

## Dreams may yet come true.



A facility similar to that envisaged.

Bargara Little Athletics have commenced preliminary talks with Crs. Greg Barnes and Lynne Forgan of Bundaberg Regional Council in an endeavour to establish an elite athletics facility in Bargara. Early signs are encouraging and it appears possible that, with the right support from the community and all levels of Government, such a facility could become a reality within a few years.

The envisaged facility will have an 8 or 9 lane 400m circular track, a 10 lane 110m sprint track, 4 Long Jump and Triple Jump pits along with Shot Put, Discus, Hammer Throw and Javelin.

There are many benefits to be had from such a development - both social and economic. It will create a significant number of jobs during construction, a much needed boost to local industry and provide ongoing employment in such areas as catering, cleaning, maintenance and security.

A facility of this stature will undoubtedly attract major athletics competitions - State and National – which have the potential to draw huge crowds. Schools will find that the facilities offered will enable more events to be held, enhance the performance of their students, whilst at the same time add a level of prestige to their event by having it conducted at an Olympic standard facility.

At the present time, there are no IAAF Certified athletics facilities with a synthetic surface between the Sunshine Coast and Townsville. A facility such as that envisaged will therefore attract the attention of elite athletes from all over central Queensland who, along with their coaches and support staff, could very well be encouraged to relocate to the area while they train.

The Gold Coast has recently announced that it will bid for the 2018 Commonwealth Games and if they win, it is quite conceivable that athletes from many parts of the Commonwealth will come to Bargara to train while they acclimatise to our weather. What an opportunity to showcase Bargara and surrounds to the world!

Initial indications are that a number of athletics organisations including Queensland Athletics and the Queensland Little Athletics Association could make regular use of such facilities to host State and other major title events which could see an influx of around 2,500 athletes and 8,000 - 10,000 spectators at a time depending on the status of the event. We may also have an opportunity to host National and International sporting events as both the facility and our “perfect” climate will provide athletes with the best of both worlds.

The plan at the moment includes a dedicated all-weather IAAF Certified athletics facility with synthetic surfaces, an appropriate grandstand, informal grassed viewing areas and appropriate infrastructure including provision for TV and radio broadcasts all of which will be environmentally friendly and turtle sensitive. Special lighting that will not affect the turtles during their nesting season, solar power and hot water, underground rainwater storage tanks and other “green” options are all a key part of this proposal.

Bargara Little Athletics are currently in discussions with a number of potential consultants with extensive world-wide experience in designing and project managing the construction of synthetic athletics facilities to prepare a concept plan and project costing.

Bargara Little Athletics would also like to hear from any groups who would be interested in taking advantage of such facilities so that their needs can be taken into account.

Members of the community who would like to voice their individual support for this project are encouraged to write or email the Bargara Little Athletics at the address below.

Community support and participation is vital to the success of this project – the greater the support the better our chances of achieving a dream. Expressions of interest and support can be sent to the Bargara Little Athletics at PO Box 8055, Bargara 4670 or by email to [bargaraathletics@exemail.com.au](mailto:bargaraathletics@exemail.com.au) or via the links at <http://www.bargaraathletics.org.au>.

Today is the first day of the future – let’s make the most of it.