

# Get in the Game Get Playing

Funding to improve facilities



## Get Playing Case Study

Community use of school grounds

### Redlands Junior Rugby League Football Club

Funding of \$99,701 to install lighting to support multi-sport at Victoria Point State High School

#### Project partners

- Redlands Junior Rugby League Football Club
- Victoria Point State High School
- Redland City Council
- Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing

#### Project background

Up until 2012, Redlands Junior Rugby League Football Club experienced significant membership growth and was struggling to accommodate new members, particularly on training nights. For a number of reasons, building an additional field on land the club shared with a large netball club was not a possibility. The club was already a partner of the Victoria Point State High School Sport Reference Group which included other community sport and recreation organisations, Redland City Council, the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing (NPRSR) and Victoria Point State High School.

The Victoria Point State High School Sport Reference Group was established to:

- improve the school, sport and life balance of students by creating a 'one stop shop' for students to access structured sporting activities at their place of study
- increase the physical activity rates of students
- increase community usage of the school
- improve the sports facilities at the school
- improve the linkages between community sport and recreation organisations and the school
- increase the delivery capacity of community sport and recreation organisations by increasing their access to sport and recreation facilities.

#### The approach

In order to increase facility access and usability at the school, the Sport Reference Group identified the installation of field lighting as the highest sport and recreation infrastructure priority. Given the crossover of rugby league's participation requirements and the club's demonstrated need, Redlands Junior Rugby League Football Club was chosen\* as the applicant.

Council worked closely with the Redlands Rugby League Football Club and Victoria Point State High School as well as the Sports Reference Group partners to develop their funding application.

*\*Get Playing is open to local or regional level Queensland not-for-profit sport or recreation organisation or not-for-profit community organisation (whose primary objective is sport or recreation). Organisations can apply for a maximum of \$100,000 in funding to support infrastructure developments. Council and Victoria Point State High School were not eligible for funding through the program.*



### Project strengths

- The Sport Reference Group commenced planning with a clear objective that enabled the group to define the project scope, roles and responsibilities. The wide range of skill sets of the Sport Reference Group enabled the efficient progression of the project. For example, having an Education Queensland Facility Officer on the Sport Reference Group has been instrumental in understanding the building process for facilities on school land.
- Having both Council staff and councillor's support for the project from the application stage has been essential.
- Raising revenue to reinvest in a sport and recreation facility is crucial. In the case of the Sports Reference Group, revenue is generated in the interest of all parties and not profiteering. This has enabled the development of strong partnerships and will aid long term sustainability.

### Challenges

- All land in Queensland is approved for use for different purposes, in this case, the school's fields were approved for school use purposes. By increasing the usage of school land and making the facility available to third parties meant the core purpose of the land was being altered and a Material Change of Use was required. A joint development agreement between Education Queensland and Redlands Junior Rugby League Football Club was established as part of the process. The Material Change of Use process can place a high demand on volunteer resources and can take significant time to obtain final approval.
- Construction on school grounds presents additional safety and access implications due to the grounds being used for the day to day operation of student activities, therefore construction is restricted to school holiday periods.

### Project outcomes

- It is hoped this project will support a change in mindset for sport clubs in the region by demonstrating the benefits of shared facilities. To construct and light an additional field at the club's grounds would likely cost Redlands Junior Rugby League Football Club more than \$500,000. Through the Sport Reference Group partnership, the club now has access to the same standard facility for less than half the construction costs. It has also delivered the community an enhanced sport and recreation asset. Additionally, it spreads the financial requirements of sport infrastructure across a number of stakeholder agencies.
- With the support of Council, more schools and community sport organisations in the Redlands area are exploring the establishment of partnerships to deliver benefits for all organisations. The benefits of partnerships extends beyond the construction of sport and recreation facilities, it will hopefully result in increased participation and volunteering.

- Queensland Government agencies are now exploring how internal processes can be simplified to support the development of sport and recreation at schools with established community use agreements in place.

### Key lessons

- This project has become a test case for the community use of schools and a number of valuable lessons have been learnt during the delivery that will enable Council, NPRSR and Education Queensland to develop a better management model for the community use of schools.
- A joint development agreement is required as part of the Material Change of Use application. The joint development agreement clearly stipulates how the facility will be utilised and provides additional protection for Redlands Junior Rugby League Football Clubs investment in the facility.
- Support for the project at staff and councillor level has been important in the delivery of the project. It has reinforced the need for early consultation with Council when considering sport and recreation infrastructure development.
- Sourcing volunteers who can each bring professional expertise to a project will improve the group's ability to efficiently and effectively manage issues as they arise.

### Budget implications

- Not delivering a project within budget presents risks. A construction project with multiple stakeholders and where construction is not being undertaken on land directly managed by the approved client adds to the risks. Clear communication of each stakeholder's financial commitment to the project in the event construction exceeds the total project budget is paramount. A carefully planned risk mitigation strategy detailing each stakeholder's roles and responsibilities is also crucial.

### Seeking infrastructure development support

- Departmental offices are located across the state and can offer advice and assistance for your project. Please direct enquiries to your nearest [Sport and Recreation office](#) or alternatively phone 1300 656 191.