



The preparation of the Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan was supported by the Victorian Government



Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan 2018

Volume 1 – Sporting Facilities Provision Framework

July 2018



Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan 2018

The Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan is Stage 1 of a broader Shire-wide planning project that has the aim of determining a direction for the future provision of sporting facilities throughout the Shire. Stage 1 has focused on Bairnsdale, mainly due to the number of sporting facilities located in the town that service a catchment beyond Bairnsdale district.

Stage 2 will adopt a similar methodology as has been used for Stage 1, but will investigate current and future sporting needs for communities throughout the balance of the Shire, including Paynesville, Lindenow, Lakes Entrance, the Omeo district, Orbost, and Mallacoota.

Volume 1 – Sporting Facilities Provision Framework

About this document

This report is the Sporting Facilities Provision Framework for the East Gippsland Shire's **Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan 2018**. It has three accompanying reports:

Volume 2 – Sporting Facilities Condition Report (2017)

Volume 3 – Sports Grounds Assessment Report (2016)

Volume 4 - Stakeholder Consultation Report (2018)

The **Sporting Facilities Condition Report (2017)** provides a general assessment of the condition of 11 sporting facilities located in Bairnsdale, and makes recommendations for refurbishment and redevelopment. The facility assessment was undertaken with the aim of confirming the condition of selected sports buildings, identifying functional and compliance issues, and assessing preliminary opportunities for redevelopment.

The **Sports Grounds Assessment Report (2016)** is a compilation of a detailed assessment of the condition of 10 sports grounds located in Bairnsdale. The investigation determined if the grounds were coping with their current levels of use, and what improvements are required to accommodate current usage levels, and any additional works required to further optimise capacity in the future.

The **Stakeholder Consultation Report (2018)** is a record of all meetings and workshops conducted with stakeholder groups during the study. This includes the first round of engagement conducted with all stakeholders during period 28 November to 2 December 2016, and subsequent meetings with selected groups to further investigate options and scenarios, receive feedback on concept plans, and to collaboratively develop proposed future directions. The information collected during the engagement processes was a significant informant to *Volume 1, Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Provision Framework*.



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- Appendix 2 Membership and team numbers for Bairnsdale sporting clubs



East Gippsland Gymnastics Centre

1. INTRODUCTION

Bairnsdale is the main township of the East Gippsland Shire. Its population in 2016 was 16,642 people, which is 36.6% of the total population of the Shire.

Bairnsdale currently offers residents a diversity of sporting and recreation opportunities, from field-based sports to indoor and outdoor court sports, and aquatic activities to equestrian, shooting and motor sports. Whilst many facilities service the local catchment of Bairnsdale and the surrounding district, some facilities service residents from the whole of the Shire, and beyond.

There are over 35 different sporting and active recreation activities available in the Bairnsdale area, being played at 60 different sporting facilities at 30 locations (includes facilities at the racecourse and aerodrome). The facilities are providing sport and active recreation opportunities for more than 6,600 people who are members of approximately 60 sports clubs and recreation groups based in the Bairnsdale area.

Some sporting clubs are using facilities that meet their needs and are fit for purpose, whilst there are other clubs that have only limited access to necessary facilities, or whose facilities are inadequate, ageing, or do not meet minimum standards or guidelines for their sport. Then there are other sports and recreation pursuits that are emerging, which have only limited access to suitable facilities or there is no provision.

In order to determine the optimum suite of sporting facilities required to meet the current and future sporting needs of Bairnsdale residents, the East Gippsland Shire Council commissioned the development of the Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan.

1.1. Study Aim and Objectives

The overall aim of the Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan is to determine the most appropriate range of sporting facilities that will ***actively encourage and support increased participation in sport by East Gippsland Shire residents.***

The objectives for the study were:

- To develop an evidence-led service planning project that initially focuses on sport in Bairnsdale that can be replicated across East Gippsland Shire
- To understand the current and future needs of the Bairnsdale community regarding sport
- To match activity, users and facilities in a fit for purpose approach, which may include consolidation, multi-use, sharing, re-purposing and/or re-location
- To determine how facilities are functioning or should function into the future, including economically and environmentally but also in relation to their management
- To develop concept layout plans and pavilion floor plans for selected sites that embrace universal design and environmentally sustainable design principles

1.2. Study Approach

The study comprised of four main phases:

1. Needs Analysis
2. Service Based Infrastructure Assessment
3. Needs Alignment and Options
4. Concept Development Plans and Study Report

2. BAIRNSDALE SPORTING FACILITIES PLAN

This section brings together all information and research assessed and considered during the study, and outlines a new vision for the future provision of sport and active recreation in Bairnsdale, with some recommendations having a Shire-wide relevance.

Whilst the focus of the vision and many of the recommendations relate to the popular (or mainstream) sports and activities, directions and suggestions are also provided to improve the offerings of other sports available in Bairnsdale.



Bairnsdale Bowls Club

2.1. Council's Role

East Gippsland Shire Council's role in the future provision of sporting facilities and services will have five key components as outlined in Table 1.

Table 1 – Future Role of Council in the Provision of Sporting Facilities

PLANNER	<i>Facilitate the planning, development and management of sport and recreation facilities and services to cater for identified community needs</i>
PROVIDER	<i>Provide sport and recreation facilities and services through direct funding, shared funding, and facilitated funding and/or access arrangements</i>
SUPPORTER	<i>Support clubs, reserve committees, other community groups, and management entities with the development, management and maintenance of sport and recreation facilities</i>
PARTNER	<i>Work with the community, education, private and government sectors to ensure that sport and recreation facilities meet community needs and optimise investment opportunities</i>
ADVOCATOR	<i>Advocate on behalf of clubs, reserve committees, other community groups, and management entities to decision-makers and funding organisations for the development of sport and recreation facilities that are supported by Council's strategic planning</i>

2.2. Planning Principles

Table 2 lists the key principles that will underpin the future planning, design and management of sporting facilities in Bairnsdale, and can be applied to all Council-owned/ managed sporting facilities throughout the Shire.

Table 2 – Principles for the Future Provision of Sporting Facilities

INCREASED PARTICIPATION	<i>Council will support the development of facilities that will facilitate increased participation by Shire residents in sport and recreation activities</i>
DIVERSITY	<i>Council will facilitate the provision of a range of sporting and recreation facilities across the Shire to firstly, ensure that the community has access to a variety of different sporting and recreation opportunities, and secondly, to cater for different levels of ability and need</i>
MULTI-USE AND SHARED USE	<i>Council will advocate strongly for and optimise the provision of sport and recreation facilities that are multi-use and can support shared use, where appropriate and practical. The development of single-use facilities will generally not be supported</i>
ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE	<i>Sport and recreation facilities will be accessible to and encourage people of all ages, genders, ability and cultural backgrounds</i>
ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AND SUSTAINABLE	<i>Sport and recreation facilities will be sited, designed and managed to enhance ecological values and sustainability outcomes, and embrace Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) Principles, where appropriate and practical</i>
ADAPTABLE	<i>Sport and recreation facilities will be designed and managed to meet specific user requirements whilst also being flexible to meet changing community needs and aspirations</i>
PARTNERSHIPS	<i>Council will adopt a collaborative and partnership approach with the community, schools, government agencies, peak sporting organisations and the private sector for the planning, provision and management of sport and recreation facilities</i>
FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE	<i>Financial viability and cost effectiveness of sport and recreation facilities will be considered in all aspects of planning, development and management</i>
STRATEGIC JUSTIFICATION	<i>Strategically supported by local or regional plans and/or state sporting associations'/ peak bodies' facility plans to meet identified community needs and gaps. Where practical, develop and upgrade sporting facilities in accordance with peak bodies' preferred standards and design guidelines</i>

2.3. Key Recommendations for Sport

Figure 1 – Key Recommendations for New/ Upgraded Sporting Facilities in Bairnsdale



July 2018

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Bairnsdale Sports Facility Plan Key Recommendations

Site Specific Directions

Figures 2 – 5 show master plans for four key sporting reserves in Bairnsdale and include a series of recommendations and directions to improve the provision, diversity and sustainability of 10 sports and 16 clubs/ associations.

The reserves are:

1. **Bairnsdale City Oval** – to be further upgraded as the premier sporting reserve in East Gippsland Shire
2. **WORLD** – to be expanded and become the main community sporting precinct in Bairnsdale
3. **West Bairnsdale Oval** – to be upgraded and become the new venue for the Wy Yung sporting clubs. (Refer Volume 4 for background information supporting the decision by Wy Yung sporting groups to support the relocation to West Bairnsdale Oval)
4. **Lucknow Recreation Reserve** – to be expanded and upgraded to accommodate the emerging sporting and recreational needs of Bairnsdale's main population growth area. (Refer Volume 4 for background information supporting East Gippsland Gymnastics Club to be accommodated on Lucknow Recreation Reserve)



Figure 2 – Bairnsdale City Oval Master Plan



Figure 3 – WORLD Sporting Precinct Master Plan



Figure 4 – West Bairnsdale Oval Master Plan

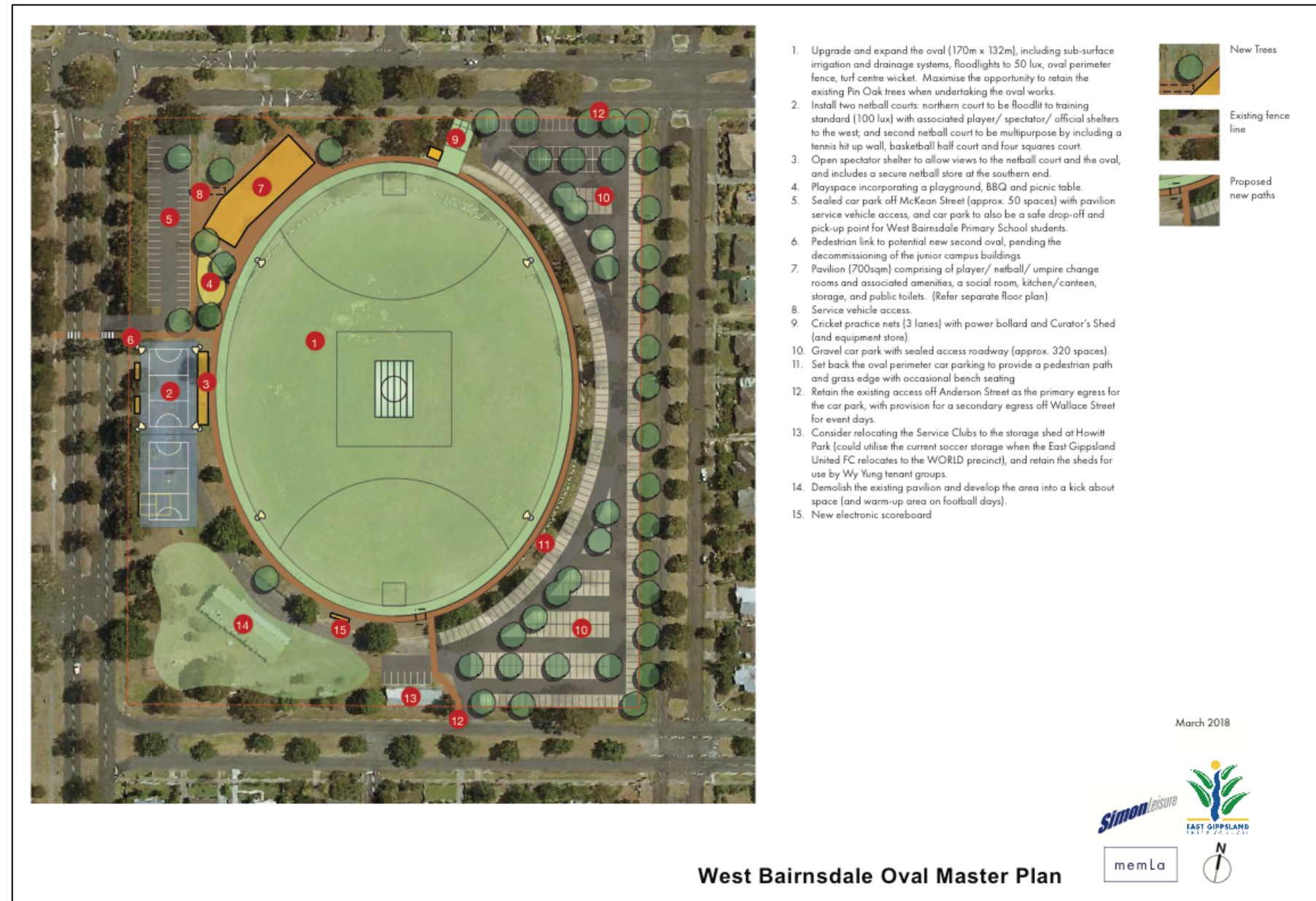


Figure 5 – Lucknow Recreation Reserve Master Plan



2.4. Other Directions for Sport

As well as the recommended capital improvement projects at major sporting reserves and facilities, as identified and listed above in Section 2.3, the study also supports a range of sports planning initiatives and capital upgrades at other sites accommodating sporting and recreation activities.

- That Council work collaboratively with the Department of Education and Training to secure long-term tenancy of the land on the larger Bairnsdale Secondary College site incorporating the WORLD facilities, and the adjoining land along Albert Street (Appendix 1)
- That Council investigate options for the future use of the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve, with possibilities being:
 - to retain the site as an overflow sports ground
 - to develop the site as a new parkland for active and passive recreation
 - to develop the site as an equestrian venue
 - to agist all/ part of the site for agricultural purposes
 - to sell all/ part of the site.
- That Council investigate options for the future use of the western sports ground at Howitt Park, with possibilities being:
 - to expand the athletics use/ facilities at the reserve
 - to increase the use of the area for water related activities and events, eg. rowing regattas
 - to use the area as an overflow venue for sport
 - to encourage increased use of the area for active and passive recreation activities.
- That Council undertake Shire-wide strategies in partnership with respective sport stakeholders to identify, investigate and determine a clear direction for the following evolving sports:
 - Soccer Development Strategy, incorporating a feasibility assessment of establishing a new soccer league to service East Gippsland Shire.
 - Hockey Development Strategy, incorporating an assessment of the optimum framework for competition and hockey pathway programs in East Gippsland Shire, including a feasibility assessment for the provision of a synthetic hockey pitch at the WORLD sporting precinct.
 - Equestrian Strategy, incorporating a feasibility assessment of the possible re-use of the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve as a new home for equestrian.
- That Council investigate options to relocate the Wy Yung Angling Club, with possibilities being to remain at Wy Yung Recreation Reserve or relocate to Howitt Park.
- That Council investigate options to relocate the Bairnsdale Senior Citizens Group from West Bairnsdale Oval.
- That Council support the East Gippsland Biathlon Club with its objective to identify a permanent base to train, with a possibility being the Bairnsdale Kart Club track.
- That Council continue to support the East Gippsland Motor Sports Club with its objective to identify a permanent motor sport circuit in the Bairnsdale district, with a possibility being land at the Aerodrome.
- That Council continue to work with the Riviera Triathlon Club to identify options for safe cycle training routes, and with ongoing improvements to the surface of the Howitt Park athletics track.

- That Council assist the Bairnsdale and District Model Aero Club to progressively develop its facilities, by identifying potential funding sources for capital grants.
- That Council assist the Bairnsdale Field Archers to progressively develop its facilities in Sarsfield, by identifying potential funding sources for capital grants.
- That Council continue to investigate the potential for the Bairnsdale Clay Target Club to expand their current leased area at the Aerodrome.
- That Council assist the Bairnsdale Golf Club and the Dragons Abreast Gippsland Waratahs to collaborate with Destination Gippsland and other tourism marketing agencies to achieve improved promotion and exposure.
- That Council undertake a master planning study for the Bairnsdale Aerodrome precinct to assess current and future needs of sporting and recreation groups using leased land.
- That Council review and upgrade sports facility identification signage, and include references to the facilities available and the tenant clubs/ groups based there



3. FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF RESERVES

Community committees manage the following reserves in Bairnsdale on behalf of Council:

- Bairnsdale City Oval
- Wy Yung Recreation Reserve
- West Bairnsdale Oval
- Lucknow Recreation Reserve
- Howitt Park

Each committee has a formal management agreement with Council to manage the reserve on its behalf, with such agreement underpinned by the following service objectives:

- Care and management of the reserve
- Management of the recreational and sporting user groups of the facility

Specifically, committees are required to maintain, repair and clean the reserve and associated infrastructure, including maintaining the sports oval(s) and other sports surfaces, and maintaining the buildings on the reserve, including pavilions/clubrooms.

While the current governance framework for reserves is sound, and is generally consistent with reserve management models adopted by other rural councils, there are opportunities to improve, for example:

- Prescribe the membership of committees, including the method of appointment of committee members.
- Include community representatives as members of committees, i.e. local residents who are not aligned with any

tenant group, and consider Council officer representation on or direct involvement with committees.

- Build on the current roles and responsibilities of committees, such as:
 - encouraging committees to facilitate the implementation of capital improvements (in accordance with agreed master plans) and to plan for the future
 - reviewing annual fees and charges for tenant groups and casual use
 - requiring committees to be more proactive in promoting and encouraging non-sporting uses of reserves by local residents as a place for play, recreation and personal fitness
 - identifying opportunities for reserves to be used for non-sporting uses, such as markets, local community activities, use of clubrooms for meetings, etc.

As the premier sporting reserve, Bairnsdale City Oval needs to be providing facilities to a higher standard than other Shire reserves. This enables regional sporting activities to be played on a superior playing surface and this use complemented by better quality off-field facilities.

The reserve currently has a regional role by accommodating the administration offices for sports organisations in the Sports Hub. This role is consistent with and complementary to the reserve's status as the Shire's premier sporting reserve.

With the adoption of the Bairnsdale City Oval Master Plan and the commitment by Council to further develop the reserve as the Shire's premier sporting venue, it is timely for Council to re-assess the management model for the reserve. The current management model has been an effective means to this point in time for the reserve to be managed on Council's behalf. However, the skills, expertise, time and resources required to

maintain and manage Bairnsdale City Oval and the Boolarumah Centre to a premier standard may be beyond the capability of a volunteer community committee.

In addition, it will be important for sport development outcomes and for Shire economic development outcomes that Bairnsdale City Oval hosts high profile sporting events in the future, including State and National sport, such as Premier Cricket matches and AFL practice matches, and has also host AFL club summer training camps. Again, the marketing expertise and resources to achieve this will require specialist skills and effective advocacy.

The role of the reserve committee could vary to become an advisory committee, with key roles being to liaise with Council on behalf of the tenant groups and the community on matters relating to usage, facilities, and locally scheduled events.

In relation to the future management of reserves, it is recommended:

1. That a feasibility assessment be undertaken of the benefits of the direct management responsibility for Bairnsdale City Oval being transferred to the East Gippsland Shire Council.
2. That other recreation reserves in Bairnsdale continue under the existing governance framework, with several enhancements recommended for future management agreements around the role, responsibilities and membership of committees of management.

The key outcome driving the proposed changes to the management model for reserves is to increase the activation and use of recreation reserves by residents, other local community groups, and Shire visitors whilst not detracting from the primary role of the reserves as sport precincts.

As well as clubs and community organisations using sporting facilities and reserves located on Council-owned/ managed land, there are groups utilising facilities and spaces on land owned by others, such as Crown, education and privately-owned land. Examples are:

- Bairnsdale Tennis Club, which is located on Crown land and holds its lease directly with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).
- The East Gippsland Badminton Association, which is based at Nagle College's Presentation Hall.
- Bairnsdale Golf Club and the Bairnsdale and District Model Aero Club, which own the freehold of the land on which they are based.

Historically, Council has not supported capital improvements for clubs and groups on land that is in ownership/ management other than Council. The challenge with this position is that funding bodies such as government and most State Sporting Associations require a local government authority to endorse funding applications on behalf of a sporting club. Often, local government receives the money and project manages these capital projects on behalf of sporting clubs.

Moving forward, it is suggested that Council needs to place a higher importance on the role, history of operation and level of inclusiveness of participation when considering the merits of funding applications, rather than the tenure of the land.

The above-mentioned example sporting clubs have no restrictions on membership nor participation and all residents of

East Gippsland Shire can join them. It is also important to note that other than the Bairnsdale Golf Club, each of the sporting clubs are operated and managed as not-for-profit entities by volunteers with only limited opportunities to raise revenue for capital improvements. The same as most of the sporting clubs using facilities on Council-owned/ managed land.

In order to provide a fair and equitable approach, it is recommended that Council explore broadening its management and involvement in essential sporting facilities. In lieu of a management role, it is recommended that Council consider auspicing projects and applications on a club's behalf. Conversely, where applicable, Council should consider its need to manage or have responsibility for non-essential sporting facilities or facilities that have changed function in recent time.

A key criteria to fund projects or to endorse applications to external funding bodies should be the level of impact that the funds will have on ***maintaining or increasing current levels of participation.***



Bairnsdale & District Table Tennis Association
Lucknow Recreation Reserve



Wy Yung Recreation Reserve



Hudson-Alvin Oval, Lucknow Recreation Reserve

4. COSTED AND PRIORITISED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan recommends a number of key sports facility development projects. Each of these key development proposals comprise of numerous sub-projects, each with different priorities and costs.

Table 3 is an implementation plan to guide Council and other stakeholders for the progressive implementation of key sports facility development projects, and includes an indicative capital cost for nominated projects and a suggested prioritisation. *(Please note that not all recommendations emanating from master plans, or the study generally, have been costed. The implementation plan generally includes those projects of a higher need and of strategic importance).*

The practicality and order of implementation of all projects will be subject to a number of factors and criteria before proceeding, including:

- Availability of funding
- Current and future priorities of Council, sporting groups, and other community organisations
- Stakeholder and community needs and trends
- Further investigation, research and consultation

It is important to note that the directions contained within the implementation plan do not commit Council or any other organisations to a responsibility for funding projects. Project funding and financial plans will form part of a project delivery plan prepared for all projects.

Projects have been assigned a prioritisation of either **High** (H), **Medium** (M) or **Low** (L), which represents a comparative assessment of **need** between all projects, rather than reflecting a specific **timeframe** for implementation. In some instances, a project cannot proceed without another project having been completed, and the prioritisation ranking takes this into account.

Notes about the Implementation Plan

- All capital cost estimates shown in the table are based on works being undertaken by professional contractors, and consultant fees associated with design development and administration have been averaged at 10% of construction costs.
- The cost estimates have been provided as indicative costs, based on similar projects undertaken in the past 18 months.
- Cost exclusions include:
 - Construction contingencies.
 - Any costs/loss of income, which may be incurred by user groups, Council or other parties during construction of projects.
 - Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- It should be noted that some capacity might exist for cost savings during the implementation of the capital improvement program from combining or packaging projects into larger contracts.

Table 3 –Implementation Plan

No.	Strategic Direction	Key Project Components	Estimated Cost	Priority	Budget Provision
1	Bairnsdale City Oval				
1a	Continue to recognise and develop Bairnsdale City Oval as the premier field-based sporting facility in East Gippsland Shire, and the venue for regional football and cricket uses, and other events and uses with Shire-wide implications	Upgrade the main change rooms to meet AFL and Cricket Victoria guidelines for a regional venue	\$450,000	M	
1c		Reconfigure the traffic management, including relocating the main entrance of the reserve to Grant Street	\$250,000	L	
1d		Upgrade and expand the playing surface of Peppercorn Park to accommodate increased football use (includes installation of a basic irrigation and drainage system, and floodlights to training standard 100 lux)	\$400,000	H	
1e		Provide a basic cricket building at Peppercorn Park (room with kitchenette, storage and new public toilets - approx. 100sqm)	\$250,000	L	
1f		Remove the high chain-mesh perimeter fencing around Peppercorn Park, and install new fencing to secure the main oval precinct (alignment as per master plan)	\$60,000	M	
	Consultant Fees (design, documentation, administration)	@ 10% of project cost	\$141,000		
	Total		\$1,551,000		

No.	Strategic Direction	Key Project Components	Estimated Cost	Priority	Budget Provision
2	WORLD Precinct				
2a	Develop a new community sporting precinct in the northern area of Bairnsdale Secondary College, incorporating the WORLD precinct and adjoining land, pending Council gaining long-term security of tenure of the land	Construct an eight court netball complex (includes acrylic surface courts with floodlights to competition standard 200 lux, low height perimeter fence, three two-way player shelters, and control box/ store)	\$1,500,000	H	WORLD Design \$70,000 (19/20)
2b		Upgrade the surface of two hockey pitches (but defer installation of drainage and irrigation pending synthetic pitch feasibility), and install 2.5m chain-mesh fences behind the goal area of each pitch, a spectator shelter, and floodlights to competition standard 250 lux to the east field	\$625,000	Floodlights H Balance of works M	
2c		Extend/ upgrade the existing netball-hockey pavilion	\$625,000	H	Netball Pavilion \$50,000 (20/21)
2d		Construct car parking to service netball and hockey precinct (combination of sealed and gravel) 200 car parks (STAGE 1)	\$350,000	H	
2e		Construct a new soccer precinct (includes earthworks, two senior pitches with sub-surface drainage and irrigation and floodlights to training standard 100 lux [one with a 1.1m chain-mesh perimeter fence], installation of a 3.0m chain-mesh fence behind the goal area of each pitch, and two unfenced junior fields)	\$1,000,000	H	Netball and Soccer - Stage 1 \$650,000 (20/21)
2f		New soccer pavilion (550sqm), and 3 shelters	\$1,800,000	M	
2g		Construct car parking to service soccer precinct (combination of sealed and gravel) 170 car parks (STAGE 2)	\$300,000	M	
2h		Allowance for construction of some sections of the sealed path network	\$150,000	M	
	Consultant Fees (design, documentation, administration)	@ 10% of project cost	\$627,500		
	Total		\$6,977,500		

No.	Strategic Direction	Key Project Components	Estimated Cost	Priority	Budget Provision
3	West Bairnsdale Oval				
3a	Develop West Bairnsdale Oval to accommodate local football-netball club needs and local cricket club needs	Upgrade and expand the oval to playing surface dimensions 170m x 132m (includes installation of sub-surface drainage and irrigation, floodlights to 50 lux, oval perimeter fence, and installation of a turf centre wicket table)	\$940,000	M	
3b		Construct two netball courts (includes acrylic surface courts, floodlighting for one to training standard 100 lux, low height perimeter fence for one, player shelter for one, hit-up wall and basketball ring for one)	\$450,000	M	
3c		New pavilion (700sqm), includes public toilets (refer to Volume 2)	\$2,100,000	M	
3d		Demolish the existing pavilion and reinstate the surface to grass	\$35,000	M	
3e		Construct cricket practice nets (3 lanes) with power bollard and Curator's Shed	\$260,000	M	
3f		New electronic scoreboard	\$65,000	M	
3g		Construct a sealed car park off McKean Street with kerb channel 50 car parks	\$175,000	M	
	Consultant Fees (design, documentation, administration)	@ 10% of project cost	\$402,500		
	Total		\$4,427,500		

No.	Strategic Direction	Key Project Components	Estimated Cost	Priority	Budget Provision
4	Lucknow Recreation Reserve				
4a	Upgrade and expand the Lucknow Recreation Reserve, including establishment of a new parkland to the east	Upgrade the main oval (includes installation of sub-surface irrigation, removal of the exposed drainage pits, installation of a turf centre wicket table and installation of ball protection fencing)	\$400,000	M	
4b		Expand and resurface the netball court area to provide one compliant court (east) and one training/ warm-up court (west)	\$150,000	H	
4c		Redevelop the main pavilion by building new player and netball change rooms, a new kitchen/ canteen, new bar, dual-use toilets (social room and public) and open-up views from the social room to the oval (refer to Volume 3)	\$1,800,000	H	\$500,000 (19/20)
4d		Hudson Oval: replace the turf centre wicket table with a synthetic wicket	\$17,500	M	
4e		Construct cricket practice nets (3 lanes) with power bollard and Curator's Shed	\$260,000	M	
4f		New gymnastics centre - allowance includes only the purchase and installation of a shed, and concrete footings and floor - exclusions are civil works, internal fit-out, and connection to the table tennis and squash centre (refer Volume 3 for preliminary concept floor plans)	\$450,000	H	\$150,000 (19/20)
4g		Form a new unsealed car park off the Great Alpine Road to service the stadium (70 spaces)	\$85,000	M	
4h		Relocate the main reserve entry and construct as a two-way access, and sealed car parking (40 spaces)	\$125,000	L	
	Consultant Fees (design, documentation, administration)	@ 10% of project cost	\$328,750		
	Total		\$3,616,250		

No.	Strategic Direction	Key Project Components	Estimated Cost	Priority	Budget Provision
5	Howitt Park South				
5a	Upgrade the Centre to meet changing needs of the two tenant groups	Upgrade the amenities areas of the change rooms to meet standards, and provide an accessible toilet (the relocation of soccer reduces the need to increase the number of change rooms)	\$250,000	H	
5b		Allowance to upgrade the social rooms/ kitchen, and to provide additional secure storage	\$125,000	M	
5c		Prepare a traffic management plan, and undertake works to improve pedestrian safety around the pavilion	\$125,000	H	
5d		Investigate options to extend the rowing landing to accommodate increased use, and undertake works, as permissible given the impacts from flooding	\$150,000	M	
5e		Install pathways to complete linkages around the park to the various sporting area	\$125,000	M	
	Consultant Fees (design, documentation, administration)	@ 10% of project cost	\$77,500		
	Total		\$852,500		

No.	Strategic Direction	Key Project Components	Estimated Cost	Priority	Budget Provision
6	Bairnsdale Aquatic & Recreation Centre (BARC)				
6a	Expand the number of indoor courts from three courts to five compliant multipurpose courts, including provision for a 'show court' with seating for up to 800 people	Extend the existing stadium hall by approx. 60m x 60m to achieve a floor area suitable for: - two additional multipurpose courts (compliant for netball) with provision for 'show court' overlaid on both courts, and retractable seating for 800 people - new player and referee change rooms - a shared space for up to four tenant groups (basketball, futsal, volleyball and badminton) with views onto the courts and comprising of an office/ control room, meeting room, and canteen/ kitchen	\$7,000,000	M	
6b		New part sealed car park to the rear (250 spaces)	\$450,000	M	
	Consultant Fees (design, documentation, administration)	@ 10% of project cost	\$745,000		
	Total		\$8,195,000		
No.	Strategic Direction	Key Project Components	Estimated Cost	Priority	Budget Provision
7	Bairnsdale Squash & Table Tennis Centre				
7a	Upgrade the Centre to meet changing needs of the two tenant groups	Increase the secure storage capacity at the Centre (40sqm)	\$80,000	M	
7b		Construct tiered seating between the two rows of squash courts (approx. 15m x 3.5m)	\$75,000	M	
7c		Provide a separate meeting (25sqm)	\$62,500	M	
7d		Repair the sewer connection for the women's toilets	\$25,000	M	
	Consultant Fees (design, documentation, administration)	@ 10% of project cost	\$24,250		
	Total		\$266,750		

No.	Strategic Direction	Key Project Components	Estimated Cost	Priority	Budget Provision
8	Bairnsdale Tennis Centre				
8a	Upgrade the Centre to meet changing needs of the two tenant groups	Resurface Courts 1 - 4	\$125,000	H	
8b		Upgrade the floodlighting on Courts 1 - 8	\$300,000	H	
8c		Convert two courts to up to 8 permanent Hot Shots courts	\$180,000	M	
8d		Upgrade the internal spaces of the clubhouse	\$50,000	M	
	Consultant Fees (design, documentation, administration)	@ 10% of project cost	\$65,500		
	Total		\$720,500		
No.	Strategic Direction	Key Project Components	Estimated Cost	Priority	Budget Provision
9	Other Priorities				
9a	Pursue a long-term lease for the land identified in the WORLD sports precinct master plan	Council to work collaboratively with the Department of Education and Training to secure a long-term tenancy on the larger Bairnsdale Secondary College site, incorporating the WORLD facilities and the adjoining land along Albert Street		H	
9b	Investigate options for the future use of the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve	Explore options such as retaining the site as an overflow sports ground; developing the site for parkland for active and passive recreation; developing the site as an equestrian venue; agisting part or all of the site for agricultural purposes; selling part of all of the site		M	
9c	Investigate options for the future use of the western sports ground at Howitt Park	Explore options such as expanding the athletics use and facilities; increasing the use of the area for water related activities and events; retaining the site as an overflow sports ground; increasing the use of the park for active and passive recreation		M	

No.	Strategic Direction	Key Project Components	Estimated Cost	Priority	Budget Provision
9d	Undertake Shire-wide strategies in partnership with key stakeholders to identify, investigate and determine a clear direction for key evolving sports	Soccer Development Strategy - incorporating a feasibility assessment of establishing a new soccer league to service East Gippsland Shire	Explore external funding	H	
9e		Hockey Development Strategy - incorporating an assessment of the optimum framework for competition and pathway programs in East Gippsland, including a feasibility assessment for the provision of a synthetic hockey pitch at the WORLD sporting precinct	Explore external funding	M	
9f		Equestrian Strategy - incorporating a feasibility assessment of the possible re-use of the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve as a new home for equestrian	Explore external funding	M	
9g	Explore options for relocating clubs impacted by reserve developments	Investigate relocating Wy Yung Angling Club to either West Bairnsdale Oval or Howitt Park		L	
9h		Investigate options for the relocation of the Bairnsdale Senior Citizens Club from West Bairnsdale Oval		H	
9i	Support clubs to develop further and be more sustainable	East Gippsland Biathlon Club - to identify a permanent base to train, with a possibility being the Bairnsdale Kart Club track		As opportunity arises	
9j		East Gippsland Motor Sports Club - to identify a permanent motor sport circuit in the Bairnsdale district, with a possibility being land at the Aerodrome		As opportunity arises	
9k		Riviera Triathlon Club - to identify options for safe cycle training routes, and with ongoing improvements to the surface of the Howitt Park athletics track		As opportunity arises	
9l		Bairnsdale and District Model Aero Club - to progressively develop its facilities, by identifying potential funding sources for capital grants		As opportunity arises	
9m		Bairnsdale Field Archers - to progressively develop its facilities in Sarsfield, by identifying potential funding sources for capital grants		As opportunity arises	

No.	Strategic Direction	Key Project Components	Estimated Cost	Priority	Budget Provision
9n		Bairnsdale Clay Target Club – to investigate the potential for the Club to expand their current leased area at the Aerodrome		As opportunity arises	
9o		Bairnsdale Golf Club and the Dragons Abreast Gippsland Waratahs – to assist the groups to collaborate with Destination Gippsland and other tourism marketing agencies to achieve improved promotion and exposure		As opportunity arises	
9p		Undertake a master planning study for the Bairnsdale Aerodrome precinct to assess current and future needs of sporting and recreation groups using leased land		H	
9q		Review and upgrade sports facility identification signage, and include references to the facilities available and the tenant clubs/ groups based there		L	
9r	Provide a fair and equitable model to the tenure and management of community sporting facilities	Explore facilities under Crown Land management and the role that Council plays in this space. For example, the Bairnsdale Tennis Club. Conversely explore the Crown Land sites that are in Council management with little community benefit		H	
9s		Undertake a feasibility assessment of East Gippsland's premier sporting facility, Bairnsdale City Oval, having greater involvement from Council		H	

5. SITUATION ANALYSIS AND NEEDS ALIGNMENT

This section collates and synthesises all data and research outcomes from the study, including input from stakeholders, to enable the alignment of needs against available sporting infrastructure to be undertaken (sporting facilities gap analysis).

The outcomes of this task contributed to the formulation of the various recommendations and directions noted in the previous sections.

5.1. Drivers of Demand

The following data sources and research processes were used to assess the current and likely future demand for sporting facilities in Bairnsdale:

- Demographic characteristics of Bairnsdale
- General sports participation trends
- Comparison of the rate of participation in sport by Bairnsdale residents with the average participation rate by all Victorians
- Conversations with stakeholders

This section summarises the key drivers of demand from the above sources.

5.1.1. Population Profile and Projections

Bairnsdale's population in 2016 was 16,642 people. The area has a younger age profile when compared to all of East Gippsland Shire.

There is a higher proportion of residents in the 'active age cohort' of 5–39 years (41.7%), compared to all of East Gippsland Shire (35.8%). (Research shows that people aged between 5 and 39 years represent a significant majority of all people participating in organised, club-based sport).

The population of Bairnsdale is projected to increase to 18,688 people by 2036 (an increase of 2,046).

Table 4 shows that the age profile of the Bairnsdale population will generally remain similar through to 2036. The number of people in the active age cohort is projected to increase by more than 1,200 people.

Table 4 – Age Cohort Population Growth for Bairnsdale (2016 – 2036)

	0-4 yrs		5-39yrs		60+yrs	
	2016	2036	2016	2036	2016	2036
Bairnsdale Region	997	1,140	6,309	7,538	5,077	5,689
East Gippsland Shire	2,228	2,785	14,827	18,165	16,454	20,143
% of each in each Region						
	0-4 yrs		5-39yrs		60+yrs	
	2016	2036	2016	2036	2016	2036
Bairnsdale Region	6.1%	6.1%	38.6%	40.3%	30.9%	30.4%
East Gippsland Shire	4.9%	5.1%	32.9%	33.5%	36.6%	37.2%

Much of the residential growth is currently occurring west of Bairnsdale (Shannon Waters: 600 lots), but in the medium to longer term population growth is projected to occur in the areas to the east and north of Bairnsdale (Lucknow area).

This data suggests that there will continue to be strong demand for sporting and active recreation facilities in the Bairnsdale area during the forecast period.

5.1.2. General Sports Participation Trends

The *VicHealth Indicators Survey 2015* (which includes all participation data in all sports) **shows East Gippsland Shire residents participate in physical activity organised by a club or association at a higher rate (11.8%) compared to all Victorians (9.8%).**

The *AusPlay Study 2016* reports that sports clubs are the primary avenue for children to be active, although they are not the main choice for adults – adults have a higher propensity to walk, swim and use fitness gyms.

Whilst sports clubs are the primary avenue for all children to be active, boys (50%) are more likely to be active through a club than girls (33%).

The *VicHealth Sport Participation Research Project 2016* (which includes participation data from only 11 Victorian State Sporting Associations) shows that males (20.4%) are twice as likely to participate in organised sport than females (10.5%).

Young children (5–14 years) have the highest sport participation of any other age cohort at 67%.

Sport participation rates drop significantly during adolescence: participation rates of 15–19 year olds are less than half that of children aged 5–14 years (29% compared with 67%), and dropping to 6.3% for 35-39 year olds.

Sports participation is highest for people living in regional Victoria (40%), compared to Metropolitan Melbourne (27%).

The following shows some of the trends in the highest participatory sports in Bairnsdale:

Football

- Between 2014 and 2016, the number of club footballers in Victoria increased from 145,000 players to more than 160,000 (↑10.3%).
- Between 2015 and 2016, the number of female club footballers increased from 6,600 players to 9,350 (↑41.0%), and the number of teams from 253 to 355.

Cricket

- Between 2010 and 2013, total cricket numbers in Victoria decreased from 112,000 players to just less than 100,000. However, between 2012 and 2015 there was a 17% increase in participation in all cricket types, including 18% in club cricket. In 2015, there were 124,000 club cricketers.
- There was a 24% increase in female cricket in Victoria between 2014 to 2015, and in 2016, there were 132 new female cricket teams formed. Female participation in 2016 made up 24% of all cricket participation in the state.

Basketball

- Between 2012 and 2015, the total number of basketballers in Victoria increased by 24,500 players, from approximately 132,000 to 156,500 (↑18.5%).

Netball

- Between 2010 and 2016, the total number of netballers in Victoria increased from 106,065 players to 114,681. This is an increase of 8,600 players (↑8.1%). The 2016 participant number represented eight consecutive years of netball growth.
- The introductory program of NetSetGo! increased by 5,000 children (↑47.7%) between 2012 and 2016, up from 10,400 to 15,400.

Soccer

- Soccer participation in Victoria has experienced significant growth in recent years. Since 2013, nearly 7,500 more people are playing competition soccer (▲13.5%).
- The 62,000 players in 2015 were represented by 3,300 teams (up from 2,748 teams in 2013) and 330 clubs (11 more than 2013).
- 12,100 females played soccer in 2016, up 21% from 2013.

Tennis

- In Victoria, there were 124,753 registered tennis members in 2017, an increase of 50,500 players since 2012 (▲68%). This trend of increase has reversed the gradual decline of tennis membership that occurred between 2008 and 2014.
- The number of 'connected tennis participants' in 2017 was 270,600 people. ('Connected' is a term referred to by Tennis Victoria for all club members, Hot Shots participants and court hirers). The 2017 number represented an increase of 140% since 2014.
- The introductory program of Hot Shots increased by 59,300 children (▲68%) in 12 months between 2016 and 2017, up from 87,200 children to 146,500 participants.

Gymnastics

- In 2017, membership had increased to almost 60,000 gymnasts, which is a doubling of membership in the past five years (▲100%).
- There are 130 gymnastics clubs, with the average size of a club being 450 members. Just on 70% of all clubs have waiting lists.
- The profile of gymnastics members is that 81% are female and 19% male.

5.1.3. Sports Participation in Bairnsdale

Appendix 2 shows the number teams and participants in club sport in the Bairnsdale area in 2016. (The list does not include all clubs and participant numbers, as the data collection relied on clubs completing a survey).

The participation data shows that:

- Sporting clubs based in the Bairnsdale area have in excess of 6,646 members/ participants.
- The proportion of junior (52%) to senior participants (48%) is similar, which is not consistent with State-wide participation trends that show a higher rate of participation by people aged under 18 years in organised sport compared to adults.

Table 5 shows the 2016 participation rate for the most popular sports in Bairnsdale, and compares the rate of participation in Bairnsdale to the average participation rate by all Victorians in that sport. The data shows that:

- Of the eleven sports where a comparison is possible, eight sports have higher rates of participation in Bairnsdale compared to State averages.
- Soccer, Tennis and Athletics have lower rates of participation in Bairnsdale compared to State averages. The lower rate for Soccer can be partly explained by the lack of a domestic soccer competition in East Gippsland Shire. The Latrobe Valley Soccer League is the winter soccer option for players. It requires players to travel significant distances, which is a disincentive for many prospective players, and the League currently caps the number of teams permitted in some grades. By comparison, the locally based Summer 7s soccer competition attracts an additional 430 players.

- The high participation in Netball will be partly explained by the doubling up of participation by some players, i.e. some players participate in football-netball club teams as well as with teams with the Bairnsdale Netball Association.

Table 5 – Bairnsdale Sports Participation vs State Averages

Sport	2016 Number	Average Victorian Part'n Rate (Adult & Child)	Theoretical Part'n Rate based on Vic Average	Comparison
Netball	909	2.6%	430	479 MORE
Football	856	2.6%	430	426 MORE
Golf	618	2.8%	465	153 MORE
Basketball	460	2.2%	360	100 MORE
Cricket	427	2.3%	380	47 MORE
Gymnastics	388	6.4% *	230	158 MORE
Futsal	339	NA	NA	NA
Bowls	322	1.4% *	180	242 MORE
Tennis	216	2.4%	400	184 LESS
Table Tennis	140	NA	NA	NA
Athletics	130	4.4% **	155	25 LESS
Soccer #	121	4.5%	750	629 LESS
Hockey	110	0.4%	66	47 MORE

* Adult participation rate ** Child participation rate

Winter participation only (there are 550 participants in Summer 7s)

5.1.4. Stakeholder Consultation

Significant stakeholder and community engagement was undertaken during the study. During the period November 2016 to January 2017, broad engagement with all stakeholders occurred using the following mediums:

1. Sporting club survey
2. Community survey
3. Meetings and workshops

During 2017, targeted consultation was carried out with specific sporting clubs and associations, as site concept plans and development proposals were formulated. A majority of these meetings sought feedback and input into design scenarios for new/ upgraded sporting facilities.

Volume 4 - Stakeholder Consultation Report (2018) contains a full account of all stakeholder and community engagement.

A snap-shot of key outcomes from the consultation follows.

Sporting Club Survey

The Sporting Club Survey was distributed to more than 50 sporting clubs and groups based in the Bairnsdale area, with 21 completed surveys returned. The key findings were:

- Most club members (65%) live in the Bairnsdale area (includes West Bairnsdale, East Bairnsdale, Wy Yung, Eastwood and Lucknow). A further 31% reside in other areas of the East Gippsland Shire, whilst 4% are from outside the Shire.
- Since 2012, 12 clubs have experienced an increase in membership, five clubs had their membership remain stable, and four clubs experienced a decrease.

- Just over half of all clubs indicated that the number of ovals, pitches and courts available to them was adequate to meet current needs, however, clubs were divided when asked whether the present number would be likely to meet projected future needs.
- Common issues identified by clubs in relation to their facilities included pavilions not meeting all club needs (player change, storage), inadequate floodlighting, and the quality of playing surfaces (particularly court sports).

Community Survey

Forty-six surveys were completed, with the key findings being:

- 94% of respondents had used a sporting facility in Bairnsdale in the previous 12 months.
- The most used sporting reserve or sporting facility was the WORLD (16 people), followed by the BARC (9 people).
- The most common reason for visiting a Bairnsdale sporting reserve or sporting facility was to 'play organised sport' (63%), followed by 'watching sport' and 'to exercise' (both 37%).

Meetings and Workshops with Sport Stakeholders

During November and December 2016, more than 30 meetings and workshops were conducted with sports clubs and associations, reserve committees, agencies and other stakeholders, **with more than 130 people engaged**.

A focus, or theme, of most of the meetings was to confirm the current usage of sporting facilities, the adequacy of facilities to meet the current and likely future needs of user groups, and opportunities for new or upgraded facilities to respond to identified needs or shortfall.

The following is a summary of key findings:

- Most sports grounds are in good condition and are coping with current loads, with the exception of the main oval at Bairnsdale City Oval.
- Many reserves have pavilions and other supporting infrastructure that are not fit for purpose, with the common constraints identified being the poor provision of change rooms and the constrained layout of some pavilion amenity areas (at two reserves opposing teams have to share the same shower areas), as well as the lack of storage.
- The lack of floodlighting at some facilities restricts the opportunity for training and competition, thereby constraining participation and player development.
- **Football** - participant numbers in senior and junior football are relatively stable, however, numbers fall away in the U16 age group. Auskick is strong in East Gippsland, with seven centres. Stakeholders agreed that no additional football clubs or grounds are required in the short to medium term.
- **Cricket** - participation in junior and senior cricket has generally been stable for the past few seasons, although there is evidence of growth in the past two years. Cricket has very few players aged 18–25 years, and it is becoming increasingly more difficult to retain teenage boys, as football academies are being established in major towns and now compete for young sportsmen during summer.
- **Netball** – participation is strong in the region, evidenced by the Bairnsdale Netball Association experiencing increased participants during the past five years, and Football Netball East Gippsland comprising of six netball sections. The key facility issue for netball is the poor condition of all netball courts and the inadequate pavilion at the WORLD site.

- **Soccer** – the sport in Bairnsdale is serviced by the East Gippsland United Football Club (outdoor winter soccer and Summer 7s) and the Bairnsdale Soccer Club (futsal). The number of players in both clubs is increasing, and both clubs have capped the number of teams due to the lack of available facilities and competitions to accommodate all teams. The key facility issue for soccer is the general shortage of available rectangular fields and indoor courts to meet demand.
- **Tennis** - the Bairnsdale Tennis Club has a Shire-wide role, being the only venue from which tennis pathway opportunities are available. This is due to many smaller clubs throughout the Shire having had to cease competition due to lack of numbers. The key facility issue for tennis is the short-term need to renew court surfaces and floodlighting at the Bairnsdale Tennis Club, and the capacity of the Club to fund these works.
- **Hockey** in East Gippsland has a strong history and reputation. Participation numbers vary between age groups: there are good numbers up to U13, but reduce for the U15 - U18 age groups, but senior participation is stable. The main challenge and constraint for the sport in the East Gippsland region has been the lack of access to a local synthetic hockey pitch, and general poor quality of the grass fields being used for training and matches (including lack of floodlights), and lack of available off-field facilities, such as change rooms and clubrooms.
- **Indoor Courts** - there is a general shortage of compliant indoor courts to accommodate the needs of most indoor sports, with the exception of table tennis, squash and racquetball, which are well catered for in the Bairnsdale Squash & Table Tennis Centre. Sports with inadequate access to courts are indoor soccer (futsal), basketball, volleyball, badminton, and netball.
- **Gymnastics** - participant numbers in gymnastics are strong and are increasing. There is currently a waiting list of more than 100 children unable to participate as members of the East Gippsland Gymnastic Club, mainly due to the small size of the centre that the Club has been hiring for eight years. There are a range of constraints with the current centre in addition to its small size, including a lack of change rooms and storage, the lack of security for the office space and restrictions in access.
- **Equestrian** - there are more than 10 different equestrian disciplines available within the East Gippsland Shire, and an equivalent number of equestrian clubs and groups. There is no regional equestrian facility within the Shire, and stakeholders identified that the general lack of accessible equestrian facilities has held back the growth of the sport in the region. The equestrian stakeholders agree that a regional solution is required, particularly as good facilities are necessary to attract good equine instructors and increase participation.
- There are ongoing conversations with the Department of Education regarding the community's current and future use of part of the Bairnsdale Secondary College land. The school administration supports the use of facilities by external groups, and supports in-principle the future development of the WORLD sporting precinct.
- Nagle College supports the use of its school facilities by external groups and the community, including the two indoor courts and one of the school ovals.
- The following sporting clubs indicated that they do not have a permanent base for training and/or competition:
 - East Gippsland Biathlon Club
 - East Gippsland Motor Sports Club

- The following sporting groups have access to a training and/or competition base, however, some identified issues or constraints with existing facilities (excludes mainstream sports):
 - Bairnsdale and District Model Aero Club
 - Bairnsdale Field Archers
 - Bairnsdale Clay Target Club
 - Dragons Abreast Gippsland Waratahs
 - Bairnsdale Golf Club
 - Riviera Triathlon Club



5.2. Current Sporting Facilities

This section identifies and describes the sporting facilities that currently exist in Bairnsdale, including the sports catered for, the ownership/ management of available facilities, and the condition of selected facilities and their adequacy to meet needs based on benchmarking.

5.2.1. Facility Provision

Table 6 shows that there are more than 30 different sports available in the Bairnsdale area, and that these sports can currently be played on or at approximately 119 sports surfaces or facilities.

Just on half are located on Council-owned/ managed land, with the balance on land owned by others, such as Crown land, school land, and privately owned.

The scope of the Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan did not allow for a detailed assessment of all sports and all facilities to be carried out. It had a focus on the following facilities and sites.

- Bairnsdale City Oval
- West Bairnsdale Oval
- Howitt Park South
- Wy Yung Recreation Reserve
- Lucknow Recreation Reserve
- WORLD
- BARC (indoor courts only)
- Bairnsdale Squash & Table Tennis Centre

Table 6 – Bairnsdale Sporting and Recreation Facilities

Activity Group	Activity	Total No. Sports Surfaces	No. Council owned/ managed
Field Sports	Football	4	4
	Cricket	9	6
	Soccer	2 (temp)	2
	Hockey	5	0
Indoor Sports	Squash/ Racquetball	6	6
	Table Tennis	12	12
	Basketball	5	3
	Badminton	10	2
	Volleyball	3	3
	Futsal	4	2
	Gymnastics	1	0
Court Sports	Tennis	20	2
	Netball (10 outdoor & 2 indoor)	12	6
Bowls/ Croquet/ Golf	Bowls	5	0
	Croquet	4	0
	Golf	1	0
Water	Swimming (BARC, Outdoor Pool)	2	2
	Rowing/ Dragon Boat/ Canoe	1	1
	Angling	1	1
Equestrian	Racecourse	1	0
	Pony Club/ Camp draft/ RDA	1	0
	Quarter Horse	1	0
Motor Sports	Go Kart	1	1
	Motocross	1	1
Shooting/ Archery	Pistol	1	1
	Clay Target	1	0
	Field Archery	1	0
Other	Athletics/ Triathlon/ Biathlon	2	2
	Aero sports	1	0
	Boxing	1	1
	Skate/ BMX	1	1
TOTAL		119*	60*

* Please note that some surfaces are counted twice, where there are dual uses, eg. football-cricket ovals and basketball-volleyball courts

5.2.2. Facility Condition

Whilst a high-level review of all known sporting and active recreation facilities in the Bairnsdale area was undertaken, the consultant team carried out a detailed review of the quality and condition of the key facilities noted above.

Sports Grounds

The condition assessment undertaken in November 2016 of the sports grounds found that:

- The surface of all sports grounds was good to excellent, although many have weed infestation.
- All sports grounds are satisfactorily coping with the current load (or usage) for sporting activities.
- Further performance improvement of the sports grounds will be gained from:
 - Regular surface and sub-surface aeration
 - Installation of sub-surface irrigation systems
 - Installation of sub-surface drainage systems
 - Conversion of turf species to warm season grasses.

The detailed findings from the condition assessment of the sports grounds are contained in *Volume 3 – Sportsgrounds Assessment Report (2016)*.

Netball Courts

An independent audit of the netball courts available in Bairnsdale was carried out by Netball Victoria in 2016, and found that:

- WORLD: the condition of the surface of the six netball courts is poor and the dimensions of the courts and run off areas do not comply with netball standards. The floodlighting was rated average.
- Bairnsdale City Oval: the condition of the surface of the two netball courts is average and the dimensions of the courts and the run off areas do not comply with netball standards. The floodlighting was rated good.
- Lucknow Recreation Reserve: the condition of the surface of the single netball court is poor and the dimensions of the court and the run off areas do not comply with netball standards. The floodlighting was rated excellent.

Netball Victoria did not audit the court available at the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve. Simon Leisure reviewed the court and concluded that the condition of the surface of the single netball court is average and the dimensions of the court and run off area are compliant with netball standards. The floodlighting was rated average.

Pavilions and Buildings

A review of the pavilions and buildings was undertaken in November 2016. It included a visual inspection of the building's condition (age, construction, finishes, fixtures, etc.) and the building's statutory, regulatory and industry compliance.

Each facility was given an overall rating based on its condition and compliance (Table 7). The key findings show that the West

Bairnsdale Oval pavilion and the change rooms at the Lucknow Recreation Reserve have reached the end of their functional lives and need to be replaced.

In addition, the Roderick Pavilion at Howitt Park, the pavilion at Wy Yung Recreation Reserve, the cricket pavilion at Lucknow Recreation Reserve, and the WORLD pavilion are all in only fair condition and are not fit for purpose.

Other findings include:

- The run-off areas around the three indoor courts at BARC do not comply with basketball court dimension standards.
- The toilet and shower areas in most pavilion change rooms do meet building codes or the relevant facility guidelines for the respective sports being accommodated.
- All pavilions do not meet full compliance with the standards and guidelines supported by the Disability Discrimination Act, mainly in the criteria of door opening widths and provision of accessible amenities.

The detailed findings from the condition assessment of buildings are contained in *Volume 2 – Sporting Facilities Condition Report (2017)*.

Table 7 – Condition of Selected Bairnsdale Sporting Pavilions and Buildings

Facility	Cat 1	Cat 2	Cat 3	Cat 4
City Oval Sports Pavilion				
City Oval Netball Pavilion				
West Bairnsdale Oval Pavilion				
Howitt Park Roderick Pavilion				
Wy Yung Recreation Reserve Pavilion				
Lucknow Recreation Reserve Change Pavilion				
Lucknow Recreation Reserve Netball Rooms				
Lucknow Recreation Reserve Cricket Pavilion				
WORLD Pavilion				
BARC - indoor courts				
Bairnsdale Squash & Table Tennis Centre				

Category Definitions

- Category 1 Good condition - fit for purpose
 Category 2 Good condition - minor compliance and functional issues
 Category 3 Fair condition – dated/ not fit for purpose
 Category 4 Reached the end of its functional/ asset life

5.2.3. Facility Benchmarking and Needs Alignment

One method to obtain a guide on the adequacy of the provision of sporting facilities in a region is to compare the existing provision against industry-accepted sports facility provision ratios.

Provision ratios work on the basis of the estimated number of people required for one sports facility, for example, the provision ratio for football ovals is 1 oval for every 4,500 people. Facility provision ratios exist only for high participation, or popular sports.

Senior sized sport facilities are benchmarked, and only facilities owned/ managed by Council or Crown land sites are included. Benchmarks do not exist for all sports.

Table 8 shows the results of the application of sports provision ratios for the Bairnsdale area for the key sports, based on the current population of Bairnsdale and the projected population to 2036.



Table 8 – Benchmarking of Existing Sports Facility Provision in Bairnsdale

The analysis is based on the 2016 population of the Bairnsdale area of 16,642 people, and projected population to 2036 of 18,688.

Senior sized sports facilities only are benchmarked, and facilities owned/ managed by Council or Crown land sites are included. Benchmarks do not exist for all sports.

Sport / Activity	Sport Benchmark Provision Ratio	Existing Facility Provision	Benchmarked Provision for Current Population (2016: 16,642 people)	Theoretical Shortfall/ Excess for Current Population	Benchmarked Provision for Projected Population (2036: 18,688 people)	Theoretical Shortfall/ Excess for Projected Population	Existing Facilities
Football	1:4,500	4 ovals	4 ovals	0 ovals	4 ovals	0 ovals	Bairnsdale City Oval (main oval) West Bairnsdale Oval Lucknow Rec Reserve (main oval) Wy Yung Rec Reserve (main oval)
Cricket	1:3,500	6 ovals	5 ovals	+1 oval	5 ovals	+1 oval	Bairnsdale City Oval (2 ovals) Lucknow Rec Reserve (2 ovals) Wy Yung Rec Reserve (2 ovals) # Nagle College (2 ovals, private ownership) # Bairnsdale Secondary College (1 oval)
Soccer	1:5,000	1 pitch	3 pitches	-2 pitches	4 pitches	-3 pitches	Howitt Park (1 pitch) (Pitch at West Bairnsdale Oval is not a dedicated pitch)
Tennis	1:2,000	20 courts	8 courts	+12 courts	9 courts	+11 courts	Bairnsdale Tennis Centre (18 courts) Howitt Park (2 courts)
Netball (outdoor)	1:3,000	10 courts	6 courts	+4 courts	6 courts	+4 courts	WORLD (6 courts) Bairnsdale City Oval (2 courts) Lucknow Rec Reserve (1 court) Wy Yung Rec Reserve (1 court)
Basketball *	1:7,500	3 courts	2 courts	+1 court	3 courts	0 courts	BARC (3 courts, but not compliant) # Nagle College (2 courts, private ownership)

* There are no provision standards for other indoor court sports that are typically overlaid on basketball courts. The outcome of the above analysis for basketball courts is misleading, ie. no shortfall, as the existing basketball courts at BARC are also used for volleyball, futsal and netball, and there is a demonstrated shortfall of courts, based on current usage and demand for courts.

Ovals and courts at education sites are not included in the totals for 'Existing Facility Provision', as these facilities have restricted public use only.

The facility benchmarking and needs alignment concluded that there is:

- A sufficient supply of **football ovals** for current and future needs.
- An oversupply of **cricket ovals** for current and future needs, and up to three additional ovals are available at Nagle College and Bairnsdale Secondary College.
- An oversupply of **netball courts** for current and future needs, although the provision of netball courts in Bairnsdale includes four dedicated courts for the three football netball clubs.

Any future planning for the redevelopment of the WORLD netball complex should consider including an additional two courts (for a total of 8 courts) to enable the complex to meet the minimum requirements of Netball Victoria to host sanctioned tournaments.

- An existing undersupply of two **soccer pitches**, compounding to an undersupply of three pitches by 2036. There is a **requirement for two additional soccer pitches**, with at least one pitch to be a dedicated soccer pitch available all-year.

A related issue is the current requirement for the East Gippsland United Football Club to have its winter training and match day activities across two venues, which is not a sustainable situation for the Club in the long-term.

- An oversupply of **tennis courts** for current and future needs, however, the courts available are now servicing Shire-wide tennis needs.
- A sufficient supply of **indoor courts** for current and future needs. However, given the high usage of indoor courts in Bairnsdale due to the popularity of basketball, futsal,

badminton and volleyball, the demand for courts is not being met. There is a **requirement for two additional courts to be provided at the BARC**, and the current Joint-Use Agreement reviewed. The demand for five courts and increased community usage are justified on the basis that the Bairnsdale-based courts are effectively servicing a catchment beyond Bairnsdale, and the high participation of Bairnsdale/ Shire residents in indoor sporting activities. (The proposed stadium extension aligns with the directions contained in the East Gippsland Aquatics Strategy 2014).

The role of the Nagle College courts should revert to overflow competition courts and training courts for community sporting groups as they are difficult to ensure uninterrupted access given school related activities take priority.

- Whilst there is no provision ratio for **hockey**, Hockey Victoria has also identified a standard of one synthetic pitch being required for every 300 players. By this standard, there is currently insufficient need/ demand for a synthetic pitch in Bairnsdale.

The provision of floodlit training opportunities for hockey, and improved off-field facilities, are the key requirements in the short to medium term.

- Similarly, for **gymnastics**, there is no provision ratio available, however, Gymnastics Victoria has identified a standard that approximately 1,100m² of floor space is required to accommodate up to 520 gymnasts in a centre providing training and basic competition. Based on the current membership and waiting lists of the East Gippsland Gymnastics Club, **there is sufficient demand for a gymnastics space** of approximately 1,100m².

Appendix 1

Indicative area of DoE land to be included in the East Gippsland Shire Council management area



Appendix 2

Membership and team numbers for Bairnsdale sporting clubs

Club - No. of Teams and Players						
Club	No. of Teams			No. of Participants		
	Senior	Junior	Total	Senior	Junior	Total
Soccer						
East Gippsland United Football Club (winter)	2	5	7	41	80	121
Bairnsdale Soccer Club				67	272	339
East Gippsland United Football Club (summer)	16	26	42	125	388	513
Football/Netball Clubs						
Bairnsdale Football Netball Club (football)	1	4	5	32	202	234
Bairnsdale Football Netball Club (netball)	3	1	4	27	10	37
Lucknow Football Netball Club (football)	2	4	6	60	120	180
Lucknow Football Netball Club (netball)	4	2	6	45	20	65
Lucknow Auskick				0	42	42
Wy Yung Football Netball Club (football) and Wy Yung JFC	2	4	6	50	140	190
Wy Yung Football Netball Club (netball)	4	2	6	43	20	63
Wy Yung Auskick				0	80	80
Bairnsdale Primary School Auskick				0	130	130
East Gippsland Umpires Association				0	0	0
Bairnsdale Netball Association				296	448	744
Cricket Clubs						
West Bairnsdale Cricket Club	3	2	5	45	95	140
Lucknow Cricket Club	5	3	8	52	55	107
Wy Yung Cricket Club	4	3	7	60	45	105
St Marys Nagle Cricket Club	3	2	5	45	30	75
Tennis Clubs						
Howitt Park Tennis Club				30	0	30
Bairnsdale Tennis Club				128	58	186
Hockey Clubs						
Nagle Hockey Club	2	3	5	20	40	60
Bairnsdale Hockey Club	2	3	5	22	28	50

Club - No. of Teams and Players						
Club	No. of Teams			No. of Participants		
	Senior	Junior	Total	Senior	Junior	Total
Bowls and Croquet Clubs						
Bairnsdale Bowls Club				262	0	262
Bairnsdale Croquet Club				0	0	0
Bairnsdale Golf and Bowls Club				636	42	678
Equestrian Clubs/ Groups						
Bairnsdale Adult Equestrian Club				33	2	35
Bairnsdale & District Dressage Club				0	0	0
Bairnsdale Pony Club				0	0	0
Riding for the Disabled				0	0	0
East Gippsland Performance & Quarter Horse Assn				0	0	0
East Gippsland Stock Horse Society				0	0	0
Nicolson Riding Club				0	0	0
Hinnomunjie Riding Club				0	0	0
Bairnsdale Team Penning Association				0	0	0
Other Clubs/ Groups						
Bairnsdale Boxing Club				0	0	0
Bairnsdale Little Athletics Club				0	130	130
East Gippsland Gymnastics Club				16	372	388
Dragons Abreast Gippsland				39	0	39
Bairnsdale Rowing Club				0	0	0
Bairnsdale and District Table Tennis Assoc.				120	20	140
Bairnsdale Squash and Racquetball Assoc.				70	10	80
Bairnsdale & District Amateur Basketball Assn	30	35	65	220	240	460
Bairnsdale Volleyball Association				60	16	76
East Gippsland Badminton Association				25	4	29
Riviera Triathlon Club				0	0	140
East Gippsland Biathlon Club				0	0	0
Bairnsdale and District Dog Obedience Club				320	0	320
Bairnsdale and District Model Aero Club				0	0	0
Bairnsdale Field Archers				65	5	70
Bairnsdale Clay Target Club				0	0	0
East Gippsland Motor Sports Club				30	20	50
Bairnsdale Speedway Association				91	39	130
Bairnsdale & District Motorcycle Club				43	85	128
Total	83	99	182	3,218	3,288	6,646

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- Marc Taylor, Parks and Gardens Coordinator

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- Michael Meyer, Manager Sport and Recreation Gippsland

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- Tracey West, Program Officer

GippSport

- Jaquie Nethercote, Program Coordinator

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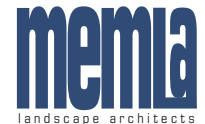


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Matthew McFall
Director MEMLA (landscape architect)



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