

Nickol Bay Hockey Association Strategic and Community Plan Submission

CITY OF KARRATHA
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Nickol Bay Hockey Association

City of Karratha Strategic and Community Plan Submission

Please accept this submission from Nickol Bay Hockey Association to be assessed and implemented into the Strategic Community Plan.

We believe our submission aligns to the City of Karratha Strategic Plan in the following ways:

- Providing quality community facilities
- Providing a full range of city-standard facilities and community infrastructure
- Providing a collaborative approach to fund and operate facilities
- Empowering residents to enhance their health and wellbeing
- Providing programs and services
- Engaging with culturally diverse groups
- Providing social interaction

In Brief

- The past 5 years has seen a dramatic increase in the facilities available in the City of Karratha
- Nickol Bay Hockey Association (NBHA) is not one of the sporting clubs included in any previous facility upgrades
- For the NBHA to achieve its objective of having a complete pathway for hockey from Year 1 through to senior level competitions, there needs to be dedicated hockey fields; both grass and astro turf.
- The Australian Hockey teams – both men and women have just renewed a commitment to regularly visit the City of Karratha for their Indigenous Program and to support Nickol Bay Hockey Association.

Future facility needs

- At least one Astro turf hockey field constructed to an international standard
- Another Astro turf field suitably constructed to Australian standards for club games, junior and senior training and Hockey carnivals and tournaments.
- Grass fields suitably constructed as above
- Fields marked lengthways for standard senior games and several smaller junior fields across the other way.
- Extensive shade provision for players and spectators
- Lights for night competitions
- Club change rooms
- Club function rooms
- Club store rooms

Current gaps in facility provision and services

- No dedicated hockey facilities: fields or clubrooms, exist in the Pilbara region
- The local primary schools run an interschool sport competition in which hockey features every second year, due to increased popularity, this is now annually. We need fields to support this.
- Storage options are limited
- Lack of shade and clubhouse facilities
- No current intermediate competition

Rationalising current facilities

- Astro turf fields are now a standard across the hockey industry, rarely do players utilise grass fields
- The lack of a dedicated astro turf in the region denies opportunities for talented junior players to develop their game and fulfil their ability. Due to our remote location, players are forced to move to Perth if they want to pursue a hockey career.
- There are opportunities to utilise the fields for multiuse to maximise the benefits to the City of Karratha community.

Three Stage Planning

1. Installation of a retractable net on Bulgarra Tennis Courts to simulate a more realistic game
 - Currently in process Cost Approx \$ 20,000
2. Resurfacing of the Eastern Bulgarra Tennis Courts and Basketball courts to astro turf with specific hockey line marking.
 - Grant funding applications submitted by NBHA Cost Approx \$ 165,000
3. Installation of a full size astro-turf field Cost Approx \$1,500,000.

Barriers

- Cost of building in the Pilbara, approximately 55% Pilbara loading for infrastructure due to the high cost of freight, materials, labour and worker accommodation.
- Management of assets particularly maintenance
- Increased fees to clubs to sustain maintenance and pay for infrastructure

Nickol Bay Hockey Association

History of the Club

Nickol Bay Hockey Association, (NBHA) is an incorporated association based in Karratha, Western Australia. The NBHA's objective is to provide a quality environment for hockey participation in the Shire of Roebourne and allows participants of all ages and abilities a chance to play. The NBHA currently operates mixed social junior and senior competitions and is working towards providing a complete pathway for hockey players from year 1 to senior level competitions.

Nickol Bay Hockey Association will has been playing hockey in the Pilbara for 32 years with the anniversary of the clubs incorporation in March.

A Hockey Fiesta!

Nickol Bay Hockey Association joined with Hockey Australia and the Australian World Ranked No. 1 Men's Hockey team, 'The Kookaburras' and Hockey WA, to raise the profile of hockey within the City of Karratha and through their National Indigenous Program, use hockey as a tool to improve the academic and sporting climate of the community.



Members of the Australian World Ranked No #1 Men's Hockey Team
in Karratha April 2012
for Nickol Bay Hockey Association's Junior Enrolment Day.
Photo: Courtesy of Margaret Bertling

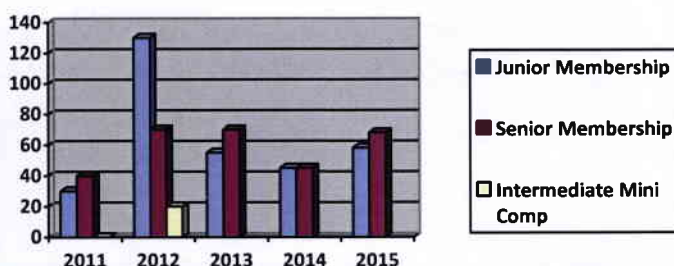
Hockey Australia has just renewed an additional five year commitment to the region, crossing over two Olympics, with not only the Australian Men's team, but The Australian Women's team as well. The Kookaburras have supported our club over the past 5 years, attending NBHA Junior registration day's where they engaged and mentored the young players, trained the senior club members and acted as mentors at our Junior Interschool Carnival. It would be an unforgettable experience for the Pilbara community to be able to watch the Kookaburra's showcase their skills and abilities and play on a full astro turf field here in Karratha.

The City of Karratha is currently the *only* place in Australia Hockey Australia run their indigenous program. This is a chance to support and promote a unique opportunity.

A Hockey Fiesta! (cont'd)

NBHA has worked hard on all aspects of the club from governance and compliance, sponsorships, increasing senior and junior memberships, providing training courses for players and coaches and run full day coaching clinics in the local junior and senior schools.

The club either hosts locally or travels to Port Hedland or Tom Price for the Annual North West Champs Hockey Carnival and travels annually to compete in the Country Week Competition in Perth. The club has hosted Interschool Junior Hockey Carnivals with five Kookaburra players, Hockey WA and Hockey Australia representatives in attendance. Carnivals involve six Karratha Primary Schools as well as two teams travelling from Wickham and two teams travelling from Roebourne for these events.



Note: 2012 was when we ran a marketing campaign for Juniors.
nickol.bay.hockey@gmail.com - PO Box 1576, Karratha, WA, 6714
www.nickolbayhockey.myclub.au

Limitations

Throughout NBHA's history, hockey has fluctuated in membership numbers from numerous teams on outdoor grass (and dirt) fields, to indoor hockey on parquet basketball courts to where we currently play over two tennis courts on the only astro turf in town which is less than half the size of a normal playing field.

So although existing here for 30 years there is no dedicated sports field for hockey and no dedicated club rooms or storage space.

The nature of the town of Karratha is a fluctuating and transient population, which means it is difficult to maintain membership numbers and permanent clubs let alone full teams within the association. Major construction projects with the developing industry and town construction ensure an influx of population that ebbs and flows as projects start and end.

The transition of local companies to FIFO (Fly In, Fly out) workers means player numbers vary in availability from week to week and the standard 12 hour shift often rules out playing altogether. We have adapted our membership to enable FIFO players to play casually or for the season.

We do believe a lack of facilities for hockey is a major deterrent to many players. We currently can only play with around 7 players on the field instead of 11 due to the field size. We have no goalie, reduced size goals and limit our game style for safety to pushing the ball only. We do hold monthly grass games to enable full teams and a full field. We have found most players prefer the astro turf to a grass surface.

Traditionally a winter sport, die hard players ignore the Pilbara heat where the temperature reaching the late 30's to early 40's is the norm often with oppressive humidity. We play a full year season (usually March to November). Shade structures and 'water facilities' are paramount to playing in these conditions.

Despite these limitations there has always been a core group of dedicated hockey players keeping the sport going in the region for 32 years.

Benefits to the Community

Hockey is a sport open to everyone; men and women, all ages, any cultural background, local or FIFO and of any ability which makes it a perfect sport for the individual or entire family and directly suited to the Shire of Roebourne community. Our casual membership provision allows the transient population to engage in a sport no matter their length of time living in the region.

Involvement from parents in hockey encourages the next generation to seek active choices. Hockey benefits individuals by promoting health, wellbeing and fitness and in turn, this exercise promotes mental well being.

Hockey at school can be utilized as a tool to improve the academic and sporting climate of the community.

Hockey encourages volunteering which creates community resilience and spirit.

Training and Development

The Association is committed to training and development programs with Hockey WA as our training provider. Many of our senior players and volunteers work to obtain their Working with children checks, Community Umpire and Community Coaching Certificates. We aim to involve as many members of our club as possible to assist and gain their accreditation, which in turn improves their own understanding and enjoyment of the game. Part of this training is working towards encompassing a train the trainer course to enable the NBHA to continue accreditation on its own.

The NBHA is also working towards continued coaching clinics in junior and senior schools to ensure the succession of new players, trainers, coaches and umpires and create a passion and a skill for life.

City of Karratha Benefits

The City of Karratha is the *only* place in Australia Hockey Australia run their National Indigenous Programme and has committed a presence for the next 5 years here. This is an opportunity to implement future infrastructure planning with a long term vision of supporting Hockey Australia's programme and harnessing a unique opportunity, raise the profile of the City of Karratha, Nickol Bay Hockey Association and promote its benefits to the community.

Please contact Alexander Walter or Annabelle Little for further information regarding Nickol Bay Hockey Association as detailed below.

The contact for Hockey Australia is Shane Tonkin and please feel free to contact him at any stage via email shane.tonkin@hockey.org.au or mobile 0408 902 334.

Kind Regards,



Alexander Walter

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