

ECHUCA MOAMA RECREATION PLAN

Prepared for Campaspe Shire Council
& Murray Shire Council



Final Report May 2006

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SHIRE OF
CAMPASPE



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Study Background

The *Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan* has been prepared as a joint initiative of both the Campaspe Shire Council (Vic) and the Murray Shire Council (NSW). The co-operative approach embraced by both Councils during the development of the Recreation Plan is consistent with and supports the principles of the “cross border partnership agreement” established in 2004 between both Councils. The agreement is designed to improve the efficiencies between the two Shires and to increase the range and quality of services available to residents within both townships and the wider region.

Echuca and Moama are the largest townships in their respective local government areas of Campaspe Shire and Murray Shire, and are divided geographically by the Victorian and NSW state boundary of the Murray River. The Echuca-Moama “twin” towns are situated 200km from Melbourne and 800km from Sydney, and together form a strong regional centre of approximately 15,000 people, but collectively service a much wider catchment as well as high annual tourist visitations.

Both Shires recognise and understand the lead role they have in the planning and provision of open space, and sporting and recreation facilities and programs and the high value placed on these by residents and visitors. In order to effectively support this leadership role, both Councils require a sound understanding of what they currently provide and to whom, a sound knowledge of their community's recreational needs, and strategies to match these needs for future facility and service provision. Added to this, is the desire of both Campaspe Shire and Murray Shire to avoid any unnecessary duplication of facilities and services in Echuca and Moama, and to maximise opportunities for sharing the responsibility for the provision of a range of recreation facilities and services in the Murray River region.

As a result, both Councils commissioned the *Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan* study in April 2005 and appointed Stratcorp Consulting, a sports and recreation planning company, to undertake the study. This Study Report outlines the process carried out to complete the study, including a description and analysis of the research and information collected, and the proposed strategy plan which identifies actions, responsibilities, timeframes and resource implications for its implementation.

1.2. Study Scope

The Scope of the study included all residents and age groups in the Echuca and Moama townships, all community and recreation clubs/groups utilising facilities and services in and around Echuca and Moama, and all indoor/outdoor and informal/formal sporting and recreation facilities located within Echuca and Moama.

1.3. Study Aim and Objectives

The overall Study Aim was to *identify a strategic direction for the provision of recreation facilities and service development in Echuca-Moama through a joint initiative of the Campaspe Shire Council and the Murray Shire Council working in partnership with key stakeholders.*

The Study Objectives were:

1. To develop Recreation Plan for the Echuca-Moama townships that is responsive to community expectations as well as being achievable, realistic and attainable within the Councils' budgetary frameworks.
2. To develop clear guidelines regarding the level and standard of recreation services, programs and facilities that Council should provide for residents.
3. To develop a 5 – 10 year strategy for the future provision of recreation services, programs and facilities within Echuca-Moama.
4. To develop a clear definition of the role of both Councils in the planning, development and management of recreation facilities, services and programs.
5. To integrate the *Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan* with the corporate goals, directions, policies and planning processes of both Councils.

1.4. The Planning Process

The planning process used to prepare the *Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan* included the following tasks or phases:

- Audit and review of existing open space and recreation facilities and services available within the Echuca-Moama townships.
- Analysis of current and likely future demographic profile of Echuca-Moama.
- Review corporate and service plans of both Councils.
- Review of National, State (Vic), and local recreation participation trends.
- Community and stakeholder consultation.
- Gap analysis and issues analysis.
- Strategy plan development.
- Client review and Public Exhibition period.
- Finalisation and Council adoption of the strategy plan.

1.5. Acknowledgements

Stratcorp Consulting would like to acknowledge the contribution of the Project Steering Committee for their input into the preparation of the *Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan*.

Also, the input, advice and information contributed by other people and groups during the study has been important, and includes Councillors, residents, representatives from sporting and recreation clubs, community groups and other stakeholder representatives.

Particular thanks is extended to Keith Oberin (Campaspe Shire Recreation Coordinator) and Greg Murdoch (Murray Shire General Manager) for their assistance in providing the necessary resources and follow-up typically required in these studies.

The study was part funded by the two Shires and Sport and Recreation Victoria.

2. DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS FOR ECHUCA-MOAMA REGION

The demographic information relating to the Echuca-Moama region, which is reported below has been obtained from the following sources:

- *ABS 2001 Census (Source: www.abs.gov.au).*
- *Moama Development Strategy, August 2004.*
- *A Socio-Economic Profile of the Murray Shire, 2002.*
- *Campaspe Community Profile, January 2003.*

2.1. General Demographic Characteristics of Echuca-Moama Region

The general demographic characteristics for Echuca-Moama are as follows.

- Estimated 2001 population of Echuca-Moama was 14,748 people (Echuca 11,087, Moama 3,661), which is an increase of 987 people since 1996, or 7.2% total growth.
- Echuca-Moama region is slightly 'older' when compared to Rural Victoria, with 32% of people aged under 25 years in the region, and 34.2% for all of Rural Victoria.
- Comparing the two townships, Echuca is slightly "younger" than Moama:
 - 33% of people are under 25 years (compared to 31% for Moama).
 - 40% of people are over 45 years (compared to 41% for Moama).
- High proportion (87.3%) of Australian-born people in Echuca / Murray Shire (compared to 71.1% in Rural Victoria).
- Higher proportion of 'couples without children' (29%) than 'couples with children' (28%) in Echuca / Murray Shire, which is atypical when compared to Rural Victoria (24.6% and 35.7%, respectively).
- Average affordability within the region with the median individual weekly income being \$300-399.

2.2. Projected Population

The projected population of Echuca-Moama region to 2016 is 20,368 people, or an increase of 5,620 people (38%) on the 2001 population of 14,748 people:

- Approximate increase for Echuca is 3,500 people.
- Approximate increase for Moama is 2,200 people.

In relation to Echuca, the residential growth will occur predominantly in Echuca West, i.e. west of the Northern Highway (800-900 lots) and Wharparilla Drive (800 lots), with a smaller level of development in the south east in the vicinity of the Echuca Racecourse (600 lots)¹.

For Moama, projected residential growth will almost exclusively occur west of the Cobb Highway.

¹ Source: Interview with Campaspe Shire Council's Team Leader Statutory Planning (2005).

2.3. Implications For Recreation Provision From the Demographic Indicators

The key implications from the demographic profile in relation to recreation planning and development include:

- Just under one-third of all residents in the Echuca-Moama region are aged under 25 years, a range which includes the most active age cohorts in relation to participation in sporting and recreation activities.
- Estimated additional 5,600 people to take up residency in the Echuca-Moama region in the next 10 years.

Implication: *Although an older demographic, there will continue to be a need to provide active sporting opportunities for young people / families.*

- Currently, there is a higher proportion of older adults in the Echuca-Moama region when compared to Rural Victoria. As a whole, the future population will become “older”.

Implication: *May reduce some demand for active sporting opportunities, but will increase demand for unstructured and passive leisure and recreation pursuits, such as walking, golf, lawn bowls, indoor social activities, and use of parks. A perception of safety in the community and safe accessible areas will be important features of the region for older adults.*

There is a high importance for this target group to increase its level of participation in active recreation pursuits, where possible, to assist general health and well-being objectives to be achieved. The participation of older adults in sporting and recreation activities should not just focus on the physical fitness, competition and skill improvement outcomes, but also on social and general health outcomes.

- General affordability of population is average, although there are pockets of low affordability throughout the Echuca-Moama region.

Implication: *Notwithstanding the high numbers of older adults (concessions), the general affordability of the population is average meaning a “user pays” principle for costing the use of recreational services and facilities could be sustainable in the region.*

- The Echuca-Moama region has a high proportion of its population which is Australian-born.

Implication: *Will impact upon the types of recreation and sporting facilities and services to be provided. There will be continued strong demand for “traditional” Australian sports, such as Australian football, cricket, golf, lawn bowls, netball and tennis.*

- A higher proportion of the projected residential growth in Echuca to 2016 will occur in Echuca West.

Implication

There will be high importance placed on the use of natural swales/waterways to create linear linkages back to the Campaspe and Murray Rivers for these new communities in order for residents to gain access to the established commercial/education/recreation areas of Echuca.

- The residential growth in Moama will almost exclusively occur west of the Cobb Highway.

Implication

Moama Recreation Reserve is strategically positioned to become the key recreation precinct for Moama in the future – thereby placing high importance to plan for linear linkages back into the Reserve from proposed residential subdivisions to the north and west to ensure new communities have effective access to quality recreation areas.

3. SUMMARY OF RELEVANT REPORTS

A review of the current strategic planning documents of both Councils and other previous research was completed to identify key issues and recommendations relevant to the study. It is important that the *Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan* has a context which is consistent with the planning directions and initiatives of the Councils and other regional planning agencies and organisations.

The key information from the review of key Council and State Government planning documents is summarised below.

3.1. Campaspe 2020

The Campaspe Shire Council has prepared this *20 Year Strategy* for the Shire as a whole and the individual townships to assist Council achieve the overarching Vision of

Building A Better Future

- By serving people
- By providing leadership
- By enhancing environment
- By encouraging industry
- By providing infrastructure

The Plan has gone through an extensive community consultation process and includes recommendations from current strategies, such as the *Small Towns Strategy* and the *Economic Development Strategy*. Key strategic directions relevant to recreation have been considered when formulating recommendations for the *Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan*.

3.2. Shire of Campaspe Council Plan 2005-2009

The *Shire of Campaspe Council Plan 2005-2009* is a review of the Council Plan 2004-2007, which involved extensive community consultation.

Council's **Vision** for the Shire of Campaspe is

People chose to live in and come to Campaspe because of the lifestyle and opportunities which are sustainable and vibrant.

Council's organisational **Purpose** is

Campaspe, in partnership with the community, will:

- *provide leadership and advocacy;*
- *provide cost effective quality services on an equitable basis;*
- *maintain and optimise competitive advantages in agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, heritage and natural resources; to*

enhance the quality of life and opportunities for business, community organisations and citizens to succeed and develop.

Council's **Core Values** which underpin achievement of the Vision include:

- Leadership.
- Respect.
- Trust.
- Learning.
- Innovation.
- Sustainable.

Two of the four Key Result Areas of the Corporate Plan include Actions which are either relevant to or give direction to the preparation of the *Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan*:

Key Result Area 1: Social

Campaspe will plan for a prosperous, sustainable, creative and vibrant community that encourages participation, represents and responds to all interests to enhance the quality of life and well-being of all.

Actions Advocate on behalf of the community.
 Recognise, support and celebrate community leadership and volunteers.
 Investigate forming a strategic alliance with adjoining Shires.
 Maintain and enhance recreation facilities.
 Assist communities to access government grants

Key Result Area 2: Environment

Campaspe will provide leadership, resources and services to secure a sustainable environment which will meet the agricultural, urban, social, recreational and other requirements of the community.

Actions Investigate the use of raw water and re-use water options for new subdivisions and recreation reserves.
 Develop a plan for the future provision of public open space (i.e. parks, gardens and recreation reserves).
 Develop a policy for public open space contributions.
 Complete the Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan.
 Complete a Bicycle and Pedestrian Strategy.

Key Result Area 3: Economic

No specific Actions relevant.

Key Result Area 4: Organisation

No specific Actions relevant.

The Community Satisfaction rating for Recreation Facilities decreased by 3% in the period May 2003 (69%) to May 2005 (66%). The target for 2005/06 is 67%.

3.3. Shire of Campaspe Universal Access Plan (2005)

The *Universal Access Plan* has been developed to assist Council in identifying opportunities that will enhance its services and facilities and eliminate barriers preventing participation by people with disabilities. The strategies contained in the Plan have been based on extensive consultation with relevant Council staff and the Shire's Rural Access Committee.

An important consideration in the formulation of the Plan was the fact that Campaspe Shire has an ageing population, which has a strong correlation with increased loss of physical and sensory function, i.e. increased incidence of disability.

The following Goals and Actions contained in the *Universal Access Plan* have informed the preparation of the *Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan*:

Goal: Increase Council staff awareness of the issues faced by people with a disability.

Goal: Increase recreational opportunities for people with a disability.

Actions: Ensure people with a disability are considered in recreation planning.
Review playground strategy and ensure consideration of people with a disability.
Create a working relationship with sports oriented organisations to encourage sports-related activities for people with a disability residing in or visiting the Shire of Campaspe.

Goal: Ensure people with a disability are considered in future planning and development opportunities.

3.4. Other Shire of Campaspe Strategies and Plans Reviewed

The following documents were also reviewed:

- Shire of Campaspe Community Safety Plan 2004-05.
- Shire of Campaspe Arts & Cultural Strategy 2004-14.

3.5. Murray Shire Management Plan 2005-2008

The *Murray Shire Management Plan 2005-2008* is the framework for work to be undertaken by Council for the period 2005 – 2009, and reflects the community's priorities and directions.

Council's **Mission** for the Murray Shire is

To maintain an autonomous Local Government organisation which provides a level of service that complements the further development of the Shire and which will continue to enhance the lifestyle of the residents.

Council's **Values** which underpin achievement of the Mission include:

- Provide community leadership.
- Act impartially and in the best interests of the community with honesty and integrity to promote community and economic development.
- Base decisions on sustainability.
- Be creative and innovative.
- Be open, accessible and inclusive.
- Be fair and equitable.
- Promote a culture of team work and cooperation.
- Provide value for money.
- Foster a "can do" approach within the legal framework.

There are ten Principal Activity Areas of the Management Plan, of which the following three have specific objectives relevant to preparation of the *Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan*:

Principal Activity 1: Community Services & Education

Service / Function – Education

Objective Encourage and facilitate education opportunities for residents of Murray Shire and facilitate the establishment of a secondary school in Moama at the Moama Recreation Reserve site.

Principal Activity 7: Recreation and Culture

Service / Function – Public Halls and Buildings

Objective Maintain existing public halls and buildings to meet the recreational needs of the community.

Service / Function – Swimming Pools

Objective Maintain Mathoura and Moama swimming pools to acceptable health standards.

Service / Function – Recreation Grounds

Objective To provide sporting fields and recreation grounds that can be utilised for a variety of sports according to the demands of the community.

Service / Function – Parks, Gardens and Reserves

Objective Provide, maintain and improve parks, gardens and natural bush land areas in the Murray Shire, to create an aesthetic and passive environment for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike.

Service / Function – Indoor Sporting Complex

Objective Maintain and improve the Indoor Complex to provide a quality for indoor sporting competition.

Principal Activity 9: Transport and Communication

Service / Function – Bicycle Paths

Objective Provide facilities that encourage safe cycle usage within urban areas of the Shire.

3.6. Moama Development Strategy (2004)

The Murray Shire Council prepared the *Moama Development Strategy* to:

- Identify existing development areas.
- Identify constraints and opportunities for residential development.
- Identify areas for future development in the area, including industrial, commercial, residential and rural residential.
- Recommend how future development of the region should occur.
- Facilitate the future development of the study area.

The Strategy formalises an approach to the future growth of Moama incorporating residential, commercial and industrial development, and recognises that the Echuca-Moama region as one of the fastest growing inland centres in NSW and Victoria with good

existing supply of community and commercial services to support further development. The Strategy was an important resource to gain a better understanding of the current and likely future demographic profile of Moama, and of the short, medium and long term direction for residential subdivision in Moama.

3.7. Other Murray Shire Strategies and Plans Reviewed

The following documents were also reviewed:

- Murray Shire Bicycle Plan (Moama), 2004.
- Plan of Management for Community Lands (updated April 2005).
- Horseshoe Lagoon Development Plan, 2005.
- Moama Recreation Reserve Audit, 2004.
- Minutes of the Moama Recreation Reserve Stakeholder Workshop (21 April 2004).

3.8. Cross Border Recreation Project (2002)

The *Cross Border Recreation Project* was a joint venture study between the Campaspe and Murray Shires, and Sport and Recreation Victoria and NSW Department of Sport and Recreation. The purpose of the project was to develop a shared organisational vision, philosophy and integrated policy for recreation provision by the two Councils for the Echuca-Moama region.

A SWOT analysis undertaken during the project identified the following strengths and weaknesses for sport and recreation in the region:

Strengths	<p>The initiation of the working relationship between the two Councils.</p> <p>The current availability of sport and recreation clubs.</p> <p>The high quality sporting and recreation infrastructure.</p> <p>Current high number of tourism and sporting events.</p>
Weaknesses	<p>Uncoordinated facility planning and development.</p> <p>Funding policies and procedures are different between Sport and Recreation Victoria and NSW Department of Sport and Recreation.</p> <p>Difficulties for elite athletes in the region to achieve State representative status and to be the beneficiary of financial assistance grants based on their place of residence.</p> <p>Promoting sporting events and opportunities is limited.</p> <p>Lack of current data on recreation needs of residents from Echuca and Moama.</p>

The project identified a number of recommendations in the following areas for the planning and provision of sport and recreation in the region:

1. Future planning.
2. Calendar of events.
3. Updated list of sporting organisations.

4. Feasibility studies for proposed new recreation/sport facilities.
5. Sports Committee/Council.
6. Management options for recreation/sport facilities.
7. Joint contributions towards capital and maintenance costs of recreation/sport facilities.
8. Funding programs and Government grants.
9. Financial assistance for elite athletes.

The commissioning of the *Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan* was an outcome of this cross border project.

4. SUMMARY OF RECREATION AND SPORTS PARTICIPATION TRENDS

For the purpose of informing this study, Stratcorp Consulting undertook an assessment of relevant National, State and Local recreation and sport participation trends. The following section outlines the results of this assessment and highlights issues considered during the strategy development process.

The section commences with an overview of general trends in recreation participation, and some sports-specific participation trends, and then presents National/State physical activity participation trends as identified through the annual *Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey*, (ERASS) commissioned by the Australian Sports Commission².

The section concludes with information on club membership trends from sports clubs based in Echuca-Moama.

4.1. General Recreation Participation Trends

Factors regarded as the catalysts for change in recreation participation include the following:

- Change in the size and structure of a population.
- Increased recognition of the strong links between involvement in recreational activities and good health, and the development of appropriate activities and services which cater for this.
- Demand by people for a greater diversity of recreational activities.
- Increased expectation of people/groups for higher standards in facility provision, and of quality programming, servicing and management.
- Greater reliance on locally accessed and lower cost opportunities by those without the resources to travel or pay for more expensive pursuits.
- Greater emphasis on non-competitive, unstructured recreation opportunities at the expense of participation and involvement in organised sport.
- Improved promotion, provision, and management of introductory sports programs by most State Sporting Associations, which are designed for children to “come ‘n try”.
- More flexible opening hours of facilities and for programming, including weekday, evening and weekend time-slots.
- An increasing demand for indoor facilities to facilitate this programming, and to provide protection from poor weather and exposure to the sun.

Other significant trends include a gradual decline in sports participation by young people (14 – 20 year olds), possibly because of increased importance placed on academic achievement, and a greater involvement by young people in the workforce created by the

² The methodology for the ERASS is that every 12 months four surveys are conducted throughout Australia (quarterly) with the sample size each quarter being 3,410 of people aged 15 years and over. The total annual sample is 13,640. AC Neilson undertakes the fieldwork survey by telephone on behalf of the ASC. The first ERASS was carried out in 2001.

introduction of extended shopping hours. Another possible reason identified through recent National research³ is the prevalence of children's use of electronic games, computers, TVs and videos. The research found that within the total population of children aged 5-14 years (2,647,500), more children now play electronic or computer games (71%) than play organised sport (62%). This decline in sports participation has resulted in decreasing involvement by young people in 'structured' sporting activities.

Notwithstanding the previously described trend, overall participation rates in organised sport and physical activities remains highest amongst young people and declines steadily with age. In 2004, 66.1% of all 15-24 year olds in Australia were involved in organised sport and physical activities (70.9% in Victoria). However, among 25-34 years olds, the participation rate had dropped to 46.2%, for 45-54 year olds to 33.7%, and down to 30.7% for people over 65 years⁴.

A particularly significant trend concerns increasing participation rates amongst older people. Government programs (such as *Active Australia* and *Go for your life*), the continued high media exposure of the Masters Games and athlete role models⁵, and pro-active sporting organisations are collectively having the result of increasingly encouraging older people to participate in sport and regular physical exercise. In 2001, 27.9% of all 55-64 years olds in Australia were participating in organised activities, which rose to 33.2% in 2004. For people aged over 65 years, the participation level in organised activities rose from 27.2% to 30.7% for the same period.

If these programs and promotions continue to be successful, and if people over 55 years continue to engage in recreation activities more than their predecessors did, then the use of public recreation and sporting facilities may not decline as significantly as the population ages.

4.2. Sports Participation Trends - Children

A recent survey of children's participation in sport⁶ found that:

- Of children aged 5-14 years, 62% participated in sport outside of school hours, which had been organised by a school, club or association (up from 59% in 2000).
- Across all age groups, boys had a higher participation rate (69%) in organised sport than girls (54%). Both rates of participation in 2003 were up from 2000 levels (boys at 66% and girls at 52%).
- Participation for boys increased between 2000 and 2003 in the following sports:
 - Soccer: 265,000 to 301,000.
 - Swimming: 177,000 to 213,600.
 - Australian football: 170,000 to 184,200.
 - Tennis: 125,000 to 128,300.
- but decreased for:
 - Cricket: 134,000 to 124,200.
 - Basketball: 120,000 to 116,100.

³ *Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities April 2003, ABS.*

⁴ *ERASS. 2004.*

⁵ *Former champion players/athletes who are still actively involved in training/competition for fitness and social outcomes.*

⁶ *Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities April 2003, ABS.*

- Participation for girls increased between 2000 and 2003 in the following sports:
 - Swimming: 203,000 to 225,500.
 - Tennis: 99,000 to 100,100.
 - Basketball: 81,000 to 88,900.
- but decreased for:
 - Netball: 235,000 to 233,200.
- Just as netball is still the undisputed favourite sport played by girls, the popularity of soccer over Australian football and cricket is widening for boys.
- Other sports growing in popularity are martial arts, rugby union and soccer (for girls), whilst athletics and softball continue to lose favour.

4.3. Participation Trends Based on *Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey*

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) conducted its fourth annual *Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey* (ERASS) in 2004 to measure Australians' participation in physical activity for exercise, recreation and sport. The results from the fourth survey have been recently released and are reported in the following sections.

4.3.1. Adult Participation

The ERASS identified a National participation rate in exercise, recreation and sport for adults of 82.8% in 2004 (an increase of 5.0% since 2001). The following table identifies the most popular activities undertaken by all Australians, which were walking, aerobic/fitness/weights and swimming, and shows comparisons between 2001 and 2004.

Rank	Activity	% Participation (2004)	% Participation Change from 2001
1	Walking (other)	39.0%	10.2%
2	Aerobics/Fitness/Weights	19.8%	3.9%
3	Swimming	16.5%	0.5%
4	Cycling	10.5%	1.0%
5	Tennis	8.4%	-0.8%
6	Running	8.3%	1.1%
7	Golf	7.9%	-0.3%
8	Walking (bush)	5.2%	-0.1%
9	Soccer (outdoor)	4.2%	0.5%
10	Netball	3.6%	-0.5%

Activity Participation 2001 to 2004 (National)

In Victoria, 85.1% of the population participated in exercise, recreation and sport (an increase of 7.7% since 2001) with the breakdown of males and females being 85.3% and 84.9%, respectively. The most popular activities in Victoria have a high correlation with the most popular activities Nationally.

The table below shows the direct comparison of participation rates between Victoria and Nationally, and shows that the first 4 most popular activities directly correlate. There is higher participation in Victoria compared to Nationally in walking, aerobics/fitness/weights, cycling, tennis, running, golf, Australian football, basketball and netball, but a lesser participation in walking (bush) and soccer.

Rank	Activity	National Participation (2004)	Victoria Participation (2004)	Rank (Vict)
1	Walking (other)	39.0%	39.9%	1
2	Aerobics/Fitness/Weights	19.8%	23.5%	2
3	Swimming	16.5%	16.5%	3
4	Cycling	10.5%	11.6%	4
5	Tennis	8.4%	9.2%	6
6	Running	8.3%	9.3%	5
7	Golf	7.9%	8.6%	7
8	Walking (bush)	5.2%	4.7%	9
9	Soccer (outdoor)	4.2%	2.6%	Eq.14
10	Netball	3.6%	4.0%	11
11	Basketball	3.2%	4.3%	10
14	Australian football	2.9%	5.2%	8

Comparison of Activity Participation Between National and Victoria (2004)

The next table shows the comparison between male and female participation in exercise, sport and recreation in Victoria. Female participation in walking, aerobics/fitness/weights, swimming and netball is significantly greater than males, but similar for tennis and basketball.

Rank	Activity	Male Participation (2004)	Activity	Female Participation (2004)
1	Walking (other)	27.7%	Walking (other)	51.9%
2	Aerobics/Fitness/Weights	19.1%	Aerobics/Fitness	27.8%
3	Cycling	15.6%	Swimming	19.0%
4	Swimming	14.0%	Tennis	9.2%
5	Golf	13.5%	Cycling	7.6%
6	Running	11.3%	Running	7.4%
7	Australian Football	9.6%	Netball	6.9%
8	Tennis	9.2%	Yoga	6.5%
9	Cricket (outdoor)	6.7%	Walking (bush)	4.5%
10	Basketball	6.0%	Golf	3.8%

Comparison of Activity Participation Between Males and Females (2004)

4.3.2. Organised and Non-Organised Participation

The ERASS defined participation as being "organised" if the survey respondent reported that his or her participation was "*organised in full or in part by a club, association or other type of organisation*".

In Victoria, an estimated 1.842 million people aged 15 years and over participated in at least one organised activity, which represents a participation rate of 46.4% (compared to 40.4% for 2001). It also represents over half (54.5%) of the 3.378 million people who participated in sport or physical activity in Victoria in 2004. Those people who participated in organised sport or physical activity undertook an average of 3.4 sessions of organised activity per week⁷.

In relation to participation in organised sport by age, the table below shows that participation in organised sport declines rapidly with age.

Age Groups	Organised Participation (Victoria)	Organised Participation (National)
15-24 years	70.9%	66.1%
25-34 years	50.4%	46.2%
35-44 years	41.7%	41.5%
45-54 years	35.4%	33.7%
55-64 years	37.4%	33.2%
65+ years	37.7%	30.7%
Average	46.4%	42.7%

Comparison of Organised Participation Between Victoria and National (2004)

Organised participation rates in Victoria were highest in the 15-24 years age group (70.9%), and declined to 37.7% for persons aged over 65 years. There was a higher rate of participation in Victoria compared to Nationally for all age groups.

4.4. Sports Trends

Specific trends of participation for the six major sports of Australian football, basketball, cricket, netball, soccer and tennis are as follows. The data has been sourced from the Australian Sports Commission publication, *The Numbers Game, March 2000*, unless otherwise stated. The source data relates to people aged 18 years and over.

Australian Football

- Victoria ranks 4th in relation to Australian football participation rates, behind South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory.
- Participation in Australian football is dominated by both males (98.3% of all participants) and also younger people, with 91.2% of participants aged 18 - 34 years.
- Australian football participants are more likely to be Australian born (96.4%).

⁷ National average, as frequency data was not provided to State level.

- Over 58% of Australian footballers participate in an additional sport or physical activity, of which outdoor cricket, basketball and golf are the most popular.

Basketball

- Victoria has a higher rate of participation in basketball than other states and territories.
- Basketball tends to be dominated by younger people, with 74.6% of participants under 35 years. However, participation declines markedly after the age of 24 years.
- Basketball participants are more likely to be Australian born (86.7%).
- Over 33% of basketballers participate in one additional sport or physical activity, of which netball is the most popular.

Cricket

- Tasmania has the highest rate of participation in cricket than any other state or territory, followed by Victoria and NSW.
- 40.1% of all cricketers are aged 25 - 34 years, however, there is a higher rate of participation in cricket by all 18 – 24 year olds (3.1%), compared to 25 – 34 year olds (2.4%).
- Cricketers are more likely to be Australian born (90.1%).
- Over 40% of cricketers participate in only cricket, whilst the 60% who participate in additional sports or physical activities, have a preference for Australian football, golf and indoor cricket.

Netball

- Whilst South Australia and ACT have the highest relative netball participation rates of 3.3% and 3.2% respectively, the majority of netballers come from Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.
- Netballers generally demonstrate a younger age profile than that of participants in all sports and activities – 80.4% of netballers are less than 35 years of age.
- Netball participants are more likely to be Australian born (91.8%).
- There was a steady decline in the total number of **registered** netballers in Victoria between 1991 and 2001, but this decline levelled out in 2002. The decline in membership during the nineties was due largely to a decline in seniors⁸. Anecdotally, this decline was off-set by the increased number of mid-week and evening social netball competitions being offered at indoor community recreation centres (public and private) where players do not have to be registered with Netball Victoria.
- There has been sustained growth in registered junior participation since 1994, coinciding with the introduction of junior promotional programs (e.g. Netta).

⁸ Source: Interview and membership information from Netball Victoria, 2005.

Soccer

- NSW and the ACT have the highest participation rate in adult soccer, and there is a lower proportion of players who are Australian born (71%), when compared to other “main stream” sports.
- There were over 70,000 registered soccer players in Victoria in 2003 (more than 36,000 at the school-age level)⁹.
- Continued growth at the grass roots level, with a particular focus on juniors, women and social teams.
- The Goal Kick program catering for children aged 5-10 years of age is increasing significantly which will have an ongoing impact on playing numbers.
- Participation by women increased from 62 to 78 teams in the Melbourne Metro in the period 2002 to 2003.

Tennis

- Tennis is the 3rd most popular organised sport and physical activity undertaken by adult Australians, behind aerobics/fitness and golf.
- Victoria has the highest rate of participation in tennis (3.2% of all people), followed by South Australia (2.5%).
- More women (57.1%) participate in tennis than men, with the gap widening as age increases. The gap peaks at 45 years and over, where there is almost 50% more women playing tennis than men.
- Tennis participants are more likely to be Australian born (82.2%).
- A high 54.7% of tennis players participate in only tennis. Of those who undertake additional sports or physical activities, golf and aerobic/fitness are the most popular.

4.5. Organised Sport and Recreation Participation in Echuca-Moama

The table in Appendix 1 shows membership trends for the past three years (2003 – 2005) for Echuca-Moama based sport and recreation groups. The data has been collated from a club survey administered as part of this study¹⁰ and follow-up telephone interviews with clubs which did not return a survey. In all, membership data has been collected from 28 of 40 sport and recreation groups.

In most instances, membership numbers reflect “active” members only, not “social/associate” members. In some cases membership data was only available for 2005, and in these instances the same membership number has been used for the 2003 and 2004 to enable a comparative analysis to be made for the past 3 years.

⁹ Source: Interview with Soccer Victoria, 2005.

¹⁰ Refer Section 10.1 for background on the administering of the club survey.

The key trends and information from the review of club membership data is:

- An estimated 8,092 people were active members of clubs in 2005.
- The overall increase in active membership in the past 3 years was 363 (or 4.7%).
- The most popular activities by membership (500 + members) in 2005 were:
 - Golf (2,250).
 - Netball (1,420).
 - Tennis (827).
 - Bowls & Croquet (785).
 - Australian football (627).
 - Basketball (600).
 - Soccer (506).
- There was membership growth of greater than 10% in basketball and cricket.
- There was membership decline of greater than 10% in hockey and pistol shooting.
- In relation to individual clubs with more than 50 members in 2003, the greatest variance (> 10%) in the past 3 years was recorded for:
 - Moama Little Athletics Centre (+ 50%).
 - Echuca Cricket Club (+ 43%).
 - Moama Cricket Club (+ 41%).
 - Echuca Basketball Association (+ 28%).
 - Echuca Football Netball Club (+ 17%).
 - Echuca Squash Club (+ 14%).
 - City of Echuca Bowls Club (+ 12%).
 - Echuca-Moama Hockey Club (-34%).
- Males made up 75% of the total club membership, whilst females comprised 25% of the membership. This difference in participation is significantly greater than the average “organised” physical activity participation rates for all Victorian males (49.1%) and females (43.7%)¹¹.
- Juniors (U/18 years) made up 53% (or 2,914) of the total club membership, whilst Adults comprised 47% (or 2,593) of the membership.
- Most sporting clubs anticipate that their membership growth will either stabilise or increase in the next 5 years for both senior and junior categories.

¹¹ Source: Participation in Exercise Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS), Australian Sports Commission, 2004.

5. EXISTING PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE

The adequacy of open space in a local government area has historically been assessed using a standard or benchmark, e.g. 2.83 hectares per 1,000 people in NSW, 4.00 hectares in the ACT, and 5.00 hectares in Victoria (or 4.00 hectares for rural areas). One deficiency with this approach is that standards do not necessarily reflect the different needs of different communities, or the diversity in the quality and accessibility of the open space available. It does, however, provide one indicator towards the adequacy of open space in any given area, albeit in a simplistic form, and is also one means by which a comparative analysis can be made between different areas within the same local government area.

The benchmark of 4.00 hectares per 1,000 people has been used in this study as a means of undertaking a preliminary assessment of the adequacy of the current provision of open space in both Shires. The total open space allocation comprises both Council-owned land (= *Community Land* in NSW) and those parcels of State Government land for which a Shire has been delegated management responsibility, e.g. Scenic Drive in Echuca and Moama Recreation Reserve.

The intent of the analysis is to assess the adequacy of “useable” open space which provides both passive and active recreation opportunities, such as playgrounds, picnic areas, bike paths, and sporting and recreation reserves. Therefore, land categorised in Moama as *General Community Use* has been omitted, as has land in Echuca used for median strips, roundabouts and ancillary buildings. State / National Parks and Forests, and waterways have also been omitted from the data in the table below which identifies the total available open space in Echuca and Moama (except if such areas are under the responsibility of Council).

The categories in the table are consistent with those used in the Murray Shire Council’s *Plan of Management for Community Lands*.

Town	Public Open Space Provision (Hectares)				Actual 2001		Projected 2016	
	Bushland / Natural Areas	Sports Grounds	Parks	Total	Population	O / S per 1000 people	Projected Population	O / S per 1000 people
Echuca	1,090.00	99.00	103.00	1,292.00	11,087	116.53	14,587	88.57
Moama	41.49	45.16	10.04	96.69	3,661	26.41	5,861	16.50
Total	1,131.49	144.16	113.04	1,388.69	14,748	142.94	20,448	105.07

Echuca-Moama Region Public Open Space Provision - Current vs Projected to 2016

The key findings from the analysis include:

- Based on the current and projected populations of Echuca and Moama, both townships have well in excess of the open space provision benchmark of 4 hectares per 1,000 people (Echuca: 116Ha per 1,000 people; Moama: 26.41Ha).

- After deducting the area of land classified as Bushland/Natural Area, both township still have a provision of useable open space in excess of the benchmark amount (Echuca: 18.22Ha per 1,000 people; Moama: 15.08Ha). Interestingly, this average provision of open space for sports grounds and parks is very similar for both townships.

Whilst the overall provision of open space across the townships is well in excess of the benchmark amount, both Councils need to ensure that the minimum level of provision of open space (or its equivalent monetary value) continues to be delivered during future residential subdivision developments.

Other issues and values relating to the provision and quality of open space in the Echuca-Moama region observed during site reviews and desk top reviews include:

- Open space distribution is variable across Echuca, with relatively good provision within the central spine either side of High Street and also in the area south of Ogilvie Avenue, however, there is poor provision in Echuca East and in the area north of Ogilvie Avenue extending to Echuca Secondary College. The three parcels of land set aside for public open space in the new residential subdivision in Echuca West (south of McSwains Road) are poor quality and have development constraints (e.g. retarding basins).
- Apex Park is the most popular park designated by Echuca residents (refer survey findings in Section 9.1). Some constraints with this park are that it is bound by back fences on two sides, the layout is considered sparse, and visitor facilities (including playground equipment, seating and tables) are of only average quality. *(Stratcorp: Council and the Apex Club have recently commenced the preparation of a development strategy for the Park).*
- Scott Street Park (Echuca) is low quality and has evidence of extensive vandalism and damage. The Lions Park, situated just off Ogilvie Avenue on the banks of the Campaspe River, has potential to be further developed as the major visitor or wayside stop for tourists as they enter town from the Murray Valley Highway.
- In Moama, there is reasonable provision of public open space within the residential areas, however, there is a reliance on corner parks (with little or no provision for visitor facilities) and existing larger parks are generally surrounded on at least two sides by back fences (i.e. McMahan Place Park and JB Hickey Park). An exception is Lawson St Park (between Tyro & Julia Courts) which has an ideal setting, is of high quality and enjoys good surveillance from properties which face onto the park rather than “turning their back” to it.
- The park surrounding the Moama Sporting Complex has been somewhat compromised as an attractive open space destination for residents due to the placement of temporary buildings adjacent to the Complex. Also, there are no visitor facilities in this park.
- Kerrabee Sound Shell Reserve is the main tourist wayside stop in Moama and is well located, developed and maintained to serve this function.
- The waterways and river foreshore reserves serving both Echuca and Moama have reasonable existing access (albeit largely unformed) for people to enjoy these resources, and provide a good base from which high quality linear linkages and recreational networks can be established for the region.

- The close location to Echuca town centre of Scenic Drive and Banyula Park / State Forest creates an exciting opportunity to provide high class natural bushland experiences for residents and tourists, such as walking, jogging, bike riding or nature appreciation. Similarly, Horseshoe Lagoon Park is located close to Moama town centre and the gradual implementation of the adopted *Horseshoe Lagoon Development Plan* will ensure a quality natural bush area is readily accessible by residents and visitors.
- The provision and distribution of informal recreational areas/facilities for families and young people (14 – 24 years) in parks is relatively poor across the region, and is largely restricted to playgrounds and BBQs. In future, consideration needs to be given to installing informal recreation equipment (such as basket/netball half-courts, tennis rebound walls and golf driving cages) in strategically located parks. (Refer Appendix 6 for examples of informal recreation equipment).

It is recommended that:

1. *A master plan be prepared to guide the future development of Apex Park into a high quality family recreation destination.*
2. *A master (management) plan be prepared for Scenic Drive and Banyula Park to ensure access to these natural areas for recreational use is properly planned and managed, whilst improving their natural values. The scope of works for these studies should include a revision of the access and parking of vehicles within these two areas.*
3. *Murray Shire continues to implement the Horseshoe Lagoon Development Plan (2005).*
4. *Both Councils consider installing facilities for passive and active recreation when assessing future upgrade possibilities for larger parks and reserves, by installing informal recreation equipment such as basket/netball courts (half-courts), tennis rebound walls and golf driving cages.*
5. *Strong linear links and corridors be developed in those areas identified as possibly underprovided with parks, to facilitate good access to other recreational destinations outside of these immediate areas. For example, investigate the provision of an open space corridor along the western and southern boundary of the subdivisions south of McSwains Road in Echuca West.*
6. *Both Councils ensure that recreation facilities are distributed appropriately across the region and with consideration to equity of access.*
7. *Both Councils optimise the recreational use of existing open space areas through multi-using and design flexibility.*
8. *Both Councils provide recreational facilities in parks that reflect the high value that the community places on open space for family and social activities.*

The scope of the study did not allow a comprehensive analysis of the provision and distribution of the playgrounds located within the Echuca-Moama region, however, field surveys indicated that:

- There appears to be a relatively even distribution of playgrounds throughout the region.
- There is little diversity in the range of play equipment, that is, most offer similar experiences and cater for a limited age group, such as pre-primary (2 – 4 years) and young primary aged children (4 - 7 years).
- Play opportunities are not well provided for older primary (7 – 12 years) and teenagers, and there is little use of natural features and landscaping to provide play experiences.
- There does not appear to be a hierarchy of playgrounds that provides for the local, district and regional needs of the community, other than the Adventure Playpark at Moama Recreation Reserve.
- General quality and maintenance of playgrounds appears satisfactory (confirmed by Campaspe Shire Council that independent quarterly safety audits are carried out).

A region the size of Echuca-Moama warrants consideration for the provision of an “all abilities” playground. These playgrounds are of a large-scale and offer a range of play spaces and experiences for children of all ages and abilities, and are specifically designed to cater for people with poor mobility, such as people with a disability (wheelchair bound) and older adults who might have mobility constraints but wish to supervise children on playgrounds.

It is recommended that a joint *Playground Strategy* be prepared to provide both Councils with a strategic approach to the provision of playgrounds across the region:

1. *To meet the changing needs of residents.*
2. *To meet new demand as the population increases.*
3. *To provide a more diverse suite of playgrounds for the region, in scale, design, equipment choice and materials (including a new regional “all abilities” playground).*
4. *To ensure compliance of all play equipment with Australian Standards for playground construction.*
5. *To prioritise actions in relation to replacement, upgrade and decommissioning of playgrounds.*
6. *To enable Councils to forward plan their resource commitment to the provision of playgrounds.*
7. *To consider provision of rubber soft-fall, shade structures and fencing at strategically significant playgrounds.*

It is recommended that a *Shire-wide Playground Strategy* be prepared for Campaspe Shire to guide the future provision of playgrounds across the Shire, and which recognises the link with and partnership with Murray Shire.

6. EXISTING PROVISION OF SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES

In relation to the provision of sport and recreation facilities, the Echuca-Moama region offers a broad range of facilities for residents and visitors, including but not limited to athletics, Australian football, basketball, boating, cricket, cycling, lawn bowls, netball, skate boarding, soccer, swimming, and tennis. There are over 35 community sporting clubs and groups which utilise grounds and facilities directly managed by the Campaspe and Murray Shire Councils, Reserve Committees, other not-for-profit organisations, or the private sector.

This section provides an overview of the key sport and recreation facilities available within the Echuca-Moama region.

6.1. Sporting and Recreation Reserves

There are 4 Council owned/managed sporting and recreation reserves comprising 7 sports grounds in the Echuca-Moama region, including the following 2 major recreation reserves:

- **Moama Recreation Reserve, Moama** – is a large sporting reserve and open space area of over 45 hectares located north-east of the Moama township on Perricoota Road. The Reserve comprises a main sports oval (Australian football/cricket), a rectangular sports field area (soccer, touch, cricket), Jack Eddy Oval – a multipurpose use sports oval (soccer, rugby union, athletics), 2 netball courts, a velodrome, a disused harness racing track, an adventure playpark, a Botanic Gardens area (currently being established), Moama Sports Club, and a large expanse of open space.
- **Victoria Park, Echuca** – is a large multipurpose sporting and natural bushland area, comprising 1 main sports oval (Australian football/cricket), 17 grass tennis courts, 1 netball court, a joint-use CFA training track/netball area (x 2 courts), small miscellaneous sports field, and a large bushland reserve abutting the sports precinct which offers walking/jogging/bike riding opportunities, a boat ramp, and access to various beaches along the Murray River for swimming and fishing.

An audit of the outdoor sporting and recreation facilities is available in Appendix 2.

6.2. Sporting and Recreation Facilities

The Echuca-Moama region features a number of sporting and recreation facilities, some of which could be classified as “premier” facilities as they service a catchment that extends beyond the Echuca-Moama region and/or they have been developed to a standard beyond local needs, with other facilities servicing a township or local catchment of Echuca-Moama residents. As previously mentioned, the ownership and/or management of the facilities are varied.

6.2.1. “Premier” Sporting and Recreation Facilities

The Echuca-Moama region features the following premier/regional facilities:

Echuca

- Nestle Sports & Entertainment Centre.
- Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre.
- Echuca Lawn Tennis Club.
- Echuca Racecourse.
- Echuca Showgrounds (harness racing).
- Echuca Clay Target Club (private).

Moama

- Rich River Golf Club Resort (private).
- Moama Bowling Club (private).
- Moama Recreation Reserve Velodrome.

6.2.2. Council-Owned/Managed Sporting and Recreation Facilities

The Echuca-Moama region features the following township/local facilities:

Echuca

- Echuca Lawn Tennis Club.
- Echuca South Netball/Tennis Complex.
- City of Echuca Bowls Club.
- Echuca Back Nine Golf Course.
- BMX Track.

Moama

- Moama Outdoor Pool.
- Moama Recreation Reserve Adventure Playpark.
- Skate Park.
- Moama Sporting Complex.

6.2.3. Other Key Public/Private Facilities

Other public/private sporting and recreation facilities include:

Echuca

- Echuca Sporting Complex (Echuca Secondary College).
- Echuca Pistol Club (private).
- Echuca King Pin Bowl (private).
- Dynamic Fitness Centre (private).
- Funtastic Indoor Play Centre (private).

Moama

- Rich River Golf Tennis Club (private).
- Rich River Golf Lawn Bowls Club (private).
- Rich River Golf Croquet Club (private).
- Moama Bocce & Petanque Courts (private).
- Splat Attack (private).
- Silverstone Go-Kart Track (private).
- Rich River Motor Sports Club (private).

6.3. Overall Summary of Available Sporting and Recreation Facilities

The following list summarises the provision of the sporting and recreation facilities available in the Echuca-Moama region which are available for community use, irrespective of which organisation, agency or private sector group owns and/or manages the facility. The list does not include those facilities built on primary and secondary school which are not readily available to the public, nor does include junior-sized sports fields.

- 9 cricket ovals (4 turf centre wicket, 5 synthetic top) (4 school sites).
- 7 Australian football ovals (2 at school sites).
- 5 soccer fields (1 at a school site).
- 1 rugby union / league field.
- 37 tennis courts.
- 15 outdoor netball courts.
- 12 bowling greens.
- 4 croquet lawns.
- 8 touch fields.
- 2 squash courts.

- 6 basketball courts (3 at school sites).
- 2 indoor cricket pitches.
- 3 badminton courts.
- 2 volleyball courts.
- 1 cycling velodrome.
- 1 skate park.
- 2 swimming pools (1 indoor, 1 outdoor).
- 1 grass athletics track.
- 2 golf courses (1 public, 1 private).
- 2 bocce courts.
- 1 petanque piste.
- 2 health & fitness centres (1 public, 1 private).
- 1 gymnastics centre (not purpose-built).
- 2 shooting facilities.
- 1 motor sports venue.
- 1 ten pin bowling centre.
- 3 public boat ramps.
- Canoe hire (private).
- Activities available with organised groups, but which are not facility-dependent include bush walking, boating, cycling, darts, fishing, running, and pigeon racing.

6.4. Education Facilities

In relation to the provision of sports and recreation facilities, most primary and secondary schools within the Echuca-Moama region have sport and recreation facilities which are available for community use, including sports fields, outdoor sports courts and indoor sports courts. The full audit of school sites is available in Appendix 3, and showed that:

- Most schools have a sports ground, and some multipurpose outdoor hard courts (basketball/netball/tennis). Four of the schools have an indoor multipurpose sports court, three of which are being used by external groups.
- Most schools are utilising external sporting facilities, including Council sports grounds, the Nestle Stadium and the Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre, for regular physical education/sports use, and for one-off sports carnivals and events.
- Echuca Secondary College and the Echuca Central Primary School have a good range of outdoor/indoor sports facilities, and have regular use by external community sports clubs.
- Echuca East Primary School features an innovative use of a shelter over a children's play area which could be used as a model for provision of shaded spaces in other schools.

6.5. Adequacy of Current Recreation and Sports Facility Provision

Stratcorp Consulting undertook an assessment of the adequacy of the current number of sports facilities available in the Echuca-Moama region for the main (or popular) sports, based on a benchmark per thousand people. The benchmark was established using the following inputs:

1. The estimated 2001 population for the Echuca-Moama region of 14,748 people.
2. Existing facility provision within the region.
3. The Victorian participation rate for the nominated sports¹².
4. The estimated capacity of a typical township/local level sports ground/facility for the nominated sports.

The table below shows that against facility benchmarks and for a population of 14,748 people, there appears to be currently:

- Adequate provision for indoor courts (basketball) and soccer.
- Possible oversupply for Australian football, cricket, lawn bowls, netball and tennis.

Provision of Selected Sports Facilities (2001) - Echuca-Moama Region

Facility	Existing No. in Region	Benchmark	2001 Ratio #	Benchmark Number	Difference (- = Surplus)
Football Oval	7	1:4500	2,107	3	- 4
Cricket Oval	9	1:3000	1,639	5	- 4
Indoor multi-purpose sports court	6	1:7500	2,458	2	- 4
Lawn Bowls Green	12	1:10000	1,229	1	- 11
Netball	15	1:3000	983	5	- 10
Outdoor Soccer Field	4	1:3000	3,687	5	1
Tennis Court	37	1:1500	399	10	- 27

Estimated 2001 population of:

14,748

¹² Source: Participation in Exercise Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS), Australian Sports Commission, 2004.

The table below shows that in 2016, there is predicted to be:

- Adequate provision for Australian football, cricket and indoor courts.
- Possible oversupply for lawn bowls, netball and tennis.
- Possible shortage for soccer.

Provision of Selected Sports Facilities (2016) - Echuca-Moama Region

Facility	Existing No. in Region	Benchmark	2016 Ratio #	Benchmark Number	Difference (- = Surplus)
Football Oval	7	1:4500	2,910	5	- 2
Cricket Oval	9	1:3000	2,263	7	- 2
Indoor multi-purpose sports court	6	1:7500	3,395	3	- 3
Lawn Bowls Green	12	1:10000	1,697	2	- 10
Netball	15	1:3000	1,358	7	- 8
Outdoor Soccer Field	4	1:3000	5,092	7	3
Tennis Court	37	1:1500	550	14	- 23

Estimated 2016 population of:

20,368

This method of assessing demand, is a guide only. Factors such as the demographic characteristics of the population, condition and quality of facilities, and availability of facilities on education sites also to be considered.

6.6. Analysis and Summary of Existing Sport and Recreation Facilities

General observations across all facilities are:

- There is a broad range of sporting and recreation facilities and participation opportunities available within the Echuca-Moama region.
- Against facility provision benchmarks for popular sports, there is currently no undersupply of facilities, however, there appears to be:
 - current adequate provision of facilities for indoor courts and soccer.
 - Current oversupply of facilities for Australian football, cricket, lawn bowls, netball and tennis.
- The general quality of playing fields is good, with the exception of Victoria Park and Echuca East Recreation Reserve.
- The quality of outdoor courts/greens is good, with the exception of the courts at the Echuca South Tennis/Netball Complex (which are scheduled for upgrade in 2006).
- The general quality of indoor multipurpose courts is excellent, notably at the Nestle Stadium, with the indoor court at the Echuca Sporting Complex being the only surface not of a high standard (not sprung).

- There is good provision of sporting and recreation facilities at education sites, which are generally available for joint-use by the community out-of-school hours.
- In the main, facilities at major sporting reserves appear to be shared resources between multiple user groups with little evidence of “empire” building by clubs. The exception is the football social club building at the Moama Recreation Reserve where there appears to be some resistant to share the space with other user groups.
- There is currently an even distribution of sporting facilities across the region for the popular sports of Australian football, cricket, golf, lawn bowls, netball, and tennis. Soccer and athletics are centred in Moama, whilst indoor sports (basketball) are centred in Echuca.

7. OVERVIEW OF RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

This section provides an overview of existing recreational programs and services available to the Echuca-Moama community, being either provided directly by Council, or facilitated by Council (through provision of facilities and/or grants).

7.1. Audit of Current Programs and Services

Generally speaking, the Campaspe and Murray Shire Councils do not directly deliver recreational and sporting programs. Rather, they make available Council buildings and spaces for activities to be delivered by other public and/or private providers, and in some instances contribute funding towards service delivery. The main example of this is the contracting of the Echuca & District YMCA by both Councils to operate and manage on their behalf several leisure facilities within the region.

The following table lists the opportunities available for people to participate in recreational and sporting programs.

Facility / Organisation	Programs and Services
<u>Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre</u> (Council owned - YMCA managed)	Swimming programs (learn-to-swim, stroke technique, and squad), swim club and school swimming carnivals. Health & fitness services, including fitness gymnasium, group fitness activities, personal training, and PrYme Movers. Other services: crèche and birthday parties. For all ages and abilities.
<u>Echuca Sporting Complex</u> (Council/School owned – YMCA managed)	Table tennis, indoor soccer, indoor cricket, volleyball, squash, badminton, educational gymnastics and kinder gym. Other services: Facility hire for sports training and other groups (e.g. martial arts and Church groups) and use of the oval by the Echuca South & Echuca Cricket Clubs.
<u>Senior Citizens Centre</u> (Council owned – leased to Echuca Senior Citizens Group)	Club offers various centre-based activities, including cards, dancing, music, social groups and outings. For older adults
<u>Sports Focus</u> (Non-profit organisation operated through Government grants) Covers a region incorporating the local government areas of Macedon Ranges, Central Goldfields, Greater Bendigo, Loddon, Mount Alexander and Campaspe.	Access For All Abilities Program (sport for people with a disability through integration with local sports clubs/associations). Good Sports Accreditation Program (designed to assist sporting clubs to manage alcohol responsibly). MILO Tennis Over Australia (a national program aimed at increasing tennis participation in the community). Participation in Community Sport & Active Recreation (PICSAR) aims to increase the participation of youth (12-25 yrs), women, older adults, Koori and culturally diverse population groups, in community based sport and active recreation Programs based in Campaspe Shire largely restricted to the

Facility / Organisation	Programs and Services
	Nestle Stadium. For people with a disability.
<u>Lead On</u> (Independent Agency)	Recreational activities, as requested, at different locations. For young people.
<u>Church Groups</u> All Christian Church Group Riverland Church Group	Monthly meeting and recreational activities. Weekly meeting and recreational activities (film nights, pool visits). For young people.
<u>Sports Clubs</u>	Some sports clubs are targeting and embracing people with special needs, e.g. bowling clubs. Some sports clubs coordinate and deliver "come 'n try" sessions and/or formal junior development programs, such as AusKick, Netta and 'Have-a-Go' Cricket. For all ages and abilities.
<u>Campaspe Shire Council</u> Sports	Selected seminars and courses for club administration professional development. Recent seminars on fundraising, event management, "how to run committees" and recruitment/retention of volunteers. For sports club administrators.
<u>Campaspe Shire Council</u> Youth	Freeza activities School Holiday Program. For young people.

7.2. Assessment of Recreational Programs and Services

There is a limited range of recreational and sports program options available for residents to choose from which are suitable for various target groups and individuals.

Council's current involvement in the delivery of centre-based programs is largely as "facility provider", "funder" (through subsidies and grants), "advocate" and "promoter". These roles and levels of involvement by Council are appropriate but could be expanded to increase the overall participation by targeted sectors of the community.

Opportunities appear to exist for Council to increase targeted recreation programs, as a constraint on program development and expansion identified by many service providers was the lack of accessible and flexible, low-cost, multipurpose, indoor spaces within the Echuca-Moama region.

Also, the number of both organised and unorganised walking groups appears low when compared to other local government areas, particularly given the options currently available to people along the rivers.

8. COMMUNITY & STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

8.1. Process

Stratcorp Consulting organised and facilitated a series of consultation processes with Echuca-Moama residents, sporting clubs, community groups, relevant Council staff, Councillors, and other key stakeholders during the period June– September 2005.

A comprehensive approach was adopted for the consultation, which was designed to ensure that a wide cross section of people and interested parties were given an opportunity to provide input into the future planning and development of recreation facilities and services for the Echuca-Moama region. The consultation phase incorporated a number of different techniques to interact with residents, clubs, other organised groups, and Council personnel.

The consultation process is summarised in the following table.

The consultation process is summarised in the following table.

Target Group	Consultative Technique	Date	Responses/ Attendees
Residents	Infield Survey (4 days)	June 2005	214
	Community Forum	Aug 2005	3
	Community Submissions	Ongoing	13
Sports Clubs	Survey	May-Aug 05	28/40
	Sports Club Forum	Aug 2005	5
	Victoria Park Users	Aug 2005	4
	Moama Rec Reserve Users	Aug 2005	12
Key Stakeholders	Youth Service Providers	Aug 2005	5
	School Students	Aug 2005	15
	PWD – Sports Focus	Aug 2005	1
	YMCA Staff	Aug 2005	5
	Centre/Resort/School Mgrs	Aug 2005	5
Other Stakeholders	Interviews – State and Local Organisations	May-Sept 05	7
Council Personnel	Meeting – Staff (Campaspe/Murray)	Aug 2005	11

The key outcomes from the consultation processes are summarised in the following sections. A more comprehensive review of the outcomes of some consultative processes is attached in the Appendices, and where this is the case a reference is made prior to the summarised version.

9. CONSULTATION –BROAD COMMUNITY INPUT

Broad community input into the strategy planning process was facilitated through the following consultative processes:

- Resident Infield Survey.
- Household Telephone Survey (use of swimming pools).
- Community Forums.
- Community Submissions.

The results from these processes are summarised below.

9.1. Resident Infield Survey

(214 one-on-one interviews: 4 days at Echuca and Moama shopping areas, June 2005)

A full report on the results from this survey is attached as Appendix 4, with the key outcomes summarised below.

Organised and Unorganised Recreation Participation

- 89% of respondents indicated that they had participated in an activity in the past 12 months for exercise, recreation or sport. This participation rate compares favourably with the Victorian participation rate of 85.1%¹³.
- The age group with the highest participation was the 25-34 year olds (100%). Whilst there was some decline in the rate of participation with age, the decline was not as great when compared to rate of declining participation with age for all Victorians.
- Walking (56%) was the most popular activity, followed by Aerobics/Fitness/Gym (33%) and Swimming (29%). There is a high correlation between the most popular activities in the Echuca-Moama region and those of Victorians as a whole. The main differences in ranking are that Fishing and Ten Pin Bowling are more popular activities with residents in Echuca-Moama compared to all Victorians.
- Walking was the most popular activity for all age groups except 14-17 years and 25-34 years (where it was ranked 2nd). Swimming, netball and ten pin bowling were the most popular activities for people aged 14-17 years.
- The largest proportion of respondents' participation was mostly "organised" (69%), that is, participation in activities was generally organised by a club, association or a centre).
- Of the 11% of respondents (or 24 people) who indicated that they did not participate in activities, the main reason cited was "lack of time – family/work/study commitments" (by 67%), followed by "my age – too young/old" (17%) and "physical constraints" (17%).

¹³ Source: ERASS, 2004.

- A majority of respondents (80%) were satisfied with the quality of sports reserves and other outdoor sporting facilities located within the Echuca-Moama region, whilst 76% had the same rating for indoor sporting facilities.

Parks and Open Space Areas

- 51% of respondents visit a park situated within the Echuca-Moama region on a regular basis (once per month), with the age group most likely to visit parks on a regular basis being the 25-34 years age group (70%).
- The most popular activity undertaken (or reason for visiting) a park was a family outing (51%), followed by playground use (or supervising) (44%), BBQ/picnic (33%), and walking/jogging for exercise (28%).
- The most popular parks visited on a regular basis are Apex Park (36%), followed by Adventure Playpark (16%), and Hopwood Gardens (12%).
- Respondents rated highly the quality of parks and open space areas located within the Echuca-Moama region, with 76% rating their quality as either “very good” or “good”, whilst 69% rated their overall distribution as either “very good” or “good”.
- 83% of respondents indicated that it was “very important” or “important” to them to have access to native bushland areas in and around Echuca-Moama for passive recreational pursuits, such as walking, nature appreciation, etc.
- The sport, recreation or open space projects that respondents nominated as priorities for them to receive funding over the next 10 years were “new bike paths and walking trails” (43% of all respondents), “better access to the River foreshore” (22%), and “place/activities for young people (19%) and “improvement to the quality of sports grounds (19%).

9.2. Household Telephone Survey (Use of Swimming Pools)

(300 Echuca-Moama residents, June 2005)

A full report on the results from this survey can be found in the final report for the *Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre Redevelopment Options Feasibility Study*, a joint study undertaken by Council and the Echuca & District YMCA.

The key outcomes are summarised below:

- 28% of those surveyed had used a swimming pool or fitness facility in the previous 12 months (similar result to the Resident Infield Survey – 29%).
- The use of swimming facilities declines rapidly with age, from 66% of 24-35 year olds to 16% of 50-59 year olds.
- 74% of respondents regularly use the Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre, and the most popular activity is recreational swimming (28%, followed by lap swimming (20%) and Learn-to-Swim (or spectator) (16%).
- 35% of respondents attend the Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre “to improve/maintain fitness”, followed by 22% attending for “fun/recreation/leisure.”

- Respondents indicated the best aspect of the Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre was its staff (27%) followed by access to heated water all year round (15%), whilst the worst aspects were hot and stuffy environment (19%), followed by cost of membership (14%) and group exercise areas too small (14%).
- The most popular area for improvement of the Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre was more group fitness space (14%) and increased car parking (14%), and improved condition of change room (11%).
- Of the 72% of respondents who had not used a swimming pool or fitness facility in the past 12 months, 67% of these had heard of the Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre. The main reasons cited for not using the Centre were “too far away” (29%) and “haven’t heard of the Centre” (23%).

9.3. Community Forum

(3 attendees at the Community Forum held August 2005)

The key outcomes are summarised below:

- Improve the amenity of Echuca East Recreation Reserve (e.g. perimeter tree plantings and walking path).
- Moama Skate Park perceived as unsafe by young people – perhaps an additional facility(ies) in Echuca.
- Pocket Parks suit parents with very young children, but are of little value to other groups within the community.
- There is capacity to increase and better formalise public access to the Murray River foreshore, whilst the Campaspe River has greater potential to be reserved for its aesthetic qualities (steeper banks provide constraints).
- The conflict between powered and non-powered water craft requires better management.
- Consider establishing a weir on the Campaspe River to improve opportunities for boating (canoe) and fishing.
- Upgrade and extend the linear bike and pedestrian network (e.g. along the Campaspe River).
- Improve both the sporting areas and the bushland areas at Victoria Park.

9.4. Community Submissions

(13 written and verbal submissions received)

Resident, Echuca

- Increase the provision of recreation facilities appropriate for young people, namely a skate park for Echuca.

Residents (x 3), Echuca

- Generally to increase the provision of recreational cycling and walking paths throughout Echuca, and from individuals:
 - Suggestion for the construction of a pedestrian bridge over the Campaspe River in the vicinity of the Showgrounds to better link Echuca with the Chelsworth Estate.
 - Suggestion for increased number of seats along the Campaspe Walk, and to generally improve the promotion of trails and walks.
 - Suggestion for improved provision of arts and cultural facilities (art gallery and art-house cinema).

Residents (x 5), Moama

- Increase the support and funding for the Moama-Echuca Botanic Gardens project at the Moama Recreation Reserve, to fast-track its development.

Echuca Hockey Club

- Club advocates the establishment of a synthetic hockey field in Echuca to both increase the opportunity for the community to participate in hockey, but to also improve the quality of the training and competition facilities for the Club (which currently has to travel to Shepparton to compete).

Echuca Squash Club

- Club advocates the relocation of the squash courts from the Echuca Sporting Complex to the Nestle Stadium to improve the access to squash courts for members and the public. At the current site, access is restricted to out-of-school hours between 5.00 – 10.30pm Monday – Thursday.
- Club indicates that there has been a significant drop in participation since the courts were closed in the town centre, and relocated to the Secondary College. There was previously a thriving mid-week ladies competition, and mid-week lunchtime hire by workers.

Echuca Lawn Tennis Club

- Club advocates an increased provision of tennis courts at Victoria Park, specifically a joint-use, all-weather surface to enable the Club to extend its tennis activities and services to throughout the year. Currently, the Club is restricted to using its 17 grass courts to the period October – May.

Moama & Echuca Riverwatch and River Users Committee

- Riverwatch advocates for the provision of facilities on the Murray River that will enable people with a disability to be able to fish on the River.

10. CONSULTATION – SPORTING AND RECREATION CLUBS

Consultation and liaison with sport and recreation clubs was undertaken using the following consultative processes:

- Sports and Recreation Club Survey.
- Sport Club Forum.
- Interviews with specific clubs/associations.
- Meeting of user groups at Victoria Park.
- Meeting of user groups at Moama Recreation Reserve.

The results from these processes are summarised below.

10.1. Sports and Recreation Club Survey

Of the 40 Echuca-Moama sports and recreation clubs sent a survey in May 2005 18 returned a completed questionnaire to provide information on a range of matters such as membership (previously reported in Section 4.5) and the condition of facilities.

Follow-up calls were made to clubs which did not return a survey. This enabled membership data to be collected over the telephone from an additional 22 groups. Clubs which have been identified as not providing data were either unable to be contacted or did not return messages.

The following is a summary of facility issues identified only by those clubs utilising facilities either owned/managed by Council (*sourced from the 13 of the 18 returned surveys*):

- Improvements to the condition/quality of the playing surface at Victoria Park oval, Echuca South Recreation Reserve oval, and the Echuca South Netball Tennis Complex.
- Lack of water (irrigation).
- Improvements/extension to various pavilions and social clubrooms, i.e. upgrade of toilets/showers, upgrade/extension of social areas, and increased secure storage.
- Additional spectator facilities, e.g. shade/shelter, seating.
- Some clubs identified a need for new facilities to cater for existing and likely future training and competition needs, i.e. squash and basketball.

A full description of the issues and opportunities raised is attached as Appendix 5.

10.2. Sport Club Forum

All sports clubs were invited to attend a Sports Club Forum held in August 2005 to seek feedback on and discuss a range of issues dealing with role and performance of the Councils in the coordination, planning and delivery of sports services in Echuca-Moama. Five people attended the meeting representing four clubs.

A summary of the outcomes from the Forum follows.

- Attendees believed that Council is generally performing well in the following areas:
 - Promotion of available grant opportunities.
 - Liaison with clubs (email, quarterly newsletter, have an annual Clubs Forum).
 - Communication with clubs in relation to their needs.
 - Promotion of clubs/sporting opportunities available within the region (Council website).
 - Volunteer recognition (concurrent with Australia Day Awards).
 - Facilitation and coordination of club development seminars and courses.
- Attendees believed that Council could improve its performance in the following areas:
 - Maintenance of grounds/playing surfaces.
 - Maintenance/upgrade of pavilions.

10.3. Sports Club Interviews

Several interviews and meetings were held with sport and recreation groups. A summary of the key issues and opportunities raised by groups follows.

Group	Issues / Opportunities
Echuca South Cricket Club & Echuca United Football Netball Club	<p>Poor condition of playing surface of the ground (grass cover is patchy, irrigation system is inadequate).</p> <p>EUFNC has considered building 2 netball courts adjacent to the oval, as it perceives there are constraints to the Club's access to the existing netball courts at the Echuca South Netball Tennis Complex for training and competition use in winter.</p> <p>Access road around the oval ideally requires sealing.</p> <p>Kitchen and oval floodlighting require upgrades.</p>
Echuca Hockey Club	<p>Club has experienced a decline in membership since requirement to travel to Shepparton to play matches (constraints are time and travel costs).</p> <p>Existing training facility at Echuca East Recreation Reserve is not high quality, but does adequately cater for the need for a local training venue.</p> <p>Club would be comfortable with a shared (with tennis) synthetic field at either Echuca Secondary College or Victoria Park.</p> <p>Goulburn Valley Hockey Association has confirmed its support for an Echuca-based synthetic field, and has given a written commitment to schedule competition matches in Echuca if a field was provided.</p>

Group	Issues / Opportunities
Echuca South Tennis Club	<p>Currently co-locate at the Echuca South Netball Tennis Complex with the Echuca & District Netball Association. The Club has access to the use of the courts for 6 months (October – March).</p> <p>Historically, there have been some differences of opinion between the two groups in relation to the management, development and use of the courts and the associated pavilion, and the different levels of contribution by the two groups towards improvements.</p> <p>The Echuca South TC is a small club and for most Club activities requires access to a maximum 4 courts, with this increasing to 6 courts for junior matches on Saturday mornings. The Club would consider a relocation to a new joint-use facility with the Echuca Hockey Club.</p>
Echuca & District Netball Association	<p>As indicated above, the Echuca & District Netball Association co-locates at the Echuca South Netball Tennis Complex with the Echuca South Tennis Club.</p> <p>The Association has contributed significant funds towards the development of the facilities at the Complex.</p> <p>Key issues for the Association identified during the study were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The poor condition of the courts, with two courts having a very poor surface. Deteriorating surface is partially caused by the poor sub-surface and the method used to prepare the original base for the 10 courts. Courts now need re-surfacing. (<i>Stratcorp: A project to resurface the courts is scheduled for 2006</i>). 2. Additional lighting of 2 courts to increase the number of lit courts to six). 3. Security of tenure of the pavilion for the Association. <p>The Association would like to further expand the netball competitions to 12 months a year. It currently uses the outdoor courts, and also utilises the Nestle Stadium courts on Wednesday and Thursday evenings and on Saturday mornings for the Netta junior introductory program.</p> <p>The Association does not expect its number of registered players to increase significantly from its current 1,200 – 1,300 players.</p>

10.4. Victoria Park Users' Meeting

Due to the “premier” ground status of Victoria Park in Echuca, a separate meeting with user groups was convened in August 2005 to identify issues and opportunities for the reserve. The Echuca Football Netball Club and Echuca Cricket Club were represented by the 4 people in attendance. The Echuca Lawn Tennis Club and the Echuca CFA were not represented.

Issues identified:

- Surface of the oval has degraded over the past 10 years. The choice of kikuyu grass for the turf species is wrong (lies dormant in winter – little growth, and is too spongy for cricket).
- Centre wicket is poor – is lower than the balance of the ground.
- The dimensions of the recently laid netball courts (x 2) on the CFA training track do not conform to standards for matches.

Opportunities identified:

- Willingness of user groups to co-locate and to develop the Reserve in a co-operative manner (support development of a Reserve Committee – but Council to retain maintenance responsibility).
- Installation of onsite water storage.
- Require protective fencing at grandstand end of ground (stray cricket balls).
- Install additional seating around the oval.
- Support a joint social club development in a more central location on the Reserve for all user groups, to replace Haw pavilion.
- Maintenance and upgrade of the grandstand, including the visitors rooms and umpires' rooms.
- Upgrade the floodlighting at the ground.
- Put in place formal tenancy agreements between Council and the clubs at the Reserve.

10.5. Moama Recreation Reserve Users' Meeting

Due to the “premier” ground status of the Moama Recreation Reserve in Moama, a separate meeting with user groups was convened in August 2005 to identify issues and opportunities for the reserve. The following groups were represented by the 12 people in attendance:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Moama Sports Club | • Rich River Golf Club |
| • Echuca Moama Little Athletics | • Botanic Gardens Group |
| • Adventure Playpark Group | • Moama Echuca YMCA Soccer Club |
| • Moama Cricket Club | |

Groups not represented included the Moama Football Netball Club, Echuca Moama Cycling Club, Barbarians Rugby Club and the Moama Echuca Touch Football Association.

The Reserve is Crown Land with overall management and planning responsibility delegated to Murray Shire Council. Part of the Reserve is leased to the Rich River Golf Club (predominantly the area on which the Sports Club is located, and the immediate surrounds).

Existing Reserve Management Committee comprises representatives from Council, the user groups, and the Rich River Golf Club (x 2), and a school representative. There is no formal agreement between the State, Council and the Reserve Committee which defines roles and responsibilities, however, the roles of the Reserve Committee currently include:

- Coordinating and maintaining the bookings system for use of outdoor areas and buildings (some clubs believe the system is failing).

- Maintenance of outdoor areas and buildings (half-share with Council).
- Collection of user fees (to fund maintenance).
- Support facility development.
- Issues resolution relating to facility usage.

Issues identified:

- No “conditions of use” documentation exists between Committee/Council and the user groups.
- Lack of provision for equipment storage (little athletics, soccer).
- Season creep between cricket/football in relation to the use of the main oval.
- Perceived lack of advocacy and support from Council for the development of the Botanic Gardens.
- Lack of a high quality passive recreation area (exception is the Adventure Playpark, however, this appeals to small sector of the community).
- Lack of coordinated plan for the Reserve.

Opportunities identified:

- Dedicated grass track for little athletics.
- Possible dedicated cricket oval (new).
- Improved management arrangements.

11. CONSULTATION – TARGET POPULATION GROUPS

Meetings and interviews were conducted with people and service providers from the following target groups:

- Young People.
- Older Adults.
- People with a Disability.

The purpose of the consultation was to identify current recreation service provision in the Echuca-Moama region for the target groups, any issues and opportunities in relation to the provision of recreational services for people with special needs, and where there might be gaps in current service levels.

The audit of recreational services for target groups is outlined in Section 7.1.

11.1. Youth People

Recreational issues and opportunities for young people were identified using two methods:

- Meeting Youth Service Providers.
- Meeting with secondary school students.

11.1.1. Youth Service Providers

A meeting of youth service providers was conducted in August 2005, there were 5 attendees, representing Campaspe Shire Youth Services, Lead On, Rushworth P-12 College and Campaspe Cohuna Local Learning & Employment Network.

Current youth service providers include Lead On, Beacon Foundation, Local Learning & Employment Network, Paddock (alternative school) and Nernda Co-operative (Koori).

Key outcomes from the meeting were:

- There is limited recreation programming for young people (restricted to school holiday programs, Lead-On projects, Freeza, and Church-based activities).
- Perception that there is adequate provision for sporting options, but an inadequate provision for non-sporting options.
- There is a lack of arts and cultural venues/programs (e.g. band rehearsal areas, recording opportunities).
- There is a lack of multipurpose and flexible indoor space for youth recreation programming (e.g. self-defence classes).
- Echuca-Moama needs an internet café (hang-out space).

- Little opportunity for extreme sports/activities (e.g. rock climbing, rafting, sky diving).
- Lack of public transport between Echuca and Moama, and between the region and neighbouring townships.
- Moama Skate Park – generally well used, but location might be a problem for some.
- Support increased development of the off-road bike/walking trail network.

11.1.2. School Students

A Workshop with 15 students from Echuca Secondary College was conducted in August 2005.

The key outcomes from the Student Workshop are as follows:

- Generally good provision for participation in organised sport.
- Bike paths well used and valued.
- Prefer outdoor pools to indoor pools, but both pools needs more space and some leisure water or activities, such as a slide.
- Strong desire for extreme activities (ropes course, rock climbing, laser challenge, giant swing).
- Strong desire for access to dance venues (hip hop).
- Moama Skate Park:
 - too small.
 - lacks diversity – needs some street-style equipment and a skate bowl.
 - perceived as unsafe – older youths hang-out there.
 - would be good to program some events occasionally.

11.2. Older Adults / People With a Disability

Recreational issues and opportunities for older adults and People with a Disability were identified using two methods:

- Meeting with relevant Campaspe Shire Council staff.
- Meeting with Sports Focus.

11.2.1. Council Staff Meeting

A Meeting was held in August 2005 with Campaspe SC Manager Aged & Disability Services and Coordinator Aged Services.

The key outcomes from Meeting are as follows:

- Council appears to have had a historical commitment to sport provision and servicing, at the expense of general “recreation” provision.

- Sport for older adults in the region is well provided for, being lawn bowls, golf and tennis.
- Existing recreational services for older adults in the region are available through the U3A, Probus Clubs, Echuca Senior Citizens Centre, and the Rostrum Club.
- Walking tracks are limited in the Echuca-Moama region both in length and destination options, and also in quality (need to be sealed for all-weather use and to assist people with poor mobility).
- Council organizes older adults from a “care” perspective, not from a “recreation” perspective.
- Suggested that recreation reserves need to provide more opportunities for passive/active recreation.
- Echuca King Pin Bowling Centre caters for people with a disability.
- Suggestions:
 - Increased provision of seats along walking tracks/trails.
 - Sealed paths.
 - Increased provision of (and/or directional signage for public toilets).
 - Accessible jetty.

11.2.2. Sports Focus Meeting

A Meeting was held in August 2005 with the Manager of Sports Focus.

The key outcomes from Meeting are as follows:

- Only known formal sports opportunity for people with a disability in the region is a basketball program at the Nestle Stadium.
- Constraints against integrated services appear to be existing service providers are reluctant to program outside of their dedicated venues and training sessions are poorly attended by Campaspe Shire sports clubs, associations and organizations.
- Key opportunities identified for Echuca-Moama for people with a disability include:
 - Sports Focus could have a higher profile within Council amongst staff and Councillors.
 - Continued education of club volunteers and recreation facility staff in working with people with a disability, to improve their confidence and understanding of clients with additional needs
 - Provision of accessible, flexible, indoor multipurpose space.

12. CONSULTATION – COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

A summary of issues and opportunities to be considered in the Recreation Plan identified by Council staff are summarised as follows. Two meetings were held, one with Campaspe Shire staff and the other with Murray Shire staff.

12.1. Campaspe Shire Council Staff

Group meeting of relevant Campaspe Shire Council staff held was held in August 2005, 7 attendees representing the recreation area, town planning, parks, childrens and family services, environment and community development.

- An outline of the profile and distribution of future residential subdivision activity in Echuca was provided (key information has been included in Section 2.2).
- Many areas to be subdivided have natural swales or water courses traversing them, and these will be investigated as potential locations for linear paths / trails to ensure good passive recreation provision is allowed for and to ensure every opportunity is made to link new areas to established retail, education, entertainment areas (central Echuca in most cases).
- The two main playgrounds in Echuca designed for large groups are at Apex Park and Hopwood Park – both playgrounds are fenced.
- It was suggested that Echuca lacks a high quality park for residents' use (possibilities include an upgrade of Apex Park and to continue to develop Lions Park).
- Campaspe River Walk identified as a key current and future off-road link for Echuca. The existing circuit up to Warren Street needs to be properly formed (and sealed) and a connecting east-west link via Eyre Street needs to be considered.
- Council is currently assessing its tree strategy for parks – whilst native trees are generally drought resistant, they provide poor shade compared with some exotics.
- It was considered that there is adequate provision of sports grounds in Echuca.
- Volunteer support for community groups and clubs identified as a current issue.
- It was suggested that cars should be banned from significant sections of Scenic Drive (Victoria Park) to improve the safety and the natural values of the Park. A management plan and master plan is required for the Park (sporting areas as well as the natural areas).
- In relation parks and reserves maintenance, it was suggested a lack of resources is contributing to the overall poor condition of sports reserves, and low quality of parks (designed as low maintenance).
- Campaspe Shire Council undertook an extensive condition assessment of all Council buildings, with the aim of progressively bringing them all up to standard. Whilst an annual funding program was established by Council to fund works for specific targeted areas (re-wiring / asbestos removal), recurrent Council funds are inadequate to fully resource the total commitment of the Asset Report.

- Reserve Committees have been provided with the relevant data pertaining to assets for which they are responsible, but lack of available resources is likely to impede upgrades.

12.2. Murray Shire Council Staff

Group meeting of relevant Murray Shire Council staff held was held in August 2005, 4 attendees representing town planning, parks, community services, and environment.

- The management of the Moama Recreation Reserve needs a detailed review – there are no “conditions of use” agreements in place between user groups and the Reserve Committee or Council, and there is no Agreement between Council and the Reserve Committee formalising the management role and responsibilities that the Reserve Committee has.
- The Sports Club is the Secretary of the Reserve Committee – some problems being encountered with this arrangement. Annual rentals for grounds use totals approximately \$3,000 - \$3,500.
- Council has no policy articulating what responsibilities it has and what clubs should have in the provision of new/upgraded facilities.
- Moama Recreation Reserve is the designated community sports precinct for Moama both now and for the long-term.
- There is only a limited number of recreational and service clubs existing in Moama, e.g. 1 Probus Club.

13. CONSULTATION – OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Other stakeholders consulted during the planning process included:

- Echuca & District YMCA.
- Nestle Stadium Management.
- Rich River Golf Club Resort.
- Echuca Secondary College.
- River Boat Company.

The key outcomes from the meetings with these groups are summarised below.

13.1. Echuca & District YMCA

Group meeting with the senior management team and 1 Board member in August 2005, 5 attendees)

The meeting focused on each of the five facilities in the Echuca-Moama region currently being managed by the YMCA. A constraint identified in relation to the contracts for each facility is that the contract documents and the management period are not uniform.

Other issues and opportunities for each site are listed.

Back Nine Golf Course

- Approximately 13,000 rounds of golf per annum. There are 350 club members, and 120 social club members. The YMCA conduct a twilight competition in summer, and during spring/autumn there are junior golf clinics (40 – 50 people enrol).
- Issues include:
 - Need accessible toilets on ground level.
 - There is no automated irrigation system and the water supply for the golf course (Campaspe River) is not sustainable.
 - Lack of car parking onsite (develop adjoining Council land is an opportunity to resolve this).

Echuca Sporting Complex

- Issues include:
 - Limited access to facility as shared with Echuca Secondary College. School use also results in equipment damage / vandalism.
 - Lack of heating/cooling.
 - Stadium floor is not sprung.
 - Poor layout of floor plan and poor perception of safety by the users (i.e. entry is on the opposite side of the Stadium to the car park, no external security lighting around Stadium or car park).

Moama Outdoor Pool

- Pool is a seasonally operated pool, that is, the forecast daily temperature needs to be 25°C or more to open.
- Suggested that the main pool requires some shade protection, and that the facility generally could benefit from some additional visitor facilities, such as a BBQ. Adjoining park could be upgraded and its use by pool patron permitted.

Moama Sporting Complex:

- Facility is 30-35 years old and has limited use and appeal. It is poorly located in relation to where the majority of residents live now and in the future.
- Current main user group is badminton (twice a week for 6-12 people) and 30-40 hall hire bookings on average each year.

Echuca Memorial Aquatic Centre

- A separate study has recently been completed on this facility, “*Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre Redevelopment Options Feasibility Study*”, which scopes the major issues and opportunities for its future operation and management.

13.2. Nestle Stadium Management

Group meeting with Stadium Manager and 1 Board member of the Echuca Basketball Stadium Management Group in August 2005, 2 attendees

Centre was opened approximately 10 years ago. Campaspe Shire Council owns the building but has engaged Echuca Basketball Stadium Management (a company owned by Echuca Basketball Association) to operate it. Council pays a management fee to EBSM.

Typical weekly use:

- Basketball – Monday, Thursday and Friday
- Netball – Tuesday and Wednesday
- Other users: schools, youth groups, indoor bowls and junior basketball tournaments.
- Echuca Basketball Association representative team is the “Pirates” and they compete in Country Basketball League.

Condition of facility is excellent, only issue is poor quality basketball rings and support structures.

EBSM would support the construction of 3 squash courts as an extension to the Stadium.

13.3. Rich River Golf Club Resort

Meeting with the Chief Executive Officer, Rich River Golf Club Resort in August 2005

The Rich River Golf Club Resort Board is wanting to relocate the 10 tennis courts at the Rich River Golf Resort to a site close to the Sports Club at the Moama Recreation Reserve. The Board leases land at the Reserve on which the Sports Club is located, and in the future wants to possibly expand the Sports Club to incorporate conference and additional entertainment facilities.

The Board plans to expand the golf course (additional 18 holes) in 10 – 15 years as well establish a new high-rise 5 star accommodation block at Rich River (on the site of the tennis courts).

The Board sponsors and supports many clubs and associations in the Echuca-Moama region.

Approximately 155,000 rounds of golf per annum at Rich River (50% members, 50% green fees). Total Club membership is approximately 2,250 people.

13.4. Echuca Secondary College

Group meeting with the Acting Principal, Echuca SC and the Facilities Coordinator, Echuca HS in August 2005. Additional information received May 2006.

Echuca Sporting Complex is managed by a Committee of Management (School and Campaspe Shire Council), but the day-to-day operation managing the community's access to the facility is contracted to the Echuca & District YMCA.

Echuca Secondary College is currently being upgraded to accommodate the merger of the College with the Echuca High School onto the College campus, from 2006. A range of proposals to upgrade the existing Echuca Sporting Complex building and development of new facilities have been master planned as part of the merger of the two schools (refer Section 17 for list of projects). Whilst all of the recreation and sporting facility upgrades are proposed to be available for community use, some only have been identified as projects seeking external funding support from the Council/community.

The Echuca High School site adjoining Victoria Park may be retained by the Department of Education after the school merges with the College. Options for the site could be a proposed new Special School or a "country retreat" camp for use by other State Schools.

13.5. River Boat Company

Telephone interview with the Manager of a River Boat Company in October 2005

Significant congestion now occurring on the Murray River in and around the Port of Echuca Precinct, mainly between River Boats and Houseboats. There are 5 Paddle Steamers and the number of houseboats (both commercial and private) has increased. Houseboats have also increased in size.

Additional congestion created by speed boats, powered water craft, canoes and rafts, and tinnies (fishing). Generally, boat users are observing speed restrictions in the "no wash zone" in and around the Port Precinct. Wake boarding is causing erosion.

The area of the River around Victoria Park is popular with houseboat hirers as a location to tie up and meet friends who typically have accessed the foreshore via Scenic Drive. If vehicle access in Victoria Park is to be retained, it was suggested that it needs to be better controlled. Another popular destination in Scenic Drive is the junction of the Murray and the Campaspe Rivers (for fishermen).

Suggested that there should be a number of gazetted beaches on the Murray River which are developed appropriately, with other areas restricting public access.

Observed that there is a lack of directional signage for walkers and cyclists. Would like to see managed access into the bushland area of Victoria Park and Banyula Forest which is appropriately signed.

14. KEY ISSUES

The outcomes and issues that emerged from the study have been classified into one of three categories:

- Open Space / Passive Recreation.
- Sport.
- Other Issues.

14.1. Open Space / Passive Recreation

1. There is high value placed on the provision of quality and accessible parks and open space areas by residents and groups.
2. There is a higher participation by the community in organised (club/centre-based) activities compared to unorganised activities, which is against general industry trends, suggesting there could be further latent demand for outdoor informal space/use.
3. Projected increase in the Echuca-Moama region population of approximately 5,500 people, the continued ageing demographic, and the gradual increase in preferences of people to engage in passive recreation activities may necessitate additional (or redeveloped) places and spaces for passive recreation.
4. Recommend planning principles and guidelines for open space provision.
5. There is strong support to extend and improve the linear trail and cycling networks.
6. Improve provision of family recreation facilities in parks.
7. There is support for improving the interface with the Murray and Campaspe Rivers, and for using the rivers as recreation destinations (some conflicts of use are currently evident).
8. Improve access to natural areas, such as Victoria Park-Scenic Drive, Banyula Park and Lagoon Reserve.
9. There is strong support for improved provision of recreation facilities and programs for young people and older adults.

14.2. Sport

10. General provision and distribution of formal sporting facilities is satisfactory although there is likely to be a shortage for soccer, and there is no wider regional provision for hockey.
11. Undertake further detailed investigation of the feasibility of establishing a joint-use synthetic hockey field / tennis courts at Victoria Park.
12. Retain Moama Recreation Reserve and Victoria Park as premier sporting precincts, and prepare management plans for each reserve.

13. Whilst there is a projected increase in the population of approximately 5,500 people in the next 10 years, however, the age structure of the future population will not necessarily result in a corresponding increased need for active sporting facilities.
14. Progressively upgrade existing sports facilities to better user needs.
15. Formalise tenancy arrangements for clubs' and groups' use of Council reserves.

14.3. Other

16. Asset maintenance and renewal will continue to be a challenge for the Councils and sports clubs to address, due to competing demands on available funds.
17. Flexibility in design/use/development/management of facilities will ensure long-term return on investment (strategic partnerships).
18. The Councils have a leadership role in ensuring sustainable sports club management.
19. The provision of opportunities to engage in recreational activities should be integrated and linked to other planning objectives of the Councils.
20. Council has a role in increasing the availability of recreational programs and services which are accessible and affordable for a range of target population groups.
21. There is a need to increase the availability of flexible, programmable space in the Echuca-Moama region.
22. What is the optimum management framework for sports and recreation centres.
23. Establish a framework (policy) to enable Councils to prioritise new/improved sporting and recreational facility and open space developments.
24. The appropriate allocation of useable active and passive open space will be required for any future large residential development planned for the Rail Corridor and Harbour Foreshore precincts.

15. OPEN SPACE PROVISION

This section provides recommendations for the provision and development of open space in Echuca and Moama.

A list of planning objectives and principles for the provision of open space have been prepared, and should be used during the detailed planning for the provision of open space in Echuca and Moama, and for the design of specific reserves, parks and spaces.

15.1. Proposed Minimum Levels of Provision of Open Space

A standard for the provision of open space in Echuca and Moama is recommended at 4.0Ha/1,000 people, which is consistent with the current planning ratios being applied by other rural local government authorities for new urban subdivisions¹⁴. In order to provide for minimum levels of recreation and sporting areas, this 4.0Ha/1,000 people ratio should be divided into 2.5Ha for outdoor recreation areas and 1.5Ha for sporting facilities.

Note: These figures include provision to cater for average community and visitor requirements, and do not allow for the provision of regional open space areas or facilities, nor the provision of land for environmental or conservation related purposes.

For local outdoor recreation area development, a minimum size of 1.0Ha is recommended, whilst for outdoor sports facility development, a minimum area of 2.0Ha is recommended (which allows for 1 sports ground and associated areas), however, where possible both areas should be combined to create a large multipurpose recreation node, featuring a number of design and functional experiences.

15.2. Proposed Open Space System

The Open Space System for Echuca and Moama is proposed to incorporate the following layers and categories:

1. Sports Grounds
 - Premier
 - Township.
 - Local.
2. Parks
 - Regional Park.
 - District Park.
 - Local Park.
 - Ornamental/Utility Park-Reserve.
 - Undeveloped.
3. Culturally Significant Areas
4. Natural Areas (including waterways)

¹⁴ Source: Planning Guide for Urban Open Space, Ministry for Planning & Environment (Vic), and is based on the open space needs for an average Residential 1 zone type development with a population density of approximately 25 people per hectare.

15.3. Objectives

The proposed key objectives for the provision of open space are:

1. To ensure sufficient land is reserved to meet the open space needs of current and future residents.
2. To ensure adequate provision is made to accommodate expansion of open space areas to cater for predicted population growth.
3. To enhance the environmental quality of Echuca and Moama.
4. To ensure residents have a range of opportunities in which to participate in outdoor recreation and sporting activities.
5. To ensure there is a diversity of open space provided which provides a range of different experiences and opportunities for both active and passive recreation.
6. To preserve and identify significant landscape features so as to enhance their character for the benefit of residents.
7. To encourage and facilitate access to the banks of the Murray River for aquatic recreational activities and scenic benefit.
8. To provide opportunities for the development of private-sector recreation facilities.

15.4. Guiding Principles

The following principles are recommended to guide the detailed design and provision of public open space for recreational purposes.

15.4.1. General Principles for Open Space Provision

General Principles applicable to all settings are identified below.

<i>Principle</i>	<i>Description</i>
Balance with Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To achieve a balanced and diverse provision of quality open space with capacity to accommodate leisure opportunities responsive to community needs and within the financial resources of the Councils.
Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that residents and visitors can participate in a variety of open space activities of their choice.
Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide open space areas which are relatively evenly distributed throughout and adjacent to residential areas to ensure all residents have reasonable access to an appropriate range of areas.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide safe and convenient access between residences and open space areas, and ensure that all areas are accessible to

Principle	Description
	people with mobility constraints.
Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that the open space needs of all sectors of the future community are treated fairly and equitably. To recognise and give special consideration to those sectors of the community who have special needs (e.g. older adults, people who have visual, mobility or intellectual impairments, and people from culturally diverse backgrounds).
Safety and Liability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To give consideration to public safety in the design and location of all open space areas and facilities.
Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage planners to explore innovative ways to address open space related issues and opportunities in the most cost effective manner.
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure land set aside as open space through compulsory developer contributions is usable open space (i.e excludes waterways, drainage easements, degraded land and escarpments, etc). To ensure that all Council funded open space areas and facilities are attractively designed and located, and comply with Australian design standards.
Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that the provision of open space opportunities is in accordance with an appropriate planning framework and is integrated with other local and regional open space plans.
Sustainable Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that the type and level of open space activity proposed is compatible with the sustained use and management of the values of the area.
Private Sector Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage private sector involvement in the funding, provision and management of open space areas and facilities, services and programs where it is effective and efficient to do so.

15.4.2. Principles for the Development of Sports Grounds

The landscape and amenity development of Sports Grounds should be guided by the following principles:

- SG1 An integrated perimeter tree planting strategy should be implemented in Sports Grounds to provide an overall landscape framework.
- SG2 Planting should be provided in all car parks within Sports Grounds to provide shade and shelter for vehicles, and to contribute to an improved landscape character and setting. Trees should be planted to avoid loss of parking spaces, be surrounded by low growing species planted around their base, and be protected from low speed vehicle impacts at the base by low fencing or other appropriate 'bumpers'.
- SG3 Trees should be planted along shared paths within Sports Grounds to provide shade for path users, improved definition of circulation around the reserve, and locations for seating. Planting should consist of canopy trees to maintain views along and across the paths, and to also enhance a sense of personal security for park users.
- SG4 Tree planting should be provided to the perimeter of playing fields and outdoor hard court areas, to provide additional shade for spectators and to further improve the visual character of the reserve. Care should be taken in the selection of the species and placement of these trees to ensure they do not adversely affect the condition of the playing surface or overhang to a level where disruption 'to the game' may occur.
- SG5 Where appropriate, circulation within the reserve should connect directly with broader neighbourhood and regional trails, particularly the shared paths associated with Nature Reserves.
- SG6 Facilities including playgrounds, tables, seats, BBQs, drinking fountains, litterbins, and bicycle parking facilities should be provided at points of public focus. The precise siting of each of these facilities will be determined on a site by site basis, but are to meet the following criteria:
 - Grouping of facilities.
 - Use of existing access and pavements.
 - Association with existing buildings, to reduce visual prominence.
 - No removal of indigenous vegetation.
 - Association with existing parking where possible.
 - Sited to take advantage of the shade and shelter provided by existing vegetation.

15.4.3. Principles for the Development of Regional and District Parks

The development of the landscape of Regional and District Parks should be guided by the following principles:

- RDP1 An integrated tree planting strategy should be implemented throughout Regional and District Parks to:
 - Provide an overall landscape framework.
 - Increase amenity through shade and wind protection.

- Form landscape spaces.
- Improve habitat values.

Trees should be located to integrate with facilities, such as picnic shelters, seats and tables.

- RDP2 Planting should be provided in all car parks within Regional and District Parks to provide shade and shelter for vehicles, and to contribute to an improved landscape character and setting. Trees should be planted to avoid loss of parking spaces, should be surrounded by low growing species planted around their base, and should be protected from low speed vehicle impacts at their base by low fencing, or other appropriate 'bumpers'.
- RDP3 Trees should be planted along shared paths within Regional and District Parks to provide shade for path users, improved definition of circulation around the park, and locations for seating. Planting should consist of canopy trees, to maintain views along and across the paths, and to also enhance a sense of personal security for park users.
- RDP4 Areas of low level indigenous planting should be added at appropriate locations throughout Regional and District Parks, to create a variety of informal park spaces and a varied landscaper character. Care should be taken, however, in the selection of species to avoid the creation of personal security issues through reduced sight lines.
- RDP5 Some planting should to be provided along park edges adjoining perimeter roads, to create an attractive public interface, and in some cases, as a buffer between the road and the park. This planting should be canopy trees to maintain views into the parkland and to also enhance a sense of personal security for park users.
- RDP6 Where appropriate, circulation within the park should connect directly with broader neighbourhood and regional trails, particularly the shared paths associated with Nature Reserves.
- RDP7 Pedestrian access from residential streets should be provided through the construction of paths linking with the end of streets, as well as improved signage.
- RDP8 Clear and direct links should be made between park spaces to encourage use of the entire park, rather than just localised areas. This could be achieved through manipulation of views, landform and planting, as well as formed paths.
- RDP9 As with Sports Grounds, general park facilities, including tables, seats, BBQs, drinking fountains, litterbins, and bicycle parking facilities should be provided at points of public focus. The precise siting of each of these facilities will be determined on a site by site basis, but are to meet the following criteria:
- Grouping of facilities.
 - Use of existing access and pavements.
 - Association with existing buildings, to reduce visual prominence.
 - No removal of indigenous vegetation.
 - Association with existing parking where possible.

- Taking advantage of the shade and shelter provided by existing vegetation.
- RDP10 Tables and seats should be located to take advantage of key views, particularly to activity areas, playgrounds etc. Tables and seats should be of robust construction, of heavy section timber, and of a standard detail, to allow for easy and inexpensive replacement.
- RDP11 The setting of buildings and structures within Regional and District Parks should be planned to maximise integrated vehicle and pedestrian pavements and planting (using indigenous species).

15.4.4. Principles for the Development of Local Parks

In relation to future provision, the development of new subdivisions should avoid the reservation of inappropriate parcels of land (such as escarpments, and low lying flood-prone land) as part of compulsory Land Developer Contributions. This will go some way to avoid the mistakes of the past. Rather, the design of subdivisions should consider the provision of Local Parks as integral components of new neighbourhoods.

Key principles should include:

- LP1 Local Parks should be sited on the cycle network.
- LP2 Local Parks should have an adequate size and shape, and ideally should be more square than linear in shape, in order to provide for a variety of uses.
- LP3 Local Parks should not cater for a single use, but rather should be flexible and multi-functional in character.
- LP4 Local Parks should have high visibility, and be open on at least three sides, to provide for improved personal security through passive surveillance. Local Parks should be designed with residential blocks facing onto them, rather than backing onto them.
- LP5 Where there are sites of heritage or environmental significance, these should be incorporated into the open space system, but not to the detriment of the provision of usable “recreational” local open space.
- LP6 As a key principle, all residential blocks should be within approximately 400m – 600m of a Local Park.
- LP7 Where local commercial facilities are provided within a subdivision, these should be co-located with a Local Park.
- LP8 Where a subdivision provides more than one Local Park, the setting and function of these parks should be different, but complementary. The provision of Local Parks should be seen in the context of the overall open space system, and in the provision of a diverse range of recreation opportunities and landscape settings.

15.4.5. Principles for the Development of Natural Areas

The physical development of waterways and other nature reserves should be guided by the following principles:

- NA1 All existing areas of remnant and planted indigenous vegetation should be protected from degrading process such as weed invasion and foot traffic. Existing waterways vegetation creates useful habitat, provides banks stability and contributes to a "natural" appearance within the waterways corridor.
- NA2 Bio-diversity and wildlife habitat should be increased through planting of additional indigenous vegetation. Gaps in indigenous vegetation cover should be revegetated using indigenous species in order to extend and connect the habitat provided by existing indigenous vegetation. All revegetation will aim to recreate the structure and species mix of the vegetation community relevant to the site.
- NA3 Environmental weed species should be managed to control their spread, reduce competition, and be gradually replaced by appropriate indigenous species. Environmental weed management priorities should be based on working from better quality areas towards lower quality areas.
- NA4 Lawn areas should be minimised, unless the reserve is of appropriate size and topography to provide an open relatively flat lawn area of at least 400m², sufficient to function as a useable space in its own right.
- NA5 Shared paths along sections of waterways should (where possible) be provided along both sides to create a circuit, rather than a single lineal system.
- NA6 Paths should be constructed of reinforced concrete, in order to resist the impacts of expansive soils, and should preferably be coloured to integrate with the "parent" landscape. In more remote, less utilised areas, paths may be unsealed or constructed of a consolidated gravel.
- NA7 Paths through Nature Areas could be developed with managed landscape edges. This 'landscape edge treatment' should reduce the need for regular pruning of overhanging shrubs and trees, and improve user's perception of safety. The 'landscape edge treatment' should:
 - Comprise densely-planted, low growing species only (no more than 1.5 metres high at maturity);
 - Extend to a width of approximately 2 metres from the path edge;
 - Protect new plantings with temporary fencing as required until well established; and
 - Be managed to maintain a high quality appearance through regular weed control and litter removal.

(Managed landscape edge treatments may not be appropriate for those Natural Areas where it is deemed important for the user to have an immediate connection with the Natural Area, and not be buffered by artificial treatments).

- NA8 New subdivision design should allow for adequate space along waterway reserves for the provision of a 2,500mm wide shared path.
- NA9 Seating/rest stops should be provided along the shared paths, and be located to take advantage of shade and desirable views where possible. For high-use paths, consider the installation of exercise /fitness stations.
- NA10 Facilities including seats, shelters, BBQs and picnic areas should be provided at key viewing points and points of public focus.
- NA11 Interpretative signage is recommended at seating / lookout points. Interpretive signage should provide education about such points of interest, for example:
- Geomorphological processes and features;
 - The waterways habitat corridor and its component flora, fauna, and habitat elements;
 - Occupation / use of the creeks by indigenous communities; and
 - Historical aspects related to the settlement of Echuca and Moama, and other relevant rural areas.
- NA12 Directional signage is recommended along shared paths to provide direction and distance to attractions and facilities, such as toilets, playgrounds, picnic areas and other community facilities.
- NA13 *New Natural Areas* which may be created through subdivision of land should, where possible, be located around areas of existing native vegetation, be linked to existing natural and open space areas, and be as wide as possible to provide core habitat and minimise edge effects.

16. ECHUCA-MOAMA TOWNSHIPS RECREATION PLAN

From issues raised and research conducted, the *Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan* has been formulated utilising the following planning elements:

- Vision (or “Policy Statement”).
- Principles.
- Key Objectives.
- Implementation Plan.

The details for each element follow.

16.1. Vision (Policy Statement)

The **Vision** for the planning, management and delivery of recreation services in Echuca-Moama is

“Campaspe Shire and Murray Shire Councils shall collaboratively contribute to residents of Echuca and Moama achieving a high level of physical and mental well-being by ensuring there are equitable and accessible opportunities for residents of all ages, skill levels, cultures and abilities to participate in a diverse range of recreation and sporting pursuits”.

16.2. Principles

The following **Principles** underpin the *Recreation Plan* and the attainment of the Vision:

1. Campaspe Shire and Murray Shire will plan, manage and implement the provision of recreational facilities and open space in a collaborative framework underpinned by the cross border partnership agreement.
2. The Councils will aim to provide a diverse range of accessible recreation facilities and services, and open space settings across Echuca and Moama.
3. The Councils will take a planned approach for the delivery of recreation services.
4. The Councils will encourage participation by the community into recreational activities for the health, well-being and social benefits they provide.
5. The provision and allocation of sport and recreation facilities and services will be equitable according to age, gender, cultural background and ability.
6. All new sporting and recreation facilities will provide access for people with a disability, and it shall be the aim of Council and user groups to have all existing facilities made accessible.
7. Open space settings, and recreation facilities and services will provide safe and supportive environments for participants.

8. The provision of sport and recreation facilities will maximise shared usage and flexibility to meet changing community needs and aspirations.
9. A collaborative and partnership approach with community groups, government agencies and the private sector will drive the provision of sport and recreation facilities and services, and the provision of open space.

The final Principle is important as it supports a “community development approach” to the planning and implementation of proposed directions.

16.3. Key Objectives

The Key Objectives of the *Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan* that will support achievement and delivery of the Vision for recreation services in Echuca and Moama are:

- A. Provide a range of open space settings, and recreation facilities and services.
- B. Provide well-used and relevant open space areas and recreation facilities.
- C. Encourage and support community involvement in sustainable club and facility management and development.
- D. Facilitate diverse recreation program development.
- E. Provide effective management, support and resources.

16.4. Implementation Plan (Years 1 – 10+)

The *Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan Implementation Plan* identifies over 70 Actions to improve and develop recreation provision in Echuca and Moama, and which collectively will ensure the successful implementation of the *Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan*. The Implementation Plan aims to articulate and describe the broad planning framework required to progressively implement the agreed Vision. It is effectively a “road map” to guide how the Vision can be achieved.

All Actions have been classified into one of the following 5 categories, as a means to group together like Actions or Projects:

1. Open Space, Trails and Waterways.
This category addresses issues related to the distribution and supply of open space, diversity of open space settings, trails, quality of open space, and planning for open space, including facility and service provision in open space settings, such as playgrounds, bicycle paths, walking trails, etc.
2. Leisure Facilities.
This category assesses the provision and distribution, standards of provision, and opportunities for improvement to a wide range of leisure facilities.
3. Sports Facilities.
This category addresses issues related to the provision and management of sports grounds and reserves.
4. Programs and Services.
This category identifies where the Councils and other stakeholders can facilitate improved provision of targeted programs and services to increase the participation of people in recreation activities.

5. Management.

This category identifies a range of opportunities to enhance processes and procedures to improve the planning, management, and development of recreation facilities and services, with a focus on the role of the Councils.

Each Action has been allocated the following characteristics to assist with implementation:

- Cross-reference to the actual Key Objective being supported.
- Group(s) suggested as being responsible for implementing and/or contributing towards the funding of the Action.
- A timeframe (or prioritisation) for implementation.
- An estimated cost or required resource allocation for implementation (for projects identified in Years 1-3 only).
- Comments, where required.

Important Notes:

1. *All capital cost estimates are based on work being undertaken by professional contractors.*
2. *The cost estimates have been provided as indicative costs, based on similar projects undertaken in the past 18 months. No concept plans have been prepared for any of the proposed upgrades, which are typically required to identify more accurate estimated costs from a Quantity Surveyor. Cost exclusions include:*
 - *Construction contingencies.*
 - *Project management fees.*
 - *Any costs/loss of income, which may be incurred by user groups or Council during construction of improvement projects.*
 - *Goods and Services Tax (GST).*
3. *It should be noted that some capacity may exist for cost savings during the implementation of the capital improvement program, by:*
 - *Combining/packaging projects into one larger contract.*
 - *Utilising local residents and community groups for projects such as tree plantings.*
4. *The information contained within the Implementation Plan does not commit the Councils or any other organisation to a responsibility for funding allocated projects. Commitment to, and allocation of, funds to particular projects will be determined following an analysis of the capacity of various organisations to generate required funds, an assessment of competing demands, and a clear understanding of priorities.*

Legend for abbreviations used in the table:

CSC = Campaspe Shire Council

MSC = Murray Shire Council

SRV = Sport and Recreation Victoria

Clubs = Existing and/or future user groups

CoM = Reserve Committees of Management

DS&E = Department of Sustainability & Environment (Vic)

Stake = Stakeholders - Peak Sporting Associations / Leagues / Service Clubs / Community Groups

RTA = Road Transport Authority (NSW)

EBSMG = Echuca Basketball Stadium Management Group

Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan
Implementation Plan (Years 1 - 10+ years)

No.	Action	Timeframe and Costing (Yrs 1-3 only)				Objective	Group(s)	Comments
		1-3 yrs	4-6 yrs	7-10 yrs	10 + yrs			
	OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND WATERWAYS							
1	Adopt as Policy the minimum levels of provision of open space, being 4 Hectares / 1,000 people.	Within existing resources				A, B, E	CSC / MSC	
2	Adopt the recommended Open Space System outlined in this Plan (refer Section 15).	Within existing resources				A, B, E	CSC / MSC	
3	Categorise all open space assets according to the different classifications within the Open Space System (refer Section 15).	Within existing resources				A, B, E	CSC / MSC	
4	Plan for open space in new subdivisions which is consistent with the recommended Open Space System (refer Section 15).	Within existing resources	✓	✓	✓	A, B	CSC / MSC	
5	Ensure all new residential areas are linked to and integrated into the broad recreation network, which comprises of open space, playgrounds, bicycle paths, footpaths, shared-use trails, etc.	Within existing resources	✓	✓	✓	A, B	CSC / MSC	- Investigate the provision of an open space corridor along the western and southern boundary of the subdivisions south of McSwains Road in Echuca West.
6	Prepare an <i>Echuca-Moama Playground Strategy</i> .	\$ 10,000				A, B	CSC / MSC / SRV	- Plan for a hierarchy of facilities to improve diversity of experiences available. - Establish a prioritised Implementation Plan. - Consider combining the playground condition and compliance auditing contract for each Township into one contract.
6a	Prepare a Shire-wide <i>Playground Strategy for Campaspe Shire</i> .	\$ 20,000				A, B	CSC / SRV	- The Shire-wide strategy needs to link to and be consistent with the Echuca-Moama Playground Strategy.
7	Continue to implement the <i>Moama Bicycle Plan (2004)</i> to progressively build upon the existing network of cycling paths (on/off road) in Moama.	As per Strategy	✓	✓	✓	A, B	MSC / RTA	
8	Prepare an integrated <i>Townships Bicycle Plan</i> for Echuca and Moama as part of the <i>Campaspe Cycling & Pedestrian Strategy</i> .	\$ 20,000				A, B	CSC / MSC / RTA / VicRoads	- Key areas to consider include: * Integration with the key directions and network system outlined in the <i>Moama Bicycle Plan (2004)</i> . * Use of consistent signage and trail markings across the network in both Townships (may require co-operative agreement between respective State Roads Departments). * Formalise and seal the section of the Campaspe River bike path between Anstruther St and Warren St. * Investigate feasibility of establishing an east-west route along Eyre St between the Campaspe Esplanade (incl new bridge over the Campaspe River) and Echuca East Reserve. * Plan connections between Echuca Town Centre and existing bike paths, and with planned subdivisions in the west and south east precincts of Echuca. * Establish on/off road bike routes to key recreational facilities. * Establish off road trails along watercourses.

Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan
Implementation Plan (Years 1 - 10+ years)

No.	Action	Timeframe and Costing (Yrs 1-3 only)				Objective	Group(s)	Comments
		1-3 yrs	4-6 yrs	7-10 yrs	10+ yrs			
9	Continue to implement the <i>Horseshoe Lagoon Development Plan (2005)</i> .	As per Strategy	✓	✓	✓	A, B, C	MSC / Stake	
Prepare or review Master Plans for the following parks and reserves								
10	Review the <i>Moama Recreation Reserve Master Plan</i> and establish a 50 year Vision for the Reserve.	\$ 25,000				A, B, C, E	MSC / Clubs / Rich River Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review current constraints for sports development on the Reserve, including possible inadequate number of playing fields for long-term needs of users, and the need to create sub-precincts for like activities. - Review existing lease arrangements with Rich River Golf Resort for use of parts of the Reserve as part of the investigation for a site for the proposed new tennis centre (relocated from Rich River Golf Resort). - Other issues requiring long-term planning include car parking, entry/exits, pedestrian paths, provision of amenity blocks, and the management arrangements for the Reserve. - Consider and plan for the appropriate balance between provision for sports facilities versus passive open space and parkland areas to improve the overall landscape amenity of the Reserve. - Plan for an integrated traffic management and pedestrian system which relates to future residential development on boundaries. - The master plan process should initially review the current plan, and then prepare options for a new master plan with involvement of user groups and Murray Shire Council.
11	New Master Plan for Apex Park, Echuca.	\$ 10,000				A, B, C, E	CSC / Stake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is the main park at which Echuca residents meet for outdoor social gatherings. - Site lacks a quality landscape amenity and has average provision of park furniture.
12	New Master Plan for Victoria Park (Sports Precinct).	Within existing resources				A, B, C, E	CSC / Clubs / Stake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key issues to consider include the interface between the existing sports area and the bushland areas, and the future of the Echuca High School site and the integration of these facilities with the overall site.
13	Prepare a <i>Management Plan and Master Plan for Victoria Park (Bush Reserve)</i> .	\$ 17,500				A, B, E	CSC / DSE / Stake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key issues to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Connections to the Rivers. * Traffic management (Scenic Drive/Trail), and provision for safe cycling and walking. * Bush/habitat regeneration. * Upgrade of boat ramp area. * Provision of visitor facilities. * Access to beaches and fishing areas. * Management Plan.

Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan

Implementation Plan (Years 1 - 10+ years)

No.	Action	Timeframe and Costing (Yrs 1-3 only)				Objective	Group(s)	Comments
		1-3 yrs	4-6 yrs	7-10 yrs	10+ yrs			
14	Encourage DSE to prepare a <i>Management Plan and Master Plan for Banyula Park and State Forest</i> .	\$ 20,000	✓			A, B, E	DSE / CSC / Stake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Reserve has conservation and environmental values, and currently has no strategic framework for its management and development as a unique recreation destination. - The Reserve has strategic value as a large recreational open space area to service not only Echuca and Moama residents and visitors from across the Shires and beyond (tourists). - Management plan needs to address car access and parking throughout the parkland. - Possible location for a formal mountain bike course, however, the preparation of the management plan should incorporate an environmental assessment for this activity, if mountain biking is nominated as a proposed new recreational activity for this site.
15	In conjunction with the NSW Maritime Board, prepare a <i>Murray River Aquatic Uses Management Plan</i> .	\$ 17,500				B, C, E	NSW Maritime Board / CSC / MSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To investigate current conflicts of use and prepare strategies to improve safety and amenity.
Sub-Total - Open Space, Trails & Waterways		\$ 140,000						

Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan
Implementation Plan (Years 1 - 10+ years)

No.	Action	Timeframe and Costing (Yrs 1-3 only)				Objective	Group(s)	Comments
		1-3 yrs	4-6 yrs	7-10 yrs	10 + yrs			
	LEISURE FACILITIES							
16	Investigate the feasibility of developing a multi-purpose community centre in Echuca.	\$ 30,000				A, B, D	CSC / MSC / SRV / Stake	- Proposed facility to provide a range of meeting and programmable spaces (wet/dry areas). - Proposed facility to provide a combination of direct program delivery and hire spaces for private/community-based service providers. - Need for facility has been identified due to a lack of community and cultural programs available within Echuca and Moama, including performance space for young people. - Consider as part of the proposed new Community Hub planned for the corner of Sturt & Eyre Streets).
17	Moama Outdoor Pool - Upgrade the landscape amenity of the adjacent parkland.	\$ 8,000				A, B	MSC	- Install a BBQ and picnic area. - Permit paying pool patrons to move between the pool and parkland. - Designed to improve the attractiveness of the pool as a family destination.
18	Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre - Install additional water play features to improve the provision of leisure water.	\$ 20,000				A, B, D	CSC / YMCA / SRV / Stake	- In accordance with the directions of the <i>EWMAC Redevelopment Options Feasibility Study (2005)</i> .
19	Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre - Investigate the feasibility of installing a water slide, or similar recreation facility.		✓			A, B	CSC / YMCA / SRV / Stake	- To improve the attractiveness of the Centre for teenagers and young adults. '- In accordance with the directions of the <i>EWMAC Redevelopment Options Feasibility Study (2005)</i> .
20	Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre - Increase the size of the existing dry health & fitness facilities.	\$ 625,000				A, B, D	CSC / YMCA / SRV / Stake	- Existing gymnasium is at capacity. - Council will need to consider National Competition Policy implications with any proposal to extend the existing health & fitness facilities. '- In accordance with the directions of the <i>EWMAC Redevelopment Options Feasibility Study (2005)</i> .
21	Align the timing of the contracts for the private management of the various sports and recreation services.	Within existing resources	✓	✓	✓	E	CSC / MSC	- Services include the Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre and the other outdoor pools located in Campaspe Shire, the Moama and Mathoura outdoor pools, the Back Nine Golf Course, and the Moama and Echuca Sports Complexes. - Where possible, the same or similar operational standards of service delivery (specifications) should be consistent for like services available in both Townships.
22	Review the design and range of equipment at the Moama skate park, in consultation with young people and skaters.	\$ 15,000				B, C	MSC / Stake	

Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan
Implementation Plan (Years 1 - 10+ years)

No.	Action	Timeframe and Costing (Yrs 1-3 only)				Objective	Group(s)	Comments
		1-3 yrs	4-6 yrs	7-10 yrs	10+ yrs			
23	Investigate the feasibility of installing skateable pieces of park furniture and ledges in break-outs along sections of sealed bike paths.	Within existing resources	✓			A	CSC / Stake	- The bike path along Campaspe Esplanade has potential for the installation of break-out sections which contain skateable street-style equipment. - Consult with young people and skaters in relation to the feasibility of the proposal.
24	Prepare a <i>Skate/BMX Facilities Management Plan</i> to incorporate all facilities in Campaspe and Murray Shires.	\$ -	✓			B, C, E	CSC / MSC	- The preparation of the Management Plan should be a joint (collaborative) process between both Councils and their respective Recreation and Youth Services staff. - The scope of the Management Plan should consider the ongoing management arrangements for the Shires' skate park facilities (Council/community committees), maintenance, risk management, upgrades, and their use for special events and activities (e.g. 'safe skate' education sessions, 'come and try' sessions for young children, girls skate/in-line skating sessions, elite skater demonstrations, competitions). - The Management Plan will provide direction for maximising the potential for and broad use of the facilities, rather than adopting the 'build it and they will come' principle.
25	Install up to 3 unstructured recreation facilities in selected parks across Echuca-Moama designed to encourage people to participate in informal recreation/sporting activity.	\$ -	✓	✓	✓	A, B	CSC / MSC / SRV / Stake	- Options for facilities include basket/netball half-court combination, tennis rebound walls and golf practice cages. - In addition, consider options for location of fitness stations for public use in parks / along linear corridors. - Potential venues include Echuca East Recreation Reserve (the parkland), a park in West Echuca (McSwains Rd Estate), and on land adjacent to the Moama skate park (Kerrabee Sound Shell Reserve).
26	Facilitate the expansion of the provision of public health & fitness facilities in Echuca-Moama.	Within existing resources	✓	✓	✓	A, D	CSC / MSC	- Expansion of an existing facility is preferred, rather than facilitate the establishment of a third venue.
27	Investigate the feasibility of constructing an "accessible" fishing jetty on the Murray River.	\$ 6,500				A, D	CSC / MSC / SRV / Stake	- Will enable people with a disability to access more easily the River for recreational fishing. - Site options include the Moama Wharf, Horseshoe Lagoon, the Port of Echuca, Victoria Park, Banyula Forest and Aquatic Reserve. - Budget allocation is to undertake feasibility assessment and to prepare concept plans. Construction budget to be determined by final site selection and associated access requirements (e.g. parking, paths, etc).
Sub-Total - Leisure Facilities		\$ 704,500						

Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan
Implementation Plan (Years 1 - 10+ years)

No.	Action	Timeframe and Costing (Yrs 1-3 only)				Objective	Group(s)	Comments
		1-3 yrs	4-6 yrs	7-10 yrs	10 + yrs			
	SPORT FACILITIES							
	Hockey							
28	Undertake a financial analysis of the provision of a multipurpose synthetic hockey and tennis facility at Victoria Park.	\$ 20,000				A, E	CSC / SRV / Clubs / Stake	- A synthetic hockey field can also accommodate up to 12 tennis courts (temporary posts and netting required). - Concept for Victoria Park is that the facility would be utilised for tennis during summer and for hockey in winter. Lights must be included to maximise use of the facility for both hockey and tennis.
29	Develop a multipurpose synthetic hockey and tennis facility at Victoria Park.		✓			A, D	CSC / SRV / Clubs / Stake	- Pending outcome of analysis in Project No. 28. - Depending on final scale and scope of such a facility, an estimated cost range is \$700,000 - \$1M.
	Indoor Sports							
30	Nestle Stadium - Upgrade the basketball ring/backboard infrastructure.	\$ 20,000				B	CSC / EBSMG	
31	Nestle Stadium - Develop 3 squash courts at the Centre (pending outcome of detailed financial analysis).	\$ -	✓			A, B, D	CSC / EBSMG / Clubs / SRV	- There is sufficient demand for the retention of squash in Echuca and Moama. - School-based facilities restrict access to the squash courts for use during the day and some nights. - The participation profile of squash is similar to tennis, whereby day access for training and competition (ladies) is typical. - Any proposal to relocate the squash courts should involve negotiation with Echuca Secondary College about the re-use of the existing courts for another purpose, such as fitness rooms, music tuition rooms or art studios.
32	Echuca Sports Complex - Support in principle the upgrade of the Centre.	Within existing resources	✓	✓	✓	B, C D, E	Echuca College / DE&T / CSC / YMCA / Clubs	- Prepare concept plans for various upgrades and improvements, in accordance with the Echuca College Master Plan (refer Section 17 for an overview of proposed upgrades). - Centre to continue to provide for community use, including indoor cricket, basketball (training) and gymnastics. - Relocate squash to the Nestle Stadium. - Continue arrangements for the Centre's operations to be managed by a private contractor. - Investigate the capacity and capability of Echuca College overseeing the management contract independently of Council, with community access ongoing.
33	Moama Sports Complex - Retain as an events space and actively promote the facility as the "home" of badminton and volleyball in Echuca-Moama.	Within existing resources	✓	✓	✓	B, C D, E	MSC / YMCA / Clubs / Stake	- The Complex is still a good facility for an events venue, especially where large crowds and music are involved, due to its relative isolation. - Investigate the feasibility of installing an air handling system, as a significant deficiency of its viability is the lack of air conditioning.

Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan
Implementation Plan (Years 1 - 10+ years)

No.	Action	Timeframe and Costing (Yrs 1-3 only)				Objective	Group(s)	Comments
		1-3 yrs	4-6 yrs	7-10 yrs	10+ yrs			
34	Investigate packaging the management of the Nestle Stadium and other recreation facilities in Echuca into one contract.	Within existing resources				E	CSC	- Likely to result in a greater diversity of use (i.e. sports and activities) of the Nestle Stadium, as the basketball focus would be reduced if stadium management and competition were separated. - Opportunity to better explore synergies between the use of the Nestle Stadium, the Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre, the Echuca Sporting Complex and the Back Nine Golf Course, if operated by the same group. - Opportunity to access larger staffing resources if facilities are managed as one contract.
Netball								
35	Upgrade and re-surface the courts at Echuca South Netball Complex.	\$ 100,000				B, C	CSC / Clubs	- Project has commenced
36	Install floodlights to an additional 2 courts at the Echuca South Netball Complex.	\$ 30,000				B, C	Clubs / SRV	
37	Facilitate direct access for the netball section of the Echuca United FNC to the indoor/outdoor courts at Echuca South Netball Complex or the Nestle Stadium for competition and training.	Within existing resources	✓	✓	✓	B, E	CSC / Clubs / EBSMG	
Tennis								
38	Relocate Echuca South Tennis Club to Victoria Park from the Echuca South Netball/Tennis Complex (pending the outcome of the feasibility study to develop a synthetic Hockey/Tennis facility at Victoria Park - see Project No. 27).	\$ -	✓			B, E	CSC / Clubs	- Club requires 4 courts for main Club activities.
39	Expand the Echuca Lawn Tennis Club through the provision of an additional 8-12 all-weather courts (through the development of the synthetic Hockey/Tennis facility).	\$ -	✓			A, B, D	CSC / Clubs / SRV	
40	Facilitate the development of a new 10 court tennis centre at Moama Recreation Reserve to relocate the Rich River Golf Tennis Club (in accordance with the revised Master Plan - see Project No. 10).	\$ -	✓			B, C	Rich River / MSC	
Sub-Total - Sport Facilities								
		\$ 170,000						

Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan
Implementation Plan (Years 1 - 10+ years)

No.	Action	Timeframe and Costing (Yrs 1-3 only)				Objective	Group(s)	Comments
		1-3 yrs	4-6 yrs	7-10 yrs	10 + yrs			
	SPORTS GROUNDS							
	Australian Football / Cricket / Soccer							
41	Recognise Victoria Park and Moama Recreation Reserve as the "premier" sports grounds in Echuca and Moama.	Within existing resources	✓	✓	✓	B	CSC / MSC	
42	Develop a new <i>Local</i> sports ground at Moama Recreation Reserve.	\$ -	✓			A, B	MSC / Clubs / Rich River Club	- The new sports ground will cater for increased outdoor sporting needs created by the expanding population of Moama and through the expansion and development of existing clubs.
43	Develop a new <i>Local</i> sports ground for Echuca West.	\$ 250,000				A, B	CSC / Developer	- Increased population growth in Echuca West will necessitate a new Local level sports ground (possible co-location with a school). - Likely required for soccer and cricket (shared), due to the expansion of these activities.
	Sports Grounds - General							
44	Install new and/or upgrade existing sub-surface automated irrigation systems at outdoor sports grounds (new systems required at Echuca East Reserve and Echuca South Reserve).	\$ 120,000				B, E	CSC / Clubs / CoM	- Assists to facilitate sustainable sports ground management and safe playing surfaces for winter sports and cricket. - Funding is currently available through the Vic State Government (<i>Country Football and Netball Program</i>) to assist with grounds improvements. It is therefore recommended that Campaspe Shire Council initiate a 'rolling program' for irrigation works which is implemented over the coming years to take advantage of the current funding opportunities.
45	Establish a 10 Year Funding Program to upgrade pavilion amenities and associated infrastructure at sports facilities, as identified in the asset audit carried out by both Councils.	\$ 300,000	✓	✓	✓	E	CSC / MSC	- Both Councils have recently assessed the condition of all sport pavilions and associated infrastructure. - Budget based on \$100,000 per annum in the first 3 years.
46	Investigate options for a new / upgraded pavilion at Victoria Park to enable user groups to co-locate.	\$ 10,000				B, C, E	CSC / SRV / Clubs / Stake	- Consolidate all user groups into the one building. - Building project may be eligible for part funding from SRV. - Budget allows for concept design development, with end project not costed as it will depend on final scope of works. Typical allowance for a major pavilion development is in excess of \$1M.
47	Support the installation flood lights at sports facilities.	\$ 75,000	✓			B	Clubs / SRV	- Increased/improved flood lighting at sports grounds and other sporting facilities can improve ground management practices and result in increased sports participation. - Australian standards for training and competition standard ground lighting have been revised in the past 2 years. - Sports grounds potentially requiring new/improved ground lighting include Eddy Oval and Brick Alley (at Moama Recreation Reserve), and Victoria Park and Echuca South Recreation Reserve (Campaspe Shire). - Grants for upgrades to existing flood lights is not considered a core responsibility of the Councils.
	Sub-Total - Sports Grounds	\$ 755,000						

Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan
Implementation Plan (Years 1 - 10+ years)

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		1-3 yrs	4-6 yrs	7-10 yrs	10 + yrs			
	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES							
	<p>A majority of the strategies identified in Programs and Services are recurring actions, meaning that their relevancy and timing are continuous throughout the life of the Recreation Plan. The capacity of staff from both Councils to action the items will be limited by human and financial resources available during subsequent years. Notwithstanding this constraint, it is expected that external funding opportunities will be available from time to time which may be relevant to specific actions (such as the current Sport & Recreation Victoria "Go for your life" program which provides funding for programs to encourage increased participation in recreation by older adults, i.e. can support Project No.s 52, 54 & 55), and which will create additional resources to implement relevant actions.</p> <p>In addition, Council staff may identify particular "special projects" to focus on in any given year when formulating Annual Work Plans, and the relevant actions can then be implemented.</p> <p>For other projects, their implementation is continuous and relevant as staff liaise with clubs.</p> <p>As a result, an indicative timing will only be provided for projects in the following table, as resources to action most of the projects are likely to predominantly come from recurrent Council budgets, and the occasional external or Council grant ("special budget allocation").</p>							
	Ensure appropriate recreational programs and services are available for people with a disability, and/or their carers.							
48	Continue to support Regional Agencies (such as Sports Focus and the Bendigo Academy of Sport) for the development and implementation of programs for people with a disability, particularly where access might be required to Council-owned/managed buildings or outdoor areas to conduct such programs.	✓	✓	✓	✓	B, C D, E	CSC / MSC	
49	Facilitate training and education sessions for facility managers and club administrators in the area of dealing with people with a disability.	✓	✓	✓	✓	C, E	CSC / MSC	
50	Undertake an Access Audit to improve the accessibility of community facilities, and provision of disabled toilets (including a mobile disabled toilet).	✓				B, E	CSC / MSC	
	Increase the participation of culturally diverse groups in sport and recreation.							
51	Undertake research and consultation with diverse communities to identify current/emerging/future recreational needs and aspirations.		✓	✓		C, D	CSC / MSC	
	Advocate the benefits to older adults of engaging in active lifestyles.							
52	Undertake a promotional and awareness campaign designed to inform older adults of the benefits of participating in an active lifestyle.	✓		✓		D	CSC / MSC	- Participate in partnerships with the Primary Care Provider to initiate programs through the Healthy Active Leisure program.
53	Liaise with medical practitioners and other key stakeholders as to the availability within Echuca and Moama of health and fitness facilities and other “active” programs.		✓		✓	D, E	CSC / MSC	

Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan
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		1-3 yrs	4-6 yrs	7-10 yrs	10 + yrs			
	Facilitate increased opportunities for older adults to access sport and recreation facilities and programs.							
54	Establish walking programs in areas of Echuca and Moama where they do not currently exist, and where necessary, assist existing ones to expand.	✓	✓	✓	✓	B, C, D	CSC / MSC	- Utilise the expertise of indoor centre managers and/or pool staff to establish the programs, with the aim that they become community managed and self-sufficient over time.
55	Encourage new, low impact health and well-being recreational activities (such as Tai Chi) in outdoor areas of Echuca and Moama where they do not currently exist.	✓	✓	✓	✓	D	CSC / MSC	- Utilise the expertise of indoor centre managers and/or pool staff to establish the programs, with the aim that they become community managed and self-sufficient over time.
56	Ensure key recreation facilities are safe and secure for older adults (security lighting, car park provision, access into and around facilities).	Ongoing - projects to be targeted using annual funds allocated through the respective Councils' building maintenance programs.				B	CSC / MSC	
57	Encourage sporting clubs/associations to start-up “seniors” or "social" teams and competitions.		✓		✓	B, C, D	CSC / MSC / Clubs	
58	Encourage sporting clubs/associations to market spectator opportunities to elderly residents.	✓		✓		B, D	CSC / MSC / Clubs	- This strategy is suggested as a means to include and involve elderly residents in the community and to provide them with a social outlet. - Actions could include free admittance to locally based older adults, free first cup of coffee/tea, etc.
	Programs and Services - General							
59	Consult young people to facilitate input into improving opportunities for young people to participate in unstructured recreation activities.	✓	✓	✓	✓	B, C	CSC / MSC / Stake	
60	Promote the health and environmental benefits of cycling and walking to all residents.	✓		✓		B, D	CSC / MSC	
61	Assist relevant clubs/associations to promote sport to females.	✓	✓	✓	✓	B, C, D	CSC / MSC / Clubs	

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		1-3 yrs	4-6 yrs	7-10 yrs	10 + yrs			
	MANAGEMENT							
62	Adopt as Council policy, the Vision, Principles, Key Objectives and Implementation Plan outlined in the <i>Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan</i> Report.	Within existing resources				E	CSC / MSC	
63	Review the management arrangements at Moama Recreation Reserve.	Within existing resources				B, C, E	MSC / Rich River / Clubs / Stake	- Review to include the system for allocating and booking grounds and facilities by key tenants and casual users. - Review needs to establish "Conditions of Use" agreements between user groups and the Murray Council which articulate and delineate each party's responsibility for the use of grounds and facilities.
64	Establish an Advisory or Reference Group at Victoria Park (sports area).	Within existing resources				C, E	CSC / Clubs / DSE	
65	Establish an Advisory or Reference Group for users at Echuca South Reserve, Nestle Stadium and Echuca & Districts Netball Association.	Within existing resources				C, E	CSC / Clubs / EBSMG	- This new arrangement would supersede any former or existing arrangements in place.
66	Continue to identify and promote the availability of external grant opportunities to Reserve Committees, clubs, and relevant community groups.	✓	✓	✓	✓	C, E	CSC / MSC	
67	Develop a new policy which clearly articulates and defines the responsibility of the Councils and the responsibility of clubs for funding the development and maintenance of sporting facilities.	✓				E	CSC / MSC / Clubs	- The policy should identify "core" responsibilities of Council when developing new facilities, or upgrading existing, and what will be the club's responsibilities in relation to the further development and improvement of facilities.
68	Ensure clubs utilising outdoor synthetic surfaces on sports fields/courts have contingencies in place for their replacement.	✓				E	CSC / MSC / Clubs	- The cost of replacement and refurbishment of specialist surfaces is expensive. - Clubs, Reserve Committees and the Councils need to plan for their replacement to ensure appropriate steps are in place to meet the cost of their replacement. Councils need to establish a policy(s) on this issue.
69	Continue to review the standards and guidelines for Developer contributions for open space provision and development of community facilities.	✓				A, E	CSC / MSC	- Murray Shire has recently a completed a review. - Campaspe Shire is currently reviewing its Planning Scheme and associated guidelines.
70	Have input into the planning phase for new recreation facility developments located on education sites.	✓	✓	✓	✓	A, C, E	CSC / MSC / Schools	

Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan

Implementation Plan (Years 1 - 10+ years)

No.	Action	Timeframe and Costing (Yrs 1-3 only)				Objective	Group(s)	Comments
		1-3 yrs	4-6 yrs	7-10 yrs	10+ yrs			
71	Consolidate the viability of existing sports clubs and associations.	Within existing resources, and ongoing				C, E	CSC / MSC / Clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage all sporting and recreation groups to prepare strategic business plans (or review existing ones). - Provide and/or facilitate club training and education opportunities in 'best practice' club administration. - Engage clubs and associations in a process to identify initiatives to improve the transition of members from junior to senior ranks. - Establish a target of at least one "junior" representative (U/18 years) to be an active member on the general committee of those clubs whose membership typically includes young people (junior clubs).
72	Increase voluntary involvement in the administration and management of sports clubs and reserves.	Within existing resources, and ongoing				C, E	CSC / MSC / Clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promoting volunteerism in sports management through a one-off promotional campaign. - Initiating a regular information article in the local media introducing a club/association/reserve committee volunteer and describing his/her contribution and how the involvement has been mutually beneficial to both volunteer and club/association/reserve committee. - Assisting clubs to have in place appropriate management structures to ensure all of the work is not left to a small few, and to ensure appropriate succession planning considerations are in place (should be incorporated into a Club Business Plan).
73	Establish an annual recognition program for club volunteers and administrators.					C	CSC / MSC	

	Grand Total	\$ 1,629,500						
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17. PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF DRAFT REPORT

The *draft Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan* was placed on Public Exhibition for a seven week period from mid-December 2005 to end of January 2006. The feedback received was considered as part of the process to prepare the final recommendations and key directions for the future provision of open space, recreation and sport for Echuca and Moama, which have been outlined in Section 16.

This section provides an overview of the second round of consultation, including a summary of the process undertaken and an assessment of the feedback received.

17.1. Public Exhibition Consultation Process

Campaspe and Murray Shire Councils facilitated a second round of community and stakeholder consultation to seek feedback on the *draft Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan*. The consultative process can be summarised as follows:

1. The *draft* Report was available for viewing at the following local Council facilities:
 - Campaspe Shire Headquarters (Echuca).
 - Murray Shire Service Centre (Moama).
2. The *draft* Report was available for viewing on the two Councils' websites.
3. An article and notices were placed in the Riverine Herald advising residents that the *draft* Report was on public exhibition and that Council was seeking feedback on the study findings.
4. A Feedback Sheet was available at each of the public facilities where the *draft* Report was exhibited, and to residents and groups on request.

In all, four completed Feedback Sheets and/or submissions were received from the following groups/individuals:

- Sports Groups:
 - Echuca Football Netball Club and Echuca Cricket Club (joint submission).
 - Echuca & District Netball Association.
- Others:
 - Echuca Urban Fire Brigade.
 - Echuca College.

17.2. Summary of Feedback

In general, feedback supported the overall intent and directions outlined in the *draft Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan*, including the range of recommendations for new/improved open space areas and sporting and recreation facilities/services throughout Echuca and Moama.

The key areas of feedback included:

- Clarification of errors identified in the draft Report about the management and usage of the Echuca South Netball Tennis Complex by the Echuca & District Netball Association. *(Stratcorp: A meeting was held with the Association and errors amended in the final Report).*
- The need to clarify options and scenarios for any proposed development directions for Victoria Park which could impact the CFA Training Track. *(Stratcorp: A meeting was held with the Echuca Urban Fire Brigade as part of the preparation of the Victoria Park Master Plan to better understand the use of the Training Track and adjoining areas during events).*
- An update from the Principal, Echuca College outlining the current proposals for new/upgraded recreational and sporting facilities planned for Echuca College as part of the project to consolidate the former Echuca High School and the Echuca Secondary College into one school.

The proposals include the following facility developments:

Short Term Projects (< 3 Years)

School and DE&T funded:

Air-condition the Stadium.
Develop a full-size soccer pitch.
Develop an outdoor multi purpose hard court area (tennis, netball, basketball).
Relocate the school canteen to the Stadium building. *(This would double as a catering facility for Stadium users).*

School-Community funded:

Install a synthetic surface for the Stadium floor. *(This would enable the facility to be used for local, state and national level competition).*
Build a Stadium annex to accommodate the existing indoor cricket and soccer areas in the Stadium. *(This will free-up the Stadium for two full size basketball courts, and other event uses).*
Assistance with insurance of facility.

Medium Term Projects (3-5 years)

School-Community funded:

Install retractable seating and other furniture and equipment to enable the Stadium to cater for 1,000+ people for performances, events and seminars.
Develop a stage area in the Stadium.
Develop a performing arts facility for dance, drama and music to cater for audiences of up to 250 people (available for community use by 2008).

(Stratcorp: The proposed improvements are consistent with the directions of the draft Report and the continued joint-use of facilities by the school and the local community. The Report has incorporated the up-to-date information available at the time of finalisation of the Report).

18. CONCLUSION

This recreation planning study commenced in April 2005 and has identified a range of issues, opportunities and subsequent strategies for the future provision of sports and recreation facilities and services in the Echuca-Moama region for the next 10 years, and beyond.

The *Echuca-Moama Recreation Plan* provides the Campaspe Shire and Murray Shire Councils and other stakeholders with the necessary planning direction to build upon the existing range of sport and recreation facilities and open space settings available in the Echuca-Moama region, and to improve efficiencies. The progressive implementation of the Plan will enable the Councils to continue to meet the changing needs and aspirations of residents and community groups.

The *Recreation Plan* will ensure a continued focussed approach is taken by both Councils in relation to the provision and management of recreational resources across the region, and will contribute to the effective delivery of appropriate infrastructure, facilities and services to increase participation by residents in recreation activity.

APPENDIX 1

Membership Trends - Echuca-Moama Sports Clubs

Club Membership Trends - Echuca-Moama Region

(Active Club Members only)

(Active Club Members only)				Trend next 5 yrs		2005 season			
Activity / Club	2003	2004	2005	Senior	Junior	Male	Female	Jnr	Snr
Australian Football									
Echuca Football Netball Club	270	290	314			314	0	264	50
Moama Football Netball Club	98	90	104			104	0	48	56
Echuca United Football Netball Club	230	223	209			209	0	121	88
Australian Football Total	598	603	627			627	0	433	194
Bowls & Croquet									
City of Echuca Bowls Club	163	178	183		N/A	121	62	0	183
Moama Bowling Club	317	320	329			201	128	1	328
Rich River Golf Bowls Club **	210	210	210		N/A	120	90	0	210
Rich River Golf Croquet Club	57	62	63		N/A	21	42	0	63
Bowls & Croquet Total	747	770	785			463	322	1	784
Cricket									
Echuca Cricket Club	130	140	160			160	0	100	40
Moama Cricket Club	60	65	85			85	0	55	30
Echuca South Cricket Club **	55	55	55			55	0	22	33
Cricket Total	245	260	300			300	0	177	103
Netball									
Echuca Football Netball Club	45	40	40			0	40	10	30
Moama Football Netball Club	27	47	58			0	58	28	30
Echuca United Football Netball Club	45	38	61			0	61	34	27
Echuca & District Netball Association	1300	1261	1261			1261	0	680	581
Netball Total	1417	1386	1420			1261	159	752	668
Soccer									
Moama Echuca YMCA Soccer Associatio	468	487	506	N/A		451	55	470	36
Soccer Total	468	487	506			451	55	470	36
Tennis									
Rich River Golf Tennis Club **	520	520	520			260	260	400	120
Echuca Lawn Tennis Club **	275	275	275			N/S	N/S	N/S	N/S
Echuca South Tennis Club **	32	32	32			16	16	0	32
Tennis Total	827	827	827			276	276	400	152



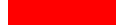
(Active Club Members only)

(Active Club Members only)				Trend next 5 yrs		2005 season			
Activity / Club	2003	2004	2005	Senior	Junior	Male	Female	Jnr	Snr
Miscellaneous									
Echuca Moama Little Athletics Centre	100	120	150	N/A		60	90	150	0
Rich River Golf Club **	2250	2250	2250	N/S	N/S	N/S	N/S	N/S	N/S
Echuca Moama Hockey Club	81	55	53			35	18	16	37
Moama Echuca Touch Football Ass	228	30	252			120	132	72	180
Echuca Pistol Club	35	30	20			20	0	4	16
Echuca Clay Target Club	83	85	90			80	10	11	79
Echuca Squash Club	70	80	80			50	30	20	60
Rich River Campdraft Club **	40	40	40			N/S	N/S	N/S	N/S
Echuca & District Adult Riding Club	45	55	65		N/A	3	62	0	65
Echuca Basketball Association	470	470	600			380	220	405	195
Echuca Moama Sport Fishing Club *	25	25	27			23	4	3	24
Miscellaneous Total	3427	3240	3627			771	566	681	656

TOTAL	7729	7573	8092			4149	1378	2914	2593
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** = Estimates only for 2003 and 2004

N/S = Not Stated, N/A = Not Applicable

 = Stable Membership
 = Increasing Membership
 = Decreasing Membership

APPENDIX 2

Sports and Recreation Facility Audit

Sports Reserves and Other Recreation Facility Audit

Echuca-Moama Region

Reserve / Facility	User Groups								Amenities						Comments
Council Owned / Managed (unless stated)		No of Soccer Fields S = Senior, J = Junior, L = Floodlighting	No of Cricket Ovals T = Turf, S = Synthetic C = Concrete, L = Floodlighting N = No cricket wicket	No of AFL Ovals S = Senior, J = Junior, L = Floodlighting	Cricket Nets S = Synthetic, T = Turf, C = Concrete	Netball Courts P = Plexipave, A = Asphalt, C = Concrete L = Floodlighting	Lawn Bowling S = Synthetic, T = Turf, L = Floodlighting	Tennis Courts P = Plexipave, E = Porous, S = Synthetic Grass, G = Grass, A = Asphalt, L = Floodlighting	Other Recreational and/or Sport Facilities	Path Network	Playground and/or BBQ	Public Toilets C = Closed O = Open	Car Parking S = Sealed, U = Unsealed	Pavilion	Issues/Opportunities Environmental/ Conservation/Heritage
Echuca - Sports Reserves															
Victoria Park	Echuca Football Netball Club, Echuca Junior Football Club, Echuca Cricket Club, Echuca Lawn Tennis Club, Echuca CFA	X	1T	1SL	2S	1P 2A	X	17G	Fire Training Track	X	X	O	U	3	Oval orientates east-west direction Separate Social Club (Haw Pavilion) and change rooms Grandstand Large bush reserve abuts sports area
Echuca East Reserve (Crown Land)	Echuca Junior Cricket Club, Primary School Cricket Club, Echuca Moama Hockey Club, Echuca Obedience Dog Club, Echuca Kennel Club, Echuca Holiday & Afterschool Care Program	X	1T	1S	2S	X	X	X	Half-Hockey Field (synthetic & lit) Dog Obedience area Guide Hall	X	X	C	U	3	Oval surface in average condition Desolate surrounds, little vegetation Echuca Lions Club storage shed
Echuca South Recreation Reserve	Echuca United Football Netball Club, Echuca & District Netball Association, Echuca South Tennis Club, Echuca South Cricket Club, Echuca Basketball Association	X	1T	1SL	3S	4PL 6P	X	4PL 6P	Nestle Sports & Entertainment Centre (3 basket/netball courts, 2 badminton courts, 2 volleyball courts)	X	X	C	1S 1U	1	Spectator pavilion at oval Condition of tennis/netball courts is poor Condition of Nestle Stadium is excellent
Echuca - Sport and Recreation Facilities															
City of Echuca Bowls Club	City of Echuca Bowls Club	X	X	X	X	X	2TL 2T	X		X	X	X	X	1	
Campaspe Park and Showgrounds (private)	Echuca Trotting Club	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre	Echuca Swimming Club	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	50m indoor lap pool Toddlers/program pool Health & fitness gym Group fitness room Sauna/Spa	X	X	X	X	X	Toddlers / Program pool has a beach entry, and provides direct access into the 50m lap pool Facility managed by YMCA
Echuca Secondary College Sports Complex (Dept of Education)	Echuca Squash Club	X	1S	1S	2S	X	X	X	Indoor Centre (2 indoor cricket nets, 1 basketball court, indoor soccer) 2 squash courts Table tennis Gymnastics room	X	X	X	S	X	Good surface on oval Indoor stadium in average condition Echuca BMX track is adjacent to the school Facility managed by YMCA
Echuca High School (Dept of Education)	Echuca Junior Football Club, Echuca Cricket Club, Bendigo Academy of Sport (soccer)	1	1S	1S	X	X	X	X	Indoor Stadium (1 basketball court)	X	X	X	S	X	Good surface on oval Indoor stadium in average condition School to amalgamate with Echuca Secondary College in 2006 - future of site not confirmed
Echuca Central Primary School (Dept of Education)	Echuca Junior Football Club	X	2S	2J	X	X	X	X	Indoor Stadium (1 basketball court)	X	X	X	S	X	

Sports Reserves and Other Recreation Facility Audit

Echuca-Moama Region

Reserve / Facility	User Groups								Amenities						Comments
Council Owned / Managed (unless stated)		No of Soccer Fields S = Senior, J = Junior, L = Floodlighting	No of Cricket Ovals T = Turf, S = Synthetic C = Concrete, L = Floodlighting N = No cricket wicket	No of AFL Ovals S = Senior, J = Junior, L = Floodlighting	Cricket Nets S = Synthetic, T = Turf, C = Concrete	Netball Courts P = Plexipave, A = Asphalt, C = Concrete L = Floodlighting	Lawn Bowling S = Synthetic, T = Turf, L = Floodlighting	Tennis Courts P = Plexipave, E = Porous, S = Synthetic Grass, G = Grass, A = Asphalt, L = Floodlighting	Other Recreational and/or Sport Facilities	Path Network	Playground and/or BBQ	Public Toilets C = Closed O = Open	Car Parking S = Sealed, U = Unsealed	Pavilion	Issues/Opportunities Environmental/ Conservation/Heritage
Echuca - Parks															
Apex Park		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	2 Play 4 BBQs	O	X	X	Sparse park with back fences along two sides Appears to be an oversupply of BBQs
Rotary Park	Steam Park Rally Club	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Lions Park		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Campaspe cycle path	X	BBQ	O	U	X	High quality park on the Campaspe River
Scott Street Park		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	Desolate park Graffiti problem
South Street Park		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	Play	X	X	X	
Aquatic Reserve		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Boardwalk	Yes	Picnic Areas	O	S	X	High quality open woodland and natural parkland around lagoon Includes heritage features Adjacent to the Visitor Information Centre
Hopwood Park		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Yes	Play BBQ	O	X	X	Adjacent to Port of Echuca - main visitor park

Sports Reserves and Other Recreation Facility Audit

Echuca-Moama Region

Reserve / Facility	User Groups									Amenities					Comments
Council Owned / Managed (unless stated)		No of Soccer Fields S = Senior, J = Junior, L = Floodlighting	No of Cricket Ovals T = Turf, S = Synthetic C = Concrete, L = Floodlighting N = No cricket wicket	No of AFL Ovals S = Senior, J = Junior, L = Floodlighting	Cricket Nets S = Synthetic, T = Turf, C = Concrete	Netball Courts P = Plexipave, A = Asphalt, C = Concrete L = Floodlighting	Lawn Bowling S = Synthetic, T = Turf, L = Floodlighting	Tennis Courts P = Plexipave, E = Porous, S = Synthetic Grass, G = Grass, A = Asphalt, L = Floodlighting	Other Recreational and/or Sport Facilities	Path Network	Playground and/or BBQ	Public Toilets C = Closed O = Open	Car Parking S = Sealed, U = Unsealed	Pavilion	Issues/Opportunities Environmental/ Conservation/Heritage
Moama - Sports Reserves															
Moama Recreation Reserve (Crown Land)	Moama Football Netball Club, Moama Cricket Club, Moama Echuca YMCA Soccer Club, Echuca Moama Cycling Club, Echuca Moama Barbarians Rugby Club, Echuca Moama Little Athletics Centre, Moama Echuca Touch Football Association, Moama Harness Racing Club, Moama Echuca Adventure Play Park	2S 2SL 2JL	1T 1S	1S 1SL	3S	2P	X	X	Harness racing track (sand) Velodrome 1 Rugby Union Field Little Athletics Track (grass) Touch Football	X	Play BBQ	2 O	3U 1S	3	Reserve comprises sports precincts separated by the Moama Sports Club building and adventure playground Sports Club is licensed
Moama - Sport and Recreation Facilities															
Moama Bowling Club (private)	Moama Bowling Club	X	X	X	X	X	3TL 2T	X	Petanque Piste Bocce Courts	X	X	X	X	X	Licensed Club
Moama Outdoor Pool		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	6 lane 25m main outdoor pool Small toddlers pool Pool enclosure is average size, abuts a small park
Moama Sports Complex		X	X	X	X	1A (shared tennis)	X	2A	1 indoor court Badminton	X	X	X	X	X	Tennis courts are poor quality No park furniture exists throughout the park Several portable buildings currently occupying some of the parkland
Rich River Golf Club Resort (private)	Rich River Golf Club, Rich River Croquet Club, Rich River Golf Tennis Club, Rich River Golf Bowls Club	X	X	X	X	X	3TL	10SL	36 hole golf course Golf practice/range 4 croquet lawns Double rebound wall Accommodation	N/A	N/A	N/A	1S 1U	2	Tennis area has a BBQ Large sports club and entertainment complex Licensed Club
Moama Public School (Dept of Education)	Moama Junior Football Club, Moama Cricket Club (juniors)	X	2S	2J	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	S	X	
Moama - Parks															
Kerrabee Sound Shell Reserve		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Miniature Train Skate Park Sound Shell	Yes	Play BBQ	O	S	X	Murray Shire Council Service Centre abuts the park
Moama Lions Park		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	Play BBQ	X	X	X	War Memorial Heritage farm machinery display Wishing well Playground is fenced but has poor quality play equipment
JB Hickey Park		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	Park comprises lawn areas and trees (ornamental), no park furniture Park has back fences on three sides Amenity and condition of park is good
McMahon Place Park		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Basketball half-court	X	Play	X	U	X	Basketball backboard has no ring Park has back fences on three sides Amenity and condition of park is good
Lawson Street Park (between Tyro Court & Julia Court)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	Play	X	X	X	Park open on three sides Amenity and condition of park is good

APPENDIX 3

School Facilities Audit

School Facilities Audit

Echuca-Moama Region

School	Sports Facilities	Available for Community Use Y / N	Current User Groups	Proposed New / Improved Facilities	External Facilities used	Location	Frequency	Comments (If "No", to available for community use - why?)
Primary Schools								
Echuca East PS (Echuca) Ph: 5482 2588	Sports Oval	YES	NIL	NIL	Various Sports	Echuca East Rec Reserve	Weekly	
	Outdoor MP Court	YES	NIL		Swimming Netball	Echuca WM Pool Echuca Sth Crts	20 times per term 20 times per year	
	Fitness Track	NO	NIL		Various Sports	Nestle Sports Centre	20 times per year	
Echuca South PS (Echuca) Ph: 5482 3024	Indoor MP Stadium	YES - through school council	NIL	NIL	Football/Netball Softball	Echuca United Oval Echuca United Oval	Weekly Weekly	
	Outdoor MP Courts (2)	YES	NIL		Swimming Basketball	Echuca WM Pool Nestle Sports Centre	20-30 times per year 1-2 times per year	
	Sports Oval	YES	Saturday School Competition		Athletics	Victoria Park	1-2 times per year	
Echuca West Primary (Echuca) Ph: 5482 2263	1/2 size Sports Oval	NO	NIL	NIL	Athletics Swimming	Victoria Park Echuca WM Pool	1 time per year 20 times per year	The growth of the school has meant there is less and less room for sporting facilities.
	Netball Court	NO	NIL					
St Marys (Echuca) Ph: 5482 1342	Outdoor MP Courts (2)	NO	NIL	NIL	Various Sports Various Sports Swimming	Victoria Park Echuca Primary Echuca WM Pool	Weekly Weekly 6-10 times per year	The 400 students each do a 8-10 week term swimming program at Echuca Pool.
Echuca Central (Echuca) Ph: 5482 5400	Sports Ovals (2)	YES	Echuca Junior Football Club	Plans are drafted for the oval area - these include football posts and walking tracks.	Swimming (LTS) Swimming (comp) Netball	Echuca WM Pool Echuca WM Pool Echuca Sth courts	8-10 times per year 1 time per year 8-10 times per year	Echuca Central has a multitude of facilities that are used on school grounds and they rarely have to use external facilities.
	Cricket nets	YES	NIL					
	Cricket pitch	YES	NIL					
	Indoor MP Stadium (1 court)	YES	Special Olympics Group					
	Outdoor MP Courts (2)	YES	Tennis Coaching Group					
Moama Public School (Moama) Ph: 5482 1564	Sports Ovals (2)	YES	Moama Jnr Cricket Club & Moama Jnr Football Club	NIL	Athletics Swimming (Rec) Swimming (LTS)	Moama Sports Ground Moama Pool	1 time per year 5 times per year	
	Outdoor MP court (1)	YES	NIL		Swimming Carnival Cross Country	Echuca WM Pool Echuca WM Pool Conargo	20 times per year 1 time per year 1 time per year	
	Covered in recreation area	NO	NIL		Netball Basketball	Echuca Sth courts Nestle Sports Centre	1 time per year 1 time per year	

School Facilities Audit

Echuca-Moama Region

School	Sports Facilities	Available for Community Use Y / N	Current User Groups	Proposed New / Improved Facilities	External Facilities used	Location	Frequency	Comments (If "No", to available for community use - why?)
Secondary Schools								
Echuca High School (Echuca) Ph: 5482 3366	Sports Oval with Cricket Pitch	YES	Echuca Football Club & Echuca Cricket Club	Amalgamating with Secondary College in 2006.	Basketball Swimming Various Sports Football Netball Netball Soccer Cross Country Target Shooting Canoeing Water Safety	Nestle Sports Centre Echuca WM Pool Moama Sports Complex Victoria Park Victoria Park Echuca Sth courts Moama Sports Ground Victoria Park Echuca Gun Club Campaspe River Merool	Occasional 15-20 times per year 3-4 times per year 3-4 times per year 3-4 times per year Occasional Occasional 1 time per year 2-3 times per year 1 time per year 1 time per year	
	Soccer field	YES	Bendigo Academy of Sport					
	Indoor MP court (1)	YES	Camberwell Grammar					
	Outdoor MP courts (3)	YES	Great Victorian Bike Ride stop					
St Josephs College (Echuca) Ph: 5482 2577	Outdoor MP Courts (2)	NO	NIL	NIL	Various Sports Swimming Bronze Medallion Bdmtion, Hockey Athletics Football, Soccer Tennis Lawn Bowls Swimming Cross Country Body Combat Croquet	Victoria Park Echuca WM Pool Echuca WM Pool Nestle Sports Centre Moama Sports Ground Moama Sports Ground Lawn Tennis Club Moama Bowls Club Moama Pool Scenic Drive Echuca WM Gym Rich River Croquet	Daily 50 + times per year 4 times per year 20-30 times per year 1 time per year 2-3 times per year 25 times per year 6-8 times per year Occasional 5-6 times per year 10-20 times per year 2-3 times per year	St Joseph's is located next door to Victoria Park and as a result they use the facilities every day. Their P.E classes are also conducted at Victoria Park when additional space is required. The school is very happy with the range and quality of facilities around the local area.
Echuca SC (Echuca) Ph: 5482 1133	Indoor MP Stadium (with gymnastics)	YES	Leased by YMCA		Swimming/Gym B.Ball, Badminton Football Netball Bowls Golf	Echuca WM Pool Nestle Sports Centre Victoria Park Echuca Sth courts Moama Bowls Club River River Golf Course	15-20 times per year 12-15 times per year 1 time per year 1 time per year 1 time per year 1 time per year	Echuca Secondary College have a lease agreement with the YMCA to manage the School's Indoor Sports Complex. Sports played inside include Basketball, Netball, Soccer, Squash and Gymnastics.
	Sports oval	YES						
	Outdoor MP court	YES						
Echuca Specialist School (Echuca) Ph: 5482 2769	Sports oval	YES	NIL	Indoor MP facility - funded through Medicare Grant	Basketball Swimming Tennis	Nestle Sports Centre Echuca WM Pool Nestle Sports Centre	3-4 times per year Weekly 3-4 times per year	The school constructed a bike track for bike ed classes around the school oval. It is currently only used by students at the school.
	Bike Education Track	YES	NIL					
River City Christian College (Echuca) Ph: 5482 4594	Sports Oval with Cricket Pitch	NO	NIL	NIL	Swimming Gym Cricket Various Sports Netball Golf	Echuca WM Pool Butcher St College Echuca High School Shepparton Echuca Village Echuca Back Nine GC	1 time per year 3-4 times per year 1 time per year 1 time per year 1 time per year 2-3 times per year	River City have 2 representatives from YMCA come to the school to run a group fitness program on a regular basis.
	Outdoor MP Courts (2)	NO	NIL					

APPENDIX 4

Full Report - Resident Infield Survey

1. CONSULTATION – RESIDENT INFIELD SURVEY

1.1. Data Collection

The results from the Resident Infield Survey were obtained from 214 face-to-face interviews conducted during the period 9th - 18th June 2005 at the following locations in the Echuca-Moama region:

- Echuca Shopping Area (132 surveys).
- Echuca Safeway (66 surveys).
- Moama Market (16 surveys).

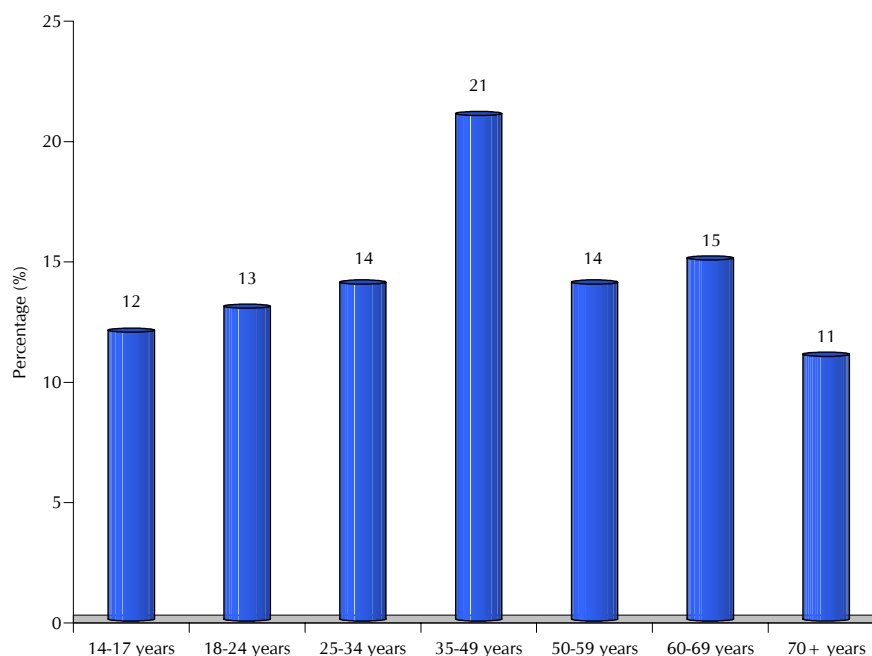
The survey was conducted on weekdays between 10.00am and 6.00pm, and weekends between 9.00pm and 5.00pm.

No child under the age of 14 years was interviewed.

1.2. Profile of Respondents

The key demographic characteristics of the survey sample are described below, and where required, these characteristics have been used as the basis for cross tabulations in the data analysis.

- The majority of respondents were female (53%).
- The highest proportion of respondents was aged 35 - 49 years (21%), followed by 60 - 69 years (15%). There was quite an even distribution of age groups surveyed.



Age Structure of Sample

- The largest proportion of respondents came from Echuca (67%) followed by Moama (23%). The table below indicates the place of residence for the respondents.

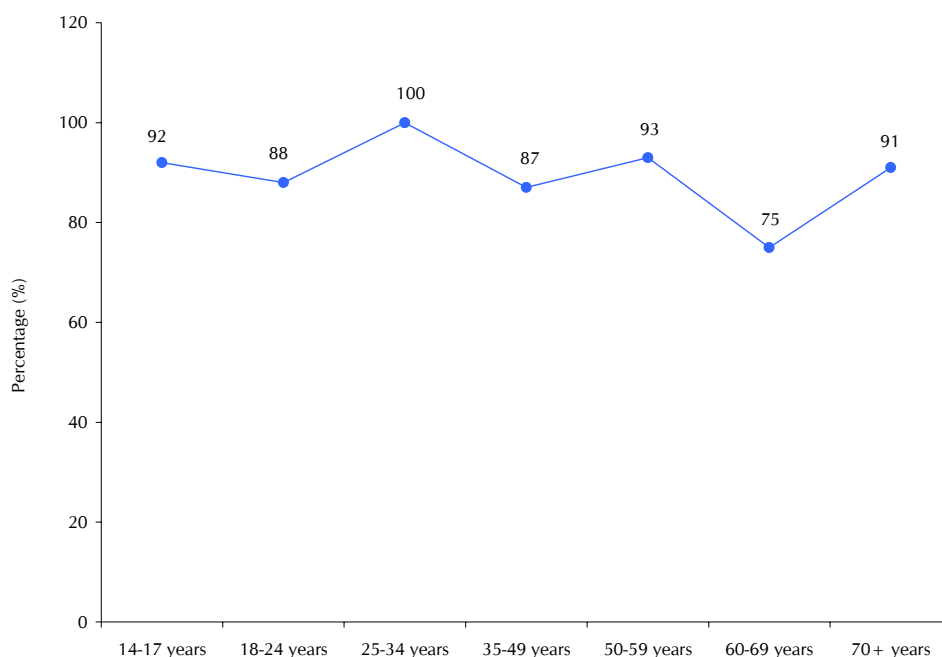
Township	Frequency	Percent
Echuca	144	67%
Moama	49	23%
Rochester	6	3%
Lockington	5	3%
Tongala	4	2%
Torrumbarry	3	1%
Other	3	1%
Total	214	100%

Respondents Place of Residence

1.3. Current Participation in Physical Activities for Exercise, Recreation and Sport

A total of 89% of respondents had participated in activities for exercise, recreation or sport in the past 12 months. This rate of participation is similar to the 2004 Victorian average of 85.1%¹.

The age group with the highest participation was the 25-34 year olds (100%). Whilst there is some decline in the rate of participation with age, the decline is not as great when compared to the average for all Victorians.



Participation by Age Group

¹ Source: Participation in Exercise Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS), Australian Sports Commission (2004).

1.3.1. Most Popular Activities

The most popular activity undertaken by respondents was walking (56%), followed by health & fitness and swimming.

A comparison with the participation rates for all Victorian residents shows that these activities are also the top 3 in Victoria. Fishing and ten pin bowling are more popular activities for Echuca-Moama residents than all Victorians, however, on the whole there is a reasonably high correlation in the participation rates of the popular activities between local residents and all Victorians.

Rank	Activity	Frequency	% of respondents
1	Walking	119	56%
2	Aerobics/Fitness/Gym	71	33%
3	Swimming	61	29%
4	Golf	55	26%
5	Cycling - recreational	49	23%
6	Fishing	41	19%
7	Ten Pin Bowling	36	17%
7	Tennis	36	17%
9	Netball	30	14%
10	Australian Football	28	13%
11	Running/jogging	27	13%
12	Cricket (outdoor)	25	12%
13	Waterskiing/wakeboarding	20	9%
14	Basketball	19	9%
15	Lawn Bowls	16	7%
16	Soccer	10	5%

Multiple responses were accepted

Most Popular Activities

The following table shows the most popular activities for each age group.

Age Category	Popular Activity 1	% of respondents	2 nd Popular Activity	% of respondents	3 rd Popular Activity	% of respondents
14-17 years	Swimming	48%	Netball	40%	Ten Pin Bowling	40%
18-24 years	Walking	48%	Aust Football	29%	Swimming	29%
25-34 years	Aerobics/Fitness	55%	Walking	55%	Nball/Swim/Golf	39%
35-49 years	Walking	61%	Aerobics/Fitness	36%	Cycling	29%
50-59 years	Walking	83%	Golf	35%	Cycling	32%
60-69 years	Walking	59%	Aerobics/Fitness	25%	Lawn Bowls	16%
70+ years	Walking	35%	Aerobics/Fitness	26%	Golf	21%

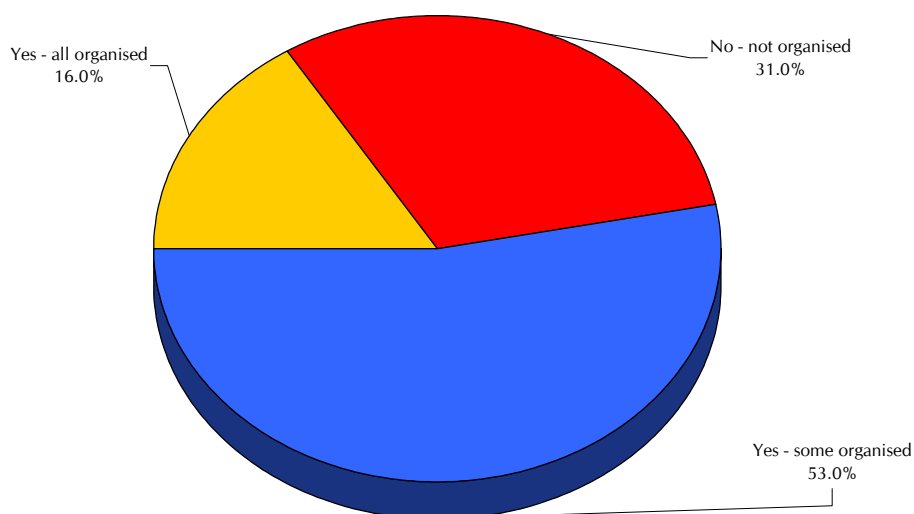
Most Popular Activities by Age Group

Cross tabulations revealed:

- Females were more likely to participate in walking (63%), than males (46%).
- Females were more likely to participate in aerobics/fitness activities (39%) than males (27%).
- Males were more likely to participate in golf (38%) than females (15%).

1.4. Type of Participation

The largest proportion of respondents' participation was mostly "organised" (69%), that is, participation in activities was generally organised by a club, association or a centre.



Type of Participation

Cross tabulations revealed:

- The age group most likely to participate in "all organised" activities were those aged 70+ years (39%), followed by those aged 14-17 years (35%).
- The age group most likely to participate in activities "not organised" were those aged 25-34 years (71%).
- Moama residents had the highest incidence of "unorganised participation", with 42% of all activities undertaken having been "unorganised."
- There was very little difference between males and females in regards to the type of participation.

1.5. Non-Participation in Physical Activities for Exercise, Recreation and Sport

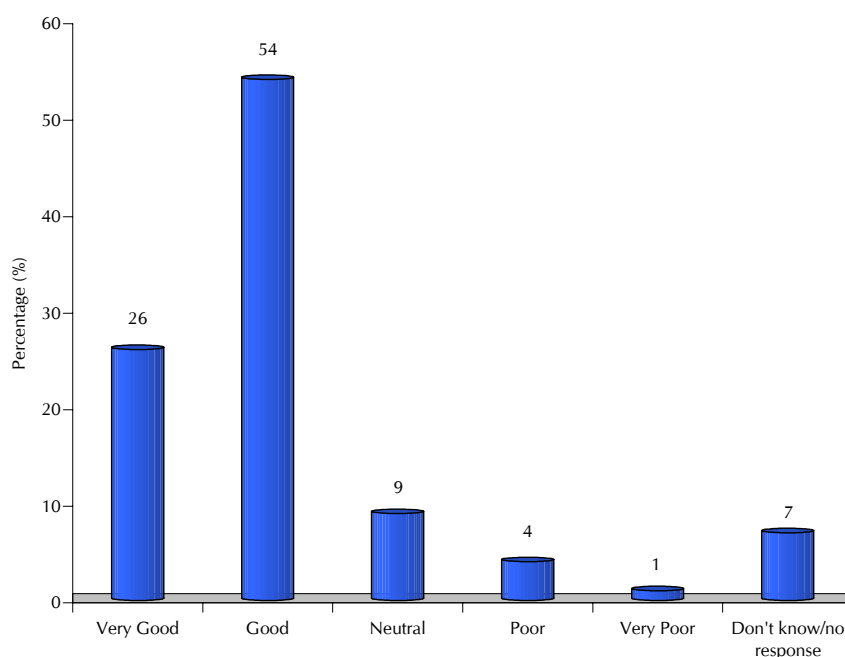
Of the few respondents who did not participate in physical activities for exercise, recreation or sport, the main reason cited was “lack of time” (67%), followed by “age” and “physical constraints”.

Reason for Non-participation	Frequency	% of non participants
Lake of time	16	67%
Age	4	17%
Physical constraints	4	17%
Nothing, not interested	1	4%
Don't know what facilities are available	1	4%
No-one to go with	1	4%
Lack of motivation	1	4%
Too expensive	1	4%
Need child care/babysitter	1	4%
Just moved to area	1	4%

Reasons for Non-Participation

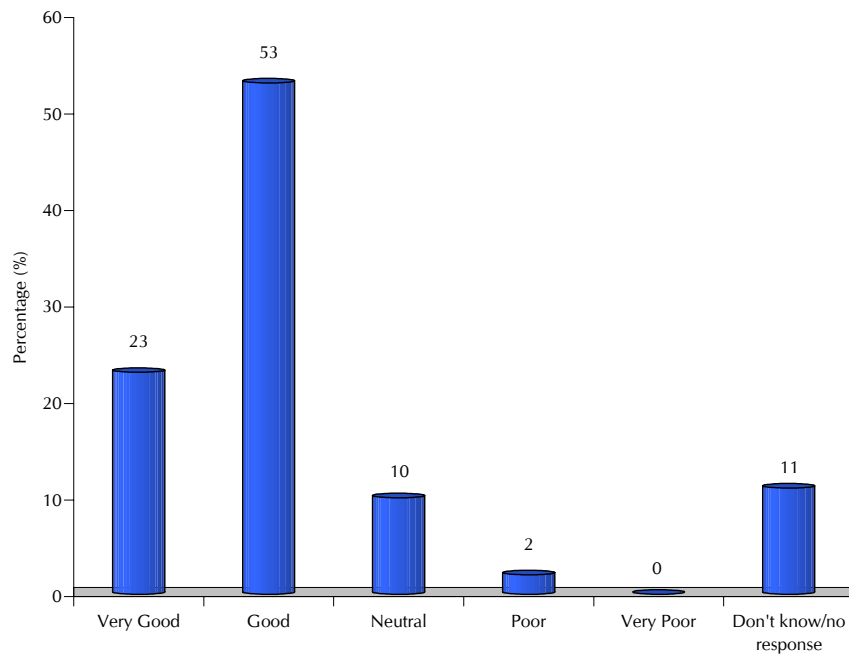
1.6. Quality of Sporting Facilities

Respondents were asked rate the overall quality of sports reserves and other outdoor sporting facilities located in Echuca-Moama. 80% of respondents rated their quality as either “Very Good” or “Good”.



Quality of Sports Reserves and other Outdoor Sporting Facilities

In relation to the overall quality of indoor sporting facilities located in Echuca-Moama, 76% of respondents rated them as either "Very Good" or "Good".

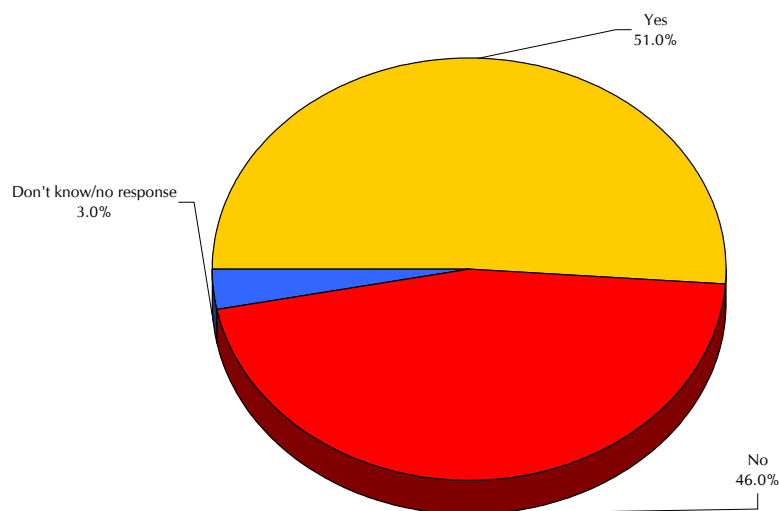


Quality Indoor Sporting Facilities

1.7. Parks and Open Space in Echuca-Moama

1.7.1. Use of Parks

51% of those surveyed visit parks located in Echuca-Moama on a regular basis (meaning at least once per month.)



Park Visitations

Cross tabulations revealed:

- The age group most likely to visit parks on a regular basis is the 25-34 years age group (70%). For the remaining age groups, visitation frequency levels are as follows:
 - 14-17 years – 36%
 - 18-24 years – 44%
 - 25-34 years – 70%
 - 35-49 years – 69%
 - 50-59 years – 48%
 - 60-69 years – 50%
 - 70+ years – 30%
- There is little difference between the proportions of males visiting parks compared to females.

1.7.2. Most Popular Parks

The following table shows the most frequented parks. 44% of residents visit Apex Park (44%) on a regular basis, followed by the Adventure Playground (20%).

Park	Frequency	% of park users
Apex Park	48	44%
Adventure Playground	22	20%
Hopwood Gardens	16	15%
Victoria Park	13	12%
Campaspe Walk	9	8%
Moama Park	9	8%
Area around the river/port	4	4%
Kerrabee Sound Shell Reserve	4	4%
Aquatic Reserve	3	3%
Echuca Football Ground	3	3%
Other	3	3%

Multiple responses accepted

Most Popular Parks

Cross tabulations revealed:

- A total of 86% of those who used Apex Park were from Echuca (64%) or Moama (22%).
- 57% of Apex Park users were aged 25-49 years.
- All Adventure Park users were from Echuca (59%) or Moama (41%).

1.7.3. Reasons for Visiting Parks

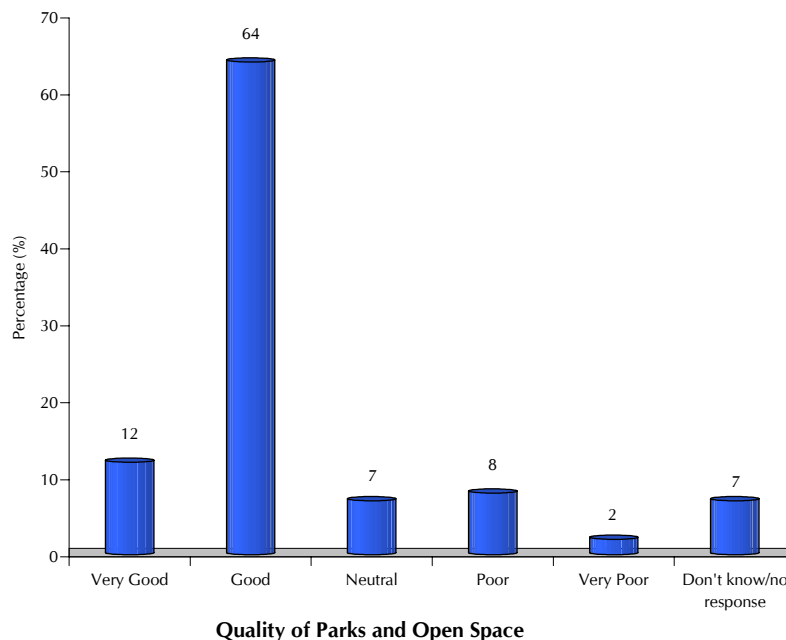
The following table indicates that the main reason respondents visited parks in Echuca-Moama was for a “family outing” (51%), followed by playground use (44%) and BBQ/Picnic (33%).

Rank	Reason	Frequency	% of park users
1	Family outing	56	51%
2	Using a playground, or supervising children	48	44%
3	BBQ/Picnic	36	33%
4	Walking/jogging for exercise	31	28%
5	Walking the dog	25	23%
6	Playing informal sport	16	15%
7	Place to sit and relax	15	14%
8	Enjoy the flora and fauna	11	10%

Main Reasons for Visiting a Park

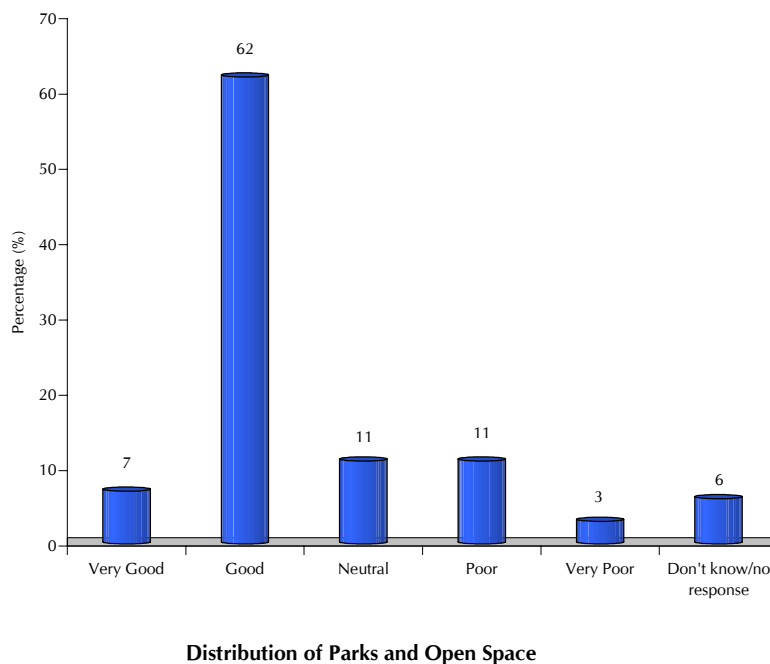
1.7.4. Quality of Parks

76% of respondents rated the overall quality of Echuca-Moama parks and open space as either "Very Good" or "Good".



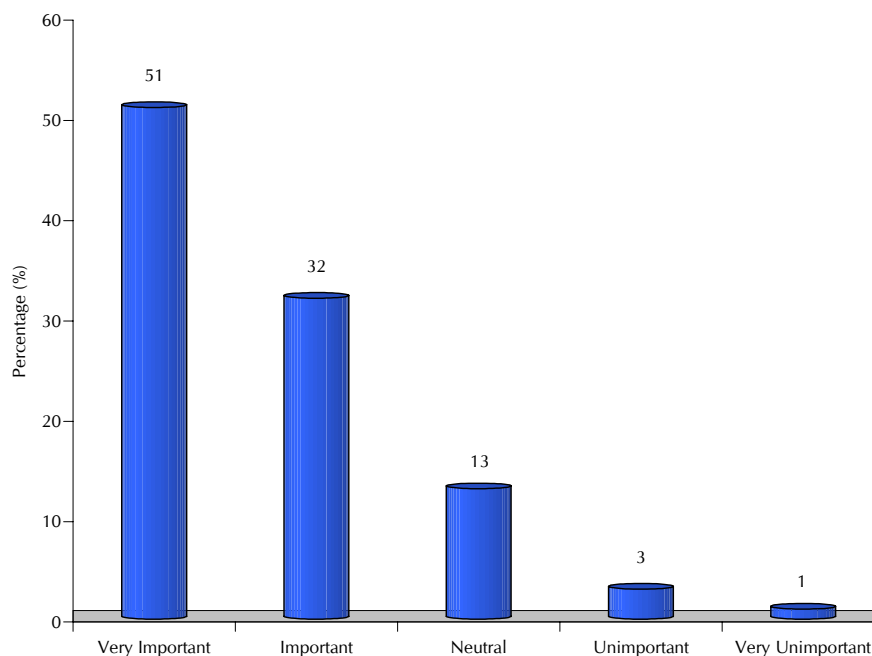
1.7.5. Distribution of Parks

69% of respondents rated the overall distribution of Echuca-Moama parks and open space as either "Very Good" or "Good".



1.7.6. Access to Native Bushland Areas

Respondents were asked how important access was to native bushland areas in and around Echuca-Moama for passive recreational pursuits, such as walking, nature appreciation, etc. 51% of respondents indicated access to them was “Very Important”, followed by 32% indicating “Important”.



Rating of Importance of Access to Native Bushland

Cross tabulations revealed:

- Access to native bushland is more important to those aged 50-59 years (73% “Very Important”).
- Access to native bushland is less important to those aged 14-17 years (29% “Very Important”).

1.8. Future Sport, Recreation or Open Space Projects

Respondents were given the opportunity to comment on what their top three sport, recreation or open space projects would be if they were in charge of Council spending. The most popular response was “new bike paths and walking trails” (43%), followed by “better access to the River foreshore” (22%).

Project	Frequency	% of survey respondents
New bike paths and walking trails	93	43%
Better access to the River Foreshore	47	22%
Place/activities for young people	41	19%
Improve quality of sports grounds	40	19%
Improve provision of recreational facilities in parks	39	18%
Improve parks maintenance	38	18%
Upgrade existing playgrounds	38	18%
Upgrade Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre	32	15%
More playgrounds	28	13%
New/upgrade Indoor Sporting Complex	25	12%
Improve irrigation to sport grounds (bore)	24	11%
Make parks safer	24	11%
New/upgrade Moama Outdoor Swimming Pool	20	9%
New/upgrade Community Centres	20	9%
Don't know/no response	15	7%
Other	13	6%

Suggested Future Projects

APPENDIX 5

Club Survey Feedback On Sports Facilities

Sports Facility Issues Identified by Clubs

Echuca-Moama Region

The following issues were identified by those Clubs utilising Council-owned/managed facilities (13).

Club / User Group	Facility	Current Issues		
		Playing Area	Pavilion / Clubhouse	Other
AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL				
Echuca United Netball and Football Club	Echuca South Oval	Construction of 2 Netball Courts Improve/install lighting Upgrade playing surface	Refurbish kitchen Refurbish shower facilities Timekeepers box	Improved traffic management (vehicle & pedestrian) Secure children's area needed
Moama Football/Netball Club	Moama Recreation Reserve	Oval needs re-fencing Water supply/maintenance	Need for own change rooms Outright control of social room Extension to social rooms	Provision of public toilets Increase size of coaches boxes Provision of larger timekeepers box
NETBALL				
Echuca & District Netball Association	Echuca South Netball/Tennis Complex	Court upgrade desperately needed. Lighting of extra courts.	Require support from Council for Association to manage pavilion in conjunction with Shire. Pavilion requires upgrade.	Maintenance (seating, playgrounds, fences) Seek independent management of the Complex
CRICKET				
Moama Cricket Club	Moama Recreation Reserve	Total Area Maintenance	Clubrooms need a major extension and upgrade to attract sportsmen and spectators. Kitchen and Bar need overhaul.	Toilets at the rear of the clubroom are in very poor condition.
Echuca Cricket Club	Victoria Park	Ground needs major upgrade, i.e. the surface is uneven and the grass is not suitable for cricket.	Do not have clubrooms.	No reported issues
BASKETBALL				
Echuca Basketball Association	Nestle Sports & Entertainment Centre	Replace backboards Require an additional court	No reported issues	No reported issues
HOCKEY				
Echuca/Moama Hockey Club	Train = Echuca East Reserve Play = Laura Tingay Hockey Ground (Shepparton)	Lack of safe ground to play on. Hockey turf needed or grassed area to be levelled out, watered and looked after.	Require access to change room facilities Require some shelter at hockey training area	No reported issues
SOCCER				
Moama/Echuca YMCA Soccer Association	Moama Recreation Reserve	No reported issues	Do not have dedicated clubrooms	Increasing costs of compliance. Increased regulations. Reduction in number of volunteers.
SQUASH				
Echuca Squash Club	Echuca Sporting Complex	Require an additional court	General maintenance and upgrade of Complex	Require extended opening hours Improved advertising for the squash facility
ATHLETICS				
Echuca Moama Little Athletics Centre	Jack Eddy Oval	Need a dedicated 400m track All-weather surface would be of great benefit	Shaded/grandstand area Seating around edge of oval would be useful	Synthetic run-up to Long Jump area would improve the athletes. Require maintenance assistance.
LAWN BOWLS				
City of Echuca Bowls Club	City of Echuca Bowls Club	New lighting over two greens More shade and new seating on banks Require an outside toilet facility	Clubhouse extension New ceiling in dining area New storage area	Sealed car park Sealed driveway New seating and tables
TENNIS				
Echuca South Tennis Club	Echuca South Netball Tennis Complex	Court re-surfacing Upgrade of surrounds - eg water system Upgrade of fencing surrounding the courts	General maintenance - painting etc	No reported issues
CAMPDRAFT				
Rich River Campdraft Club	Scurrah Reserve, Lockington	Improvement to facilities Financial assistance	General Improvement	No reported issues

APPENDIX 6

Photos of Options for Informal Recreation Equipment

Options for informal recreation facilities in parks



Tennis rebound wall and basketball half-court combination

Picnic Shelter / BBQ combination



“Birdie Cage” –
an enclosed golf practice cage sited adjacent to
and part of three cricket practice nets

