

Promoting the Health and Wellbeing of Northern Midlands Residents



Council receives State Government funding through the 'Open Spaces Program'

Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy expresses Council's commitment to promoting the health and wellbeing of Northern Midlands residents.

The Strategy states, "Council's ambition is that everyone in our community has the opportunity to lead a happy and healthy life".

One of the key strategic outcomes is enhancing the quality and viability of community and sporting facilities, to provide recreation and exercise infrastructure.

In recent years, Council has upgraded the facilities at the Campbell Town, Cressy, Evandale, Longford and Perth Recreation Grounds. The upgraded facilities have inclusive changerooms suitable for use by male and female players, and contemporary club/community meeting rooms.

Council has submitted an application for State Government funding to upgrade the clubrooms and changerooms at the Ross Recreation Ground which is now the state headquarters for Veterans Cricket Tasmania.

However, participation patterns are changing with a shift away from organised, structured sports towards more individual/small group, less structured activities. Therefore Council is now focusing on developing shared pathways across/between towns, new/upgraded playgrounds and outdoor gyms.

In response to growing community demand for developments targeted at school aged children and youth, Council successfully applied for Open Spaces funding towards the cost of installing quarter-size basketball/netball courts at Cressy, Longford, Perth and Ross. (Open Spaces funding was also secured to develop a children's playground at the Campbell Town War Memorial Oval precinct, adjacent to the tennis courts and swimming pool).

The proposed locations of the courts are:

Cressy: at the recreation ground

Longford: in the new park soon to be developed on the triangle of land bounded by Laycock, Wellington and Pultney Streets.

Perth: in the Seccombe Street Reserve

Ross: at the recreation ground.

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Northern Midlands Shared Pathway Network Project

This project will create a safe, accessible, off-road shared pathways network, stretching from the heart of Longford, through Perth, past Devon Hills and into Youngtown.

Northern Midlands residents will be able to cycle/walk to/from work or educational institutions in the city, as well as being able to use sections of the network to exercise locally.

The first stage of the project is the construction of a shared pathway from the Breadalbane Roundabout to Charbooday Drive in Youngtown. This 4.6km pathway will be located on the western side of Hobart Road and includes a diversion around the heritage Kerry Lodge Bridge.

This project stage has an estimated cost of \$1,746,000. Council has secured a State Government 'Better Active Transport in Tasmania' grant of \$436,500 for the project, and has applied for a Federal Government 'Growing Regions' grant of \$873,000. Council has committed to funding the remaining 25% of the project cost.

Mill Dam Reserve Master Plan

I was pleased to read recently that the grade 3/4 students from **Longford Primary School** recently participated in an excursion to Mill Dam Reserve to identify weeds, and to consider the recreational values of this popular reserve.

Officers from NRM (Natural Resource Management) North and Landcare Tasmania

accompanied the students. They provided advice on conservation issues, and on the potential negative impacts of herbicides and heavy machinery used during riparian rehabilitation works.

The students were encouraged to develop their own visions for the future of the Mill Dam Reserve where it is proposed to remove the willows and plant native plants.

Thinking sustainably, the students came up with the idea of finding uses for the willow timber.

Council looks forward to hearing more about this project.

I congratulate the Longford Primary School students on their commitment to this highly worthwhile project.

The students' plan will assist Council with the development of an overall Master Plan for the Mill Dam Reserve.

Weed Management Action Plan

A review of Council's Weed Management/Action Plan is underway, with community consultation to commence in the near future.

Mary Knowles OAM
Mayor

