

Tiaro - Sports, Recreation and Social Needs Analysis and Development Plan

Project Outline

Within the last eight years there has been both a substantial increase in the Tiaro Shire's population together with a considerable change in its composition. These changes have occurred in different localities within the Shire. Tiaro Shire is a very large Shire with a land area of 2,196 square kilometres. The population is nearing 5000 and is decentralised. There are 12 communities within the Shire ranging in size from 50 to 750 residents. Because the communities are scattered throughout the Shire there is little to no community cohesiveness. The Shire is a rural area experiencing income stagnation and above average unemployment.

In order to address the current and future social needs of these various local communities and more importantly guide the resourcing, establishment and future management of these social and community services and facilities Council felt that it was essential to develop a user friendly planning tool and in April 2003 commissioned Amarna Pty Ltd and Leisure Futures to undertake a Sports and Recreation Facility Needs Analysis their brief reads Sport and Recreation Facility/Planning and Social Plan Study. This innovative and integrated study process was seen as an opportunity to further develop the links for community and social capital building through the recognition of sports and recreation as one of the contributing factor in community wellbeing and development.

Survey

No study can be conducted without first sourcing tangible data and information. In compiling information and data for this study we initiated and utilised the following tools and data sources:

- Fifty individual interviews took place on the 4th – 5th June. Interviews were conducted in Tiaro, Bauple, Glenwood, Gunalda, Gundiah and Curra;
- A total of 75 recreation diaries were distributed to grade 5-6 students at Bauple, Glenwood, Gunalda, Tiaro and Theebine state primary schools;
- A total of 50 organisational surveys were distributed to sporting and community organisations;
- Two community case studies; and
- Australian Bureau of Statistics census 2001 and time series and general data that focused on Tiaro Shire the Wide Bay and Queensland.

To assist strategic decision making about the best way forward, a framework with six key elements was developed for this study's delivery. More importantly, strategic decisions about the best way forward will be influenced by the paradigm or framework we use. In conducting this study we developed a framework with six key elements.

