

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. If Rugby Union needs more fields why don't they just use the ones available at different clubs throughout the District?

A. The TDRU already do this and will continue to do so in the future. Solely using various club fields however is not a long term solution to the growth forecast for the code. The facilities at each of these fields do not support what is required for bigger competitions and it would be problematic for families with more than one child playing to have to attend multiple sites on one day. Spreading the competition across various sites as a long term solution also does not afford the TDRU any options for attracting national or international competitions to Townsville or allow Rugby to generate enough revenue to develop a sustainable business model.

Q. Why is TDRU bringing their issue of growth to the forefront now?

A. For a long time, the committee has been discussing the limitations of the home of NQ rugby and what our options are. Investigations of alternate sites has been taking place over a number of years. Recent demand analysis studies indicate that it is time to act or the future of TDRU could be in some real trouble.

Q. What research was done and what does it show?

A. The TDRU recently commissioned an independent demand analysis of the needs of rugby in NQ. A demand analysis is a research based report of the current status of participation, growth and interest in the game, coupled with trended data to forecast the future state of rugby membership in the District. It shows that TDRU membership has grown by 30 percent since 2009 and that the trend is likely to continue. With the addition of the women's competition and demand for under 7's and 8's tag competition, there is increased pressure on the TDRU to expand their home ground facilities. The number of hours of rugby union played at the Hugh Street home grounds currently indicates that the venue requires a third field in the immediate term as it is currently running at 10 percent over capacity. Forecasts indicate that the club will require a fourth field as early as 2023. The demand analysis also included a comprehensive survey of possible future sites across Townsville and found that the site opposite the Murray Sports Reserve was overwhelmingly the most suitable option for the TDRU.

Q. So what's the deal with the TDRU and Parkside?

A. Parkside Developments currently own the land which the TDRU are interested in taking over for the future of Rugby Union in the district. The TDRU has therefore signed an MOU with Parkside Developments to act in good faith in a possible land-swap deal. The deal includes two parcels of land – one at Murray held by Parkside and TDRUs Hugh Street site.

Q. And if this goes ahead, what will happen to the Hugh Street site?

A. Parkside have progressed with a development application for the construction of a shopping centre at the site to serve a population of some 31,000 people and growing. The centre would be a fantastic addition to the amenity of Currajong and surrounding areas, making core retail services more accessible to residents while ensuring population growth is catered for. Many businesses adjoining the Hugh Street site have indicated they are excited about the potential benefit for their companies should a commercial development go ahead at the Hugh Street grounds.

Q. How will this benefit the local area if Hugh Street were developed?

A. This proposed development on the Hugh Street grounds would deliver economic benefits and jobs – the \$15 million project would create around 723 direct and indirect jobs. The proposed Hugh Street development would in effect be a local centre, which primarily focuses on grocery shopping and local service needs of their surrounding catchments. It is not another Castletown. This development would not threaten the viability or continued operations of any centres in the area with projections of continued above average growth for non-metropolitan supermarkets to continue even with this centre included.