

10. NEW WATER SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

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Corporate Plan Output: Sports Promotion	

The purpose of this report is to support our Annual Plan bid for \$250,000 over five financial years for the New Water Sports Development, Aquatic Development Group.

In the last six months an opportunity has arisen for the pursuit of an aquatic development. The development is to be located on private land in the McLean's Island region.

The owner has consented to the group pursuing the development of a lake on the property with the intention of the facility being an international standard rowing course, suitable also for the pursuit of other passive water sports.

The aim of the group is to establish a 2,500 metre long straight stretch of water, four metres in constant depth and eight 13.5 metre lanes wide, with associated safety lanes and warm up areas. The vision is to have a facility based on the recent course used at Penrith for the successful Sydney 2000 Olympics. The group also aims to conduct the World Rowing Championships at the new venue in the year 2010.

The reason for the establishment of this facility is that Kerrs Reach, the current venue for rowing and other water sports, is nearing its 'use by date'. The stretch of water is overcrowded due predominantly to the popularity of rowing amongst schools. It is also now very heavily weed-infested. Both of these reasons of concern to the governing body for the safety of the participants.

The initial group, headed by James Sheehan, President of Canterbury Rowing Association, intends to form itself into a charitable trust. The first step is to undertake a scoping plan that includes site development, resource consent requirements and a business plan.

This facility has been worked on by Council staff and would be the only world standard rowing facility in New Zealand. Its particular benefit is its proximity to an international airport and to a large metropolitan city.

We would recommend that the Council supports this project to the value of \$250,000 over five financial years (starting in 2001/2002).

Leisure Unit Ranking 1