

## CONSULTATION

### To Date

#### **Eadon Clarke Sporting Complex Redevelopment**

First identified in the *Geraldton Greenough Sporting Facilities Master Plan* in 2005, numerous consultations with clubs, individuals, the Eadon-Clarke Ground Management Committee and its stakeholders have taken place. Specifically, extensive consultation was undertaken as part of the *Eadon Clarke Reserve Sport & Recreation Facilities Master Plan* (pages 30 – 41). This continued through 2009 with the preparation of the *Eadon Clarke Sporting Reserve: Comparative Analysis and Case Study* by GHD and is still ongoing today with the successful application for Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Funding (CSRFF) to begin the redevelopment.

#### **Multi-Use Indoor Sports Stadium Redevelopment**

First identified in the *Geraldton Greenough Sporting Facilities Master Plan* in 2005, numerous consultations with the Geraldton Amateur Basketball Association the Geraldton Netball Association and the Geraldton and Districts Badminton Association representatives have been undertaken. Consultation includes:

- Meetings with the respective boards;
- Consultation undertaken as part of the Eighth Street Sporting Precinct Master Plan (pages 41 – 49);
- Invitations to the three 8th Street Workshops held between January 2008 and April 2009;
- Meetings with the boards of each of the three stakeholders on numerous occasions;
- Visit to the Irwin Recreation Centre to view the new facility and observe the multi purpose components of the building;
- Various emails and phone calls with representatives, administrators and members of each of the three sports.

This consultation is ongoing and will also involve officers from the Department of Sport and Recreation shortly to provide feedback on concept plans, funding opportunities and other facilities issues.

#### **Wonthella Oval Redevelopment**

Approximately ten meetings and presentations to stakeholders by City staff since 2009. Stakeholders consulted include:

- Rover Football Club (RFC) – Board and members;
- Towns Football Club (TFC) – Board and members;
- Great Northern Football League (GNFL);
- Great Northern Junior Football League (GNJFL);
- Mid West Regional Football Facilities Development Committee (MRFFDC); and
- WA Football Commission (WAFC).

Presentations by CEO of Subiaco Football Club to TFC, RFC and GNFL representatives.

Consistent feedback from stakeholder groups has been concern regarding impact on Juniors, Seniors and ground impacts. These issues have been identified and addressed in the Draft Sporting Futures Report.

#### **Recreation Ground Redevelopment**

First identified in the *Geraldton Greenough Sporting Facilities Master Plan* in 2005, numerous consultations with clubs, individuals, the Recreation Ground Management Committee and its stakeholders have taken place. The City of Geraldton Greenough and the Recreation Ground Management Committee undertook further consultation of sporting stakeholders as well as the general community in the *Geraldton Community Recreation Ground: Staged Redevelopment Master Plan*. Minor consultation has been undertaken since the reports completion, however, further consultation is expected to take place once a direction is confirmed on the development of Wonthella Oval.

## **Ballistics Clubs**

The possibility of relocating the clubs situated in adjacent to the old rubbish tip on Flores Road was presented at the Eighth Street Workshop in August 2008.

The City staff have met with representatives of each of the Ballistics Clubs to advise of possible relocation and discuss sites and needs. Follow up meetings were held the 15th April, 2009 and the 13th January 2010 to provide updates on the progress of the proposal.

In the meantime, City officers have been attempting to identify suitable sites that fit the needs of the stakeholders involved and have provided the groups as necessary.

A meeting of the Recreation Needs Working Group in March 2010, a recommendation was made to delay any possible relocation for a period of 5 years due to the project being considered a lower priority. This was conveyed to the clubs shortly thereafter.

## **Aquarena Upgrade and Redevelopment**

The primary consultation mechanism for Aquarena is the Geraldton Aquarena User Group. The GAUG was consulted by the previous centre Manager in relation to earlier thinking about the development of a Gymnasium/Wellness Centre as part of the Aquarena complex, and more recently consulted regarding the onsite crèche, and the current plans to establish a free-standing crèche building (with tenders anticipated to be issued in July 2010). As well, during 2009-10 the GAUG was consulted about and provided their views on needs to make the centre more financially viable, in light of the current level of annual operating subsidy met by Ratepayers, to cover its operating loss, in the order of \$1.3 million per year, with operating costs being driven higher by the impost of State generated increases in electricity, gas and water costs – matters entirely beyond the control of Council. Consultation with GAUG on costs management and revenue improvement will be ongoing because, in the context of broader funding demands to meet community needs and aspirations for sport and recreation activities, as described in this report, the current level of Ratepayer subsidy is considered unsustainable from the City perspective. Further consultation will be undertaken in 2010-11 with the Department of Sport and Recreation, on progressing the concept of a Sports House within or adjacent to the Aquarena centre. When that matter evolves sufficiently, a consultation programme will be devised jointly between DSR and the City, to embrace all relevant stakeholders, including GAUG but also the broader sporting and recreation community, and providers of professional and other support services relevant to the Sports House concept.

## **Alexander Park**

First identified in the Geraldton Greenough Sporting Facilities Master Plan in 2005, consultations with the club and individuals was undertaken as part of this report.

Since this time, only minor, informal discussions have been held with the City staff regarding future facility upgrades.

## **Spalding Park Horse & Pony Club**

Two meetings have been held and one site inspection with representatives of the club. The club has written to Council indicating that the Webber Park site is not suitable for the clubs needs because of its size being smaller than their current site. Officers are unaware of any other suitable site within current boundaries that would meet the needs of the club. Discussions are currently being held with Chapman Valley planners as to the possibility of incorporating a suitable site within their proposed showgrounds redevelopment. The club is aware of these discussions.

## **Planned Consultation Process**

The City would like to emphasise that this is a Continuation of Community Consultation with the sporting community regarding the future of sport and recreation in the Mid West and specifically relating to facility development.

Over the past 17 years, there have been extensive studies/reports and plans conducted on the future of sporting facility requirements in Geraldton, which have led to this draft Sporting Futures Report. At every stage, the sporting community has been consulted with, and we would like to emphasise that this Report, is a continuation of that consultation.

The key to this strategy is that all wording and communication should reflect that this is a continuation of community consultation on sporting futures.

There are two components to the Strategy:

1. **Communication Plan** – The City’s Public Relations Officer will produce Media Releases to:
  - a. local media outlets,
  - b. E-communication through Your View and Press Releases to be placed on website.

The main platform of the communication will be based on continuing consultation highlighting the process and keeping the community up to date at all times.

2. The second component will be the consultation process with the overall community, including sporting groups. This will be achieved by the following:
  - a. **Public Forums** – having 5 public forums inviting all the community to participate, including all sporting clubs. It is recommended that these Forums will be convened by three well respected sporting identities (we will invite expressions of interest and finalists will be chosen through a ballot process). The sporting champions would be neutral and present the draft Report in a structured forum.
  - b. After the Public Forums are held, there will be an invitation for **Public Submissions** to the Draft Report, to be advertised through all forms of media, letters to all sporting clubs, and advertised through “Your View”. The recommended timeframe would be 60 days.
  - c. **Consolidate** all feedback from Public Forums and Public Submissions, and **report** back to Council.

Recommended timeframe:

If Council approves the Draft Report, the following timeline is recommended:

- Public Forums will be held within the first 45 days.
- After the Public Forums - Public Submissions will be open for comment for 60 days.
- Consolidate all feedback, and a report provided to council by the February 2011 Council meeting.

