



Central Coast Sportsground Management Strategy

*For the management of
playing field surfaces
during drought conditions.*



Central Coast

Sportsground Management Strategy

Aim

The Central Coast Joint Water Authority introduces Level 3 Water Restrictions on June 3 2006. These restrictions specifically stated:-

- Local sporting fields, school ovals and grassed areas are not to be watered using town water supply
- Turf Cricket wickets can be watered using town water for 3 x 1 hour periods per week

The impact of water restrictions on local sportsgrounds and consequently the conduct of local sporting competitions needed to be assessed in light of the new regulations.

Council Officers from Wyong Shire Council and Gosford City Council met to discuss the issues relating to sportsgrounds and water restrictions and to plan a strategy to ensure the safety and longevity of all sportsgrounds for the benefit of sporting groups, other user groups and the community as a whole.

This strategy aims at providing a Central Coast wide sportsground management plan to monitor and protect all local playing fields for the long term benefit of Council and all user groups.

Background

An initial meeting was held with Council Officers from Wyong Shire Council and Gosford City Council staff to determine the most effective way to address the issues relating to sportsgrounds and the effect of Level 3 water restrictions and beyond.

Research was undertaken into the turf management practices of other Council LGA's who had faced Level 3 Water Restrictions and beyond. Information was gathered as to their strategies they developed to ensure the longevity of their playing surfaces and their process of implementation.

Presentations were made to respective Council Strategy Policy meetings to advise of the options for addressing the water restriction issue. It was agreed by both Councils that a joint initiative would be the most effective strategy as most sporting codes are governed by a Central Coast body.

In order to provide the correct information to the sporting clubs and associations as soon as possible, two concurrent meetings were organised on the 3 August 2006, with one held in Wyong LGA and one held in Gosford LGA. These meetings presented the same

information to all of the sporting clubs and associations who utilise Council playing fields. The information provided addressed the current situation, potential impact on fields by water restrictions, alternate irrigation supplies that are being investigated and installed, proposed suggestions for alleviating ground wear and proposed strategies for sportsfield turf management. (Attachment 1 – presentation, Attachment 2 – list of attendees)

As a result of the meetings, clubs were requested to complete a feedback form (Attachment 3) which provided the proposed suggestions for reduction of ground usage to ensure longevity of the playing surface. The clubs were given the opportunity to prioritise the suggestions according to their least preferred option to their most preferred option as well as provide other suggestions and feedback regarding the issue. The feedback sheets were then to be forwarded to their head association for collation of the results.

A follow up meeting was held with representatives of the Associations on 16 August 2006. At this meeting the results of the surveys received were discussed and priorities for reduction in ground usage / wear were placed in a draft order. (Attachment 4 – Water Restrictions Associations Meeting Notes 16 August 2006.

In order to ensure all of the main users of Council's sportsgrounds were consulted and given an opportunity to provide feedback in to their management during the drought conditions, schools were included in the consultation process.

A joint Council presentation was made at the Central Coast Region Secondary and Primary Public Schools Principals meeting on the 21 August 2006. Similar information was presented to the sporting groups, was provided to the principals with relevant effects on school usage (Presentation - Attachment 5). In line with the presentation made to the sporting groups, a handout (attachment 6) was provided to the principals which gave the opportunity to provide feedback through a prioritised list of suggestions for reduction in school usage to increase the longevity of sportsground playing surfaces.

Independent schools were either advised by way of an individual meeting or through correspondence. These schools were given the same feedback handout as provided to the public schools.

As part of the information dissemination process, the referees and umpires associations of the sporting codes will be provided a copy of the draft Sportsground Management Strategy for comment.

Consultation Results

Following the consultation process the results were collated and formalised into tables to provide indications as to ground usage reduction priorities for both sporting groups and school groups.

Sporting groups feedback

Responses were received from the following clubs/ associations:-

AFL

Black Diamond AFL

Baseball

Mingara Rebels Baseball Club

Central Coast Baseball Association

Cricket

Mountains Kariong Cricket Club

Gosford Cricket Club

Umina Cricket Club

Narara Wyoming Cricket Club

Wyong District Cricket Club

The Entrance District Cricket Club

Lisarow Ourimbah Cricket Club

Rugby League

The Entrance Junior RLFC

Toukley Senior RLFC

Budgewoi Buff Point RLFC

Budgewoi Buff Point Junior RLFC

Umina RLFC

Rugby Union

Central Coast Rugby Union

Woy Woy Rugby Club

Avoca Beach Rugby Club

The Entrance Rugby Club

Soccer

Northern NSW Christian Soccer Association

Touch / Oztag

Peninsula Junior Touch Association

Central Coast Dolphins Touch Association

Dog Obedience

Central Coast Dog Obedience Club

Athletics

Gosford Little Athletics Club

(NB Clubs / Associations that do not utilise grass surfaces were not involved in the process such as Netball and Hockey)

(Attachment 7 - Sporting groups summary table)

Although there was a large variety of sports that provided feedback, the replies received did not provide a true representation of the sports utilising Council's playing fields (e.g. more Senior Club responses than Junior Clubs, one soccer club out of 25 clubs on the Central Coast, responses from some codes were predominantly from one Council Local Government Area etc)

As adequate notice of the return dates and reminder calls / e-mails were given further responses were not followed up after the feedback closure date.

The feedback received indicated the following options as the list of priorities for reduction in sportsground usage to increase the longevity of playing field surfaces. Priorities are ranked from the most preferred strategy to the least preferred strategy.

1. Relocation of training from deteriorating fields to fields that can cope or with alternate water sources
2. Cancellation of Out of Season competitions
3. No pre season training on sportsgrounds
4. Relocation of training to open / passive areas, alternate training venues (indoor centres, school grounds, beaches etc)
4. Reduction of training nights on grounds
5. Cancellation of training on fields most affected
6. Review duration of season to increase recovery / renovation time
7. Closure of fields for Junior Competition once conditions have deteriorated (in consultation with Risk Manager)
8. Closure of fields for Senior Competition once conditions have deteriorated (in consultation with Risk Manager)

At the feedback meeting held on 17 August 2006, a draft list of priorities was presented to the meeting from responses that had already been received by Council/s with the results as below:-

1. Cancellation of out of season competitions
2. No pre season training
3. Relocation of training to open / passive areas, alternate training venues (indoor centres, school grounds, beaches etc)
4. Relocation of training from deteriorating fields to fields that can cope or with alternate water sources
5. Reduction of training nights on grounds
6. Review duration of season to increase recovery / renovation time
7. Cancellation of training on fields most affected
8. Closure of fields for Junior Competition once conditions have deteriorated (in consultation with Risk Manager)
9. Closure of fields for Senior Competition once conditions have deteriorated (in consultation with Risk Manager)

These priorities were discussed with the members present. Consensus was reached that due to factors such as the alarming rates of childhood obesity and the lack of opportunity for incidental or unstructured sport for children, that priorities number 8 (eight) and 9 (nine) should be swapped to initiate the cancellation of senior competition sports before those of junior sporting competitions. With this change made, the meeting agreed in principle on the list of priorities presented.

Council Officers from both Wyong and Gosford Councils determined a list of their priorities based on research of strategies implemented by other Councils under Level 3 Water restrictions or greater, historical experience in managing sportsground usage and playing surface management principles. The following is the joint Council list of priorities for reduction in sportsground usage from sporting clubs / associations to increase the longevity of playing field surfaces:-

1. Cancellation out of season competitions
2. No pre season training on sportsgrounds
3. Reduction of training nights on grounds
4. Review duration of season to increase recovery time / renovation time
5. Relocation of training to open / passive areas, alternate training venues (indoor centres, school grounds, beaches etc)
6. Relocation of training from deteriorating fields to fields that can cope or with alternate water sources
7. Cancellation of training on fields most affected
8. Closure of fields for Senior Competition once conditions have deteriorated (in consultation with Risk Manager)
9. Closure of fields for Junior Competition once conditions have deteriorated (in consultation with Risk Manager)

As evidenced from the results above, there is significant difference between the three lists of priorities. Following an analysis of the three lists and averaging out the results, the following list of priorities was developed which could then be used as a reasonable indication for a list of priority strategies:-

1. Cancellation out of season competitions
2. No pre season training on sportsgrounds
3. Relocation of training to open / passive areas, alternate training venues (indoor centres, school grounds, beaches etc)
4. Reduction of training nights on grounds
5. Relocation of training from deteriorating fields to fields that can cope or with alternate water sources
6. Review duration of season to increase recovery time / renovation time
7. Cancellation of training on fields most affected
8. Closure of fields for Senior Competition once conditions have deteriorated (in consultation with Risk Manager)
9. Closure of fields for Junior Competition once conditions have deteriorated (in consultation with Risk Manager)

Additional comments were provided by the clubs and associations regarding issues such as reviewing grass mow lengths, providing maintenance information to the clubs and other turf preservation strategies. These initiatives have been considered when producing the Sportsground Management Strategy.

School feedback

Feedback was received from the following schools:-

Gosford LGA

Avoca Beach PS
Brisbania PS
Brisbane Water Secondary College –
Umina Campus
CC Adventist
Empire Bay PS
Erina HS
Gosford PS
Kincumber PS
Lisarow PS
Niagara Park PS
Point Clare PS
Terrigal HS
Umina PS
Woy Woy South PS
Wyoming PS

Wyang LGA

Berkley Vale Campus – TLSC
Brooke Avenue PS
Budgewoi PS
Gwandalan PS
Jilliby PS
Kanwal PS
Northlakes HS
Ourimbah PS
The Entrance PS
Touckley PS
Tuggerah PS
Wadalba PS
Warnervale PS
Wyang Creek PS
Wyang HS
Wyang Grove PS

The rankings provided by these schools gave the following priority order for reduction strategies:-

1. Continue to pursue “Community Use and Development” of school facilities on the Central Coast
2. Relocation of activities to open / passive areas, alternate training venues (indoor centres)
3. Reduction of Gala Days
4. Reduction of inter school competitions
5. Reduction of use for weekly school sport
6. Closure of sportsgrounds during school hours

(Attachment 8 - Schools summary table)

Implementation Strategy

In order to effectively assess field conditions WSC and GCC officers created a Sportsground Evaluation Sheet (Attachment 9). The sheet is to be utilised by Council's sportsground maintenance staff as an unambiguous assessment tool for evaluation against specific triggers points for the introduction of identified reduction strategies.

The Sportsground Evaluation Sheet utilises four fundamental criteria for determining the suitability of the playing surface. The key criteria are hardness, turf cover, instability and unevenness.

In order to provide a quantitative measurement, WSC and GCC have purchased a Clegg Hammer which is a device developed specifically for the purpose of determining the suitability of sportsground playing surfaces in respect to ground hardness. The Clegg Hammer has been utilised by Goulburn City Council, Queensland AFL (in conjunction with the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries) and a number of Victorian LGA's for determining ground suitability in light of water restrictions. This assessment has the approval of NSW Statewide Mutual.

Grounds will be monitored on a weekly basis with an assessment, using the Sportsground Evaluation Sheet, completed on a minimum of a fortnightly basis.

Ongoing consultation will occur according to the User Group Communication Strategy (outlined on page 18) with the Sporting Associations, Schools and casual users to advise of the decline in field conditions and activation of trigger points for reduction strategies.

Prior to the commencement of each season Council will provide to each Association and club the information sheet "Reducing Wear and Maintaining Playing Fields". This information sheet provides the clubs and associations suggestions for initiatives to increase the longevity of their playing field surface.

In addition, a list of identified suitable alternate training venues within Council's passive reserves and approved activities for these facilities will be provided so that these areas can be booked by clubs if required.

To ensure the effectiveness of any alternate water supplies and any future access to town water supplies, WSC and GCC will be applying for grant funding to undertake an extensive audit on all of their sportsground irrigation systems. This audit will provide information on irrigation deficiencies and areas where improved system performance could be implemented.

Maintenance levels of the sportsgrounds will be required to be assessed on a weekly basis according to the standard of each field. The mow length of sportsground across the Central Coast will be altered during Level 3 water restrictions and beyond. The amended lengths will be:-

- Summer Season - 30mm
- Winter Season - 50mm

The change of the mow lengths is to ensure the grass coverage is sustainable during the heat of summer and for the duration of the winter season. These lengths have been assessed by the Central Coast sporting associations and deemed acceptable by each code and acceptable in terms of player safety.

As part of the Sportsground Management Strategy WSC and GCC have investigated and are in the process of implementing the following water saving / alternative sources across Council sportsgrounds. The list of investigations for Wyong Shire Council and Gosford City Council are as follows:-

WYONG SHIRE COUNCIL

LOCATION	Existing Allocation winter (summer)	Comments
ADELAIDE ST OVAL	AFL, Oztag (Baseball)	Infrastructure improvements could increase capacity.
BAKER PARK	Football, Rugby League - training only (Cricket)	Proposed alternate water supply will increase cap. Oct 06
BATEAU BAY AFL / SOFTBALL	AFL, Oztag, (Softball)	Bateau Bay Stage 2 not available until 2008/2009
BLUE HAVEN OVAL	Football (Softball - training only)	Proposed alternate water supply will increase cap. Oct 06
BUFF POINT OVAL	Snr Rugby League	No infrastructure on field, will prevent additional use.
CHITTAWAY OVAL	Football	Additional use will require upgrade to field. Apr. 07
DARREN KENNEDY	Rugby League, (Cricket)	Additional use for training will require lighting upgrade to enable use of whole space for train.
DON SMALL OVAL (Tacoma Oval)	AFL, (Cricket)	Alternate water supply not available
EASTERN RD OVAL - TOP	Football - training only (Kanga Cricket)	Small space enables training only.
EASTERN RD OVAL - BOTTOM	Jnr AFL (Cricket)	Proposed alternate water supply will increase cap. Apr 07

LOCATION	Existing Allocation winter (summer)	Comments
EDSACC NTH OVAL	Football (Cricket, Soccer)	Fully developed
EDSACC STH OVAL	Rugby League (Cricket, Touch Football, Oztag,)	Additional use for training will require lighting upgrade to enable use of whole space.
HALEKULANI OVAL	Jnr Rugby League (Cricket)	Proposed alternate water supply will increase cap. Dec. 06
HARRY MOORE OAM OVAL NO. 1 -3	Football (Cricket)	No 3 oval will require field upgrade to enable additional winter use Apr 07.
LOCATION	Existing Allocation winter (summer)	Comments
JOSEPH BANKS OVAL	Rugby Union (Kanga Cricket)	Proposed alternate water supply will increase cap. Oct 07.
JUBILEE OVAL		Unavailable until 2007/2008 season.
KANWAL OVAL	Football (Cricket)	Proposed alternate water supply will increase cap. Dec. 06
KILLARNEY VALE ATHLETICS	Football	Infrastructure improvements could increase cap. Apr. 07
KURRABA OVAL NO.1	Football (Cricket)	Proposed alternate water supply will increase cap. Oct. 06
LAKE HAVEN OVAL	Churches Soccer (Cricket)	Proposed alternate water supply will increase cap. Apr. 07
MANNERING PARK OVAL	(Cricket)	Need to i.d. alternative water source

LOCATION	Existing Allocation winter (summer)	Comments
JOSEPH BANKS OVAL	Rugby Union (Kanga Cricket)	Proposed alternate water supply will increase cap. Oct 07.
JUBILEE OVAL		Unavailable until 2007/2008 season.
KANWAL OVAL	Football (Cricket)	Proposed alternate water supply will increase cap. Dec. 06
KILLARNEY VALE ATHLETICS	Football	Infrastructure improvements could increase cap. Apr. 07
KURRABA OVAL NO.1	Football (Cricket)	Proposed alternate water supply will increase cap. Oct. 06
LAKE HAVEN OVAL	Churches Soccer (Cricket)	Proposed alternate water supply will increase cap. Apr. 07
MANNERING PARK OVAL	(Cricket)	Need to i.d. alternative water source
NORAH HEAD HOCKEY		Will require alternate water supply .
NORTH LAKES OVAL	AFL (Cricket)	Infrastructure improvements could increase cap.
OURIMBAH SOCCER	Football	Infrastructure improvements could increase cap.

LOCATION	Existing Allocation winter (summer)	Comments
PAT MORLEY OVAL	Football (Cricket)	Bateau Bay Stage 2 will increase capacity in 2008/09
SLADE PARK	Rugby Union	Infrastructure improvements could increase cap.
SOHIER PARK NO. 1-2	Rugby League (Cricket)	Fully developed
SOHIER PARK NO. 3	Rugby League - training only (Kanga Cricket)	Will require upgrade to increase capacity.
TAYLOR PARK	Football - training only (Cricket)	Will require alternate water supply.
TUGGERAH OVAL NO.1	Softball - training only (Softball)	Short term availability only.
TUNKUWALLIN OVAL	Football (Cricket)	Proposed alternate water supply will increase cap. Apr. 07
WADALBA OVAL (high school)	Football	At capacity owing to school use. Roofwater harvest with DET
WADALBA OVAL (Stage 2)	Football	Not available until 2008/09
WARNERVALE ATHLETICS	Rugby Union (Athletics)	Fully developed. Need to i.d. alternative water supply
WATANOBBI OVAL No.1 + 2	Baseball (Baseball)	No 1 fully developed No 2 infrastructure improvements will increase capacity

GOSFORD CITY COUNCIL

LOCATION	Existing Allocation winter (summer)	Comments
ADCOCK MEMORIAL PARK	AFL, Touch Football, Athletics, Netball., Baseball (Touch Football, Cricket, Netball, Athletics, Baseball)	Combination of water tanks, and possible storm water harvesting.
ALAN DAVIDSON OVAL	Soccer (Cricket)	Possible Bore water site
AUSTIN BUTLER MEMORIAL OVAL	Soccer (Cricket)	Bore installed
BRENDAN FRANKLIN OVAL	Rugby League (Touch Football)	Licence Agreement - self managed
CARRINGTON / PANDALA OVAL	Rugby League, Rugby Union (Cricket)	Bore installed
DAVISTOWN OVAL	(Cricket)	No alternate source identified - not high priority
DUFFYS RESERVE	Rugby League, Soccer (Cricket, Athletics)	Bore identified, rainwater tanks to be installed
ERINA OVAL	Rugby League (Cricket)	Potential bore identified, rainwater tanks installed
ETTALONG OVAL	Rugby Union (Cricket)	Spear point in use

LOCATION	Existing Allocation winter (summer)	Comments
EVE WILLIAMS OVAL	(Cricket)	Alternate water not id. Not high priority
LOCATION	Existing Allocation winter (summer)	Comments
FAGAN PARK	Soccer (Cricket)	Possible bore site. Rainwater tanks to be installed
FRED PINKSTONE OVAL	(Cricket)	No irrigation in place
FROST RESERVE	Soccer, Rugby League (Cricket)	Rainwater tanks installed. Future use of recycled effluent available
GAVENLOCK OVAL	Soccer (Cricket)	Bore identified - negotiations for use as potable water supply. Rainwater tanks installed
GRAHAME PARK	Rugby League, Soccer, Rugby Union (year round)	Rainwater tanks installed, bore water filtration plant onsite for filling site
HEAZLETT PARK	Rugby Union (Cricket)	Rainwater tank installed
HYLTON MOORE PARK	Soccer, AFL, Baseball (Baseball, Cricket)	Combination of rainwater tanks. Possible storm water harvesting or bore
JAMES BROWNE OVAL	Soccer (Cricket)	Spear Point in use
KITCHENER PARK		No irrigation in place
KARIONG RECREATION AREA	Rugby Union, Rugby League, Soccer (Cricket)	Bore identified

LOCATION	Existing Allocation winter (summer)	Comments
LEAGUES CLUB FIELD	Rugby League	Bore water irrigation from Grahame Park
LEMON GROVE PARK	Netball	N/A
MOUNTAINS DISTRICT SPORTS ASSOCIATION	Soccer (Cricket)	Dam water currently in use
MCEVOY OVAL	Rugby League, Touch football (cricket, Touch Football, Athletics)	Spear point in use
OZANAM RECREATION FACILITY		On line Winter 2007 - dam water and tank water - future use of recycled effluent
PADDY CLIFTON OVAL	AFL (cricket)	Bore identified - negotiations for use as potable water supply
PATRICK CROKE OVAL	Soccer, Dog Obedience (Dog Obedience, Cricket)	Bore and rainwater tanks
PAUL OVAL	Baseball (Cricket)	Rainwater tank installed for baseball diamond irrigation
ROGERS PARK	Rugby Union, Rugby League, AFL (Touch Football, Cricket)	Bore in use

LOCATION	Existing Allocation winter (summer)	Comments
SARATOGA OVAL	AFL (Cricket)	no irrigation in place
TERRIGAL HAVEN	Rugby Union, (Cricket)	Rainwater tanks to be installed
TERRY OVAL	Rugby Union (Cricket)	No alternate water identified
UMINA OVAL	Rugby League, Soccer (Cricket)	Bore water in use
VICTORIA PARK	(Cricket)	No irrigation used
WOY WOY OVAL	Rugby Union, Rugby League	Spear point in use

Sporting groups strategy

Legend

Cleggs = Clegg hammer rating

GC = Grass coverage (% per m2)

S = Stability (Rating 0 - 3) [greater than 1-2 intervention works required]

E = Evenness (Rating 0 - 3) [greater than 1-2 intervention works required]

Reduction Strategy	Trigger Points
1. Cancellation out of season competitions	- Level 3 Water restrictions & / or - Cleggs = 15 - GC = less than 80% - S = 0 - 1 - E = 0 - 1
2. No pre season training on sportsgrounds	- Level 3 Water restrictions & / or - Cleggs = 15 - GC = less than 80% - S = 0 - 1 - E = 0 - 1
3. Relocation of training to open / passive areas, alternate training venues (indoor centres, school grounds, beaches etc) (Includes removal of goal post weekly by code or provide goal posts in different location)	- Level 4 Water restrictions & / or - Cleggs = 15 - GC = less than 80% - S = 1 - 2 - E = 1 - 2
4. Reduction of training nights on grounds (Includes removal of goal post weekly by code or provide goal posts in different location)	- Level 4 Water restrictions & / or - Cleggs = 15 - GC = less than 80% - S = 1 - 2 - E = 1 - 2
5. Relocation of training from deteriorating fields to fields that can cope or with alternate water sources	- Level 4 Water restrictions & / or - Cleggs = 15 - GC = less than 80% - S = 1 - 2 - E = 1 - 2 -Refer to handout
6. Review duration of season to increase recovery time / renovation time	- Level 4 Water restrictions & / or - Cleggs = 15 - GC = less than 70%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - S = 1 - 2 - E = 1 - 2
7. Cancellation of training on fields most affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level 4 Water restrictions & / or - Cleggs = 15 - GC = less than 70% - S = 2 - E = 2
8. Closure of fields for Senior Competition once conditions have deteriorated (in consultation with Risk Manager)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level 5 Water restrictions & / or - Cleggs = 20 - GC = less than 60% - S = 2 - 3 - E = 2 - 3
9. Closure of fields for Junior Competition once conditions have deteriorated (in consultation with Risk Manager)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level 5 Water restrictions & / or - Cleggs = 20 - GC = less than 60% - S = 2 - 3 - E = 2 - 3

School usage strategy

Reduction Strategy	Trigger Points
1. Continue to pursue “Community Use and Development” of school facilities on the Central Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level 3 Water restrictions & / or - Cleggs = 15 - GC = less than 80% - S = 0 - 1 - E = 0 - 1
2. Relocation of activities to open / passive areas, alternate training venues (indoor centres)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level 3 Water restrictions & / or - Cleggs = 15 - GC = less than 80% - S = 0 - 1 - E = 0 - 1
3. Reduction of Gala Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level 4 Water restrictions & / or - Cleggs = 15 - GC = less than 70% - S = 2 - E = 2
4. Reduction of inter school competitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level 4 Water restrictions & / or - Cleggs = 15

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GC = less than 70% - S = 2 - E = 2
5. Reduction of use for weekly school sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Level 4 Water restrictions & / or - Cleggs = 15 - GC = less than 70% - S = 2 - E = 2
6. Closure of sportsgrounds during school hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - - Level 5 Water restrictions & / or - Cleggs = 20 - GC = less than 65% - S = 3 - E = 3

Review timeframe

If grounds are closed or restricted in usage due to a deteriorated playing surface, continual monitoring will be undertaken to assess improvement in the facility. If fields do not deteriorate or become closed, monitoring will still be undertaken.

Intervention works, if required, will be staged to minimise user disruption. If intervention works are not possible the field may move to the next reduction strategy or trigger point.

User Group Communications Strategy

ACTIVITY	DETAILS	NOTIFICATION	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY
Long Term Ground Closure due to dangerous playing field	sporting groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - e-mail to Association - phone call to association / club directly affected - posted on Council website - WSC ground closure hotline - Ground closed signs erected - Media release 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assess alternate venue options - assess shared competition ground options - amended season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreation - Communications Unit/s
	schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - phone call to school/s - posted on Council website - WSC ground closure hotline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assess alternate venue options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreation
	casual hirers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - phone call to confirmed booking coordinators - posted on Council website - WSC ground closure hotline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assess alternate venue options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreation
	general public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - posted on Council website - WSC ground closure hotline - Media release / Council news - Ground closed signs erected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreation - Communications Unit/s
Ground usage	Sporting groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - blanket e-mail to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assess alternate venue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreation

reduction		Association / codes	options	
	Schools	- phone call to school/s	- assess alternate venue options	
Relocation of training	Sporting groups	- blanket e-mail to Association / codes	- assess alternate venue options	- Recreation - Sports Association
Availability of alternate water sources	All user groups	- update through Media release / Council news - update correspondence to Associations - updates at Sports Council / Committee	- assess possible renovation options and suitability	- Recreation - Operations staff - Communications Unit
Re opened fields after long term closure	Sporting groups	- e-mail to Association - phone call to association / club directly affected - posted on Council website - WSC ground closure hotline - Ground open signs erected	- assess usage options	- Recreation
	Schools	- phone call to school/s - posted on Council website - WSC ground closure hotline	- assess usage options	- Recreation
	Casual Users and general public	- posted on Council website - WSC ground closure hotline - Media release / Council news - Ground open signs erected	- assess usage options	- Recreation - Communications Unit/s

Attachment One – Presentation to Sporting Clubs / Associations

Attachment Two – List of attendees Sporting Clubs / Associations meeting

Gosford LGA

NAME	CLUB / ASSOCIATION	NAME	CLUB / ASSOCIATION
Terry Sturgess	Avoca Rugby Union	Julian Mostert	Black Diamond AFL
Peter Clare	CC Baseball Assoc	Bill Lincoln	Central Coast Cricket Assoc
Fred Weierter	CC Dog Obedience	Brendan Taylor	CC Dolphins Touch Assoc
Michael Keech	CC Football Assoc (Soccer)	Mark Brown	CC Rugby Union
Illorna Simpson	Gosford City Soccer Club	Diane Dales	Gosford City Sports Council
Greg Mawson	Gosford City Sports Council	James Ryan	Gosford Cricket Club
David Brown	Gosford / Kariong JRLFC	Sam Negulic	Kincumber Junior Colts
Steve Fleming	Kincumber Soccer Club	Bill Johnston	Mountains / Kariong Cricket Club
Warren Charlton	Narara Cricket Club	Derek Leecroft	Niagara Park JAFL
Matt Campbell	NSW Christian Churches Soccer Assoc	Meryl Harris	Peninsula Junior Touch
Mark Kentwall	Saratoga JAFL / CC JAFL	David Sproule	Southern & Ettalong United Soccer Club
Owen Clark	Terrigal Rugby Union	Kate Galluzzo	Terrigal Soccer Club
Rob Ryan	Umina RLFC	Russell Clews	Umina Soccer Club
Geoff Staunton	Woy Woy JRLFC	Richard Smithers	Woy Woy RLFC
Ann-Maree Tonkin	Woy Woy Soccer Club	Warren Steep	Central Coast Junior Rugby
Steven Grahame	Wyoming Soccer Club	George O'Rourke	Terrigal Rugby Club
Andrew Mildren	Kariong Rugby Club	Neralie Baird	Peninsula Junior Touch
Stephen Glen	GCC	John Partridge	GCC
Phil Moore	GCC	Glen Howe	GCC
Karen Tucker	GCC	Kim Radford	GCC
Jodi Clark	GCC		

Wyong Shire Council

NAME	CLUB / ASSOCIATION	NAME	CLUB / ASSOCIATION
Gordon Eacott	CC Baseball Assoc	Craig Booth	Mingara Rebels Baseball Club
Pat Riley	CC Cricket Assoc	Paul Deaves	Ourimbah Lisarow Cricket Club
Ray Davis	The Entrance Cricket Club	Murray Hill	Wyong Cricket Club
Veronica Virtue	CC Softball Assoc	Phil Andrews	The Entrance JRLFC
Ian Granland	Black Diamond AFL / Killarney Vale AFC	Simon Wood	Wyong Lakes AFC / CC JAFL / Killarney Vale JAFL
Murray Nettheim	CC Football Assoc (Soccer)	Stephen Peachey	Berkley Vale Soccer Club
Trent Allen	Doyalson Wyee Soccer Club	Ray Northcote	Killarney District Soccer Club
John Metheringham	Ourimbah Uni Soccer Club	Craig Whitehead	The Entrance / Bateau Bay Soccer Club
Wes McQuillan	Budgewoi Buff Point RLFC	Sharon Ivers	CC Division Country Rugby League
Mark Syron	Central Wyong RLFC	Garry Launt	The Entrance RLFC
Phil Gearside	Toukley RLFC	Ian Clifford	Central Wyong JRLFC
Greg Hulme	CC Rugby Union	Carl Emerton	CCJ Rugby Union
Garry Gerkie	The Entrance Rugby Club	Bill Clark	Warnervale Rugby Club
Ian Rhodes	WSC	Keith Miller	WSC
David Cathers	WSC	Maureen Wilson	WSC
Stephen Prince	WSC		



Water Restrictions
Playing Field Management Strategy
Club / Association Feedback Form



Name: _____ Club: _____

Sportsground/s: _____

1. Please prioritise your clubs preference for reduction of ground usage to assist with alleviating grounds during drought conditions. (1 to 8 - 1 being most preferred and 8 being least preferred)

- Cancellation of out of season competitions
- Reduction of training nights on grounds
- Relocation of training from deteriorating fields to fields that cope or with alternate water sources
- Relocation of training to open/passive areas, alternate training venues (indoor centres, school grounds etc)
- Cancellation of training on fields most affected
- Closure of fields for Senior competition once conditions have deteriorated (in consultation with Risk Manager)
- Closure of fields for Junior competition once conditions have deteriorated (in consultation with Risk Manager)
- Review duration of season to increase recovery / renovation time
- No pre season training on sportsgrounds
- Other suggestions _____

2. Does your club have any alternative suggestions for alleviating grounds during drought conditions?

3. Does your club have any further comments?

Thankyou for your feedback.

Please return this form to your governing Association for collation
no later than the 14 August 2006

Wyong Shire Council and Gosford City Council

**Water Restrictions Meeting
with representatives from Sporting Associations**

**16 August 2006
Central Coast Leagues Club**

Notes / Minutes

Attendees

Murray Nettheim – Central Coast Football Association (CCFA - Soccer)
Warren Matthews – Gosford Little Athletics (GLA)
Sue Matthews – Gosford Little Athletics (GLA)
John Turnball – Central Coast Dolphins Touch (CCDT)
Phil Andrews – The Entrance JRLFC (EJRL)
Kay McVicker – Central Coast Division Junior Rugby League (CCDJRL)
Diane Dales – Gosford City Sports Council (GCSC)
Fred Weierner – Central Coast Dog Obedience Club (CCDO)
Garry Burkinshaw – Black Diamond AFL (BDAFL)
John Moriarty- Central Coast Cricket Association (CCCA)
Stephen Peachey – Central Coast Football Association (CCFA - Soccer)
Meryl Harris – Peninsula Junior Touch Association (PJTA)
Neralie Baird- Peninsula Junior Touch Association (PJTA)
Greig Hulme – Central Coast Rugby Union / NSW Rugby Union (CCRU)
Ian Rhodes – Manager Recreation and Open Space - Wyong Shire Council (WSC)
Kim Radford – Recreation Officer - Gosford City Council (GCC)
Karen Tucker – Coordinator Recreation Facilities - Gosford City Council (GCC)

Notes

Ian Rhodes welcomed and thanked the representatives for attending the meeting and advised the meeting was a follow up of the presentation made to the clubs and associations on the 2 August 2006. The aim of this meeting was to review the feedback from the clubs and associations regarding the reduction in ground use in light of Level 4 water restrictions which will ultimately assist in the sustainability of the Council playing fields as well as player safety.

The meeting was opened for discussion regarding the reduction strategies.

It was advised that the Joint Water Authority had met that day and had resolved for Level 4 water restrictions to come into effect from the 1st October 2006 should the current situation not have a dramatic change.

CCFA raised concerns that a further reduction in training or eradication of training would cause an increase in injuries on weekends as a result of no training.

GCC & WSC advised that in the short term a reduction would be more likely to be one training night per team on playing fields and then suggested for any additional nights alternate training venues be sought such as indoor centres, beaches, passive recreation areas.

Should the conditions of the field deteriorate to a level that requires further reduction it will be necessary to look at using alternate venues for all training in favour of saving ground utilisation for competition purposes.

EJRL suggested that Councils should review the mow length of fields during summer and turf management practices in consideration of preserving grounds which are receiving no water or alternate water sources. Also look at fields that do not get utilised in summer and continue to maintain a feasible grass length to assist in grass maintenance once the winter season begins.

GCC & WSC advised that turf management practices are being addressed in regards to water restrictions and preserving playing field surfaces.

GCC & WSC provided a summary of feedback received to date and priority listing according to that feedback. The list was as follows:-

1. Cancellation of out of season competitions
2. No pre season training
3. Relocation of training to open / passive areas, alternate training venues (indoor centres, school grounds, beaches etc)
4. Relocation of training from deteriorating fields to fields that can cope or with alternate water sources
5. Reduction of training nights on grounds
6. Review duration of season to increase recovery / renovation time
7. Cancellation of training on fields most affected
8. Closure of fields for Junior Competition once conditions have deteriorated (in consultation with Risk Manager)
9. Closure of fields for Senior Competition once conditions have deteriorated (in consultation with Risk Manager)

The list was discussed by the representatives. It was agreed that in considering the high incidence of childhood obesity within Australia and the decreased level of incidental exercise opportunities available for children, that the last 2 priorities would be swapped so that Senior competition is cancelled before Junior Competition.

With this amendment, the representatives agreed with the priority list in principal.

WSC and GCC advised of strategy implemented by other Council's whereby goal posts are removed for weekdays and reinstated for weekends to reduce wear and tear in goal mouths. This could be implemented through the sportsground management strategy to increase playing field longevity but would be done in an equitable manner across codes.

It was suggested that the Councils supply a hand out to give the clubs / association which gave suggestions for the reducing of wear and maintaining grass cover on their playing fields. In addition to supply suitable passive areas which could be used for alternate training venues during daylight hours.

WSC advised they have already produced a handout and are working on a list of passive areas. GCC and WSC will produce a joint handout with information and each Council will provide a list of alternate passive training venues before commencement of next winter season.

A further option for reduction of wear on playing fields was that no washed out games should be replayed and that associations should set contingencies in the event of wet weather games that does not include a replay of the match.

GCC advised they are currently undertaking renewal and or upgrade of ground open / closed signs to make them more distinguishable by user groups. It was suggested that the signs have a contact number for Council on them. GCC and WSC to investigate.

GCC and WSC advised that the feedback from this meeting will be used for the development of the Sportsground Management Strategy in reference to water restrictions. A draft copy to be presented to the clubs / associations by the 30 September 2006.

The document will also be presented to both WSC and GCC Council Meetings for their information and resolution.

GCC and WSC thanked the representatives for their attendance, feedback and support of this process.

Meeting concluded.

Attachment Five – School presentation



Attachment Six
 Water Restrictions
 Playing Field Management Strategy



School Feedback Form

Name: _____

School: _____

Sportsground/s: _____

1. Please prioritise your schools preference for reduction of ground usage to assist with alleviating grounds during drought conditions. (1 to 7 - 1 being most preferred and 7 being least preferred)

- Relocation of activities to open/passive areas, alternate training venues (indoor centres etc)
- Reduction of Inter-school competitions
- Reduction of gala days
- Reduction of use for weekly school sport
- Continue to pursue "Community Use and Development of school facilities on the Central Coast
- Closure of sportsgrounds during school hours
- Other Suggestions

2. Does your school have any alternative suggestions for alleviating grounds during drought conditions?

3. Does your school have any further comments?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

Please return this form to your local Council by September 18 2006

Wyong Shire Council PO Box 20 WYONG NSW 2259 Fax: 4351 2098	Gosford City Council PO Box 21 GOSFORD NSW 2250 Fax: 4365 4031
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Note: It may be necessary to use a combination of strategies

AttachmentSeven – Sporting Groups Feedback Summary Table

Code	Cancel Out of Season Comp	Reduce Training	Relocate training to good fields	Relocate training to passive area	Cancel Training	Closure to Snr comp	Closure to Jnr comp	Review duration	No pre season
AFL	1	5	3	4	6	9	8	7	2
Baseball	9	4	2	3	1	7	8	5	6
Cricket	3	2	2	3	1	5	6	1	4
Dog training		3	6	5	4	7	8	2	1
Rugby League	3	4	2	1	2	6	7	3	5
Rugby Union	1	4	2	3	5	7	6	8	3
Soccer	2	1		7	6	8	4	5	3
Touch / Oztag	2	5	3	2	4	7	8	6	1
Average	2.625	3.5	2.5	3.5	3.625	7	6.8	4.25	3.125
RANKING	2	4	1	4	5	8	7	6	3

NB – Feedback also provided by Athletics but with no rankings

Sporting Group Comments:-

- Responsibility for Turf Management / maintenance with the home club
- Guidelines provided by Council for clubs on how to best maintain their own grounds
- Use car parks for training in adverse conditions (dog training)
- Use of stormwater is essential
- Train with joggers only
- One night only training
- Council close fields
- Use suitable grass types and install sub soil drainage systems

Attachment Eight – School Feedback Summary

School	Relocate to passive area	Reduce Inter School Comp	Reduce Gala Days	Reduce Weekly Sport	Continue to Pursue DET	Closure during School Hours
GCC						
Avoca Beach	3	4	1	5	7	6
Brisbania	1	3	2	4	5	6
Empire Bay	3	5	4	2	7	6
Erina Heights	2	5	3	4	1	6
Erina High	1	5	4	3	2	6
Gosford	6	4	3	5	2	7
Kincumber	1	5	4	6	3	7
Niagara Park	5	2	1	3	4	6
Point Clare	4	2	3	5	1	6
Terrigal HS	2	4	5	6	1	7
Umina	3	4	5	6	1	7
Woy Woy South	5	2	1	3	4	7
WSC						
Berkeley Vale Campus - TLSC	5	4	3	7	1	6
Brooke Avenue	2	4	5	6	3	7
Budgewoi	6	4	2	3	1	5
Jilliby	1	6	3	4	2	7
Kanwal	5	3	1	4	1	7
Killarney Vale	4	5	2	3	1	6
Northlakes High	1	3	2	5	4	6
The Entrance	2	5	3	4	1	6
Toukley	3	4	5	6	2	7
Wadalba	3	6	5	4	2	7
Warnervale	3	4	1	7	2	6

Wyong High	3	2	1	5	7	6
Average	2.48	3.33	2.61	3.82	2.39	5.09
RANKING	2	5	3	6	1	7

NB: Feedback also provided by CC Adventist, Lisarow PS, Umina Campus – BWSC, Wyoming PS, Gwandalan PS, Ourimbah PS, Tuggerah PS, Wyong Creek PS, Wyong Grove PS **but with rankings incomplete**

Comments:-

- Use restricted areas
- Rotate areas
- Improve grounds through maintenance
- Alternate water supply,
- limit field sport options,
- reduce weekend seasons
- Limit Senior weekend sport
- Share usage evenly
- Monitor community access
- Council to fund maintenance on school grounds
- Council to fund alternate water supply to school grounds
- Sporting groups to use school grounds (DET)
- Install tanks
- Develop new ovals
- Schools to access Community Water Grant
- Reduce weekend sports training usage
- Reduce weekend sports usage



SPORTSFIELD EVALUATION

Date: _____ **Assessor:** _____

Field Name: _____ **Number:** _____

Turf Type: _____

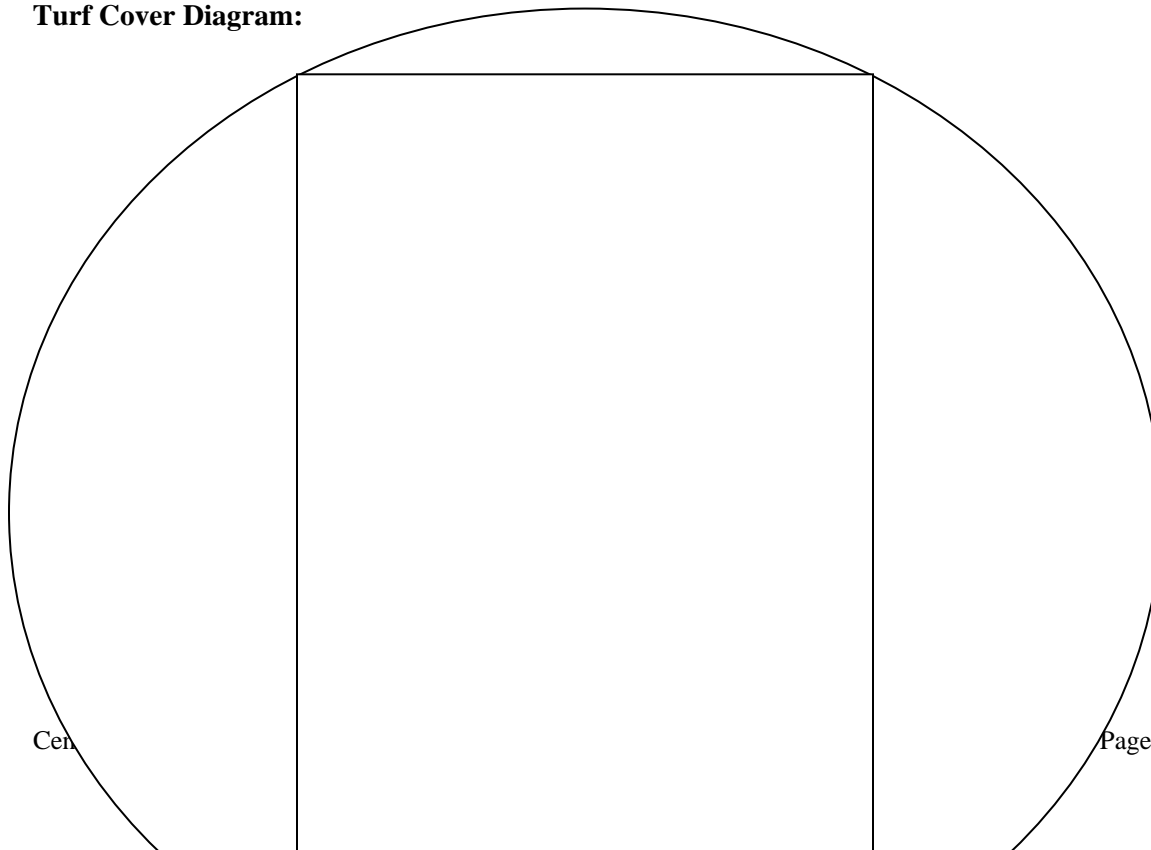
Soil Type: _____

Subsoil Drainage: YES / NO

Observed Effectiveness: Good / Poor

Turf Colour: Deep Green Mid Green Pale Green Yellowing

Turf Cover Diagram:



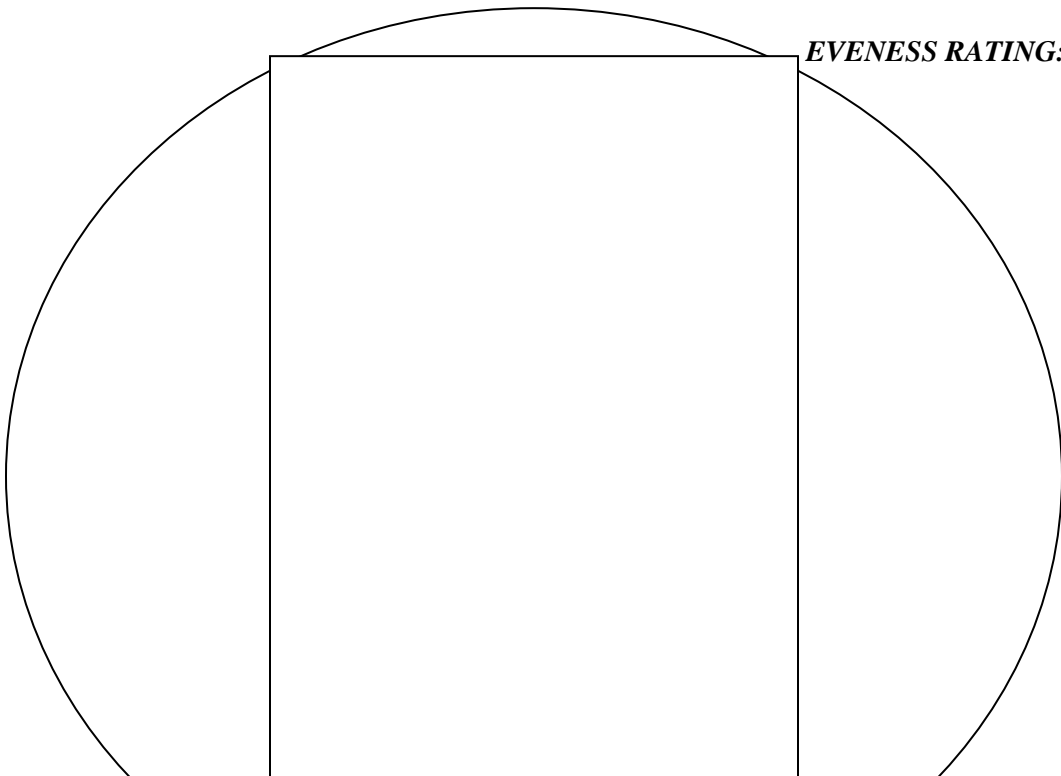
Weed Impacts _____
(% of total cover)

CLEGG RATING : _____

Weed Species _____ **TURF COVER RATING:** _____

Surface Irregularities / Damage Diagram:

EVENESS RATING: _____



STABILITY RATING: _____

Irrigation: Yes / No

Water Source: _____

Coverage: _____

Application Rate: _____

Schedule: _____

(at time of inspection)

Other impacts upon playing surface: _____

General comments on playing field: _____

Recommendations: _____
