

**MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 14 APRIL, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN**

TABLE OF CONTENTS – RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE

1. Investment Monies: Period Ended: 28 th February, 2003.....	2
2. Local Government Elections – September, 2003	4
3. Macarthur Business Enterprise Centre – 70 Topham Rd Smeaton Grange – Deed of Indemnity.....	7
4. Reclassification of Byron Road Leppington - Report of Public Hearing	8
5. “Miss Davies’ Farm”	9
6. Donation Request.....	10
7. Request From The Camden Cricket Club To Utilise Area Currently Allocated To The Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park	11

**MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 14 APRIL, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN**

Present: Cr Corrigan (Mayor/Chairperson), Cr Patterson, Cr Campbell, Cr Winn, Cr Fekete, Cr McFadden, Cr Senise, Cr Batros,.

Staff: General Manager, Director Works & Services, Director Development & Environment, Director Governance & Outcomes, Manager Community Services, Manager Outcomes, Administration Officer.

Apologies: An apology was received from Cr Anderson from this meeting.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Winn, seconded Cr Senise that leave of absence be granted to Cr Anderson for this meeting.

RS012/03 THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

1. Investment Monies: Period Ended: 28th February, 2003

(Director Governance & Outcomes)

In accordance with Clause 19 (3a & 3b) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 1993, a list of investments held by Council as at 28th February, 2003, is provided as **Tabled Document "RS 1"**.

It is further certified that all investments have been made in accordance with section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, the relevant regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

Current investments of the General Fund both term and call are returning an average daily yield of 4.94% and during the month of February 2003, the average return on all investments both call and term was 4.93%.

Recommended: That

- (i) Council note that the Principal Accounting Officer has certified that all investments held by Council have been made in accordance with the Local Government Act, Regulations and Council's Investment Policy.
- (ii) The list of investments as at 28th February, 2003 be noted.
- (iii) The interest rate return of 4.93% for the month of February 2003 be noted.

**MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 14 APRIL, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN**

Resolved on the Motion of Cr McFadden, seconded Cr Winn that

- (i) Council note that the Principal Accounting Officer has certified that all investments held by Council have been made in accordance with the Local Government Act, Regulations and Council's Investment Policy.*
- (ii) The list of investments as at 28th February, 2003 be noted.*
- (iii) The interest rate return of 4.93% for the month of February 2003 be noted.*

RS013/03 THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

**MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 14 APRIL, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN**

2. Local Government Elections – September, 2003

(2811/11)(Director Governance and Outcomes)

The State Electoral Office has advised Council of the proposed timetable for the September Local Government Elections. The Election will be held on Saturday, 13th September, 2003.

Advertise Close of Roll	From Monday, 9 th June
Close of Rolls	Monday, 4 th August (Bank Holiday – if Public holiday – closure will be Tuesday, 5 th August
Call for Nominations	From Monday, 28 th July
Close of Nominations	5pm Wednesday, 13 th August
Nomination Day	Friday, 15 th August
Lodge application to form Groups and request Group Voting Square	Noon, Friday 15 th August
Ballot Paper draw	(after) Noon, Friday 15 th August
Commence Pre-Poll Voting	Monday, 1 st September
Close Postal Voting Applications	5pm Monday, 8 th September
Close Pre-Poll Voting	6pm Friday, 12 th September
Polling Day	Saturday, 13 th September
Close Postal Voting	6pm Monday 15 th September

As indicated to Councillors previously, several amendments to the Local Government Act have been proclaimed which, it is felt, significantly alter procedures in the lead up to the election and the counting of votes.

These concerns were expressed in an article in the Local Government Association Circular No. 03/07 of 21st February, 2003. A precis of the issues is as follows:

- Postal Ballot papers cannot be opened until 6pm on the Monday after the election. Vote Tracker counting software has now been abandoned because of new legislative requirements.

**MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 14 APRIL, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN**

- All Council areas or Wards having above-the-line voting will have first preference votes counted and scrutineered at each Polling Place. Ballot papers (votes showing above-the-line preferences and votes recorded below the line) will be bundled and couriered to a central electronic data entry bureau in Sydney on the Tuesday morning after the Election. The courier delivery cannot commence until after 6pm on the Monday after the elections due to Postal Votes being delayed from being opened, first preferences distributed and included in the parcel to be delivered to Sydney.
- All Wards where there is no above-the-line voting will be counted manually at the Principal Polling Place after postal votes are balanced and first preferences counted. The new counting systems require a complex computerised system to cope with algorithms of above-the-line preferences, as well as traditional voting preferences. There are extremely high costs of software, training, security and other assistance involved with the centrally located bureau and no decision has yet been made about how costs of running the bureau will be apportioned between Councils.
- Precise details of how the Electoral Office will deal with progress enquiries from the media, candidates or Councils have not been decided. Early indications are that the bureau will be in constant touch with local Returning Officers, who will provide appropriate public information.
- Of particular concern for candidates is how to plan the use of scrutineers. Scrutineers will be able to observe the first distribution of preferences at each Polling Place, but the data entry process for papers sent to the central bureau will provide little opportunity for scrutineers, because of the speed of entry, coupled with the fact the bureau will operate 24 hours per day. Opportunities are remote for scrutineers to be given reasonable notice to travel to Sydney with little advance notice for the time of day or night that ballot papers will be processed.

The recent State Election took about 16 days to finalise and it is anticipated the Local Government elections may take 8 days commencing late evening on the Monday after the election, or Tuesday morning depending on when bundles of ballot papers are dispatched and received by the central bureau.

The Association have requested a deputation with the new Minister for Local Government with a view to putting forward the above concerns and to raise the following points:

**MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 14 APRIL, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN**

- Will the Minister support legislative amendments to restore the previous closure of postal votes on the day of the election?
- What legislation does the Minister propose to deal with recounts?
- Will Wards not involved in above-the-line voting be declared as soon as completed, without waiting for results of above-the-line Wards to be finalised?
- What legislative amendments does the Minister propose for scrutineers?
- When will the State Electoral Office be able to finalise systems to provide information to candidates, scrutineers, media and the public?

The Association has undertaken to keep Councils informed of the responses from the Minister.

Recommended: That

- i) the information be noted relating to the 2003 Election timetable; and
- ii) Council write a letter of support to the NSW Local Government Association expressing concern at the voting and counting amendments in place for the 2003 Local Government Elections.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr McFadden, seconded Cr Fekete that

- i) *the information be noted relating to the 2003 Election timetable; and*
- ii) *Council write a letter of support to the NSW Local Government Association expressing concern at the voting and counting amendments in place for the 2003 Local Government Elections.*

DC014/03 THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

**MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 14 APRIL, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN**

3. Macarthur Business Enterprise Centre – 70 Topham Rd Smeaton Grange – Deed of Indemnity
(PF 7850.700)(Director Governance & Outcomes)

On 14th December 1998 Council granted approval for the construction of a 20 unit Industrial complex to be used as a business incubator centre in Smeaton Grange by BEC. The construction has been completed with the Centre functioning successfully.

Part of the construction provided for a carpark for 41 vehicles on site and the approval was conditioned to require a Deed of Indemnity being provided to release Council from any claims in respect of loss or damage resulting from the use of the carpark. The carpark is built over a drainage easement with an overland flowpath running across the carpark.

The Deed of Indemnity has been negotiated over a lengthy period of time and is now ready for signature by both parties. It is necessary to affix the seal of Council in order to formalise the Deed.

Recommended: That the Council Seal be affixed to the Deed of Indemnity in relation to the Macarthur Business Enterprise Centre Carpark, 70 Topham Road, Smeaton Grange.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Batros, seconded Cr McFadden that the Council Seal be affixed to the Deed of Indemnity in relation to the Macarthur Business Enterprise Centre Carpark, 70 Topham Road, Smeaton Grange.

RS015/03 THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

**MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 14 APRIL, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN**

4. Reclassification of Byron Road Leppington - Report of Public Hearing

(3277/3)(Director of Governance & Outcomes)

Council resolved on 13th May, 2002 to adopt Draft Local Environmental Plan No 126 to reclassify Byron Road from community to operational land.

However, as part of the process of reclassification, a public hearing is required to be held to comply with Section 29 of the Local Government Act, 1993.

The Hearing was advertised through the local media and written notification given to all persons making previous submissions. The Public Hearing was held on 12th March, 2003.

A total of 4 persons attended the hearing where the full background and process relating to the reclassification of Byron Road was outlined. There were no matters raised at the hearing objecting to the reclassification of the road to operational land.

As all components of the process have now been completed, Council is now required to resolve the Plan be formally submitted to Planning NSW for approval and gazettal of a notice dedicating Byron Road as public road.

Recommended: That

- (i) Camden Local Environment Plan No 126 be forwarded to Planning NSW for approval and;
- (ii) Following approval by Planning NSW, Lot 1 DP 822334 (Byron Road) be gazetted as Public Road under Section 10 of the Roads Act, 1993.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Fekete, seconded Cr Winn that

- (i) Camden Local Environment Plan No 126 be forwarded to Planning NSW for approval and;
- (ii) Following approval by Planning NSW, Lot 1 DP 822334 (Byron Road) be gazetted as Public Road under Section 10 of the Roads Act, 1993.

RS016/03 THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

**MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 14 APRIL, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN**

5. “Miss Davies’ Farm”

(File 4364)(Director of Governance and Outcomes)

Introduction

On Monday 16 December 2002, Council endorsed a proposed program of works to be carried out on Miss Davies’ Farm, funded through a \$165,000 grant received through the Federal Government’s Sustainable Regions Program. The works constitute the early stages of the development of the Farm into an educational, economic and environmental resource for the Camden and regional communities.

Transfer of Farm

In total some \$247,000 is now available to be spent on the Farm. In accordance with the terms of the bequest and to facilitate the commencement of the works program, the transfer of the property to Council ownership has for some time been the only impediment to the commencement of development activities. Council recently received advice that the Certificates of Title have finally been registered with the Land Titles Office and Council has been forwarded copies of such titles.

Path Forward

Finalisation of these matters now allows for the detailed planning and implementation of the program of works outlined at the abovementioned meeting. It should be noted that additional background information is currently being compiled to assist in fine tuning the masterplan and provide a platform for obtaining the relevant approvals to commence work. A revised timeframe for the commencement of these development activities on the Farm is currently being negotiated with the Department of Transport and Regional Services. Work is expected to commence as soon as possible but no later than June 2003.

Conclusion

An exciting initial phase in the development of the Town Farm is about to commence. The Farm will add an important dimension to the Working Country Town image and reflect positively Miss Davies’ “legacy” to the community.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Winn, seconded Cr McFadden that the information be noted.

RS017/03 THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

**MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 14 APRIL, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN**

6. Donation Request

(File 894/11) (Director Works and Services)

Rebecca Moxey is a 16 year old student at Broughton Anglican College and has written to Council requesting a donation to assist her in meeting the costs incurred in travelling to the National Triathlon Championship titles to be held in Brisbane on 16 April 2003.

Rebecca recently competed in the NSW all schools Triathlon Championships gaining a fourth placing, which qualified her to participate in the National Titles. (**see Tabled Documents "RS 2"**).

Related Policy: Community Support Policy – Donations to Gifted Persons 4.2

Rebecca is a resident of Camden and meets the criteria outlined in the above policy.

Recommended: That Rebecca Moxey be granted the maximum amount (\$250) permissible under the policy 'Donations to Gifted Persons 4.2'.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr McFadden, seconded Cr Winn that Rebecca Moxey be granted the maximum amount (\$250) permissible under the policy 'Donations to Gifted Persons 4.2'.

RS018/03

THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

**7. Request From The Camden Cricket Club To Utilise
Area Currently Allocated To The Camden Bicentennial
Equestrian Park**

(File:1500.660) [Director Works and Services]

Purpose

This report advises Council of a request from the Camden Cricket Club to allocate an area currently provided to the Bicentennial Equestrian Park for use as three (3) cricket grounds.

Background

On the 16 January 2003 the Camden Cricket Club wrote to Council requesting that Council "*reconsider its decisions to allocate all of the area within Bicentennial Park for equestrian use*". The Cricket Club has requested the area adjacent to the existing cricket ovals be provided to the Club for use as 3 cricket fields.

This request is based on "*anticipated growth in the Camden local government area and the developments in Wollondilly Shire that are immediately adjacent*". The Club anticipates that this will create the need for additional fields. They have estimated that they will have three (3) additional sides in 2003 / 2004 season, consisting of two (2) junior sides and one (1) senior side.

The Club has stated that it believes that the Equestrian Park is under utilised and that development of three (3) additional cricket grounds would enhance the aesthetics of the park and would attract approximately 150 visitors every Saturday during the cricket season (September to March).

Tabled Document "RS 3" provides a copy of the Camden Cricket Club request.

Discussion

1. Establishment Of The Park As An Equestrian Facility

Council resolved to establish the Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park on 23 August 1999. This followed an extensive period of consultation, investigation and assessment of the most beneficial use of the Park.

At the time Council considered the proposal it was noted that:

"There are a number of critical issues and benefits in the use of the site for predominantly equestrian sports and activities:

**MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 14 APRIL, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN**

1. *The site, with its prime town edge location, provides an ideal place for a recreational activity with significant economic benefits to the town itself.*
2. *Equestrian sport is one with a large economic “multiplier” effect.*
3. *An equestrian activity of sufficient standard would attract retail and ancillary business to the town.*
4. *An equestrian use is an ideal one to meet the aspirations of Camden as a “working country town”.*
5. *The businesses attracted to Camden as a result of its development would further complement that “working country town” image and character.*
6. *A world class equestrian centre would be an attraction in its own right for both participants and spectators and would assist in the promotion of Camden town as a destination.*
7. *Research indicates that a site of this type would also generate certain revenues, which could be utilised to further enhance the landscape qualities of the site in the future.*

In addition, there are other factors to be considered in the determination of the relative merits of the options:

1. *Camden Council currently provides cricket fields in a number of locations throughout its area. It provides no dedicated equestrian sites.*
2. *The site is the only one available in Council control of a size suitable for equestrian development.”*

Council resolved on 24 July 2000 that:

- (i) *Council acknowledge that development of a multi purpose field as part of the Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park would:*
 - (a) *Impact adversely upon the ability to fully develop a comprehensive equestrian facility.*
 - (b) *Negate the ability to operate the Camden Craft Market.*
- (ii) *The Camden Cricket Club be advised that development of a multi purpose field is considered impractical given the operational nature of a fully functional equestrian centre... Further that every endeavour will be made to accommodate cricket facilities in the Spring Farm release area.”*

The Bicentennial Equestrian Park officially commenced operation in August 2000, with the appointment of the 355 Community Management Committee. Since this time the Committee has worked diligently to establish the Park as a leading equestrian facility.

**MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 14 APRIL, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN**

2. Current situation

Development Of The Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park To Date

Over the past two and half (2 ½ years) the 355 Management Committee, supported by council officers, has undertaken significant work at the Park. This work has been in line with Council's adopted vision for the Park as a world class equestrian facility. This has included development of infrastructure at the Park and re vegetation.

The Committee has worked to provide, through donations and volunteer labour, the following:

- construction of a Rodeo and Camp Drafting Arena;
- commencement of installation of 350 stock pens / yards;
- construction of a state standard eventing course;
- borders to dressage arenas; and
- shed and amenities block.

These works have been independently valued for insurance purposes by Rundle Auctioneers and Valuers, in excess of \$340,000.

Usage of the Park

The equestrian park is currently home for:

- Sydney Polocrosse;
- Camden Horse Trials;
- Illawarra Dressage;
- County of Cumberland Camp Drafting; and
- Camden Rodeo Club.

Approximately 60% of club members are drawn from the Camden local government area (LGA) and surrounding districts. These groups train and compete on the grounds on a regular basis. The Park has been host to a range of equestrian and non-equestrian events providing a range of experiences to the local community.

In terms of equestrian events, the Park has hosted:

- State Titles in eventing;
- Prestigious show jumping events;
- Bi-monthly dressage events;
- An international polocrosse event; and
- the first Camden rodeo.

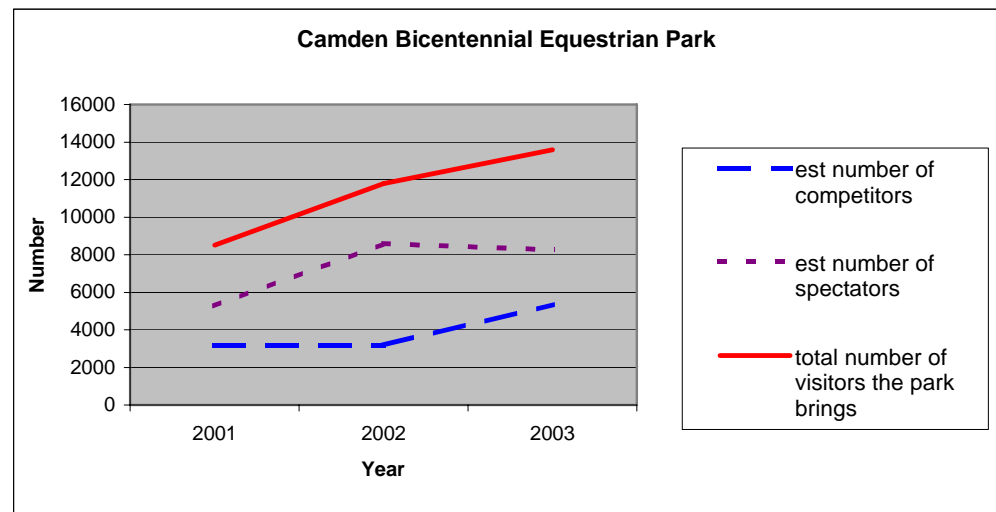
Recreational riding has also resumed at the Park following a 6 month break, whilst insurance issues were resolved.

**MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 14 APRIL, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN**

In terms of non-equestrian use, local community organisations such as Lifeline and local schools for fun runs and cross country events as well as the Camden Show, circus and craft markets have used the Park on a regular basis for the staging of events and overflow car parking.

The events held at the Park provide an opportunity for local people to participate either as a competitor or as a spectator. Most recently the Rodeo attracted over 2,000 spectators during their one-day event.

The graph below indicates trends at the Park since its opening in relation to numbers of competitors and spectators visiting for equestrian events. The graph below does not include people who have visited the Park for non-equestrian activities such as the Camden Show or Circus. These figures have been derived from bookings and attendance records kept by Council.



During the two and half year period, the Park has been in operation over 20,295 people have visited either as competitors or spectators. By the end of 2003, this will be approximately 35,000.

In 2001 the Park was booked 33 weekends in the year, leaving only 19 weekends available. The Park also had 22 mid-week bookings, with 5 bookings from the local pony clubs or schools. There were 63 dates booked in total for the first full year of the operation.

In 2002 the Park was booked 38 weekends in the year, leaving only 14 weekends available. The park also had 26 mid-week bookings, with 3 bookings from charities or schools. There were 71 dates booked in total, which was a good result in the

**MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 14 APRIL, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN**

second year especially as events were limited due to the drought

Utilisation trends at the Park have continued to grow since its opening. Between 2001 and 2002 there was 28 % increase in the number of people using the Park. It is anticipated that as the facility is further developed and promoted that this upward trend will continue.

Tabled Document “RS 4” provides further details of events held and attendance.

Planned Future Directions At Bicentennial Equestrian Park

The Park has been successful in its bids for a number of prestigious events in the coming 3 years. These events include:

- two major polocrosse tournaments with a total of 700 competitors and 6,000 spectators over a five (5) day period booked for 2004;
- two major tournaments with a total of 750 competitors and 8,000 spectators booked for 2005; and
- National Polocrosse Championships with 560 competitors and 10,000 spectators anticipated over a 2 – 3 week period booked for 2006.

The most recent National Polocrosse Championships were hosted in the town of Warwick Queensland, with the event generating in excess of \$1 million to the local economy.

In addition, Council has been advised that its recent submission to the Commonwealth Government under the Sustainable Regions Program has progressed to the next stage of assessment. If this funding is secured it will enable the construction of:

- an appropriate clubhouse and office;
- canteen and storage facilities;
- amenities block including toilets and showers; and
- an equine stabling complex.

Council is committed to restoration of the riparian vegetation on the banks of the Matahill Creek tributaries. One community planting project has been undertaken installing some 5,000 plants. Council has also been successful in securing a sponsorship agreement, which will result in the installation of another 3,000 plants

2. Current Provision Of Cricket Fields

Camden District Cricket Association is responsible for the booking and allocation of fields and the conduct of the competition throughout the Macarthur area. The Camden District Cricket Association reports to the Macarthur Cricket

**MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 14 APRIL, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN**

Council who is responsible for the long term strategies to support the sport of cricket.

Council officers have requested information from the Camden District Cricket Association on the current demand for additional cricket facilities in the LGA, however, to date Council has not received a response.

Council currently provides the Association with eighteen (18) fields each season for their draw. These fields are located throughout the local government area.

Review of the 2001 / 2002 cricket draw indicated that of the 15 fields booked by the Association only 14 were used during the season. Utilisation of the fields in the 2001 / 2002 draw ranged from 53% to 93% each weekend and 48% to 75% usage of fields across the season. **Tabled Document "RS 5"** provides further details of usage of these fields during the 2001 / 2002 season. Details of the 2002/2003 draw were unavailable at the time of writing the report.

Over the next six (6) months a further two (2) fields will be developed, in time for the 2003/2004 cricket season. These fields will be developed at:

- Liquid Amber Reserve, Narellan Vale; and
- Hillside Reserve, Harrington Park.

A further seven (7) playing fields are being provided in the master planning of the Elderslie and Spring Farm release areas.

The table below sets out the current and future provision of cricket fields within the LGA by Council.

Current and proposed cricket fields provided by Council

Current Cricket Fields			
Location	Synthetic	Turf	Total
Onslow Park	4		
Kirkham		1	
Belgenny Reserve	2		
Nott Oval	1		
Elizabeth Reserve	1		
Liquid Amber Reserve	1		
Cuthill Reserve	2		
Jack Nash Reserve	1		
Birriwa Reserve		1	
Ron Dine	1		
Leppington Oval	1		
Harrington Park Oval	1		
Hillside	1		
Sub total	16	2	18

**MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 14 APRIL, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN**

Additional Fields by 2003 2004 Summer Season			
Liquidamber reserve	1		
Hillside reserve	1		
Sub total	2		20

Additional Fields to be Provided in the Next 4 Years			
Elderslie	2		
Spring Farm	5		
Sub total	7		27

Tabled Document "RS 6" provides a map of current as well as proposed cricket facilities. An A3 version of the map has been circulated to Councillors separately.

Current Standards Applied To Determine The Level Of Provision Cricket Facilities

In 1993 Council commissioned consultants Gutteridge Haskins and Davey to undertake a study to form the basis of provision of structured open space and recreation facilities over the coming 15 years, ie until 2008. The study identified current open space and recreation facilities in the LGA, their use by residents, sporting and recreation clubs and schools. The report then made recommendations in relation to the provision of structured open space provision and recreation facilities consistent with community needs and current participation rates.

This report has been used by Council to guide the basis of provision rates of recreation and sporting facilities in the Camden LGA, in particular to inform new development over the past nine (9) years. Provision rates in the report, recommend one (1) sports field to every 1,850 people, therefore 25 sporting fields are required in 2003. Council currently provides 27 sports fields that meet this requirement. These sports fields are utilised by a range of sporting groups including rugby, softball, hockey and cricket.

The current utilisation of cricket fields provided to the Association does not support the need for additional fields at this stage, especially as there will be two (2) additional fields provided in time for the 2003 / 2004 season.

Given the growth within the community and changing demographics and expectations a new Recreation Strategic Plan is currently being prepared. This Plan will examine recreational and leisure opportunities in the local government area to ensure that the range of opportunities are provided to improve the health and well being of Camden residents. The Plan will also include a review of provision rates for sporting facilities to reflect current participation rates and expectations.

**MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 14 APRIL, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN**

The University of Technology (UTS), Sydney has been engaged by Council to undertake the research phase of the plan. As part of this process UTS will review the current provision of facilities, projected needs, in particular opportunities for partnership arrangements. For example, in some areas joint use agreements have been developed between local government and school facilities for joint use of recreational facilities.

It is anticipated that UTS will be conducting focus groups with sporting organisations over the next two months.

3. Community Comment

The request from the Cricket Club has generated a lot of community debate and comment. Council has received a number of letters in opposition as well as in support of the Cricket Club's request.

In Support of the Cricket Club's Request

Three (3) letters of support have been received supporting the Cricket Club's request for additional fields on the Bicentennial Equestrian Park. However, Council is aware that a petition has been circulated within the community in support of the Cricket Club's proposal. However, at the time of writing the report had not been presented to Council.

Copies of the letter have been circulated to Councillors separately.

In summary the key points raised in support of the proposal include:

- Importance and need for children to be encouraged to participate in sport
- Benefits of children being involved in sport in terms of health benefits and providing a constructive outlet

In Support Of Continued Use Of The Park For Solely Equestrian Purposes

Ten (10) letters of support for retaining the Park as a sole use equestrian facility have been received from local organisations such as the Camden Show Society, Macarthur Tourism, Lioness Club of Camden, University of Sydney and various equestrian groups.

Copies of the letter have been circulated to Councillors separately.

In summary the key points raised in maintaining the facility as solely equestrian include:

**MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 14 APRIL, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN**

- Use of the facility by a greater number of people;
- Ability to rehabilitate and preserve rare vegetation that may be lost if there is intensive use and cultivation to maintain the *'Village Green type atmosphere'* as suggested in the letter from the Cricket Club;
- Economic benefits the equestrian venue brings to the local economy, in particular to the Camden Township;
- Recognition of the park as a unique facility, catering for the full range of equestrian disciplines;
- Provision of a safe venue for recreational riding; and
- Equestrian facilities and events at the park providing an important role in the education of final year veterinary students at the University of Sydney Campus in Camden.

4. Comment from the Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park 355 Management Committee

Council has delegated the care, control and management of the Park to a management committee consisting of community representatives. Council has endorsed these representatives in their role in recognition of the expertise that the individual members possess, which has been particularly critical in the establishment period of the Park.

The Cricket Club request was referred to the Committee for its comment, in particular the potential impact of the request on the Park's operations as an equestrian facility, both in the short and long term. It is within this context that the Committee was asked to provide their comments.

In their response the Committee outlined the progress made in the two and half years since the Park's inception, this has included:

- erection of a range of cross-country courses from introductory to advanced;
- development of comprehensive rodeo and camp drafting facilities;
- staging of regular polocrosse, dressage, show jumping and pony club events; and
- introduction of a safe recreational riding space.

In considering the request the Committee have raised concerns about the:

- shared use of the facility, in particular safety concerns if gates are left open and horses break away from their handlers and the potential risks that this may pose; and
- detrimental impact that reducing the size of the facility would have on the long-term vision for the Park as a national and international standard equestrian facility.

Table Document "RS 7" contains the letter from the Management Committee.

Assessment of the Cricket Clubs request

Linkages to Council's strategic vision – Camden 2025

Council's Strategic Plan 2025, recognises the need for equitable access to facilities and services for the community. A key objective within 2025 is:

To provide opportunities for all Camden residents to embrace Camden's culture and sense of community by

- *Promoting a variety of lifestyle options; and*
- *Improving the well being of the community by ensuring access to a range of facilities and services.*

One key way Council supports this strategic vision is through the provision of locally based multipurpose sporting fields throughout the LGA. This arrangement delivers the greatest benefit to the community by allowing ease of access and the fields to perform a range of functions. These are discussed in further detail in this report.

Council's Strategic Plan, 2025, also recognises that economic development, the creation of local employment opportunities and quality of life is linked to the area's rural identity and activities. A fully developed equestrian park will provide a catalyst for developing a local equine industry and provide an attractor for tourism to the town.

The development and promotion of facilities such as the Equestrian Park and Town Farm are integral to the reinforcing of Camden's emerging 'working country town' image and branding. For Camden to fully capitalise on what is a unique opportunity to develop a first class equestrian venue close to the town centre the capacity to host major state, national and international competitions is paramount.

The pinnacle of equestrian competition in recent years is horse trials, also known as eventing. Eventing is a combination of dressage, show jumping and cross-country and is where Australia has won gold medals at three successive Olympic Games. Subsequently names such as Matt and Heath Ryan, Andrew Hoy and Stuart Tinney have become familiar both within and beyond the equestrian community and have all participated in events at Bicentennial Park.

The establishment of cricket fields on the tract of land currently occupied by the dressage area would effectively negate the use of Bicentennial Park for horse trials events of any kind. This would mean that the Park would only service a primarily local need and never achieve the potential that Council originally intended.

**MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 14 APRIL, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN**

A range of equine disciplines such as dressage and cross-country uses the area requested by the cricket club. As part of the long-term development of the Equestrian Park it is proposed to develop multipurpose and sand arenas, with appropriately constructed judging booths. These arenas would be similar to those provided at Werribee Equestrian Park. If the Cricket Club's proposal as accepted this part of the development could not occur.

A plan of the site has been circulated to Councillors separately detailing the area proposed by the Cricket Club for the Cricket fields and then the impact that this would have on the provision of equestrian events.

Benefits To The Local Economy

The comparative 'spin off' economic benefits for the town between cricket and elite equestrian activity in Camden have not been measured to date. However the development of an industry and a visitor market, through national and international competition, that would not otherwise be available to Camden gives equestrian use a significant economic and tourism advantage over cricket.

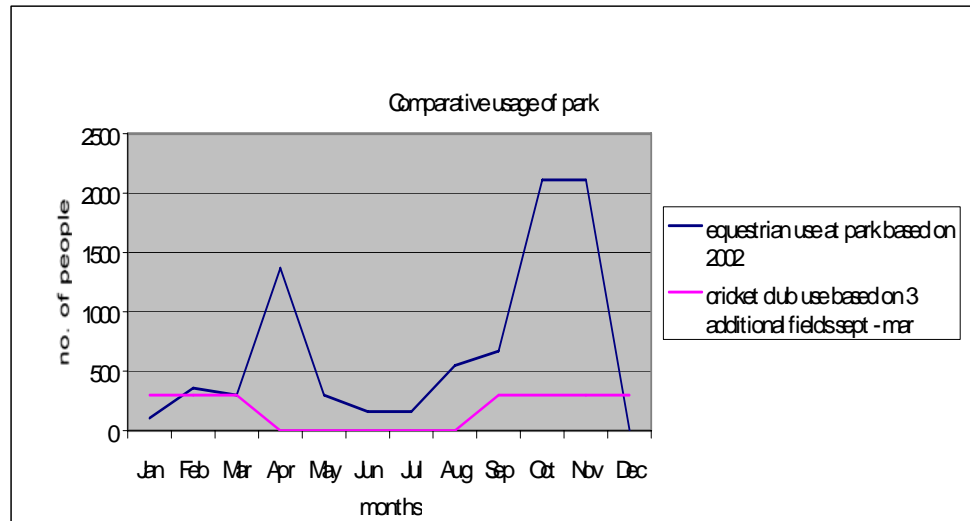
Research and experience from the national polocrosse championships recently held in country Warwick, in Queensland returned approximately \$1 million dollars back into the local economy. In addition, experience from the Werribee Equestrian facility indicates that each spectator or competitor in an equestrian event spends approximately \$50 per day in the local area.

The Werribee facility contributed approximately \$10 million to the local economy of the City of Wyndham in 2002.

**Usage Of The Bicentennial Park By The Local Community
And Visitors To The Area**

Continued use of the park, as a solely equestrian venue will result in the greatest number of people using the facility. The Cricket Club has suggested that there will be approximately 150 people visit the three (3) fields to compete and spectate every second Saturday during the summer season. This equates to 2,100 people as compared with an anticipated 5,600 that the equestrian facility will attract during the same season. The graph below indicates the projected attendance by the cricket club member and equestrian use over a 12 month period.

**MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 14 APRIL, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN**



Provision Of Recreational Facilities

The Bicentennial Park is the only piece of land in Council's possession that is suitable for a multipurpose equestrian facility.

Council currently provides a range of cricket fields throughout the LGA. This trend will continue as the new release areas of Spring Farm and Elderslie are developed.

Provision of fields in this manner allows for the co location of compatible and complementary sporting disciplines. Whilst it is not possible to have shared use between equestrian and field based sports due to the inherent safety issues, it is possible to co locate field based sports and informal recreational opportunities, such as playgrounds.

Provision of cricket fields that are located throughout the LGA, rather than centralised serve a number of purposes. Cricket fields are used for cricket games primarily on a Saturday between September and March. Through providing fields in various locations Council is able to promote more flexible use of the area, and therefore delivering the greatest benefit to the local community.

Provision of locally based fields delivers a number of benefits to the local community, including:

- Provision of local open space;
- Fields available for winter sports;
- Facilities in walking distance to many homes and local schools; and
- Informal recreational space that can be used for 'kick about areas, walking, jogging, social games by local residents.

**MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 14 APRIL, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN**

This approach has been applied in the master planning stages of the Spring Farm and Elderslie new release areas.

Conclusion

Council currently provides sporting fields in excess of the provision rates provided for in the 1993 study, with fields currently available for use by the Cricket Club not being fully utilised. However, if the anticipated increase in senior and junior sides does occur there is the ability to meet this need, through full take up of the allocated fields and the provision of the two additional fields proposed to be completed by the 2003 / 2004 season. Further increases in demand for cricket facilities may also be met with the seven (7) additional fields proposed for the Spring Farm and Elderslie release areas.

There is an opportunity in the development of the Recreational Strategic Plan to review the current provision rates for recreational facilities and explore options available to meet the current and projected need for cricket facilities.

The Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park presents Council with the opportunity to provide a facility that supports local people but also supports Camden's vision as the working country town. The Equestrian Park is a unique facility that combines the opportunity for competitive riding and equestrian pursuits with recreational riding. Unlike other equestrian facilities in Australia, people are able to participate in recreational riding in an area that is safe and close to other amenities.

In the early stages of its development the park has already demonstrated that it is capable of delivering on its long-term vision of becoming a major national and international equestrian venue. To reverse Council's original decision at this time would negate much of the progress made to date and severely compromise the potential of the Park to make an optimum contribution to both the 'working country town' branding and the Camden economy.

**MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 14 APRIL, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN**

Recommended: That

- (i) The Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park retain its sole equestrian focus
- (ii) Camden Cricket Club be advised of Council's decision;
- (iii) Camden Cricket Club's current and projected needs be incorporated into the Recreation Strategic plan.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Campbell, seconded Cr Batros that

- (i) The Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park retain its sole equestrian focus*
- (ii) Camden Cricket Club be advised of Council's decision;*
- (iii) Camden Cricket Club's current and projected needs be incorporated into the Recreation Strategic plan.*

RS019/03 THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

(Cr Corrigan and Cr Senise voted against the Motion).

The Meeting closed at 7.55pm.