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May 22nd, 2010

**Submission to the Draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy.**

**Proposed removal of two tennis Courts**

Dear Council,

**In opening this submission the THPA would like to once again thank Council for attending the special public meeting that was called by the Tuross community in response to the proposal to remove two tennis courts from its facilities.**

**The Tuross Head progress Association would like to register its support for our Tuross head Tennis Club and provide the following submission:**

The Tuross Head Progress Association wishes to register its opposition to the proposed removal of two courts in the Kyla Park complex.

The four courts at the Kyla Park complex are used on a regular basis 4-5 times per week, 52 weeks per year. They service the 70 members of the THTC and are also utilized for competition tennis.

The proposed court removal will see the end of the THTC, as two courts are insufficient to enable play of social tennis by the 15-25 members who meet to play regularly on Saturdays and Monday for social games.

The loss of players, due to the reduction of the number of courts will in turn be reflected back to council in loss of revenue, which currently stands in the region of \$7687 for the current financial year.

The membership of the THTC includes persons from under 18's to persons in their late 80's. As we are considered to be a "village" community in an isolated area, it is doubtful that these members would be inclined to travel to courts further afield due to lack of public transport within the region.

The four courts provide an area for healthy exercise utilized by the members, community and visitors alike, the removal of two of the courts would be of real disadvantage to the community at large and possibly their continued good health.

All four courts were built by the Tuross Head Community and have to a large part been maintained by the community. The courts are in good repair with an estimated life span of between 5-8 years, with potential maintenance in this time anticipated as being minimal. The four courts are also offer a recreational area for the many visitors to Tuross Head and casual bookings are a good measure of the popularity of the courts and a profitable return to council.

If we may quote from an email sent by Brett Andrews of Tennis NSW, which was sent to one of our Tuross head Tennis Club members;

*"As you may be aware TNSW is currently developing a State Master Plan for facilities to strategically ensure provision for tennis is met through placement of key facilities and identifying best practices for running different sized centres.*

*Of the proposal from Council there are a couple of 1 and 2 courts that serve very few people which from a strategic point of view may be expendable (without impacting on participation) and from a bargaining perspective may open up more funds for the remaining centres.*

*I think that we can certainly justify keeping Tuross Heads and given its proximity to an isolated population, other facilities and its existing use TNSW will be pushing for Tuross to stay”*

Council argue that the Kyla Sports and Recreation Reserve be reduced by 2 courts in line with a shire wide rationalisation.

The members of the Tuross Head Tennis Club,(and with the above noted support of Tennis NSW ) argue that the four courts at Kyla Sports and Recreation Reserve are a much needed and much used sporting facility which should not be lost to the Tuross community at large.

Of greater concern to the Tuross Head Progress Association is that the rationalisation proposed by Eurobodalla Shire Council to remove two courts was based on the forecast replacement costs and the lifespan attributed to the components of the facility.

In well compiled spreadsheets the Tuross head Tennis Club was able to prove that Council had overestimated replacement costs, underestimated the lifespan of shire tennis facilities and as a consequence proposed a 74% increase in player fees was required to meet the “shortfall gap”.

With shire Tennis clubs providing figures to Council that showed a breakdown of real replacement costs ,real life spans and more accurate remaining lives Council has since withdrawn its proposed 74% increase and amended its fees in response to the submissions made to the draft Management Plan during the exhibition period.

The THTC was informed by a Council officer that :

*“The amended fees will still enable the courts to continue to generate the income required to maintain the facilities for general maintenance until such time that council can meet with all tennis clubs to determine a site specific asset management plan which will be used to determine the long term business/operational plan for each facility to ensure the courts are maintained to a high standard both now and in the future.”*

With such a statement as above from Council it might be prudent for Council to withdraw the proposal to dispose of two Tuross Head tennis courts as it is clear that the original premise to remove them so was based on flawed calculations.

We urge Council to give full and proper consideration of this submission and to that of the THTC and retain all four Tennis courts at Kyla Sports and Recreation Reserve.

Yours sincerely  
Lei Parker  
Secretary THPA.