



MINUTES
of the Second Meeting of the
LEVELS OF SERVICE - PARKS
held on Monday 3 August 2009 commencing at 10am
in the Civic Reception Room, Ground Floor
Cairns Regional Council, 119 – 145 Spence Street, Cairns

ATTENDANCE:	Darlene Irvine	FNQROC
	Nicola Grant	Tablelands Regional Council
	Tanya Rutherford	Cairns Regional Council
	Louise Jones	Cairns Regional Council
	Geoff Hatwell	Cairns Regional Council
	Paul Devine	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
	Ray Kirkman	Tablelands Regional Council
	Bill Cuthbertson	Tablelands Regional Council
	Phil Nicholls	Cairns Regional Council
	Dave Weston	Cairns Regional Council
	Shane Bisseker	Tablelands Regional Council
	Nico Wouterse	Cairns Regional Council
	Bill Honey	Cairns Regional Council
	Travis Sydes	FNQROC
	Gerard Read	FNQROC
	Joan Crawford	Cairns Regional Council
APOLOGIES:	Tony Lickiss	Cook Shire Council
	Jenna Devietti	Hinchinbrook Shire Council
	Peter Martin	Hinchinbrook Shire Council

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Darlene welcomed everyone to the workshop and introduced Gerard Read and Travis Sydes. Gerard will be taking over Asset Management from Darlene. Travis will be assisting Gerard in the area of Conservation Parks.

OVERVIEW OF MEETING 1 HELD ON 1 JUNE 2009

Darlene gave an overview of the first Levels of Service – Parks meeting held on 1 June 2009.

WORKSHOP RESULTS

Sporting Grounds

Discussion was held on the category and rating system. CRC currently break down categories into "City Wide" and "District Wide". TRC haven't done anything on categories to date. It was agreed to retain the categories eg. Field Sports, Court Sports, Swimming Pools etc and the five-level rating system.

Attempted to use pro-forma matrix for Field Sports but agreed to provide a descriptive statement for each of the five levels. These statements could be used and adapted slightly for other sporting facility categories.

Brief discussions were held regarding maintenance activities and service levels.

To Do

- Develop descriptive statements for each of the different categories
- Councils to categorise sporting facilities against agreed descriptive statement
- Collate current maintenance activities and service levels from Councils
- Gerard Read to complete matrix for use as a guideline

Natural Areas

Definition: By general measure, an area of natural vegetation or land that is not used for the defined purpose of a sporting facility or park. Containing little or no hard infrastructure or manufactured assets other than those required for the purpose of managing pedestrian/vehicle access. A natural area might be zoned within/adjoining or adjacent to a defined sporting facility or park.

A natural area is typically defined by its vegetation type/community assemblage and can range in quality from highly degraded non remnant vegetation to high integrity remnant vegetation and in many cases it is to be expected that a natural area will contain both.

Parcel types that are covered in this category might include;

- Reserves for conservation
- Coastal and foreshore reserves and esplanades
- Drainage Reserves and esplanades
- Stock Reserves
- River Improvement Trust sites (pending)??

Other parcel types that contain natural areas might include;

- Reserves for dumping
- Quarry Reserves
- Road reserves and easements
- Land with other unallocated use

ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Scale

- **Local** – Smaller, disjunct parcels with little or connectivity to other natural areas, defined on a sub catchment scale. Managed in a boundary to boundary context.
- **District** – larger parcels with a degree of connectivity to other natural areas, defined on a catchment scale. Managed in an adjoining parcel context.
- **Regional** – Parcels that form part of an aggregate or cluster of a regionally significant landscape feature or function. Managed in a whole of landscape context.

Triple bottom line assessment to determine asset value.

Environmental significance: Biodiversity connectivity, function and representative-ness (uniqueness). Defined most readily by a combination of single species/vegetation community values identified in relevant legislation, guidelines and expert opinion regarding rare, threatened and vulnerable taxa/community and status as remnant or disturbed (pre-European/post-European). Consideration should also given to factors that contribute to landscape resilience and assist to buffer the impacts of system processes, e.g. climate change, by allowing dynamic processes to continue across the landscape.

Social and cultural significance: Including a general measure of aesthetic and amenity value, how the parcel is perceived, valued and the level of its visual impact on the surrounding landscape. This might be determined by proximity to key landscape features i.e. major tourist routes, traditional owner story places, significant trees, landscape transitions and vistas. This assessment also to consider overall contribution to quality of life and promotion of well being and regional 'green' healthy systems, healthy people vision.

Economic significance: Combination of measures and approximations based on a whole of life assessment of management costs versus ecosystem services. This may factor in qualities and capacity for functions and services such as carbon capital and offsets, climate change buffers, water quality improvement, fish habitat, tourism value, erosion management and storm surge mitigation. A consideration should also be made as to the management resource efficiency of the area and its capacity to be transitioned from one category to another.

LEVELS OF SERVICE

Management actions required to deliver the level of service required for each management category

MANAGEMENT ACTION	1	2	3	4	5
Control Class 1 & 2 pests as per RPMS and Local PMP	■	■	■	■	■
Manage unauthorized access	■	■	■	■	■
Manage dumping of waste	■	■	■	■	■
Vector control (mosquito management)	■	■	■	■	■
Fire mitigation, hazard reduction	■	■	■	■	■
Pests identified and mapped (coarse scale)	■	■	■	■	■
New pest incursions prevented, managed		■	■	■	■
Reserve edge management in place		■	■	■	■
Passive rehabilitation of vegetation composition			■	■	■
Fire management, reinstate appropriate fire regime			■	■	■
Control Class 3 and other non declared pests				■	■
Active restoration of vegetation/connectivity or composition				■	■
Minimise or eliminate threat to identified faunal assets				■	■
Monitoring and assessment program in place				■	■
Reserve specific management plan					■
Community engaged in management, reserve promoted as asset					■

Parks

Discussion was held on the category and rating system. The inventory list provided as a draft was left on hold and discussion centred around 1st and 2nd filters:

1st filter test:

Local Park – x mins walk / x population
 District Park = x min drive (public transport)
 Regional Park = Destination

Regional Park was also discussed. Examples of regional parks were Hallorans Hill, Lagoon etc. Ingham 'major' park was also discussed as at the last meeting it was thought to be a 'regional' park as it was a destination for travellers. Some discussion has had that perhaps this was a 'district' park as people across

the region would not necessarily 'travel to the park to visit'. More debate to be had with Hinchinbrook Shire Council included.

2nd filter test:

Size of each park – desired sizes have been set in PIPs. It is also believed that regulations have set minimum and desired sizes.

Debate was also had regarding existing parks that may be higher or lower than the councils agreed level of service. It is believed that it would be up to council to decide how they would like to manage this – Do they progressively down grade and up grade, Do they maintain the status quo, where they maintain the status quo – do they have a benefits levy?

Discussion was also had regarding new developments and the provision of parks. To make sub divisions attractive there has been a high level of investment in parks – potentially over an above what councils can afford to maintain in to the future. Once council's levels of service has been set, development applications will need to ensure they do not exceed councils agreed LOS.

To Do

- Ascertain each councils policy regarding distances to local and district parks
- Ascertain any legislative requirements for size of parks (under PIP or other legislation?)
- Review any other templates for LOS

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at Cairns Regional Council on xxxx