

2.1 MELBOURNE EAST REGIONAL SPORT AND RECREATION STRATEGY

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RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy 2022-2023.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy 2022-23 as presented in Attachment 1.

BACKGROUND

The Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy 2016 (or MERSRS) established the region's first coordinated and collaborative approach to sport and recreation planning.

While this collaborative approach remains as important now as it did in 2016, the trends and issues that shape planning for regional sport and recreation have continued to evolve. The updated Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy therefore seeks to build on the foundation provided by the original strategy, while acknowledging the emergence of new trends and issues across the region.

The seven local government authorities that comprise the Eastern region include Boroondara, Manningham, Monash, Maroondah, Whitehorse, Knox and the Shire of Yarra Ranges Councils. The strategic directions and recommendations within the updated strategy have been shaped through engagement with the local government authorities and state sporting associations, as well as the analysis of updated participation data.

The purpose of the Strategy is to undertake a regional planning approach that supports the development of both current and new sport and recreation infrastructure for the Melbourne East Region for the next 10 - 20 years.

The Strategy was presented to the Eastern Region Group (ERG) of Councils on Friday 21 October 2022 where an overview of the process, key regional trends and priority themes and next steps were discussed.

DISCUSSION**Melbourne East Region**

Population growth across the region consists of new residential development and increasing urban density. Major urban development projects such as the North East

Link, Suburban Rail Loop, transport connection corridors and employment precincts are providing a more connected and economically prosperous region.

This level of growth and development across the region is placing additional pressure on existing sport and recreation facilities and open space. Careful planning and advocacy for investment into regional infrastructure is required to support communities to lead active and healthy lives.

Trends in community sport and recreation are changing, with a higher focus on flexible and social activity and active recreation, and growing professionalism within talent pathways and regional events. While trends in physical activity are changing towards active recreation at the local level, facilities for organised sport continue to be a focus of this strategy given their regional catchment and ability to host regional, state and national competitions and events.

The unprecedented impact of COVID-19 during 2020 and 2021 created challenges across all aspects of life, with sport and recreation not immune from the effects of the pandemic. Sport and recreation clubs and associations are now rebounding from restricted activity during 2020 and 2021, but ongoing support is required to ensure participation returns to previous levels.

The updated Strategy prioritises a network approach to collaboration within the region, with the establishment of four strategic priorities:

1. A balanced network of regional sport and recreation facilities
2. Knowing and understanding the region
3. A collaborative approach to regional planning, policy development and advocacy, and
4. Shared resources and support for regional sport and recreation.

The strategic priorities aim to build on the success of the strategy developed in 2016 (progress outlined in appendix 1, attachment 1), while further embedding the collaborative approach to planning and development.

Also included in the Strategy is a planning framework to support Councils and other regional stakeholders to prioritise, plan and deliver regional facilities and shared trails collaboratively and effectively.

The Strategy is supported by the background, research and consultation reports (Preliminary Situational Analysis and Key Findings Report and the State Sporting Association Consultation Findings Report).

Key Implications for Monash

Under *Pillar One: A Balanced Network of Regional Sport and Recreation Facilities*, regional projects identified in Monash include:

- Glen Waverley Sports Hub Tennis Centre Construction
- Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre Redevelopment (Feasibility) Planning
- Jack Edwards Reserve Pavilion Redevelopment

- Waverley Women’s Sport Centre Precinct Improvements (p. 19).

All of these projects have been identified as Council priorities.

Under *pillar 1, priority area 2 - Address gaps in existing regional facility provision* (p. 18) there also is a specific recommendation unique to Monash:

- Continue to pursue funding to deliver a second hockey pitch at Ashwood Reserve in response to regional demand.

All other recommendations in the Strategy are general and tend to apply to all eastern region local government authorities.

A final Strategy is presented in *Attachment 1: Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy* from Council consideration and endorsement.

Next Steps & Priorities

All eastern region Councils are planning to take the Strategy to their respective Councils for endorsement in late 2022 or early 2023. Following endorsement, the MERSRS steering committee members will meet to discuss implementation of the Strategy.

Immediate priorities include:

- completion of dashboard for the analysis and monitoring of participation trends
- review and update the terms of reference
- explore opportunity for regional procurement and planning and policy development.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Gender has been a key consideration in the development of the strategy. Desegregated data has been collated and reviewed and a gender lens applied to the formulation of key strategic directions and recommendations in the Strategy.

The Strategy also identifies the State Government’s commitment to progressing gender equitable access to community sport and recreation infrastructure in accordance with the *Safe and Strong: Victorian Gender Equity Strategy* (2022).

The Victorian Gender Equality Strategy establishes the vision for all Victorians to live in a safe and equal society. The State Government Strategy outlines a series of reforms for governments to deliver and identifies sport and recreation as a key setting to deliver change. The Strategy identifies that:

- Sport is a powerful vehicle for change
- Sport is critical to female empowerment and good health
- Gender gaps persist in sport and recreation.

A key early action from the Victorian Gender Equity Strategy is to “work with local government and State Sporting Associations to promote equitable treatment of men and women in the provision of and access to infrastructure and facilities”.

The Strategy identifies female participation is growing across Melbourne's east and further support from government and sport will enable this growth to continue into the future.

CONCLUSION

The updated Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy 2022-2023 seeks to build on the foundation provided by the original strategy, while acknowledging the emergence of new trends and issues across the region.

The consolidation of strategic partnerships and improved collaboration across key sport, government and community stakeholder groups, will better position Councils to attract significant funding for the delivery of strategically supported regional sport and recreational facilities as detailed in the Strategy.

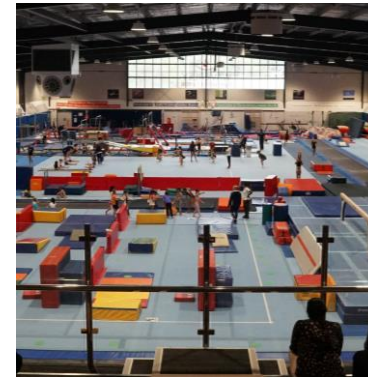
The Strategy has been reviewed and updated based on feedback received from Mayors and CEO's of the ERG of Councils and a final Strategy is now presented for Council consideration and endorsement.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council endorses the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy 2022-2023 as presented in Attachment 1.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1: Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy 2022-2023.



MELBOURNE EAST REGIONAL SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY 2022-2032



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Image: Knox Regional Sports Park

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy established the region's first coordinated and collaborative approach to regional sport and recreation planning in 2016.

While this collaborative approach remains vital for the Melbourne East Region, the trends and issues that shape planning for regional sport and recreation have continued to evolve.

This review and update of the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy seeks to build on the foundation provided by the original strategy, while acknowledging the emergence of new trends and issues across the region.

The strategic directions and recommendations within the updated strategy have been shaped through engagement with local government authorities and state sporting associations, as well as the analysis of updated participation data.

The seven local government authorities that comprise the Melbourne East Region continue to grow, with population to increase by 16.6% between 2021 and 2036.

Population growth across the region consists of new residential development and increasing urban density. Major urban development projects such as the North East Link, Suburban Rail Loop, transport connection corridors and employment precincts are providing a more connected and economically prosperous region.

This level of growth and development across the region is placing additional pressure on existing sport and recreation facilities and open space. Careful planning and advocacy for investment into regional infrastructure is required to support communities to lead active and healthy lives.

Trends in community sport and recreation are changing, with a higher focus on flexible and social activity and active recreation, and growing professionalism within talent pathways and regional events. While trends in physical activity are changing towards active recreation at the local level, facilities for organised sport continue to be a focus of this strategy given their regional catchment and ability to host regional, state and national competitions and events.

The unprecedented impact of COVID-19 during 2020 and 2021 created challenges across all aspects of life, with sport and recreation not immune from the affects of the pandemic. Sport and recreation clubs and associations are now rebounding from restricted activity during 2020 and 2021, but ongoing support is required to ensure participation returns to previous levels.

The updated Strategy prioritises a network approach to collaboration within the region, with the establishment of four strategic pillars:

1. A balanced network of regional sport and recreation facilities
2. Knowing and understanding the region
3. A collaborative approach to regional planning, policy development and advocacy, and
4. Shared resources and support for regional sport and recreation

The Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy provides a blueprint for collaboration for the next decade, with governments, peak sporting bodies and communities driving its delivery and success.

Investment in co-located, multipurpose facilities will continue to create efficiencies for project partners, with our regional sport and recreation facility network creating participation and pathway opportunities that cross local government boundaries.

Our collaborative approach with all levels of government and project partners will ensure that duplication is minimised, returns on investment are maximised, and opportunities to share resources are created.

MELBOURNE EAST REGIONAL SPORT AND RECREATION STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2022-2032

PILLARS	1 A balanced network of regional sport and recreation facilities	2 Knowing and understanding the region	3 A collaborative approach to regional planning, policy development and advocacy	4 Shared resources and support for regional sport and recreation
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Progress the delivery of established regional facility priorities 1.2 Address gaps in existing regional facility and open space provision 1.3 Plan for emerging and under-represented sports and recreation activities 1.4 Create regional facility development opportunities in partnership with schools and other land managers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Understand and plan for the impact of population growth 2.2 Collate and analyse data to understand trends and quantify needs 2.3 Consider and plan for the impacts of urban development on the regional sport and recreation facility network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Drive collaboration via the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Steering Group 3.2 Develop regional strategies to address priorities and shared opportunities 3.3 Collaborate on policy development to create policy consistency across the region 3.4 Create regional partnerships to plan, advocate and fund priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 Establish regional development opportunities for sport and recreation organisations and stakeholders to discuss regional issues and opportunities 4.2 Engage State Sporting Associations and other peak sporting bodies at a regional level 4.3 Establish a suite of shared resources that improve regional planning and advocacy

PROJECT CONTEXT



INTRODUCTION

The Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy was established in 2016 to guide the regional strategic priorities for the seven local government authorities in Melbourne's Eastern region.

Since the initial development of the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy, the factors that influence regional sport and recreation have continued to evolve and priorities for the region have changed over time.

The scope of the strategy has evolved to include a broader focus on collaboration, emerging trends in sport and recreation participation, and sport development needs.

Given the priority of the trails component within the original strategy, planning for trails and shared paths is the now delivered separately via the Eastern Region Trails Strategy and is not included in the scope of the updated Strategy.

The seven local government authorities in the region represent a diverse range of communities and cultures. Stretching from Melbourne's inner east to the rural communities of the Yarra Ranges, the issues and opportunities facing each council are distinct and multi-faceted.

Although each council faces challenges unique to their communities, they also share a range of collective challenges and seek to collaborate for the benefit of all communities across the region.

The regional facilities and initiatives that reach beyond a single location or council are the priority of this strategy. Regional sport and recreation facilities service large catchments, creating development pathway opportunities for players, coaches, officials and volunteers, event hosting capacity and participation opportunities.

Regional sport and recreation facilities cater for the diverse needs of communities across the Eastern region, creating opportunities to deliver initiatives that remove barriers to participation. Programming, competitions and events that promote the inclusion of all cultures, genders and abilities provide opportunities for our communities to participate together.

Balancing the need for regional facilities with local demands requires careful planning and coordination. The Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy creates the forum for collaboration between councils to ensure that priorities are aligned and there is a shared commitment to regional provision.

The 2016 Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy has influenced the delivery of a range of important regional facility projects and fostered collaboration between councils and regional sport and recreation stakeholders.

This review and update of the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy aims to continue to advance the collaborative relationships between all stakeholders and update strategic priorities to influence the delivery of regional projects for the next 10 years and beyond.



Image: Waverley Gymnastics Centre at Oakleigh Recreation Centre

ABOUT THE MELBOURNE EAST REGION

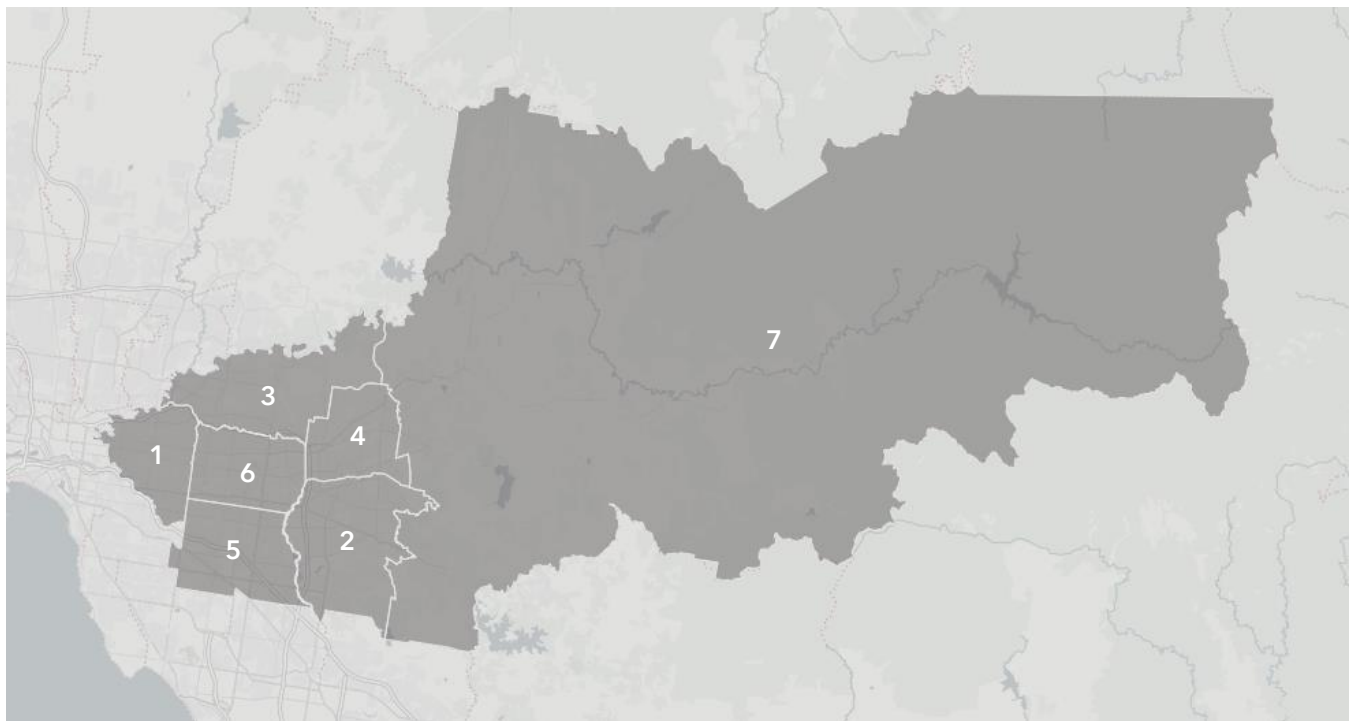
The Melbourne East Region consists of seven local government authorities, representing a diverse range of communities from the city to the bush.

The seven local government authorities that comprise the Melbourne East Region are:

1. Boroondara City Council
2. Knox City Council
3. Manningham City Council
4. Maroondah City Council
5. Monash City Council
6. Whitehorse City Council
7. Yarra Ranges Council

The Eastern Region Group of Councils (ERG) is the representative regional body comprising six of the seven municipalities, with the City of Boroondara not formally part of the ERG but included within this Strategy for the purpose of planning for regional sport and recreation needs.

The ERG is the key decision-making and advocacy body alongside local government authorities in the Eastern region and a key driver of this Strategy.



KEY REGIONAL INFLUENCES

The Melbourne East region is influenced by a range of factors that shape our communities and the way we plan for regional sport and recreation needs. While each community has its own diverse range of influences, the following key factors are impacting sport and recreation across the seven local government authorities that comprise the Melbourne East Region.

 <p>Population Growth</p> <p>Population will grow by 16.6% between 2021 and 2036 to 1.35 million.</p>	 <p>Demographic Profile</p> <p>Communities are ageing and becoming more diverse. 54% of residents have one or both parents born overseas.</p>	 <p>Urban Density</p> <p>Increasing urban density is placing pressure on existing sport and recreation facilities and community assets.</p>	 <p>COVID-19</p> <p>COVID-19 has impacted how we live and play. Participation in organised sport declined during 2020-2021, and sport activity was broadly affected.</p>	 <p>Partnerships and Advocacy</p> <p>Partnerships between all levels of government and key stakeholder groups to advocate for joint priorities.</p>
 <p>Changing Participation Trends</p> <p>Participation consists of more informal activities and communities are seeking flexible ways to participate.</p>	 <p>Open Space Provision</p> <p>Pressure on open space is growing with increasing population. Opportunities for new open space is diminishing.</p>	 <p>Budgets and Funding</p> <p>Council and land manager facility investment have been impacted by rate-capping and COVID-19 in recent years.</p>	 <p>Urban Development</p> <p>Major urban development projects such as the North East Link and transport corridors are impacting on existing sport and recreation facilities.</p>	 <p>Climate Change</p> <p>The impact of climate change will continue to increase, placing pressure on infrastructure and reliance on natural resources.</p>

POPULATION ANALYSIS

The population of the Melbourne East Region continues to grow, with the total population forecast to increase by 16.6% between 2021 and 2036.

The strongest proportional population growth is in the 65+ age cohort, forecast to grow by 33.9% between 2021 and 2036. The typical age categories for senior (20-39 years) and masters (40-64 years) sport competition categories are forecast to grow by 12.5% and 16.1% respectively. The lowest growth cohort is the junior age category (5-19 years), which will grow by 8.7% between 2021 and 2036.

Comparatively, the total population of Greater Melbourne is forecast to grow by 29.7% between 2021 and 2036.

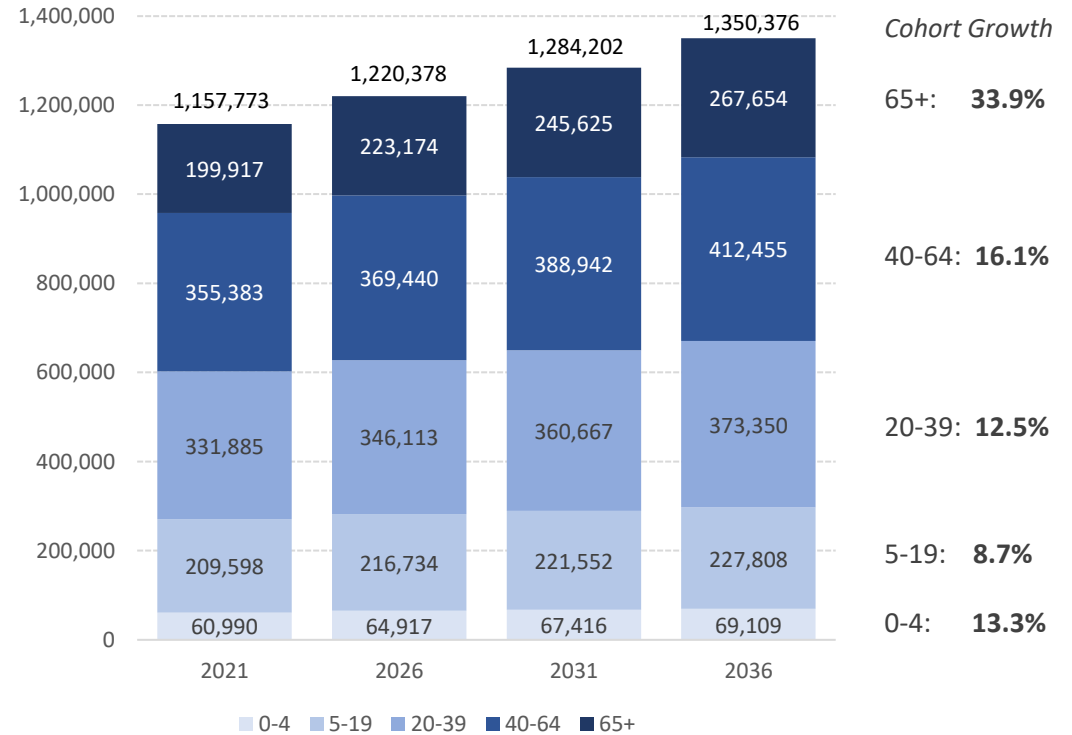
Charts provided on page 11 show the projected population growth and current age profile for each local government authority.

The City of Monash will remain the largest council in region by population through to 2036, growing to a total resident population of just under 250,000 in the next 15 years.

All councils are forecast to achieve steady population growth, with the total population of the region to grow from 1,157,773 in 2021 to 1,350,376 in 2036.

Source: Victoria In Future (2019), Victorian Government

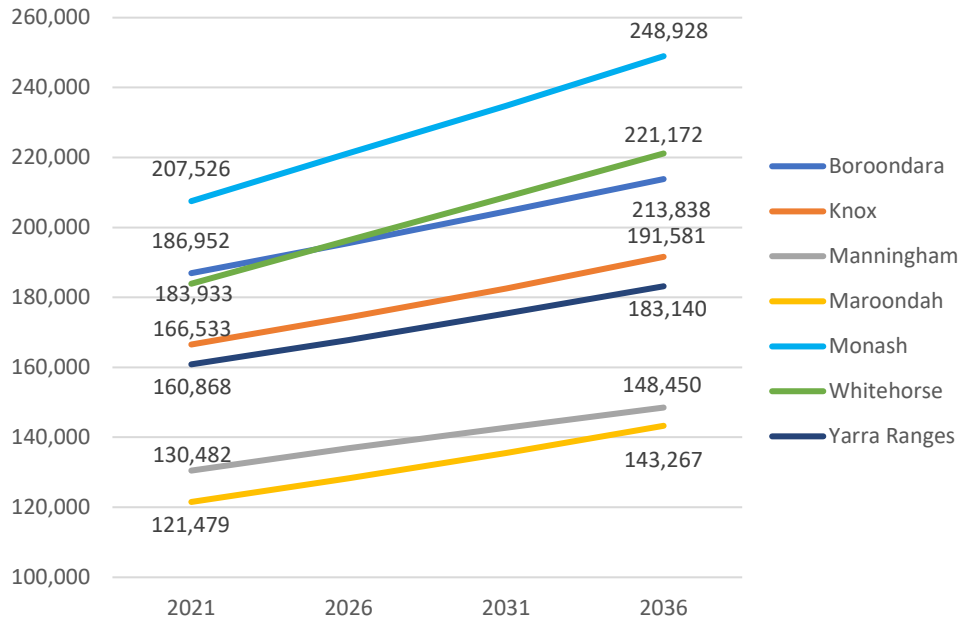
Melbourne East Population Projection 2021-2036



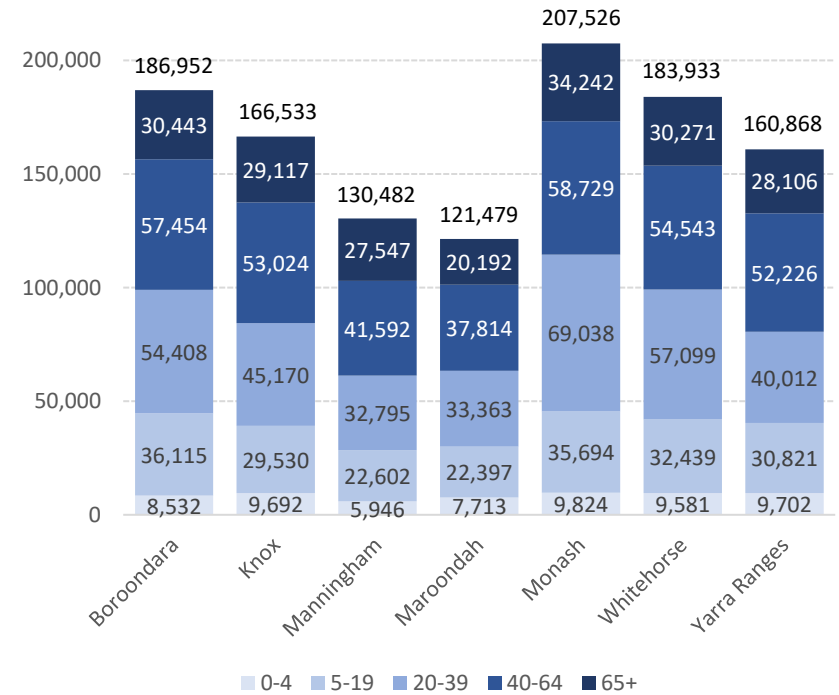
POPULATION ANALYSIS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Project Context

Population Growth 2021 - 2036



Population Age Profile 2021



Source: Victoria In Future (2019), Victorian Government

2016 MELBOURNE REGIONAL SPORT AND RECREATION STRATEGY



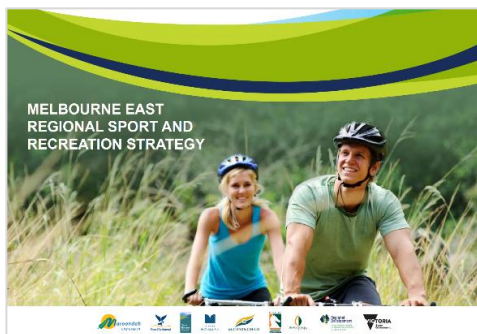
MELBOURNE EAST REGIONAL SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY 2016

The Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy was established in 2016 to guide the collective strategic priorities for the seven local government authorities in the region.

The Strategy was developed in two parts:

Part A – The Strategy: Identified the gaps in regional sport and recreation facilities and trail provision, and outlined the vision for the future provision of regional facilities in Melbourne’s East.

Part B – Regional Planning Framework: Designed as a resource to support councils and regional stakeholders to prioritise, plan and deliver regional facilities and trails collaboratively and effectively.



The Strategy identified three priority areas for collaboration and collective action between the seven councils and other stakeholders:

1. Governance and partnerships
2. Knowledge and understanding of the region
3. Sustainable, flexible and efficient facility development

The Strategy developed a series of resources and tools to assist regional stakeholders in future planning and facility development including:

1. Definition of regional sport and recreation facilities
2. Regional governance structure
3. Regional planning framework
4. Stages of regional facility development

These resources and tools are retained as part of the updated Melbourne East Regional Sport & Recreation Strategy.

The regional governance structure, regional planning framework and stages of regional facility development are provided as appendices.

A summary of the progress against recommendations is also provided as an appendix.

Regional sport and recreation facilities are defined as having the following characteristics:

- Provide a range of participation outcomes which benefit the community, allow for a range of competitions (local, state and/or national), and have the ability to host medium to large scale events.
- Cater for a broad catchment across multiple municipal boundaries.
- Offer flexibility of use by one or more sports or activities.
- Deliver quality management and service levels that are maintained to a high standard.
- Consider the defined regional facility training and competition standards of the relevant Council or Councils, and State Sporting Associations.
- Able to attract funding and support from regionally focused funding programs

The Eastern Region Trails Strategy was developed as a recommendation of the 2016 MERSRS to guide trail planning and development across Melbourne’s Eastern Region. A summary of the Eastern Region Trails Strategy is provided on page 14.

EASTERN REGION TRAILS STRATEGY

An outcome of the 2016 Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy was to undertake further planning and advocacy for trail projects, leading to the development of the Eastern Regional Trails Strategy.

Trails across the Eastern Metropolitan region are renowned as premier attractions and grant access to many iconic tourism destinations. They include the well-known Anniversary Trail, Main Yarra Trail, EastLink Trail, Heathmont to Belgrave Trail, Nunawading to Syndal Creek Trail and Healesville Freeway Reservation Trail.

The Eastern Regional Trail Strategy outlines a shared vision and plan of action intent on the development and promotion of a world class trails network that is desirable, safe and accessible for a verity of transport, recreation, sport and tourism activities. The Strategy sets a framework for whole of government and stakeholder investment and collaboration to maximise the provision, conditions and potential of trails.

As sustainable transport routes, trails connect locals and visitors alike to jobs, education, tourism, sport and recreation destinations across the region. Several trails are declared Strategic Cycling Corridors. These routes function as the active transport arterials of the Principal Bicycle Network and as such serve a vital role within the state transport system.

The additional connections provided between places of state and regional importance supports and enables the development of distinctive, affordable, accessible, climate resilient and liveable precincts and neighbourhoods, where people have great opportunities and choices for economic and social participation.

Accommodated alongside waterways and rail corridors, trails are places to experience, interact and connect with people and the natural environment. As social and community facilities, trails make a significant contribution to the physical and mental health of communities. Connected with open space, trails strongly influence the region's urban character and aesthetics and provide suitable places for exercise, relaxation and connection.

For the Eastern Metropolitan Region to gain the benefits of an extensive network of trails and associated trail-based attractions, continued investment in the planning, construction, marketing and management of a cohesive and interconnected trails network is required. Over the next 10 years, the top priorities for investment are:

- Box Hill Rail Trail extension to link to Hawthorn Station: \$100 million.
- Main Yarra Trail extension to link to Warrandyte: \$3 million.

- Ringwood to Croydon Rail Trail to complete the trail from the CBD (Central Business District) to Warburton (Eastern Rail Trail): \$10 million.
- Waverley Rail Trail form Huntingdale Road to Carmel Avenue: \$1 million.
- Yarra Valley Trail extension to connect Yarra Glen to Healesville (Stage 2): \$15 million.
- Ferny Creek Trail extension to connect Acacia Road to Glenfern Valley Bushland Reserve in Yarra Ranges: \$1 million.

To realise the economic and social potential of trails, a trails marketing plan is an additional high priority project. The Plan is necessary to align and leverage marketing efforts across the region's tourism, recreation and sport sectors and promote interconnected trail-based products, events services and consumer information.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2022-2032



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2022-2032

The Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy has been a successful advocacy platform for regional facility development and growth of investment into sport and recreation.

In order to remain relevant, this review of the Strategy has examined the issues and opportunities facing sport and recreation in Melbourne’s Eastern Region and refined the strategic priorities.

The strategic priorities are driven by the review of trends, planning, issues and opportunities collated from engagement with local government authorities and peak sporting bodies.

Since the development of the Strategy in 2016, population and participation trends have changed, and new priorities and opportunities have emerged. The review of the Strategy incorporates updated data and information from a range of sources.

The review has also provided the opportunity for Councils to reengage with key sport and recreation stakeholders to understand changes to regional priorities.

A number of the State Sporting Associations have developed infrastructure strategies since 2016, providing additional strategic context to regional priorities and direction for their needs.

Councils have also continued to plan and deliver new facilities and facility upgrades across key regional sport and recreation venues.

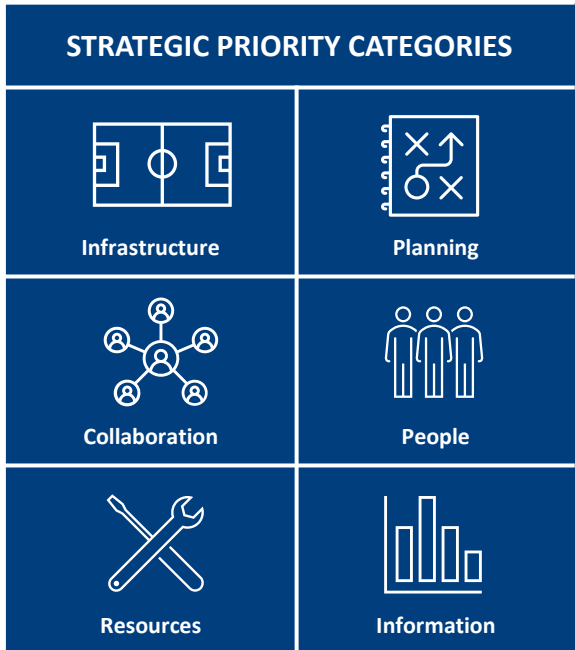
All stakeholders have navigated the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020 and 2021, impacting the way that communities consume sport and recreation, and the ability of Councils to service regional needs and fund projects.

This review ensures that the priorities within the Strategy remain relevant and up-to-date, and set the regional directions for the next ten years and beyond.

Information gathered from key stakeholders is provided as reference in the following sections:

- *Government plans and priorities for the Eastern region (pages 23-36)*
- *Sport and recreation trends and opportunities (pages 37-63)*

Each of the strategic priorities is categorised based on the core outcome that it delivers for the Melbourne East Region:



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2022-2032

The Regional Sport and Recreation priorities for Melbourne East aim to establish a network approach to planning, regional facility development and stakeholder collaboration.

There is a clear desire from all stakeholders to work collaboratively to achieve greater outcomes than could be achieved individually.





The ‘network’ approach to facility development, planning and collaboration focuses on creating efficiencies and economies of scale, and embeds relationships between stakeholders within the planning process and joint advocacy.

The priorities within each pillar align with priorities established in the 2016 Strategy, with the aim of progressing the collaborative relationships between councils and regional stakeholders.

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STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Progress the delivery of established regional facility priorities 1.2 Address gaps in existing regional facility and open space provision 1.3 Plan for emerging and under-represented sports and recreation activities 1.4 Create regional facility development opportunities in partnership with schools and other land managers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Understand and plan for the impact of population growth 2.2 Collate and analyse data to understand trends and quantify needs 2.3 Consider and plan for the impacts of urban development on the regional sport and recreation facility network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Drive collaboration via the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Steering Group 3.2 Develop regional strategies to address priorities and shared opportunities 3.3 Collaborate on policy development to create policy consistency across the region 3.4 Create regional partnerships to plan, advocate and fund priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 Establish regional development opportunities for sport and recreation organisations and stakeholders to discuss regional issues and opportunities 4.2 Engage State Sporting Associations and other peak sporting bodies at a regional level 4.3 Establish a suite of shared resources that improve regional planning and advocacy

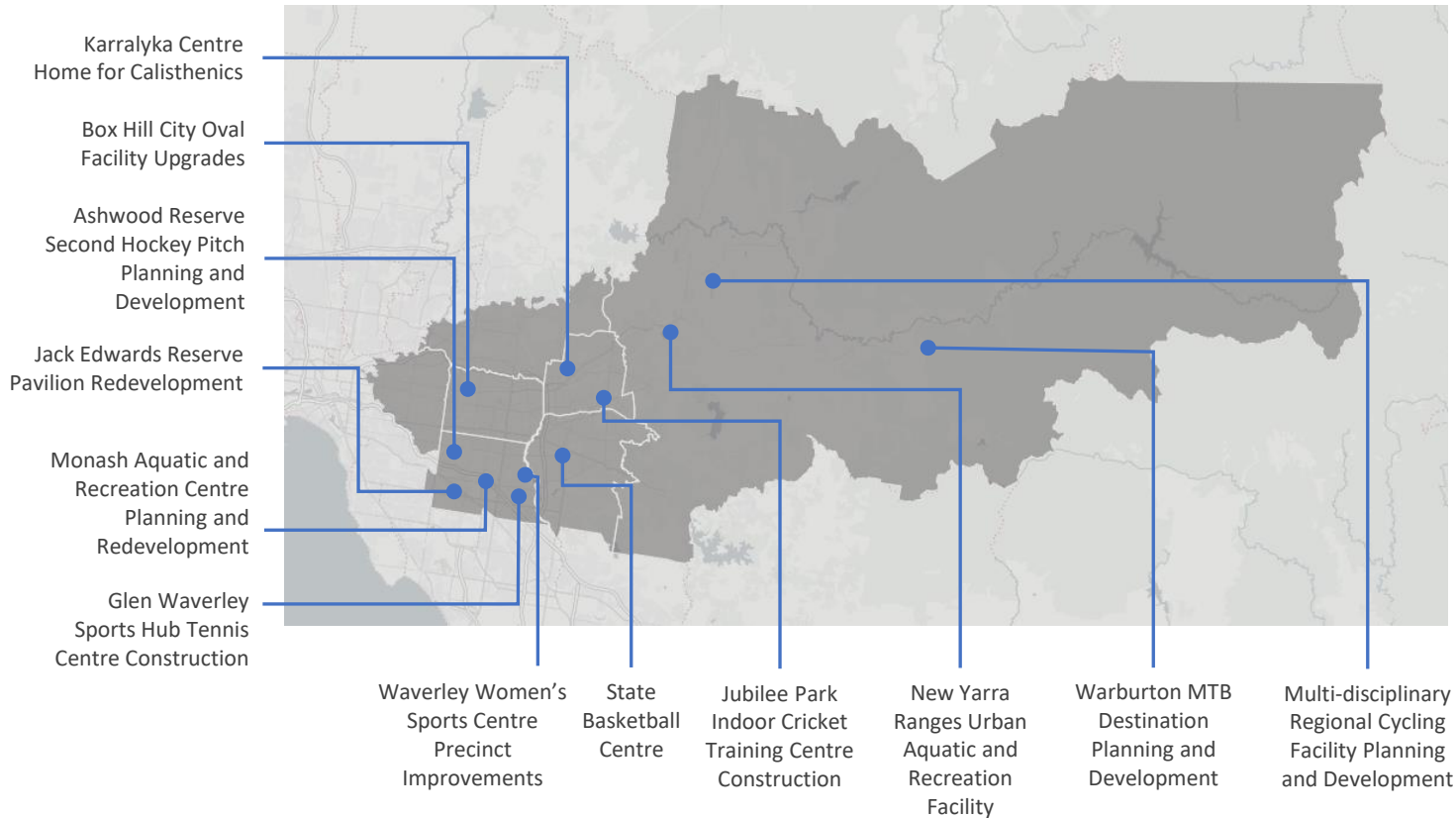
PILLAR ONE:

A BALANCED NETWORK OF REGIONAL SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES		RECOMMENDATIONS	PRIORITY	WHO	
1	Progress the delivery of established regional facility priorities		Planning and delivery of new regional facilities and regional facility upgrade projects (see page 19)	High	LGAs
			Develop additional indoor sports courts to address capacity and access requirements identified within state facility strategies for basketball, netball and volleyball	Medium	LGAs, SSAs, Schools
2	Address gaps in existing regional facility provision		Consider the establishment of a multi-disciplinary cycling facility within a green-field site in Yarra Ranges Council in the medium-to-long term	Medium	Yarra Ranges, AusCycling
			Work with Bowls Victoria to achieve regional bowls facility objectives for Melbourne East within the Bowls Victoria Strategic Facilities Plan	Medium	LGAs, BV
			Continue to pursue funding to deliver a second hockey pitch at Ashwood Reserve in response to regional demand	Medium	Monash, HV
			Monitor the regional need for additional gymnastics floorspace in addition to the recent development of the Oakleigh Recreation Centre and completion of the Knox Gymnastic Facility	Ongoing	LGAs, GV
			Work with Football Victoria to explore the potential for the establishment of a new regional participation hub	Medium	LGAs, FV
3	Plan for emerging and under-represented sports and recreation activities		Support the move of Calisthenics Victoria to the Karralyka Centre, Ringwood	High	Maroondah, CV
			In conjunction with State Sporting Associations, monitor the growth of badminton and table tennis and provision of private facilities to determine the need for a purpose built regional facility.	Medium	LGAs, BV, TTV
			Establish a collaborative regional approach to planning for active recreation facility development and activation for local communities	High	LGAs
			Establish a plan for the provision of multi-discipline cycling facilities across the region, including BMX tracks, pump tracks and mountain bike facilities in addition to the current planning for trails.	High	LGAs
4	Develop regional facility opportunities in partnership with schools and other land managers		Explore with schools in the delivery of regional/sub-regional level sport and recreation facilities, including indoor stadiums (3-4 courts) and sports fields to address areas of facility provision shortfall	Medium	LGAs, Schools, DET

PILLAR ONE: A BALANCED NETWORK OF REGIONAL SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Strategic Priorities 2022-2032



Other Infrastructure Priorities

- Establishment of a Regional Bowls Facility
- Delivery of additional indoor court space for basketball, netball and volleyball (including partnerships with schools)
- Investigate opportunities for a Regional Football Participation Hub for Melbourne East
- Monitor the growth of badminton and table tennis and identify opportunities for purpose-built facilities
- Additional floorspace for gymnastics based on ongoing assessment of demand
- Support and advocate for the Yarra Ranges Regional Equestrian Park (by third party or private consortium)

PILLAR TWO: KNOWING AND UNDERSTANDING THE REGION

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES			RECOMMENDATIONS	PRIORITY	WHO
1	Understand and plan for the impact of population growth		Track changes in population and demographic forecasting biennially to understand the impacts on regional sports provision, including population growth, changes in population density and demographic profile	Ongoing	LGAs
			Integrate planning for green-field sites in areas of population growth to incorporate regional facility needs and opportunities	Ongoing	LGAs
			Partner with land managers to maximise the use of open space for regional sport and recreation needs	Ongoing	LGAs, Land Managers
2	Collate and analyse data to understand trends and quantify needs		Seek participation data from priority State Sporting Associations every two years and continue the collation of participation and facility provision trends at local and regional levels	Medium	LGAs, SSAs
			Continue to expand the analysis of a range of data sources, considering the relevance of data such as Ausplay, Sport Spatial and other data as identified through ongoing monitoring and local government benchmarking	Medium	LGAs
			Provide a shared dashboard platform for the analysis and monitoring of participation trends and other trend information as required	High	LGAs
			Collectively advocate for facility redevelopment and renewal funding and resource needs based on participation and population trends	High	LGAs
3	Consider and plan for the impacts of urban development on the regional sport and recreation facility network		Use the Eastern Metro Land Use Framework to guide macro-level decisions on the impacts of urban development and land use for regional sport and recreation	Ongoing	ERG, LGAs
			Engage in the planning of regional urban development projects to ensure that the impacts on sport and recreation provision are understood and offset both locally and regionally	Ongoing	ERG, LGAs
			Explore opportunities to increase open space provision through planning processes, innovative use of alternative spaces, and opportunities to create new open space reserves for sport and recreation	Ongoing	LGAs
			Implement best practice Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) principles for regional sport and recreation facility projects	High	ERG, LGAs

PILLAR THREE:

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO REGIONAL PLANNING, POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ADVOCACY

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES			RECOMMENDATIONS	PRIORITY	WHO
1	Drive collaboration via the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Steering Group		Each Council to commit staff capacity and resources to drive collaboration through the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Steering Group	High	LGAs
			Review the terms of reference of the Steering Group, and apportion resources within the Steering Group from member LGAs and the ERG to achieve agreed outcomes	High	ERG, LGAs
			Invite participation in Steering Group meetings from key stakeholders, including State Government, education institutions and State Sporting Associations	High	ERG, LGAs, SSAs, SRV, DET
2	Develop regional strategies to address priorities and shared opportunities		Identify opportunities to develop sport / activity specific strategies for priority sports and consider jointly funding their delivery	Medium	ERG, LGAs
			Engage State Sporting Associations, peak bodies and land managers in the development of regional facility strategies	Medium	LGAs, SSAs, Land Managers
3	Collaborate on policy development to create policy consistency across the region		Establish a register of shared regional issues via the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Steering Group and create opportunities for joint strategy and policy development	Medium	ERG, LGAs
			Create opportunities to share policies and procedures, learn from other LGAs and identify opportunities to increase policy consistency across the region	Medium	ERG, LGAs
			Collaborate with leagues and associations to develop a regional approach to flexible scheduling	Medium	LGAs, Leagues
			Implement the Victorian Government Fair Access Policy Roadmap consistently across the region	Ongoing	LGAs, SRV
			Conduct gender impact assessments for all regional facility development proposals and initiatives	Ongoing	LGAs
4	Create regional partnerships to plan, advocate and fund priorities		Establish project partnerships to plan and advocate for shared regional priorities through the ERG	Ongoing	All partners
			Establish and promote partnerships with land managers to create new opportunities for facility development and collaboration, including Dept of Education, Dept Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Parks Victoria, VicRoads, VicTrack and Water Authorities	High	ERG, LGAs, Land Managers
			Consider funding partnerships, where regional facilities provide regional benefits and significant municipal servicing across LGA boundaries	Ongoing	ERG, LGAs, Government

PILLAR FOUR: SHARED RESOURCES AND SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL SPORT AND RECREATION

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES		RECOMMENDATIONS	PRIORITY	WHO
1	Establish development opportunities for sport and recreation organisations and stakeholders to discuss regional issues and opportunities 	Establish a series of development opportunities for sport and recreation organisations, clubs, associations and other regional stakeholder groups in collaboration with State Sporting Associations and peak bodies and promote regionally.	Medium	SSAs, LGAs, peak bodies
		Engage State Sporting Associations and other peak sporting bodies at a regional level	Medium	SSAs, LGAs, peak bodies
3	Share resources to improve regional planning and advocacy  	Local government authorities to contribute to the funding of joint planning and development initiatives annually via the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Steering Group	High	LGAs
		Explore development of a suite of shared resources and information for clubs, associations and communities relating to issues and policies identified by the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Steering Group	Medium	LGAs
		Prioritise and advocate for key regional priorities to be endorsed by the ERG, with support and final decision-making provided by local government authorities responsible for the delivery of priority projects	Ongoing	ERG, LGAs
		Create an annual regional sport and recreation outcomes report to promote progress against recommendations and results of collaboration	Ongoing	LGAs
		Explore opportunities for regional procurement processes to create efficiencies and economies of scale for local government purchasing related to sport and recreation.	Medium	ERG, LGAs











GOVERNMENT PLANS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE EASTERN REGION



GOVERNMENT PLANS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE EASTERN REGION

The local government authorities and key stakeholders within the Eastern Region have continued to undertake their own planning, strategy development and policy development to address localised sport and recreation issues and opportunities. This section outlines planning and strategic direction development by councils, as well as emerging themes and infrastructure priorities within each local government area.

Common Issues and Planning Themes

 <p>Pressure on facility capacity</p> <p>Increasing participation and population is placing pressure on existing sport and recreation infrastructure</p>	 <p>Growth in female participation</p> <p>Female participation is growing, increasing pressure on facility capacity, and scheduling for LGAs, land managers, clubs and associations</p>	 <p>Emergence of active recreation</p> <p>Increased rates of informal and unstructured recreation is leading to changes in local facility needs and demands</p>	 <p>Information and data</p> <p>Cases for council and government investment must be supported by sound evidence, data and strategic planning</p>	 <p>Asset Management</p> <p>Management of parks and built assets to maximise participation, accessibility and sustainability</p>
 <p>COVID-19</p> <p>Local government is playing a vital role in supporting sport and recreation clubs, associations and organisations to rebound from the impact of COVID-19</p>	 <p>Pressure on open space</p> <p>Open space provision is under increasing pressure due to population growth, increasing urban density and growing community expectations</p>	 <p>Funding and resources</p> <p>Council budgets and resources are under pressure from rate-capping, the impacts of COVID-19 and increasing provision standards</p>	 <p>Planning for growth and change</p> <p>Population growth, urban development, major projects and changing communities are creating new challenges for LGAs and land managers</p>	 <p>Climate Change</p> <p>The impact of climate change will continue to increase, placing pressure on infrastructure and reliance on natural resources</p>

STRATEGIC CONTEXT: EASTERN REGION GROUP OF COUNCILS

The Eastern Region Group of Councils (ERG) is a representative region body consisting of six local government authorities in Melbourne's east.

The councils included in the ERG are City of Knox, City of Manningham, City of Maroondah, City of Monash, City of Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges Council.

The ERG promotes collaboration between the member councils and key stakeholders on issues of significance to the community. The ERG facilitates integrated planning, shared services and joint advocacy in pursuing outcomes that benefit communities across Melbourne's east.

For the purpose of the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy, the City of Boroondara have been invited to participate and contribute to the planning process.

ERG Strategic Plan 2021 - 2025

The ERG Strategic Plan outlines the joint strategic priorities for the region focusing on outcomes across five key areas: Community, Environment, Economy, Building and Infrastructure, and Operations.

The review of the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy is a recommendation of the Strategic Plan, aligning with the Community and Built Infrastructure strategic priorities.

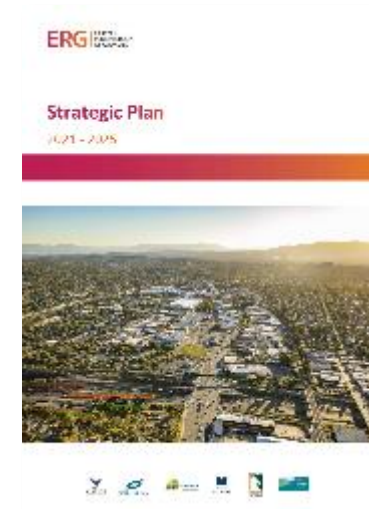
Eastern Metro Land Use Framework Plan (Draft)

The draft Land Use Framework for Melbourne East established an integrated approach to the development of the region, ensuring that social, economic and environmental benefits are realised as the region grows.

The local government authorities within the region face diverse issues and possess differing opportunities. The Land Use Framework provides overarching strategic direction to ensure that planning is integrated, while local outcomes remain a priority.

The Land Use Framework outlines a number of priority projects, including the North East Link, suburban rail loop precincts, and the Monash National Employment and Innovation Cluster.

From a sport and recreation perspective, the Land Use Framework acknowledges the importance of planning for major social infrastructure (including recreation facilities) and encouraging the use of public land such as schools and golf courses for open space, recreation and trail connections.



STRATEGIC CONTEXT: CITY OF BOROONDARA

Sport and Recreation Strategy (2016)

The Boroondara Sport and Recreation Strategy established six priority areas for action:

1. Health Wellbeing, Social Cohesion – focus on an active, healthy and connected community
2. Diversity & inclusion – create opportunities for people who are traditionally less like to participate
3. Participation – get more people active more often and balance use of facilities for structured and unstructured activities
4. Partnerships – forge effective relationships with government, sporting groups, schools and peak bodies
5. Sustainability – focus on environmental sustainability, financial sustainability and club/volunteer support
6. Infrastructure & safety – maximise outcomes from investment in new and existing infrastructure



Open Space Strategy (2013)

9.9% of the City of Boroondara is public open space, with 36 sqm of open space per person at the time of publication.

As population grows within the municipality and private open space decreases, additional open space that serves a range of purposes is required.

Funding and Development of Community Pavilions – Sport and Recreation (2019)

This policy aims to ensure the responsible development and renewal of community pavilions. The policy principles focus on developing and funding pavilions in partnership with facility users and other levels of government, targeting investment in areas of demand, and aligning with ESD, CPTED and universal design principles.

Sports Ground Provision Analysis

Council is currently examining the provision of sports grounds across the municipality to understand the level of pressure on existing grounds and future needs.

Key infrastructure priorities and planning

- Freeway Golf Course redesign (due to NE Link)
- Fritsch Holzer Indoor Stadium (VSBA-led)
- Kew Recreation Centre development (due mid-2023)
- Pavilion renewal program, including accessibility and inclusivity upgrades

Emerging issues

- Increased female participation has resulted in facility and sports ground capacity issues.
- The majority of existing sports grounds are at capacity, due to increased participation and the landlocked nature of the City of Boroondara.
- Active recreation in parks and reserves continues to increase.
- Increased capacity issues for indoor highball courts and hockey centres due to sports played at these facilities having larger participation catchment areas.
- Dirt jumps and mountain biking on existing and improvised trails is creating maintenance and risk issues at a local level.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT: CITY OF KNOX

Open Space Plan 2012-2022

The City of Knox manages more than 700 hectares of open space for informal leisure and active sport activities, equating to just over 6% of the total land area of the municipality.

The Strategy defines four strategic directions for open space, including creating healthy creek corridors, activating community hubs, empowering the community as stewards of open space and engendering a network of sustainable spaces.

Pavilion Strategy and Modular Program

Council is undertaking a review of outcomes achieved by modular pavilions and has established a broader strategy for pavilion development.

Facility Development Policies

The City of Knox has established key policies that guide the planning and development of sport and recreation infrastructure, including:

- **Guidelines for Developing Sports Facilities** – Outlines the standards for development of facilities at local, municipal and regional level facilities. The policy notes Gilbert Park, Marie Wallace Bayswater Oval, and Knox Park Athletics Complex as regional facilities.
- **Sporting Club financial contributions towards reserve developments** – Outlines the expected contributions from sporting clubs towards the development of sports facilities. The policy includes a list of exemption, noting that specialised venues and a number regional level facilities are exempt from the policy due to the role they play in providing for the broader community.
- **Community Facility Planning Policy 2021-2024** – Establishes Council's policy framework, planning principles, planning process, and resources and tools relating to the planning, delivery and management of community facilities.

Key infrastructure priorities and planning

- State Basketball Centre, Knox Regional Sports Park
- Knox Regional Netball Centre redevelopment and expansion
- Wantirna Reserve hockey facility development
- Gilbert Park regional baseball/softball facility upgrades
- Bayswater Oval design and upgrade works
- Knox Athletics Track field facilities upgrades
- Lewis Park Master Plan implementation

Emerging issues

- The increase in active recreation across the municipality is creating greater demand for access to open space and space for unstructured participation.
- Equity of use of facilities and open space, and the value of open space to the community is increasing.
- Dirt jumps and mountain biking on existing and improvised trails is creating maintenance and risk issues at a local level.
- Opportunities to develop regionally consistent policies and procedures to manage local and municipal issues.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT: CITY OF MANNINGHAM

Active For Life Recreation Strategy (2019 Review)

The City of Manningham developed the *Active For Life Recreation Strategy 2010-2025* in 2010, with a review of completed in 2019.

The priorities of the Strategy were refined to four key areas between 2019-2025:

1. Provide flexible, multi-use and durable spaces for recreation to meet the needs of a growing community
2. Collaborate with key partners and organisations
3. Foster an environment of inclusion
4. Build capacity for our community

The Strategy includes recommendations relating to review of indoor sporting needs and development requirements, with a focus on the development of master plans for Donvale Indoor Sports Centre and Manningham Templestowe Leisure Centre.

Open Space Strategy (2014)

18% of the City of Manningham was classified as open space at the time of publication of the Strategy, with over 2,000 hectares of open space. It is acknowledged that sixty percent of the open space land is Crown land and managed by Parks Victoria.

The Strategy identifies population growth and residential development, changing lifestyle patterns and expectations, climate change, community health and wellbeing, biodiversity being the key emerging issues for open space.

The primary goals of the Strategy are to 1) value, expand and enhance the open space network, 2) make the most of existing open spaces, and 3) attract more people, more often to open space.



Key infrastructure priorities and planning

- Aquarena Outdoor Master Plan
- Donvale Indoor Sports Centre Master Plan
- Manningham Templestowe Leisure Centre Master Plan
- North East Link Sports Developments

Emerging issues

- Informal dirt jumps are emerging as an issue for Council. Construction of informal jumps by residents indicates growing demand.
- Increased active recreation in parks and reserves, particularly during 2020 and 2021 under COVID-19 restrictions.
- Assessment of the aquatic sport needs within the region required to limit duplication for regional swimming, diving and water sports.
- Direction required on regional lawn bowls facility provision within State Lawn Bowls Facility Plan.
- Access to current participation and demand data is vital for planning and decision-making.
- Female participation and associated impact on facility capacity.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT: CITY OF MAROONDAH

Physical Activity Strategy 2015-2020

The Physical Activity Strategy aims to encourage Maroondah residents to be more active, more often. The Strategy acknowledges that physical activity levels are deficient across the municipality, impacting health and wellbeing outcomes.

The four Council priorities established in the Strategy are:

1. Active Travel – Encourage use of active transport and build active transport friendly environments
2. Activating Open Space – Drive participation in open space that is safe, comfortable, vibrant and walkable
3. The Future of Sport – Adapt to shifting motivations and trends in sport participation
4. Schools and Workplaces – Engage communities in physical activity through their schools and workplaces



Equally Active Strategy 2019

The Equally Active Strategy aims to increase the physical activity levels of women and girls, acknowledging their specific barriers to participation. The Strategy seeks to drive outcomes in the four key areas of gender equality in sport, women of CALD backgrounds, young women and women with care responsibilities.

Open Space Strategy

11% of the City of Maroondah is comprised of open space, equating to 650 hectares and 430 reserves. The Strategy identified emerging trends impacting open space provision including the balance between sport and passive recreation, promotion of physical activity, climate change and fostering partnerships to enhance open space.

Golf Strategy 2020-2030

The Golf Strategy examined the performance of Council's two public golf courses – Dorset Golf Course and Ringwood Golf Course. The Strategy acknowledged the declining financial performance of the courses and need to evolve the golf offering to engage the community and improve sustainability.

The priority actions from the Strategy centre around enhancing facilities, marketing, engagement and pricing, diversifying opportunities and increasing the inclusion of under-represented groups.

Key infrastructure priorities and planning

- Construction of the indoor cricket training centre at Jubilee Park, Ringwood
- Relocation of Calisthenics Victoria administration and operations to the Karralyka Centre
- Extreme Sports in Public Places Strategy
- Maroondah Tennis Strategy

Emerging issues

- Increasing female participation has created facility capacity issues. The strong growth in female participation numbers for sports such as AFL and cricket has started to plateau, with retention being the next challenge for local clubs and associations.
- Active recreation in local parks and reserves is continuing to increase.
- Opportunities for volunteers training and skill development is required. There is potential for overlap between LGAs and sports – a collaborative approach may optimise use of resources.
- Access to current participation and demand data is vital for planning and decision-making.
- The potential for a home for Calisthenics in Maroondah is being considered.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT: CITY OF MONASH

Active Monash Plans and Strategies

Active Monash incorporates a series of frameworks and initiatives that aim to deliver on the vision and aspirations of Monash City Council, including:

- Sports Club Framework
- Fees and Charges Policy
- Capital Works Priorities Framework
- Active Reserves Facility Hierarchy
- Monash Tennis Plan
- Monash Football (Soccer) Plan
- Community Sport, Premier League and Elite Sport Framework
- Active Communities Framework

These strategies and plans provide strategic and operational guidance to ensure that Monash City Council delivers on the goals of Active Monash and ultimately improves the health of the residents.

Monash Open Space Strategy (2018)

The Open Space Strategy outlines the priorities for the development of open space across the City of Monash, with a focus on improving access, quality, quantity, diversity, sustainability, and environmental value across the network.

While the City of Monash generally has a sufficient amount of open space (2.7 hectares per 1,000 residents), the distribution of open space across the network is not equal, with open space precincts ranging from 0.5 hectares (Notting Hill) to 4.2 hectares (Ashwood/Burwood) per 1,000 residents.

Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy (2021)

The Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy seeks to create more opportunities for unstructured and informal physical activity across the City.

The Strategy focuses on the delivery active recreation infrastructure, with a network of active recreation nodes and facilities planned for development and activation across the City.



Key infrastructure priorities and planning

- Waverley Women's Sports Centre Precinct Plan implementation
- Glen Waverley Sports Hub (Regional Tennis Centre)
- Ashwood Reserve second hockey pitch
- Jack Edwards Reserve pavilion and grandstand design
- Monash Aquatic Facilities Development Plan

Emerging issues

- Increasing active recreation participation by residents. Monash City Council has recently developed the Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy to determine future priorities.
- Opportunities for collaborative funding between Councils should continue to be explored.
- Provision for activities such as badminton and table tennis should be explored.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT: CITY OF WHITEHORSE

Indoor Sports Facility Feasibility Study

The Indoor Sports Facility Feasibility Study establishes the priorities for planning and development to meet indoor facility needs across the municipality.

Recommendations include the exploration of opportunities for a multi-use facility including table tennis in Box Hill, concept design development for Sportlink and master plan development for East Burwood Reserve.

The Study also establishes criteria for the assessment of development proposals at existing indoor facilities including Aqualink, Sportlink, Slater Reserve Stadium, Nunawading Basketball Centre, and Nunawading Gymnastic and Sports Club.

Open Space Strategy

Open space in the City of Whitehorse comprises 10.7% of the municipality, equating to 690 hectares across 335 open space reserves. 81.7% of the open space in the City consists of 71 reserves that are larger than 3 hectares (57 municipal, 24 regional).

The principles established by the Strategy relate to open space that is accessible, diverse, equitable, connected, adaptable, sustainable, social, recreational and cultural.

Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy 2022-2032

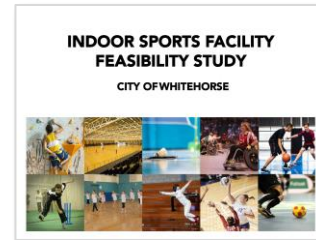
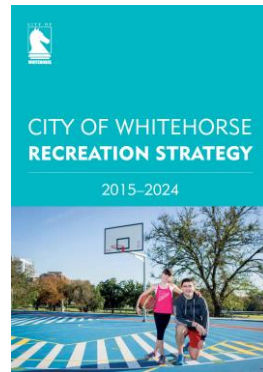
Recreation Strategy 2015-2024

The Recreation Strategy establishes the priorities for the City of Whitehorse to guide the planning of recreation services and facilities.

Regarding regional facilities, the Strategy identifies the need to work in partnership with neighbouring councils to plan and implement regional infrastructure that caters to broad population catchments.

Draft Strategic Partnerships Framework 2021

The Strategic Partnerships Framework has been developed to assist Council in considering suitable indoor sports facility projects and partnerships, particularly in relation to the delivery of the Indoor Sports Feasibility Study.



Key infrastructure priorities and planning

- Aqualink Nunawading Feasibility Study
- Box Hill City Oval pavilion redevelopment
- East Burwood Reserve Master Plan, including Nunawading Basketball Centre
- Morack Golf Course redevelopment planning
- Sportlink facility redevelopment planning
- Terrara Park Pavilion redevelopment

Emerging issues

- Facility capacity is becoming an issue for sport within Whitehorse City Council.
- Lack of organised sport at reserves provided increased access to residents during COVID-19 restrictions. Management of resident and club expectations relating to sports ground/facility access required.
- Council rate capping will impact the capital investment into facilities at local and regional levels, including co-investment into facilities with regional partners.
- Demand for indoor sports such as gymnastics and table tennis requires consideration within Whitehorse and across the regional network.
- Partnership opportunities with schools should be considered at a regional level.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT: YARRA RANGES COUNCIL

Recreation and Open Space Plan 2013-2023

The Recreation and Open Space Plan establishes Council's strategic framework, policy setting, and implementation plan for sport, recreation and open space.

The Plan consolidates strategic documents relating to aquatic facilities, sport and recreation infrastructure, and participation opportunities to provide Council with a holistic strategic direction.

The implementation plan includes recommendations for the planning and delivery of regionally significant facilities.



Warburton MTB Destination

The development of a regionally significant mountain bike facility at Warburton is a key priority for Yarra Ranges Council. The planning for this project is being undertaken separately to the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy.

Accelerated Community Infrastructure Program

Yarra Ranges Council established the Accelerated Community Infrastructure Program to outline Council's priorities across a range of local, municipal and regional projects. Yarra Ranges Council is growing in population and visitation, with this program aiming to fill the widening gap between Council revenue and infrastructure and asset requirements.

The Program outlines key regional projects including aquatic facility development, partnership with schools to develop stadiums, cycling trails and facilities, and other local sport facility developments.

Key infrastructure priorities and planning

- Warburton Mountain Bike Destination
- Consideration of the Yarra Ranges Urban Aquatic and Recreation business case with possible progress to implementation.
- Support and advocate for the Yarra Ranges Regional Equestrian Park proposed by a third party (or private consortium).
- Consideration of a regional sports precinct to cater for a number of sports including multiple cycling disciplines.

Emerging issues

- Planning for population growth requires the future development of facilities that cater for aquatics, leisure, sport and recreation in new communities.
- Active recreation is increasing in importance for the community. Regionally consistent planning and policy would assist in aligning Councils across the region.
- Partnership opportunities with schools to provide for indoor stadium needs. Potential to expand 1-2 court stadiums to 3-4 courts to meet community demand.
- Council is receiving requests from 'hard to locate' sports such as motocross and shooting.
- Growth in female participation and the associated impact on facility capacity.
- Growing demand for bike infrastructure including mountain bike trails, pump tracks and dirt jumps.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT: GREATER MELBOURNE OPEN SPACE

Open Space Strategy for Metropolitan Melbourne 2021

The Open Space Strategy for Metropolitan Melbourne 2021 establishes the strategic framework for the protection and development of open space across Melbourne to create a network of accessible parks and spaces.

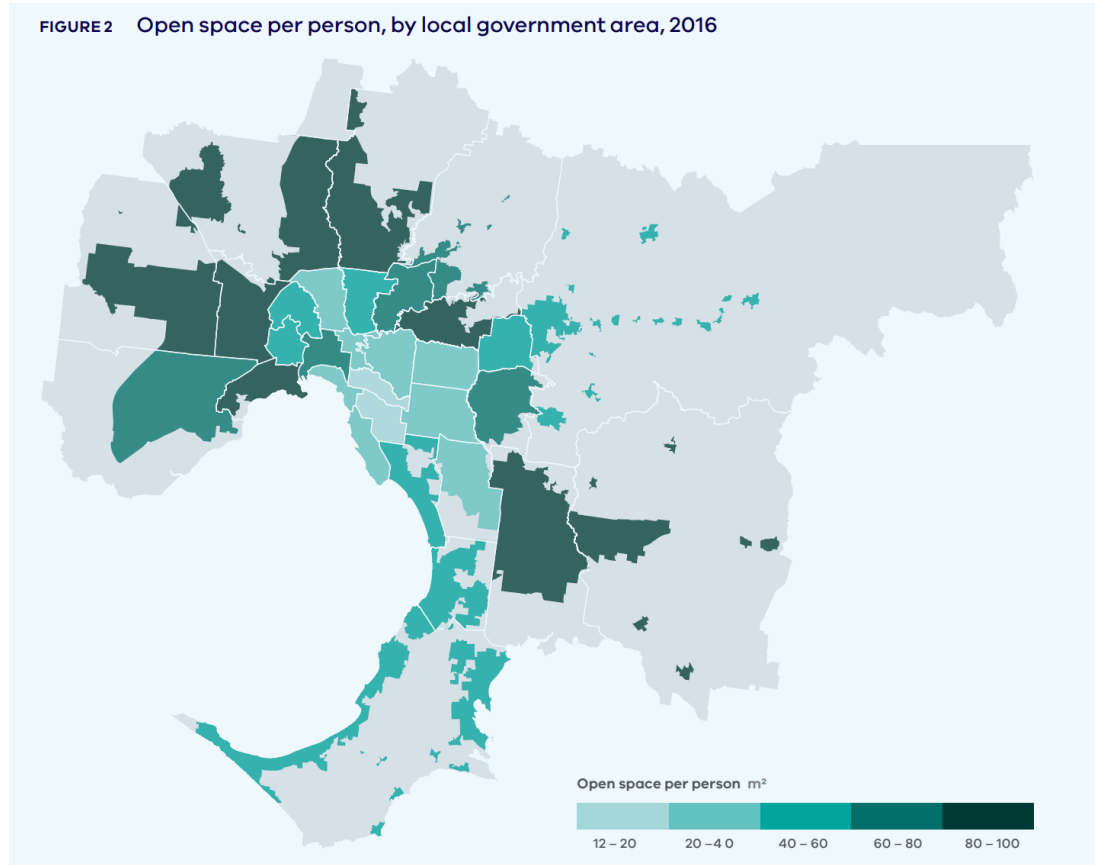
While individual local government authorities deliver localised planning for open space development, this strategy sets city-wide direction that assist in collaboration between authorities and levels of government.

The four primary goals of the strategy relate to improved community health and wellbeing, healthier biodiversity, enhanced climate change resilience, and maximized economic and social benefits.

The strategy highlights a range of actions relevant to the Melbourne East region, including the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination project, Wattle Park upgrades, use of school grounds for community use, and the Metro Parks Public Acquisition Overlay Program.

The development of the 30-year investment opportunities framework as an action of the strategy provides an opportunity for collaboration between Melbourne East local government authorities, DELWP and other land managers on regional priorities.

FIGURE 2 Open space per person, by local government area, 2016



STRATEGIC CONTEXT: STATE GOVERNMENT

Active Victoria 2022-2026

Active Victoria 2022-2026 establishes a strategic framework for sport and active recreation in Victoria, guiding the Victorian Government's objectives and priorities for the sector.

The Active Victoria vision is "to build a thriving, inclusive and connected sport and active recreation sector that benefits all Victorians".

The framework outlines three key objectives:

1. **Connecting communities:** All Victorians have access to high-quality environments and appropriate participation opportunities
2. **Building value:** The sport and active recreation workforce create positive experiences for people
3. **Enduring legacy:** A connected system that generates long-term benefits for the sector and Victoria

The Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy delivers outcomes across all objectives within Active Victoria 2022-2026.

The Strategy is particularly aligned with *Key Direction 3* outlined within the *Infrastructure* outcome of the *Connected Communities* objective:

Key Direction: Improve community sport and active recreation infrastructure coordination to better meet demand, with a focus on areas and populations who need it most:

- Develop a shared understanding of Victoria's community sport and active recreation infrastructure priorities to support coordinated local, regional, and state-wide approaches to planning and investment
- Work across agencies to embed sport and active recreation needs in Victorian land-use planning, infrastructure, and service delivery to create more active communities



STRATEGIC CONTEXT: STATE GOVERNMENT

Fair Access Policy Roadmap (2022)

The Fair Access Policy Roadmap outlines the Victorian Government's commitment to progressing gender equitable access to community sport and recreation infrastructure.

The Roadmap establishes six fair access principles to provide guidance and support to local governments and public land managers:

1. Community sports infrastructure and environments are genuinely welcoming, safe, and inclusive.
2. Women and girls can fully participate in all aspects of community sport and active recreation, including as a player, coach, administrator, official, volunteer and spectator.
3. Women and girls will have equitable access to and use of community sport infrastructure:
 - a. of the highest quality available and most convenient,
 - b. at the best and most popular competition and training times and locations,
 - c. to support existing and new participation opportunities, and a variety of sports.
4. Women and girls should be equitably represented in leadership and governance roles.

5. Encourage and support all user groups who access and use community sport infrastructure to understand, adopt and implement gender equitable access and use practices.
6. Prioritise access, use and support to all user groups who demonstrate an ongoing commitment to gender equitable access and use of allocated community sport infrastructure.

The Fair Access Policy Roadmap will be implemented in a phased approach to support government and sport and recreation stakeholders to plan for change:

- Phase 1: Education (August 2022 – 2023)
- Phase 2: Readiness (2023 – 30 June 2024)
- Phase 3: Progress (1 July 2024 onwards)

The Fair Access Policy Roadmap is supported by a series of key resources for local governments and sport and recreation organisations, including the Fair Access Policy Template and the Fair Access Action Plan Template.



Fair Access Policy Roadmap

Supporting gender equitable access to and use of community sports infrastructure in Victoria



STRATEGIC CONTEXT: STATE GOVERNMENT

Safe and Strong: Victorian Gender Equity Strategy

The Victorian Gender Equality Strategy establishes the vision for all Victorians to live in a safe and equal society.

The Strategy outlines a series of reforms for governments to deliver and identifies sport and recreation as a key setting to deliver change.

The Strategy identifies that:

- Sport is a powerful vehicle for change
- Sport is critical to female empowerment and good health
- Gender gaps persist in sport and recreation

A key early action from the Victorian Gender Equity Strategy is to “work with local government and State Sporting Associations to promote equitable treatment of men and women in the provision of and access to infrastructure and facilities”.

Female participation is growing across Melbourne East and further support from government and sport will enable this growth to continue into the future.

Value of Sport and Active Recreation Infrastructure

Sport and Recreation Victoria engaged KPMG to articulate the value that community sport and active recreation infrastructure adds to the state of Victoria.

The report focuses on the economic, health and social benefits sport and active recreation infrastructure delivers in communities across Victoria and builds on a similar piece of work delivered by KPMG for Sport Australia at a national level.

Key national findings:

- Community sport and active recreation infrastructure delivers \$2.1 billion economic impact, \$2.3 billion health benefit and \$2.6 million social benefit to Victoria annually
- Economic impact is driven by increased economic activity (\$2.078 billion) and in event-related tourism expenditure (\$14 million)
- Health benefits accrued include reduce risk of chronic disease (\$1.184 billion), improved mental health (\$848 million), increased productivity (\$270 million), reduced risk of falls (\$33 million) and reduced risk of drowning (\$1 million)
- Social benefits include human capital uplift (\$1.441 billion), volunteering (\$596 million) and green space (\$579 million)



SPORT AND RECREATION TRENDS AND OPPORTUNITIES



SPORT AND RECREATION TRENDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Understanding the participation trends and infrastructure planning of State Sporting Associations is vital for the Melbourne East region to assess strategic priorities.

To gain insights into the priorities of each priority sport, meetings were undertaken with representatives from each of the following peak sporting bodies:

- AFL Victoria
- Badminton Victoria
- Baseball Victoria
- Basketball Victoria
- Bowls Victoria
- Calisthenics Victoria
- Cricket Victoria
- AusCycling
- Football Victoria
- Gymnastics Victoria
- Hockey Victoria
- Netball Victoria
- NRL Victoria
- Rugby Victoria
- Swimming Victoria
- Tennis Victoria
- Volleyball Victoria

As part of the Strategy review, participant data has been sought from a range of state sports associations (or equivalent) for the last three consecutive years or seasons (across 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022).

It is important to acknowledge the impact that COVID-19 had on participation during 2020 and 2021. As participation numbers were significantly affected and the impacts were not felt equally by all sports, this context needs to be acknowledged when analysing participation trends.

Notes regarding participation data analysis:

- Participation in competitions and programs that are not affiliated with State Sporting Associations are generally not represented in the data analysis.
- COVID-19 restrictions impacted most sports, with decreased participation numbers during 2020 and 2021. Indoor sports generally experienced the most significant impacts from COVID-19 restrictions.
- A number of state sports associations (or their national equivalent) have either recently migrated to new membership/participation data platforms or are in the process of migration.
- Where possible, duplicate participant records have been removed where a single participant has played across multiple clubs or grades.

In addition to the participation data, strategic context and regional needs provided by each sport, an overview of the collated Ausplay data for the seven councils in the Melbourne East region and table of previous participation data has been included as a reference.



Image: Waverley Netball Centre, Jells Park

KEY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR REGIONAL SPORT

The seventeen State Sporting Associations and peak sporting bodies that were engaged during the review of the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy identified a range of issues and opportunities facing the growth and development of their respective sports. Many of the themes highlighted mirrored those identified by council and government stakeholders, creating opportunities for collaboration to create solutions.

Common Issues and Opportunities Across Sports



Pressure on facility capacity

Growth of participation in sport is creating the need for increased facility capacity and upgrades to existing infrastructure.



Growth in female participation

Female participation growth is a priority for the majority of sports, creating the need for more infrastructure. Increasing female participation has created capacity issues at some venues.



Talent pathway and event venues

Regional venues play a vital role in developing talent and hosting events. Gaps in regional provision limit pathways and event delivery. Roles of LGAs and SSAs require clarification.



Planning for growth

Planning for the facility and servicing needs of growing communities is vital for the sustainability of sport.



COVID-19

COVID-19 restrictions impacted the ability of sports to operate. Sports require support to rebound from reduced participation and operation.



Changing Participation Trends

Increased demand for flexible, social and informal participation at community level. Increased professionalism within the talent pathway.



Funding and resources

Funding and resources for programming and facility projects are being stretched. Collaboration with LGAs and government is vital to understand capacity to support future priorities.



Information and data

Building cases for facility development on strong evidence is crucial to ensuring returns on stakeholder investment are maximised.

ACTIVE RECREATION

Active recreation continues to emerge as a popular form of activity, with Ausplay data indicating that the forms of physical activity with the highest participation rates are non-competitive activities such walking, running, cycling and swimming (see pages 59-62).

Active recreation is generally defined as unorganised or non-competitive physical activity undertaken during leisure time. Active recreation activities generally have a high level of flexibility and low level of structure, creating activities that are highly accessible with few barriers to participation.

While active recreation activities have high participation rates in comparison to organised sport, active recreation participation is generally drawn from a local catchment rather than a regional level. Local parks, reserves and facilities generally provide the convenience and accessibility that participants are seeking from active recreation.

The primary exceptions are regional trail networks and mountain-biking facilities, which cater for multiple municipalities and can draw users from beyond the region. Regional trail and mountain-bike-specific strategies (see page 14) have been established to guide advocacy for these regionally significant projects.

Given the localised nature of active recreation participation, the planning, development and activation of active recreation facilities is generally delivered locally rather than regionally across multiple municipalities.

Planning for regional-level open space parks and reserves may be undertaken collaboratively, but is generally led by the by the relevant local government authority or land manager.

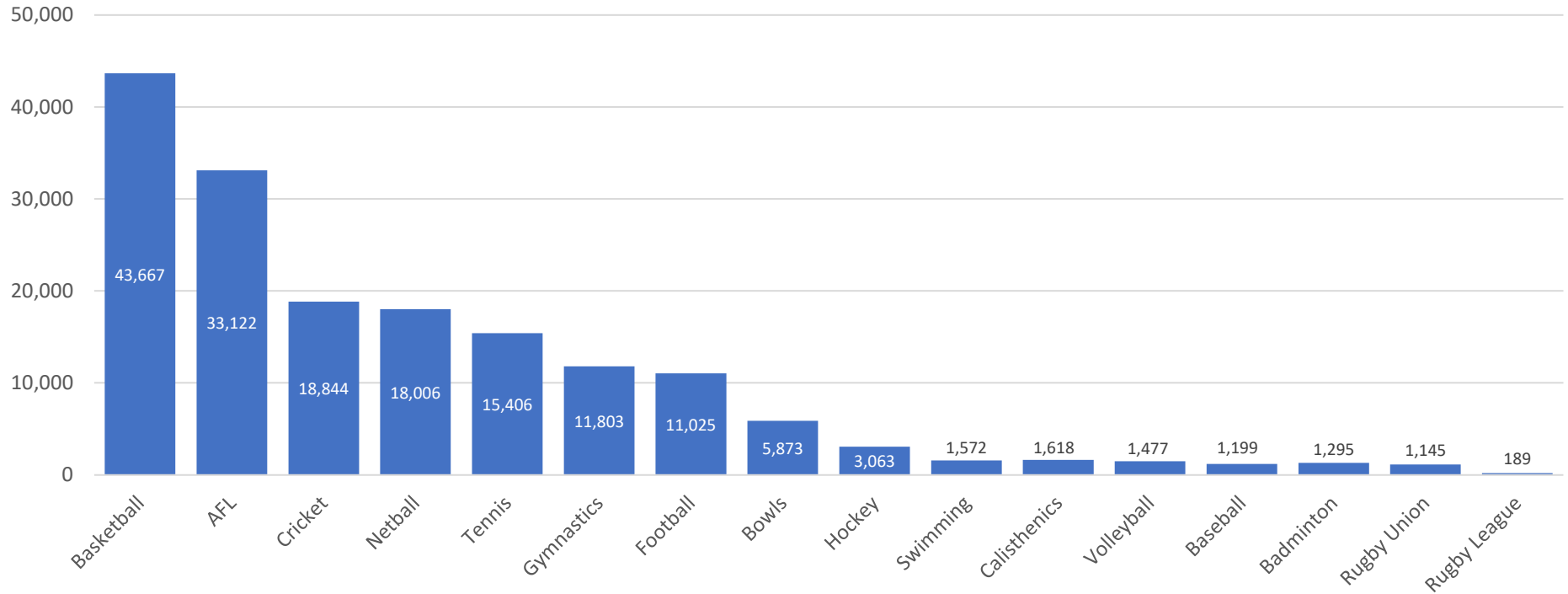
On this basis, the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy focuses primarily on regional level facilities for organised sport due their broader geographic catchment and ability to host regionally significant events and competitions.

The seven local government authorities within the Melbourne East region should continue to examine opportunities to collaborate where an active recreation facility project or initiative may have benefits across multiple municipalities and draw participation from across the region..



SPORT PARTICIPATION 2021

The Sport Participation 2021 analysis consists of resident participant data provided by State Sporting Associations. Participation that is not associated with affiliated competitions and programs is not included within the analysis. Analysis of each sport by Local Government Authority is provided as an appendix.



AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL

Australian Rules Football is one of the highest participation sports in the Melbourne East Region, with growth across male and female cohorts.

Australian Rules Football is generally well provisioned from a facility perspective, although facility capacity is coming under pressure due to the significant growth of female football.

State & Melbourne East AFL Facilities Development Strategies

AFL Victoria have developed both State level (2017) and Melbourne East Regional (2019) Facilities Development Strategies, providing clear strategic direction for the Australia football needs in the region.

The State-level strategy includes the development of administration centres/regional hubs and provide venues that support talent pathways and competitions.

The Strategy also focuses on the quality and carrying capacity of facilities, planning for new facilities in growth areas, catering for diversity (particularly growth in female participation) and enhancing relationships with local government.

The Melbourne East Football Facilities Strategy identified a range of priorities specific to Melbourne East, focused on increasing the facility capacity and responding to regional needs.

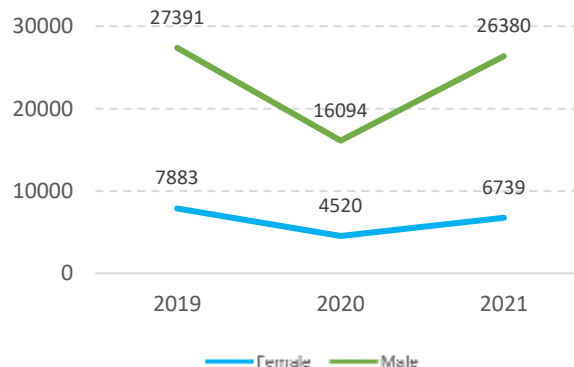
Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy 2022-2032

Priority two within the Melbourne East Football Facilities Strategy establishes the key state level, regional and talent pathway venues as priorities for investment.

Box Hill City Oval is identified as the state level investment priority, with a \$5 million improvement program planned for the venue. Other facility priorities to the value of over \$154 million are outlined within the Strategy.

Participation

Australian Rules Football Participation was impacted by COVID-19, but rebounded in 2021 to similar levels as 2019. Notably, female participation makes up approximately 20% of total participation (based on 2021).



Key Regional Facilities

- Box Hill City Oval – Box Hill Hawks
- Kilsyth Centre of Excellence – Eastern Ranges

Regional Needs

- The existing regional venues service AFL regional facility needs, but further upgrades and development is required.
- Investment in Box Hill City Oval is a key regional priority, with an approximate \$19 million improvement program planned for the site.
- Increasing facility capacity to cater for growth and meeting the facility needs of women and girls.

BADMINTON

Badminton is ideally seeking the establishment of purpose-built facilities to cater for regional participation and development needs in Melbourne East.

Badminton has traditionally shared court space with other sports in multi-purpose facilities, but the absence of a purpose-built facility limits talent pathways and development in the region.

Badminton Victoria Strategic Plan

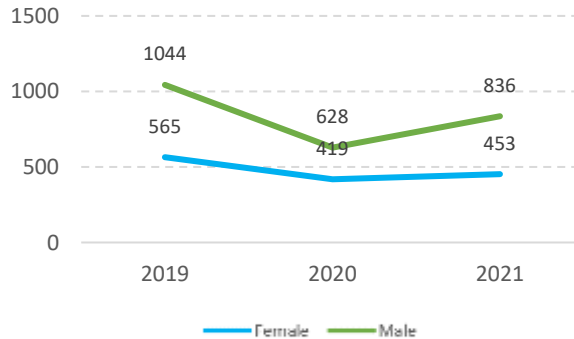
The Badminton Victoria Strategic Plan 2021-2025 provides high level direction for growing the sport and supporting its members.

The plan focuses on engagement of participants and volunteers, supporting the talent pathway, ensure sustainability, inclusion and events.

Participation

Like many indoor sports, badminton participation has been affected by COVID-19 restrictions. Participation in badminton is likely to continue to rely on access to multi-purpose courts, but purpose built facilities should be considered should the number of participants grow in the medium-to-long term.

Participation in badminton is highest in the City of Manningham, comprising approximately 35% of participants (based on 2021). Monash, Whitehorse and Boroondara also have relatively strong participation in badminton (note: Monash demand is primarily met by private centres)



Key Regional Facilities

- Sportlink, Vermont South
- Kilsyth Sports Centre
- Maroondah Nets, Heathmont
- Doncaster Badminton Centre
- Melbourne Unique Badminton Centre
- Glen Waverley Badminton Centre

Regional Needs

- The opportunity to develop a badminton-specific facility that caters to regional needs is a priority for Badminton Victoria. Badminton often shares court space with other sports and is a lower priority due to the demands of larger sports. Participation rates in badminton should be monitored in key locations such as Manningham, Whitehorse, Monash and Boroondara to determine the need for a stand-alone regional centre in the medium-to-long term.

BASEBALL

Baseball is currently serviced by two sub-regional level facilities in Gilbert Park and Napier Park.

While Baseball needs to continue to evolve its venues, the primary purpose of facility upgrades will be focused on increasing participation opportunities and flexibility.

The majority of the talent pathway is delivered from the State Baseball Centre in Altona, with baseball competitions and programs focused on local participation rather than regional development opportunities.

Baseball Victoria also indicated that they were seeking to reform competition and participation structures, and that the development of regional facilities and initiatives would be a longer-term goal.

Baseball Victoria Strategic Plan 2016-2019

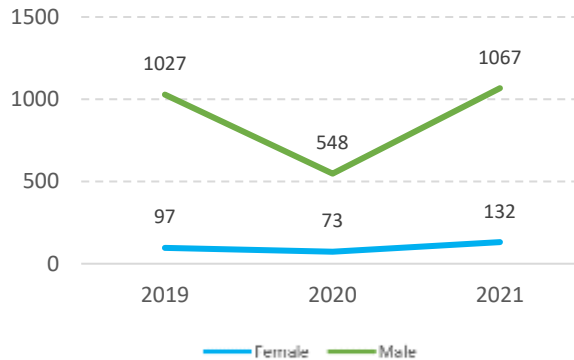
The Baseball Victoria Strategic Plan is due for renewal, with the existing plan running through until 2019. While the Strategic Plan notes the need to improve facilities, it is primarily focused on growing participation, supporting the talent pathway, increasing sustainability and strong governance.

Baseball Victoria indicated that they were currently developing a new strategic plan when engaged in late 2021.

Participation

Participation in baseball has held relatively steady in 2019 and 2021, with the dip in participation during 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The participation base of baseball in Melbourne East is largely male-centric with approximately 12% of participation in baseball comprised of women and girls (based on 2021).



Key Regional Facilities

- Gilbert Park, Knoxfield
- Napier Park, Glen Waverley

Regional Needs

- The existing sub-regional level facilities at Gilbert Park and Napier Park serve the current needs of baseball.
- The installation of sportslighting at Napier Park would increase capacity to provide additional participation and talent development opportunities.

BASKETBALL

Basketball is one of the strongest participation sports in Melbourne East, with high participation at all levels.

The establishment of the State Basketball Centre at Knox Regional Sports Park is the key basketball facility project in the region, but further consideration of court capacity and partnerships with schools should be considered.

Basketball Victoria Facility Master Plan 2017

The Basketball Victoria Facility Master Plan identified the key requirements for basketball within the region, with the development of the State Basketball Centre at the Knox Regional Sports Park providing a central priority for the region.

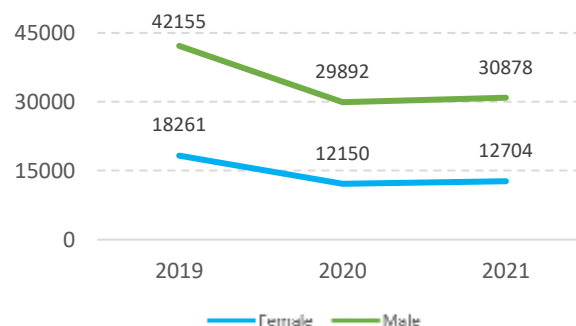
The 2017 Master Plan recommendations included (a number of which have been completed):

- Boroondara: An additional two courts are required by 2021 to cater for growth. A high number of school courts are used decreasing the capacity per court.
- Knox: Existing provision caters for demand, with the development of the State Basketball Centre to provide further capacity.
- Manningham: Bulleen Stadium requires an additional 4-5 courts, with another four courts required in the Doncaster area by 2025.

- Maroondah: An additional two courts are required by 2021 to meet needs for basketball.
- Monash: Additional courts were recently developed at Oakleigh Recreation Centre, although Monash still requires a further two courts by 2021.
- Whitehorse: An additional two courts are needed at Nunawading Stadium, as well as an additional 2-3 courts in the Box Hill / Burwood East area.
- Yarra Ranges: Development of facilities at Upwey High School and Melba College to create additional capacity to meet short-to-medium term needs.

Participation

Basketball is the highest participation sport in Melbourne East, although participation was impacted during 2020/21.



Key Regional Facilities

- State Basketball Centre – Knox Regional Sports Park
- Boroondara Sports Complex, Balwyn North
- Mullum Mullum Stadium, Donvale
- Nunawading Basketball Centre, East Burwood
- Kilsyth Sports Centre
- Oakleigh Recreation Centre
- Maroondah Rings, Ringwood
- Waverley Basketball Centre, Chadstone
- Monash University Stadium, Clayton

Regional Needs

- Delivery of the State Basketball Centre
- Potential to partner with schools and education institutions to develop regional / sub-regional level stadiums (3-4 courts)
- Fritsch Holzer Indoor Stadium two-court stadium feasibility and design implementation

BOWLS

While participation in bowls continues to hold steady in Melbourne East, the establishment of a regional facility capable of hosting events and high-level competitions is a priority for Bowls Victoria.

The upgrade of an existing facility to incorporate a minimum of one covered green is a key priority for bowls in Melbourne East.

Bowls Victoria Strategic Facilities Plan 2020-2030

The Bowls Victoria Strategic Facilities Plan identifies the need for regional lawn bowls facilities, with a core requirement of having two or more greens (with at least one undercover green) and facilities to cater for major events such as state/national championships.

The Melbourne East region consists of parts of the Eastern Ranges, Yarra and Sandbelt bowls regions, with no regional level bowls facilities provided within the seven Melbourne East LGAs.

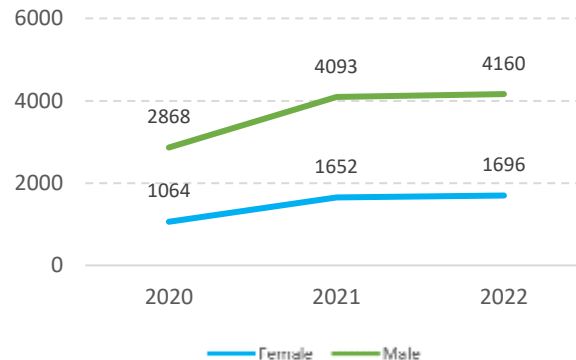
Regional level bowls facilities within these three bowls regions are provided at Darebin City Bowls Club (now non-operational), Brighton Bowls Club and Dandenong Bowls Club, with an undercover green to be established at Berwick Bowls Club in the near future.

Through consultation, Bowls Victoria noted the potential for a “major” level bowls facility within the region to be elevated to regional status, with consideration given to the location of existing regional level facilities to the north, west, south and south-east (future development).

Participation

Participation in bowls skews significantly towards older age cohorts with approximately 10-15% of participants each year below the age of 50.

Note: 1,480 participants had no gender listed in 2021. The proportion of gender split in 2022 was assigned to the 1,480 participants with no gender from 2021.



Key Regional Facilities

- No facilities currently meet Bowls Victoria regional facility criteria

Regional Needs

- Establishment of an agreed regional bowls venue, incorporating a minimum of one covered green and associated supporting infrastructure to facilitate regional and state level competitions and events.

CALISTHENICS

Calisthenics is seeking to create a home for the sport, with the state administration and performance facility to be based in the Melbourne East region.

Calisthenics Victoria has been seeking to partner with Maroondah City Council to move its state-level operations to the Karralyka Centre in Ringwood.

Calisthenics Victoria Strategic Plan 2019-2022

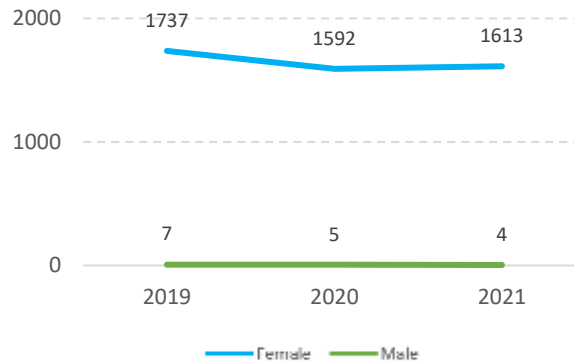
The Calisthenics Victoria Strategic Plan 2019-2022 establishes four key pillars for delivery, with the 'creation of a home for calisthenics' the first pillar of the strategy.

The creation of a home for calisthenics is particularly relevant for the Melbourne East region, as the proposed new home of calisthenics is the Karralyka Centre in Ringwood.

Calisthenics Victoria will centre its administration and operations from the Karralyka Centre, and will use studio and performance space for programs, competitions and events.

Participation

Participation in calisthenics is almost entirely comprised on women and girls, as well as skewing highly towards younger participants, with approximately three-quarters of participants 19 years-old or younger.



Key Regional Facilities

- Karralyka Centre, Ringwood (proposed)

Regional Needs

- The creation of a home for calisthenics at the Karralyka Centre is the key regional (and state level) facility need for the sport.

CRICKET

The Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Strategy establishes clear priorities for the development of Cricket and Community Centres across Greater Melbourne, with Jubilee Park (Ringwood) fulfilling this role for Melbourne East.

The recent announcement of funding for the development of an indoor training facility at Jubilee Park will complete the required facilities to service the regional facility needs for Melbourne East.

Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Strategy

The Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2028 was developed based on the results of the statewide cricket facility audit and consultation with LGAs and stakeholders.

The Melbourne East region consist of the Inner South East Metro, Inner East Metro and Outer East Metro cricket regions.

The key recommendation relating to regional level facilities for cricket is the delivery and activation of a regional level Cricket and Community Centre within the Outer East Metro region (Maroondah, Knox, Yarra Ranges).

This recommendation has been partially delivered at Jubilee Park, Ringwood (City of Maroondah), with the further development of an indoor training facility recently announced.

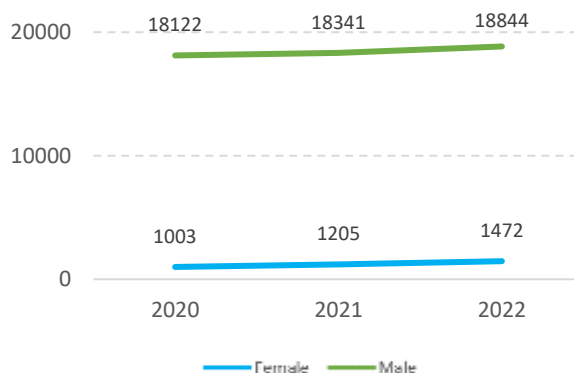
The Cricket and Community Centres act as regional hubs for cricket programs, talent pathways and regional content, with the Centre at Jubilee Park servicing the Melbourne East region.

Jubilee Park is one of four confirmed metropolitan Cricket and Community Centres, in addition to the State Cricket and Community Centre at Junction Oval, St Kilda.

Participation

Cricket participation has held stable over the last three seasons, with relatively limited impacts during the COVID-19 restrictions in comparison to other sports.

Cricket participation remains highly male-centric, although female participation has grown by 47% between 2020 and 2022.



Key Regional Facilities

- Jubilee Park Cricket Centre, Ringwood
- Central Reserve, Glen Waverley

Regional Needs

- Delivery of the indoor training facility at Jubilee Park (Ringwood) to complete the Cricket and Community Centre.

CYCLING

While cycling is one of the highest participation recreation activities, engagement in competitive cycling remains comparatively low.

The opportunity to establish a regional cycling facility that provides multi-disciplinary participation and development opportunities should be a key priority for Melbourne East.

Cycling Victoria State Facilities Strategy 2016-2026

The Cycling Victoria State Facilities Strategy outlines facility recommendations across the range of cycling disciplines, with the aim of improving the provision of facilities for cycling across the board.

While the Strategy identifies the need for a number of road, track, BMX, MTB and cyclo-cross facilities across the metropolitan area, there are limited recommendations specific to the Melbourne East region.

Recommendations relevant to the Melbourne East region include:

- Support the Warburton Mountain Bike Trail development
- Development of partnerships with sporting and community clubs to provide club rooms for cycling clubs, *including Hawthorn*

It should be noted that cycling has undergone significant governance reform since the establishment of this strategy, with AusCycling now replacing the former state and individual discipline peak bodies.

AusCycling are currently undertaking a facility auditing and planning process to identify future priorities for across the various cycling disciplines which may impact their regional priorities for Melbourne East.

Participation

Club participation data was not available for cycling at the time of developing the strategy, but an estimated recreational cycling participation figure for Melbourne East for 2021 of 157,333 was provided by AusCycling based on participation survey data collated from the Kinetica Aura platform.

Key Regional Facilities

- Warburton Mountain Bike Destination (proposed and under development)
- Lysterfield Mountain Bike Facility
- Silvan Reserve Mountain Bike Facility

Regional Needs

- Potential for the establishment of a multi-disciplinary cycling facility, incorporating components such as a criterium track, velodrome, pump track and/or BMX track at a green-field site in Yarra Ranges Council.
- Renewal of mountain bike trails at the Lysterfield State Mountain Bike Facility to cater for increasing participation demand and talent pathways.
- Policy direction and needs analysis relating to informal tracks and dirt jumps.

FOOTBALL

Football has a strong presence in the region, with strong participation and two NPL clubs providing talent development opportunities.

Football Victoria has identified facility capacity as their key issue for Melbourne East, with the development of multi-pitch participation hub being a key priority to begin to address this limitation.

Football Victoria Facilities Strategy to 2026

The Football Victoria Facilities Strategy to 2026 (2016) outlines the need for increased quality and quantity of football facilities to cater for the growth in football by 2026.

Based on the current participation rate of 1.1% and preferred provision ratio for football, the Melbourne East region was estimated as requiring an additional 40 full size pitches by 2026.

In addition to the need for additional playing field provision, the Strategy provides region-specific recommendations for consideration, including:

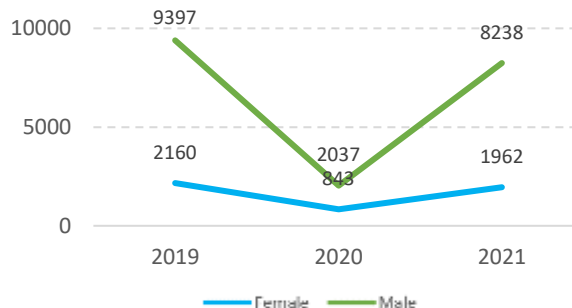
- Develop two artificial pitches in Whitehorse and Boroondara
- Consider facility development at Knox Regional Football Centre to establish as a key regional facility

- Consider facility development at Bulleen Park (*note: football is moving from Bulleen Park as part of the North-East Link Project*)

At the time of publishing this document, Football Victoria have indicated that the release of an updated State Facility Strategy is imminent, with a focus on the establishment of regional hubs to impact the requirement for increased pitch provision.

Participation

Similar to most high participation sports, football was impacted by COVID-19 in 2020, but bounced back in 2021 to levels slightly below the pre-pandemic rate of 2019. Football participation remains predominantly male, although approximately 19% of participants are women and girls (based on 2021). *Note: 825 participant records did not have a gender provided in 2021 and are not shown below.*



Key Regional Facilities

- Knox Regional Sports Park, Wantirna South
- Jack Edwards Reserve, Oakleigh
- Wembley Park, Box Hill South
- Pettys Reserve, Templestowe
- Esther Park, Mooroolbark
- Dorset Reserve, Croydon

Regional Needs

- The establishment of a regional participation hub with the aim of creating additional capacity in the region is a key focus for Football Victoria.
- Continue to provide support to existing NPL clubs and the role they play in the football talent pathway.

GYMNASTICS

Gymnastics plays an important role in motor-skill development of children and young people, and well as providing opportunities for competitive participation.

Gymnastics is provided by a mix of private and public facilities, with Gymnastics Victoria seeking to create more gymnastics floorspace in public facilities.

Gymnastics State Facilities Strategy 2021 - 2030

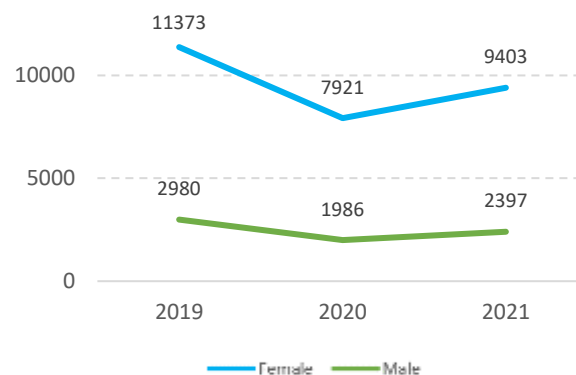
The Gymnastics State Facilities Strategy outlines the priorities for gymnastics provision across Victoria, with a focus on the additional floor space needed in each LGA. The additional floorspace required is calculated based on the projected population increase for 0-14 years olds and the Gymnastics Victoria participation target of 10% of the 0-14 year-old population (current participation in Melbourne East is 7.3%).

Based on this assessment, Gymnastics Victoria is aiming to increase participation from 14,809 to 20,673 by between 2021 and 2030, requiring an increase in gymnastics floorspace from 26,878 square metres to 35,440 square metres.

Based on the recommended floorspace for a regional level gymnastics facility (1,200 – 1,600 square metres floorspace), the equivalent of an additional five regional level facilities will be required in the Melbourne East region.

Participation

Participation in gymnastics is primarily comprised of children, with the majority of participants under 10 years of age. Gymnastics has higher participation rates in girls, but male participation numbers are healthy, making up approximately 20% of total participation (based on 2021).



Key Regional Facilities

- Oakleigh Recreation Centre
- Donvale Indoor Sports Centre
- Aqualink, Nunawading
- Aquahub, Croydon
- Knox Gymnastics Facility,

Regional Needs

- The development of the Oakleigh Recreation Centre and inclusion of gymnastics within the centre was a primary recommendation of the 2016 Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy.
- Based on the Gymnastics Victoria State Facility Strategy, a significant amount of additional floorspace (8,562 m²) is required to cater for existing and future demand. Floorspace needs for gymnastics should be monitored, with consideration given to filling gaps in provision to meet demand in the medium term.

HOCKEY

While hockey participation in Melbourne East is supported by network of club venues, the creation of twin-pitch regional venue remains a priority for Hockey Victoria.

Expanding an existing venue to incorporate a second pitch would increase the ability of the region to host competitions and events, as well as improving flexibility for scheduling of training and talent programs.

Hockey Victoria Strategic Facilities Master Plan 2015

The Hockey Victoria Strategic Facilities Master Plan identified a series of recommendations to service the growth of Hockey across Victoria.

A key priority relating to facility provision is the adoption of a provision ratio benchmark of one club facility for every 100,000 residents, with a pitch to player ratio of one full-size synthetic hockey pitch for every 300 players.

Specifically relating to Melbourne East includes the development of one additional pitch in either the East or North-East Metropolitan Zone (support the proposed new pitch at Auburn High School and the development of a second pitch at Elgar Park).

Further planning has been undertaken in the Melbourne Outer East regional hockey feasibility study.

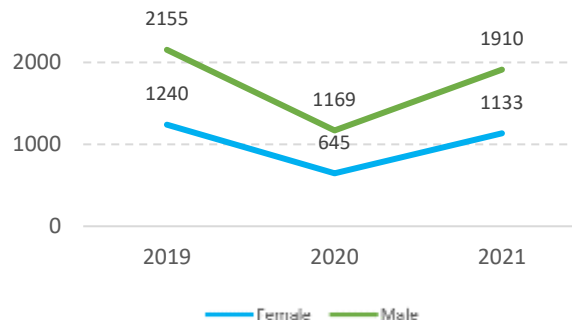
Melbourne Outer East Hockey Feasibility Study

Further planning was undertaken for the development of facilities in the Outer East (Monash, Knox, Maroondah and Yarra Ranges).

The priorities for the Outer East include the development of a second pitch at Ashwood Reserve, development of a pitch at Wantirna Reserve, support the development of a pitch at Heathmont Secondary College, develop facilities at Yarra Valley Grammar, investigate opportunities for facilities at Yarra Hills Secondary College, and investigate opportunities for new sites within Knox and the Lilydale/Coldstream area.

Participation

Participation in hockey was impacted by COVID-19 during 2020, but has recovered in 2021 and is expected to continue to grow in the next 2-3 years.



Key Regional Facilities

- Ashwood Reserve (subject to second pitch development)
- Hawthorn – Malvern Hockey Centre

Regional Needs

- The installation of a second pitch at Ashwood Reserve to create a regional venue for Melbourne East.
- Construction of a synthetic hockey pitch at Wantirna Reserve (new home for Knox Hockey Club)
- Consideration of the need for additional hockey provision in the outer east as population continue to grow.

NETBALL

Melbourne East has a range of netball facilities that meet the regional requirements designated by Netball Victoria.

Increasing the capacity of facilities to host regional events and competitions, and improving the compliance of courts are key priorities for the Melbourne East Region.

Netball Victoria Statewide Facilities Strategy (2016)

The Netball Victoria Statewide Facilities Strategy outlines planning and recommendations for indoor and outdoor netball facility needs across Victoria.

The Strategy highlights the Eastern region as having the highest total members (19,597), and membership rates (1.8% of population) based on 2015 data.

The Eastern Region also has the lowest population per court (3,970), lowest population per indoor court (9,798) and second lowest population per outdoor court (6,675) of the five netball regions in Greater Melbourne.

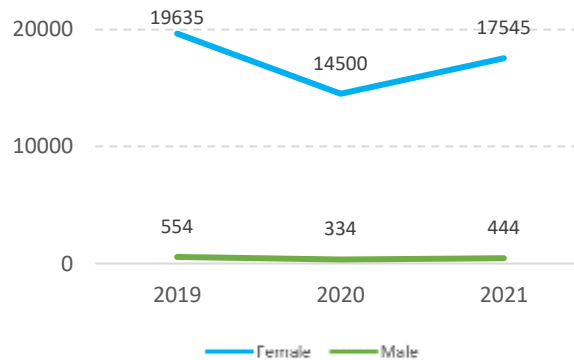
The Strategy outlines the region as having a total of 76 netball facilities, with eight deemed as being regional venues (8+ courts) (Oakleigh Recreation Centre developed since publication). Of the regional venues, four have 8-11 courts and four have 12+ courts.

At an Eastern Region level, the region was determined to have a surplus of 50 dedicated outdoor courts, deficit of 35 outdoor multi-lined courts and deficit of 18 indoor courts.

The deficits in court numbers were not found to be even across the region, with Monash, Boroondara and Whitehorse all having significant deficits across indoor and outdoor court numbers, while Knox and Yarra Ranges had relatively high numbers of surplus indoor and outdoor

Participation

Netball participation is comprised almost entirely of women and girls, and represents the highest female participation activity in the region.



Key Regional Facilities

- Waverley Netball Centre & Waverley Women's Sports Centre, Jells Park, Wheelers Hill
- Knox Regional Netball Centre, Ferntree Gully
- Kilsyth Sports Centre, Pinks Reserve, Kilsyth
- Maroondah Nets, Heathmont
- Oakleigh Recreation Centre
- Sportlink, Vermont South
- Manningham Templestowe Leisure Centre
- Boroondara Netball Centre, Macleay Park
- Ashwood College, Ashwood

Regional Needs

- An ongoing need for additional access to indoor courts should be considered in future indoor stadium planning and development.
- The region has a number of facilities that meet the regional classification for netball, as well as an overall surplus of courts, but opportunities to increase provision for netball in areas of significant deficit (including Monash, Boroondara and Whitehorse) at a local level should be monitored.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Rugby League participation in Melbourne East is relatively limited, with only two clubs operating from the region.

While the number of venues providing opportunities for rugby leagues participation ultimately limits broader uptake of the sport, NRL Victoria confirmed that existing provision is meeting current demand in the region.

NRL Victoria are focused on growing participation in key population growth areas Melbourne's west, north and south-east. These communities generally have a higher proportion of residents that traditionally participate in rugby league.

Strategic Direction

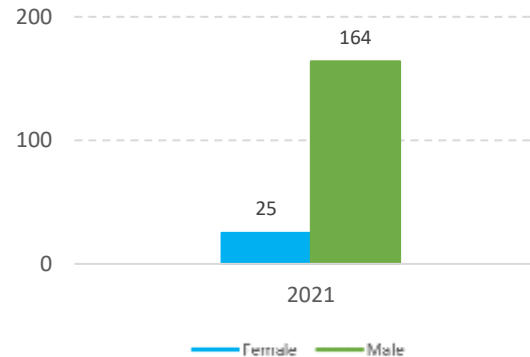
While NRL Victoria does not have an endorsed state facility strategy, they are currently focused on the development of the State Rugby League Facility at Seabrook Reserve, Broadmeadows and growing capacity in growth areas.

Facility development requirements for the Melbourne East region are localised to the periodic upgrade and renewal of existing facilities.

Participation

Participation in Rugby League within the region is relatively low, with only two clubs and a total of 189 participants across the region.

Participation information was only provided for 2021 by NRL Victoria.



Key Regional Facilities

There are no regional rugby league venues in the Melbourne East region. Two local venues are used for rugby league (Colchester Reserve, Boronia and Fregon Reserve, Clayton).

Regional Needs

- There are no regional facility needs for rugby league

RUGBY UNION

Rugby union has two priority venues in Melbourne East that serve regional purposes in Ashwood Reserve and RHL Sparks Reserve.

While RHL Sparks Reserve plays an important role in hosting finals, Ashwood Reserve provides an opportunity for Melbourne East to host elite content such as Melbourne Rebels practice games and development programs.

Victorian Rugby Facilities Development Plan 2017

The Victorian Rugby Facilities Development Plan outlines the strategic priorities for facility development, including the development of a suite of regional level facilities across metropolitan and regional areas.

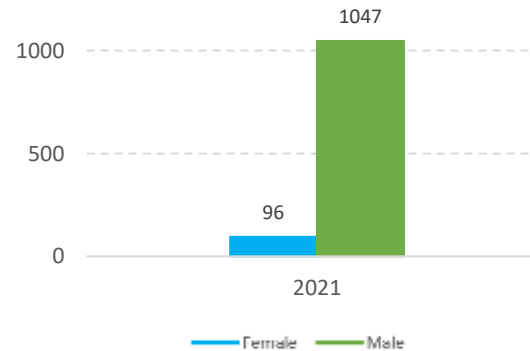
The Plan identifies RHL Sparks Reserve (Whitehorse) and Ashwood Reserve (Monash) as the recommended regional hub venues for the Melbourne East Region.

The Plan identified a total of five public venues used for rugby union within the Melbourne East region, providing a total of nine playing fields.

Rugby Victoria are also currently focused on the development of the Victorian Rugby Centre of Excellence at Latrobe University, Bundoora.

Participation

Participation in rugby union is healthy in the Melbourne East Region, with 1,143 participants in 2021 (data provided for 2021 only). Participation in rugby union is largely male-centric, with 8% of participants being female.



Key Regional Facilities

- Holmesglen Reserve, Ashwood
- RHL Sparks Reserve, Box Hill

Regional Needs

- Upgrades to the off-field facilities at Ashwood Reserve and RHL Sparks Reserve to service regional needs and support use by all ages, genders and abilities.
- Consider providing gym and strength training facilities at Ashwood and/or RHL Sparks Reserve to service talent pathway development programs.

SWIMMING

Swimming remains a popular activity for residents of Melbourne East, both recreationally and as part of club training and competition.

Competitive club swimming was impacted by COVID-19, with numbers decreasing in both 2020 and 2021, but there is an expectation that numbers will rebound following the removal of restricted use of indoor pools.

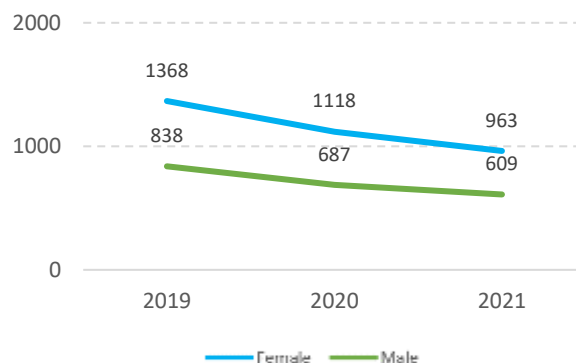
Swimming Victoria do not have a current facility strategy to guide their facility development needs, but are engaged in aquatic facility planning with Councils.

Councils in the Melbourne East region have completed a significant amount of planning for relating to aquatics needs. The needs of swimming clubs should be considered in future aquatics facility planning to ensure that clubs will have adequate access to lanes at priority training and event times.

Participation

Participation in swimming within clubs and competitions decreased in both 2020 and 2021, with the impact of COVID-19 restrictions within aquatic facilities the most significant factor.

Swimming Victoria competition structure is focused on local and state level activities.



Key Regional Facilities

- Knox Leisureworks
- Aquanation, Ringwood
- Aqualink, Box Hill
- Aquarena, Templestowe Lower
- Aquahub, Croydon
- Kilsyth Centenary Swimming Centre
- Monbulk Aquatic Centre
- Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre
- Oakleigh Recreation Centre
- Yarra Centre, Yarra Junction

Regional Needs

- The structure of swimming competition does not require a designated regional facility, with aquatic facilities across the region providing adequate lanes for club requirements.
- Although the provision of lane is sufficient for club needs, swimming clubs require access to lanes at priority training times at affordable rates to support participation growth and club viability.
- New aquatic facility in Lilydale to cater for population growth in Yarra Ranges Council.

TENNIS

The relocation of the regional tennis centre from the City of Boroondara to the City of Monash is a key regional priority brought about by the construction of the North-East Link.

The new 18-court regional tennis centre will be located at the Glen Waverley Sports Hub, creating both local and regional participation opportunities.

The move of the tennis centre out of Boroondara creates a gap in local tennis provision, reducing access to tennis for Boroondara and Manningham residents. While the Boroondara Tennis Centre will close in 2022, new centre at Glen Waverley will take approximately 1-2 years to deliver.

Tennis Victoria Facilities Framework 2024

The Facilities Framework outlines how Tennis will work with stakeholders (including councils and clubs) to develop facilities that respond to community needs, are sustainable and grow participation.

The four strategic imperatives established in the framework are: 1) Grow venue capacity, 2) build management capability, 3) invest and advocate, and 4) share resources and research

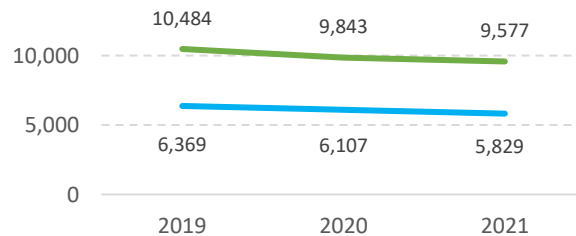
The facility framework does not outline facility-specific priorities for delivery, but does outline a range of targets in its commitment to servicing facility partnerships.

Tennis Governance Review

In 2021/22 Boroondara, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges all partnered in a review of the governance of community tennis clubs. The review entailed comprehensive interviews with 18 clubs across the Eastern Region to gather a snapshot of governance methods, approaches, and capabilities applicable to the tennis club setting. The purpose for the review was for Council's to better recognise and understand the circumstances that could arise relative to Council owned and club managed tennis club facilities and to help guide future site management decisions.

Participation

Participation in tennis remained relatively stable between 2019 and 2021, with total participant numbers declining by 1,447 during this period (8.6% decrease).



Key Regional Facilities

- Glen Waverley Sports Hub (18 courts) (to be moved from Boroondara Tennis Centre)
- Nottinghill Pinewood Tennis Club (12 courts)

Regional Needs

- Construction of the regional tennis facility at the Glen Waverley Sports Hub.
- Consideration of options to create additional court capacity within Boroondara and Manningham to offset the loss of the regional tennis facility.
- Development of a regional approach to address sustainability and governance issues in local tennis clubs



Image: Glen Waverley Tennis Centre Concept Design

VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball traditionally shares facilities with other indoor sports such as basketball and netball. In order to grow the sport and support development, gaining access to court space is a priority.

Volleyball is often the 'smaller' sport sharing use of multi-purpose facilities, which can create challenges around access to courts and priority scheduling.

State Volleyball Facilities Strategy (2018)

The State Facilities Strategy establishes three key strategic directions for facility development in Victoria: 1) partner in new indoor sports facilities development, 2) broaden the participation base, and 3) adopt a regional approach.

The development of a regional approach (strategy three) identifies the development of regional hubs as the primary action, with Croydon Aquahub and Oakleigh Recreation Centre identified as the regional hubs for the Metropolitan Eastern Region.

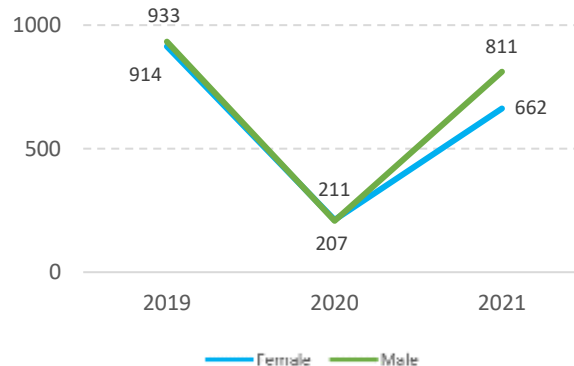
Partnering in new facility development within the strategy is generally focused on growth areas and areas of low facility supply. The strategy calls out the development of the State Basketball Centre (under development) and Oakleigh Recreation Centre as the key opportunities to meet demand for additional courts.

Participation

Participation in volleyball took a significant decline during 2020, with almost all competition shut down while under COVID-19 restrictions.

Participation bounced back to over 1,400 participants in 2021. Volleyball Victoria is confident that they will gain back lost participants during future seasons.

Note participation does not include competitions that are not affiliated with Volleyball Victoria.



Key Regional Facilities

- Oakleigh Recreation Centre
- Maroondah Nets, Heathmont

Regional Needs

- Volleyball is currently serviced by multi-purpose indoor stadiums, with the addition of the Oakleigh Recreation Centre creating additional capacity.
- Planning for additional indoor multipurpose courts should allow for volleyball use and future growth.

AUSPLAY ANALYSIS: MELBOURNE EAST

Sport Australia has conducted the AusPlay participation survey annually since 2015, collating data about the sport and recreation participation trends across Australia.

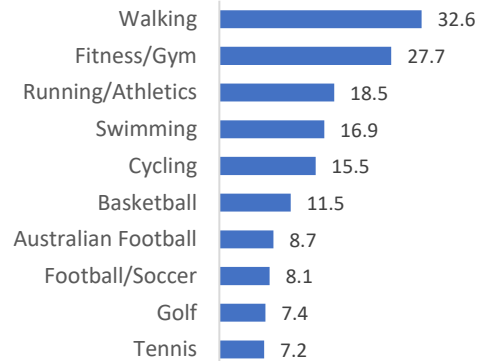
The collated data for all AusPlay surveys completed since 2015 is available for analysis via online dashboards, providing valuable insights into the community participation.

The responses are collated into a total dataset across the 2015-2021 collection period and not as a year-on-year comparison, so analysis of trends over time is not available at lower than state levels. On this basis, participation rates are indicative and represent general participation trends.

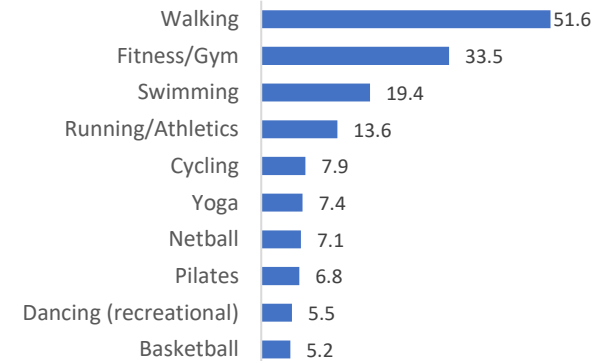
The threshold for participation in an activity is whether the survey respondent has participated in that activity at least once in the previous 12 months.

LGA	Surveys: Child	Surveys: Adult
Boroondara	179	947
Knox	135	709
Manningham	83	530
Maroondah	81	496
Monash	149	810
Whitehorse	143	837
Yarra Ranges	126	785
TOTAL	896	5,114

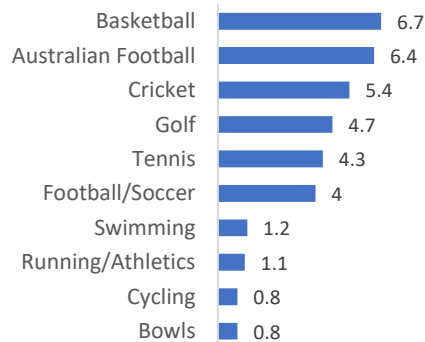
Top Participation Activities: Male (%)



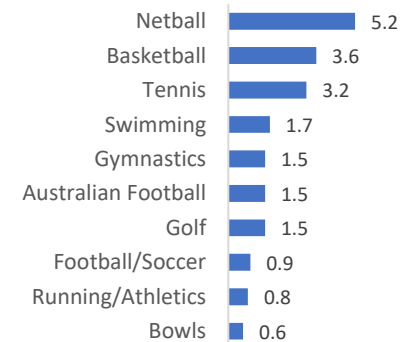
Top Participation Activities: Female (%)



Top Sport Club Participation: Male (%)



Top Sport Club Participation: Female (%)



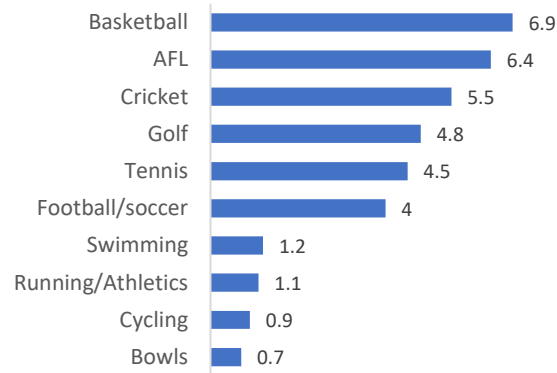
AUSPLAY ANALYSIS : MELBOURNE EAST

The analysis of AusPlay data for participation in formal club sport shows clear trends relating to participation differences between male / female and junior (0-14 years) / senior (15+ years) cohorts.

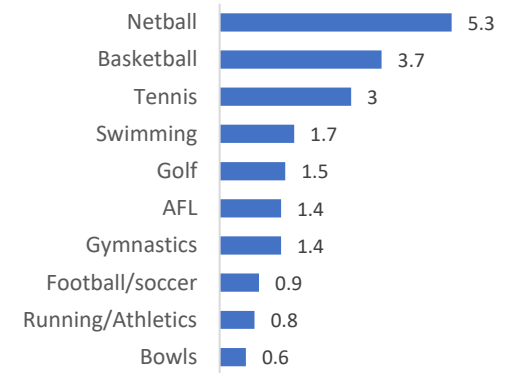
Key trends:

- Basketball is highly popular across all cohorts, as the most popular for male and junior cohorts, second most popular for the female cohort and third most popular for the adult cohort.
- Sports with historically high participation that factor across all cohorts include basketball, AFL, tennis, swimming, football, running/athletics.
- Key differences between male and female participation include netball as the highest participation sport for women and girls, as well as the inclusion of gymnastics in the top 10 activities for female participants. Cricket is the clear difference for male participants, coming in as the third highest participation activity for males but not featuring in the top 10 for females.
- The primary differences between the junior and senior cohorts is the inclusion of lower intensity sports of golf and bowls as preferences for senior participants, whereas the junior cohort also includes gymnastics within the top 10 club activities.

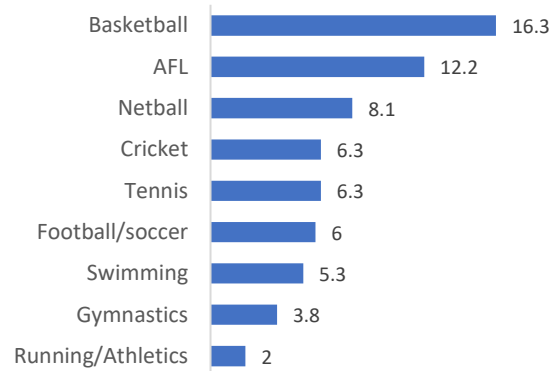
Top Sport Club Participation (%): Male



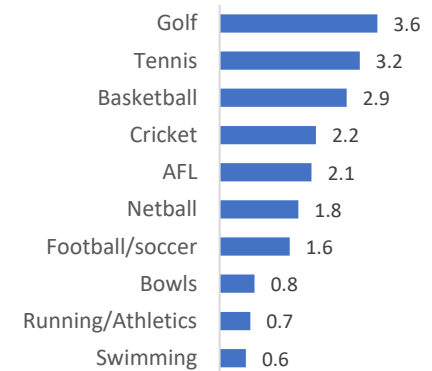
Top Sport Club Participation (%): Female



Top Sport Club Participation (%): Junior



Top Sport Club Participation (%): Senior



AUSPLAY ANALYSIS: VICTORIA 2016/17 – 2020/21

To provide further context to the AusPlay analysis for Melbourne East (pages 59 and 60), participation rates for the for Victoria are provided between 2016/17 and 2020/21 to establishment benchmark participation trends over time.

As per the analysis undertaken for the Melbourne East Region, active recreation activities generally have higher reported participation rates in comparison to organised sporting activities.

Participation rates for active recreation activities have generally increased over the 5-year period, while most organised sporting activities generally have stable participation rates with annual variances and fluctuations.

Active recreation activities are participated in across a range of settings, including parks, reserves, trails, footpaths, roads, commercial facilities and other spaces, providing greater access and flexibility to participate at the local level.

Participation rates for the top organised activities for children and adult participation at a sports club or association venue are provided on page 62. it should be noted that the Victorian annual summaries and collated data for local government authorities for participation by children differ in structure.

Participation in organised sporting activities in the Melbourne East region and Victoria are generally comparable, although it should be noted that annual variances in reported participation rates across the 5-year period at the state level cannot be examined in the collated 2016/17-2020/21 dataset at a regional level.

AusPlay 2016/17-2020/21: Adult participation rates in Victoria

Sport/Activity	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Walking (Recreational)	45.9%	45.0%	45.0%	47.4%	51.3%
Fitness/Gym	33.6%	35.3%	37.5%	38.4%	37.4%
Athletics (inc. running)	15.9%	15.5%	16.4%	18.5%	25.2%
Swimming	14.4%	14.0%	14.5%	14.9%	14.8%
Cycling	12.8%	12.4%	13.2%	14.4%	18.0%
Bush walking	5.4%	5.2%	5.1%	7.5%	8.7%
Golf	5.3%	5.5%	5.2%	5.0%	5.9%
Tennis	5.2%	4.6%	4.6%	4.9%	6.3%
Basketball	5.2%	4.5%	5.9%	5.8%	6.0%
Football/soccer	5.2%	3.7%	4.5%	4.6%	4.6%
Pilates	4.4%	3.9%	4.1%	5.1%	5.0%
Yoga	4.3%	5.4%	5.4%	7.1%	7.3%
Australian football	4.2%	3.9%	4.7%	4.0%	4.5%
Cricket	3.6%	3.0%	3.2%	3.2%	3.6%
Netball	3.4%	2.9%	3.0%	2.6%	3.2%

AUSPLAY ANALYSIS: VICTORIA 2016/17 – 2020/21

AusPlay 2016/17-2020/21: Organised participation rates by children in Victoria

Sport/Activity	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Swimming	38.9%	34.1%	42.0%	33.3%	30.6%
Australian football	15.6%	15.8%	16.0%	12.8%	11.1%
Basketball	12.1%	12.4%	11.8%	13.7%	13.3%
Cricket	9.0%	6.3%	6.5%	5.8%	5.1%
Dancing (recreational)	8.5%	8.6%	11.3%	10.4%	7.1%
Netball	8.4%	7.4%	5.9%	6.0%	6.2%
Football/soccer	8.3%	8.4%	11.2%	9.3%	7.6%
Tennis	7.9%	7.3%	8.1%	5.6%	7.5%
Gymnastics	7.8%	8.5%	11.9%	11.4%	9.1%
Athletics (inc. running)	3.9%	4.7%	-	5.1%	-
Karate	-	-	4.2%	-	4.3%

AusPlay 2016/17-2020/21: Adult participation rates at a sports club or venue in Victoria

Sport/Activity	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Golf	4.1%	3.8%	3.9%	3.1%	3.7%
Basketball	2.8%	2.5%	3.0%	2.5%	1.7%
Tennis	2.8%	3.0%	2.6%	2.6%	3.2%
Australian football	2.7%	2.6%	3.2%	2.7%	2.5%
Cricket	2.3%	1.8%	2.0%	1.5%	2.3%
Netball	2.2%	1.9%	2.2%	2.0%	1.9%
Football/soccer	1.9%	1.7%	2.1%	1.9%	1.5%
Athletics (inc. running)	0.7%	0.4%	0.7%	0.5%	0.7%
Bowls	0.7%	0.9%	1.3%	1.2%	1.0%
Hockey	0.6%	0.8%	0.5%	0.4%	0.6%
Swimming	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%
Cycling	0.4%	0.7%	0.5%	0.6%	0.3%

SPORT PARTICIPATION: 2015 - 2021

Participation was collated as part of the development of the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy in 2016. A participation data update was completed in 2019, with data for further seasons incorporated into the data model.

A series of participation analysis dashboards were produced to allow for ongoing analysis by the seven Melbourne East LGAs.

Note: Participant data for 2019-2021 has been analysed based on participant resident location. Data analysed using this method has been indicated in italics.

Sport	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*	2020*	2021*
AFL	23,981	24,285	33,858	36,507	35,326	20,615	33,122
Athletics	966	1,041	1,018	1,081	1,080	-	-
Badminton	-	1,269	1,477	1,566	1,613	1,049	1,295
Baseball	-	-	-	221	1,304	621	1,189
Basketball	-	-	-	-	60,436	42,082	43,667
Bowls	-	5,522	5,104	5,163	5,061	3,941	5,757
Calisthenics	-	-	1,872	1,898	1,744	1,598	1,618
Cricket	-	-	-	-	-	18,341	18,844
Cycling	-	-	-	-	894	-	-
Football	-	-	10,183	10,164	11,559	3,880	11,025
Gymnastics	10,796	13,567	14,889	15,749	14,353	9,907	11,803
Hockey	-	-	-	-	3,396	1,822	3,063
Netball	23,529	27,013	30,031	31,220	20,201	14,845	18,006
Rugby League	143	113	100	136	191	-	186
Rugby Union	-	-	790	852	724	-	1,145
Softball	-	629	621	619	-	-	-
Swimming	-	1,788	1,830	2,260	2,209	1,806	1,572
Tennis	-	-	-	18,903	16,853	15,950	15,406
Volleyball	1,307	1,224	40	1,013	1,852	418	1,477

APPENDICES



APPENDICES

1. **Progress on 2016 strategic recommendations**
2. **Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy 2016**
 - A. **Governance Structure**
 - B. **Melbourne East Regional Planning Framework**
 - C. **Stages of Regional Facility Development**
3. **Sport participation 2021 by LGA**

APPENDIX 1: PROGRESS ON 2016 STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Status	Comments
Governance and Partnerships		
1.1 Eastern Region Councils to endorse the strategy and planning framework to ensure a collaborative approach to future regional planning.	Complete	All Eastern Region Councils endorsed the Strategy
1.2 Councils recognise the need for improved collaboration and allocate appropriate resources to ensure a commitment to ongoing participation in regional planning processes and working groups to support regional project planning and delivery.	Complete	Regular meetings have been held to progress the Strategy and to share and collaborate on planning and projects. Regional planning projects that have recently been undertaken relate to projects for hockey, AFL, tennis and assessing demand for outdoor sporting facilities.
1.3 Review the Terms of Reference for the Melbourne East Region Project Steering Group to ensure it continues to operate effectively and provides leadership in the development of regional level sport and recreation projects.	Ongoing	Draft Terms of Reference have been developed. Recommended for review by the Steering Group as an action within this Strategy.
1.4 Ensure the Melbourne East Region Group of Councils includes sport and recreation as a key strategic pillar and that it acts as the governing body to support and endorse regional project proposals. Individual Councils will be the final decision-making authority for projects within their municipality	Complete	Sport and recreation has continued to be a key strategic pillar within the Eastern Region Group of Councils (ERG), supporting this review of the Strategy.
1.5 Strengthen relationships with the Department of Education and Training to enable opportunities for community access to existing and future sport and recreation facilities on Department of Education and Training land.	Ongoing	There has been limited success with this action. Improving partnerships and collaboration with the Department of Education and Training remains an action within this Strategy.
1.6 Establish partnerships with key organisations including Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, Vic Roads, Bicycle Network Victoria, the Victorian Trails Committee, Bushwalking Victoria and Cycling Victoria to identify high priority recommendations for the development of the regional shared trail network.	Ongoing	As an outcome of the 2016 Strategy, a Regional Trails Strategy was developed. The Strategy was developed in collaboration with key stakeholders and includes partnership opportunities.

APPENDIX 1: PROGRESS ON 2016 STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Status	Comments
Governance and Partnerships (Continued)		
1.7	Ongoing	Improve collaboration and the sharing of participation and facility information with State Sporting Associations to ensure sport development priorities and needs are considered in all future regional projects. There have been a range of examples of collaboration and information sharing, with a key example being the development of the Jubilee Park Indoor Cricket Training Centre.
1.8	Ongoing	Through the active operation of the Melbourne East Region Project Steering Group, ensure ongoing collaboration across all seven Councils on future regional opportunities for sport and recreation. Integrate and share regional mapping information to ensure facilities are well planned into the future. As per 1.7 there have been numerous examples of Councils collaborating on future regional opportunities for sport and recreation via the ongoing operation of the Melbourne East Region Project Steering Group.
1.9	Ongoing	Continue to partner with Regional Development Australia (East Region) on the implementation of this strategy and advocate for federal and state government funding support to deliver regional projects. The RDA are a key partner with the eastern councils and have been briefed on regional sport and recreation priorities.
Knowing and Understanding the Region		
2.1	Ongoing	All participating Councils to allocate appropriate levels of co-funding to service the below initiatives, including the proposed regional sports forum and SSA data collection. All Councils set aside funding to enable the updating of SSA data and support other initiatives. It was determined not to proceed with a regional sports forum.
2.2	Ongoing	Commit to quarterly meetings of the Melbourne East Region Project Steering Group to enable Councils to discuss regional issues impacting the future provision of sport and recreation facilities. Review and develop regional priorities using the agreed project assessment processes and regional planning framework. Quarterly meetings of the Group have been scheduled over the past 5 years. The project assessment processes and regional planning framework has not been used to develop regional priorities. The ERG have endorsed prioritisation criteria.
2.3	Ongoing	Through enhanced relationships with State Sporting Associations, develop a process of surveying and collecting participation and facility data for the region to monitor demand and analyse participation trends every three years. Maintaining current participation information will support future regional funding applications. Participation and facility data for the region has been collected every three years.

APPENDIX 1: PROGRESS ON 2016 STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Status	Comments
Knowing and Understanding the Region (Continued)		
2.4	Ongoing	As an outcome of the 2016 Strategy, a Regional Trails Strategy was developed which included engagement with Vic Roads and Bicycle Network Victoria on the prioritisation of on and off-road trail projects in Melbourne's East, and participate in Bicycle Network Victoria annual Super Tuesday and Super Sunday data collection to maintain current recreation trail usage data across the region.
2.5	Ongoing	Participation data available from SSAs and Ausplay has been incorporated into planning for regional sport and recreation priorities.
2.6	Complete	Sport participation data has been collected and the mapping program updated. Further work has been identified and included as an action within this Strategy.
2.7	Incomplete	The Steering Group decided not to proceed with this action.
2.8	Ongoing	Steve Kozlowski (Maroondah City Council CEO) provides updates on regional sport and recreation priorities to the RDA Melbourne. Steve is the current chair and has been leading RDA committees since 2015.

APPENDIX 1: PROGRESS ON 2016 STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Status	Comments
Facility and Trail Development		
<p>3.1 Develop a multi use regional level gymnastics facility in Monash that caters for a broad range of participants from introductory programs to regional level events and competitions. A number of satellite gymnastic facilities will also be required across the region to meet current and future demand for the sport.</p>	Complete	<p>A multi-use regional level gymnastics facility has been built (opened early 2021) at the Oakleigh Recreation Centre in Monash. The Waverley Gymnastics Centre now has over 2,000 members and offers a range of programs including Junior Gymnastics (2-5 year old's), Educational Gymnastics (5-16 year old's), Competitive Gymnastics, and Holiday Programs.</p> <p>Waverley Gymnastics also operates out of satellite facilities at Glen Waverley (Wesley College), and Toorak (St Catherine's School).</p> <p>In addition, Development Victoria are also constructing a Regional Gymnastics facility at the State Basketball Centre in Wantirna.</p>
<p>3.2 Develop additional indoor sports courts to meet the current and future demand for basketball and indoor netball across the region. The development of indoor sports courts at Mullum Mullum Reserve in Manningham should be supported, and proposed facilities in Boroondara and Yarra Ranges assessed using the regional framework.</p>	Complete	<p>Manningham Council completed the Mullum Mullum Stadium development in 2018. The stadium provides 5 multiline courts along with social meeting points, multipurpose rooms and offices.</p> <p>In addition, 12 additional courts are under construction at the State Basketball Centre in Knox.</p>
<p>3.3 Upgrade Gilbert Park in Knox to a regional level baseball / softball facility that includes multiple floodlit diamonds and caters for regional and state level events and competitions.</p>	Complete	<p>Knox is currently delivering a new modular pavilion, fencing and lighting improvements at Gilbert Park.</p>
<p>3.4 Upgrade Kilsyth Reserve to provide a regional Australian Rules Football Hub in the east that caters for male and female participation programs, events and competition, and to support the AFL's athlete development pathway.</p>	Complete	<p>Kilsyth Reserve has been developed to provide a regional Australian Rules Football Hub and is currently providing pathway and development opportunities for the Eastern Region.</p>

APPENDIX 1: PROGRESS ON 2016 STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

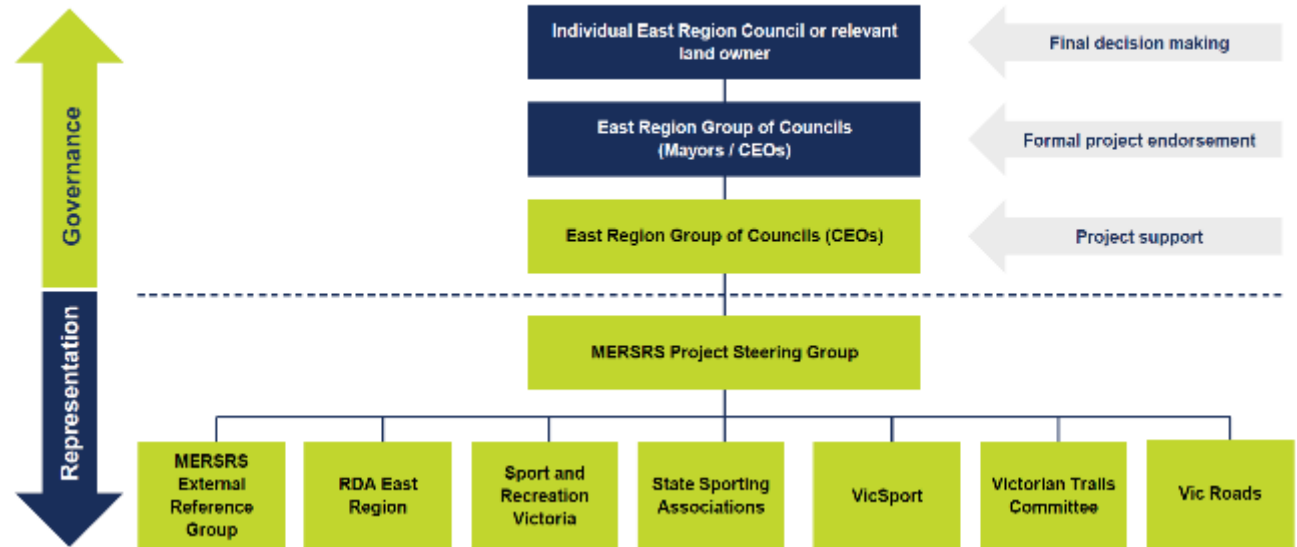
Recommendation	Status	Comments
Facility and Trail Development (Continued)		
3.5	Ongoing	Develop a destination for mountain biking in Warburton that meets the recreational and competition needs of mountain bikers.
3.6	Ongoing	Further investigate the needs of recreation trail users through consultation with Bicycle Network Victoria, Vic Roads, Cycling Victoria, Victorian Trails Committee, Bushwalking Victoria, local cycling groups and land-owners. Following this additional consultation, update the online trail maps and develop a customised project assessment tool to help confirm priority trail projects for the region that consider individual Council's Walking and Cycling Strategies and Integrated Transport Plans.
3.7	Ongoing	Conduct further investigation into the future demand for a purpose-built badminton and table tennis facility. Further detailed planning will be required as well as consideration of the findings from the City of Dandenong Table Tennis Strategy.
3.8	Complete	In partnership with Canoeing Victoria (CV), investigate the demand for a Regional Paddle Sports Centre at Westerfolds Park to provide a venue for slalom training, competition and paddler skill development, and an education and administration hub for the sport.

APPENDIX 2: GOVERNANCE

The governance model proposed in the 2016 Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy utilises the collaborative endorsement process for priorities of the Eastern Regional Group of Councils, while recognising the final decision-making authority of individual councils in the delivery of projects.

The Eastern Region Group of Councils' role as the regional advocacy body plays a pivotal role in the endorsement and allocation of resources for regional sport and recreation priorities.

Proposed Governance Structure and Key Stakeholder Framework (2016)



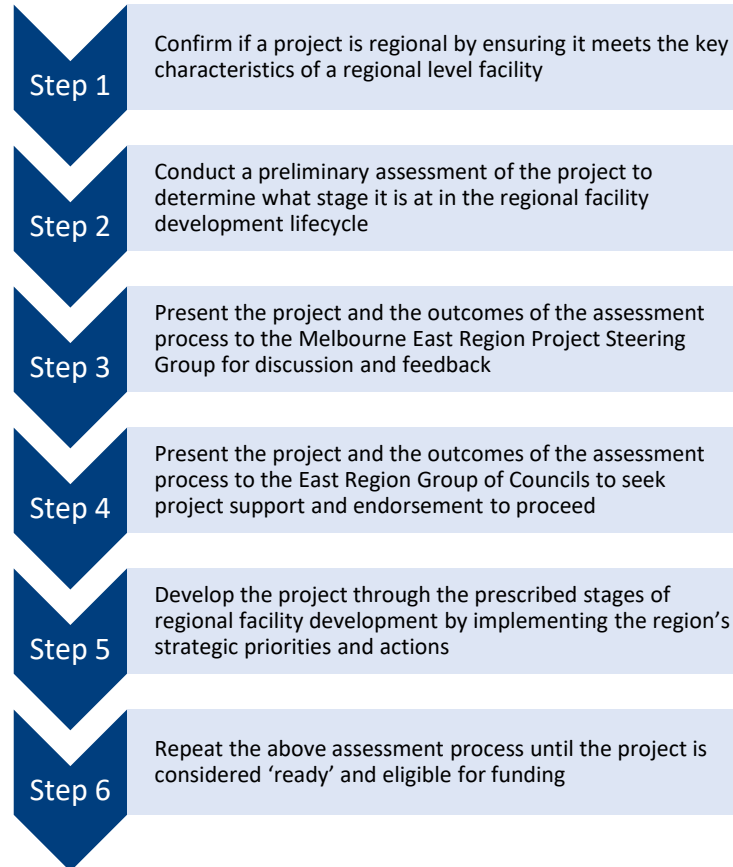
APPENDIX 2: MELBOURNE EAST REGIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK

In addition to defining regional facilities, the 2016 Strategy established a regional planning framework to drive the strategic priorities of the Melbourne East region.

The planning framework acknowledges that the Melbourne East Region has its own unique characteristics, needs, pressures and opportunities.

The planning framework aims to create a shared approach and understanding of the assessment process for projects to be deemed as regional priorities.

Step two of the framework consists of a preliminary assessment of a project relative to the regional facility development stages.



Stages of Regional Facility Development



APPENDIX 2: STAGES OF REGIONAL FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

STAGE 1: CONFIRMING A REGIONAL PROJECT

NEW OR EXISTING FACILITIES THAT:

- Provide a range of participation outcomes which benefit the community, allow for a range of competitions (local, state and/or national), and have the ability to host medium to large scale events.
- Cater for a broad catchment across multiple municipal boundaries.
- Offer flexibility of use by one or more sports / activities.
- Deliver high quality management and service levels and are maintained to a high level.
- Consider the defined regional facility standards of local governments and state sporting associations for training and competition.

STAGE 2: STRATEGIC PLANNING

- Evidence of demand for a regional level facility identified by at least one LGA and supported by other LGAs and included in a corporate plan or strategy.
- Will the project provide health and wellbeing, as well as social and community benefits to the region?
- Evidence of demand for a regional level facility from NSOs, SSAs or relevant peak bodies and is consistent with current development guidelines.
- Has SRV or other relevant government agencies acknowledged the need for a regional level facility and does the project meet potential funding criteria?
- Will the project create ongoing job opportunities and deliver economic benefits to the region?
- Does the project demonstrate best practice and a commitment to ESD and Universal Design?
- Have the infrastructure, construction and ongoing maintenance responsibilities of the asset been agreed?

STAGE 3: PARTICIPATION ASSESSMENT

- Has there been an increase in local and regional participation in the relevant sport or activity over the past five years by one or more LGA?
- Do current and future sport and recreation participation projections for the region warrant a regional level facility?
- Will the project provide opportunities for multiuse and offer broad participation outcomes for both sport and the community?
- Do population and demographic projections for the region provide a strong participation market and support the development of a regional level facility?
- Will the project provide a participation pathway from beginner to elite level?

STAGE 4: PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Have local sporting clubs, associations or relevant community groups been consulted and any impacts identified, and have these groups provided in principle support for the project?
- Has dialogue commenced and in principle support received for the project from relevant SSA and NSO?
- Are SRV or other relevant state or federal government agencies engaged in the process and given in principle support for a regional level project?
- Will the project increase partnership opportunities due to its proposed location, land ownership and community and commercial interests?
- Have likely future management arrangements been identified and will this provide enhanced stakeholder support for the project ?

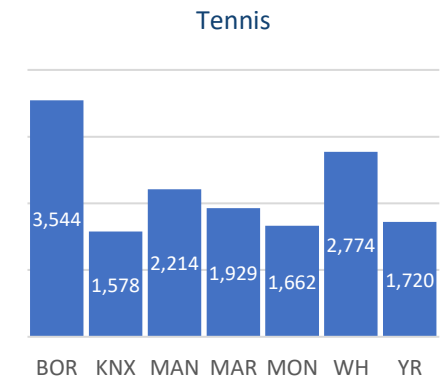
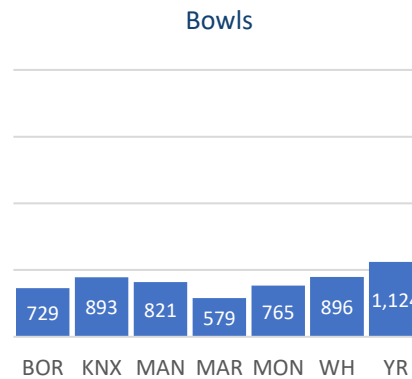
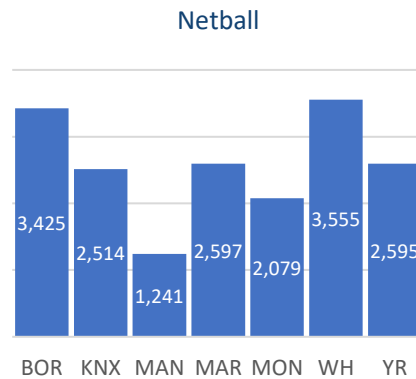
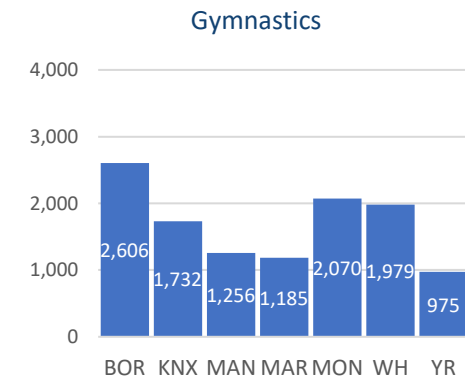
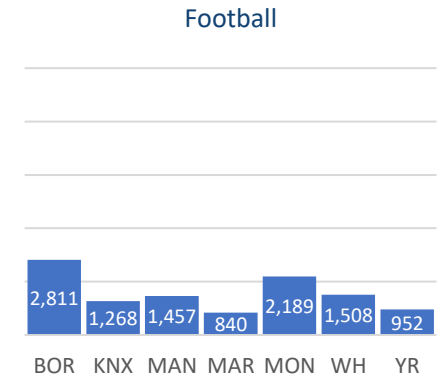
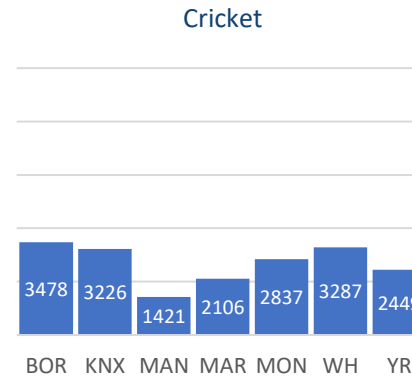
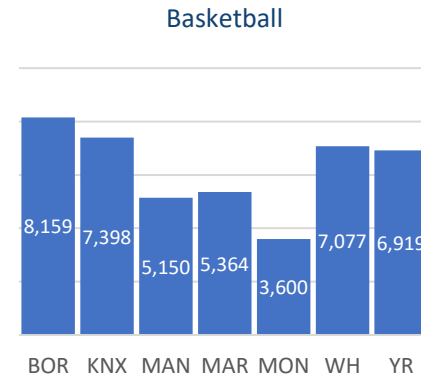
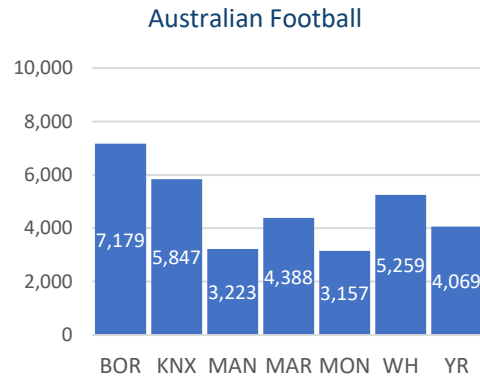
STAGE 5: DESIGN & FUNDING

- Are the overall financial costs for the project known and has funding for the project been secured?
- Does the project provide opportunities to seek external funding from a range of sources including government, commercial and the private sector?
- Is the proposed site for future development available (and supported by in principle agreements or MOUs), and have schematic designs been endorsed by all stakeholders, including SRV?
- Has business and management planning with operational / programming and ongoing infrastructure maintenance obligations for the project been completed?
- Have all project design components been completed and approved by key stakeholders and funding providers and is the project ready for tender?

APPENDIX 3: SPORT PARTICIPATION 2021 BY LGA

Note: Participation data provided by SSAs is based on registered participants by resident location and may not incorporate all participation within each local government area

Appendices



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