

# Katherine Sports Ground Master Plan

## Discussion Paper for the 20th June 2017

---

### 1 Overview

This document covers several sections from the Draft Master Plan and is presented for comment by the User Groups. Feed back is required from all groups as to whether the comments included within this document are correct.

Not all projects can be instigated at once and need to be planned over a number of years. All Clubs are encouraged submit grant application with the support of the Katherine Town Council to get works undertaken. This is a shared responsibility document and to be implemented requires all Clubs and the Katherine Town Council to work together.

There are a number of joint priorities and there needs to be further discussion with a number of groups around clustering together to gain new facilities.

The first section, Sports Ground and Group priorities has been developed as a result of individual interviews, feedback from the surveys, site inspections, and review of the 2010 Sports Ground Master Plan and of the Advisory Council minutes. If there is additional information that individual Clubs can supply please email me on [sharyn.innes@bigpond.com](mailto:sharyn.innes@bigpond.com) or contact me on 0400 626 065. The more relevant information the better.

The second section is titled Capital Works program. This is an indicative program and much will depend of the efforts of each Club in conjunction with Council. This section of the document is a living section and priorities can and will be changed as suitable funding avenues are sourced.

### 2 Sports Ground and Group Priorities

---

#### 2.1 General Sports Ground Improvements

There were a number of overarching areas where improvements were required. These comments came through observations made, comments made by those interviewed and the need to improve the facility.

##### 2.1.1 Road signage

The quality of the road signage and markings vary throughout the Sports Ground. Observations indicate that the intersection adjacent the Aquatic Centre and main thoroughfare are poorly marked and three near misses late afternoon due to traffic levels and drivers not understanding how the intersection works. An overall signage plan should be put in place to direct visitors to the various playing fields and facilities, drop off areas etc.

##### 2.1.2 Road Infrastructure

The area on the south side of the Don Dale Pavilion is uneven and is covered with water during the wet season. This will need to be addressed as part of an all over car parking improvement program.

##### 2.1.3 Car Parking Areas

Car parking infrastructure varies greatly from paved market areas to grass and gravel areas. Many of the areas are unstructured and during peak times results in poor parking habits by the public.

- The parking area associated with the Henry Scott building needs resurfacing and line marking renewed.
- The gravelled areas generally are in good condition, with the exception of the car park adjacent the Tennis/Cricket which needs the bitumen extended.
- Formalisation of some of the gravel car parking areas with signage could assist with formalising the car parking arrangements in the future.

## 2.2 Lighting to playing fields, ovals and court areas

As funding becomes available the lighting to all spaces should be replaced with LED lighting similar to Oval 2 and for other areas similar to the new “street and car park” lighting. There is no particular priority in this listing

- Cricket Oval
- Tennis Courts
- Basket Ball courts
- Netball courts
- Baseball/Softball Oval
- Oval No. one
- Aquatic Centre
- Car park lights to the Henry Scott building
- Skate Park
- General access lights

## 2.3 Landscaping

As a result of the removal of a number of African Mahogany trees, much of the natural shade has been removed from a number of areas. There is a need for spectators and players to have additional shade as a result of this tree removal safety program. A tree replacement program these trees with saplings that are suitable for shade and will not result in trees that put the public and players at risk. New species of trees need to be identified, planted and irrigated to ensure that in future years there is additional shade available.

Recommended

- That a full inspection of the trees be undertaken and gaps in the shade canopy be identified and suitable tree species sourced, planted and irrigated.

## 2.4 Irrigation

Several clubs mentioned the subject of irrigation to the major playing surfaces. Aerial shots of the oval show gaps in the playing surface irrigation. This can result in the players running from soft to hard surfaces and interrupts the flow of the game.

A full assessment of the irrigation system is required and should be included in the final master plan. Any additional information regarding playing surfaces and irrigation issues should be highlighted and sent for inclusion in the Master Plan. This is a very expensive aspect of any master plan , so comments should be detailed and are welcomed.

## 2.5 Don Dale Pavilion

The following works benefit all Clubs and groups that use the Pavilion.

- Additional toilet block on to one end of the building
- Additional taps for water for urns
- Several additional large storage rooms

- Upgrade of existing external toilet block
- Extension works to the canteen storage area
- Drainage work to car park area on southern end of the building
- General building upgrade, painting, new external doors etc
- Soccer Storage area needs a roller door to improve the ease of access for equipment. This is currently a WH&S issue for volunteers.

## 2.6 Katherine Aquatic Centre

The Aquatic Centre is a high use area with the public coming early in the morning, schools groups coming through the day and the public swimming in the afternoon and early evening. In discussions with the staff at the pool and observations indicate that there are a range of improvements that have been made over the past years and now as with any aging infrastructure there are a range of maintenance issues and replacements.

The following works are seen as needed and a general refurbishing of several areas will be required within the next two years. These include

- Rails to the steps on the earth mound
- Replacement of the roller doors to the main building
- Extension of the shade to the kiosk area
- Repairs to the pipe work at the spray /splash out play area
- Replacement of edge pool tiles around the main pool
- Replacement of the shade cloth to the Stuart Highway end of the main pool.

## 2.7 Katherine Rugby League Club Inc

The Association has 320 registered juniors and senior players each week for the dry season. Growth has been experienced each year and they have over 50 new members during the past two years. The Club utilises Katherine Sports field 1 and 2 and the soft ball oval for training. The Club use the Don Dale Pavilion change rooms, toilets, kiosk areas. The Club has sessions on every night except Friday. There are fixtures Saturday and Sunday.

The following infrastructure is seen as a priority:

- A large storage shed for equipment
- Additional shaded grand stand seating
- Water fountains.

## 2.8 Katherine Rugby Union Inc

The Association has 350 registered plays with more juniors registering every game. Growth has been experienced since the introduction of junior competition over the past two years. The Club utilises Field one and will be looking to utilise Field two this coming season, they used the toilets, change rooms, canteen in the Don Dale Pavilion and have an office there also. They also use an old shed change rooms at the end of Field 1 which is at the end of its usable life.

The following infrastructure is seen as a priority:

- Covered area adjacent Don Dale Pavilion for public and bbq space
- Additional shaded grand stand seating
- Field two fully fenced to restrict public access for user changes
- Moving for Rugby posts to comply with competition length rugby grounds
- Long term a dedicated Rugby union/Rugby league ground for back to back seasons.

## **2.9 Katherine Basketball Association**

The Association has 280 registered juniors and seniors playing each week during the dry season. With growth expected to come from the increased junior competition this year. The Club has fixtures two nights per week. They have a wide range of volunteers who contribute during the season. The Club is generally growing by 20 to 30 players a year.

The following infrastructure is seen as a priority:

- General upgrade of court area including line marking, scorers benches, Under 10 fixed goal and installation of outdoor power points to court area for score board
- Grand stand shaded seating for players and spectators
- Sealed pathway to storage area from courts
- Improved lighting around the ablution block and car parking area for night time events
- Covered water proof shade membrane court space to allow all year round basket ball competitions (location to be discussed)
- Two additional outside courts (location to be discussed)
- An indoor stadium with at least two courts.

## **2.10 Katherine Net Ball Association**

Awaiting comments

## **2.11 Katherine Tennis Association**

Details required

The following infrastructure is seen as a priority:

- Two or four courts with water proof shade membrane to allow year round fixtures

## **2.12 Katherine Athletics Club**

The Association has 256 registered players across the junior and senior players. Growth over the last two years has been substantial with over a 100 members joining the Association. The Club meets for training sessions on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings and has fixtures on Friday evenings. On training nights up to 30 members attend each night. Only five lanes are usable due to use of fields for other sports and due to one lane being soggy.

The following infrastructure and improvements are seen as priority:

- Permanent covers to sand pit areas
- Additional shaded grandstand seating areas on the 100 meter straight – currently demand is high for shared seating amongst the sports
- Safety throw cages for the discus and hammer areas
- Hanging rack for the storage shed
- Larger storage shed.

## **2.13 Katherine Cricket Club**

Need information

The following infrastructure and improvements are seen as priority.

- Lights to the cricket field
- New practice net area

## 2.14 Katherine Soccer Club

The Association has 650 registered players across the junior and senior players. Soccer is moving to year round training and fixtures as part of their Youth Diversionary targets. They train every week and have fixtures on Saturday mornings. There is a need to set up the goal posts at each training and fixture event. Need general details

The following infrastructure and improvements are seen as a priority:

- Roller door to the Storage room at Don Dale Pavilion to make the setting up and packing away of goal posts easy
- Suitable trolleys for equipment to be moved
- Grand Stand shaded seating – at least two units
- Covered public area adjacent Don Dale to provide shade for officials and the public
- Moving of goal posts to create a national stand competition length

## 2.15 Katherine BMX

Need details

## 2.16 Skate Park Area

The skate park is used by the public during all periods of the day, from young families who are teaching their children how to ride scooters to the youth of the town using the venue after school and on weekend to adults keeping fit and enjoying themselves. The Skate park area is used regularly by the YMCA, Tirathlong NT, Katherine Regional Arts and Somerville and Derby Girls.

Several dedicated responses were received and there were a range of face to face interviews with users of this space during the week mornings and on a Saturday. Several responses indicated that a smaller skate park for children on scooters in the area of the Adventure play ground would enable the younger children to skate/scooter with security. When the teenagers come the young children have to vacate the area.

During the on-site inspections on several occasions the line between the skate park, the access road and general foot paths were blurred by users. For safety reasons the following improvements are recommended.

The following improvements are suggested to improve safety in the skate park area.

- 
- A site safety audit by Skate Park specialists to improve the overall safety of the skate park
- A fence between the access road and the skate park and the skate park and the main footpath and the skate park for the main areas of activity
- Erection of a shared vehicle/pedestrian/ skateboard user area signage at the entry area and at the aquatic centre to remind people to slow down.

## 2.17 Children's Adventure Playground

This is a very popular area for parents of young children and is utilised throughout the week and on weekends. Information was gathered through 11 face to face interviews and several of the mothers taking surveys and emailing them to friends who also responded with comments. Seventeen individual inputs were received. Generally the Playground area is seen as one of the most important facilities in Katherine for these parents and the place to go to have a social outing, meeting other families, for exercise, having birthday parties and is considered very safe and user friendly.

The following suggestions were received.

- Additional small skate part for young children on scooters
- Improved signage to direct people to the toilets
- Additional seating as the number of shaded seats is inadequate and preferred to have a different style to make it easier for the children
- Soft fall areas under some of the equipment
- Exercise equipment for adults which is children friendly

### 3 Proposed Improvement and Capital Works Program

#### 3.1 Year One Priorities

The following priorities are seen as base level priorities which will have benefits for multiple organisations.

Capital Works and improvements	Benefit	Estimated Cost
Road Signage and line market consultancy and application to Road Safety for funding, a number of new signs, new line marking	All users	
Initial upgrade works to Don Dale Pavilion including improvements to toilets, painting, tap ware, additional water fountains		
Installation of roller doors to soccer storage area at the Don Dale Pavilion, the purchase of equipment hangers and trolleys to move equipment		
Additional grandstand seating with shade covers two new units		
Improvements to Athletics through the provision of covers, hanging racks and a permanent discus and hammer cage for the throw zones		
Develop a tree replacement program, cost and start implementation as soon as possible		
Upgrade basket ball courts with line marking, scorers benches and junior goals and supply outdoor power outlets		
Protection fencing to the Skate Park area		
New directional signage to the toilets near the adventure park		
Aquatic Centre – repairs to the play and spray area pipe work		
Clean up area adjacent swimming pool that was used for boxing and an adventure park and determine future		

use.

Additional shaded seating for the Adventure park area – 2 units sealed and painted

### 3.2 Year Two Capital Works

The following works ideally should take place in the second year of the Master Plan depending of funding gained. It is envisaged that a number of User Groups will source some funding through their fund raising and grants to assist with the Capital Works Program.

Capital Works and improvements	Benefit	Estimated Cost
Additional toilet block at the Don Dale Pavilion for both male and female and additional storage area for sporting groups		
Expansion to the kiosk storage area and water cooler under cover		
Covered shade extension area to the Don Dale Pavilion		
Storage shed for Rugby League equipment		
Improved shaded grandstand seating to athletics 100 meter track area and additional unit for field 2 and basket ball/net ball area		
Sealed pathway from storage shed to the courts		
Alteration of the goal location on Field 2 to bring up to competition standard		
Additional directional signage around the Sports Ground		
Aquatic centre works - Rails to the steps on the earth mound, replacement of the roller door to main building and replacement of damage shade cloth		
Replacement of the remaining car park and street lighting in the Sports Ground with LED lights and improve lighting to basketball netball parking area		
Consultancy to assess irrigation and highlight the areas where upgrades to the system are required		
Replacement of tiles to the pool edges at the aquatic centre		

### 3.3 Year Three Capital Works

The following works ideally should take place in the third year of the Master Plan depending of funding gained. Again is envisaged that a number of these will be joint funded by User Groups, Council and Government.

Capital Works and improvements	Benefit	Estimated Cost
Two additional basket ball/netball courts to be collocated with the tennis area with suitable lighting – impervious shade cover over courts		
Extensions to Athletics storage shed with suitable shelving and storage options		
Lighting to the Cricket Oval		
Stage one of the irrigation upgrade		
Initial planning for a new oval for Rugby Union and Rugby League with associated access and facilities		\$120,000
Two additional shaded grand stand areas for netball/basket ball plus one for soccer area		
Fencing to Oval 1 to restrict access for user changes		
Exercise equipment for adults in the adventure playground area		
Additional soft fall rubber finish to adventure park equipment		

### 3.4 Year Four

The following works ideally should take place in the fourth year of the Master Plan depending of funding gained. Again is envisaged that a number of these will be joint funded by User Groups, Council and Government. Construction works for the oval would flow over the dry from one year to the next financial year.

Capital Works and improvements	Benefit	Estimated Cost
Lighting to the tennis courts		
Shade to the central tennis court area		\$600,000
Additional sport storage areas in the Don Dale Pavilion area		
Formalisation and sealing of the car park opposite the Aquatics Centre		\$
Sealing of the Tennis/Cricket car park		\$
Seeking of funding for new oval including road access, storage rooms, kiosk, change rooms, public toilets and office space and lighting		\$ 40,000
New practice net area for cricket		\$



### 3.5 Year Five

The following works ideally should take place in the fifth year of the Master Plan depending of funding gained. Again is envisaged that a number of these will be joint funded by User Groups, Council and Government. Construction works for the oval would flow over the dry from one year to the next financial year.

Capital Works and improvements	Benefit	Estimated Cost
Stage two of the irrigation upgrade		
Initial construction phase of new oval		\$ 900,000
New small child skate part in the Adventure Play ground area		

### 3.6 Year Six

The following works ideally should take place in the sixth year of the Master Plan depending of funding gained. Again is envisaged that a number of these will be joint funded by User Groups, Council and Government.

Capital Works and improvements	Benefit	Estimated Cost
Lighting to Oval No. 1		
Completion of construction phase of oval		\$3,600,000
Formalisation of car park to softball/baseball area		

### 3.7 Year Seven

Capital Works and improvements	Benefit	Estimated Cost
Initial planning for additional multipurpose indoor to encompass netball/basket ball/ badminton and other sports including table tennis and martial arts		\$180,000
Stage three of the irrigation upgrade		

### 3.8 Year Eight

Capital Works and improvements	Benefit	Estimated Cost
Lighting to the Baseball/softball oval		
Sourcing of capital works funding and final design		

### 3.9 Year Nine

Capital Works and improvements	Benefit	Estimated Cost
Stage four of the irrigation upgrade Construction of the multipurpose indoor space		