opportunities to participate in Cricket using safe competition and training facilities.
- (6) Support the development of local cricket clubs to meet their facility and customer focus responsibilities in the Perth Metropolitan Region.

Policies covering criteria for developing new facilities, cricket club collocation with other sports or activities, facility decommissioning and grants funding decision making are detailed with the observation that a close working relationship with Local Government Authorities will be required for their successful implementation.

- **Strategic Plan**

As a sport cricket is competing against other State Sport Associations for the person who may be the serious cricketer or recreational cricket player. Central to that objective is the availability of appropriately located cricket clubs with facilities that are sustainable in the long term.

Effective leadership is critical to making this happen and will require a more proactive approach to facilities planning by the WACA and related cricket associations than has previously been the case. The nature of open space development and the role of Local Government Authorities in facilities development mean the majority of cricket clubs will operate club facilities on land with a licence or lease.

A series of maps with senior and junior cricket club ground locations occur in this section to illustrate the extent of cricket participation coverage currently provided in the Perth Metropolitan Region. No cricket facility duplication was reported by either Local Government Authorities or cricket administrators to the study.

A proposed implementation plan required for the “Cricket Facilities Strategic Plan” is provided and details the desirable roles and responsibilities of the State Government, Local Government Authorities, the WACA and related associations and clubs, to achieve success.

The strategic plan outlines two fundamental strategies to ensure cricket facilities are available to meet game development and competition demand in the long term. They are:

- Ongoing communication and advising outer metropolitan Local Government Authorities of the projected ground requirements for the next 10 years to assist with their town planning responsibilities.
- Ongoing communication and negotiation with the more established inner Local Government Authorities where cricket development initiatives result in a demand for more grounds through an increase in team numbers.

Recommendations

Recommendation (1)

That the cost of participation in junior level cricket be kept as low as possible.

Recommendation (2)

That the WACA and related cricket associations include the relationships model (page 22) for the sport of cricket in their business plans and promote the model to clubs and stakeholders.

Recommendation (3)

That Local Government Authorities note the increases in junior player membership and the gradual increase in senior player membership.

Recommendation (4)

That the WACA and related cricket associations publicise the criteria considered to influence the sustainability of cricket clubs and cricket facilities.

Recommendation (5)

That the WACA coordinate and update an annual field specifications manual for schools and Local Government Authorities by the 2007/08 cricket season.

Recommendation (6)

That the WACA and related cricket associations in consultation with Local Government Authorities, monitor the condition of their affiliated club and support facilities as part of a rolling plan to maintain a high standard of cricket facilities and as part of their grants endorsement responsibilities.

Recommendation (7)

That the WACA, the relevant LGAs and Department of Sport and Recreation note the possible number of cricket facility projects and the potential ongoing implications for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund.

Recommendation (8)

That in 2007 the WACA convene a joint forum with related cricket associations to discuss with Local Government Authorities the issue of Turf Wickets costs.

Recommendation (9)

That Local Government Authorities note the hierarchy of facilities model used by the WACA and related cricket associations.

Recommendation (10)

That the WACA and the Department of Sport and Recreation jointly request the Education Department to issue a sport facility policy for school detailing the minimum level of cricket facilities provision in primary and high schools.

Recommendation (11)

That the WACA and Department of Sport and Recreation support interested Local Government Authorities with negotiations seeking community use of schools.

Recommendation (12)

That the WACA consider the introduction of a club subsidy in 2007/8 for the planned replacement of synthetic wickets with implementation over a ten year period.

Recommendation (13)

That Local Government Authorities considering the decommissioning of a cricket facility formally advise and seek the opinion of the appropriate cricket association.

Recommendation (14)

That the proposed cricket stakeholder meetings include an annual review of a facility development implementation plan.

Recommendation (15)

That the WACA with related cricket associations, the Department of Sport and Recreation and Regional Groupings of Local Government Authorities (or effected Local Governments), collectively advise the Department for Planning and Infrastructure of the projected amount of land required for cricket facilities in the next decade.

Recommendation (16)

That the Department of Sport and Recreation develop with field sports and Local Government Authorities a preferred winter / summer changeover date for fixtures.

Recommendation (17)

That a representative group from the WACA and related cricket Associations form a “Grant Endorsement Committee” to annually assess and endorse cricket facility grant funding applications on their merits. In general terms criteria outlined for Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities funding to prevail in decision making.

Recommendation (18)

That the WACA and related cricket associations collate their policies relating to facility development and distribute them to Local Government Authorities and affiliated clubs.

Recommendation (19)

That each year the WACA convene meetings with Local Government Authorities to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Recommendation (20)

That the WACA nominate a specific liaison person(s) for ongoing communication with Local Government Authorities.

Recommendation (21)

That the WACA and related cricket associations incorporate the components of the “Implementation Plan” into their operations.

Recommendation (22)

That each year the WACA convene meetings with stakeholders to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Recommendation (23)

That the WACA and related cricket associations incorporate this “Partnership Communication Plan” into their operation.