

4. QEII PARK LONG TERM CONCEPT PLAN

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The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee on progress towards the development of a long term concept plan for QEII Park.

In October 2003 the Council resolved:

1. *That priority be given to the preparation of a long term concept plan and policies for the future development of QEII Park.*
2. *That the long term concept plan be subject to the special consultative process.*
3. *That staff include reference to the siting of sport related accommodation at QEII Park in the long term concept plan.*

An inter-unit staff working party has been working to oversee the plan development, including staff who liaise regularly with the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board. The following goals have been formed:

- To identify current and future leisure demands for QEII Park for sport and recreation users, the local community and the general public
- To consider these leisure demands within a contextual framework of relevant policies and current planning issues for QEII Park
- To take account of current recreation trends and demographic patterns in developing the concept plan
- To identify generally how much of QEII Park, and specifically what areas, should be retained as open space
- To improve vehicle and pedestrian access and flow throughout the park
- To include reference in the Plan to the possible citing of sports related accommodation

To date the necessary background and contextual information has been gathered, eg current usage of QEII Park, demographic patterns, recreation trends, Council policies and strategies, previous research.

There needs to be some initial consultation to identify local and city-wide needs and other potential uses and users of QEII Park. Local residents especially need an opportunity to comment on issues that they see as important, eg retention of open space, frequency of large events and activities.

Accordingly, a key stage will be the use of focus groups to assist with identifying development issues for QEII Park. It is planned to hold them during June this year. Global Leisure (a leisure research consultancy) will be facilitating the focus groups, with active assistance from the working party.

The Burwood/Pegasus Community Board will be one of the focus groups. The Committee, along with an invited representative from the other five Community Boards, will be the subject of another focus group, all of which are listed below:

- Current sports organisation users
- Key school users
- Potential user groups
- Tenants/businesses at QEII Park
- Neighbouring businesses
- Local residents groups
- Local community groups
- Local neighbouring residents
- Facility and open space users
- Key Council staff
- Burwood/Pegasus Community Board
- Community and Leisure Committee plus other Community Boards

It is proposed to assess the information gathered from the focus groups using criteria based on the contextual information already gathered, eg considering existing Council recreation planning outcomes, and possible benefits associated with participation, community, social, environmental, and economic factors. Once a draft concept plan has been formed, the general public will be given the opportunity to comment via the special consultation process.

It is envisaged that the Plan will have a 10 year outlook. Given the consultation and special consultation process requirements, it will take most of the 2004 calendar year to produce the Plan. The aim is to have it completed by the end of October 2004. Any financial implications can be considered by the Council as part of the 2005/06 LTCCP process.

**Chairman's
Recommendation:** That the information be received.