

**PARKS AND LEISURE AUSTRALIA
(WA REGION)**

SYNTHETIC SURFACES DISCUSSION PAPER

BRIEF

March 2013

1 BACKGROUND

With increasingly dry summers, coupled with water restrictions, a decrease in water licences, increased demand for playing fields, reduced availability of land, the use of synthetic turf, especially for streetscapes and private gardens, has become increasingly prevalent.

Consistent with the objectives set down in the PLAWA Business Plan 2011-2016 several key issues relevant to the parks and leisure industry are being investigated with a view to publishing a series of guideline Policy or Discussion Papers.

The Synthetic Surfaces Discussion Paper is one of the key issues that have been identified and is a complementary study to the Water Policy paper.

2 OBJECTIVE

To develop and adopt a paper that identifies key issues, frameworks and opportunities that will facilitate the decision making process for the parks and leisure industry in Western Australia with respect to the potential use of synthetic turf surfaces.

3 RATIONALE

PLA WA has as its mission "preserving the right to recreate". PLA stakeholders are primarily professionals involved with designing, developing, managing and operating leisure facilities including parks, gardens, sports, aquatic and natural area assets and services at local and state government levels; in addition to tertiary students, academics, private consultants and operators of facilities.

The Synthetic Surfaces Discussion Paper is not intended to be a "prescriptive" position statement by PLAWA, rather it will present a library of contemporary information and case studies to assist in the decision making process.

The Synthetic Surfaces Discussion Paper will also reference contemporary papers prepared by the Department of Sport & Recreation.

4 OUTCOMES

The completion of a Discussion Paper relevant to parks and leisure industry Western Australia that the PLAWA

Position on synthetic turf use and provides:

- Definitions of synthetic turf relevant to the parks and leisure industry in the areas of Sports Fields; Streetscapes; Recreation Areas; Playspaces and the landscaping uses in Public Open Space generally
- Define and identify drivers for the use of synthetics

PROJECT BRIEF – SYNTHETIC SURFACES DISCUSSION PAPER

- Present resources; best practices and case studies to help guide members in the decision making process, and
- Create an accessible digital library for members

5 PROJECT TEAM – TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Project Team shall be responsible for the carriage of the project and for meeting the Objectives and Deliverables approved by the Regional Council.

The Project Team shall be chaired by a Regional Councillor of PLA WA with membership being drawn from PLA members throughout WA.

The Chair is delegated with the necessary authority to:

- Recruit a Project Team
- Undertake all necessary research
- Consult with industry stakeholder's i.e. professional associations, industry groups, Government Departments and research organisations e.g. Universities, CSIRO
- Consult with individual Local Governments and officers
- Prepare such reports as are set out in the Deliverables section

6 DELIVERABLES

TASK	TASK	RESPONS.	TIME	TARGET DATE
1	Regional Council Meeting - sign off of Project Management Plan	RT		28/03/2013
2	Engagement of project team and commencement of project	RT/GAW	2 weeks	12/04/2013
3	Review project brief and deliverables	Project Team	2 weeks	26/04/2013
4	Project Team to review existing material and undertake preparation of Synthetic Surfaces Discussion Paper	Project Team	12 weeks	11/07/2013
5	Preparation of report and submission of Draft to Regional Council for input and direction.	RT/GAW	2 weeks	25/07/2013
6	Regional council to review and provide comment	RT/LF	4 weeks	22/08/2013
7	Revise Draft and submit to PLA members for comment and input.	RT/LF/GAW	1 week	29/08/2013
8	Comment period	Members	4 weeks	26/09/2013
9	Project team to review members comments and draft final discussion paper	Project Team	6 weeks	8/11/2013
10	Preparation of report and submission to Regional Council for Adoption	RT/LF/GAW	2 weeks	21/11/2013
11	ADOPTION OF SYNTHETIC SURFACES DISCUSSION PAPER BY PLA REGIONAL COUNCIL	Regional Council		19/12/2013
12	PLA WA to consider further project development based on priorities and recommendations of the discussion paper.		NFY	

7 PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Project Team: Rachel Thorpe (Chair)
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Members: To be determined.

8 REGIONAL COUNCIL

Endorsed at a meeting of Parks & Leisure Australia held on Thursday 28th March 2013