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Fig.1 - Proposed Location of Market Stalls, Williams Reserve



**LENNOX HEAD COMBINED SPORTS ASSOCIATION INC.**

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11 March 2013

M/s Jillian Pratten  
**Manager Open Spaces & Reserves**  
**Civil Services Group**  
Ballina Shire Council  
P.O. 450.  
Ballina NSW 2478

Dear Ms Pratten

**RE: PROPOSED RE-LOCATION OF COMMUNITY MARKET TO WILLIAMS RESERVE.**

The Lennox Head Combined Sports Association Incorporated (LHCSA) at our meeting of 26 March 2013 voted unanimously to strenuously object to the proposed permanent re-location of the "Lennox Community Market" to Williams Reserve.

In addition the Association wishes to express its deep concern in relation to how this matter was initially brought to its attention, as a late item at the B Ward Meeting on 18/3/2013, and not included on the original agenda. Given the complexity of the issue, the role in which the Association plays in the management of Williams Reserve and its ongoing relationship with Council it was felt that this process was totally unacceptable. The Association is keen to continue to develop a working relationship with Council and situations as described above we believe are not conducive to this arrangement.

For the benefit of Councillors, some of whom are new to Council and some who have not been involved with or lack the knowledge of the long term involvement of LHCSA with Williams Reserve, a summary is provided as an attachment to this letter. The Association would appreciate if this was made available to all Councillors.

The Association objections are:-

**1. EXISTING USE BY SPORTING CLUBS SHOULD HAVE PRIORITY OVER USE**  
***Council Notes B Ward Meeting***

*"The Lake Ainsworth Reserve often has multiple activities operating at the same time such as surf club activities and Holiday Park visitor's*

The District Competition Cricket, Junior Rugby League Carnivals and Rugby Union Finals (Rugby Union have booked the fields Sunday 28/4 for 3 games against the Southport School), Fishing Club weigh-ins are all held on this field on Sundays. Also the cricket nets cannot be used for training during markets.

We too have multiple activities operating on Market Days and a proposed move to relocate the markets should not impinge on the existing use of the fields.

Long-term involvement of sporting clubs on Williams Reserve:

- Golden Oldies Rugby Union since 1988
- Lennox Head Rugby Union since 1999
- Lennox Head Rugby League since 1986

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- Lennox Head Cricket since 1979
- Lennox Head Fishing Club since 1977

### 2. WET WEATHER CLOSURE

#### *Council Notes from B Ward Meeting:*

*"The permanent location would provide ongoing stability for the market without the need to relocate or cancel the market in bad weather, etc"*

As LHCSA has Council authority to close the field to sports, we insist that this capability also is maintained in relation to closing the fields on market days during wet weather. This is essential to prevent heavy pedestrian and vehicular traffic and subsequent compression of fields. (Refer separate letter from Cricket)

### 3. DAMAGE TO FIELD

Irrespective of LHCSA management of the Reserve, each affiliated club is required by Council to complete a "Seasonal Use of Sports Ground Sporting Club Booking Form" and provide a Certificate of Currency of Public Liability Insurance to Council.

*Part of those Conditions for use state: "Clubs may be accountable for damage done to sports grounds as a result of using fields during wet weather"*

Should the fields be damaged, one would assume that this would also apply to either the Lennox Community Markets or to the individual stallholders should they be identified.

We also submit that the "Not for use by occasional users or schools" wording for the subject Booking Form does not apply to the Lennox Community Market as the proposal is of a permanent nature. Therefore, each individual stallholder deemed to be a regular user would be obliged to make suitable application and provide Council with his or her Certificate of Currency of Public Liability Insurance.

### 4. PARKING OF VEHICLES ON THE FIELD

LHCSA and their affiliates have been cautioned many times by Council for leaving vehicles on and around the amenities block. We are advised that we may only drive onto Williams Reserve for the delivering and collection of goods. Following which all vehicles must be removed from Williams Reserve.

Our observation from the last market held on Williams Reserve clearly showed this is not being upheld by stallholders and associates with cars/trucks driving over all parts of the fields (including the main football field on which we have spent some \$1,150 fertilizing and maintaining over the past 2 years) leaving tyre marks and indents.

#### ***Lennox Community Markets Guidelines Lake Ainsworth.***

##### *2. Parking*

*a) Where possible Stallholders on large sites may be able to leave their vehicle on site at the discretion of the Manager and site conditions.*

*b) Stallholders on small sites must have cars removed by 8.00am.*

*d) Stallholders are required to park at least 2 blocks away from the market site while trading. Parking is at a premium and must be available for community/customer use.*

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### 5. PARKING OF VEHICLES AROUND CBD

#### Council Notes from B Ward Meeting:

*"There are more parking opportunities around the CBD although parking will still be under pressure. There may be an opportunity to utilise the school grounds for parking for stall holders and/or market visitors."*

Brian Lyndon of Lennox Head Public School advised our meeting that the school hall and parking is booked permanently each Sunday by The Point Church, Lennox Head, and therefore the school grounds would not be available for parking by stallholders or market attendees.

### 6. POWER USE AND POTENTIAL SIZE OF MARKETS.

All power to Williams Reserve is now supplied through the new Community Centre, including that for the floodlights and amenities block. LHCSA are responsible for the payments of the account and are concerned as to where power will be drawn for the number of stallholders requiring power.

*Current charges from "Conditions for Use" Annexure A are \$10 per lead.*

Given that the Easter Community Markets were advertising in excess of 120 stalls, we are concerned that with the size of the current market and possibility of future growth that "The stalls would be located in and around the centre, in the car park with an overflow of stalls onto the northern end of Williams Reserve when required"

### 7. PURPOSE

#### Council Notes to B Ward Meeting:

*"Council received feedback from the community that the markets were a success and suggestions that a permanent relocation to the Community Centre would benefit the market"*

LHCSA is a proud part of the Lennox Head Community, supporting local tradespeople and local businesses, and keeping our funds within Ballina Shire. It is in no way an enemy of the markets however the Association feels very strongly that alternate sites should be investigated.

In conclusion, LHSA as a recognised and acknowledged partner with Council in the management of Williams Reserve strongly objects to the proposed permanent re-location to our home ground, Williams Reserve. The Association also recommends that alternate sites be fully investigated prior to a final decision being made.

Yours sincerely

Greg Downes  
President

John Bungate  
Honorary Secretary

***Lennox Head Combined Sports Association represents the interests of over 2500 people, young and old:***

*Lennox Head Golden Oldies Rugby Club,  
Lennox Head Junior Rugby League Club  
Lennox Head Cricket Club  
Lennox Head Surf Life Saving Surf Club  
Ballina Police Touch Assoc.*

*Lennox Head Rugby Union Club,  
Lennox Head Fishing Club,  
Lennox Ballina Board riders (Le-Ba)  
Lennox Head Public School  
Lennox Long boarders, Lennox Residents Assoc.*

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### HISTORY

The Lennox Head Sport Association (LHCSA) was incorporated by the NSW Dept. of Fair Trading on 30 March, 1989.

Formerly known as the "Anglers Arms Fishing & Social Club" which was formed in 1977 as part of the Williams Reserve Sporting Complex Committee. At that time the Trustee of Williams Reserve was the former Tintenbar Shire Council. It's aims were the development of sporting facilities on the Reserve.

A number of members of that original group are still actively involved with LHCSA and have sound recall as to the machinations involved in the clearing of the then caravan park to create the fields you see today and the construction of facilities, particularly the amenities block.

Also providing donations to Council for further work to be completed on the field. In November 1981 a 'Back to the 30's Night' raised \$10,000 of which \$8,000 was given to Council with a further \$2,000 allocated to fencing Williams Reserve. LHCSA also installed a full pop up irrigation system to the field fed by spear point and holding tank. (Now defunct)

LHCSA represents paid up sporting affiliates and community groups who all use Williams Reserve (listed at the end of this letter) and who number some 2,500 local folk.

LHCSA is empowered by Ballina Shire Council to manage the bookings for not only Williams Reserve but also Megan Crescent Oval to ensure all sporting bodies get sufficient use on the facilities in a harmonious way.

LHCSA is also empowered by Council to open and close the field in inclement conditions. The field was closed last February to all sport from Friday evening to Sunday evening due to torrential rain to protect the fields (both north and south) from damage.

Our affiliated clubs also do their own fund raising to support local charities.

#### **Lennox Head Stags Golden Oldies**

\$52K donated to local sports bodies and charities including new motors for rescue craft Lennox Head Surf club and \$5K for their new kitchen. \$30K to help complete the covered viewing platform at Williams Reserve Amenities Block using local trades. Each year they conduct their annual Nash Bash to assist Julie Nash maintain her Lennox Head house since the loss of her husband Glenn.

#### **Lennox Head Rugby League Club**

\$20K grant secured – used on Amenities Block using local trades. Support local business by buying from local suppliers.

#### **Lennox Head Rugby Union Club**

\$65K grant secured – being used on construction new toilets and storage rooms Amenities Block with another \$30K cash and in kind being contributed. Local tradesmen used. \$7K donated to Ballina Breast Cancer Care, \$1.5K to Westpac Helicopter.

## ***Lennox Head Cricket Club [Inc]***

**Postal Address:** 52 Bayview Drive  
East Ballina, NSW 2478

**President:** Mark Duncan  
0411 339 499  
[duncanhorticulture@hotmail.com](mailto:duncanhorticulture@hotmail.com)

**Secretary:** Ben Crawford  
**Treasurer:** Jordan Stotter



2 April 2013

Attention: Jillian Pratten & John Truman  
Ballina Shire Council  
River Street  
Ballina NSW 2478

Dear Sir/Madam,

We write to express our significant concern as to the apparent proposal to permanently move the Lennox Head Markets to Williams Reserve.

As you would be fully aware, Williams Reserve was designated as a place for both active and passive recreation. To the writer it appears clear that Council is adopting a gradual approach to completely do away with active recreation at the ground.

As you would also be aware, the ground is used extensively by our Club for 26 weeks over the summer months. You may not be aware that we also utilize the ground for 8 weeks leading up to the start of the cricket season for training purposes.

Although the bulk of our cricket activities are on a Saturday (and training during the week) we do use the ground on a Sunday. This includes representative junior cricket games on a Sunday and general training.

Aside from these timing clashes, there is the likelihood that the traffic, both pedestrian and vehicular, upon the grass field will denigrate the quality of the playing surface.

The writer has seen such denigration at the Byron Bay markets which we believe are also on a sand base with a similar type of grass. The artificial pathways created by the placement of the market tents creates this unavoidable result.

The quality of the playing surface not only has an effect on the fielder's ability in the game but also safety issues as to balls unexpectedly bouncing up of the outfield surface and also the capacity to trip and fall whilst chasing a ball on the uneven ground.

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What Council always seems to ignore is the fact that Williams Reserve has the necessary characteristics to be used even in times of moderate to heavy rain. It is sand based and drains well. Almost no other grounds in the Shire and indeed the region, has such an attribute. This attribute is something which will certainly not be achievable in the Council's proposed alternatives in swamp lands around the Shire (eg bottom of Pidcocks development and south of Sanctuary Village).

We ask that the proposal not go ahead on the above basis.

Yours sincerely



**Ben Crawford**  
**Secretary**  
**Lennox Head Cricket Club**  
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