

# BUNBURY RUNNERS CLUB INC.

PO Box 1161, BUNBURY, WA 6231



## **HAY PARK FEASIBILITY STUDY**

The City of Bunbury has prepared a feasibility study for the development of recreational facilities within the municipality, with a specific emphasis on the development of Hay Park. This study has now been released for public comment, closing on 8 July. There are implications in this for the Bunbury Runners Club.

The purpose of this short paper is to:

- inform members of the relevant proposals;
- outline some perceived implications (positive and negative) for the Club; and
- assess what initial approach the Club should take to secure our short, medium and long term future.

### **THE RELEVANT PROPOSALS**

Under the proposed redevelopment plan for **Hay Park**, the overall area will be divided into three precincts — north, central and south. Within the Central Precinct it is proposed to:

- construct an eight lane synthetic athletics track (fenced off) — Commonwealth funding has already been provided and this facility is definitely proceeding in the 2009/2010 financial year;
- provide a new archery range;
- upgrade the existing netball facilities;
- redevelop/upgrade the existing tennis courts and clubhouse;
- provide a new radio control car club area;
- upgrade the existing roads and carparks; and
- construct a new centrally located shared facility pavilion.

In conjunction with the new development at Hay Park, it is proposed to rationalise and redevelop some of the other recreation reserves in the Bunbury area, including the **Recreation Ground** (our current home). In the short to medium term (5-10 years) it is proposed that the ground will be modified for:

- passive park with kick-about space;
- tourism events; and
- premier and exhibition cricket matches.

To allow for that the report recommends to "relocate triathlon, running and cycle clubs to Hay Park athletics track, once completed".

It is envisaged that in the long term (25 years) that the development options for the Recreation Ground will be:

- establish as a passive park and tourism event venue; and

- install playground equipment and picnic facilities.

The proposed shared clubhouse pavilion would include the following facilities:

- change rooms/toilets/showers;
- kiosk/kitchen;
- multi-purpose room (social functions);
- meeting room;
- shared club administration offices;
- first aid room;
- spectator viewing areas;
- equipment storage; and
- car park.

## **SOME IMPLICATIONS FOR BRC**

Some of the implications (positive and negative) for each of the sites are:

### **Hay Park Facility:**

- Brand new and better standard clubroom facilities;
- Housed together with other running organisations and other unrelated sports;
- Sharing facility with others, rather than being in charge as the head lessee;
- Upfront costs and annual lease charges unknown at this stage;
- Long term security of tenure opportunity;
- Benefits of being involved in the planning from the start and ensuring that our interests are covered;
- Athletics track beneficial only to our juniors and for interval training;
- Regular weekly run courses contained within Hay Park; and
- Lack of variety of running experience.

### **Recreation Ground Facility:**

- Provides a variety of ideal road running courses;
- Ideal attractive oceanfront setting;
- BRC has control of the building (as head lessee) and we control the office, bar, wall space, etc.;
- Building condition has deteriorated due to the salt air and the future of the structure may be limited;
- Council has indicated that we have short term (5 years) security at this location;
- Council has indicated its future intention to demolish the building;
- Further developments along the waterfront and in the area generally will continue to encroach on our running courses;
- Council has indicated its intention to increase our annual rents significantly over the next few years; and
- Our longer term security is uncertain.

## WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE ?

Ian Gibbs has been a member of the sports facility review and planning group for the past ten years. He has put in a lot of time and effort to represent the interests of running, although he has not been formally representing the Club. It would seem that the time has come for the Club to become involved and to have an input into these issues which may have a significant impact on our future. We need to be open minded about this and we should all consider where and how we want this Club to be in the medium to longer term and start acting to influence that now.

The Council has invited submissions on this report, closing on 8<sup>th</sup> July. We are proposing to put in a submission outlining the Club's position as a means of entering into this discussion. Your preliminary thoughts or suggestions would be of great assistance. We would welcome any discussion or written comments.

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