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Council Meeting

Monday 8 December 2025

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10.1 Draft Fenced Dog Park Technical Report Endorsement for Community Consultation

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10.1 – ATTACHMENT 1. Draft Fenced Dog Park Technical Report

WHITEHORSE CITY COUNCIL

WHITEHORSE Fenced Dog Park Technical Report

DRAFT

December 2025



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1. The Project

1.1 Introduction

The City of Whitehorse is an established municipality in Melbourne's eastern metropolitan region, covering an area of 64 square kilometres. Home to an estimated 178,477 residents in 2024, the population is projected to grow by more than 20% to approximately 234,000 by 2046. Much of the municipality is now characterised by medium- to high-density residential development, reflecting a trend towards denser living and ongoing population growth.

Across Australia, around 49% of households own at least one dog (Pets in Australia: A National Survey of Pets and People, 2025), and this trend is reflected locally. Whitehorse currently has more than 12,000 registered dogs; however, the actual number is likely to be considerably higher, as many dogs are unregistered. As residential density increases and private open space becomes more limited, more dogs are being exercised in public parks and reserves, leading to increased demand for off-lead areas, including fenced dog parks.

While Council has an existing network of dog off-lead areas, there are currently no dedicated fenced off-lead dog parks. Despite community demand for such facilities, none have been successfully implemented to date. This report draws on community feedback, benchmarks dog parks across Melbourne, and reviews relevant strategies and research and consolidates findings from multiple evidence sources to inform recommendations for the future planning, design, and management of a fenced dog park.

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of the Fenced Dog Park Technical Report are to:

1. Assess the needs and expectations of the community and Council regarding fenced dog parks within the City of Whitehorse.
1. Review the current provision and management of off-lead areas to highlight challenges and opportunities for delivering dog parks.
2. Benchmark approaches from other municipalities to inform suitable design, siting, and management of dog parks.
3. Provide evidence-based recommendations to guide Council's planning, design, and ongoing management of dog parks.
4. Develop guidelines to inform the site selection and the design of dog parks

1.3 Existing conditions

The Whitehorse Open Space Strategy identifies dog walking as one of the most popular reasons the community uses open space. Dog walking supports health and wellbeing by promoting activity recreation and providing opportunities for social interaction. Dog ownership also provides companionship, particularly for those living alone.

Despite its popularity, the presence of dogs in public spaces can sometimes lead to conflicts with other park users, particularly when dogs are exercised off-lead. In recent years, Council has received increasing community feedback regarding such conflicts. Common concerns include personal safety risks, damage to sporting ovals and open grassed areas, safety risks to cyclists, impacts on the local environment, and issues related to dog waste management.

The City of Whitehorse currently maintains a Domestic Animal Management Plan, with 32 parks and reserves providing off-lead areas across the municipality however there are currently no fenced dog parks in Whitehorse. Whilst there is growing demand for dedicated fenced dog parks, previous proposals have faced significant community opposition and were unable to be delivered. Community views on dog parks remain mixed: some residents actively support new dog parks and are petitioning for their provision, while others oppose them due to potential conflicts with existing park uses, potential environmental impacts, or health and safety concerns where dog are exercised off-lead on sports fields.

A temporary dog park is proposed in Box Hill as part of the Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) open space compensation and additional fenced dog parks may be considered within open space master plans currently being preparing by Council, pending the outcomes of this report and subsequent public consultation.

Off-lead areas on sports fields

In Whitehorse, several sports fields permit off-lead activity when organised sporting events are not scheduled. This shared use has led to ongoing conflict between different user groups, particularly between dog owners and sporting clubs.

This conflict centres around damage to playing surfaces (uneven wear, surface damage due to digging, urine damage and faeces contamination creating safety concerns) and restricted access due to sports scheduling. Council has attempted a range of measures to reduce these concerns, such as keeping gates open to make sports fields less enclosed and encourage more active supervision, but these initiatives have been met with community resistance.

1.4 What is a Dog Park?

Defining dog parks

For the purposes of this project, a dog park is defined as a designated, dedicated, fully enclosed fenced area within a park or public space for dog guardians to legally exercise, play and socialise with their dogs off-lead in a secure environment.

In researching dog parks, a wide range of examples from across Australia and internationally were examined to understand the various ways these facilities can be designed and delivered for community use. This review highlighted that dog parks can take many forms, from simple fenced lawn areas to more elaborate spaces with features such as agility equipment, splash pads, or even indoor and rooftop locations. Examining these diverse examples provides insight into how dog parks could be delivered across the municipality. Appendix E includes several case studies that showcase the variety of dog parks. While not all examples may be directly applicable to the context of Whitehorse, they offer inspiration and ideas for how dog parks could be provided. This research helps inform decisions around park location, layout, features, and management approaches, ensuring that any new dog park is both functional and appealing to residents and their dogs.

Defining dog guardians

In this report, the term dog guardians refers to the responsible person accompanying a dog or dogs to the dog park for exercise and socialisation. This may include the dog's owner, a professional dog walker, or another carer.

Defining dog off-lead area

In this report, the term dog off-lead area refers to any designated area where dogs are permitted to be off-lead under the supervision of their guardian. This may include fully fenced dog parks, shared-use or time-shared recreation areas, and other open spaces identified by Council for off-lead activity.



1.5 Benefits and Limitations of Dog Parks

Benefits of dog parks

Dog parks can provide many benefits for dogs, their guardians and the broader community:

For Dogs:

- Physical and mental exercise: Dog parks provide opportunities for dogs to be physically and mentally active.
- Socialisation: Dog parks provide opportunities for dogs to interact with other dogs and people.
- Safe and secure environment: Dog parks offer a secure space for dogs to play off-lead away from hazards (such as cars and bikes).

For People:

- Socialisation: Dog parks often serve as a meeting point for dog guardians, fostering social connections and a sense of community.
- Accessible: Dog parks are valuable facilities for people with limited mobility (such as seniors and people with a disability), offering a safe space to exercise their dogs without the need for extensive walking, and where social connections can be maintained.
- Promotes responsible dog ownership: Dog parks provide an ideal location for dog training in a controlled environment, assisting people to build confidence when walking and socialising their dogs.
- Risk management: Dog parks enable the separation of dog off-lead activities from incompatible activities (eg. playgrounds and trails).

Risks of dog parks

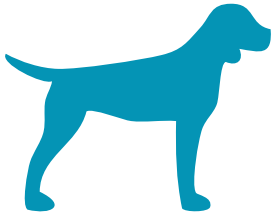
Despite the many benefits of dog parks, there are several limitations and risks that should be carefully considered in their planning and management:

- Equity: Allocating a portion of public open space exclusively for dog use can limit access for other community members, particularly in municipalities where open space is scarce. This can create perceptions of inequity if dog parks are seen to displace other recreation needs or receive disproportionate investment.
- Dog behaviour and supervision: Dog parks can attract dogs that are not under effective control, or guardians who allow off-lead activity without adequate supervision. This can result in conflicts between dogs, aggressive behaviour, or failure to pick up waste. Poorly managed use can also lead to safety and hygiene concerns that deter other users.
- Environmental impacts: Concentrated use by dogs can contribute to soil compaction, vegetation loss, erosion, and water quality impacts, particularly where drainage or maintenance is insufficient.
- Maintenance and cost: Dog parks require regular maintenance of surfaces, fences, and amenities to remain safe and functional. Without adequate resourcing, these areas can deteriorate quickly, leading to user dissatisfaction and higher long-term costs.

Together, these risks highlight the importance of thoughtful site selection, design, community education, and ongoing management to ensure dog parks deliver community benefit without unintended negative outcomes.

2. Dogs In Whitehorse

It is estimated that approximately 40% of Victorian adults own a pet dog (Pet Census, 2023). The management of dogs, including ensuring their welfare and providing opportunities for regular exercise, is a responsibility of local government. This responsibility is reinforced by the Victorian Domestic Animals Act 1994, which sets out requirements for the registration, control, and management of dogs within municipalities. Local councils are therefore tasked with balancing community safety, responsible pet ownership, and the provision of suitable facilities, such as off-lead areas, to meet the exercise and socialisation needs of dogs.



41% of pet owners have a dog in Victoria[1]

2.1 The People

As of June 2024 the estimated population for the City of Whitehorse was 183,462 (.id (informed decisions) https://id.com.au). The municipality has consistently experienced steady population growth, a trend that is expected to continue.

Between 2016 and 2021, high-density housing experienced the largest shift in dwelling type, with 3,966 new units added compared to just 542 separate houses. This shift reflects a broader move toward smaller lot sizes and more compact living, particularly in key activity and employment centres such as Box Hill.

The estimated population of Whitehorse is **183,462**[3]



38% of dwellings are medium or high density[2]



Victorian State Government initiatives such as the Suburban Rail Loop (which is proposed to pass through the City of Whitehorse, with a station at Box Hill and Burwood), the establishment of activity centres, and associated planning policies provide useful context for considering future population growth and higher-density living. These initiatives outline a state-wide approach to guiding development around major transport and activity hubs, which may help inform local planning and decision-making about where and how growth could occur over time. This context can also assist in identifying areas where increased population density may place greater demand on public open space facilities, to support community needs and liveability.

2.2 The Dogs

Key data source

This section draws heavily on the Victorian Pet Census Survey Findings Report (ORIMA Research, 2023), prepared for Animal Welfare Victoria (AWV) and the Pets in Australia: A National Survey of Pets and People prepared by Animal Medicines Australia, to address data gaps in companion animal ownership.

1 Animal Welfare Victoria Victorian Pet Census Survey Findings Report 2023, Orima 2023
2 City of Whitehorse: Dwelling Type, https://profile.id.com.au/whitehorse/dwellings
3 City of Whitehorse: Population and Dwellings, https://profile.id.com.au/whitehorse/population

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The Victorian Pet Census aimed to estimate Victoria's pet population and examine community awareness, attitudes, and behaviours relating to pet ownership. The Census comprised of two survey components; a representative online panel survey (n=5,069), and an open-link survey on the AWV website (n=32,391), which mostly attracted pet owners. Only the panel survey results were used to generate community-level estimates, while the open-link responses were used for pet-owner-specific insights. Due to sampling limitations, all results should be interpreted with caution, and open-link survey findings considered indicative only.

Pets in Australia: A National Survey of Pets and People was conducted by SEC Newgate Research on behalf of Animal Medicines Australia between 25 February and 10 March 2025. The study targeted Australian adults aged 18 years and over and was delivered via an online survey, achieving a total sample size of 2,450 respondents.

Whitehorse dog population

Dogs remain the most common pet in Victoria, according to the 2023 Pet Census, with 41% of pet owners having a pet. In the City of Whitehorse, 12,171 dogs are currently registered with the Council. However, not all residents register their pets. The Pet Census indicates that registration rates decline in households with multiple dogs: 86% of owners with one dog register their pet, compared with 83% for those with two dogs, and 73% for households with three or more. Based on these trends, the actual dog population in Whitehorse is likely higher, estimated to be between 14,000 and 16,500.

Council initiatives, including door-to-door visits to residents without registered pets and the return of lost pets, suggest that approximately 70% of dogs are registered. Applying this figure indicates the total dog population in Whitehorse could exceed 17,000.

Furthermore, the 2023 Pet Census shows that 58% of Victorian adults have a pet, and 41% of those own a dog. With Whitehorse's adult population of 132,000, this suggests the community could collectively own around 32,000 dogs. Similarly, the Pets in Australia: A National Survey of Pets and People (2025) found that 49% of Australian households have a dog. With 65,115 households recorded in Whitehorse in the 2021 Census (Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing), this also points to a potential dog population of around 32,000.



It is important to acknowledge the limitations of the available data, which require reliance on broader sources such as state-wide statistics (Animal Welfare Victoria: Victorian Pet Census Survey Findings Report, 2023), nation wide statistics (Pets in Australia: A National Survey of Pets and People, 2025) and incomplete dog registration records. As a result, these figures are unlikely to fully reflect the accurate numbers of dog ownership within the municipality.

2.3 Facilities

Dog owners, according to the Pet Census (2023) are highly engaged in their pets' wellbeing, with 80% participating in training and 68% walking their dogs at least once daily. Off-lead activity is also common, with 71% of owners allowing their dogs to roam freely, most frequently in designated zones (55%), public parks (36%), and beaches (31%). Consistent with these findings, consultation for the recent Whitehorse Open Space Strategy highlighted that walking and exercising dogs is one of the most popular reasons people use open space regularly.

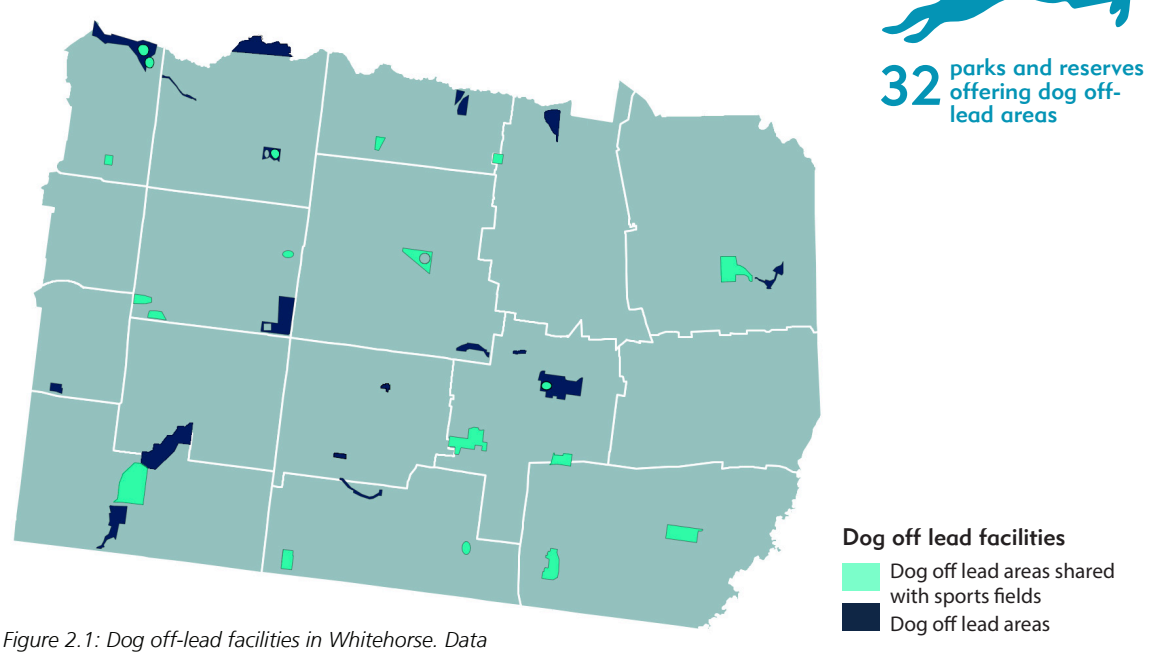

Figure 2.1: Dog off-lead facilities in Whitehorse. Data obtained from City of Whitehorse 22 September 2025

Whilst there are no dedicated fenced dog parks in the City of Whitehorse, the Council provides 32 designated off-lead areas for community members to exercise their dogs, as shown in Figure 2.1. Many of these areas are shared with sports fields, which has resulted in conflicts of use, as noted previously. In particular, ongoing issues have been experienced at sports fields maintained to a higher standard for competition use such as Morton Park and Mahoney's Reserve, where off-lead activity has caused damage to turf, interference with sporting use, and challenges in maintaining field quality. These issues have been identified through past community and engagement and from discussions with Council Officers. Council has unsuccessfully attempted a range of management approaches, including locking sport field gates open.

While it is common across many municipalities for off-lead areas to be shared with sports grounds, fields maintained to a higher standard for competition use are typically designated as dog-prohibited zones to protect surface quality and ensure safe conditions for competitive sport. As fenced dog parks are progressively delivered across Whitehorse, the designation of off-lead areas on sports fields should be reviewed, to reduce conflicts and ensure appropriate spaces are available for both recreational dog use and organised sport. Additionally, there are over 350 parks and reserves across the municipality where dogs can explore open space on-lead.

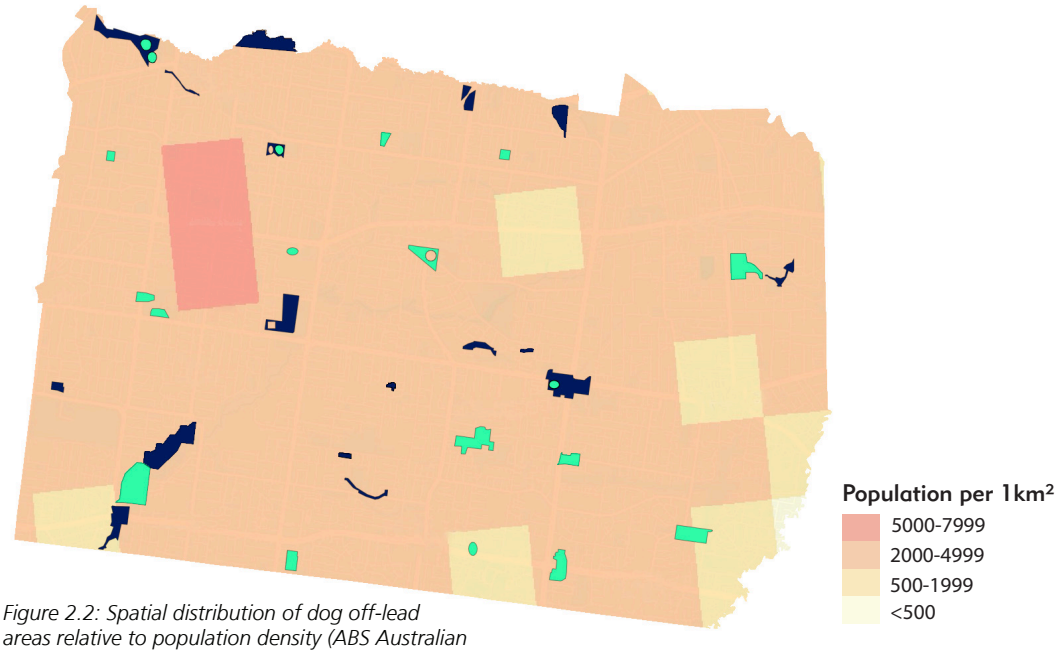

Figure 2.2: Spatial distribution of dog off-lead areas relative to population density (ABS Australian population grid 2022). Accessed 9 September 2025

Figure 2.2 illustrates the distribution of dog off-lead areas in relation to population density. Most off-lead zones are concentrated within medium-density areas, with several larger sites situated in less populated parts of the municipality. While provision is generally well distributed, the map highlights a few minor gaps in off-lead coverage.

The Whitehorse Open Space Strategy (2025) recommends that the provision of dog off-lead areas be reviewed, with consideration given to addressing any gaps in coverage. The report identifies potential areas for review, including:

- The north-eastern extent of Mitcham (north of Whitehorse Road and east of Mitcham Road);
- The central area encompassing Nunawading, Mitcham, and Forest Hill (between Canterbury and Whitehorse Roads and between Springvale and Mitcham Roads); and
- The eastern part of Vermont (north-east of Boronia Road and south of Canterbury Road).

Figure 2.3 illustrates the relationship between dog registration rates and the distribution of off-lead areas. While registration rates are relatively consistent across the municipality, some areas have noticeably fewer designated off-lead spaces. This indicates that, despite similar levels of dog ownership, access to suitable off-lead areas may be more limited in certain locations. Future planning should therefore consider opportunities to achieve a more equitable balance between dog ownership levels and the provision of off-lead spaces across wards.

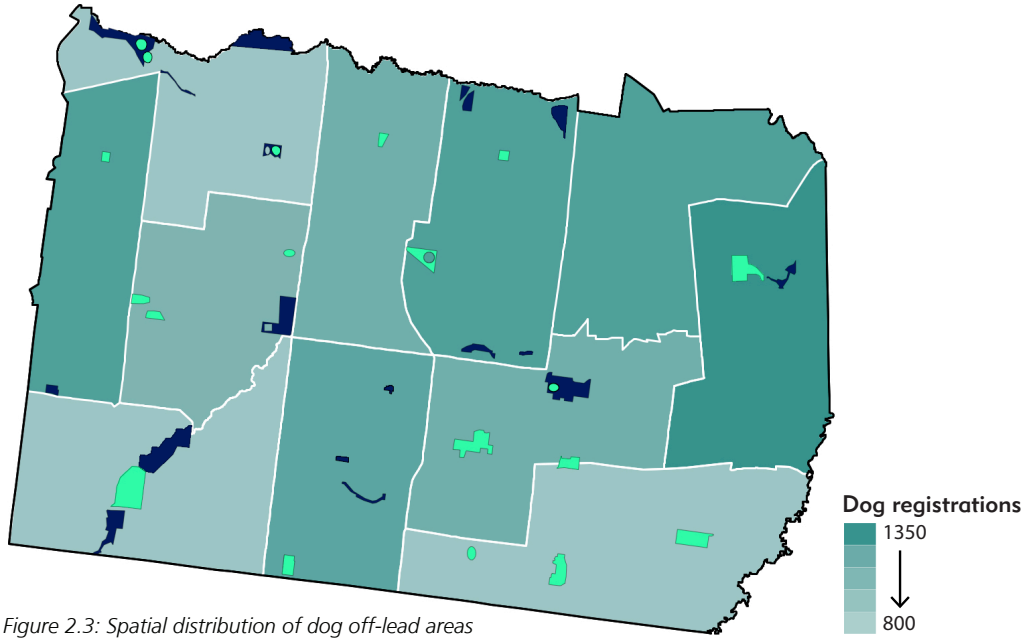

Figure 2.3: Spatial distribution of dog off-lead areas relative to dog registration numbers by ward

2.4 Programs and Enforcement

Whitehorse City Council recognises that education and access to information are important for promoting responsible pet ownership within the community. Council delivers a range of programs and events to provide pet owners with the knowledge and confidence to manage their animals responsibly.

Initiatives include:

- Community engagement stalls at local festivals and events such as 'Pups in Parks', where residents can meet Authorised Officers and access pet ownership information.
- School visits and holiday programs focused on responsible pet ownership and dog bite prevention.
- Partnerships with registered dog trainers to deliver demonstrations and guidance on behavioural issues through free events in parks and public spaces.
- Information sessions hosted by qualified pet behaviourists and other experts, delivered through in-person seminars and online webinars.
- Targeted social media campaigns to raise awareness of responsible pet ownership across the municipality.

Many of these events also include incentives such as giveaways and opportunities for dog registration to encourage engagement.

These activities aim to help owners understand their dogs' behaviour, build confidence when walking and socialising their pets, and prevent conflict and anti-social behaviour.
This approach is supported by the community and reflected in consultation undertaken for the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP), which highlighted residents' interest in education and awareness initiatives. Continuing these programs helps promote positive behavioural outcomes, reduce incidents, and maintain community understanding of the value of pet registration.

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Key findings

- As the population increases and more residents live in medium and high-density homes, the demand for and pressure on public open spaces grows. These shared spaces play a vital role in supporting recreation, social connection, and community wellbeing, often serving as gathering places for residents and their pets alike.
- Conflicts commonly occur on sports fields used for off-lead activity, particularly at premier venues such as Morton Park and Mahoney's Reserve, highlighting the need to review these designations as dedicated dog parks are delivered.
- Dog off-lead areas are generally well distributed but consideration should be given to address any minor gaps in provision including
  - The north-eastern extent of Mitcham (north of Whitehorse Rd and east of Mitcham Rd)
  - The central area encompassing Nunawading, Mitcham, and Forest Hill (between Canterbury and Whitehorse Roads and between Springvale and Mitcham Roads)
  - The eastern extent of Vermont (north-east of Boronia Road and south of Canterbury Rd).
- Registration numbers are fairly consistent across Whitehorse, but are slightly higher in the east, yet these areas have relatively few off-lead spaces, indicating a gap in provision for residents and their dogs.
- Most guardians exercise their dogs off-lead. Designated off-lead zones and public parks are the most popular areas to allow dogs off-lead. This highlights the importance of maintaining and planning off-lead areas to meet community demand.
- Events and programs run by Whitehorse City Council have promoted responsible dog ownership and positive behaviour. These types of events may be critical in the success and management of any future fenced dog parks.

3. Strategic Context

3.1 Strategic Document Review

A range of existing strategies, plans, reports, and data relevant to this study were reviewed as part of the background analysis. This review identifies the relevance of Council's existing strategies, policies, and plans to the Fenced Dog Park Technical Report and highlights how the proposed approach aligns with broader strategic priorities, guiding principles, and objectives. The analysis ensures consistency with Council's vision and reviews the role of fenced dog parks within the wider context of open space planning, community wellbeing, and animal management. Refer to Appendix A for the complete review.

Key findings:

- The Open Space Strategy recommends providing fenced dog parks and off-lead areas at Regional and Municipal level open spaces only.
- Dog parks should promote inclusivity, accessibility, and sustainable, natural design, while integrating features that support recreation, biodiversity, and ecological protection.
- New dog parks should be prioritised in locations where residents have fewer opportunities to access appropriate open space for dog exercise, and where additional facilities can alleviate pressure on sporting fields while addressing the greatest local demand.
- Safe, accessible, and inclusive public spaces support informal recreation and community connection, which includes suitable dog off-lead areas.
- Council strategies highlight the importance of promoting responsible pet ownership and enforcing rules and community laws.
- Strategies recognise growing urban density and population, with dog parks having the potential to help ease pressure on public open spaces.

3.2 Policy, Guideline & Research Review

A review of other councils' strategies and guidelines relating to the provision of dog parks and off-lead areas was undertaken, alongside relevant academic research. This review identified key principles and consistencies in the planning, delivery, and management of dog off-lead facilities, including considerations for design, infrastructure and amenities. It also highlighted approaches to site selection, maintenance, and management, providing valuable insights to guide the development of a consistent, evidence-based approach for Whitehorse.

What the research tells us

A review of academic literature and practitioner articles provides valuable insights into the design, planning, and management of fenced off-lead dog parks. These sources inform best-practice approaches for creating safe, inclusive, and well-maintained spaces for dogs and their carers.

This review analysed the following documents:

- Design, Planning and Management of Off-lead Dog Parks, 2017, Bob Holderness-Roddam
- [Extracts from] Planning, Design and Management of Off-lead Areas Technical Manual 2013-2021, LMH Consulting/Paws4Play
- Dog Parks: Benefits and Liabilities, 2007, Laurel Allen
- Dog Parks: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly, Trish King and Terry Long, published in the APDT Chronicle of the Dog (Nov/Dec 2004)

Key themes identified through this research include:

- Benefits:
  - Provide exercise and physical activity for dogs.
  - Support socialisation and behavioural development.
  - Foster community connections among dog guardians and opportunities for socialisation.
  - Offer inclusive recreational opportunities for apartment dwellers, older adults, and families.
- Risks:
  - Dog aggression or conflicts between dogs.
  - Over-stimulation or behavioural challenges in dogs.
  - Environmental impacts, including vegetation damage and waste management issues.
  - Potential conflicts with other park users.
- Design
  - Double-gated entrances, clear signage, and well-maintained fencing are essential.
  - Separate areas for large and small dogs help prevent injuries.
  - Shade, seating, clean water, and safe surfaces improve usability for dogs and carers.
  - Agility equipment, dig pits, varied terrain, and open spaces support exercise and mental stimulation.
  - Fenced areas are particularly useful for dogs with high energy or behavioural needs.
- Environmental Considerations
  - Locations should avoid sensitive wildlife habitats, waterways, playgrounds, and residential areas.
  - Vegetation and surfaces should minimise hazards and environmental degradation.
  - Waste management strategies (bins, bags, composting) are important for sustainability.
- Management and Education
  - Regular maintenance, supervision, and compliance monitoring are key to safety.
  - Owner education, clear behavioural expectations, and, where appropriate, screening contribute to positive outcomes.
  - Signage should be friendly, educational, and informative rather than punitive.
  - Positive reinforcement and behavioural guidance help manage aggression, over-stimulation, and socialisation challenges in dogs.

A complete summary of the research undertaken is provided in Appendix B.

Benchmarking council approaches

The table below summarises the key recommendations and guidelines from other councils', in Victoria and interstate, dog off-lead strategies. This benchmarking exercise serves as a reference point for items that could be incorporated into the recommendations of this report.

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	City of Port Phillip	Latrobe City	The City of Greater Geelong	City of Monash	City of Whittlesea	Wyndham City	Yarra Ranges Council	City of Canterbury Bankstown	City of Ryde	Government of South Australia
Strategy name	Dog Off-Lead Strategic Guideline	Fenced Dog Park Guidelines	Fenced Dog Park Siting, Design and Management Guidelines	Dog Off-Lead Policy	Dog Off-lead Area Policy and Management Plan	Dog Off-Lead Plan	People & Dogs in Parks Plan	Off-Lead Dog Park Action Plan	Dog Recreation Needs Study	Unleaded: A guide To Successful Dog Parks
Site selection guidelines	•	•	•			•	•		•	•
Design guidelines	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•
Infrastructure and amenity guidelines		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Management guidelines	•		•	•	•	•	•	•		•
Maintenance guidelines		•	•	•		•	•	•		•
Recommended number of fenced dog parks or off-lead areas				Increase off lead areas from 31 to 45	1 dog park per suburb	1 dog park per urban suburb	1 per sub-region			
Hierarchy of dog parks or off-lead areas	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		
Minimum size (m^2)		3,000	3,000	3500-5000	3,000	3,000	3000-5000	1500-5000	3,000	
Recommended shape		Round/ oval	Rounded/ Oval			Oval/ bean			Irregular	Linear/ irregular
Recommended distance to fenced dog parks		Walking distance					20 min walk for urban, 10 min drive for non-urban	1-5km		Walking distance
Recommended buffer to properties	Yes - distance not stated	Yes - distance not stated	Yes - distance not stated							
Cost estimates		•	•		•				•	
Off-lead area shared with sports field	Yes. Premier sporting surfaces excluded	Yes	Yes. A-grade & synthetic excluded	Yes. A-grade & synthetic excluded	No	Yes	Should be avoided	No	Yes	N/A

Figure 3.1: benchmarking recommendations from other councils' dog off-lead strategies

10.1 – ATTACHMENT 1. Draft Fenced Dog Park Technical Report

Key findings:

- Strategies consistently highlight the need for clear design guidelines, strong management, and appropriate infrastructure.
- Gap analysis is often used to determine locations of off-lead facilities, with facilities ideally within walking distance of most residences.
- A minimum fenced size of 3,000m^2 is common, though larger areas are preferred.
- Sharing dog off-lead areas with sports grounds is often recommended as a way to optimise the use of open space.
- It is common for councils to aim to provide at least one dog off-lead area per urban suburb or sub-planning region, or within walking distance of most residents, to ensure equitable access across the municipality.
- Dog parks are valued for providing safe off-lead exercise, supporting socialisation, and building community among guardians.
- Risks include undesirable behaviours, environmental impacts (e.g., waste), and lack of supervision.
- Common infrastructure features include fencing, double-gates, and natural elements.
- The site selection process typically includes compiling a list of potential sites, narrowing the list by eliminating unsuitable locations, and conducting a detailed analysis of the shortlisted sites.
- Where councils allow dog off-lead activities to occur on sports fields, high-classification, premier, A-grade, or synthetic playing surfaces are typically excluded from off-lead use.

4. Engagement

4.1 Community Engagement Outcomes

As part of this study, past community engagement materials from relevant projects were reviewed. These included findings from engagement activities undertaken for Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan, master plans and concept plans relating to proposed fenced dog parks in parks and reserves, as well as other related projects. In addition, customer service requests and community petitions were examined to provide further insight into community sentiment, key issues, and expectations.

The 2021 consultation on managing dogs in parks and reserves revealed strong community interest in dog-friendly spaces, with over 1,100 survey responses. A majority of respondents were registered dog owners, and many expressed support for dedicated fenced dog parks to improve safety and reduce conflict. Key concerns included uncontrolled off-lead dogs, irresponsible owner behaviour (particularly waste management), and the impact of dogs on wildlife and sports fields. Safety issues, especially around children and shared spaces, were frequently mentioned, along with calls for clearer signage and better enforcement.

Customer service requests echoed these themes, with residents advocating for fenced dog parks to protect small or reactive dogs, improve safety near roads, and improved maintenance. There were also calls for improved infrastructure, such as bins, lighting, and water stations, and frustration over perceived council bias toward sports clubs. Many residents highlighted the social and emotional benefits of dog parks, particularly in the post-COVID context.

Site-specific feedback varied:

- At East Burwood Reserve residents opposed a proposed fenced dog park due to concerns about noise, waste, health risks, and traffic, which lead to the proposal being removed from the master plan.
- Eley Park received a petition requesting upgrades to its existing off-lead area, including fencing and amenities.
- At Mahoney's and Morton Reserves, community backlash led Council to reverse a decision to leave the sports fields gates permanently open, citing safety and lack of consultation.
- The Simpson Park proposal for a fenced dog park received mixed feedback, with concerns about design and accessibility. A consultant report recommended broader policy development and better education rather than relying solely on fencing.
- A petition with 70 signatures requested a new off-lead dog park at Box Hill Gardens.
- A petition with 357 signatures requested a new off-lead dog park in Vermont.
- Council received two electronic petitions in relation to dogs at Morton Park, Blackburn. One petition with 318 signatures requested the Council reverse its decision to lock open the perimeter gates at Morton Park. Another petition with 778 signatures was also submitted, supporting the decision to lock the gates open at Morton Park to reduce sports field maintenance, enhance safety, and improve playing conditions. This second petition also noted that council should establish a purpose-built, fully fenced off-leash dog park in the large open space between the Morton Park Pavilion and the railway path, or in another suitable location.

4.2 Internal Engagement with Council Officers

In early September 2025, Council officers from Community Laws, Leisure and Recreation Services, Parks and Natural Environment, and Project Delivery and Assets participated in a series of workshops to explore all aspects of dog off-lead provision. While each department brought its own perspective, the concerns and discussion points were largely consistent, with recurring themes emerging across the sessions. Slight variations in focus reflected the specific responsibilities of each area, but collectively they highlighted a shared set of priorities and challenges. Overall, Council officers highlighted the complexity of balancing community expectations, operational realities, and strategic planning.

- **Conflict and enforcement**: Council officers noted that although laws require dogs to be under effective control and registered, enforcement is limited and complicated by gaps in signage, language barriers, and political sensitivities. Common issues include dogs off-lead in inappropriate areas, uncollected waste, and conflicts with sports clubs and other park users. Officers emphasised that education and community-led self-management are often more effective than fines in addressing these challenges.
- **Guardian responsibilities**: Dog registration is estimated at around 50%, and Council runs a range of outreach programs to improve compliance. Pop-up events, such as puppy training sessions and veterinary check-ups, have been well received, providing opportunities to engage with dog guardians and promote responsible behaviour. Officers also raised concerns that fenced parks may attract users who are less likely to train or control their dogs, potentially increasing complaints and resource demands.
- **Dogs and sports fields**: Council receives frequent complaints regarding shared use of sports fields. Existing off-lead areas, such as Bob Saker Oval, Mont Albert Reserve, Morton Park, and Simpson Park, present ongoing challenges including damage to playing surfaces, limited access due to sports scheduling, and community opposition to fencing proposals. Sporting clubs report frustration over dog-related damage and safety risks, particularly at high standard fields like Mahoney's and Morton Reserves. Mont Albert Reserve, however, is cited as a successful example of shared use with minimal conflict, largely due to community self-regulation.
- **Site selection**: Officers stressed the importance of selecting appropriate sites, ideally away from residential areas. They suggested leveraging land acquisitions or infrastructure projects to create new open space. Any potential future dog parks will require a clearly defined scope, community engagement, and thoughtful design to balance competing interests.
- **Key design considerations**: Recommended design elements include clear visibility between dogs and guardians, adequate lighting, varied terrain, gravel surfaces for easier maintenance, and educational signage. Officers expressed interest in tailoring parks to different dog types (e.g., small or reactive dogs) and using dog parks to promote community wellbeing and responsible ownership.

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Key findings

- Overall, the engagement review highlights both strong support and nuanced concerns around fenced dog parks.
- Safety, conflict, and irresponsible guardian behaviour are key concerns.
- Existing spaces need better infrastructure including signage, bins, lighting, water, maintenance.
- Mixed feedback on proposed sites and locations within reserves.
- Education and community self-management seen as more effective than enforcement.
- Tension between dog use and sports field maintenance/safety is an ongoing issue.
- Importance of careful site selection, ideally away from residential areas.
- Design priorities include visibility, lighting, durable surfaces, signage, and options for different dog types.
- Balancing community expectations with operational and strategic realities remains complex.



5. Benchmarking & Precedents

5.1 Benchmarking Dog Parks and Off-Lead Areas

This study benchmarks the provision of dog parks across comparable councils, analysing the number of facilities in relation to population size, municipal land area, and estimated dog ownership.

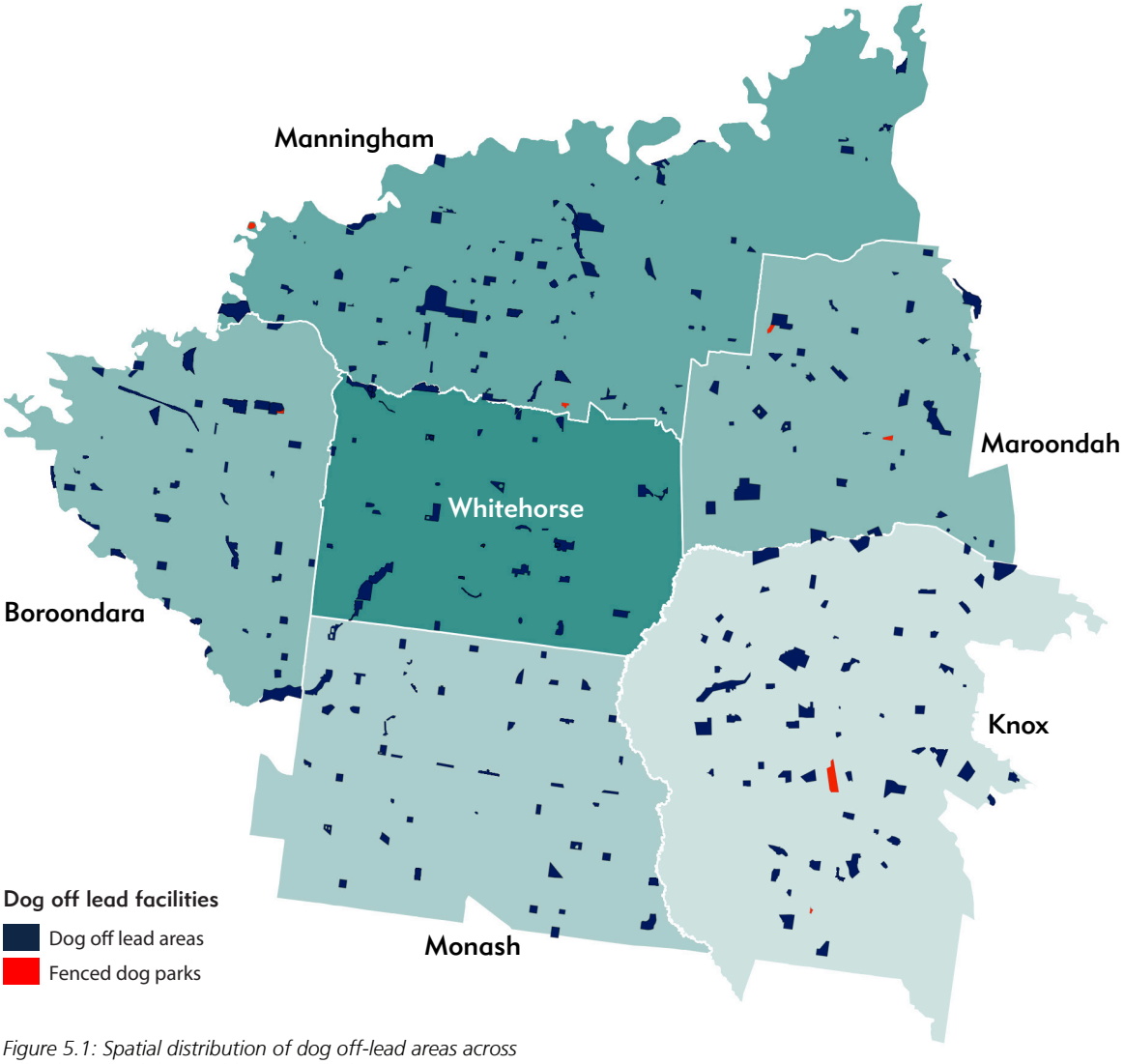

Figure 5.1: Spatial distribution of dog off-lead areas across Whitehorse and the neighbouring Local Government Areas

	Whitehorse	Manningham	Maroondah	Knox	Monash	Boroondara
Registered dogs	12,171	9,305	13,720	18,805	11,624	14,486
Land area	64.2km^2	112.3km^2	61.38km^2	113.8km^2	81.44km^2	60.17km^2
Registered dogs per ha	1.9	0.8	2.2	1.6	1.4	2.4
Population	183,462	131,761	119,354	163,302	209,268	178,008
Registered dogs per population	1 dog for every 15.1 people	1 dog for every 14.1 people	1 dog for every 8.7 people	1 dog for every 8.7 people	1 dog for every 18 people	1 dog for every 12.3 people
Dog off-lead strategy					Monash Dog Off-Lead Policy, 2022	
Dedicated fenced dog park	0	2	2	2 (with 2 more planned)	0	1
Unfenced off-lead areas	32	89	35		47	47
Registered dogs per off-lead area	380	104	392		247	308
Shared sports fields and off-lead areas	18	24	17		22	20
Sports fields with dog restrictions	Some reserves exclude dog off-lead activity	Some reserves exclude dog off-lead activity including synthetic surfaces	Some reserves exclude dog off-lead activity on athletics tracks, netball courts and main ovals	No reserves exclude dog off-lead activity	No dogs on specialised sports fields, premier A grade sports grounds, or leased facilities	Some reserves exclude dog off-lead activity

Table 5.2: Benchmarking the provision of dog parks with neighbouring councils relative to population, dog registrations and land area.

Key findings

- Dog off-lead facilities are scattered across Whitehorse and neighbouring LGAs, which can be considered when identifying sites for dog off-lead facilities including dog parks.
- Neighbouring LGAs, even with bigger human and dog populations, larger land area, and more off-lead facilities, have between 0-2 fenced dog parks (noting that this number is expected to increase in the coming year or two).
- All neighbouring LGAs share off lead areas with sports fields with some sports field types excluded.

5.2 Precedent Study

As part of the study, a number of local examples of dog parks have been analysed to provide insights into how other local government authorities deliver fenced dog parks. These examples, located across different council areas represent a range of different dog parks, examining factors such as size, facilities, infrastructure, surface treatments, and management approaches.

Dog parks across metropolitan Melbourne

The following table outlines a selection of dog parks across metropolitan Melbourne, identified through a review of online resources, including independent blogs and community platforms such as The Yap Pack (www.theyappack.com.au). The Yap Pack highlights key features valued by dog guardians in successful parks, including safety and security, dog-friendly amenities, diverse play areas, location variety, and a welcoming community atmosphere.

Further research undertaken for this report, including consultation with council officers, analysis of other LGAs' strategies, and review of community feedback, also informed the selection of parks for analysis.

The dog parks included in Figure 5.3, were chosen to represent a variety of sizes, locations, and settings across Melbourne, taking into account factors such as proximity to residential areas, availability of car parking, range of facilities, and surface types; factors relevant to understanding what makes a successful dog park in different contexts.

In addition to reviewing examples across metropolitan Melbourne, a range of dog parks from elsewhere in Australia and internationally were also examined to understand the diversity of approaches to dog park design and delivery. This broader review provided insights into how different contexts, such as climate, urban density, available space, and community expectations, influence the planning, design, and management of dog parks. A summary of these case studies is provided in Appendix E, highlighting innovative approaches in providing fenced dog parks.



The quiet zone at Thomas Oval Fenced Dog Park in South Yarra



The agility equipment at Green Gully Reserve, Keilor

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	Curtain Square Fenced Dog Park Carlton North	Eades Dog Park, West Melbourne	Pawfield Fenced Dog Park Caulfield	Thomas Oval Fenced Dog Park Como Park	Green Gully Reserve Fenced Dog Park Keilor	Martin Reserve Fenced Dog Park West Footscray	Aranga Reserve Fenced Dog Park Donvale	PA Burns Reserve Altona
Height of fence	1.2m	1.2m	1.2m	1.2m	1.2m	1.5m	1.5m	1.2m
Double gate entry			●	●	●	●	●	●
Size	920m²	2,200m²	2,500m²	4,600m²	6,550m²	10,000m²	10,500m²	27,500m²
Surface	Gravel	Grass & gravel	Grass & gravel	Turf & mulch	Grass & gravel	Gravel, mulch & grass	Grass and synthetic turf	Grass
Hardstand at entry		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Natural shade	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Type of vegetation	Trees only	Trees, garden bed to perimeter	Trees, garden bed outside of fence	Trees and garden bed to perimeter	Trees only	Trees, garden bed outside of fence	Trees and garden bed to perimeter	Trees, garden bed mostly outside fence
Rocks & logs		●	●	●	●	●		●
Structured shade				●	●	●		
Seating	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Signage	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Water fountain	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Dog bag dispensers	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
Bins	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Walking path				●	●	●		●
Off-street parking					●		●	●
Shared trail access				●	●			●
Area of separate section for small/ quiet dogs			Approx. 500m2 (20%)		Approx. 1500m2 (23%)	Approx. 2000m2 (25%)	Approx. 1900m2 (18%)	
Agility equipment			●	●	●	●	●	
Sand pit/ digging areas		●		●	●	●		
Wash station								●
Lighting	Street lighting	●		●				
Irrigation		●	●	●				
Access restrictions	Quiet time before 8am							
Buffer to residential neighbours	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0m - shared fence with residences	min. 15m	N/A
Splash pad						●		

Figure 5.3: Benchmarking of fenced dog parks and associated facilities within metropolitan Melbourne

5.3 Small scale dog parks

Small scale fenced dog parks, typically those under 3,000 m^2 in size, can play an important role in filling gaps within the broader network of off-lead areas, particularly in high-density areas where open space is constrained. They are well-suited to busy urban parks, or on unconventional or underutilised parcels of land and in locations where opportunities for dogs to exercise off-lead are limited.

Inner metropolitan councils, such as the City of Yarra and the City of Melbourne, demonstrate how small-scale dog parks can complement larger off-lead facilities. The City of Yarra, with a population of 100,706 and a land area of 19.5 km^2 (less than one-third the size of Whitehorse and with more than half its population), provides 23 off-lead reserves, including fenced dog parks, off-lead areas, and unfenced sports grounds. Similarly, the City of Melbourne, with a comparable population to Whitehorse (189,381) and just over half its land area (37.3 km^2), manages 18 off-lead areas comprising fenced dog parks, off-lead reserves, and selected sports grounds. Both councils also provide small, fenced dog parks, such as Curtain Square Dog Park (920 m^2) in Carlton North and Eades Dog Park (2,200 m^2) in West Melbourne, that offer localised off-lead opportunities in areas not otherwise serviced by larger facilities. The implementation of these small-scale dog parks is often opportunistic, taking advantage of residual land or smaller open spaces that may be suitable for conversion to a dog park.

Evidence suggests that the preferred size for a dog park is over 3,000 m^2 as they provide greater capacity, flexibility, and user satisfaction. In contrast, small- scale dog parks carry a higher risk of overcrowding, and surface degradation and may be unable to accommodate a wide range of amenities. Designing small scale dog parks therefore requires careful consideration to manage wear and distribute use. Small scale dog park should be planned to serve a local catchment and short-stay visits rather than act as destination facilities. The presence of other nearby off-lead areas is also important to avoid excessive concentration of dogs in a single location. Small scale dog park may also involve higher management and operational costs for Council.

Given these factors It is therefore recommended that the delivery of larger dog parks be prioritised. Small-scale dog parks should only be considered opportunistic additions in locations where there is a demonstrated gap in off-lead provision, limited availability of larger open spaces, or where they can make effective use of underutilised land to serve a clearly defined local need.



Eades Park in West Melbourne illustrates how a small, urban open space can be adapted to provide a valuable local dog park for nearby residents.



Curtain Square Dog Park is located on a corner of a larger park in Carlton North

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Key findings

- Regardless of size, there are a number of consistent amenities and qualities found across dog parks in Melbourne.
- Small scale dog parks (i.e. those under 3,000 m^2) can be an effective way to make use of small or underutilised spaces, particularly in municipalities where open space is finite. They can service local catchments that are otherwise under-serviced in terms of access to dog off-lead areas.
- Small scale dog parks should only be established where suitable sites and a demonstrated community need exist. These are considered opportunistic additions that make use of small or underutilised spaces, particularly in areas where open space is limited.

6. Issues and Opportunities

The research outlined in the previous section of the report, provide evidence to inform future decisions regarding dog parks. The review of strategic documents and academic research, consideration of Council's past experiences, feedback gathered from the community, benchmarking, and the analysis of case studies and precedents, provides an understanding of both the challenges and opportunities associated with dog parks.

With this research and understanding, we can now consider whether fenced dog parks are needed in Whitehorse. If so, what qualities would best meet the needs of both dogs and the community? And finally, what management approaches would help ensure their long-term success?

The following section summarises the key issues identified through the background research, highlights evidence-based findings, and outlines opportunities and recommendations to inform the delivery of dog parks.



6.1 Recommendations for Planning, Design, and Operation of Dog Parks

The following issue response summary tables examine whether Whitehorse City Council should provide fenced dog parks and present recommendations for their planning, design, and operation. They consider background research, current challenges faced by Council, community feedback, and dog park provision in neighbouring LGAs to assess whether there is sufficient interest and need to support the development of a dog park. The tables are informed by a combination of data, evidence, and research and are intended to provide clear guidance for the effective delivery of dog parks. Additional analysis, discussion, and detailed references are provided in earlier chapters.

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Issue	Data and discussion	Opportunity
Planning		
Whether or not Whitehorse Council should provide dog parks	COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITY: Local governments are legislatively responsible for managing dog ownership under the Victorian Domestic Animals Act 1994.	RECOMMENDATION: Provide dog parks as part Council's responsibilities related to pet management.
	DEMOGRAPHICS Population growth: According to the ABS, Whitehorse has experienced steady population growth, a trend that is expected to continue. As the population increases, so too will the number of dog owners and dogs, leading to greater demand for open spaces and supporting facilities. High-density living: ABS data shows that 37.9% of dwellings in Whitehorse are medium or high-density. With fewer private outdoor areas available in this type of housing, there is increased reliance on open spaces and the facilities they offer. Dog population: Data from the Pet Census (2023) and Council estimates suggest that not all dogs are formally registered. Consequently, the actual number of dogs in Whitehorse is likely higher than the 12,171 registrations indicate. Data also show that dog ownership in Australia is increasing (Pets in Australia, 2025).	RECOMMENDATION: Provide dog parks in response to population and living trends that indicate growing demand.
	COMMUNITY DEMAND Engagement outcomes: The review of engagement materials from recent community consultation undertaken to date reflect support for fenced dog parks (refer to chapter 4). However it is important to note that the majority of respondents were registered dog owners. Use of sports fields: Continued community use of sports fields for dog activities, despite ongoing conflicts over access and scheduling amongst other issues, indicates a demand for fenced dog parks. Community responses to Council regarding the proposal of leaving gates open at some sports fields further reinforce this.	RECOMMENDATION: Provide dog parks as a way to respond to community interest and potentially reduce conflicts between sports field users and dog walkers by providing an alternative fenced off-lead space. Review the use of sports fields for dog off-lead activity as dedicated dog parks are delivered.

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Whether or not Whitehorse Council should provide dog parks (continued)	BENEFITS OF DOG PARKS	RECOMMENDATION: Provide dog parks to realise the benefits for dogs and their guardians.
	Dogs: A review of academic research (see Chapter 3) indicates that dog parks provide a safe, controlled environment for off-lead exercise and socialisation, including for dogs in training or requiring structured activity. They also enable off-lead activity in busy parks or near areas where it would otherwise be incompatible.	
	People: A review of academic research (see Chapter 3) highlights that dog parks benefit guardians through social interaction and community building. They enable people of all abilities, including those with low mobility, older adults, and people with a disability, to exercise their dogs off-lead. They also provide separation that allows other park users to enjoy nearby spaces without unwanted interaction with dogs.	
	USE OF SPORTS FIELDS: Dog walkers frequently use sports fields as off-lead areas, even when these spaces are primarily designated for sporting activities. Despite the issues associated with this shared use (outlined below), this suggests demand for dedicated, fenced dog parks. However, the overlap in use can dilute the value of these sites. A review of neighbouring LGAs (see Chapter 5) indicates that shared use of sports fields for dog off-lead activity is a common practice.	RECOMMENDATION: Provide dog parks as an alternative to the current reliance on sports fields, which has led to a number of issues. Where off-lead use of sport fields is to be continued, consider principles identified at the end of this section.
	Health and safety: Feedback from the community and Council officers (see Chapter 4) highlights ongoing issues, including damage to sports fields from dogs digging, which can cause injury to players, and dog faeces, which poses health risks.	
	Access and scheduling: Feedback from the community and Council officers (see Chapter 4) notes tensions between dog walkers and sporting clubs, particularly around limited access during games and training.	
	Maintenance: Feedback from Council officers (see Chapter 4) highlights ongoing issues, including damage to sports fields and the need for regular upkeep, particularly before training sessions and games. Clubs often provide support for this maintenance, as the frequency and extent of inspections and upkeep can exceed Council's resources.	

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Finding the right number of dog parks	BENCHMARKING: A review of neighbouring LGAs shows that they typically have one to two dog parks; however, this is evolving, with several recently opened through state government funding and further developments underway. EQUITY: With the upcoming SRL-funded dog park in Box Hill, the area will gain a new temporary facility; however, because Box Hill is not centrally located within Whitehorse, resident access will be inequitable. RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING OFF-LEAD FACILITIES: Dog parks are designed for specific types of dogs and guardians, making them specialised facilities that respond to particular needs. While existing off-lead areas provide convenient access for most users, dog parks offer additional opportunities. Benchmarking shows that dog parks comprise a small proportion of total off-lead facilities and tend to be destinations. BALANCING DELIVERY, SPACE ALLOCATION AND OPEN SPACE NEEDS: Past experience with dog parks shows the importance of balancing community demand with the need to preserve flexible, open space. While off-lead areas cater to a significant portion of the community, dog parks dedicate valuable open space to a single user group, potentially limiting opportunities for broader recreational use. SCENARIO TESTING: To determine the recommended number of dog parks, high-level testing of scenarios was conducted: • Scenario 1 - providing a dog park within 1km of most residents would equate to approximately 15 dog parks • Scenario 2 - providing a dog park within 2km of most residents would equate to approximately 6 dog parks • Scenario 3 - providing a dog park within 3-5km of most residents would equate to approximately 2-3 dog parks Dog parks are specialised facilities, and most users are expected to access them by car. Scenario testing suggests that 3 facilities would provide an effective catchment of approximately 3 - 5 km. Based on benchmarking of neighbouring LGAs, Scenario 3 most closely aligns with typical dog park provision and is considered the most realistic in terms of Council's capacity to deliver the required facilities.	RECOMMENDATION: Provide three large scale dog parks. Where opportunities are presented and there is an evident need, provide small scale dog parks in addition to the large scale dog parks. Ongoing monitoring should be implemented to track demand over time, with the data used to guide future planning, including the potential need for additional parks or modifications to existing facilities.

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Finding the right locations for dog parks	SITE SELECTION GUIDELINES: A review of dog off-lead strategies for other LGAs, supported by relevant academic research (see Chapter 3), underscores the importance of clear site selection guidelines to assist Council in identifying suitable locations. COMMUNITY CONCERNS: Previous attempts to establish a dog park have been unsuccessful, largely due to community concerns about the proposed location, (see Chapter 4). This suggests that clear site selection guidelines could support the successful delivery of future dog parks. ALIGNMENT WITH COUNCIL STRATEGIES: The Whitehorse Open Space Strategy (2025) recommends establishing dog parks within regional and municipal parks so that large open spaces provide a range of facilities.	RECOMMENDATION: Develop site selection guidelines that are informed by the Strategic Document Review and address concerns raised by the community. Engage with the community on site selection guidelines and potential future dog park sites. (note that this is currently outside the scope of this project). Refer to Chapter 7: Site Selection Guidelines
Limited availability of open space	SPACE ALLOCATION: Off-lead facilities serve a significant portion of the community. However, fenced dog parks dedicate sections of public open space to a single user group, which may limit access or use for other recreational activities and community members. EXISTING OPEN SPACE: Whitehorse is a relatively densely developed area, and its open spaces are already tied to established uses and values. Introducing a fenced dog park would typically require changes to these uses, which, as noted in discussions with Council officers, are often met with community resistance. ACQUIRING NEW OPEN SPACE: Council officer feedback indicates that there are challenges associated with acquiring significant new parcels of land in order to develop open space. ALTERNATIVE DOG PARKS: A review of case studies (see Appendix E) suggests that there are several approaches to delivering dog parks beyond conventional methods.	CONSIDERATION: Locate dog parks in underutilised spaces within open spaces so they do not replace high-demand recreation use. Refer to Chapter 7: Site Selection Guidelines RECOMMENDATION: Provide fenced dog parks as part of the broader network of off-lead and dog facilities. CONSIDERATION: Consider alternative approaches to delivering dog parks, such as partnering with the private sector, advocating for facilities in non-traditional locations (e.g. rooftops), and collaborating with other levels of government and agencies.

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Issue	Data and discussion	Opportunity
Design		
Lack of dog supervision	UNSUPERVISED BEHAVIOUR: Feedback from the community and Council officers (see Chapter 4) indicates that some guardians may be unaware of their dogs' actions in fenced or semi fenced off-lead areas (i.e. sports fields), such as toileting or digging. DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS: A review of dog parks (see Section 4.2) and academic research (see Chapter 3) indicates that park design influences guardian behaviour. For example, square parks without walking paths tend to encourage guardians to remain stationary and socialise, leading to less attention on their dogs.	RECOMMENDATION: Develop design guidelines that consider how the design of dog parks improve guardian behaviour such by considering the shape of the dog park as well as supporting facilities and infrastructure. Refer to Chapter 8: Design of Dog Parks.
Potential ecological risks	ECOLOGICAL ISSUES The implementation of dog parks may give rise to several ecological concerns, including potential impacts on fauna (e.g. dogs chasing or killing wildlife), the influence of dog scents on sensitive habitats (e.g. predator scent making habitats unsuitable), and contamination of waterways from dog waste. Council's position: The Strategic Document review (refer to section 2.1), highlights Council's desire for open space and associated facilities to promote biodiversity and ecological protection. Community concerns: Community feedback (see Chapter 4) highlights concerns about potential environmental impacts.	RECOMMENDATION: Develop design guidelines that include measures to address the key issues identified, such as avoiding sensitive ecological locations and ensuring adequate fencing and buffer treatments. Refer to Chapter 8: Design of Dog Parks.
Wellbeing and socialisation for dogs	BENEFITS OF DOG PARKS: As discussed above, a review of academic research (see Chapter 3) indicates that dog parks offer a safe, secure environment for off-lead exercise. They also support socialisation among dogs and provide a controlled setting where dogs in training or requiring structured activity can be exercised safely.	RECOMMENDATION: Develop design guidelines that include a safe and secure facility, facilitate socialisation, and provide opportunities for exercise for dogs. Refer to Chapter 8: Design of Dog Parks.

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Wellbeing and recreation for dog guardians	PROMOTE RECREATION: The Strategic Document review (refer to section 2.1), highlights Council's desire for open space and associated facilities to promote recreation for the community. SOCIAL BENEFITS: A review of academic research (see Chapter 3) highlights that dog parks are valued for the benefits they provide to guardians, including opportunities for socialisation and community building.	RECOMMENDATION: Develop design guidelines that consider how the design of dog parks can promote recreation, health and wellbeing for dog guardians. Refer to Chapter 8: Design of Dog Parks.
Dog park etiquette	BEHAVIOURAL SIGNAGE: Academic research (see Chapter 3) suggest the use of clear readable signs that outline dog and guardian behaviour expectations.	RECOMMENDATION: Develop design guidelines that provide direction on signs that encourage responsible and respectful dog park use. Refer to Chapter 8: Design of Dog Parks.

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Issue	Data and discussion	Opportunity
Management and maintenance		
Problematic dog behaviour	EVENTS AND PROGRAMS: Council officer feedback (see Chapter 4) suggests that events and programs, such as 'Pups in Parks,' are effective in promoting responsible dog ownership and behaviour, especially for owners who may not recognise behavioural issues in their dogs.	RECOMMENDATION: Continue to deliver events and educational programs that promote responsible dog ownership and behaviour, with the potential to incorporate incentives. Dog parks offer a suitable setting for these initiatives, serving both as a management tool and a way to encourage their use.
Responsible use of dog parks	DOGS UNDER EFFECTIVE CONTROL: Under Council's community laws, dogs may only be off-lead if they are under effective control by their guardians. This requirement exists because uncontrolled dogs can pose a risk to people, other dogs, and wildlife.	RECOMMENDATION: Undertake compliance monitoring that focuses on education rather than enforcement. This could be further supported by events and programs.
	EDUCATION: Council officer feedback (see Chapter 4) suggests that education, rather than enforcement, is more effective in encouraging responsible use of dog off-lead areas, and is also Council's preferred approach.	
	COMPLIANCE MONITORING: Academic research (see Chapter 3), recommends that Council undertake compliance monitoring to ensure users are using dog parks responsibly.	
	BEHAVIOURAL SIGNAGE: Academic research (see Chapter 3) suggests using clear, readable signs are successful in communicating expected behaviours for dogs and their guardians.	RECOMMENDATION: Install welcoming, clear and readable signs that outline expectations around the respectful use of dog parks.
	SELF-MANAGED USE: Feedback from Council officers (see Chapter 4) indicates that community-managed sites generally show lower levels of conflict and damage.	CONSIDERATION: Encourage dog walkers to contribute to the responsible management of potential new dog parks, guided by insights from other well managed sites.

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Recommended principles for off-lead use of sports fields

Where it is proposed that there is to be dog off-lead use of sport fields, it is recommended that the following principles be considered:

1. Off-lead designations should only apply to sports fields that can accommodate dog use without compromising turf quality or scheduled sporting activities.
2. Off-lead areas should be distributed across the municipality to prevent overuse of specific sites and ensure fair access for all residents.
3. Off-lead sports fields should be considered alongside future dedicated dog parks to create a connected network of dog off-lead areas and reduce pressure on sports fields.
4. Appropriate management measures should support safe and responsible use. These may include partial enclosures where suitable, clear signage, and site-specific controls to manage user behaviour. Ongoing monitoring of site conditions and user behaviour should inform adaptive management.
5. All off-lead areas should reflect best practice, comply with relevant legislation, and align with Council's strategic frameworks, including the Domestic Animal Management Plan, reserve master plans, and sports ground classifications.

6.2 Implementation

The preceding tables provide evidence to inform future decisions regarding dog parks. The following proposes actions for implementation based on recommendations listed above.

	ACTION	TIMEFRAME
PLANNING	Engage with the community on the site selection guidelines presented in this report.	Short term (0 - 2 years)
	Develop a shortlist of potential sites for dog parks and undertake site selection assessments.	Short term (0 - 2 years)
	Continue to monitor usage patterns and field conditions to inform future management decisions, especially at high conflict off-lead sports fields.	Short term (0 - 2 years)
	Undertake an interim review of off-lead designations at identified conflict hot spots, in conjunction with the planning and delivery of dog parks, and subject to community consultation.	Short term (0 - 2 years)
	Undertake a full review of off-lead designation to identify opportunities to reduce reliance on sports fields and to address gaps in off-lead area provision.	Medium term (2 - 5 years)
	Identify and plan for small scale dog parks where suitable sites are available and a clear community need exists. These parks should be considered opportunistic additions.	Ongoing
	Implement monitoring to track use of established dog parks and demand over time, with the data used to guide future planning, including the potential need for additional parks or modifications to existing facilities.	Ongoing
DESIGN	Design two large scale dog parks in accordance with the adopted design guidelines (refer to Chapter 8). Develop signage that encourages responsible, respectful, and safe dog park use.	Medium term (2 - 5 years)
	Design one additional large scale dog park in accordance with the adopted design guidelines (refer to Chapter 8).	Long term (5 - 10 years)
	Design additional small or large scale dog parks, if monitoring identifies a need, in accordance with the guidelines in Chapter 8.	Ongoing
MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE	Provide community education on appropriate use of sports fields and potential impacts of dog activity on turf quality and user safety.	Short term (0 - 2 years)
	Continue to deliver events and educational programs that promote responsible dog ownership and behaviour, with the potential to incorporate incentives. Dog parks offer a suitable setting for these initiatives, serving both as a management tool and a way to encourage their use.	Ongoing – implemented annually and reviewed periodically to respond to community needs.
	Undertake compliance monitoring that focuses on education rather than enforcement. This could be further supported by events and programs.	Ongoing – integrated into regular ranger or animal management activities.
	Encourage dog walkers to contribute to the responsible management of potential new dog parks, guided by insights from past experience at other well managed sites.	Ongoing - post construction of dog parks.
	Deliver maintenance & management programs for off-lead dog parks.	Ongoing

7. Site Selection Guidelines

7.1 Site Selection

The process for selecting sites for dog parks should follow several key steps. The first step is to identify a range of potential sites for consideration, then refine this list to develop a shortlist. The second step involves assessing each shortlisted site to understand its existing and potential features, qualities, and constraints. Finally, community consultation should be undertaken to ensure the preferred locations align with local needs and preferences. This process is outlined in detail on the following pages.



10.1 – ATTACHMENT 1. Draft Fenced Dog Park Technical Report

Process	Key considerations
1. IDENTIFY POTENTIAL SITES Develop a list of suitable locations for further investigation	Existing dog park locations: Undertake mapping of existing fenced dog parks to assess current provision and avoid locating new sites too close to existing facilities, which could create issues of equity. Consider potential sites that could help relieve pressure on sports fields currently being used for dog off-lead activities. While there are currently no permanent fenced dog parks in Whitehorse, this is expected to change with the development of a temporary facility associated with the SRL works. This site should be viewed as a trial opportunity to test and monitor community use, management needs, and design outcomes, rather than as part of the long-term provision of dog parks. Potential sites: Develop an initial list of potential sites for fenced dog parks. Consider underutilised or decommissioned spaces and locations within regional or municipal parks. Explore areas which have been identified as having gaps within the current network of off-lead areas, as noted in section 2.3 of the report 'Key Findings'. Add new sites to the list as they arise, such as through community feedback or formal requests. Suitability review : Each potential site should be assessed to determine its level of suitability for development as a dog park. Sites can generally be categorised as: 1. Already Suitable - The site meets most or all criteria with minimal modification required. 2. Not Ideal and/or May Need Further Work to Make Suitable - The site has potential but may require design adjustments, additional infrastructure, or minor mitigation works. These sites may have financial implications that should be considered in future budgeting. 3. Not Suitable and Unlikely to Be Feasible - The site contains significant constraints that are not practical or cost-effective to address. Such sites should be eliminated from further consideration. Sites with unresolvable constraints, such as contamination that cannot be remediated, land within the Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ), or land affected by Environmental Significance (ESO) or Vegetation Protection (VPO) overlays should be excluded immediately. These overlays typically indicate areas of high environmental value or ecological sensitivity where the development of a dog park would not be appropriate or permissible.

10.1 – ATTACHMENT 1. Draft Fenced Dog Park Technical Report

Process	Key considerations
2. ANALYSE SHORTLISTED SITES Following selection of a preferred site (or sites), assess the existing characteristics and potential of the site to deliver the desired functions and qualities.	Existing uses and values: What is the current use of the site, what impacts would a dog park have on this use, and are these impacts able to be managed by design and management responses? Past experience has shown the kinds of concerns the community has regarding the change of use. Anticipating these early allows for effective design and management responses. Consider the following potential impacts: 1. Primary use / activity conflict - Potential displacement or reduced availability for organised activities, and possible impacts on overall park amenity. 2. Noise and amenity for nearby users - Risk of reduced enjoyment for adjacent park users and neighbours, potentially leading to complaints. 3. Ecological impact - Potential ecological degradation and loss of nature-based experiences for other users, such as birdwatchers and walkers. 4. Circulation and shared path use - Possible conflicts between user groups (e.g. walkers and cyclists) 5. Infrastructure and amenity conflicts - Existing infrastructure capacity may be impacted, with increased demand on facilities such as parking, pathways, and water fountains from dog park users. 6. Cultural and heritage values - Potential damage to heritage values; community opposition.
	Accessibility: Is the site easily accessible, or are there barriers that could limit access (e.g. entrance located on a narrow or dead-end street)? Are there existing pedestrian paths, or is there capacity to provide them? Park access should be clearly defined and safe to access (avoiding major road crossings where possible) to encourage use and ensure equitable, inclusive access for all visitors.
	Visibility: Is the site visible from surrounding areas? Sites should be visible to make them easy to locate and access. Opportunities for passive surveillance should also be considered.
	Shade: Does the site have existing shade, or is there potential to provide it? Shade is a key design consideration and should be provided at all dog parks to benefit both dogs and their guardians. Existing trees or structures can offer immediate relief and reduce the need for additional shade structures.
	Electricity connection: Is there existing electricity infrastructure available, or can it be easily provided? Using existing infrastructure helps avoid the cost and complexity of new electrical installations. Most parks in Whitehorse use solar power which can also be considered in place of electrical connections.
	Water connection: Is there an existing water connection, or can one be easily provided? Water is an essential provision in a dog park. As installing new or difficult connections can be costly, existing water infrastructure should be considered where possible.

10.1 – ATTACHMENT 1. Draft Fenced Dog Park Technical Report

2. ANALYSE SHORTLISTED SITES continued	Adjacent activities: Assess whether nearby activities are compatible with a dog park and identify where design or management measures (such as fencing, landscaping, or buffers) can be used to minimise potential conflicts. Some open space uses (such as cycling trails, BBQ/picnic areas, or playgrounds) may require higher fencing, separation or screening.
	Amenities: Consider whether existing facilities such as seating, shade, drinking fountains, or toilets are available to support the dog park. Toilets are not a requirement for dog parks but may be beneficial where an existing toilet block can be conveniently shared. It is acceptable if amenities are not yet in place, provided there is capacity to incorporate them as part of the development. Amenities enhance user comfort and contribute to the overall park experience.
	Topography, drainage, and flood risk: Assess whether the site is relatively flat (some variation acceptable) and drains well. Sites with poor drainage, low-lying areas, or prone to occasional flooding can become muddy and unusable; minor issues may be mitigated with raised or well-drained paths, reinforced surfaces, swales, or retention basins. Sites with frequent or severe flooding should generally be avoided, as mitigation may be costly or impractical.
	Environmental buffers: Assess whether there is sufficient space to provide appropriate buffers and/or fencing to protect environmentally significant areas. Buffers from biodiversity corridors, fauna habitats, areas with endangered species, significant wetlands, and other high-value habitats may be required to minimise potential impacts from dogs. Buffer distances should be treated as indicative, with each site assessed on its specific environmental features, values, and constraints. Consider the existing circumstances - for example, if an environmentally sensitive area is already used for off-lead activity, introducing a designated fenced area may improve management and reduce impacts compared with current conditions. 1. Low-value habitats: 10–50 m buffer, where a smaller setback may adequately protect fringe vegetation and function. 2. High-value habitats: 50–100 m (or larger) buffer recommended. These sites should be treated as high priority to avoid siting a dog park unless impacts can be avoided or very carefully mitigated.
	Residential buffers: Assess the need for buffers to nearby residences on a site-specific basis, recognising that buffer distances may vary depending on context and constraints. Prioritise sites that do not directly border residential properties. Where adequate separation is not possible, mitigation measures should be implemented to minimise potential negative impacts (actual or perceived) on neighbouring residents.
	Parking: Is there existing off-street parking, or can it be accommodated if required? Larger or district-level dog parks are likely to attract visitors who drive and should provide adequate parking. Smaller, locally focused dog parks that primarily serve nearby residents may not require dedicated parking, provided there is safe pedestrian access.

Process	Key considerations
3. CONSULT THE COMMUNITY Undertake community engagement activities on the preferred sites.	Consult with the community on the preferred site(s). Community consultation is a key step in building support for potential dog parks and ensuring the design meets user needs.

7.2 Alternative Approaches

Given the limited availability of open space and the challenges associated with acquiring new land, Council may consider alternative approaches to the delivery of dog parks. Traditional models that rely solely on re-purposing public open space may not always be feasible, particularly in areas or locations where open space is already highly utilised and has established uses and values. By exploring non-traditional solutions, there is potential to provide high-quality facilities to complement existing off-lead facilities in the municipality. Some examples of different approaches to dog parks is included in Appendix E.

Partnering with the private sector

One potential approach is partnering with the private sector, including collaborations with developers, businesses, and community organisations, to deliver dog parks in spaces that might not traditionally house them.

This could involve advocating for developers to incorporate dog parks within new residential complexes and commercial developments, providing convenient, accessible amenities for residents, employees, and visitors, and supporting the wellbeing of both dogs and their guardians. It could also include working with businesses to establish member-based dog clubs, private dog playgrounds, or fenced dog parks associated with commercial ventures, such as cafes and other public-facing establishments.

This approach enables Council to leverage private development opportunities to deliver additional fenced dog facility.

Transforming underused council facilities into dog parks

There is the potential to transform underused facilities or unconventional spaces into dog parks, making efficient use of existing assets. Sites that are generally undertilised and not considered for traditional open space uses, such as the rooftops of public car parks or spaces beneath bridges, can be adapted to dog parks. For example, the City of Yarra's Curtain Square Street Dog Park demonstrates how urban spaces, in this case an underutilised corner of a park, can be successfully repurposed to a small scale dog park to service the local community.



Figure 7.1: The Curtain Square Dog Park in Carlton North illustrates how an underutilised space in an existing reserve can be transformed into a dog park.

By reimagining these spaces, Council can deliver additional dog parks without re-purposing open space that has existing uses and values assigned to it. This approach creates opportunities to deliver dog parks while promoting the efficient use of open space.

Collaborating across government and agencies

There is potential for Council to explore opportunities to collaborate with other levels of government and government agencies to provide dog parks on land that is not under its direct management. By partnering with the State Government, Melbourne Water, transport authorities, or utility providers for example, Council may be able to identify underutilised or surplus land suitable for dog parks. In addition, there is an opportunity to secure external funding from state or federal government programs, such as the Victorian Government's New and Upgraded Dog Parks Program, to support the delivery of new facilities. These collaborations could enable the development of dog parks in locations that might otherwise remain inaccessible to the community, while potentially sharing responsibilities for planning, delivery, management and maintenance. This approach creates opportunities to deliver dog parks without relying solely on Council's finite public open space network.

There is also an opportunity to deliver a temporary dog park as a community benefit, or 'sweetener,' associated with large and potentially disruptive projects. For example, during the construction of the Suburban Rail Loop (SRL), part of Box Hill Gardens is being used for project works, and in response, the SRL is creating new temporary open space on another site for the duration of the project. Similar approaches could be explored to offset the impacts of major infrastructure projects while providing new open spaces and facilities.

8. Design of Dog Parks

Design guidelines for dog parks should ensure they are safe, secure, and support both dog exercise and socialisation, while also promoting the health and wellbeing of dog guardians. Based on benchmarking of dog parks across Melbourne and recommendations from strategies developed by other LGAs, an area of approximately 3,000 m^2 is commonly identified as the preferred size for a traditional dog park comprising mostly grass, as this helps to avoid excessive wear. However, given Whitehorse's limited open space and the challenges Council faces in creating new open space, particularly in higher-density areas, where public open space is even more constrained, smaller dog parks (below 3,000 m^2) may also be considered. These smaller parks will require specific design responses to ensure durability and functionality.

The guidelines below are organised according to the two types of dog parks Whitehorse is likely to provide: large scale dog parks (over 3,000 m^2) and small scale dog parks (under 3,000 m^2). They outline the typical facilities each type should include, as well as potential additional features that may be incorporated depending on budget, site suitability, and community demand.

8.1 Large Scale Dog Parks

The following design guidelines outline the key considerations for large scale dog parks (over 3,000 m^2).

A large scale dog park is generally considered to be over 3,000 m^2 in size and functions as a 'destination' facility. Due to its scale and appeal, it is likely that many visitors will travel to the site by car.

HIGHLY DESIRABLE FEATURES	ADVANTAGES	LIMITATIONS
Shape: Dog parks should generally feature rounded or moderately linear layouts. Square or excessively narrow, elongated shapes are not recommended.	• Encourages smooth circulation which in turn encourages more active supervision. • Avoiding linear park layouts supports more active supervision, ensuring dog guardians remain engaged and within close proximity to their dogs.	• May not be appropriate for all preferred sites, with area dimensions potentially requiring modification to achieve the preferred layout.
Fence: 1.2m high chain mesh or similar (noting that height will likely depend on site conditions)	• Ensures dogs remain contained. • Provides safety for both dogs and nearby pedestrians. • Can reduce off-lead conflicts with other park users.	• Could be visually intrusive if not well-integrated with landscape.
Entry point: Double gates with hardstand, min. 3.5m wide maintenance access gates. Consider multiple entry points to connect with other paths or nearby features.	• Prevents dogs from escaping when entering/exiting. • Multiple access points improve circulation and connectivity.	• Multiple gates increase construction and maintenance costs.

Surface: Grass and gravel	• A variety of surfaces provides interest for the dogs to explore and play • Gravel is durable and aids drainage. • Grass is a soft playing surface for dogs.	• Gravel may be uncomfortable for some dogs and will require some maintenance to retain even coverage. • Grass requires high levels of maintenance to reduce degradation due to overuse.
Path: Accessible loop path within the dog park	• Provides safe circulation for owners and dogs. Circulation can also encourage more active dog supervision. • Supports accessibility for all users. • Helps reduce wear on grassed areas.	• Additional construction and maintenance costs. • Could limit usable play area.
Separate area for small, recovering, older and less confident dogs: Dog parks larger than 4,500 m^2 should include a designated area for small, recovering, older and less confident dogs, comprising approximately 20% of the total area. Smaller parks may also consider incorporating a separate space where site conditions and demand make it feasible and beneficial.	• Reduces conflicts and injuries between large and small dogs. • Supports shy, older, recovering and less social dogs. • Encourages broader community use.	• May require additional fencing and maintenance. • Use may be limited if local demand for small-dog area is low.
Vegetation: Trees with small areas of garden bed to perimeter	• Provides shade for users and dogs. • Improves aesthetics and environmental value. • Can act as visual screening or buffer.	
Features: Rocks and logs	• Encourage natural play and exploration. • Enhance sensory and physical stimulation for dogs.	
Furniture: Shelter and seating at appropriate intervals to meet user needs, taking into account the size and layout of the park.	• Improves comfort for owners and carers. • Provides shelter from weather. • Encourages longer visits and social interaction.	• Adds installation and maintenance costs. • Encouraging socialisation can result in reduce supervision of dogs.
Lighting: Consider on-demand or sensor lighting (for year-round and after business hour use)	• Improves usability during early morning/evening. • Supports year-round use.	• Installation and maintenance cost. • May disturb nearby residents or wildlife.

Signage: Both behavioral and etiquette signage and well as information.	• Educates users on rules and responsible behaviour. • Reduces conflicts and enhances safety. • Can be inexpensive and easily updated.	
Water: Drinking fountain with dog bowl	• Provides hydration for dogs and owners. • Encourages longer stays. • Supports animal welfare.	• Requires regular maintenance and cleaning. • Can be costly to install, especially with plumbing.
Bins: with dog bag dispenser	• Supports hygiene and responsible waste management. • Encourages users to pick up after dogs. • Reduces environmental impact.	• Requires regular emptying and maintenance. • Can overflow or be vandalised.
Car parking: Where on-site car parking is limited or unavailable, consider providing additional parking nearby to support access to the dog park. Where possible, parking should be located close to the park in safe locations to allow dogs to be easily and safely loaded and unloaded.	• Improves accessibility for users from outside the immediate neighbourhood. • Enhances safety for dogs during drop-off/pick-up. • Supports increased visitation and use.	• Increased construction costs.
POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL FEATURES	**ADVANTAGES**	**LIMITATIONS**
Agility equipment	• Provides mental and physical stimulation for dogs. • Attracts dog owners seeking exercise opportunities. • Can diversify play options.	• Requires regular maintenance and inspections. • Can be costly to install. • Usage levels can vary.
Dog wash station	• Allows owners to clean dogs after visits. • Enhances user satisfaction.	• High installation and ongoing water costs. • Requires maintenance. • Usage levels can vary.
Splash pad: This could include a paved area with on-demand water jet and bubblers with rain gardens located nearby to capture the run off	• Encourages cooling and play in hot weather. • Can be integrated with stormwater management (rain gardens). • Adds visual and experiential interest, enhancing the park's appeal as a destination.	• High construction and maintenance cost. • Water use considerations and potential runoff issues. • Seasonal use may limit value.
Irrigation: Provision of irrigation for grassed areas should be considered to sustain full coverage and maintain usability.	• Maintains grass coverage and usability. • Supports aesthetics and environmental benefits. • Reduces soil erosion and mud.	• Installation and water costs. • Requires ongoing maintenance.

Digging areas: This may include sand pits, mulch or mulch pits.	• Provides a safe outlet for natural dog behaviour. • Protects other areas from being dug up. • Can enhance engagement and play variety.	• Needs regular replenishment and cleaning. • Can become messy or smelly if not maintained.
Composting dog waste bins	• Environmentally friendly waste management option. • Reduces landfill contributions. • Encourages responsible owner behaviour.	• Requires monitoring, maintenance, and eventual emptying. • Can produce odour if not managed properly. • May be more costly than standard bins.

Consider providing facilities or additional features outside the dog park fence, such as seating and drinking fountains, so that they are accessible to all park users, not just those visiting the dog park. These amenities can enhance the overall usability and enjoyment of the surrounding park area for the broader community.

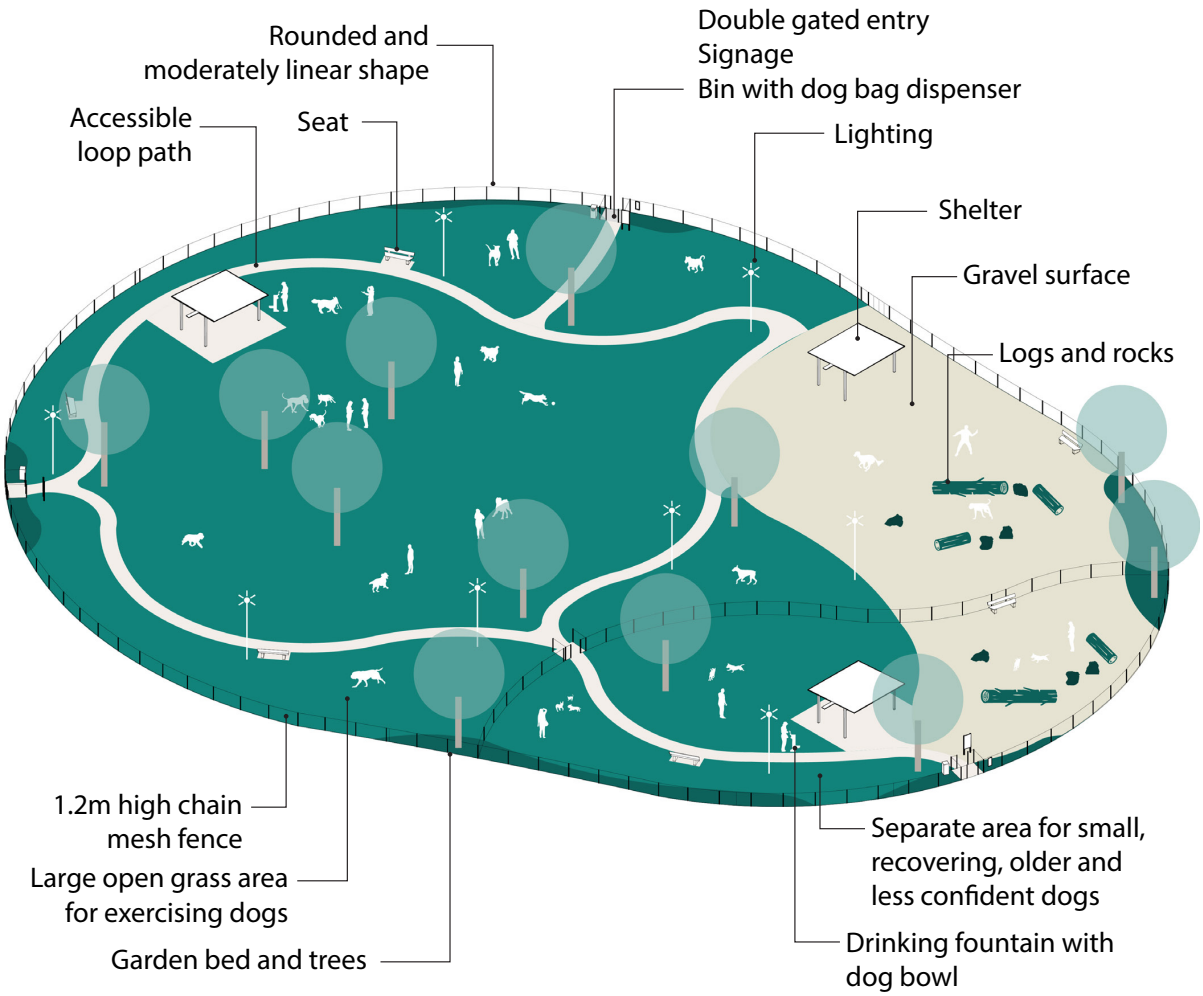

Figure 8.1: Diagram of example of large scale dog park (approximately 5,000m2), incorporating the features outlined in the above.

8.2 Small Scale Dog Parks

The following design guidelines outline the key considerations for small scale dog parks (under 3,000 m^2).

A small scale dog park, generally under 3,000 m^2, is most suitable for areas with high urban density and serves a local catchment. These parks are typically designed for short-stay visits, with most users walking to the site. These parks may also be located in underutilised areas, so their size and layout may be determined by the available space.

HIGHLY DESIRABLE FEATURES	ADVANTAGES	LIMITATIONS
Shape: Dog parks should generally feature rounded or moderately linear layouts. However, for small scale dog parks, less optimal or irregular shapes may be acceptable if they can safely accommodate local users and provide basic functionality.	• Encourages smooth circulation which in turn encourages more active supervision. • Avoiding linear park layouts supports more active supervision, ensuring dog guardians remain engaged and within close proximity to their dogs.	• May not be appropriate for all preferred sites, with area dimensions potentially requiring modification to achieve the preferred layout.
Fence: 1.2m high chain mesh or similar (noting that height will likely depend on site conditions)	• Ensures dogs remain contained. • Provides safety for both dogs and nearby pedestrians. • Can reduce off-lead conflicts with other park users.	• Could be visually intrusive if not well-integrated with landscape.
Entry point: Double gates with hardstand, min. 3.5m wide maintenance access gates. Consider multiple entry points to connect with other paths or nearby features.	• Prevents dogs from escaping when entering/exiting. • Multiple access points improve circulation and connectivity.	• Multiple gates increase construction and maintenance costs.
Surface: Gravel	• Gravel is durable. • Gravel is more permeable than hard paved surfaces, therefore aiding drainage.	• Gravel may be uncomfortable for some dogs • Gravel will require some maintenance to retain even coverage.
Vegetation: Trees	• Provides shade for users and dogs. • Improves aesthetics and environmental value. • Can act as visual screening or buffer.	
Features: Rocks and logs	• Encourage natural play and exploration. • Enhance sensory and physical stimulation for dogs.	

Furniture: Shelter and seating at appropriate intervals to meet user needs, taking into account the size and layout of the park.	• Improves comfort for dog guardians • Provides shelter from sun and rain. • Encourages longer visits and social interaction.	• Adds installation and maintenance costs. • Encouraging socialisation can result in reduce supervision of dogs.
Signage: Both behavioral and etiquette signage and well as information.	• Educates users on rules and responsible behaviour. • Reduces conflicts and enhances safety. • Can be inexpensive and easily updated.	
Water: Drinking fountain with dog bowl	• Provides hydration for dogs and owners. • Encourages longer stays. • Supports animal welfare.	• Requires regular maintenance and cleaning. • Can be costly to install, especially with plumbing.
Bins: with dog bag dispenser	• Supports hygiene and responsible waste management. • Encourages users to pick up after dogs. • Reduces environmental impact.	• Requires regular emptying and maintenance. • Can overflow or be vandalised.
POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL FEATURES	**ADVANTAGES**	**LIMITATIONS**
Path: Accessible loop path within the dog park	• Provides safe circulation for owners and dogs. Circulation can also encourage more active dog supervision. • Supports accessibility for all users. • Helps reduce wear on grassed areas.	• Additional construction and maintenance costs. • Could limit usable play area.
Grass surface: If space allows and irrigation can be provided	• Grass provides comfort and play space for dogs. • Relatively low-cost material.	• Requires high levels of maintenance to reduce degradation due to overuse, especially in a small space.
Irrigation: Provision of irrigation for grassed areas should be considered to sustain full coverage and maintain usability.	• Maintains grass coverage and usability. • Supports aesthetics and environmental benefits. • Reduces soil erosion and mud.	• Installation and water costs. • Requires ongoing maintenance.
Vegetation: Garden beds - if space allows	• Improves aesthetics and environmental value. • Can act as visual screening or buffer.	• Garden beds require ongoing maintenance. • May be damaged by dog activity.
Agility equipment	• Provides mental and physical stimulation for dogs. • Attracts dog owners seeking exercise opportunities. • Can diversify play options.	• Requires regular maintenance and inspections. • Can be costly to install. • Usage levels can vary.

Digging areas: This may include sand pits, mulch or mulch pits.	• Provides a safe outlet for natural dog behaviour. • Protects other areas from being dug up. • Can enhance engagement and play variety.	• Needs regular replenishment and cleaning. • Can become messy or smelly if not maintained.
Composting dog waste bins	• Environmentally friendly waste management option. • Reduces landfill contributions. • Encourages responsible owner behaviour.	• Requires monitoring, maintenance, and eventual emptying. • Can produce odour if not managed properly. • May be more costly than standard bins.
Lighting: Consider on-demand or sensor lighting (for year-round and after business hour use)	• Improves usability during early morning/evening. • Supports year-round use.	• Installation and maintenance cost. • May disturb nearby residents or wildlife.

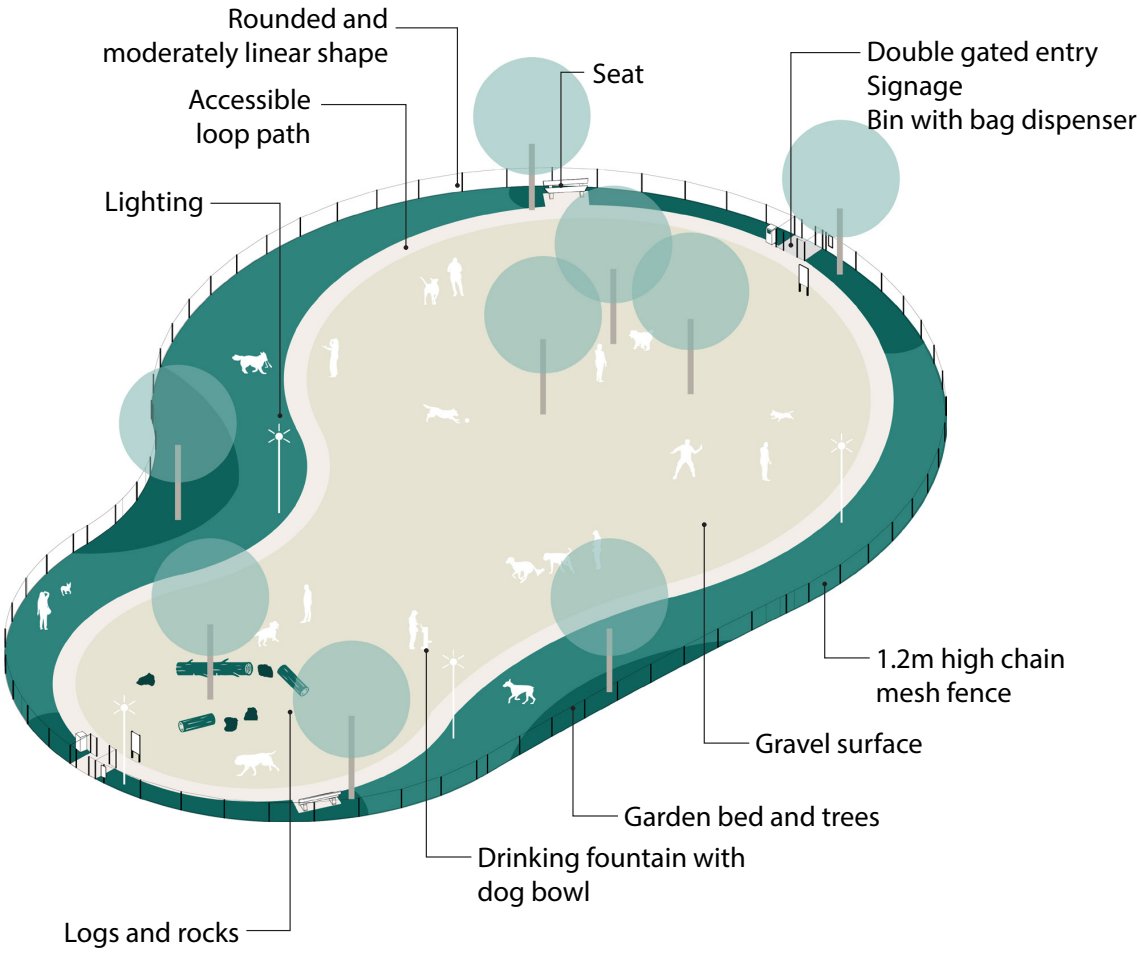

Figure 8.2: Diagram of example of small scale dog park (approximately 2,000m2), incorporating the features outlined in the above.

8.3 Cost estimates

The table below outlines the estimated costs associated with key elements of the construction of a dedicated dog park. It presents unit rates or item costs for typical elements, as well as some potential features. These figures have been informed by benchmarking activities, including reviewing cost estimates from other LGAs and consulting with Council officers, and are indicative only - actual costs may be higher due to cost escalation over time.

ITEM	UNIT	RATE
Preliminaries		
Site preparation (these costs will vary per site depending on any demolition and site preparation that is required)	Item	$50,000
Highly desirable features		
1.2m high chain mesh fence with top and bottom rail including perimeter fencing and fencing for small dog area if required	Lin. m	$300
Double gate (airlock)	Item	$5,000
Maintenance gates (min. 3.5m wide for mowers)	Item	$5,000
Instant turf including 50mm imported topsoil	m2	$75
Drainage (allowance)	Item	$10,000
Granitic gravel	m2	$100
Concrete surfaces	m2	$150
Garden bed areas including cultivation topsoil and mulch and 4x 150 pots per m2	m2	$80
Semi-advanced trees, 45L container including stakes and ties	No.	$250
Rocks nom. 400-600mm	No.	$300
Logs nom. 2.5m long	No.	$1,500
Shelter (4m x 4m)	No.	$25,000
Seat with back rest and arms located every 100-200m	No.	$2,500
Lighting including and allowance for electrical supply	Item	$60,000
Drinking fountain with dog bowl including allowance for water supply	No.	$15,000
Signage	No.	$5,000
Bin enclosure with dog bag dispenser	No.	$2,000
Potential additional features		
Dog agility equipment (allowance)	Item	$30,000
Dog wash station	Item	$10,000
Water play area including push button activator, ground spray/ water jets, concrete pad, rain garden, drainage and plumbing.	Item	$50,000
Automatic irrigation system	Item	$40,000
Sand including geotextile and drainage layer	m2	$120
Composting dog waste bins	No.	$2,000
Maintenance		
Establishment period maintenance	per week	$600

It should be noted that these costs cover construction only and do not include design services, project management, site acquisition, or other related expenses.

Below is an example of how these costs may be applied in the case of a large scale dog park (example used here is 5,000m2) and a small scale dog park (2,000m2).

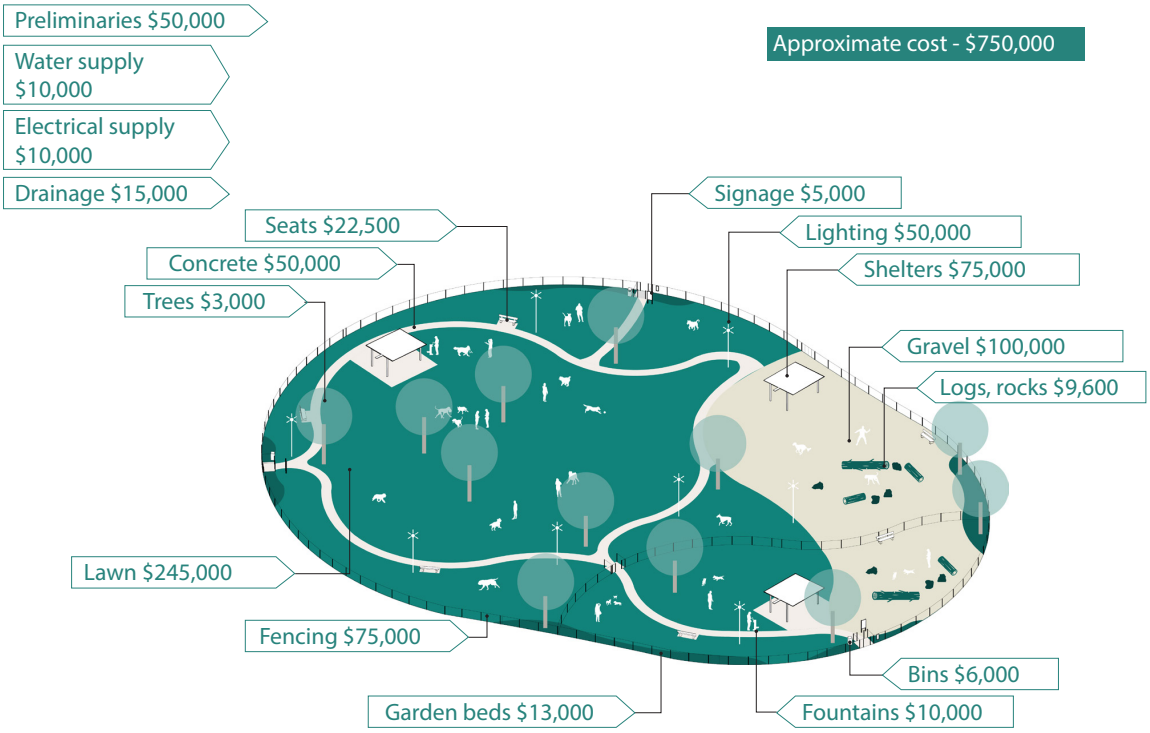

Figure 8.3: Diagram of example of larges scale dog park (approximately 5,000m2), with cost estimates applied

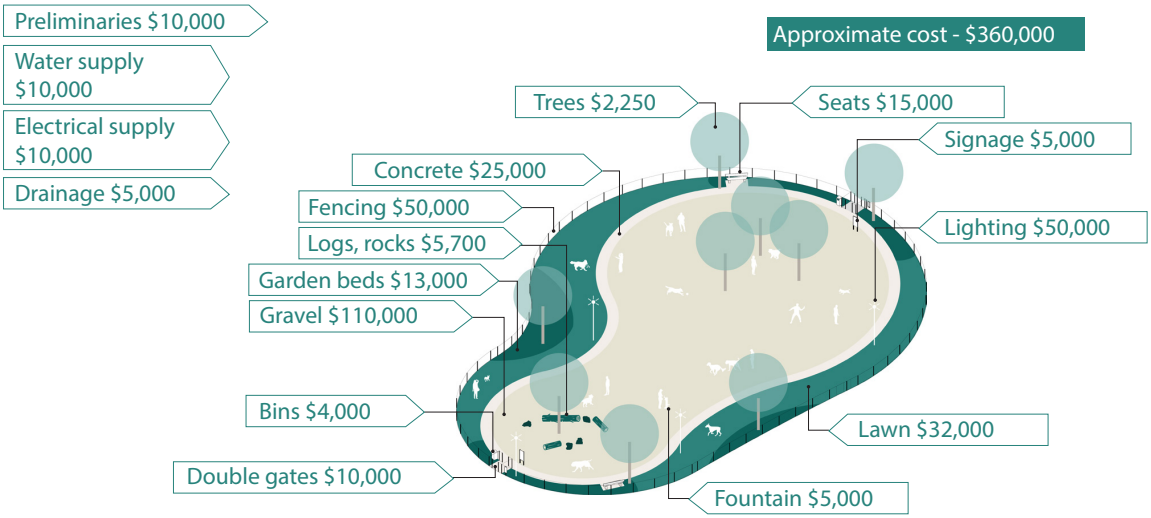

Figure 8.3: Diagram of example of small scale dog park (approximately 2,000m2), with cost estimates applied

Innovative Solutions

Composting bins

Dog waste is an important consideration in public open spaces, given the number of dogs and how frequently they are exercised in parks and reserves. As facilities specifically designed for dog use, dog parks present an opportunity to manage key inputs and outputs on-site. One of the primary outputs of dog parks is dog fecal waste.

Community feedback has identified dog waste as an issue, with an expectation that Council provide appropriate disposal facilities and manage potential odour. In addition to traditional bins, Council may consider alternative approaches, such as on site dog waste disposal/ treatment, which have the potential to offer a more environmentally sustainable option.

One example is the Long Drop Dog Toilet (patent pending by Victorian company, Trevilla Engineering and Design), a compact in-ground 'long drop style' composting unit designed for walking tracks and dog exercise areas. Many dog owners use smaller domestic scale versions of this kind of system at home. When installed in grass or soil, it uses natural processes to break down waste, eliminate odour, and produce nutrient-rich soil, reducing the volume of waste sent to landfill. These systems can be paired with biodegradable bag dispensers and positioned at regular intervals to encourage responsible disposal of dog waste.



The Long Drop Dog Toilet
by Trevilla Engineering and Design

Etiquette and behavioural signage

One of the risks associated with fenced dog parks is the potential for conflict between dogs and, by extension, their guardians. These conflicts can arise when dogs are not adequately trained, socialised, or under effective control. In an enclosed environment where dogs of varying temperaments and energy levels interact behavioural issues can occur.

To help address these potential issues, the City of Charles Sturt in South Australia developed a series of informative signs designed to help dog park users assess whether the fenced area is suitable for their dog. The signs take a positive and engaging approach, focusing on guidance rather than restrictions, and use clear, visually appealing graphics to encourage visitors to read and interact with the information provided.



Example of the signage developed for dog parks in the City of Charles Sturt, South Australia

9. Maintenance of dog parks

The following outlines the key maintenance tasks to be considered once a dog park has been delivered. In addition to construction costs, ongoing maintenance and management expenses must also be accounted for. Some items, such as lawn, will typically require more intensive maintenance than those in standard parks due to higher wear and usage. Compliance monitoring includes dedicated patrols to oversee appropriate use, address behavioural issues, and respond to community feedback or complaints. It is estimated that these activities will require an additional 0.2 FTE (approximately 8 hours per week) to provide patrols and enforcement across three enclosed dog parks, ensuring a visible presence during peak times, including weekends and after business hours. The table below provides estimated rates for the effective maintenance and management of a dog park. The costs provided are indicative only and may be subject to escalation over time.

ITEM	FREQUENCY					COST PER INSTANCE	ANNUAL COST
	> once a week	fortnightly	monthly	quarterly	annually		
Soft landscaping							
Mowing: Grass should be maintained at approximately 100 mm in height (frequency will depend on season).		•	•			$175	$3,033
Landscape maintenance: • Grass impacted by overuse should be cordoned off to allow rest and restoration, with re-seeding undertaken as needed. • Fill holes in the grass areas (resulting from digging or other activity) with sand and/or topsoil and re-seed as required • Rake gravel surfaces • Collect and remove litter and debris • Remove and replace dead or dying plants (if required) • Top up mulch • Note and report any damaged items to the appropriate Council team for action Weeds: Remove weeds as required			•			$800	$9,600
Gravel: Top up low points of gravel areas to ensure a free draining surface					•	$900	$1,800
Dog waste management							
Bins: Empty bins (for sites without existing bins only)	•						$3,500
Dog waste bags: Restock dog waste dispensers.	•					$50	$5,200

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Long drop dog toilet: If a long-drop dog toilet system is installed (instead of regular bins), the unit should be relocated within the dog park and the existing hole closed.				•		$1,500	$6,000
Infrastructure and amenities							
Furniture: Inspect furniture, infrastructure and amenities for their condition. • Re-coat timber surfaces as required • Re-paint painted elements as required					•	$550	$550
Management							
Compliance monitoring: including dedicated patrols to encourage responsible behaviour, address issues, and respond to community feedback and complaints. To provide a consistent and visible presence across all dog parks, particularly during weekends and after-hours when use is highest. Approximately 8 hours per week is required to undertake patrols, enforcement, and community engagement activities.		•					$20,000
Events and programs: such as "Pups in Parks"				•			$3,500

A. Strategic Document Review

The table below reviews existing Council strategies, policies, and plans to determine their relevance to the Fenced Dog Park Technical Report. This analysis ensures that the technical report is prepared in alignment with broader strategic priorities and Council's adopted objectives.

Document overview	Key takeaways
Whitehorse 2040 Community Vision Developed in 2020, the Whitehorse 2040 Community Vision outline's the municipality's vision: "*Whitehorse is a resilient community where everyone belongs. We are active citizens who value our natural environment, history and diversity. We embrace sustainability and innovation. We are dynamic. We learn, grow and thrive.*" To bring this vision to life, the seven guiding themes were identified as priorities: 1. Diverse and Inclusive Community 2. Movement and Public Spaces 3. Innovation and Creativity 4. Employment, Education and Skill Development 5. Sustainable Climate and Environmental Care 6. An Empowered, Collaborative Community 7. Health and Wellbeing	The following key objectives outlined in the Community Vision can be applied to the design, delivery, and management of dog parks: *Inclusive, Connected Community* The vision emphasises building a resilient community where everyone belongs, with active citizens who value natural environments and social diversity. This calls for the creation of public spaces that are inclusive and accessible to all residents. *Sustainability & Natural Environment* There is a strong focus on sustainability, environmental protection, and the enhancement of natural spaces. Initiatives should reflect sustainable design principles and demonstrate ecological sensitivity.
Integrated Council Plan 2025-2029 The Plan is a framework guiding Council's program of work for the next four years, and is built around five Strategic Directions: 1. Community: We aim to foster a connected, inclusive, safe and active community where everyone feels a sense of belonging. 2. Built: We aspire to develop safe, accessible, and attractive public spaces and infrastructure that meet community needs and adapt to growth. 3. Economy: We are prioritising a resilient and dynamic economy, with support for local businesses, diverse opportunities, and job and investment attraction. 4. Natural: We are committed to protecting natural areas, promoting environmental sustainability, building climate resilience, and managing waste responsibly. 5. Governance: Strong governance will be achieved through transparent, accountable management and the efficient and financially sustainable delivery of valuable core services.	The relevant points that are most pertinent to a Dog Park Technical Report are: • Public spaces should be designed and managed to support social cohesion, inclusivity, public safety, and wellbeing, ensuring they serve diverse community needs. • Infrastructure in public parks, i.e. fencing, pathways, seating, and signage, must be universally accessible, thoughtfully designed, and integrated into the broader public space network. • Public spaces should incorporate environmentally sensitive design and strategies to protect biodiversity and urban canopy. • A major initiative in the Plan includes: *uplifting public infrastructure and open spaces to meet community needs.* This is a potential opportunity to include dog-friendly spaces and amenities when upgrading or expanding public parks.

10.1 – ATTACHMENT 2. Draft Fenced Dog Park Technical Report Appendices

Document overview	Key takeaways
Whitehorse Open Space Strategy and Open Space Strategy Technical Report 2024 The Whitehorse Open Space Strategy sets out the long-term vision and strategic directions for open space across the municipality. It outlines priorities such as improving the quality of existing spaces, diversifying facilities, and ensuring that everyone has safe and convenient access to open space. The Strategy provides an overarching framework to guide planning, investment, and decision-making. The Whitehorse Open Space Strategy Technical Report underpins the Strategy by providing the detailed evidence base. It includes mapping of open space distribution, demographic analysis, identification of gaps, and precinct-specific recommendations. This technical work informs the strategic directions and ensures that future decisions are grounded in data and community needs.	The Whitehorse Open Space Strategy and Technical Report provide a framework for planning and managing open space across the municipality. They highlight the importance of quality, accessibility, diversity, and inclusion in shaping future spaces. When applied to a dog park technical report, the following key takeaways are most relevant: • Use mapping of open space supply, demand, and access, along with precinct-specific recommendations and community consultation, to guide site selection and design. • The strategy recommends that open spaces be located within safe walking distance of all neighbourhoods, with particular focus on areas of higher-density housing, limited private open space, or where major access barriers exist (e.g., busy roads). This approach can also be applied to dog parks, as they are a type of open space. • Ensure parks are well designed, well maintained, and provide a safe, enjoyable environment with features such as shaded seating, drinking water, and varied play and exercise opportunities. • Position dog parks to complement the wider open space system by relieving pressure on sporting fields, supporting biodiversity, and enhancing accessibility. • Recognise that dedicated dog parks and off-lead areas are most appropriate at the Regional and Municipal level, where they can serve larger catchments and offer higher-quality facilities. • Design parks to be welcoming and accessible for all, supporting social interaction and fostering community connection. • Incorporate sustainable, nature-based design to deliver positive environmental outcomes. • Reduce potential conflicts between dog owners and non-owners, and within the dog-owning community, through thoughtful design and clear management approaches. • Build in flexibility so that spaces can evolve with changing community needs, supported by ongoing management and maintenance to keep them safe, clean, and functional.

10.1 – ATTACHMENT 2. Draft Fenced Dog Park Technical Report Appendices

Document overview	Key takeaways
Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025 The DAMP identifies Councils' responsibilities for education and compliance and provides a framework for Council to manage its statutory responsibilities associated with domestic animal management. The purpose of the DAMP is to balance differing community expectations, keep abreast of different trends and improve animal management in the City of Whitehorse. The Plan is aimed at addressing the priority issues identified during community consultation and council's statutory obligations and supports the development and implementation of a range of strategies. The Domestic Animal Management Plan highlights the growing importance of providing well-managed spaces for dogs and their owners. A surge in dog ownership during 2020, coupled with many inexperienced owners, initially led to issues such as poor behaviour and dogs not under effective control, though incident levels later stabilised.	Whitehorse currently has over 330 parks and 20 bushland reserves, with 32 designated off-lead areas. Given the limited supply of open space and competing demands from sports clubs, dog owners, and the wider community, equitable sharing and thoughtful management are critical. Council has signalled a willingness to explore flexible approaches, such as timed off-lead access or restricting off-lead activity to specific parts of reserves rather than whole sites. Most residents live within five kilometres of an off-lead park. Community consultation has identified the following priorities (in order of importance): 1. More dog waste bags and bins 2. Fenced off-lead areas 3. Opportunities for dogs to socialise 4. Shared play spaces for dogs and families 5. Exercise options for dogs when owners cannot exercise them 6. Family play opportunities in parks 7. Dogs kept on-lead where required 8. Retention of unfenced off-lead areas Together, these findings suggest that a dog park technical report should focus on balancing community needs with effective management, enhancing the quality and diversity of facilities, and exploring innovative approaches to off-lead access that maintain harmony between all park users.

10.1 – ATTACHMENT 2. Draft Fenced Dog Park Technical Report Appendices

Document overview	Key takeaways
Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan, 4 Year Plan 2026-2029 (DAMP) This Plan aims to balance differing community expectations, respond to emerging trends and enhance animal management within the City of Whitehorse. This Plan addresses the issues identified during community consultation, includes Council's statutory obligations and supports developing and implementing a range of strategies. It also outlines current and future initiatives to address new and emerging issues that Council plans to address and improve on over the 2025–2029 period. The initiatives addressed are: 1. Encouraging responsible pet ownership of cats and dogs through education and enforcement approaches, especially for dog off-lead areas. 2. Reviewing Council's animal management services, programs, procedures and policies. 3. Promoting the benefits of owning companion animals within the community. 4. Addressing domestic animal welfare issues specific to the City of Whitehorse community. 5. Raising the profile and importance of effective animal management. 6. Ensuring Authorised Officers are adequately trained to fulfil Council's legislative, educational and enforcement functions. 7. Addressing the overpopulation of unwanted cats and dogs while minimising euthanasia rates and promoting the benefits of desexing dogs and cats. 8. Ensuring that domestic animal businesses (as defined under the Act) and declared animals are registered and managed according to the relevant Codes of Practice 9. Enhancing community safety by reducing the number of dogs not under effective control throughout the municipality. 10. Reducing the number of dog attacks. 11. Return lost and found animals directly to their owners where possible, helping to reduce pound costs and euthanasia rates and improve owner education. 12. Developing and exercising plans and contingencies in the event of an emergency.	• The DAMP underscores the necessity for all dog park initiatives to align with the legislative requirements set forth in the Domestic Animals Act 1994. This includes ensuring that dog parks are appropriately designated as off-lead areas and that they adhere to any local laws or regulations pertaining to the control and management of dogs in public spaces. • In 2025, over 420 community members participated in consultations, highlighting the importance of responsible pet ownership, reducing dog attacks, and improving enforcement measures. • The DAMP emphasises the need for increased community education on responsible pet ownership. This includes providing information on the requirements for maintaining effective control of dogs in public areas and promoting the benefits of pet ownership. • The DAMP advocates for pairing new park provisions with behaviour-focused programs. This includes implementing staffed sessions, clear signage, ranger presence, and effective waste management strategies to promote responsible dog ownership and reduce incidents. • There is a growing community support for increased enforcement, including patrols, fines, and monitoring, particularly during peak usage times such as mornings and evenings. This aims to ensure all park users can enjoy public spaces safely and comfortably. • The DAMP recommends strategically locating dog parks to reduce strain on sensitive sports fields and protect environmental assets. This involves careful consideration of park usage patterns and environmental impact assessments to ensure sustainable and harmonious integration of dog parks within the community. • There is a strong desire within the community for clearer signage and park rules to be displayed in prominent locations. This includes more visible information on what constitutes "effective control" for dog owners, ensuring everyone understands the expectations.

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Document overview	Key takeaways
Domestic Animal Act 1994 The purpose of this Act is to promote animal welfare, the responsible ownership of dogs and cats and the protection of the environment by providing for: (a) a scheme to protect the community and the environment from feral and nuisance dogs and cats; and (b) a registration and identification scheme for dogs and cats which recognises and promotes responsible ownership; and (c) the identification and control of dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs; and (d) a registration scheme for domestic animal businesses which promotes the maintenance of standards of those businesses; and (da) the regulation of matters relating to the breeding and sale of dogs and cats; and (db) the registration of foster carers for certain purposes; and (e) matters related to the boarding of dogs and cats; and (ea) the regulation of the permanent identification of dogs, cats, horses and other animals; and (f) payments to the Treasurer from fees received by Councils under this Act; and (g) other related matters.	Key Provisions Relevant to Dog Parks in public open spaces: *Council Authority to Regulate Dog Access (Section 26)* Councils have the authority to make orders that: • Prohibit the presence of dogs in any public place within the municipal district. • Impose conditions on the presence of dogs, such as: means of restraint (e.g., leash requirements), times when dogs are permitted, and other specified conditions. *Effective Control Requirements (Section 26A)* Dog owners must ensure their dogs are under effective control, which typically means: • Being on a leash not exceeding 1.5 meters. • Being under direct supervision. • Not posing a threat to people or other animals. *Registration and Identification (Section 10)* All dogs over three months of age must be: • Registered with the local council. • Wearing a current registration tag when in a public place. *Waste Management (Section 32)* • Owners must remove and appropriately dispose of any excrement left by their dog in public places. Implications for Dog Park Technical Report • Clearly demarcated off-lead areas within public open spaces can help manage dog access and ensure compliance with council regulations. • Prominent signage indicating leash requirements, off-lead times, and other park rules can aid in enforcement and educate dog owners. • Provision of waste bags and bins encourages responsible pet ownership and aligns with legal obligations. • Programs to inform dog owners about their responsibilities under the Act can enhance compliance and community relations. • Regular patrols and clear penalties for non-compliance can ensure the safety and enjoyment of all park users.

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Document overview	Key takeaways
Community Local Law 2024 The objectives of this Local Law are to provide for the: (a) protection of the community and Council's assets; (b) regulation and management of activities which may be dangerous, unsafe or detrimental to the quality of life for the residents and visitors of the municipal district; (c) protection, maintenance and enhancement of the natural environment of the municipal district; (d) prevention and management of nuisances which may adversely affect the enjoyment of life or the health, safety and welfare of persons within the municipal district; (e) uniform and fair administration of this Local Law; and (f) peace, order and good government of the municipal district, in a way that is complementary to the Council Plan.	Relevant Laws / Regulations for Dog Parks • The Local Law specifies which public spaces are permitted for off-leash dog exercise. • New or alternate dog park locations must be integrated through proper legal mechanisms. • Dog owners must have access to and use bins, signage, and bags to manage dog waste. • Rules govern how dogs must be controlled in parks and reserves shared with other users. • Certain areas are legally off-limits to dogs, often to protect sensitive ecological habitats. • There are limits on dog ownership per household, with the standard limit being two dogs per property. • The Local Law supports overall community safety, maintaining public amenity, preventing nuisances, and protecting the local environment. Implications for Dog Park Technical Report • Dog parks proposed on sites not gazetted for off-lead use will require a Council order to update the site designation. • Any proposals for new parks require formal integration into the Local Law framework. • Dog parks should include adequate bins, signage, and waste bag facilities. • Consideration should be given to timing, layout, and buffer areas to reduce conflicts. • Site selection must avoid protected or sensitive areas. Incorporate buffer zones and design features that minimise environmental impact. • Household dog limits help anticipate demand for off-leash spaces. • Design and management should support safe, responsible dog ownership, including clear rules, signage, and community education. • Align dog park objectives with broader Local Law goals: safety, amenity, nuisance reduction, and environmental protection.

10.1 – ATTACHMENT 2. Draft Fenced Dog Park Technical Report Appendices

Document overview	Key takeaways
City of Whitehorse Recreation Strategy 2015-2024 This strategy was developed as a decision-making framework to guide how Council provides and plans for recreation, sport, and leisure services in Whitehorse. It was informed by engagement with the community and recreation stakeholders. The purpose of the Recreation Strategy is to: • identify strategies to encourage residents, families and visitors to incorporate more physical activity in their daily routines • develop a rationale for future provision of recreation facilities and services • provide direction on the provision of facilities that facilitate people to lead a healthy lifestyle • provide direction in relation to the type and level of support Council should provide to recreation and sport • establish short (1–3 years), medium (4–7 years) and long term (7–9 years) actions to address the findings of the project and provide a framework for monitoring the implementation of the Implementation Plan.	The Strategy takes a broad and inclusive view of recreation, recognising it as more than just organised sport. Recreation also includes informal, everyday activities such as walking, dog walking, and casual play. This broad definition provides a strong basis for considering dog parks as part of the recreation system. • The Strategy emphasises integrating activity into daily routines. Dog parks support this by offering safe, local, and convenient opportunities for residents to exercise with their pets while fostering social connection. • The Strategy specifically notes that dog walking is an *unstructured recreation activity* that benefits both pets and their owners by contributing to health and wellbeing. • Whitehorse has more than 170 playgrounds, 1,300 kilometres of shared trails, and 330+ parks. While there are a wide range of recreation facilities, open space is finite and should shared between dog owners, sports clubs, families, and other community members. • Locating recreational spaces near walking and cycling paths, community hubs, or other recreational facilities can increase their accessibility and extend their reach. • A strong focus is placed on planning for the long term and ensuring sustainable, adaptable design. • Recreational spaces should be flexible and resilient, capable of evolving with changing needs.

10.1 – ATTACHMENT 2. Draft Fenced Dog Park Technical Report Appendices

Document overview	Key takeaways
Environmentally Sustainable Design Policy for Council Buildings and Infrastructure The aim of the Policy is to incorporate and embed environmentally sustainable design (ESD) principles into all of its buildings and infrastructure (assets) that are designed, constructed and maintained for Council's operational and community use. The purpose of the Policy is to: 1. Establish a consistent approach for achieving best practice Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) outcomes in the design, construction, and operation of Council buildings and infrastructure. 2. Drive innovation and sustainability leadership in through Council processes and practices. 3. Enable Council to achieve its targets within its Sustainability Strategy 2016-2022, actions in the Interim Climate Response Plan 2020-2022, and the Urban Forest Strategy 2021-2031.	While the policy is primarily focused on infrastructure and buildings, the following objectives are relevant to dog park proposals: • Protect and conserve existing remnant indigenous vegetation. • Ensure that landscaping and plant selection is in line with the draft Whitehorse Urban Forest Strategy 2021-2031 to: improve connectivity and enhance biodiversity; and/ or reduce the urban heat island effect. • Achieve 30% canopy cover by primarily maintaining existing trees and/or planting new trees. Investigate opportunities for a high canopy cover of 40% or more, where applicable.

B. Academic Research Review

The following section reviews and summarises relevant academic research. The purpose of this review is to identify key principles that may inform the Fenced Dog Park Technical Report.

Design, Planning and Management of Off-leash Dog Parks, 2017, Bob Holderness-Roddam

This guide is designed for local councils, dog owner groups, and stakeholders involved in creating and managing off-leash dog parks. It notes that a well-designed dog park balances safety, accessibility, environmental care, and user comfort. Features like double-gated entries, clean water, shaded seating, and clear signage are essential. Optional facilties include agility zones, digging areas, and thoughtful waste solutions.

The handbook emphasises safety, usability, and environmental responsibility while providing the following design and planning considerations

Location
- Should minimise nuisance (e.g., barking, waste) to nearby residents.
- Must avoid sensitive wildlife habitats and waterways to prevent contamination.

Size & Layout
- Minimum recommended size: 4,000m2; ideally 16,000m2.
- Separate areas for large and small dogs to prevent injury.
- Linear designs encourage movement; square parks promote socialising.
- Entrances should not be at corners to avoid dog mobbing.

Infrastructure and facilities
- Minimum 2 meters high, embedded in ground. Chain-link preferred; avoid wire strands or barbed wire.
- Double-gated systems prevent escapes.
- Shade and shelter is essential for dogs and carers, especially in hot climates. Can be natural (trees) or artificial (structures).
- Seating should be safe for dogs (no gaps or slats that trap tails/paws).
- Clean, dual-access water dispensers for dogs and humans. Avoid stagnant or hard-to-clean water sources.
- Provide bags and bins. Explore composting, methane conversion, or dung beetles for waste management.
- Keep agility and exercise equipment low and safe for all dogs.
- Avoid sharp edges, protruding nails, or unstable structures.
- Washing facilities can be useful for post-play clean-up, especially after messy encounters.

Surface Materials
- Grass is common but wears easily.
- Alternatives include pine bark, gravel, concrete (for high-traffic areas), artificial turf.

Vegetation
- Avoid toxic or spiny plants.
- Maintain grass and vegetation to reduce snake risk.
- Splashing and digging areas are optional but must be shallow and well-maintained.

Management
- Dog owners should refill holes to prevent injury.
- Clear, readable signs at entrances outlining dog behavior expectations, vaccination requirements, carer responsibilities, child supervision guidelines. Avoid overly authoritarian tone; aim for educational and friendly messaging.

Dog Parks: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly, Trish King and Terry Long, published in the APDT Chronicle of the Dog (Nov/Dec 2004)

This article offers a nuanced look at the benefits and risks of dog parks, especially from a behavioral and training perspective. It concludes that dog parks can be beneficial but are not suitable for every dog. Owners must be educated, vigilant, and responsive. Trainers play a key role in helping owners understand dog behavior and make informed decisions. Below are some key considerations outlined in the article.

Benefits:

- Exercise and socialisation: Dog parks provide safe, off-leash environments for dogs to run, play, and interact with others.
- Community building: They act as social hubs where owners connect with one another, strengthening community bonds.
- Energy outlet: Particularly valuable for high-energy adolescent dogs.
- Exposure and variety: Regular interaction with different breeds and play styles can enhance dogs' social skills.

Issues and risks:

- Aggression risks, including defensive, frustration-based, and resource guarding.
- Overstimulation can reduce recall and obedience.
- Negative experiences may damage trust and the human–dog bond.
- Problematic play styles can reinforce fear, reactivity, or bullying behaviour.
- Age-related changes may reduce tolerance for social play.
- High arousal or traumatic experiences can lead to lasting behavioural issues, especially in puppies.

Keys to Successful Dog Park Design

- Double-gated entrances with visual shielding.
- Large, irregular shaped areas with natural features.
- Varied topography (trees, hills) to reduce direct confrontations.
- Structures for hiding, exploration and obstacle play.

[Extracts from] Planning, Design and Management of Off-leash Areas Technical Manual 2013-2021, LMH Consulting/Paws4Play

This comprehensive guide helps local government authorities plan, design, and manage off-leash dog areas including fenced off-leash areas. It emphasises safety, accessibility, responsible pet ownership, and community engagement. The manual provides the following items for consideration:

Terminology

- Avoid using the term "dog park" to prevent misconceptions. Advocates for "off-leash area" (OLA) and "fenced off-leash area" to reinforce public space etiquette and legal responsibilities.

Benefits and challenges of off-leash areas

- Encourage community interaction and support.
- Provide physical and mental stimulation for dogs.
- Offer inclusive recreation for apartment dwellers and older adults.
- Issues with irresponsible dog owners (e.g., not picking up waste, poor control).
- Risk of dog-on-dog or dog-on-human incidents.
- Environmental degradation and conflict with other park uses

The manual provides a strategic framework for creating inclusive, safe, and sustainable off-leash environments. It combines urban planning, animal behavior science, and community engagement to help Council's make informed decisions. Key items and recommendations include:

Size and location
- Minimum 3,000–5,000 sq m for fenced areas, ideally 10,000+ sq m.
- Avoid proximity to conflicting areas and facilities such as sensitive wildlife areas and playgrounds.
- Location should provide good passive surveillance and access for compliance officers.
- Avoid contaminated or ecologically fragile sites.
- Off-lead areas may adjoin residential properties. However, if an alternative site meets the same criteria and does not adjoin residences, it should be considered to help reduce potential community concerns. Where a site does adjoin residential properties, additional consultation with nearby residents may be required.

Design features
- Clamber mounds and rock scrambles offer elevation and sensory stimulation.
- Dry creek beds and dig pits encourage natural behaviors like digging and exploring.
- Tree groves and space breakers help manage dog movement and reduce pack behavior.

Infrastructure
- 1.2m cyclone wire fencing preferred; avoid barbed wire.
- Double-gated entries with smooth transitions and clear sightlines.
- Internal paths promote movement and accessibility.
- Water stations must be hygienic and accessible for both dogs and carers.
- Seating and shade should be designed for comfort and visibility; picnic areas should be outside of fenced areas.
- Avoid tie-up points to reduce risk of injury or aggression.

Management considerations
- Clear, educational, and welcoming signage should be provided to guide behavior.
- Council's should undertake compliance monitoring including drive-by visibility and landmark-based enforcement.
- Active supervision, control, and waste disposal should be the responsibility of dog owners. .

Dog Parks: Benefits and Liabilities, 2007, Laurel Allen

Dog Parks: Benefits and Liabilities by Laurel Allen (2007) is a capstone project submitted to the University of Pennsylvania for a Master of Environmental Studies. The study examines the benefits, challenges, and design considerations of dog parks, with the aim of providing practical guidance for communities interested in developing dog parks. Using case studies, surveys, interviews, and photographic documentation, the research highlights the role of dog parks as potential community assets when they are well-designed, properly maintained, and responsibly used.

Allen argues for the development of a comprehensive handbook to guide future dog park planning, integrating insights from environmental science, veterinary care, landscape design, and public policy. The paper identifies key benefits such as providing exercise and socialisation for dogs, reducing behavioural issues like barking and aggression, and fostering community connections among owners. It also acknowledges potential risks, including health concerns (parasites and disease transmission, particularly in puppies), behavioural challenges (aggression and pack dynamics), and environmental impacts (waste management and vegetation damage).

The study offers detailed design and management recommendations, including:
- ***Fencing:*** 1-2m in height, with separate areas for large and small dogs.
- ***Surfaces:*** alternatives to grass, such as decomposed granite, wood chips, or synthetic turf.
- ***Amenities:*** benches, shade, water fountains, waste stations, lighting, and bathrooms.
- ***Dog activities:*** agility equipment, swimming areas, and trails.
- ***Maintenance:*** consistent maintenance and regular waste removal
- ***Vegetation:*** safe plant choices (avoiding poisonous species).

Finally, the paper emphasises the importance of positive reinforcement training over punitive methods for dogs, and recommends owner education and, in some cases, behavioural screening prior to park access.

C. Engagement Material Review

The table below examines past community engagement materials from relevant projects, including the Domestic Animal Management Plan, management of dogs in parks and reserves, proposed fenced dog off-leash areas, and other related initiatives. It also considers customer requests to better understand community sentiment, key issues, and expectations.

Document / Project	Key takeaways

Managing Dog in Parks and Reserves, 2021 Consultation Results	In 2021, Council ran community consultation in relation to Managing Dogs in Parks and Reserves. Below is a snapshot of the feedback received.
	• 1,168 people responded to the survey
	• Over 63% of respondents were a registered dog owner in Whitehorse
	• When asked how they use parks and ovals, respondents most commonly said they walk or exercise with a dog (770), followed by walking or exercising without a dog (585), taking children to play (529), and playing sport (377)
	• Overall, support was expressed by 626 people, while 509 people opposed the changes, and 108 were unsure
	• Among the parks that respondents reported living near or frequently using:
	  • Kalang Park received 220 mentions
	  • Morton Park received 169 mentions
	  • Surrey Park received 56 mentions
	  • Springfield Park received 40 mentions
	• Top concerns raised included:
	  • ***Controlling dogs off-lead:*** A major concern was dogs being off-lead in inappropriate areas, leading to safety and control issues
	  • ***Dog owners:*** Many comments focused on irresponsible or inattentive dog owners, particularly regarding control and cleanup. Uncollected dog waste was a frequent complaint, especially on ovals and shared spaces. Several responses emphasised the need for better dog training and owner education.
	  • ***Wildlife impact***: Respondents worried about dogs disturbing local wildlife, particularly in bushland and wetland areas.
	  • ***Sports conflicts:*** Shared use of ovals for sports and dogs was seen as problematic, with mentions of damage to grounds and interference during games.
	  • ***Need for fencing:*** Some called for fenced areas to safely separate dogs from other park users.
	  • ***Access and space:*** There were mixed views on the availability and fairness of access to off-lead areas.
	  • ***Safety:*** Broader safety concerns were raised, including fear of dog attacks or unpredictable behavior. Concerns about dogs interacting with children, especially in playgrounds and school routes, were common.
	• The consultation data revealed community support for dedicated, fenced dog parks, particularly those that separate small and large dogs. Respondents also emphasised the need for clearer signage, increased council presence, and consistent enforcement of rules to ensure responsible dog ownership and safe use of shared spaces.

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Customer Service Requests received by Council	The following summary outlines the customer service requests received by Council regarding dog off-leash facilities. These requests reflect community concerns and suggestions related off-leash areas across the in Whitehorse: • ***Conflict with sports clubs:*** Concerns about sporting fields being overtaken by sporting clubs, limiting access and creating safety issues. • ***Need for fenced dog parks:*** Strong support for secure, enclosed spaces for dogs especially for small or reactive dogs. • ***Safety concerns:*** Risks related to open gates, proximity to roads, and lack of containment for dogs and children. • ***Dog waste and cleanliness:*** Requests for more bins and better waste management to address hygiene issues. • ***Owner responsibility and education:*** Calls for better education on dog behavior, training, and responsible ownership. • ***Council communication and transparency:*** Frustration over lack of consultation and perceived bias toward sports groups. • ***Community health and wellbeing:*** Emphasis on the social and emotional value of dog parks, especially post-COVID. • ***Infrastructure:*** Ideas for better park design, signage, lighting, and shared-use planning.
East Burwood Draft Master Plan	The draft Master Plan for East Burwood Reserve (dated 14/03/25) proposed a fenced dog off leash area to the southern portion of the site. Council received several objections citing the following concerns: • ***Proximity to residences:*** Residents expressed worries about increased noise levels and the impact on their quality of life. • ***Dog waste:*** Concerns were raised about unpleasant odours and the potential for waste to enter waterways via nearby easements. • ***Health impacts:*** Individuals with dog allergies or respiratory conditions feared exposure to fur and airborne particles. Additionally, there were concerns about the spread of parasites, fleas, and ticks to nearby pets such as chickens, dogs, and cats. • ***Site conditions:*** The proposed location is known to be prone to waterlogging, making it unsuitable for dogs and increased foot traffic. • ***Safety:*** Residents highlighted the possibility of dogs escaping the fenced area or making unwanted contact with other park users, particularly children and the elderly. • ***Traffic and parking:*** Increased visitation to the dog park could exacerbate traffic congestion, especially on game days, and lead to overflow parking in surrounding residential streets. • ***Preservation of passive recreation:*** The reserve is valued for its natural environment and quiet recreational use, which residents fear may be compromised by the proposed changes.
Eley Park	Council received a petition from local residents and dog owners, supported by State MP for Box Hill, Paul Hamer, requesting improvements to the existing dog off-leash area at Eley Park. The petition called for the addition of several amenities to enhance safety, accessibility, and enjoyment for both dogs and their owners. These included drinking water, lighting, rubbish bins, seating, shade, fencing and dog waste bags.
Vermont	In August 2020, Council received a petition from local residents, requesting a dog-off leash park in Vermont, stating that dog ownership is increasing yet there is no local off-leash area. The petition, which received 357 signatures, calls for a park with at least two sections, one for small dogs and one for large dogs.

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Mahoney's and Morton Sports Fields	Earlier this year, Council notified users of Mahoney's Reserve and Morton Park West that the gates to the sports fields would be locked open. Shortly after, Council reversed this decision in response to community feedback, which highlighted several key concerns: • ***Lack of consultation:*** Residents were not informed or consulted before gate changes at Morton Park, leading to confusion and frustration. • ***Safety:*** Permanently open gates near busy roads and car parks pose risks, especially for children and neurodivergent individuals who rely on safe dog-walking routines. • ***Disproportionate impact on dog owners:*** Dog owners are the most frequent users of Morton Park, yet Whitehorse lacks a dedicated dog park despite high registration fees. In response to Council's decision to lock the gates open, two petitions were received from the community: • One petition with 317 signatures request the Council to immediately reverse its recent decision to lock open the perimeter gates at Morton Park • An electronic petition with 778 signatures was also submitted, supporting the decision to lock the gates open at Morton Park to reduce sports field maintenance, enhance safety,and improve playing conditions.
Simpson Park Proposed Enclosed Dog Park	In 2021, a proposal was put forward to establish a 6,000m² fenced off-leash dog park at Simpson Park. However, following community consultation and feedback, it was recommended that Council not proceed with the plan in its proposed form. In response to the community's concerns, Council engaged LMH Consulting to review the consultation data, assess the feedback, and provide a summary report to inform future decision-making. Below is a summary of that report. The Simpson Park Fenced Off-Leash Area (FOLA) Report, prepared by LMH Consulting, evaluates community feedback on a proposed fenced dog area. Out of 360 survey responses, 55.6% supported the proposal while 44.4% opposed it. Supporters cited benefits such as improved dog containment, reduced conflict with other park users, and the creation of a social hub for dog owners. They also noted the lack of similar facilities nearby and advocated for equitable recreational space for dog owners. However, many also expressed concerns about the design, size, and accessibility of the proposed area. Opponents argued that the park already functions well without fencing, offering flexible use for both dog owners and other visitors. They raised concerns about visual clutter, reduced access for non-dog users, and the potential for overcrowding and degradation in a confined space. The report highlights the need for responsible dog ownership, better education, and enforcement rather than relying solely on fencing. It recommends that council consider a broader Dog Off-Leash Policy, improve community education, and ensure any design changes are informed by thoughtful planning and community needs.
Box Hill Gardens	In mid-2024, Council received a petition, which received 70 signatures, requesting the establishment of an off-leash dog park within Box Hill Gardens.

D. Case Studies

Small Dog Parks

Small dog parks are typically small (less than 3000m2) and primarily serve nearby residents for short visits, providing convenient, walkable access within residential areas, particularly those with higher-density housing. They are often fenced, and include amenities such as seating, bins, shade, and water. The examples below are located in metropolitan Melbourne and are publicly accessible spaces managed by Council.



Eades Dog Park, West Melbourne

- Approximately 2,200 m²
- Features lighting, rocks, logs and plants, seats, bins, double entry gate, dog toy library, drinking fountain, a mix of surfaces such as sand, mulch, paving, grassy areas, vegetation.
- A very popular park with an average of 212 visitors per day, Wednesday at 5pm being the busiest time. The amenities are popular, though some users have noted small size, dusty conditions and limited lighting in some areas.



Bundoora Park Fenced Dog Park, Bundoora

- Approximately 1,350 m² situated within the larger Bundoora Park.
- Features double-gated entrances, a water tap, seating, a waste bin, and a compact agility course. Grass, compacted gravel and earth surface.
- Users appreciate the fully fenced secure area, grassy surface, agility course, amenities, proximity to walking paths and parking. Users have raised issues with some worn patches of grass due to high use and limited shade.



Moray Street Reserve Fenced Dog Park, Southbank

- Approximately 400 m²
- Features a compacted gravel surface, tunnels, rocks, tyres and logs, double entry gates at both ends, water tap with bowl, bins, waste bags, seating, undercover section.
- Users appreciate the undercover area for rainy days, as well as the amenities and play features. Concerns raised include the small size, a lack of greenery, and drainage issues causing pooled water and mud after rain. The bins are outside the fence so users have to leave the enclosure to dispose of waste.



Curtain Square Fenced Dog Park Carlton North

- Approximately 920 m² situated within the larger Curtain Square.
- A fully enclosed area in an L-shape. Includes a gravel base, bins, shaded seating, waste dispensers, water tap with bowl.
- Users like the seating under shady trees, and amenities in the surrounding park. Big dogs can mix with small ones, which can feel intimidating for owners of smaller or shy dogs. Some benches are close to the fence, so dogs could potentially jump onto benches and over fence in some spots. Gravel base can get dusty or muddy.

Destination Dog Parks

Destination dog parks are typically large, high-amenity spaces that provide multi-layered experiences for dogs and their owners. They often include off-leash play areas, agility equipment, water features, walking trails, and spaces for community events or other interactive activities. These parks attract visitors from across the municipality and support longer stays, social gatherings, and recreational use. Destination dog parks are best suited to a broad catchment, often municipal or regional, where demand for high-quality dog facilities is strong, and can complement other recreation or tourism hubs.



Bark Park, Henderson, Nevada, USA

- Council managed open space, publicly accessible.
- 5 acres.
- Features dog runs, agility course, walking trail, themed furniture, drinking stations, splash pads, classes and programs, dog shows and events.
- People like the agility course, walking trails, grassed areas, splashpads, amenities and themed items and general cleanliness. Users raised issues with the ground surface being too rough or hot for dog paws. Some wanted the water features enclosed so they can choose to avoid it.



Dog Mountain, St. Johnsbury, Vermont, USA

- Non-for profit run private property, publicly accessible.
- 150 acres, entirely off leash.
- Features a dog chapel, art gallery hiking trails, ponds.
- Visitors love the expansive off-leash areas, scenic trails, dog-themed art, and community-focused events that celebrate the bond between humans and dogs. Some visitors note limited amenities, such as restrooms and shaded areas.



Perro Parque, León, Mexico

- Municipal government facility, paid entry.
- 6 acres, located within a zoo precinct.
- Features jogging track, training areas, agility equipment, wading pool and artificial lake, on-site veterinary services.
- Users like the amenities and services, affordable cost, and multiple activities/ experiences. Users have reported issues with water cleanliness, lack of general maintenance, limited hours. It can be underused outside of event periods.



Beneful Dream Dog Parks, multiple locations, USA

- Council managed (competition won funding), publicly accessible.
- Size and location varies.
- Features climbing rocks, shaded seating, tables, elevation change for varied exercising, holding area at entrance, large and small dog areas, padded walking track, miniature fetch football field, pet waste stations, splash pads, synthetic surface, tennis balls, tunnel and hoops, water drinking stations.
- Users like the amenities and friendly atmosphere.

Rooftop/Vertical Dog Parks

Rooftop and vertical dog parks are purpose-built exercise and play areas located on rooftops or podium levels of buildings. They typically include agility features, toys, waste disposal stations, water, secure fencing, and seating. These parks provide off-leash options where ground-level open space is limited, particularly in high-density urban environments. These parks are usually privately owned and are often accessible only to specific users.



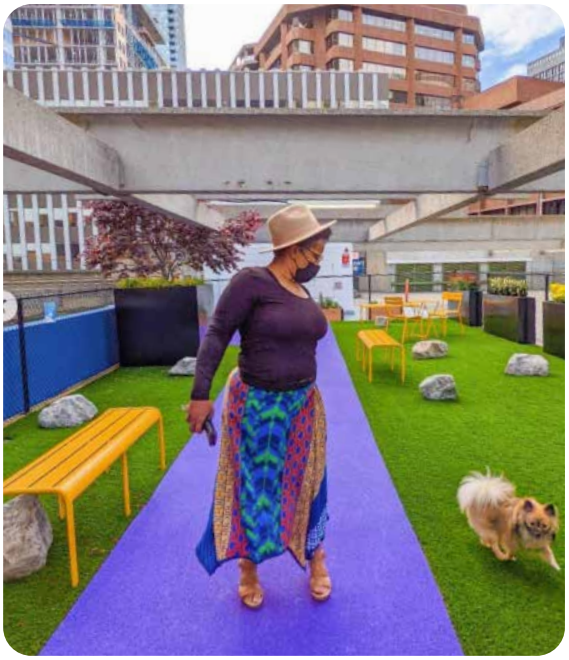
Assemble, 15 Thompson Street, Kensington

- Private residential building, residents only.
- Approximately 75-80 m^2
- Features a dog run, agility equipment, dog wash station.



Hyatt Centric Wooftop Park, Miami

- Private hotel, access for hotel guests only.
- Approximately 35-40 m^2.
- Features a dog run, water bowls, toys and waste bags.
- The Wooftop Park's visibility and promotion in media outlets suggest that it is a well-utilised amenity.



Thurlow Parkade, Bentall Centre, Vancouver

- Private parking complex, publicly accessible.
- Approximately 200 m^2
- Features art murals, play area, tables, seating, waste bags and water stations.
- There are positive comments about the murals, and some criticism of the artificial turf. It is claimed by City of Vancouver that it is a popular space, though data on usage is not publicly available.



Doggie Deck, Amazon Doppler Building, Seattle

- Private corporate building, access for employees only.
- Approximately 120 m^2.
- Features a play area, logs/rocks, waste bag and water stations.
- There are over 2,000 dogs registered at Amazon headquarters, allowing staff to bring their dogs to work and utilise the facilities.

Nature-based or Eco Dog Parks

Nature-based or eco dog parks are landscaped with natural elements such as logs, rocks, water features, and native planting, with minimal built structures. They provide a stimulating, naturalistic environment for dogs while enhancing biodiversity. These parks are best suited to larger reserves where environmental outcomes are a priority.



Sue Higgins Park, Calgary Canada

- Council managed park, publicly accessible.
- 150 acre enclosure in a natural setting.
- Features agility equipment, open fields, walking trails, fenced areas direct access to Bow River with shallow splashing areas and deeper swimming zones.
- Busy on weekends and weeknights. Visitors love the natural setting, water, trails, amenities. Common complaints raised are mud and wetness after rain/snow, glass/ rubbish at water entry points, crowding, poor dog recall, insufficient parking.



Lake Claremont Dog Agility Park, Western Australia

- Council managed park, publicly accessible.
- Fenced area approximately 22-25,000m^2, located within a larger park with a conservation category wetland.
- Includes nature themed agility equipment, sandpit and seating, water fountain.
- Visitors like the scenic location, natural timber equipment and community engagement events. Concerns raised are not enough shade, seating and waste bins, need for more frequent grass maintenance.



Thomas Oval Dog Park, Como Park North

- Council managed park, publicly accessible.
- Approximately 4600 m^2
- Includes both "active" and "quiet" zones; sandpits, mounded lawn, grassed play zone, a dry riverbed, stone boulders, feature redgum log, seating, fence, shade, night lighting.
- Busy on weekends and afternoons. Visitors like the separate zones, varied terrain and play elements, amenities, cleanliness and security, integration into surrounding landscape. There is some criticism about lack of shade (due to immature trees), crowding, insufficient seating and parking.



Yarra Bend Park, Fairfield

- Parks Victoria managed park, publicly accessible.
- 223 hectares of natural bushland.
- Features walking trails, playground, nurseries, a fly casting pool, kiosk, boat ramp, BBQs, playground, information shelters, picnic shelters and toilets. Dogs are allowed in most of the park, some areas require dogs to be leashed.
- The park receives approximately 1.5 million visitors per year. Visitors love the natural setting and wildlife, recreational activities and amenities. Concerns have been raised about the river water quality, limited lighting at dusk/ evening and inconsistent maintenance.

Pop-up or Temporary Dog Parks

Pop-up or temporary dog parks use flexible, relocatable fencing and amenities, and may include seasonal, trial-based, or themed programming. They are designed to test demand, activate vacant land, and fill gaps while permanent dog facilities are planned. These parks also provide community-focused experiences through events and competitions, and can offer a marketing platform for pet brands. Pop-up dog parks are best suited to transitional or redevelopment areas, short-term activations, and engaging communities with novel, dog-friendly experiences.



Theme Bark, Port Melbourne

- Private event (2022 and 2023), paid entry.
- Held at Port Melbourne Industrial Centre for the Arts (PICA) courtyard (which an host large events such as music festivals).
- Featured play zones including obstacle course and ball pit, events such as pageants, talent shows and races, grooming services, market stalls, puppaccinos and doggy ice cream, food trucks, bars, and live music.
- This was a one day popup event, which was repeated in 2023 after having sold out in 2022.



Pop-Up Dog Parks, Edmonton, Canada

- Council run open spaces, publicly accessible.
- Size and location varies.
- The City of Edmonton temporarily installed 19 Pop-up Dog Parks in 2023
- Featured fencing, etiquette and boundary signage, dog waste bag dispensers and bins.
- It was determined that 14 of the parks were in medium to high demand from local residents.



Ginninderry Temporary Dog Park, Canberra

- Private development, publicly accessible.
- Approximately 26,000 m^2
- Temporary facility that will operate for approximately 3-5 years on a future energy substation block.
- Fully fenced with separate small and large dog areas, seating, shade structures, drinking fountains for people and animals, bin and waste bag dispensers, parking. Located adjacent a children's nature play park.
- The developer reported receiving positive feedback from the community, noting that the park had been viewed over 10,000 times on Google and that local residents and their dogs were enjoying the space. Community members actively contributed to the park's design through workshops



Pets in the Park, Malvern East

- Council run event with free access.
- 2.5 hectares in Central Park.
- One day event featuring pet related presentations, competitions, activities, information and market stalls.
- A popular yearly event. Attendees praised the event's organisation and variety of activities, expert talks and demonstrations.

Private Dog Playgrounds / Membership Parks

Private dog playgrounds or membership parks are commercially operated spaces with entry fees or membership requirements. They often include premium facilities such as obstacle courses, pools, or dog cafés. These parks provide controlled access for those seeking specialised or less crowded environments and are best suited to supplementing public dog facilities in areas of high demand.



Bark Park, Moorabbin

- Private business available to customers only.
- Features separate zones for big and small dogs, indoor dog playground, events such as breed meet-ups, playdates, private functions, on-site café and grooming services.
- The centre is praised for its clean facilities, friendly staff, and the opportunity for dogs to socialise in a safe setting. Visitors like that it is indoors, so can be used during rainy weather.



Wookie Dogs Adventure Playground, Swan Valley, Western Australia

- Private "doggie daycare"available to customers only. Fully supervised facility.
- 6 acres.
- Features an open grassed area with access to water for swimming, double gated access.
- Customers provided positive feedback for its spaciousness and secure environment. Some reviews mention that the park can get muddy during wet weather, which may affect the experience.



Slate Cafe, Western Australia

- Private business available to customers only.
- Café with enclosed dog playground and agility equipment.
- The cafe appears to have been very popular, however did shut down in 2024 due to rising expenses.



DOG PPL, Santa Monica, USA

- Private club available to members only.
- 20,000 square feet (approximately 1,858 m²).
- High-end, curated dog park experience; wifi, speakers, complimentary filtered water, concierge, human & canine sunscreen, waste bags, canine wellness amenities, blankets & towels, shade, heaters, seating, events.
- Visitors appreciate the spacious, safe, and well-maintained environment, community atmosphere, and amenities for both dogs and owners. Some members find the membership fees high, the membership-only access restrictive, and booking availability limited.

Shared-use or Multi-functional Open Space

Shared-use or multi-functional open spaces integrate off-leash dog areas with other recreational uses, such as sports fields during off-peak times or sculpture parks. These spaces maximise land efficiency and are best suited to suburbs with limited available land or where creative co-use adds value



Ellen Clark Sculpture Dog Park, St Louis Missouri USA

- Private university owned facility, publicly accessible.
- Size: approximately 4000 m^2
- Features sculptures, benches, water fountains and bowls, waste bag dispenser, night lighting.
- Visitors appreciate the park's blend of art and open space, noting that it's a pleasant spot for both dogs and their owners to enjoy. Some visitors have expressed concerns about the fencing not extending to the ground, allowing small dogs to slip out, and the park becoming muddy when it rains.



Marks Park, Tamarama, NSW

- Council managed open space, publicly accessible.
- Over 8000m^2 available to dogs.
- Coastal park with ocean views. Includes shady trees, seating areas, playground, toilet block, bins and bags for dog waste, water for dogs. Timed off-leash use.
- Dogs are permitted off-leash daily from 4:30pm to 8:30am. Off-leash access is suspended during Sculptures by the Sea.
- There have been concerns raised regarding safety due to the lack of fencing around the playground. Some visitors have noted that shaded areas and waste disposal facilities are limited.



Glenorchy Art Sculpture Park (GASP), Tasmania

- Non-profit organisation managed open space, publicly accessible.
- Approximately 2.362 hectares.
- Features sculpture/art paths, river/foreshore walk, mixed on and off-leash areas.
- Visitors appreciate GASP for its scenic walking paths and the opportunity to enjoy art in a natural setting.



Lights on For Dogs, Bayside City Council

- Council managed sportsgrounds, publicly accessible.
- Size and location varies
- A winter program designed to provide dog owners with safe, lit spaces to exercise their pets during the darker months. The program operates on specific evenings at selected sportsgrounds when they are not in use for organised sports.
- The council engaged with 165 community members - including dog owners, sports clubs, and residents. The feedback indicated strong support for the program, with many participants appreciating the extended hours and improved safety for evening dog walks. The council plans to continue the program, considering its positive reception and the benefits it brings to the community.

10.2 Draft Indoor Sports Plan Endorsement for Community Consultation Round 2

Attachment 1 Draft Indoor Sports Plan

Attachment 2 Draft Indoor Sports Plan Appendices

10.2 – ATTACHMENT 1. Draft Indoor Sports Plan



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Otium acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal, Torres Strait and South Sea Islander peoples of this nation. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which our company is located and where we conduct our business. We pay our respects to ancestors and to Elders, past, present and emerging. Otium is committed to national reconciliation and respect for Indigenous peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas, and their rich contribution to society.

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Otium Planning Group would like to acknowledge the staff, user groups and community from the City of Whitehorse and State Sporting Associations that have provided their expertise and input to the **Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan**.

Their valuable insights and feedback have been instrumental in shaping the strategic directions for the Plan.

Wominjeka

We respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri people as the traditional owners of the land on which we work and live. We pay our respect to their Elders both past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the original inhabitants of the land and their long and continuing connection to Country.

We are committed to national reconciliation and respect for indigenous peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land and waters, and their rich contribution to society.



Figure 1: Blackburn Lake Sanctuary (Source: Whitehorse City Council)

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10.2 – ATTACHMENT 1. Draft Indoor Sports Plan

1. The Project

The **Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan** (Plan) is a key strategic document that provides clear, evidence-based direction and priorities for indoor sports activities to meet the Whitehorse community's current and future needs.

The project has involved extensive market research and community engagement with key stakeholders and the Whitehorse community, a detailed demand and supply analysis, and an exploration of issues and development options. The Plan includes a strategic vision, objectives, and recommendations.

The Plan provides a road map to **optimise the use** and **increase the capacity** of existing indoor sports facilities across the City of Whitehorse and consider the development of new indoor sports facilities where required and appropriate. This road map will inform strategic partnerships and future investment decisions, so the Whitehorse City Council (Council) invests in the right locations, at the right time, and to the right standard.

Sports included in this Plan:

- Badminton
- Basketball
- Calisthenics
- Cricket (Indoor)
- Fencing
- Futsal
- Gymnastics
- Netball (Indoor and covered outdoor)
- Table Tennis
- Volleyball
- Martial Arts
- Emerging Sports



Figure 2: Nunawading Basketball Centre

1.1 The Approach

The following planning approach (methodology) was undertaken for the project.

The Draft Report will guide further engagement with key stakeholders and the community. Based on feedback received a Final Report will be presented to the Council's for adoption.

Feasibility studies for the Nunawading Basketball Stadium Redevelopment and a new Table Tennis Centre are being prepared concurrently and will be informed by the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan.

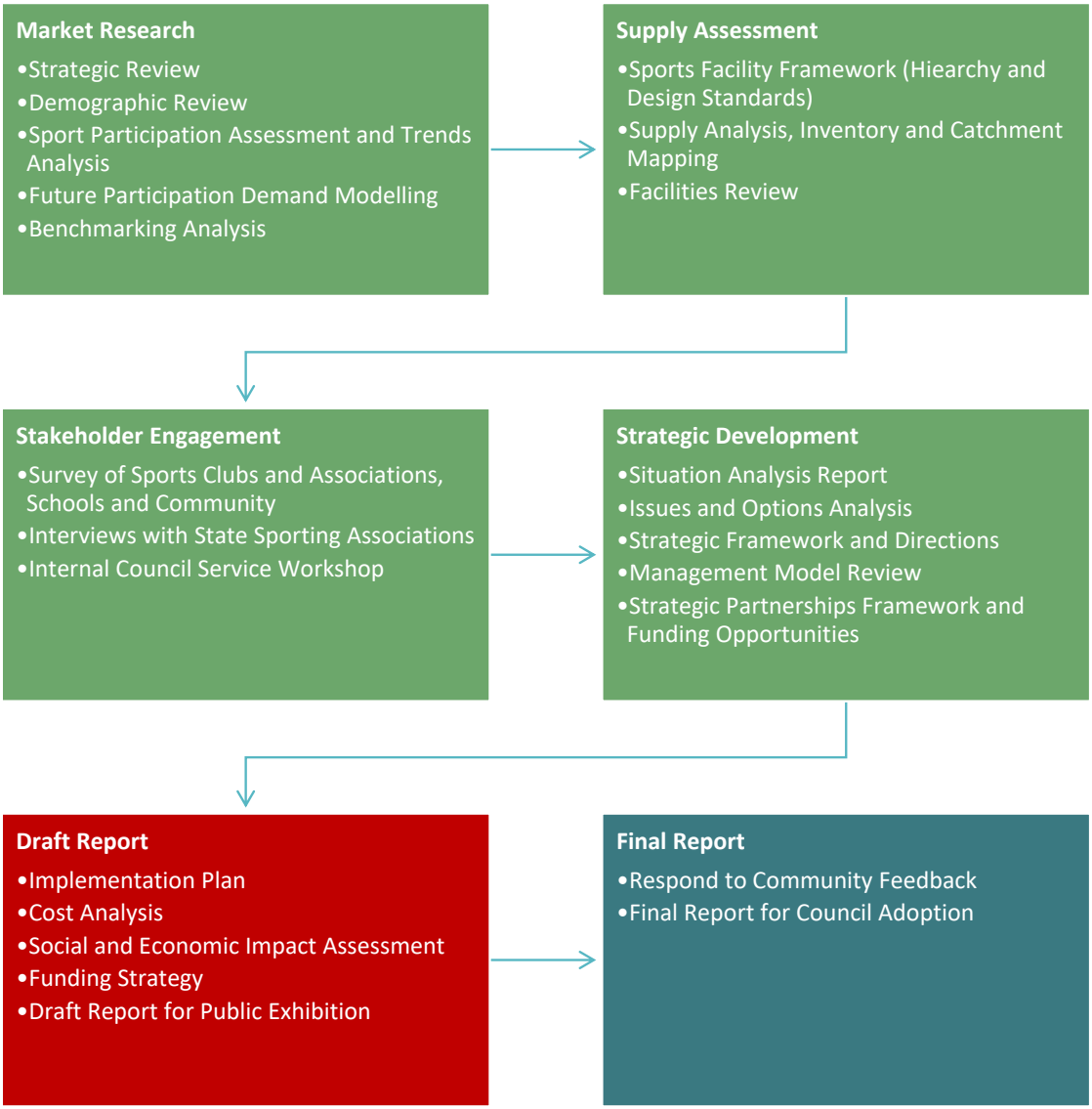


Figure 3: Planning Process

2. Key Drivers of the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Strategy

The Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan is influenced by three key drivers:

- Strategic Analysis – What strategic commitments and relationships influence the Plan?
- Community and Stakeholder Engagement – What did we hear from key stakeholders and the broader community on the use of indoor sports facilities, key issues and development ideas?
- Demand and Supply Analysis - What indoor sports facilities do we have and what do we need to meet current and future demand?

2.1 Strategic Analysis

A review of all strategic documents, including the City of Whitehorse strategies and master plans, State Government and peak sporting bodies strategies, was undertaken to understand the key strategies and recommendations that may influence or impact indoor sport activities in Whitehorse.

Refer to **Appendix 4** Strategic Review for a detailed analysis of strategic documents. The key findings indicate:



There is strategic support for improving the provision of indoor sports facilities in the City of Whitehorse



Local Government must provide equitable access to indoor sports facilities and services



Peak Sporting Bodies seek additional access to indoor sports courts in Whitehorse to grow participation

The City of Whitehorse strategic plans support indoor sports facilities and programs as key components for enhancing community health and wellbeing.

The Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan aligns with the Council's strategic commitments to high-standard recreation facilities that foster access to a range of services and amenities that meet future community indoor sport needs, as outlined in the Community Vision 2040, the recently endorsed Council Plan 2025-29, including the Council Action Plan 25-26 and the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 25-26.

These Council strategic documents emphasise improving community health and wellbeing (Theme Seven of Community Vision 2040) as a key outcome for providing indoor sports facilities.

The below strategic directions and objectives are relevant to the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan:

- The Strategic Direction "Community" emphasizes making sure people are active and feel healthy. Community health data shows that 66% of people in Whitehorse do not obtain sufficient exercise for good health, highlighting the need for related initiatives.
- Within this Strategic Direction, Objective 1.3: A healthy and active community is a core objective within the Integrated Council Plan 2025–2029.

- One of the five Key Health and Wellbeing Strategies identified is to support community initiatives to promote health and prevent disease, which specifically includes a focus on active living.
- Council measures progress toward this objective by tracking indicators such as maintaining or increasing sport and recreation participation, and improving health and wellbeing through Council-run programs.
- Under Strategic Direction 2 (Built), Objective 2.2 focuses on well-used community facilities and shared spaces, with a strategy to plan for and provide suitable and accessible recreation spaces for all.
- Strategic indicators monitor satisfaction with recreational facilities and utilisation of Council-run sport/leisure facilities.

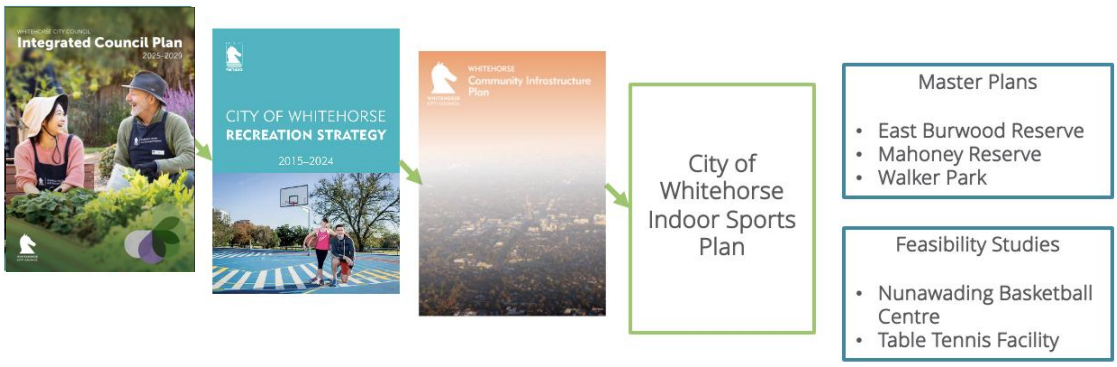
The strategies also provide a framework for planning infrastructure, programs and services to enhance community benefits. The Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan will deliver recommendations based on sound, evidence-based data to meet current and future indoor sports needs and promote a more active community.

The Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan will inform a review of the Whitehorse Recreation Strategy. The Plan will integrate with the council's other strategic plans, including the Long-Term Financial Plan, Asset Plan, Four-Year Budget, Revenue and Rating Plan, Workforce Plan, and Community Engagement Policy.

The Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan will build on the findings of the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Feasibility Study 2020.

Following the adoption of this Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan and consideration of supporting feasibility studies into the Nunawading Basketball Centre Redevelopment and a regional table tennis centre, the Council will consider including priority projects in its long-term financial plan and relevant Capital Works Plans.

The graphic shows the hierarchy of strategies and how they relate to each other, from the Council Plan setting the goal for community health and wellbeing, the Recreation Strategy outlining the facilities and services we need to achieve this goal, the Indoor Sports Plan identifying the current state of play and strategic directions for indoor sports facilities and services in Whitehorse, and the master plans and feasibility studies informing site specific responses to deliver on strategic directions.



Strategic Plans for badminton, calisthenics and table tennis include actions that support developing pathways to participate through accessible facilities that meet the needs of the sport and have the capacity to grow competitions, programs and use.

State Facilities Plans for basketball, football (soccer), gymnastics, netball, and volleyball identified a shortfall of indoor sports courts and identified that existing facilities within Whitehorse are at capacity. Since the development of these strategies, new indoor sports facilities have been constructed in the Metropolitan Eastern Region that serve the Whitehorse community. These include the Mullum Mullum Stadium (Manningham), Maroondah Nets extension (Maroondah) and State Basketball and Gymnastics Centre extension (Knox).

2.2 Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Whitehorse residents and key indoor sports stakeholders had the opportunity to provide input to help shape the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan. The engagement was conducted in August 2024 and included:

- Community survey of the Whitehorse community - 928 respondents were interviewed.
- Survey of local sporting clubs and associations - 29 respondents to the survey.
- Survey of local schools - 19 respondents to the survey.
- Interviews with relevant State Sporting Associations (SSAs).
- Interviews with a targeted local sporting club and association. The clubs and associations chosen include those that are key tenants or managers of facilities and competitions.
- Internal Council Officer discussions.

Refer to **Appendix 8,** Community and Stakeholder Engagement Findings Paper, for a detailed analysis of engagement results. The community and key stakeholder findings indicate:

The community highly values indoor sport facilities and programs. Providing additional facilities and inclusive and affordable programs encourage indoor sports participation.



Local and state sporting associations report high participation in indoor sports and call for more facilities to meet current and future demand



Local associations, clubs and schools confirm an increased demand for indoor sport facilities



There is targeted youth engagement and new programs being introduced to increase participation



There is a need to upgrade existing indoor sport facilities to meet current standards



Both clubs and schools are open to partnerships with the Council to develop and manage new or upgraded indoor sports facilities



Identified barriers to participation, including rising living costs and limited access to affordable facilities, are significant across all groups



There is a strong emphasis on inclusivity and accessibility in programming across clubs and schools

Local Associations and Club and State Sporting Associations confirm very high participation across all indoor sports and advocate for additional indoor sports facilities to meet current (latent) and future demand

Local Clubs and Associations are advocating for additional indoor sport courts and facilities in Whitehorse.

The key reasons raised include:

- Population growth is resulting in an increase in participation levels.
- Continued growth in participation numbers from entry to elite levels.
- There is targeted youth engagement and new programs being introduced to increase participation.
- Insufficient courts and facilities to meet current and future participation demand.
- Existing courts and facilities are not fit for purpose.
- Existing facilities are ageing and require renewal.

State Sporting Associations confirm high indoor sport participation levels across all indoor sports in Whitehorse compared to Victoria. The participation data shows that this is particularly the case for badminton, basketball, calisthenics, fencing and netball. The basketball and netball associations have very strong governance models and offer a participation model from entry-level development programs through to elite sports programs. All State Sporting Associations report high competition for the use of existing courts and a need for additional courts to maintain current indoor sport programming benefits and to service current (latent) and future participation demands.

Non-traditional indoor sports like badminton, table tennis, sport climbing are seeking community and commercial partnerships to service participation interest in their sports, due to the lack of access to existing facilities.

The following points summarise the key themes from the community, school and clubs/associations surveys.

Local Association and Clubs and School confirm an increased demand for indoor sport facilities

The local club and school survey results demonstrate a significant demand for additional indoor sports facilities. Both clubs and schools report the need for more courts to accommodate rising participation levels. Clubs highlighted increased engagement in sports like basketball and badminton, while schools need more spaces, particularly for women's sports like netball.

There is targeted youth engagement and new programs being introduced to increase participation

Clubs are driving membership growth through targeted youth engagement and program expansion. By focusing on health and wellness initiatives, clubs are attracting younger participants, which is mirrored by schools reaching or nearing maximum enrolment capacities due to facility improvements and adaptive programs that cater to the changing demographics.

All stakeholders and community report a need to upgrade existing indoor sport facilities

While many respondents express general satisfaction with their facilities, there are notable concerns regarding the quality of infrastructure. Issues such as inadequate lighting, ageing facilities, and worn-out floors were frequently raised in the club and community surveys. Schools reported similar limitations that affect their ability to meet the demands of students and the community effectively.

Many clubs and schools are open to partnerships with the Council to develop and manage new or upgraded indoor sports facilities

This collaborative approach aims to facilitate shared use between schools, clubs and the community, maximising resource utilisation and improving access to sports facilities for all residents.

The chart shows that eleven of the schools that responded to the survey, eleven had indoor sports courts. The schools indicated they are reaching or nearing maximum capacity, indicating a high demand for enrolments. Some of these schools will be entitled to an additional sports court, which may represent an opportunity for the Council to partner with schools to obtain community access and use outside school hours.

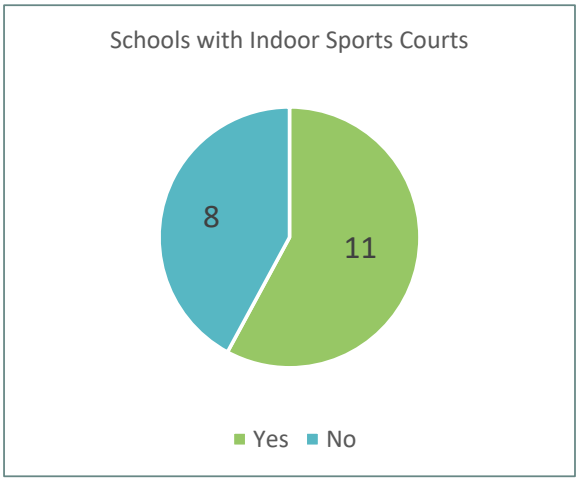


Figure 4: Schools in the City of Whitehorse with indoor sports courts

The community report barriers to participation, including rising living costs and limited access to affordable facilities, are significant across all groups

Whitehorse residents use indoor sports courts frequently, at least once a week. The sports most played by respondents were basketball (328 responses), table tennis (168 responses), badminton (146 responses), netball (131 responses), and gymnastics (90 responses). Survey respondents indicated that the main reason for participating in indoor sports was health and fitness, followed by being part of a team and for social activities.

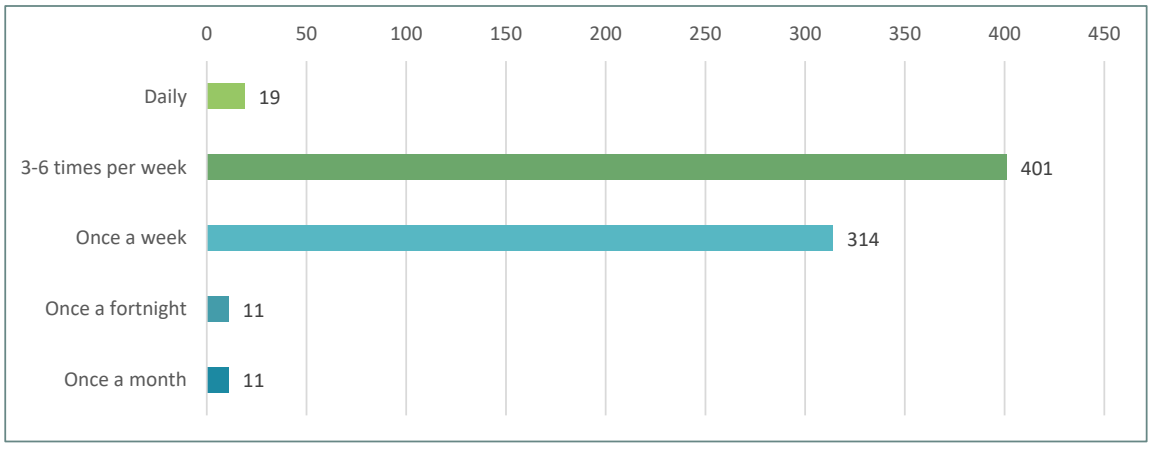


Figure 5: Frequency of Play Indoor Sports

The main reasons for participating in indoor sports are shown in the following graph.

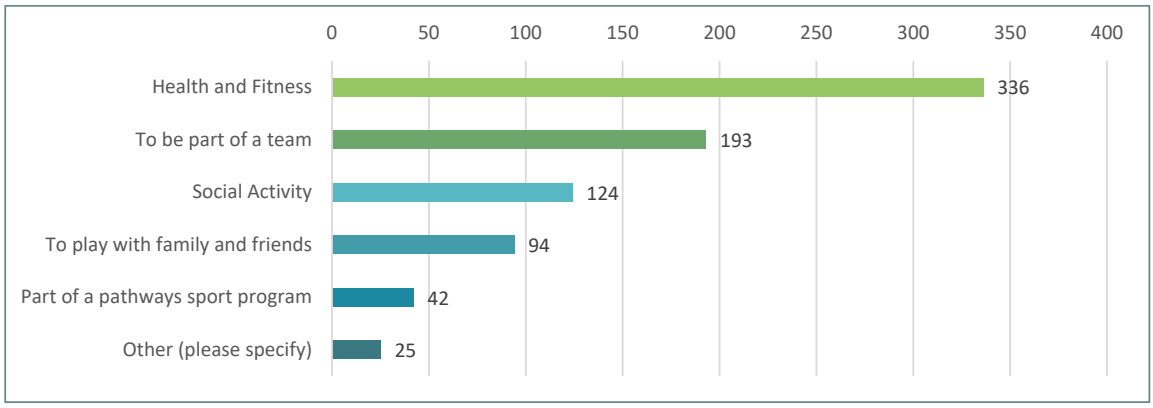


Figure 6: Reasons to Participate in Indoor Sports

Clubs and community members note that the lack of facilities nearby and the costs affect engagement, while schools face competition from neighbouring institutions with better amenities, highlighting the need for improved local infrastructure.

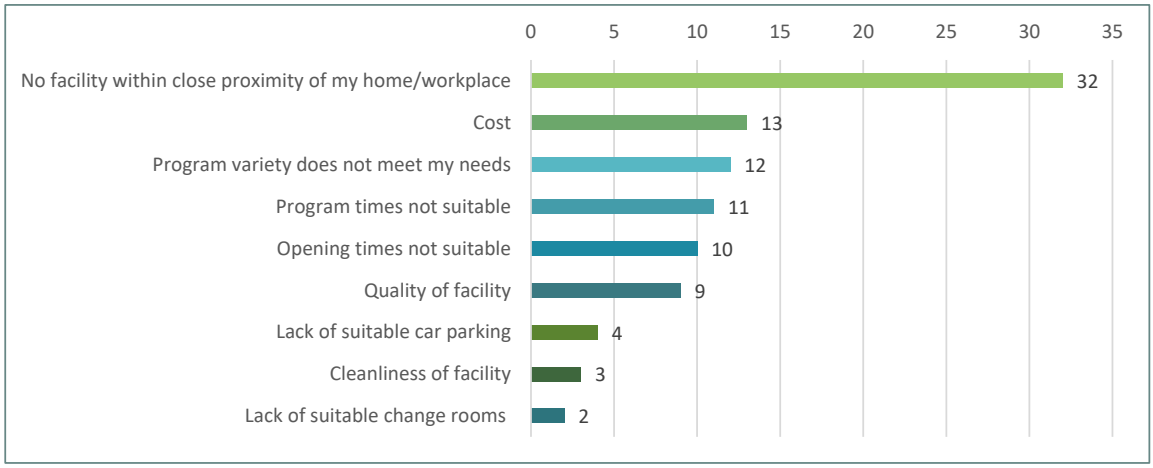


Figure 7: Barriers for Participation in Indoor Sports

There is a strong emphasis on inclusivity and accessibility in programming across clubs and schools

Efforts are being made to ensure opportunities are available for diverse groups, including women, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. Clubs advocate for accessible facilities with better parking and seating, while schools recognise the necessity for specialised support services, particularly for young deaf children.

2.3 Demand and Supply Analysis

A detailed analysis of current and future demand for indoor sports facilities in the City of Whitehorse was undertaken, including an understanding of who we are planning for and whether our current supply of indoor sports facilities can provide for the current and future participation demand for indoor sports facilities.

2.3.1 Supply Analysis

Who?

Local Government, schools and commercial entities provide indoor sports facilities

The responsibility for initiating, developing and operating sporting and recreation facilities in a local government area is complex and multifaceted. Local governments, schools and commercial entities collectively provide a comprehensive sports provision network that supports community health and engagement, addresses gaps in facility and/or service provision and fosters economic development. This collaborative approach ensures that the community's needs are met through diverse and accessible sports and recreation opportunities.

Local governments play a crucial role in providing community sport and recreation facilities. We manage a variety of venues, from local parks to leisure centres, enabling a wide range of leisure activities and sports to take place. Councils also have an important leadership role, bringing together schools, voluntary sports clubs, national governing bodies of sport, health organisations, and the private sector to forge partnerships, remove barriers to participation, and improve the local sports delivery network.

School facilities also play a significant role in providing sports opportunities. Schools often have sports courts and fields that serve both school and community sports activities. For example, Blackburn High School has a single court used for basketball training, junior-level competitions and social netball. The Department of Education encourages schools to collaborate with local governments and community organisations to share facilities and develop school infrastructure. This collaboration aims to benefit the wider community's educational, recreational, sporting and cultural needs, thereby maximising community assets.

Commercial organisations often fill gaps in local government provision by offering additional sports facilities and programs. For instance, due to the lack of access to existing facilities, non-traditional indoor sports like badminton, table tennis and sport climbing seek community and commercial partnerships to service participation interest in their sports. Commercial entities collaborate with local governments and schools to provide sports programs and facilities, enhancing the overall sports infrastructure and opportunities available to the community. This collaboration helps meet the growing demand for sports facilities and ensures more people have access to sports and recreational activities.

How Many?

Indoor sports facilities support a wide range of indoor sports programs in Whitehorse

There are 75 indoor sports facilities offering sports courts for basketball, netball, volleyball, futsal, badminton and emerging sports like pickleball and sports halls for gymnastics, callisthenics, cheer, combat sports and fencing.

These facilities are owned and managed by Council, schools and private operators and all play a key role in supporting indoor sports participation in Whitehorse.

This project considers the roles and responsibilities of Council, private providers, schools, peak sporting bodies and local clubs and associations in providing for indoor sports facilities, competitions and programming.

A detailed facility inventory has been prepared. A summary of the inventory indicates that within the City of Whitehorse there are:

- Nine Council facilities that host domestic indoor sports competition and social competition play across several sports including basketball, netball, volleyball, futsal, badminton, table tennis and emerging sports like pickleball. These facilities are Aqualink Box Hill (3 courts), Eley Park Community Centre (Hall), Mahoneys Reserve Sports Pavilion Hall (Hall), Nunawading Basketball Centre (5 courts), Nunawading Community Hub (1 court), Nunawading Gymnastics Centre (2 halls) Slater Reserve Stadium (2 courts), Sportlink (4 indoor courts and 4 outdoor covered courts) and Whitehorse Club (Hall and 2 indoor bocce rinks). These facilities are generally in good serviceable condition and attract high use (80+% occupancy rate).
- Forty-four school facilities with indoor court(s) that are available for community use. These facilities are being used after school hours for community sport training and competition. This use is primarily by basketball clubs, combat sports providers and social futsal programs. There are potential school indoor sports facility development projects proposed in Whitehorse. These include Box Hill Senior Secondary College, Forest Hill College and Kooning Secondary College and Mullane College. The Presbyterian Ladies College is in the progress of building a new sports facility that includes a three indoor court stadium, a gymnastics hall and multi-purpose rooms that could be used for cheer or martial arts activities.
- Twenty-two private indoor sports facilities. Key facilities include: two private district standard badminton facilities, four private district standard gymnastics, cheer facilities, two private climbing facilities including one of Australia's best speed climbing walls, and The Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre draws participants from a regional area. It is highly used for social and competitive indoor cricket, futsal, netball, basketball, volleyball and pickleball.
- Given the high indoor sports participation in the eastern suburbs there are a number of regional indoor sports facilities in neighbouring municipalities that are servicing Whitehorse residents. These include the State Basketball Centre (Knox), Dandenong Stadium and Springers Leisure Centre (Greater Dandenong), Mullum Stadium (Manningham), Boroondara Sports Centre (Boroondara), Waverly Indoor Stadium (Monash) and Maroondah Nets (Maroondah).

Infrastructure and Condition

Some indoor sports facilities require renewal and don't meet current facility standards

There are 51 indoor sports courts in Whitehorse. Only four Council courts, located at Sportlink, are compliant (run off not to netball court dimensions – largest court size that accommodate all indoor sports). The runoff for all other Council courts is non-compliant on sides and ends for basketball and netball competition.
Court compliance ensures the safety, accessibility and functionality of the facility in meeting the competition requirements of sports and building codes. Compliance not only reflects a commitment to safety and fair access for all users but also shields facility owners and operators from legal liabilities.

Most indoor sports facilities have access to basic support infrastructure including change rooms and toilets. In general, there is access to unisex change rooms and toilets, however they are small in size. Administration, meeting room, storage and corridors are small with access issues. This is particularly the case at the Nunawading Basketball Association and Slater Reserve Stadium. The exceptions are Sportlink and the new Nunawading Community Hub which are designed to contemporary standards and to a high treatment level.
The key Council asset condition concerns are:

- Sportlink indoor courts are compliant, however are showing deterioration and have experienced water damage. These will require renewal in the short to medium term.
- The run offs at the Nunawading Basketball Centre, Slater Reserve Stadium and Aqualink Box Hill courts are non-compliant on side and end for basketball and netball.

- Nunawading Gymnastics Centre is located at Walker Park. The building is in poor condition, it is not fit for purpose (i.e. facility is inaccessible), has inadequate cooling and requires replacement in the short term.
- The Slater Reserve stadium roof cladding was identified in January 2023 as only having two years of useful remaining life. Slater Reserve has a small office with no airflow/ventilation or window, inadequate cooling, humidity, rain and condensation issues which cause slippery floors, insufficient seating, and poor changeroom amenities.
- The Nunawading Basketball Centre is aged and does not meet current design standards for indoor courts. The facility has capacity issues i.e. it cannot service the numbers and clubs, there are heating and condensation issues, insufficient cooling, inadequate storage and disabled parking and CCTV.
- There are no asset concerns at the new Nunawading Community Hall court and studios. They are in excellent condition and are well used by U3A and a variety of other sport and recreation groups such as fencing.

Occupancy

Indoor sports facilities are at capacity and there is high competition for additional courts by all indoor sports including both major participation sports and emerging sports

All Council, school and private indoor sports providers are reporting high occupancy rates, exceeding 80%. A common challenge across providers is that facilities are operating at full capacity during peak times (after school hours and weekends), with frequent requests for additional access that cannot be accommodated. The occupancy schedules for Council facilities further validate this finding.

A detailed assessment of the occupancy levels of the key indoor sport facilities was undertaken and has informed the proportion of access to courts by sports.

Access to additional courts and sports halls will be required to support all indoor sports including lower participation and emerging sports such as fencing, martial arts and combat sports, pickleball and paddle ball. Future development of Council indoor sports facilities should also consider access to courts and sports halls for these sports.

2.3.2 Demand Analysis

Demographics

Population growth is fuelling an increase in indoor sports participation

The City of Whitehorse population is growing rapidly. The current population of 178,639 (2023) has grown by 8,998 people since 2016 and is expected to reach 234,277 by 2046, representing a 31% growth (Source: .id – informed decisions).

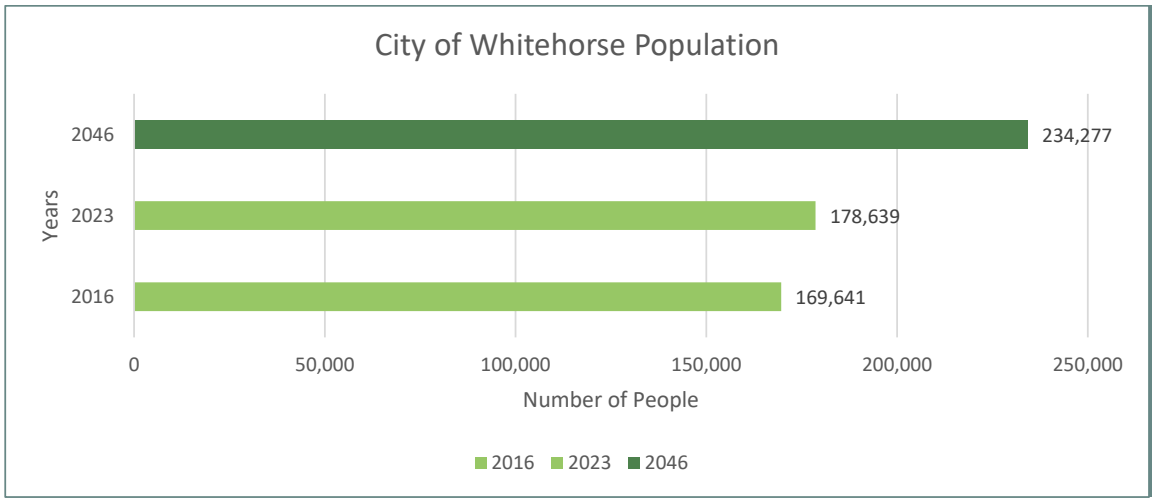


Figure 8: City of Whitehorse Population Growth and Forecast 2016 to 2046

Much of this growth will be in our most active years age groups (5-49 years) that report high indoor sport participation. This age cohort accounts for 102,224 persons or 59.7% of the 2021 population and will grow to 143,935 persons by 2046, 61.4% of the population.

The Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) population projections and recently adopted Victoria's Housing Statements (that sets a goal of 800,000 new homes over a decade) are excluded from the above population forecast.

The SRLA-related demand has been addressed for the Box Hill Metropolitan Activity Centre and Burwood Major Activity Centre through the Precinct Structure Plan panel hearing process, informed by expert witness demand analysis and recommendations.

Updated population data for Whitehorse, incorporating SRLA and Housing Targets, are expected to be available in February or March 2026. This updated dataset will then be used to inform revisions to the Draft ISP where appropriate.

Whitehorse is culturally diverse and is home to a number of cultural groups that enjoy a variety of indoor sports

Indoor sports are popular across all cultures. As of the 2021 Census, cultural diversity is higher within the Whitehorse with 41.5% of residents being born overseas, compared to 35.7% in Greater Melbourne.

The proportion of residents who speak a language other than English at home within the Whitehorse (40.5%) is higher than the proportion of residents who speak a language other than English at home in Greater Melbourne (34.1%).

There are over 150 cultures represented in Whitehorse, with large representation from those born in China, India and Malaysia. Indoor sports like table tennis and badminton are popular in these countries which is translating into increased participation for these sports in Whitehorse.

Participation

Local and State Indoor sports participation data show increasing participation levels across all indoor sports

To gain an insight into the local participation level of indoor sports in the City of Whitehorse, three participation assessments were undertaken:

1. **AusPlay –** In October 2023, the Australian Sports Commission commenced the AusPlay survey, a large-scale national survey to track the sporting behaviours and activities of the Australian population.

   Using the AusPlay Participation Survey for weekly participation rates of organised sport, it has been estimated that there are 33,574 Whitehorse City Council participants across the eleven identified indoor sports. This will grow to 45,343 participants by 2046; therefore, an additional 11,769 indoor sport participants are projected in the next 20 years. Please note that emerging sports like sport climbing and pickleball were not assessed due to insufficient data.

2. **State Sporting Associations -** State Sporting Associations (SSAs) were invited to supply registered participation data and identify key demands and opportunities. Of the eleven indoor sports only five SSAs were able to provide participation data for the City of Whitehorse. Three additional SSAs being Football (Soccer), Netball and Cricket could only provide participation data on their mainstream activity being outdoors. The SSA participation data obtained is reflected in each sport's State of Play. This information was not reliable enough to use as the input data for the demand modelling.

3. **Local Participation Data –** Indoor sports participation data was obtained from clubs, groups and associations operating independently of council involvement via leases, hiring of venues or commercial operations. This information while not completely reliable to use as the input data, the data obtained was an important ground truthing of participation for demand modelling.

   Based on the Whitehorse club and association database, 77 local indoor sporting clubs and associations were invited to participate in the Local Sporting Clubs online survey as a part of the engagement process… some wording to explain that schools and clubs are both invited to complete surveys. The survey asked for information on membership/participation numbers.

   Of the 77 clubs/association, 29 responses were received. As a result, a significant amount of consultant and officer time was spent directly gathering participation data from clubs, associations, groups, leisure services and commercial operators. We were able to gain some insights to local participation, which is reflected in each sport's State of Play. This information was not reliable enough to use as the input data for the demand modelling.

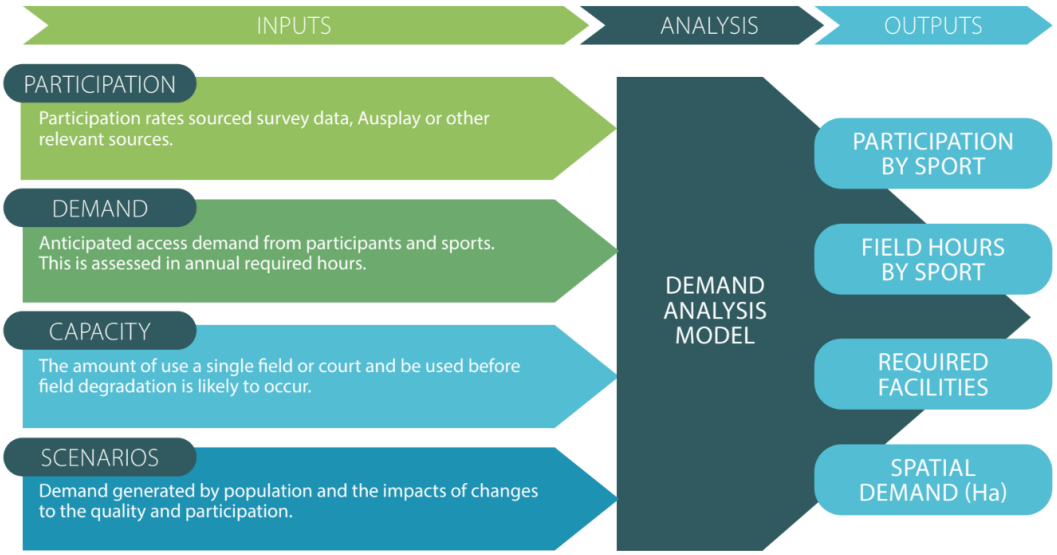
The AusPlay data and participation projections as outlined in Table 47, are seen as the best source of input data to move forward confidently with the demand modelling.

Demand Modelling

A facility demand model has been developed to guide the current and future indoor court and facilities requirements. **The model is a guide only** and includes assumptions on court and facility capacity, usage, and participation.

The Otium Analytics platform includes a Demand Analysis Model and has been used to model the estimated participants, required hours of access, number of facilities, playing space and total space for sports. The model considers shared use of facilities.

The infographic below shows the key inputs and outputs of the model.



The model considers the current court capacity, participation rates, and usage levels. Other factors such as the capacity of a court to accommodate playing numbers, the current distribution of clubs to courts, and opportunities for clubs to share need to be overlaid.

The model is overlaid with local factors impacting a facility's use. These include:

- Distribution and accessibility of courts. It may not be feasible for clubs to travel significant distances to access courts.
- Quality and condition of facilities. The quality (whether a facility is fit for purpose), and condition of a facility may restrict the amount of use possible. This could be because the infrastructure is nearing the end of life.
- Participation numbers within indoor sports clubs/associations changing from year to year. There has been for some sports a drop off in participation over the COVID-19 restriction years that are now returning to and exceeding pre-pandemic levels.
- Programming of sports competition. For example, sports associations stipulate required start times, competition formats, game length times and the number of games played at each court each week.
- Inequitable participation distribution across sports at facilities.
- Location of facilities that have a wider catchment beyond a municipal boundary. For example, regional indoor sports facilities like Nunawading Basketball Centre and Sportlink.
- Practicality of indoor sports sharing. Sharing of facilities amongst competing sports may not be possible due to competition structures.

Impact of occupancy levels in shared use courts on provision:

The pie chart below shows the average proportion of use by sport for shared-use courts which that sport access. This has been used to modify the current court accessed for each sport.

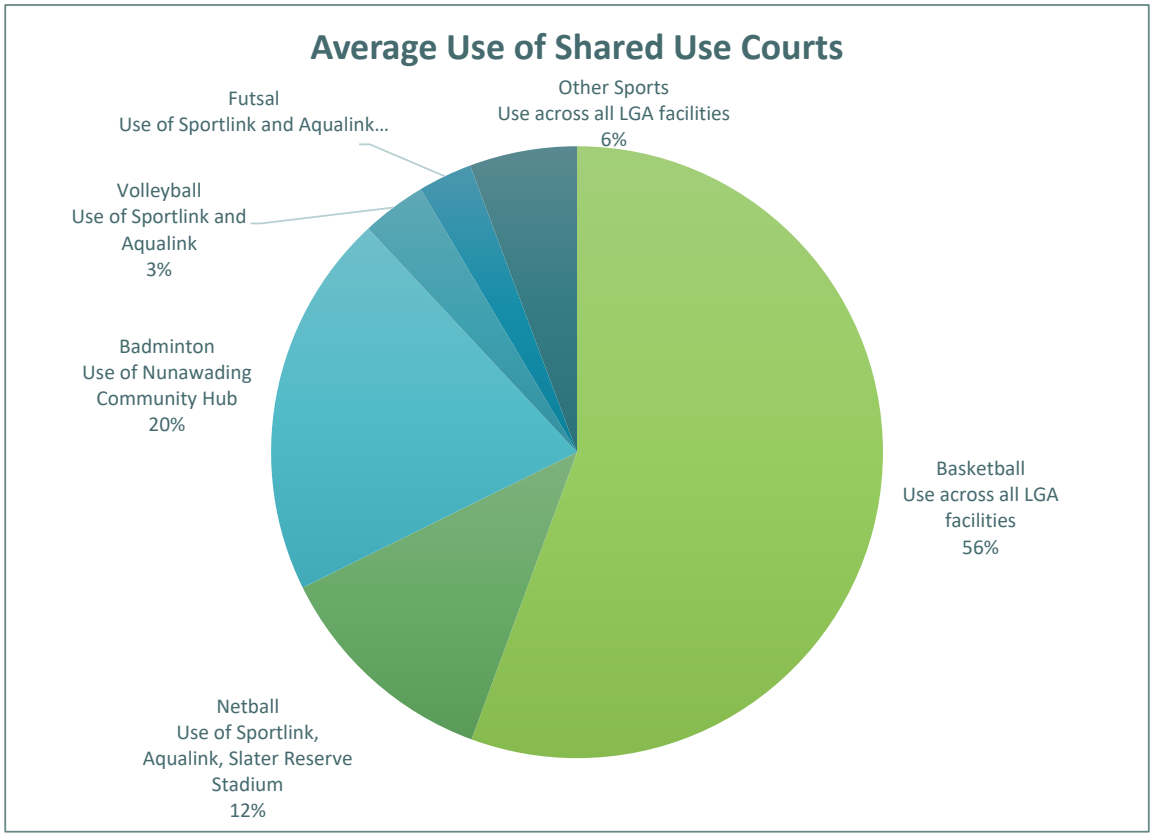


Figure 9: Proportion of use by sport for shared use courts across Council facilities

Model Assumptions:

The model applies full optimisation of all court for the average field/court capacity across the sports field network based on participation and usage assumptions. The model applied the key assumptions in the table below.

Table 1: Model Assumptions

Category	Assumption
Population	• City of Whitehorse population will grow from 176,038 (2023) to approximately 234,277 by 2046. • The 2021 age breakdown is used to determine the current proportion of people aged between 0-14 years (children) was 18% and for 15+ years (adults) was 82% in Whitehorse. • In 2046, the proportion of people aged between 0-14 years (children) is estimated to be 15% and for 15+ years (adults) 85% in Whitehorse.
Sport Participation	• Participation rates for major participation sports identified in the recent AusPlay Participation Survey 2023-24 for once-a-week organised sport participation. • This participation rate is considered appropriate following a review of registered State Sporting Association participation and local association participation data.

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Category	Assumption	
Court Capacity	• Indoor sports courts have a capacity of 54 hours of use each week. • For indoor specialty courts/facilities: – Gymnastics 54 hours. – Calisthenics 54 hours. – Table Tennis 25 hours. • The size of facilities is based on a full-size equivalent court for that sport.	
Current Community Courts/ Facilities	The current court access for each sport for training and/or competition purposes: • Basketball – 33 basketball courts. • Netball –8 netball courts. • Volleyball – 1 volleyball courts. • Badminton – 30 badminton courts. • Table Tennis – 8 table tennis courts. • Futsal –4 futsal courts. • Gymnastics – 3 district sized gymnastics halls • Callisthenics – 1 district sized studio space * Please note that the current provision of courts for each sport is currently restricted due to competition with other sports and use by schools.	
Utilisation	• The benchmark average training and competition hours each week and participant numbers per field/court has been informed by State Sporting Associations and AusPlay participation reports.	
	• Basketball	• Adult – 3 hours per week and 12 participants per court • Child – 2 hours per week and 14 participants per court • All Year
	• Netball	• Adult – 3 hours per week and 16 participants per court • Child – 2 hours per week and 16 participants per court • All Year • Applied 30% of overall netball participation rate – indoor participation
	• Volleyball	• Adult – 3 hours per week and 16 participants per court • Child – 2 hours per week and 16 participants per court • All Year
	• Futsal	• Adult – 2 hours per week and 16 participants per court • Child – 1 hours per week and 16 participants per court • All Year • Applied 39% of overall football (soccer) participation rate – Futsal participation
	• Badminton	• Adult – 2 hours per week and 4 participants per court • Child – 1 hours per week and 4 participants per court • All Year
	• Table Tennis	• Adult – 2 hours per week and 4 participants per court • Child – 1 hours per week and 4 participants per court • All Year
	• Gymnastics	• Adult – 4 hours per week and 32 participants district size hall • Child – 2 hours per week and 32 participants per district size hall • All Year • 8 participants per coach (4 classes each hour time slot) • Size of facility is equivalent of one court – district size • Applied 85-90% of overall participation rate is children
	• Calisthenics	• Adult – 4 hours per week and 10 participants district size studio • Child – 2 hours per week and 20 participants per district size studio • All Year • Size of facility is equivalent of 1/3 court – district size

Model Outputs:

The model confirms the requirement for additional indoor sports courts and facilities in Whitehorse

Based on the above methodology and assumptions, Table 2 details the facility requirements for major participation sports in the short and long term.

Table 2: Facility Requirements Current to 2046

Sport^	Current Court/Hall Used by Sport	Current Court/Hall Access*	Current Court/Hall Access Requirement for Participation Demand (2024)	Current Surplus/ Deficit of Court/Hall Access	Future Court/Hall Access Requirements for Participation Demand (2046)	Future Surplus/ Deficit of Court/Hall Access
Badminton	52	30	26	4	54	+1
Basketball	41	33	41	-8	64	-31
Calisthenics	1	1	2	-1	2	-1
Futsal	21	4	5	-1	7	-3
Gymnastics~	3	3	4	-1	6	-3
Netball	26	8	9	-1	11	-3
Table Tennis	28	8	14	-6	18	-10
Volleyball	9	1	3	-2	4	-3

* The current court access considers firstly a sport's access to dedicated courts (100% access) and secondly the proportion of use by that sport for shared multi-sport courts.
^ Indoor cricket and martial arts are not included because there is insufficient participation rate data or facility usage information to run a demand analysis model.
~ Gymnastics hall access includes new PLC gymnastics hall.
/ badminton includes the recently approved 25-court badminton facility in Vermont.

3. Planning Framework

A planning framework has been developed to classify the City of Whitehorse's indoor sports facilities and serve as a planning tool for analysing gaps and identifying opportunities within the indoor sports facility network.

A planning framework will inform the provision requirements for indoor sports facilities

3.1 Indoor Sports Facility Planning Framework

A planning framework with facility hierarchy and planning and design principles. The framework is informed by hierarchy definitions from State and Federal Governments and peak sporting bodies' sports facility guidelines.

Local Government is responsible for Local, District and Regional facilities, where State Government is responsible for State/National and International facilities.



Figure 10: Indoor Sports Facility Planning Hierarchy

3.1.1 Indoor Sports Facility Hierarchy

This hierarchy applies to current and future indoor sports facilities and is supported by planning and design principles.

The following hierarchy has been used to classify Whitehorse indoor sports facilities:

- **Local:** A facility that provides organised community sport participation opportunities for a local neighbourhood or community catchment. This community stadium is approximately 1ha in size and provides for one to two local community sports courts. They are generally overflow and training venues. An example is Blackburn High School, which has a single court and is used for basketball training and junior-level competition and social netball.
- **District:** A facility with the ability to organised community sport participation opportunities for a catchment of one to three suburbs. They provide multiple courts and opportunities for a number of teams/competitors/participants within a district to participate. This community facility is 1-2ha in size and provide for three to four local community sports courts. An example is Aqualink Box Hill, which has three courts and supports multiple sports local competitions.
- **Regional:** A facility with the ability to provide for a regional or municipal catchment. They can host regional competitions, serve as a regional high-performance training hub for one or more sports codes or provide community participation opportunities for a high number of people across municipal boundaries. Regional spaces and places are often the primary centre of co-located, multi-sport and active recreation facilities within a regional catchment. This facility is 2-3ha in size and provides for five to eight local community sports courts and some have seating of up to 1000 seats. An example is Nunawading Basketball Centre, which has five indoor sports courts with expansion to grow to 10+ courts and supports regional competitions and events.
- **State/National:** A facility with the ability to host state/national competitions and events or to serve as a state/national performance training hub for one or more sports codes. They are destinations for sport and recreation and events and deliver social and economic benefits to the wider regional/country region. This facility is 3-4ha in size and provide for more than eight local community sports courts. An example is the State Basketball Centre, which has 12 sports courts and show court with seating for 3,100 spectators.
- **International:** International facilities are the highest-level facilities, capable of hosting international events and competitions and national competition games. These facilities promote elite sport competitions and games and provides entertainment. International facilities have very specific requirements which vary depending on the sport they service, the spectator seating and amenity required for the capacity of the venue, including corporate suites to public seating areas. They are venues that include a high level of technology including large electronic scoreboards, lighting and sound systems for entertainment purposes. An example is John Cain Arena, which hosts Australian and NBL games, Super Netball games, the Australian Open and Australian and International artists.

There are currently 75 facilities used for indoor sporting activities. When applying the hierarchy across the indoor sports facilities network, there are seven regionals (red squares), six district (blue squares) and 62 local facilities (green squares).

The map on the following page references relate to the facility inventory. A copy of the full inventory of facilities is provided in **Appendix 1**.

10.2 – ATTACHMENT 1. Draft Indoor Sports Plan

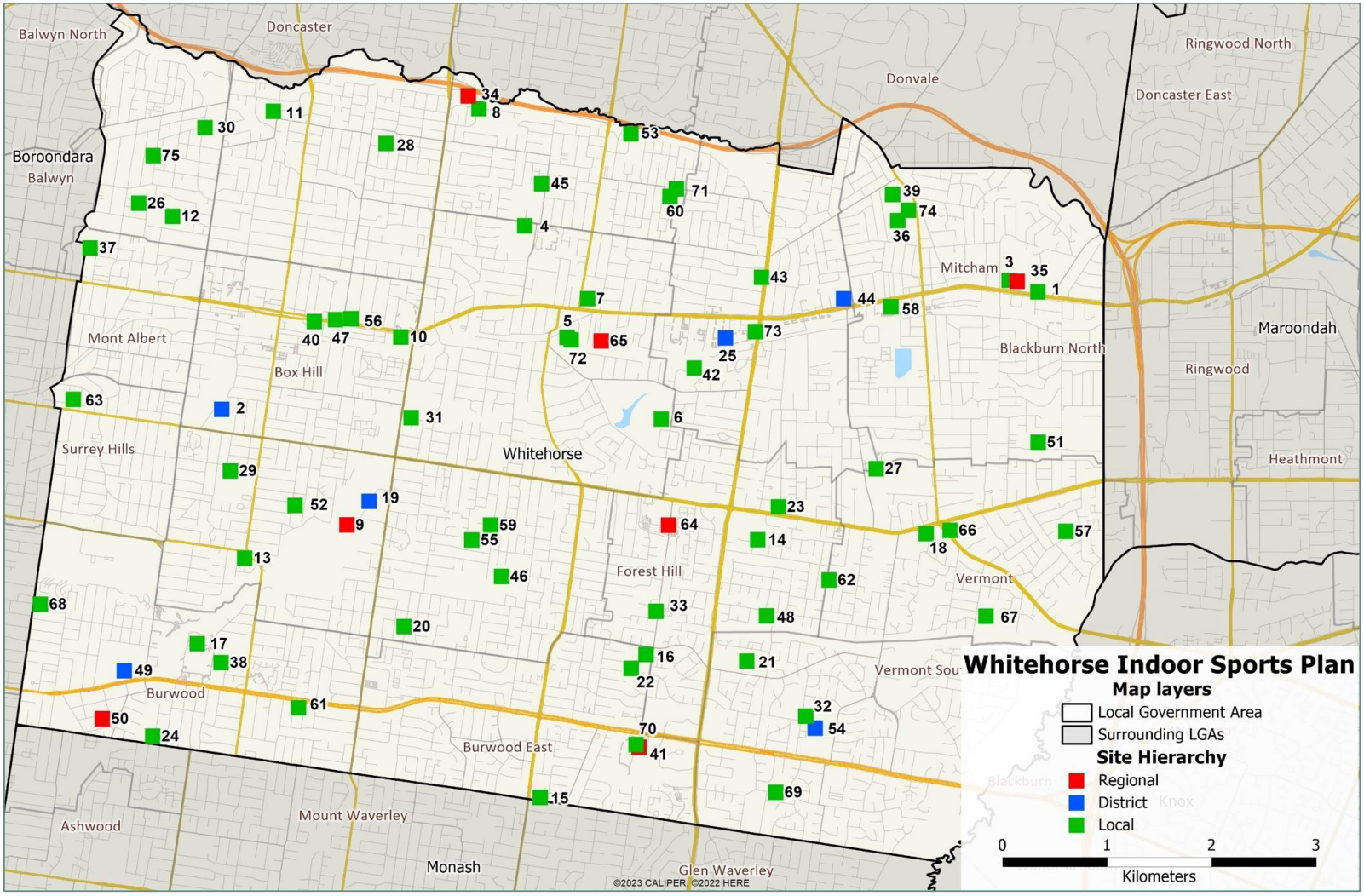

Figure 11: Indoor Sport Facility Hierarchy in Whitehorse

3.1.2 Planning and Design Principles

The following planning principles have been developed to help inform the future planning and development of sports. They will guide the future prioritisation framework. The principles align with the Whitehorse Community Infrastructure Plan.

Principles:

- **Aligned with strategic planning and policy**: Indoor sports facilities deliver on community health and wellbeing objectives in Council Policy and align with Council's Community Infrastructure Plan.
- **Strategic, collaborative and integrated:** The development of indoor sports facilities takes a whole-of-council planning and delivery approach to ensure all service objectives and planning considerations are considered.
- **Outcomes-focused and based on evidence and service delivery priorities:** Improvements to indoor sports facilities provision are informed by a robust evidence base and are designed to deliver a net community benefit. Future investment responds to the highest priority in need.
- **Transparent and clearly explained:** The justification for investment in indoor sports facilities are clearly explained and openly presented.
- **Informed by stakeholders and community:** Indoor sports facilities improvements are informed by meaningful engagement processes with user groups, service providers and community.
- **Accessible and inclusive facilities:** Indoor sports facilities will be universally designed and inclusive, fostering participation in sport and active recreation by all our community, across all life stages, genders and cultures.
- **Diverse and equitable for all to benefit:** Indoor sports facilities will offer a diverse mix of facilities, programs and experiences. Council will provide an equitable distribution of indoor sports facilities across the municipality. These facilities will seek to increase social connectedness.
- **Safe and welcoming facilities:** Indoor sports facilities and programs are designed to be visible, open and welcoming to the community, creating a safe place for girls and women to participate.
- **Multi-use facilities and services:** Indoor sports facilities will be multi-use, offering several activities, programs and experiences for users.
- **Connected to community and place:** Indoor sports facilities connection across our communities and our unique natural environment.
- **Sustainable facilities:** Indoor sports facilities will be financially sustainable, designed and operated efficiently, and well managed and maintained.
- **Environmental sustainability:** Indoor sports facilities will consider environmentally sustainable design and delivering net zero emissions, including a circular economy approach, use of electricity and renewal energy sources, and water sensitive urban design solution.

3.2 Applying the Planning Framework

After applying the planning framework to existing facilities for each sport and reviewing the current issues and gaps in the network for each, the following infographic proposes how it will be applied to each sport to meet the City of Whitehorse's current and future demand.

Green circles indicate sports for which facility provision sufficiently meets demand. Orange circles signify that, while overall provision is adequate, facility capacity is insufficient to fully address demand. The red circle denotes sports where both facility provision and capacity are inadequate to meet requirements. For further details on facility hierarchy levels and definitions, please refer to Section 3.1.

3.2.1 Whitehorse Facility Hierarchy Application by Sport

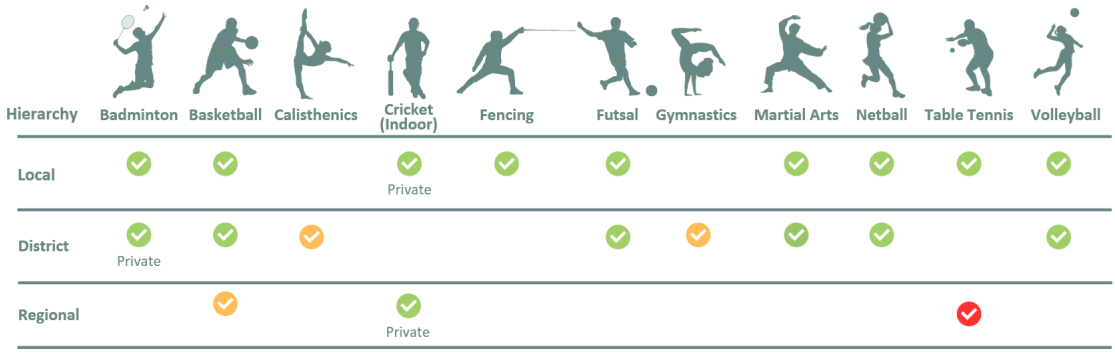

Figure 12: Summary of Proposed Planning Framework by Sport – Indoor Sports

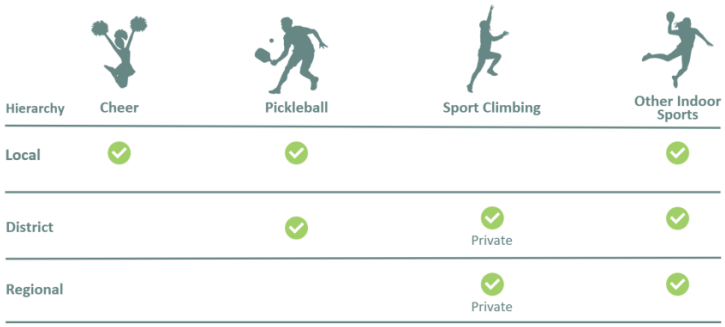

Figure 13: Summary of Proposed Planning Framework by Sport – Emerging Indoor Sports

4. Sport Code Analysis

The Sports Code Analysis provides a comprehensive review of the current landscape for each sport, identifying key issues and challenges. The analysis identifies key issues and opportunities facing the sport and identifies development options being explored to provide fit-for purpose facilities that facilitate participation growth.

4.1 Badminton

4.1.1 Code Overview

Participation

- Badminton Victoria reports 307 registered players within the City of Whitehorse. However, there is a high proportion of unaffiliated badminton players that participate locally.
- Badminton is provided for by local clubs, associations and private providers, some of which are unaffiliated with Badminton Victoria.
- Badminton clubs and associations include:
  - Thornburn Ladies Badminton Club – Thornburn Ladies Badminton Club is the only club within Whitehorse City Council affiliated with Badminton Victoria. In 2024 the club had 63 registered senior women players. Membership has declined in recent years from 73 members in 2019/20. The club's main venue is Nunawading Community Hub.
  - Deakin Badminton Club – The Club has 60 members (40 senior men and 20 senior women) in 2024. The Club's main venue is Melbourne Badminton Centre, the second venue is Deakin Indoor Sports Stadium, and they have also hired local primary school sports stadiums.
  - Elite Sports Association - The Association operates from the Mitcham Badminton Centre and offers coaching, pathways programs and competition.
  - Infinity Badminton Association - The Association operates from the Mitcham Badminton Centre and offers coaching, pathways programs and competition.
  - JT Ultra Badminton Association – The Association operates from the Melbourne Badminton Centre, and offers coaching, pathways programs and competition.
  - Whitehorse Activities Club – The Club hosts social badminton weekly at Mahoneys Reserve Pavilion. The Whitehorse Activity Club Badminton Group and the Forest Hill Ladies Badminton Group have approximately 12 people across the two groups.
- There are two major private badminton centres that provides for casual hire, coaching, group bookings and social events:
  - Mitcham Badminton Centre - Mitcham Badminton reports 1,547 members across their social mornings (817) and night court (730) categories. The Centre has 200 registered members playing weekly. The courts are booked out every evening on weekdays and during the day on weekends. They estimate 150 visits per day, equating to 54,000 annual visits. The Centre recorded 4,590 bookings for individuals, groups and schools in 2024.
  - Melbourne Badminton Centre – Melbourne Badminton Centre reports over 5,000 customers registered on their booking website with courts booked out every evening on weekdays and during the day on weekends. The facility hosts A-One Badminton Academy and Pro Badminton Academy and several clubs and local level competitions. There are 70 regular users that play at least once a week.

- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 6,978 badminton participants in Whitehorse in 2021 which will grow to 7,563 in 2031 and 9,193 in 2046.

Existing Facilities

- Two facilities support district badminton operations, where the other venues support local social play.
- There is potential capacity to provide for 52 badminton courts at shared-use or dedicated venues where badminton is played. However, when occupancy levels of shared-use courts are reviewed, the current badminton court access is 30 courts.
- Due to the multi-use nature of indoor courts, the use of shared-use venues for badminton is restricted. There is competition for use of courts by other indoor sports at multi-use venues i.e. badminton cannot use the courts at the same time as another code i.e. basketball or netball.
- Key facilities of a district standard include:
  - Melbourne Badminton Centre – A high-quality private regional nine court badminton facility.
  - Mitcham Badminton Centre – A high-quality private regional 12 court badminton facility.

Future Demand

- The Demand Analysis Model predicts a current surplus of four badminton courts and a future deficit of 24 courts by 2046.

Proposed Facilities

- A new private badminton facility with 25 courts is proposed in Vermont. This project is currently under planning consideration and has the potential to service the future demand.

Table 2 provides a summary of the current Whitehorse badminton participation levels and facility provision.

Table 3: Current State of Play Badminton

Category	Result
Whitehorse Participation numbers	307 members registered with Badminton Victoria. However, there are additional casual recreational players, which are not registered with the state association.
AusPlay participation rate benchmark Adults 2.00% Children 15.60%	6,978 in 2021 9,193 in 2046
Current number of sports courts/facilities	7 facilities/ 52 available courts (21 dedicated and 31 shared use) Current court access is 30 courts
State/National Facilities	0
Regional Facilities	0
District Facilities	2
Local Facilities	5
Does current facility provision meet current demand?	Yes – Surplus of 4 courts
Does current facility provision meet future demand?	No – Deficit of 24 courts

Table 4 and the map below detail the current hierarchy and distribution of badminton facilities across Whitehorse.

Table 4: Facility Hierarchy for Badminton

Facility Name	Hierarchy	Ownership	Fields of Play	Details
Melbourne Badminton Centre	District	Private	9	Dedicated Facility
Mitcham Badminton Centre	District	Private	12	Dedicated Facility
Sportlink	Local	Council	12	Shared Use
Aqualink Box Hill	Local	Council	9	Shared Use
Nunawading Community Hub	Local	Council	3	Shared Use
Deakin University	Local	School	6	Shared Use
Mahoneys Reserve Pavilion	Local	Council	1	Shared Use
Total			**52**	

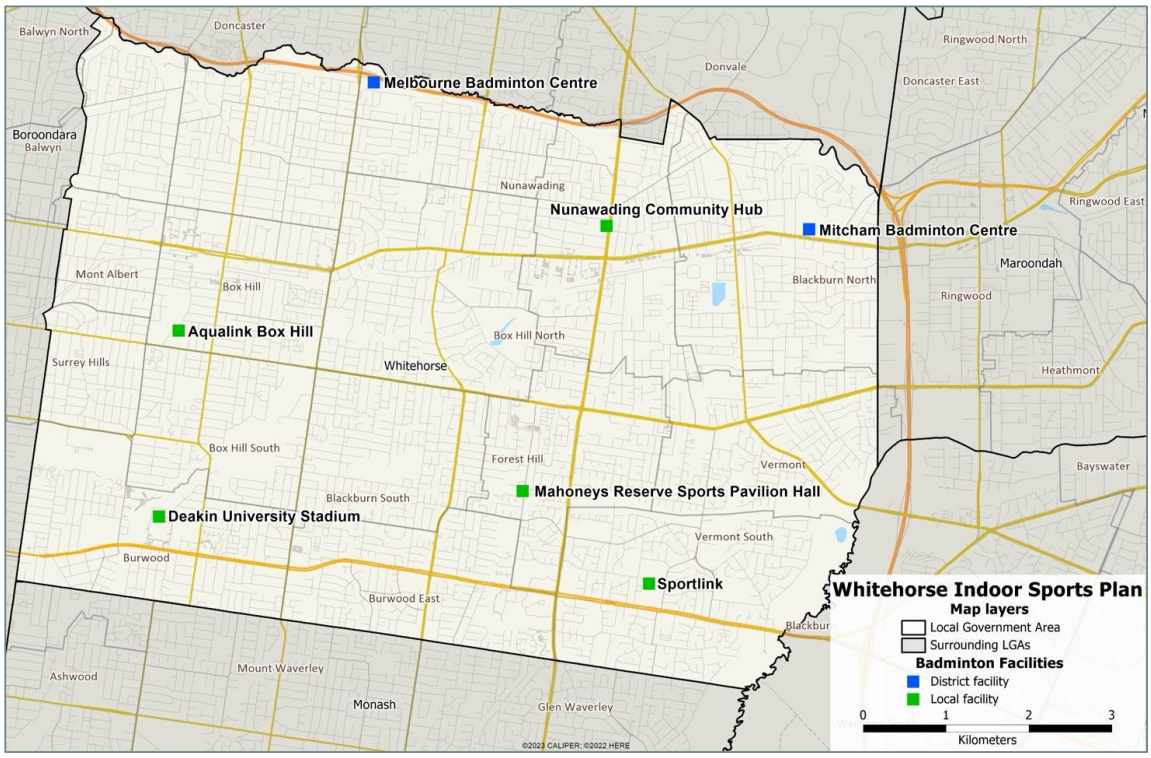

Figure 14: Current Badminton Facilities

4.1.2 Stakeholder Engagement Feedback

Badminton Victoria Feedback

Badminton Victoria provided postcode data for registered badminton players and noted the high use of Mitcham Badminton Centre and Melbourne Badminton Centre.

Badminton Clubs/Centres Feedback

As part of the Club Survey, all badminton clubs/associations/centres were asked to identify any new or upgraded facility requirements. The requirements identified are detailed in the table below.

Table 5: Badminton Club Feedback

Sport	New or upgraded facility requirements
Badminton Clubs	• **Deakin Badminton Club** has a need for improved car parking at the Sports Centre. They highlight the safety concerns of walking long distances from distant parking to the entrance, especially when accompanied by children, and mention that accidents have occurred due to the lack of footpaths. Additionally, increasing the number of WC (restroom) facilities is important, particularly for women, as there are often long waits for changing or amenities, which becomes even more problematic when a toilet is out of order. • **Mitcham Badminton Centre, a private provider** indicated that the lighting and flooring will need to be replaced in the next two years. This would be the private provider's responsibility. • **Thornburn Ladies Badminton Association** are a local club that are satisfied with facilities and access at Nunawading Community Hub. No improvements suggested. • **Mahoney's Reserve Badminton Users:** The Whitehorse Activity Club Badminton Group and the Forest Hill Ladies Badminton Group are generally satisfied with the facilities and access at Mahoney's Hall, though they have suggested minor improvements to amenities and accessibility.

4.1.3 Key Challenges and Opportunities

The following key challenges and opportunities are identified:

- The current provision of badminton courts meets the current demand in the short to medium term. However, there is a projected shortfall of badminton courts in 2046.
- The use of existing major badminton centres at peak times is very high and near capacity. This finding suggests local badminton participation and demand is high.
- District facilities support club and association competition, coaching, training and programming. The local facilities support social play.
- The City of Whitehorse facilities are primarily used to support local social badminton participation. However, if the private providers cease operations, Whitehorse risks losing facilities that support competitive badminton opportunities.

4.1.4 Strategic Recommendations

To foster the growth of badminton in Whitehorse the strategic objective is to build on the network of district fit-for-purpose (competition) and local (social) level facilities that foster the growth of badminton that:

- Consider the need for additional badminton courts as part of the statutory planning processes for new badminton centre applications.
- Considers increasing badminton access to Aqualink Box Hill and Sportlink.
- Ensures the Active Communities and Leisure Team partner with clubs/associations/badminton providers and Badminton Victoria to proactively develop the participation opportunities for all ages, genders and abilities, and pathways for players from grass-root to elite competition.

4.2 Basketball

4.2.1 Code Overview

Participation

The following provides a summary of current basketball participation:

- There are currently 7,019 Basketball Victoria-registered participants in Whitehorse, excluding those involved in non-registered development programs. The registered State Sports Association participation rate for the Whitehorse population is 4.36%.
- The Melbourne East Basketball Association (MEBA) is the primary basketball association within the City of Whitehorse and operates out of the Nunawading Basketball Stadium (NBS). The NBS is a regional level facility, located within East Burwood Reserve. MEBA has approximately 12,279 members, half of whom reside outside the City of Whitehorse.
- The MEBA Domestic Competition is run as follows:
  - Senior Domestic – Monday-Thursday Evenings.
  - Junior Domestic – Saturdays. The junior domestic competition is referred to as the Greater Eastern Basketball Conference (GEBC). This is a competition run in partnership with the Ringwood Basketball Association.
- MEBA has 15 affiliated clubs participating in competitions:
  - Ashwood Wolves
  - Blackburn Vikings – Complete in MEBA on Mondays and Fridays. The club also competes in the Eastern District Junior Basketball Association (EDJBA) on Saturdays.
  - Donvale Dunkers
  - E Bees
  - Eastern Bulls
  - Huntingtower Heat
  - Syndal Storm
  - Mitcham Thunder - Compete in MEBA. The club also competes in the EDJBA and GEBC.
  - Mulgrave Mambas
  - Nunawading Kangas
  - Vermont Vultures
  - Wattle Park Saints
  - Waverley Basketball Club
  - Waverley Raiders
  - Waverley Wildcats.
- In addition to this, the MEBA representative team is the Nunawading Spectres.
- The City of Whitehorse is also home to other basketball clubs that participate in other basketball associations. These clubs include Blackburn Vikings and Mitcham Thunder identified above and:
  - Koonung Comets - Compete in EDJBA on Saturdays with weekly training sessions.

  - Whitehorse Mustangs - Compete in EDJBA and the Greater Eastern Basketball Conference (GEBC) on Saturdays.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 9,387 basketball participants in Whitehorse in 2021 which is anticipated to grow to 10,765 in 2031 and 12,988 in 2046.

Existing Facilities

The following details the courts that are used by basketball for training and/or competition activities:

- There are 25 facilities and 41 indoor sports courts in Whitehorse used for basketball. Of these courts, 36 courts are used by community sports clubs and associations. Only four of these courts are compliant for basketball (run off meets standards). However, when occupancy of shared-use courts is reviewed, the current basketball court access is 33 courts.
- Nunawading Basketball Centre is a regional five-court basketball stadium that is home to one of Australia's largest basketball associations, the Melbourne East Basketball Association (MEBA). The Nunawading Basketball Centre has a very high average occupancy rate of 87.92%. The following indicates the usage of the facility:
  - Weekday Off Peak (9am-4pm) – 81.8%
  - Weekday Peak (4-10pm) – 100%
  - Weekends (9am-4pm) – 83.67%.
- The 30-minute drive time catchment for the Nunawading Basketball Centre mirrors the participant reach following a postcode assessment of membership. This facility catchment represents 2,407,691 people which will grow to almost 3 million people by 2041. The postcode membership map shows a very high proportion of Melbourne East Basketball Association participants coming from the municipalities of Whitehorse, Monash, Maroondah and Knox. Nunawading Basketball Centre is the regional facility supporting these participants.
- The Melbourne East Basketball Association utilises Nunawading Basketball Centre and several satellite indoor sports facilities located in Whitehorse (15 facilities), Monash (11 facilities), Maroondah (four facilities) and Knox (one facility).
- Other facilities used for basketball include:
- Sportlink - A district four-court stadium with four covered outdoor netball courts that supports netball, basketball, futsal and pickleball. It is home to one of Victoria's largest netball associations.
  - Aqualink Box Hill - A three-court multi-sport stadium. The facility includes the stadium and an aquatic and leisure centre.
  - Slater Reserve Stadium – A two-court indoor stadium used for basketball and netball.

Future Demand

The Demand Analysis model predicts a current shortfall of eight basketball courts which will grow to 31 courts by 2046.

Proposed Facilities

There are several projects currently being considered that include the provision of additional basketball courts in Whitehorse. These include:

- Nunawading Basketball Centre: The East Burwood Reserve Master Plan supports additional courts (approximately five to six courts) at Nunawading Basketball Centre. The proposal is to develop this facility as a contemporary regional indoor sports stadium that supports the range of programming offered by Melbourne East Basketball Association. This includes training and competitions, educational programs such as SEDA, high performance training and accommodation for staff.
- Other proposals that include additional indoor sports courts include:
- Aqualink Box Hill (two courts)
- Sportlink (one court)
  - Box Hill Senior Secondary College (three courts)
- Koonung Secondary College (three courts)
  - Forest Hill College (four courts)
  - Presbyterian Ladies College (three courts – recently completed, seeking planning permit for community access)
  - Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre (three courts) - Melbourne East Basketball Association is in discussions with Haven Group for the potential development of three courts at Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre.

The following table summarises the current Whitehorse basketball participation levels and facility provision.

Table 6: Facilities Overview for Basketball

Category	Result
Whitehorse Participation numbers	7,019 (Only registered Basketball Victoria players, excludes development program participants) Local participation rate is 4.36%
AusPlay participation rate benchmark Adults 4.20% Children 13.70%	 9,387 in 2021 12,988 in 2046
Current number of sports courts / facilities	25 facilities / 41 courts Only 4 courts compliant Multi-use venues restricting use Current court access is 33 courts
State/National Facilities	0
Regional Facilities	1
District Facilities	1
Local Facilities	23
Does current facility provision meet current demand?	No – Deficit of 8 courts
Does current facility provision meet future demand?	No – Deficit of 31 courts

The table and map on the following page detail the current hierarchy and distribution of basketball facility across Whitehorse.

Table 7: Facility Hierarchy for Basketball

Facility Name	Hierarchy	Ownership	Fields of Play	Details
Nunawading Basketball Centre	Regional	Council	5	Shared Use
Sportlink	District (Local competition)	Council	6	Shared Use
Aqualink Box Hill	Local	Council	3	Shared Use
Blackburn High School	Local	School	1	Shared Use
Blackburn Lake Primary School	Local	School	1	Shared Use
Blackburn Primary School	Local	School	1	Shared Use
Box Hill High School	Local	School	2	Shared Use
Box Hill Senior Secondary College	Local	School	1	Shared Use
Deakin University Stadium	Local	School	2	Shared Use
Forest Hill College	Local	School	2	Shared Use
Kingswood College	Local	School	1	Shared Use
Koonung Secondary College	Local	School	1	Shared Use
Laburnum Primary School	Local	School	1	Shared Use
Mont Albert Primary School	Local	School	1	Shared Use
Mullauna College	Local	School	2	Shared Use
Nunawading Community Hub	Local	Council	1	Shared Use
Old Orchard Primary School	Local	School	1	Shared Use
Orchard Grove Primary	Local	School	1	Shared Use
Rangeview Primary School	Local	School	1	Shared Use
Roberts McCubbin Primary School	Local	School	1	Shared Use
Slater Reserve Stadium	Local	Council	2	Shared Use
Vermont Primary School	Local	School	1	Shared Use
Vermont Secondary College	Local	School	1	Shared Use
Wattle Park Primary School	Local	School	1	Shared Use
Whitehorse Primary School	Local	School	1	Shared Use
Total			**41**	

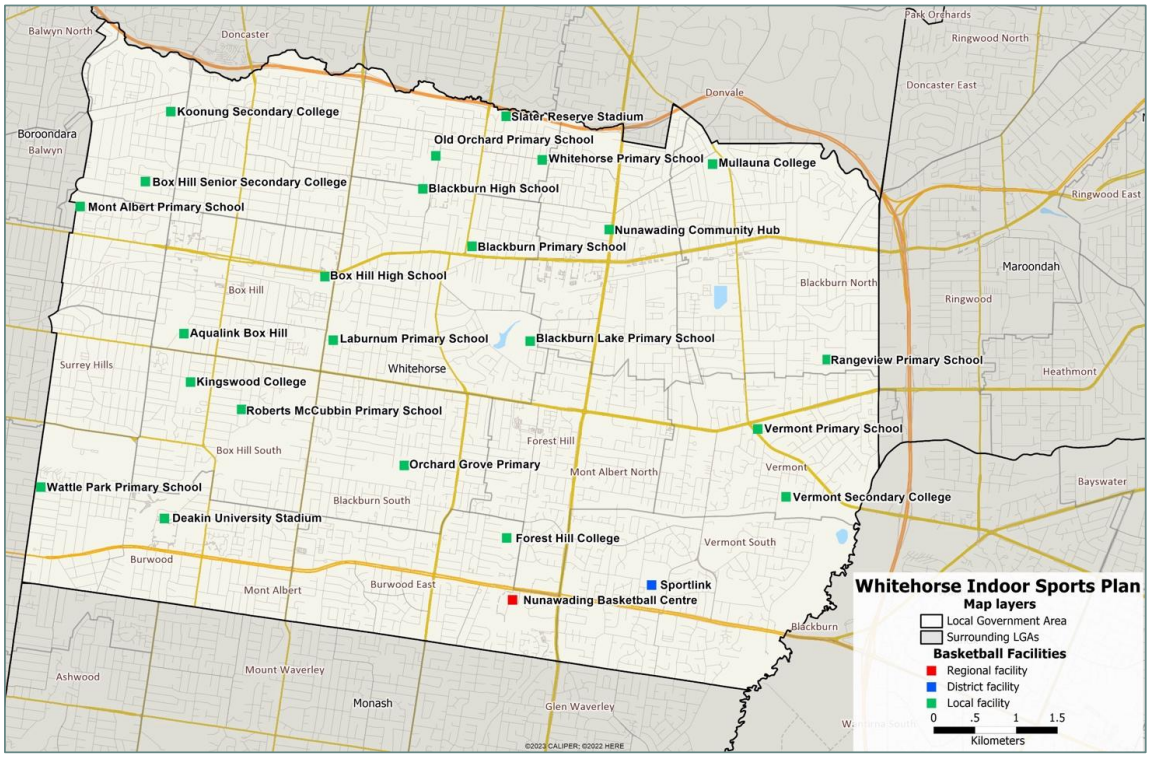

Figure 15: Current Basketball Facilities Map

4.2.2 Stakeholder Engagement Feedback

Basketball Victoria Feedback

The following is a summary of key issues identified by Basketball Victoria.

Table 8: Basketball Victoria Feedback

Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	Whitehorse basketball participation profile – 7,019 registered players: • Players mostly participate at Whitehorse, Blackburn, Knox and Ringwood Basketball Association. • 55% in Whitehorse, 25% Nillumbik then Maroondah, Knox and Monash remaining. • There is also a migration of players into Whitehorse from these municipalities, particularly Maroondah and Monash. • There is "one in four basketballers reside in the Eastern corridor of Melbourne". Nunawading Basketball/Melbourne East Basketball Association (MEBA) – 12,000 plus registered players: • High participation Association in Victoria. • Strong governance model. • Full-service basketball associations. • The registered participation numbers do not include social or school programs.
Current facilities	• The provision of indoor courts is through Council and schools. • The majority of courts are not compliant which impacts the growth of the sport and ability to support higher level competitions.
Issues and challenges	• Over the last few years, the state average growth rate in basketball participation has been 7%. This has stabilised to 4%.

Discussion Topic	Comments
	• The number of participants is growing across all program levels; however, the largest growth is shown in junior participants. • Demand is outstripping supply. Across the state, BV has a current deficit of approximately 220-court and is on track for a deficit of 600 in 10 years. • ActiveXchange indicates 10 court deficits within City of Whitehorse, growing to 25 courts short by 2033. This is based on 4% participation rate. • The current Council and school facilities are at capacity, and clubs use facilities in other LGAs. • There is a latent demand for participation that can't be serviced by current facilities. An example is MEBA. They use a four-court facility but have 1500 more members than Knox.
Gaps and opportunities for indoor sports facility provision	Development proposals: • There is a proposal to replace the Nunawading Basketball facility and build a new 10/12-court facility. • There is a need for new courts in Box Hill area – No site. • There is an opportunity for additional courts at Forest Hill Secondary College. • There is a proposal for, four new basketball courts at the Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre.
Support for project	BV fully supports the development of and Indoor Sports Plan that considers strategies to enable the growth of basketball and increase the future provision of courts within the City of Whitehorse.

Nunawading Basketball/Melbourne East Basketball Association Feedback

- Nunawading Basketball/Melbourne East Basketball Association (MEBA) is one of Australia's oldest and most successful basketball Associations and for the past 50 years has managed the Nunawading Basketball Centre.
- MEBA is now the largest Association in Australia with 12,279 registered players across beginner programs, domestic competitions and representative programs, with over 1,100 teams.
- The Association has consistently grown at nearly double the state average over the past 10 years, which has resulted in a significant increase in demand and a severe shortage in court capacity.
- The Association runs a basketball tournament over the Kings Birthday weekend, attracting a large number of teams from across the country. The tournament provides economic benefit to both the association and the wider Whitehorse community.
- MEBA and associated clubs use 33 facilities and 46 courts for training and competition. These facilities are located in Whitehorse and neighbouring municipalities.
- The Association has entered into several agreements for exclusive use of school sites, which are in place at Forest Hill College, Mullauna College, and The Knox School. Each venue is available to MEBA at the required times (Mullauna and Knox are not currently used on Sundays). To secure these partnerships, the Association contributes to the annual maintenance of the facility, including floor re-sealing, and has also invested capital with new backboards/rings/seating.
- The greatest challenge facing the Association is that the demand for basketball participation is outstripping the current court supply, specifically compliant courts. As the above table shows, most courts are non-compliant due to limited court run off, proving a safety hazard for players and referees. The security/safety of these utilising single-court facilities is also of concern for the Association.

Basketball Clubs Feedback

Respondents were asked to identify any new or upgraded facility requirements as part of the Club Survey. The basketball clubs identified the following requirements.

Table 9: Facility List for Nunawading Basketball Association and Associated Clubs

Sport	New or Upgraded Facility Requirements
Basketball	• **Playball Basketball** suggests upgrading the score tables to a flat surface rather than the current 45-degree angle and recommends changing the flooring to a lighter colour the next time it is sanded back. • **Respect Sports Inc** highlights the need for better lighting, particularly during summer when the glass walls can cause issues, though they note that everything else is satisfactory. • **Koonung Comets Basketball Club** has need for more courts that meet competition-grade standards to accommodate their growing requirements. • **Nunawading Basketball** indicates a significant demand for at least 10 additional courts in the area to meet the current needs for competition, training and other programs. • **Mitcham Thunder Basketball Club** needs more facilities or renewal contracts that include struggling clubs, with upgrades that promote greater inclusivity. They also advocate for more indoor basketball courts that are managed by the Council in the Whitehorse area. • **Nunawading Kangas Basketball Club** indicates that their needs have grown, competition games have taken over traditional training venues, making it increasingly difficult to find suitable training times and locations. This situation is negatively impacting their ability to foster a strong club spirit, which is vital for the long-term viability of the club. They require help and additional facilities to address this issue. • **Syndal Storm** needs additional facilities to accommodate the rising participation levels. • **Koonung Comets** has over 1,000 registered players and use Koonung Secondary College, Mont Albert School, Box Hill Senior Secondary College, Whitehorse Primary School and Doncaster Secondary College. The Club's challenge is securing additional courts. Nunawading Basketball Centre is too far away so a redevelopment of this facility will have little impact. The Club is actively advocating for facility expansion at Koonung Secondary College (4 courts)

4.2.3 Key Challenges and Opportunities

The following key challenges and opportunities are identified:

- There is a current shortfall of eight basketball courts, which is projected to grow to 31 in 2046.
- Basketball Victoria reports that existing teams have limited access to courts, with most timeslots currently filled for competition. Compliant facilities are fully booked, restricting the sport's participation growth.
- The majority of basketball courts in the City of Whitehorse are non-compliant, with insufficient run off.
- The City of Whitehorse basketball facilities primarily support Association competition. School courts also play an important role in supporting Association competition and club training. However, if schools cease community access or community access to school facilities were not endorsed by planning, Whitehorse risks losing competitive basketball opportunities.
- The Melbourne East Basketball Association lacks a contemporary regional indoor sports stadium that supports athlete development pathways from entry-level programs to elite (NBL1) standard competition.
- All basketball associations and clubs indicated a need for access to additional courts.

4.2.4 Strategic Recommendations

To foster the growth of basketball in Whitehorse the strategic objective is to build on the network of fit-for-purpose facilities at a local, district, and regional level. This would include:

- Supporting the expansion of Nunawading Basketball Centre in the short term.
- Exploring the other opportunities identified or currently being planned for additional courts in the medium to long term. This includes exploring development proposals on school land.
- Ensures the Active Communities and Leisure Team partner with clubs/associations and Basketball Victoria to proactivity develop the participation opportunities for all ages, genders and abilities, and pathways for players from grass-root to elite competition.

4.3 Calisthenics

4.3.1 Code Overview

Participation

- There are currently 298 calisthenics Victoria-registered participants in Whitehorse. The registered participation rate is 0.19%.
- Calisthenics participation in Victoria has increased by 13.1% from 6,928 participants in 2020 to 7,836 in 2023. Calisthenics Victoria report that this trend is being realised in the City of Whitehorse.
- There are two clubs that service Whitehorse:
  - Blackburn Calisthenics College has 160 members in 2024. The Club is affiliated with Calisthenics Victoria.
  - Regent Calisthenics is located just outside the boundary of the City of Whitehorse. It is the second largest club in Victoria and services Whitehorse residents.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 108 calisthenics participants in Whitehorse in 2021, which is anticipated to grow to 113 by 2031 and 138 by 2046. This comparison against the actual Whitehorse registered calisthenics participants shows a significantly higher participation rate and proportion than the State average.

Existing Facilities

- The Blackburn Calisthenics College is located in Mitcham is a district level facility. They are seeking an additional studio.
- Regent Calisthenics is located in Ringwood on the boundary of the City of Whitehorse, within Maroondah City Council.

Future Demand

- There is a current and future deficit of one district-level calisthenics facility.
- The eastern area of Whitehorse is well-serviced for calisthenics facilities. There is a gap in the provision of a district-level facility in the central/western area of Whitehorse. This is based on the catchment assessment.

Proposed Facilities

- There are no current proposals for new calisthenics facilities.

Table 10 summarises the current Whitehorse calisthenics participation levels and facility provision.

Table 10: Facilities Overview for Calisthenics

Category	Result
Participation numbers	298 Local participation rate is 0.19%
AusPlay participation rate benchmark Adults 0.02% Children 0.30%	 108 in 2021 138 in 2046
Current number of sports courts / facilities	1 - The facility is a fit for purpose studio There is a fit for purpose studio on the boundary of Whitehorse in Maroondah that services Whitehorse

Category	Result
State/National Facilities	0
Regional Facilities	0
District Facilities	1
Local Facilities	0
Does current facility provision meet current demand?	No – Deficit of 1 facility
Does current facility provision meet future demand?	No – Deficit of 1 facility

The table and map below detail the current hierarchy and distribution of calisthenics facilities across Whitehorse.

Table 11: Facility Hierarchy for Calisthenics

Facility Name	Hierarchy	Ownership	Fields of Play	Details
Blackburn Calisthenics College	District	Private	1	Dedicated - Studio Hall
Total			**1**	
Regent Calisthenics (Outside within City of Maroondah LGA but services Whitehorse)	District	Private	1	Shared – Multi-purpose Hall (Theatre)

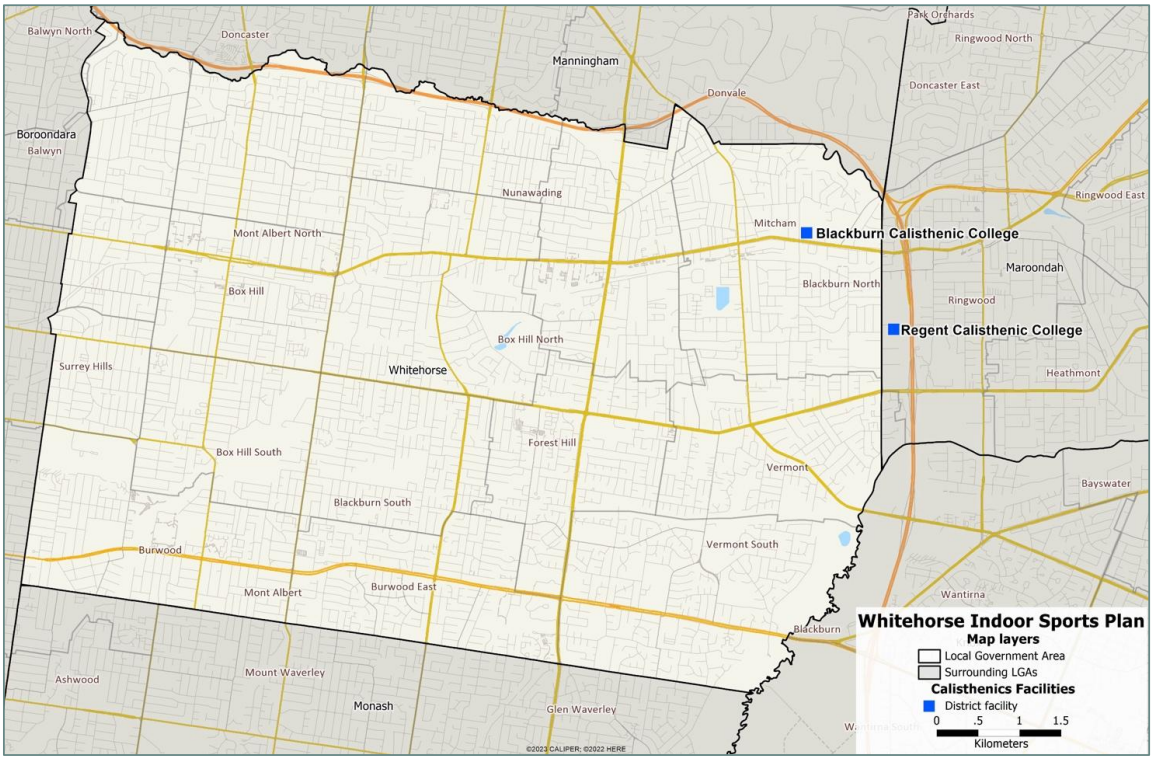

Figure 16: Current Calisthenics Facilities Map

NB: Regent Calisthenic College is located outside the City of Whitehorse, within the City of Maroondah

4.3.2 Stakeholder Engagement Feedback

Calisthenics Victoria

Table 12: Calisthenics Victoria Feedback

Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	• 7,787 participants in Victoria - 7,725 Female, 57 Male, 5 Non-binary. • 298 registered participants within the City of Whitehorse.
Current facilities	• There is currently one calisthenics club in the City of Whitehorse, located within an industrial setting to the very east of the municipality.
Issues and challenges	• There are several challenges, including increasing costs and a lack of appropriate spaces with suitable flooring. Most clubs require access to two spaces that can be used simultaneously. When clubs approach local councils for space hire, they often face limited availability, carpeted floors or spaces that are not large enough. Storage is also a common issue.
Gaps and opportunities for indoor sports facility provision	• There is a gap in the City of Whitehorse for facility provision of facilities and that limits the sport's growth.
Support for project	• Calisthenics Victoria welcomes additional indoor facility provision to cater to a range of sports and would take up the opportunity to consult on further facility developments to assist in expanding Calisthenics in a fit-for-purpose facility within Whitehorse.

Calisthenics Club Feedback

As part of the survey, clubs were asked to identify any new or upgraded facility requirements. Calisthenics clubs identified the following requirements.

Table 13: Calisthenics Club Requirements

Sport	New or Upgraded Facility Requirements
Calisthenics	• **Blackburn Calisthenics College** reported the need for a home club with three dedicated studio spaces.

4.3.3 Key Challenges and Opportunities

The following key challenges and opportunities are identified:

- There is a current and future shortfall of one calisthenic studio. There is a gap in provision of a calisthenics facility in the central/northwestern area of Whitehorse.
- Calisthenics Victoria report compliant facilities are at capacity restricting the participation growth of the sport.
- The district private calisthenics club is seeking additional studio spaces to support participation growth.
- There is a reliance on private and school providers. If private providers and schools cease operations, Whitehorse risks losing calisthenics opportunities.

4.3.4 Strategic Recommendations

To foster the growth of calisthenics in Whitehorse the strategic objective is to build on the network of fit-for-purpose facilities at a local and district level. This would include:

- Partner with Blackburn Calisthenics College and explore opportunities in the central/western area of Whitehorse for a new district-level studio.
- Consider the inclusion of multi-purpose program rooms to support calisthenics in indoor sports facility developments/upgrade.
- Active Communities and Leisure Team partner with clubs, private providers and Calisthenics Victoria to proactively develop participation opportunities for all ages, genders and abilities, and pathways for players from grass-root to elite competition.

4.4 Cricket (Indoor)

4.4.1 Code Overview

Participation

- Cricket Victoria does not provide data on registered indoor cricket players due to the commercial nature of the activity.
- Indoor cricket competition in Whitehorse is provided at the Box Hill Indoor Sports Centre, a private operator. The Centre is very well used seven days a week and hosts indoor cricket competitions, including eight senior divisions with 37 registered teams playing three nights per week and Sunday evenings; and junior grades three to 10 with 30 teams playing four afternoons each week. Each team has a minimum of eight players, so it is assumed there are 536 indoor cricket participants in Whitehorse.
- Cricket Victoria reports that outdoor cricket participation in Whitehorse has increased across all categories of participants including junior and master blasters, juniors and seniors over the past three years. There are 3,585 junior and senior players participating in teams and 891 participants in the junior and master blaster program.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 4,794 cricket participants in Whitehorse (indoor and outdoor) in 2021 that is anticipated to grow to 5,675 by 2031 and 6,820 by 2046.

Existing Facilities

- The Box Hill Indoor Sports Centre is a regional indoor cricket centre with six compliant indoor cricket courts. The venue is in excellent condition and is supported by kiosk, bar, administration and toilets.
- The Century Cricket Centre, located in Blackburn, provides private coaching for cricket under a membership model. The Centre provides five indoor cricket courts.

Future Demand

- The Box Hill Indoor Sports Centre, a centrally located regional facility, is adequate to support both current and future indoor cricket competitions. However, there is an ongoing and future demand for access to multi-use indoor sports training facilities.

Proposed Facilities

- There are no current proposals for new indoor cricket facilities.

The following table summarises the current Whitehorse indoor cricket participation levels and facility provision.

Table 14: Facilities Overview for Indoor Cricket

Category	Result
Participation numbers	Approximately 536 indoor cricket players 4,476 outdoor cricket players and blasters program participants
AusPlay participation rate benchmark Indoor and outdoor cricket participation rate is: Adults 2.60% Children 4.80% * Indoor cricket proportion of overall participation is unknown	 4,794 in 2021 6,820 in 2046

Category	Result
Current number of sports courts / facilities	2 facilities / 11 courts
State/National Facilities	0
Regional Facilities	1
District Facilities	0
Local Facilities	1
Does current facility provision meet current demand?	Yes
Does current facility provision meet future demand?	Yes

The table and map below detail the current hierarchy and distribution of the indoor cricket facility in Whitehorse.

Table 15: Hierarchy for Indoor Cricket

Facility Name	Hierarchy	Ownership	Fields of Play	Details
Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre	Regional	Private	6	Shared
Century Cricket Centre	Local (Coaching Only)	Private	5	Dedicated
Total			**11**	

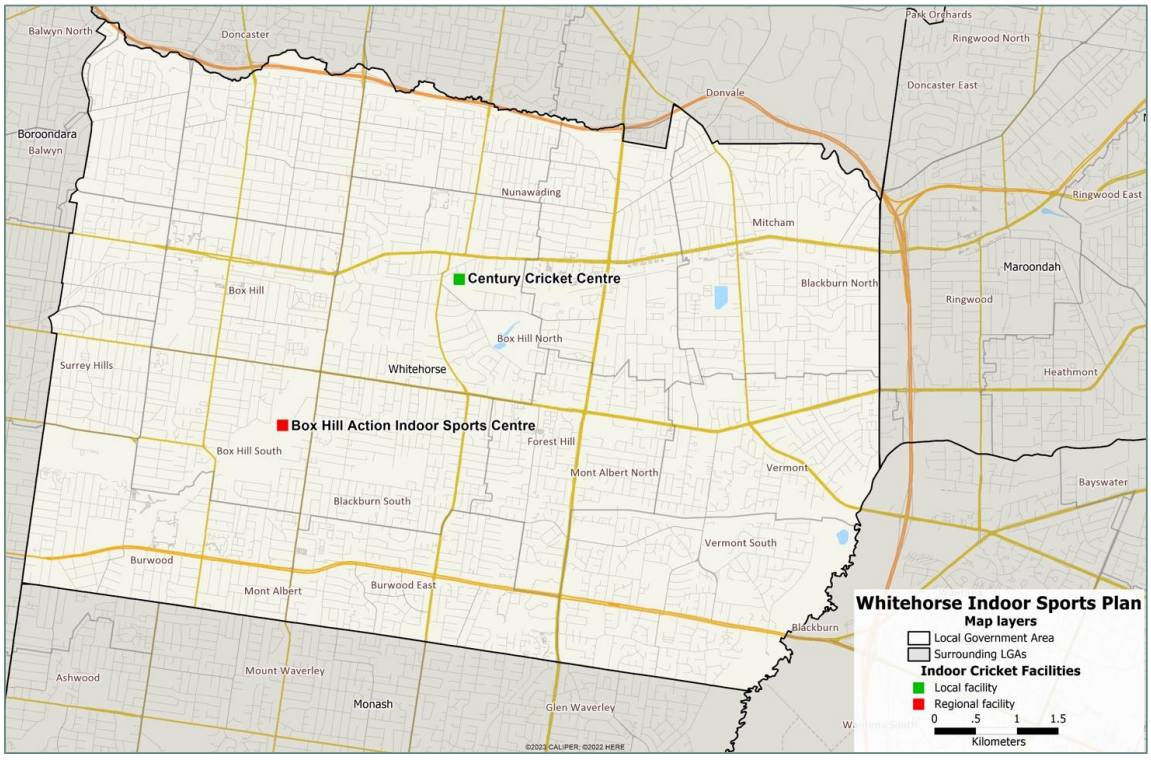

Figure 17: Current Indoor Cricket Facilities Map

4.4.2 Stakeholder Engagement Feedback

Cricket Victoria Feedback

Table 16: Cricket Victoria Feedback

Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	**Indoor cricket** Whitehorse indoor cricket participation is played at Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre. It is an unaffiliated competition with Cricket Victoria and therefore participant numbers are unknown. Associations place teams within the indoor competition program to continue cricket participation year-round; however, data is hard to capture as this is not affiliated with Cricket Victoria. **Outdoor cricket** Whitehorse cricket participation in outdoor cricket has increased over the last three years across junior and master blaster program participants and junior and senior cricket players. It is assumed that with the increase in outdoor cricket players, there will be a corresponding growth in demand for indoor cricket competitions. **School cricket programs** Girls' Sport Victoria (GSV): • Number of indoor competitions: 5 (Senior A / Intermediate A&B / Junior A&B) • Year levels in each competition: 7&8 / 9&10 / 11&12 • Number of teams in Inner East Metro Region: 39 • Number of participants in Inner East Metro Region: 390 • Venue: Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre. Eastern Independent Schools of Melbourne (EISM) • Number of indoor competitions: 8 (4 male and 4 female) • Year levels in each competition: 7 / 8 / 9 / 10-12 • Number of teams in Inner East Metro Region Female: 15 • Number of teams in Inner East Metro Region Male: 19 • Number of participants in Inner East Metro Region Female: 150 • Number of participants in Inner East Metro Region Male: 190 • Venue: Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre.
Current facilities	• The provision of facilities within the City of Whitehorse are private/commercial providers. • Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre only hosts competition; pre-season indoor training for local clubs is not available. • Century Cricket Blackburn – private 24/7 membership and training facility only.
Issues and challenges	• The two facilities in the municipality do not cater to pre-season training, so Clubs travel outside of the LGA for this. Indoor and/or lit outdoor cricket training nets are required to meet training demand.
Gaps and opportunities for indoor sports facility provision	• Cricket Australia's Strategic Plan 2022-27 aims to attract juniors (ages 5-12) and families from all backgrounds to inspire a lifelong love of cricket. Cricket Victoria is following this strategic direction. • Partnering with schools is seen as an opportunity for developing multi-use spaces that support indoor cricket training for use during evenings and weekends.
Support for project	• CV support the development of indoor multi-use spaces that can support cricket training. .

4.4.3 Key Challenges Opportunities

The following key challenges and opportunities are identified:

- The current indoor cricket facility is sufficient to meet both present and future demand.
- The Box Hill Indoor Action Centre is a regional indoor sports centre that offers indoor cricket competitions. Cricket Victoria supports the Centre as the regional indoor cricket competition facility and do not advocate for any additional competition facility. However, if this private provider ceases operations, there is a risk of losing indoor cricket competitions in Whitehorse.
- The City of Whitehorse are upgrading cricket nets with lighting at strategic locations to facilitate year-round use for training. There is also a private cricket coaching indoor cricket centre. These initiatives support the pre-season and winter cricket training programs.

4.4.4 Strategic Recommendation

To support the growth of indoor cricket participation in Whitehorse the strategic objective is for the Active Communities and Leisure Team to partner with the Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre and Cricket Victoria to proactively develop participation opportunities for all ages, genders and abilities, and pathways for players from grass-root to elite competition. There is no demand for an additional indoor cricket facility.

4.5 Fencing

4.5.1 Code Overview

Participation

- There are approximately 280 fencing participants in Whitehorse.
- There are three fencing clubs in the City of Whitehorse:
  - The Blacklords Fencing Club uses the Whitehorse Club. They are one of the largest and most successful fencing clubs in Victoria with 70 members. Pre-Covid-19 the membership was 120 members, which dropped to 30 members post-Covid-19. It is likely the membership will grow to pre-Covid-19 levels. The membership is culturally diverse with 40% of members women, special needs fencers and across a wide range of age groups.
  - The Victorian Fencing Academy operates from Box Hill and North Melbourne. They report 11 participants in Whitehorse.
  - The Whitehorse Chevaliers book the Nunawading Community Hub at least twice a week. About 100 participants attend their sessions.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 143 fencing participants in Whitehorse 2021 which will grow to 175 in 2031 and 210 in 2046.

Existing Facilities

- There are four local facilities in Whitehorse where fencing is provided:
  - The Whitehorse Club is a dedicated district-level fencing facility with 10 pistes. The fencing facility is used each weekday evening and Saturdays and is a training facility only because it is non-compliant for competitions (insufficient run offs). This facility is proposed to be demolished in the East Burwood Reserve Master Plan.
  - The Nunawading Community Hall and Durkin Hall at St Joseph's Parish have a multi-sport court where fencing is played. These two facilities and accommodate six pistes.
  - The Box Hill North Primary School multi-purpose room is used for fencing training.
  - The State Fencing Centre, located in North Melbourne, supports the main fencing activities in Victoria.

Future Demand

- The current fencing facilities in Whitehorse are well located in the northeast, northwest, and south of the municipality. However, once the Whitehorse Club is demolished, the Blacklords Fencing Club needs to be relocated to an alternative venue.
- These local facilities are supported by the State Fencing Centre, located within 30 minutes of Whitehorse, and are sufficient to support current and future participation.

Proposed Facilities

- There are no current proposals for new fencing facilities.

The following table summarises the current Whitehorse fencing participation levels and facility provision.

Table 17: Facilities Overview for Fencing

Category	Result
Participation numbers	Approximately 280 fencing participants
AusPlay participation rate benchmark Adults 0.09% Children 0.06%	 143 in 2021 210 in 2046
Current number of pistes / facilities	4 facilities / 23 pistes
State/National Facilities	0
Regional Facilities	0
District Facilities	0
Local Facilities	4
Does current facility provision meet current demand?	Yes
Does current facility provision meet future demand?	Yes

The table and map below detail the current hierarchy and distribution of indoor cricket facilities across Whitehorse.

Table 18: Facility Hierarchy for Fencing

Facility Name	Hierarchy	Ownership	Fields of Play	Details
Whitehorse Club	Local	Private	10	Dedicated
Nunawading Community Hub	Local	Council	6	Shared
St Johns Parish Durkin Hall	Local	School	6	Shared
Box Hill North Primary School	Local	School	1	Shared
Total			**23**	

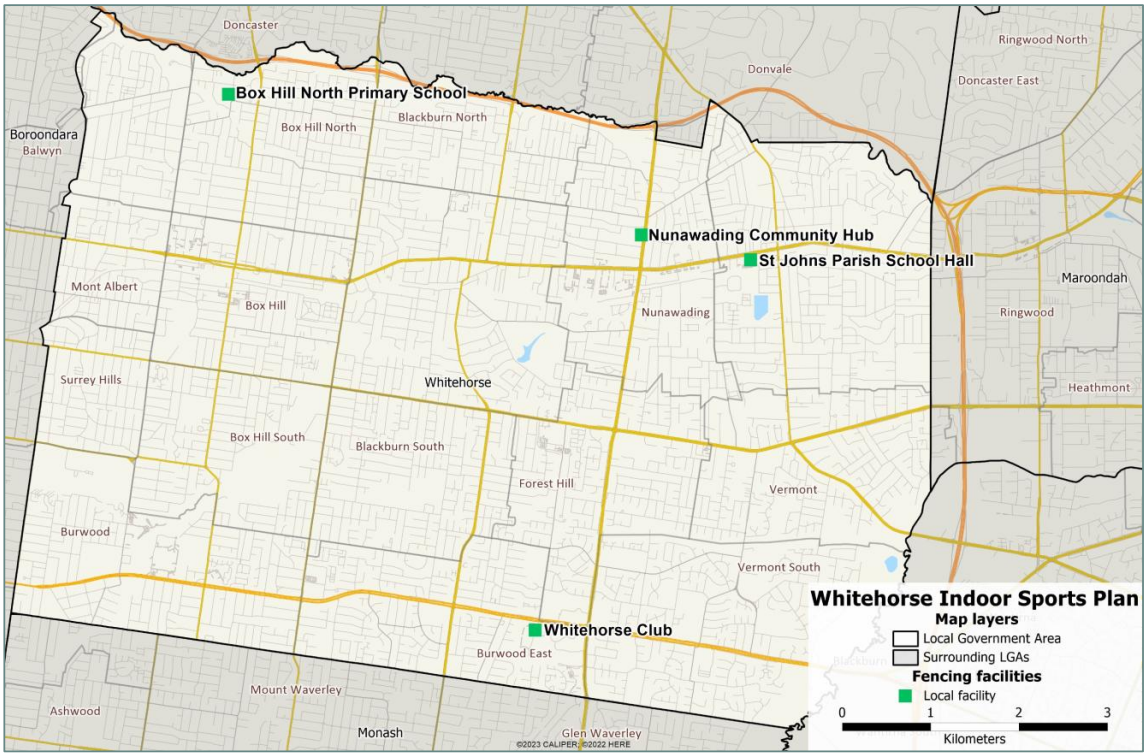

Figure 18: Current Fencing Facilities Map

4.5.2 Stakeholder Engagement Feedback

Fencing Victoria Feedback

Fencing Victoria was invited to an interview but did not respond.

Fencing Club Feedback

As part of the survey, clubs were asked to identify any new or upgraded facility requirements. Fencing clubs identified the following requirements.

Table 19: Fencing Club Feedback

Sport	New or Upgraded Facility Requirements
Fencing	• **Victoria Fencing Academy** use Box Hill North Primary School for junior training. They have increasing membership and are satisfied with the facility. The academy is reporting the facility is ageing and seek improved lighting.

4.5.3 Key Challenges and Opportunities

The following key challenges and opportunities are identified:

- The current fencing facilities are sufficient to meet both present and future demand. However, there is a risk of losing fencing competitions in Whitehorse if private providers cease operations.
- The Whitehorse Club is proposed to be demolished as part of the East Burwood Reserve Master Plan. The Blacklords Fencing Club seeks a larger facility to accommodate a minimum of ten pistes. The current pistes have non-compliant run offs; there are limited spectator viewing areas and wheelchair access is a concern.
- The State Fencing Centre in North Melbourne supports competition fencing and athlete pathway development in metropolitan Melbourne.

4.5.4 Strategic Recommendations

To support the growth of fencing participation in Whitehorse the strategic objectives are to build on the network of fit-for purpose local-level facilities. This would include:

- Relocating the Blacklords Fencing Club to an alternative venue that can accommodate 10 compliant pistes. This need should be considered as part of any development or upgrade of indoor courts or use of an existing facility i.e. Nunawading Community Hub.
- As part of any upgrades or development of indoor sports facilities consider the inclusion of multi-purpose program rooms that could be support fencing participation.
- Ensure the Active Communities and Leisure Team partner with fencing clubs and Fencing Victoria to proactively develop participation opportunities for all ages, genders and abilities, and pathways for players from grass-root to elite competition.

4.6 Futsal

4.6.1 Code Overview

Participation

- Football Victoria does not provide data on registered futsal players due to the commercial nature of the activity.
- The Box Hill Indoor Action Centre offers futsal competition on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday. There are five divisions with 42 teams (210 players) on Monday, three divisions with 26 teams (130 players) on Wednesday, one division with six teams (30 players) on Thursday and one division with five teams (25 players). An approximate total of 395 futsal players playing weekly, year-round.
- Futsal Super 5's competition is run from Sportlink on Sunday (Men's – 16 teams), Tuesdays (Men's – 20 teams) and Wednesday (Mixed – 16 teams and Men's – 8 teams). There are approximately 300 people playing futsal each week.
- The competition and most teams are not affiliated with Football Victoria. However, there are two futsal clubs in the City of Whitehorse which are affiliated with Football Victoria - Kingston Royals Futsal Club and Nunawading City Owls Futsal Club.
- Soccer participation generally has increased by 146.05% from 608 participants in 2020 to 1,496 in 2024. Football Victoria report that although these figures represent soccer, futsal participation growth has also grown exponentially, with the provision of futsal being provided by both affiliated clubs and private providers.
- Given the high demand for access to existing indoor sports facilities, there are limited access opportunities for futsal to use indoor courts, impacting their ability to grow the sport.
- The Football Australia National Participation Report identifies that 39% of overall soccer participants are futsal players. If applied to Whitehorse soccer participants, the number of Futsal players is approximately 583. This current registered participation converted to a participation rate is 0.36%.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 2,927 futsal participants in Whitehorse in 2021 which will grow to 3,408 in 2031 and 4,104 in 2046.

Existing Facilities

- There are 12 facilities providing capacity for 21 futsal courts at shared-use or dedicated venues in the City of Whitehorse that support unaffiliated futsal competition and social play. However, when occupancy of shared-use courts is reviewed, the current futsal court access is four courts.
- Sportlink is classified as a district facility that supports futsal competition across the four sports courts.
- Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre is a private indoor sports centre that supports a district-level futsal competition on three fit for purpose futsal courts.
- There are local schools' sports courts being hired for social futsal games/competitions.

Future Demand

- The model predicts a deficit of one futsal court in 2023 which will increase to three courts in 2046.

Proposed Facilities

- Additional one court at Sportlink could support futsal.

The following table summarises the current Whitehorse futsal participation levels and facility provision.

Table 20: Facilities Overview for Futsal

Category	Result
Participation numbers	Approximately 695 futsal participants.
AusPlay Participation rate benchmark Adults 3.70% Children 9.30% *Assumes 39% of the overall soccer participation is futsal	 2,927 in 2021 4,104 in 2046
Current number of sports courts / facilities	12 facilities – 21 courts Current court access of 4 courts
State/National Facilities	0
Regional Facilities	0
District Facilities	2
Local Facilities	10
Does current facility provision meet current demand?	No – Deficit of 1 court
Does current facility provision meet future demand?	No – Deficit of 3 courts

The following table and map detail the current hierarchy and distribution of futsal facilities across Whitehorse.

Table 21: Facility Hierarchy for Futsal

Facility Name	Hierarchy	Ownership	Fields of Play	Details
Sportlink	District	Council	4	Shared Use
Aqualink Box Hill	Local	Council	3	Shared Use
Blackburn High School	Local	School	1	Shared Use
Blackburn Lake Primary School	Local	School	1	Shared Use
Blackburn Primary School	Local	School	1	Shared Use
Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre	District	Private	3	Shared Use
Box Hill High School	Local	School	2	Shared Use
Deakin University Stadium	Local	School	2	Shared Use
Kingswood College	Local	School	1	Shared Use
Vermont Secondary College	Local	School	1	Shared Use
Wattle Park Primary School	Local	School	1	Shared Use
Whitehorse Primary School	Local	School	1	Shared Use
Total			**21**	

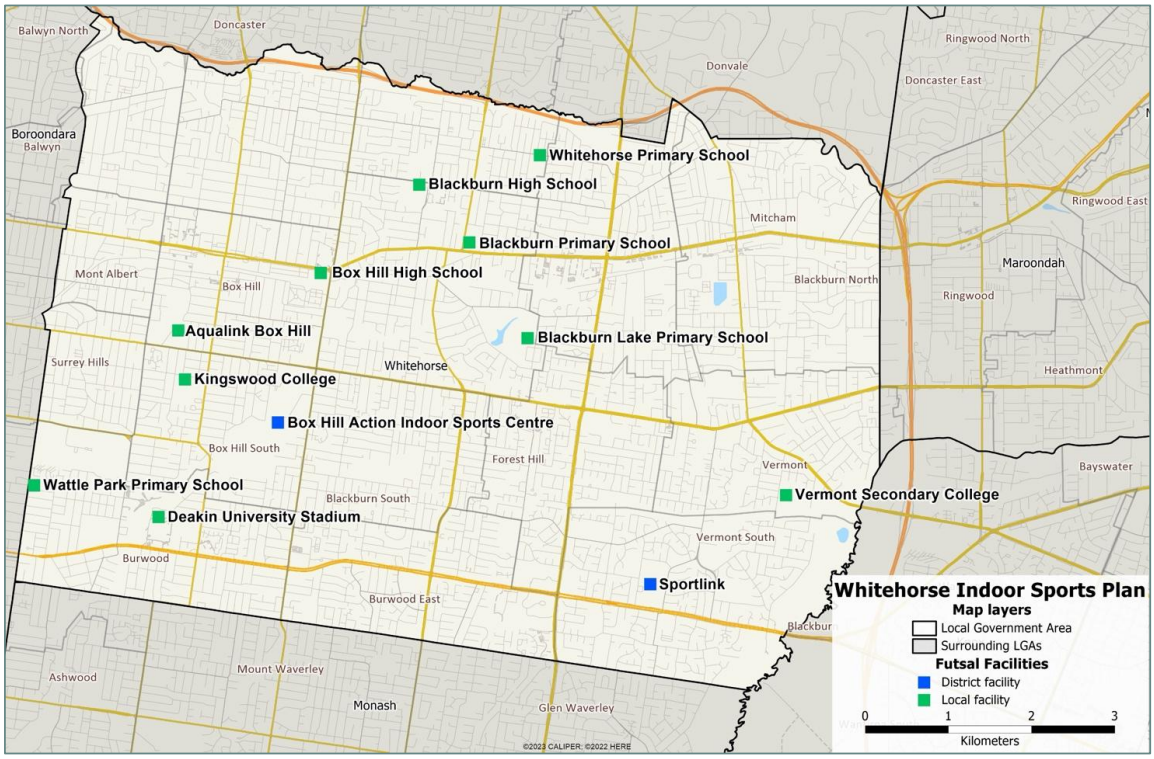

Figure 19: Current Futsal Facilities Map

4.6.2 Stakeholder Engagement Feedback

Futsal Victoria Feedback

Table 22: Futsal Victoria Feedback

Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	• The City of Whitehorse has a high participation in social futsal. • The participation in football (soccer) has doubled in Whitehorse in the last 10 years (2014 - 791 players; 2023 – 1,057 which will continue to grow. • The growth of football requires access to Futsal competition and venues. FV is committed to investing and developing Futsal that will increase the demand on indoor sports centres. • Futsal helps to grow the game. Therefore, FV is encouraging outdoor football clubs to have Futsal teams that will support growth of participation. • The demographic profile and cultural groupings of Whitehorse supports Futsal participation. For example, Futsal is popular activity in Asia.
Current facilities	• Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre provide for futsal competition. Sportlink has provided futsal competition in the past, however this has since ceased operation. • Outside of Whitehorse there are futsal competitions at Oakleigh Recreation Centre, Mount Evelyn, Nets and Springers in Dandenong. • Futsal is provided for at shared facilities, but the level of access is restricted due to the demand for other indoor sports.
Issues and challenges	• The biggest challenge to the sport is access to venues. It is a difficult for the sport to host tournaments because of the lack of venues. Access to more shared-use facilities is required, unless a dedicated futsal facility is provided.
Gaps and opportunities for	• Increasing futsal participation, leads to growth in soccer and overall engagement with the sport.

Discussion Topic	Comments
indoor sports facility provision	• Football Victoria support multi-sport venues and seek access to these facilities to support Futsal participation. • The required dimension for soccer is (40m x 20m wide).
Support for project	• FV is supportive of the development of multi-purpose indoor sports facilities in Whitehorse to support the current and future participation in futsal.

4.6.3 Key Challenges and Opportunities

The following key challenges and opportunities are identified:

- There is a current shortfall of one futsal court, which is projected to grow to three by 2046.
- The current access to the 21 courts is restricted due to the courts being shared with other indoor sport users. Participation demand and access to these courts should be monitored to assess future court requirements.
- Any new indoor courts developed or upgraded should be designed to accommodate futsal.
- There is a reliance on private providers for competition and if they cease operation, there is a risk of losing access to futsal competition in Whitehorse.

4.6.4 Strategic Recommendations

To foster the growth of futsal participation in Whitehorse the strategic objective is to build on the network of multi-use fit-for purpose local, district and regional level facilities. This would include:

- Providing increased access to multi-sport courts.
- Monitoring futsal participation and programming demands.
- Ensuring the Active Communities and Leisure Team partner with futsal providers and Football Victoria to proactively develop participation opportunities for all ages, genders and abilities, and pathways for players from grass-root to elite competition.

4.7 Gymnastics

4.7.1 Code Overview

Participation

- There are currently 2,326 Gymnastics Victoria-registered participants in Whitehorse. The registered participation translates to a rate of 1.2%. This does not account for club members participating in non-affiliated gymnastics programs.
- There are two gymnastics clubs in the City of Whitehorse:
  - Eastern Gymnastics Club runs senior and junior training and competitions seven days a week (Weekdays daytime and evenings, Saturday daytime, Sunday evenings). Membership has remained stable.
  - Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club have 500-550 members. They operate senior and junior training and competitions and programs. Programs are offered to all age groups from beginner to intermediate levels.
- There are two large gymnastics clubs in neighbouring municipalities (Manningham and Monash) that also service Whitehorse residents - BTYC and Burwood United Gymnastics Squad.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 4,331 gymnastics participants in Whitehorse in 2021 that will grow to 4,384 in 2031 and 5,379 in 2046.

Existing Facilities

- There are three district gymnastics facilities located in Whitehorse, the Eastern Gymnastics Club and Nunawading Gymnastics Centre. A third gymnastics hall is being constructed at Presbyterian Ladies College that may be available for community use:
  - Eastern Gymnastics Club, Box Hill South - a high-quality private district gymnastics facility with two gymnastics halls. The Club has a commercial lease for use of their gym.
  - Nunawading Gymnastics Centre, Nunawading - a district gymnastics facility located at Walker Park. The facility is not fit for purpose to support senior events and can only support beginner to intermediate levels. The Club reports that the facility has reached capacity, and they require a larger facility to grow participation and programming.
- A new gymnastics hall is being constructed at Presbyterian Ladies College. The school is currently considering the options for community access to the gymnastics area.
- The BTYC district gymnastics facility is located in Manningham and Burwood United Gymnastics Squad district gymnastics facility is located in Monash. They are located on boundary of the City of Whitehorse and service Whitehorse residents.
- The State Sport Centre in Wantirna is the home of the Knox Gymnastics Club and also services Whitehorse residents.

Future Demand

- The Demand Analysis model predicts a current shortfall of two gymnastics halls which will grow to four halls by 2046. However, this does not account for the new Presbyterian Ladies College gymnastics hall with potential community use and district gymnastics clubs located on the boundary of City of Whitehorse.

Proposed Facilities

- The Walker Park Master Plan identifies the current and future demand for gymnastics supports the redevelopment of the Nunawading Gymnastics Centre.

The following table summarises the current Whitehorse gymnastics participation levels and facility provision.

Table 23: Facilities Overview for Gymnastics

Category	Result
Participation numbers	2,326 Local participation rate is 1.20%
AusPlay participation rate benchmark Adults 0.45% Children 13.50%	4,331 in 2021 5,379 in 2046
Current number of gymnastics halls / facilities	3 – 3 halls
State/National Facilities	0
Regional Facilities	0
District Facilities	3
Local Facilities	0
Does current facility provision meet current demand?	Yes – When considering gymnastics facilities located on Whitehorse boundary
Does current facility provision meet future demand?	Yes – When considering gymnastics facilities located on Whitehorse boundary

The table and map below detail the current hierarchy and distribution of gymnastics facilities across Whitehorse.

Table 24: Facility Hierarchy for Gymnastics

Facility Name	Hierarchy	Ownership	Fields of Play	Details
Eastern Gymnastics Club	District	Private	1 hall	Dedicated
Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club	District	Council	1 hall	Dedicated
Presbyterian Ladies College	District	School	1 hall	Dedicated
Total			**3 halls**	
BTYC (Outside LGA but service Whitehorse)	District	Council	1 hall	Dedicated
Burwood United Gymnastics Squad (Outside LGA but service Whitehorse)	District	Private	1 hall	Dedicated

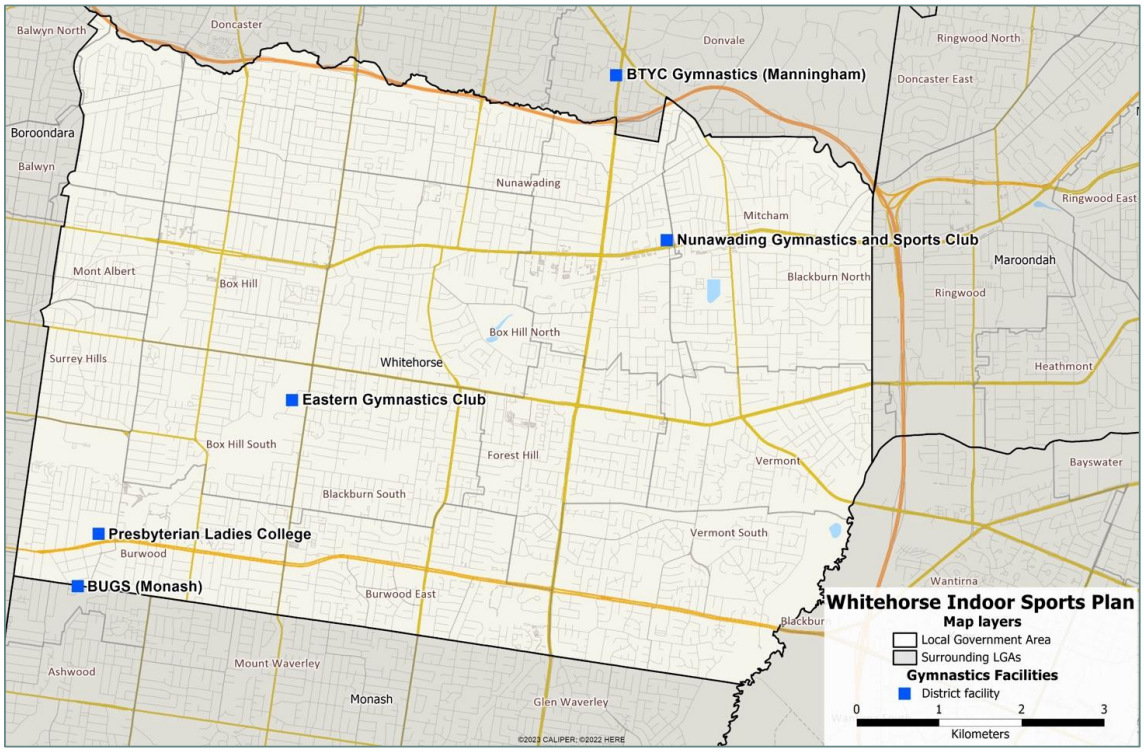

Figure 20: Current Gymnastics Facilities Map

4.7.2 Stakeholder Engagement Feedback

Nunawading Gymnastic Club Feedback

Nunawading Gymnastic Club is located in a Council facility at Walker Park, 413-425 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading. The Club has seen significant growth since returning from Covid-19, with a stable enrolment base of between 500-550 participants. Key factors for the growth of participation include:

- Clear vision for the Club, with better governance and management in place.
- Tailored service with a variety of program offerings.
- Encouragement and active involvement from the Club community.

The current programs on offer are:

- KinderGym: 132 participants (87 female and 45 male)
- Gymnastics for All (GFA): 224 participants
- Acrobatics: State and National Level: 19 participants
- WAG (Women's Artistic Gymnastics): 47 participants
- Rhythmic Gymnastics: 41 participants
- MAG (Men's Artistic Gymnastics): 11 participants
- GymStar: Specific to Gymnastics Victoria: 92 participants.

The current facility is outdated and no longer fit for purpose. Its limitations include having only one sprung floor, while the rhythmic gymnastics program uses a soft foam floor for competitions. Additionally, the low

ceiling height, lack of advanced equipment and insufficient spectator seating restrict the club to hosting only junior gymnastics competitions up to Level 2.

When planning for a new facility, the following should be considered:

- Expansion of footprint due to general population growth and growth of the sport.
- Two sprung floors and a dedicated rhythmic gymnastics area.
- Consideration of satellite venues currently not in use: the Club requires a facility specific venue with a high ceiling for advanced training.
- Foam pit for higher-level gymnastics (they are currently using other clubs' facilities for this).
- The Walker Park location is ideal due to the proximity to other sports and public transport.

Gymnastics Clubs Feedback

As part of the survey, clubs were asked to identify any new or upgraded facility requirements. Gymnastics clubs identified the following requirements.

Table 25: Gymnastics Clubs Feedback

Sport	New or Upgraded Facility Requirements
Gymnastics	• **Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club Inc** mentioned significant upgrades, including improved amenities, a larger area for equipment, a redesigned entry and administration area, and a building with a higher ceiling. They also require a kitchen, meeting rooms, a square or rectangle-shaped building instead of the current L-shape, and the installation of heating and cooling systems. Additionally, they highlight the need for a proper viewing area, increased storage, disability access, and a designated pick-up and drop-off area. • **Eastern Gymnastics Club** identifies the need for a foam pit to enhance training and safety. They also mentioned lower rent to ease financial pressures on the Club. • **Burwood United Gymnastics Squad (BUGS Gymnastics)** is advocating for a larger venue to accommodate growth and provide adequate parent viewing. They also mention that the building is currently in disrepair and that there is limited parking, which needs improvement.

4.7.3 Key Challenges and Opportunities

The following key challenges and opportunities are identified:

- The number of district gymnastics facilities meet current and future demand. However, The Nunawading Gymnastics Centre is ageing and not fit for purpose. Its limitations restrict the Club's programming. The Centre can only accommodate junior gymnastics competitions up to Level 2.
- There are large district gymnastics clubs in neighbouring municipalities that all service the needs of Whitehorse residents, particularly those that live within close proximity.
- There is a new private gymnastics facility being constructed at Presbyterian Ladies College that may help to meet future demand requirements in Whitehorse if the facility and club are accessible to community members.
- There is a reliance on private providers for gymnastics programming and competition and if they cease operation, there is a risk of losing gymnastics programming and competition in Whitehorse.

4.7.5 Strategic Recommendations

To foster the growth of gymnastics participation in Whitehorse the strategic objective is to build on the network of fit-for purpose district level facilities. This would include:

- Upgrading the Nunawading Gymnastics Centre to provide a fit-for-purpose district gymnastics facility in Whitehorse.
- Partnering with Presbyterian Ladies College and secure community access to the new gymnastics hall.
- Ensuring the Active Communities and Leisure Team partner with gymnastics providers and Gymnastics Victoria to proactivity develop the participation opportunities for all ages, genders and abilities, and pathways for players from grass-root to elite competition.

4.8 Martial Arts

4.8.1 Code Overview

Participation

- Registered participation data for martial arts is unavailable due to the lack of an integrated peak representative body and the commercial nature of the activity.
- There are seven martial arts sports providers in the City of Whitehorse including:
  - Blackburn Karate Club runs a karate program seven days a week, year-round for children (5-8 years), young people (9-15 years), adults (16 years and above), and fitness classes.
  - Gracie Jiu-Jitsu in Burwood runs seven days a week, year- round for pre-school (3-5 years), children (5-12 years), teen and adult classes, women only classes, black belt club and private lessons.
  - Hung Gar Yau Shu Arts School in Nunawading runs weekly martial arts classes for students aged 12 years and above on Saturdays.
  - Kando Martial Arts Club in Nunawading runs seven days a week, year-round for pre-school (3-5 years), children (5-12 years), teenagers, adults, and cardio kickboxing classes.
  - Mitcham Aikido School in Mitcham runs weekly martial arts classes for students aged 12 years and above on Saturdays.
  - Whitehorse Shotokan Karate-Do Australia in Mont Albert runs weekly martial arts classes.
  - Wado Ryu Karate in Box Hill operates from Aqualink Box Hill on Thursdays for junior and adults' classes.
- Tai Chi is also a martial art but is not recognised as a sport in Australia. Tai Chi providers in the city of Whitehorse include:
  - Blackburn Tai Chi Academy – The Academy reports 12 senior men and 14 senior women in 2024. They operate Monday evenings between February to early December from St Luke's Church Hall Blackburn South.
  - Celestial Tai Chi College – The College reports 98 senior men and 479 senior women in 2024. Membership has increased since 2019. They operate weekday evenings year-round from St Peter's Anglican Church Hall.
  - Taichi for Life in Forest Hill runs seven days a week and year-round for children, young people and adult classes across Tai Chi, Wushu, Qigong martial arts.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 2,537 martial arts participants in Whitehorse in 2021, growing to 3,138 by 2031 and 3,751 by 2046.

Existing Facilities

- Martial Arts providers are operating from 25 schools, churches, private facilities, the Nunawading Basketball Centre and Sportlink.

Future Demand

- The current provision of martial arts facilities in Whitehorse are well located north-east, north-west and south of the municipality.

Proposed Facilities

- There are no current proposals for new martial arts facilities.

The following table summarises the current Whitehorse martial arts participation levels and facility provision.

Table 26: Facilities Overview for Martial Arts

Category	Result
Participation numbers	Registered participation data for martial arts is unavailable 7 martial arts providers (plus three Tai Chi providers)
AusPlay participation rate benchmark Adults 1.72% Children 0.88%	 2,537 in 2021 3,751 in 2046
Current number of sports courts / facilities	25
State/National Facilities	0
Regional Facilities	0
District Facilities	3
Local Facilities	22
Does current facility provision meet current demand?	Yes
Does current facility provision meet future demand?	Yes

The table and map below detail the current hierarchy and distribution of martial arts facilities across Whitehorse.

Table 27: Facility Hierarchy for Martial Arts

Facility Name	Hierarchy	Ownership	Fields of Play	Details
Aqualink Box Hill	Local	Council	1 gym	Shared
Aqualink Nunawading	Local	Council	1 gym	Shared
Antonio Park Primary School	Local	School	1 (not full sized) court	Shared
Blackburn Karate Club	District	Private	1 studio hall	Dedicated
Blackburn Primary School	Local	School	1 multi-purpose court	Shared
Box Hill South Family Centre	Local	Private	1 studio hall	Shared
Burwood East Primary School	Local	School	2 studio halls	Shared
Burwood Heights Primary School	Local	School	1 court	Shared
Forest Hill Uniting Church	Local	Private	2 courts	Shared
Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Burwood	District	Private	1 studio hall	Dedicated
Hung Gar Yau Shu Martial Arts	District	Private	1 studio hall	Dedicated
Kando Martial Arts Club	Local	Private	1 multi-purpose room	Dedicated
Kerrimuir Primary School	Local	School	1 multi-purpose room	Shared
Laburnum Primary School	Local	School	1 court	Shared
Livingstone Primary School	Local	School	1 multi-purpose room	Shared
Mitcham Aikido School	Local	Private	1 multi-purpose room	Shared
Mitcham Primary School	Local	School	1 full size court and 1 half size court	Shared

Facility Name	Hierarchy	Ownership	Fields of Play	Details
Nunawading Basketball Centre	Local	Council	1 multi-purpose room	Shared
Roberts McCubbin Primary School	Local	School	1 court	Shared
Sportlink	Local	Council	1 multi-purpose room	Shared
St Edwards Anglican Church	Local	Private	1 multi-purpose room	Shared
St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South	Local	Private	1 hall	Shared
St Peters Anglican Church	Local	Private	1 hall	Shared
St Timothy's Primary School	Local	School	1 multi-purpose room	Shared
Vermont Secondary College	Local	School	1 court	Shared
Wattle Park Primary School	Local	School	1 court	Shared
Weeden Heights Primary School	Local	School	1 multi-purpose room	Shared
Whitehorse Primary School	Local	School	1 court	Shared
Whitehorse Shotokan Karate-Do Australia	Local	Private	1 multi-purpose room	Shared
Total			**25**	

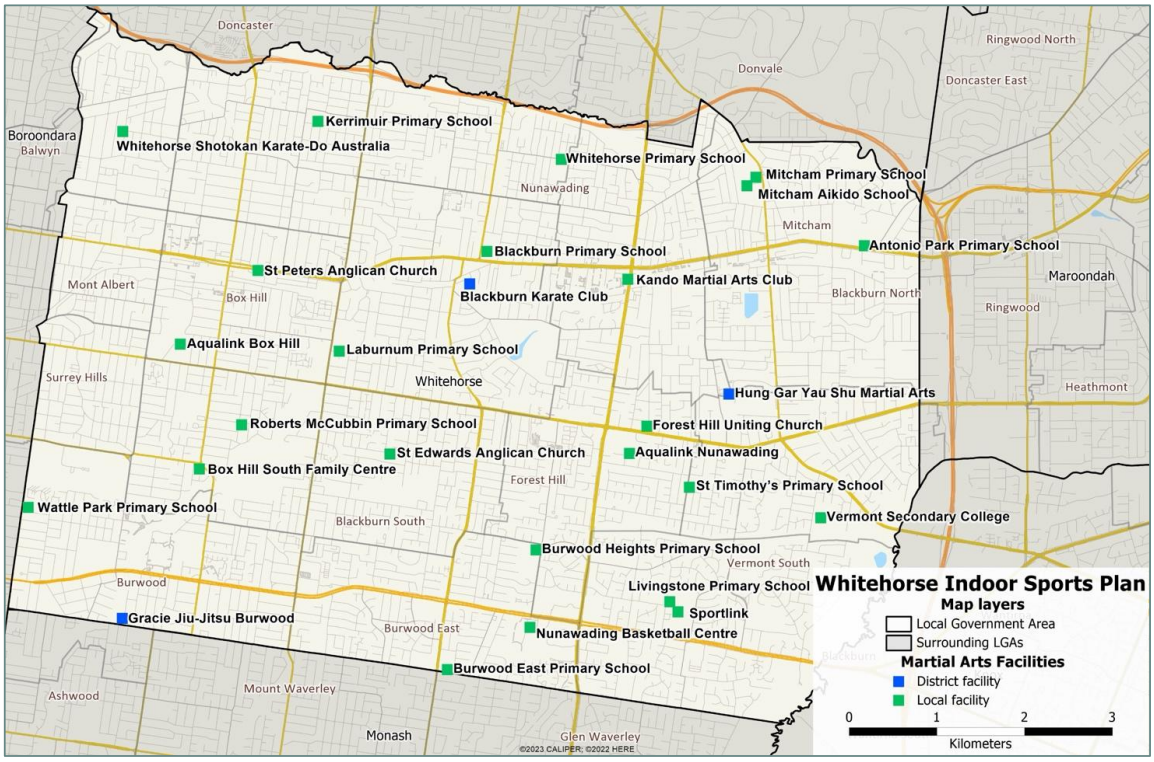

Figure 21: Current Martial Arts Facilities Map

4.8.2 Stakeholder Engagement Feedback

There is no State peak sporting body for martial arts. However, there is a National Sports Organisation, Martial Arts Australia, and separate peak sports bodies for martial arts disciplines such as Karate Victoria.

4.8.3 Key Challenges and Opportunities

The following key challenges and opportunities are identified:

- The current provision of martial arts facilities meets current requirements.
- There is a large network of private providers in Whitehorse, with some operating from private dedicated facilities and others from shared multi-purpose multipurpose rooms and courts within school and Council indoor sports facilities. There is a risk of losing martial arts programming to Whitehorse if the private providers cease operation.
- Multi-purpose halls within Council's indoor sports facilities such as Nunawading Community Hub, Aqualink Box Hill and Sportlink could provide access for martial arts as participation demand increases. Private providers may also introduce new facilities to meet this demand.

4.8.4 Strategic Recommendations

To foster the growth of martial arts participation in Whitehorse the strategic objective is to build on the network of fit-for purpose local level facilities. This would include:

- As part of any upgrades or development of indoor sports facilities consider the inclusion of multi-purpose program rooms that could be support martial arts participation.
- Ensuring the Active Communities and Leisure Team partner with martial arts providers and Martial Arts Australia to proactivity develop the participation opportunities for all ages, genders and abilities, and pathways for players from grass-root to elite competition.

4.9 Netball

4.9.1 Code Overview

Participation

- There are currently 3,153 Netball Victoria-registered participants in Whitehorse, which translates to a participation rate of 1.8%.
- Netball competition is played on indoor and outdoor sports courts. The competition is administered through both Netball Associations and Football and Netball Leagues.
- The Whitehorse Netball Association (WNA) is the primary netball competition in Whitehorse, operating out of Sportlink. There are sixteen clubs affiliated with the WNA. These are:
  - Aces
  - Blackburn South
  - Blackburn Primary
  - Hi-Lites
  - Holy Saviour
  - Ignite
  - Laburnum
  - OOPS
  - Parkmore
  - St. Luke's Rosellas
  - St. Scholastica's
  - St. Thomas
  - St. Timothy's
  - Surrey Hills
  - WCNC.
- The WNA also has a representative team who utilise Sportlink as a training facility, playing matches at the Waverley Netball Centre, located in the City of Monash.
- Slater Reserve Netball Association (SRNA) is a small Association. They offer two senior competitions on a Wednesday and Friday evening with 4-5 teams competing on each night.
- There are sixteen neighbouring netball associations within adjacent municipalities where participants from the City of Whitehorse participate.
- Social netball competitions are also played mid-week at Sportlink and Box Hill Indoor Action Centre.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 1,836 netball participants in Whitehorse in 2021, growing to 2,159 in 2031 and 2,597 in 2046.

Existing Facilities

- There are 25 netball courts, of which eight courts are used by the regional netball association. However, when occupancy of shared-use courts is reviewed, the current netball court access is eight courts

- Sportlink is the key netball facility. It is a regional four-court indoor stadium plus four covered outdoor netball courts.
- Box Hill Indoor Action Sports Centre hosts mid-week indoor social netball competitions on three courts.
- The remaining courts are used by community sports clubs for training and social play.

Future Demand

- The Demand Analysis model predicts a current shortfall of one netball court which will grow to three courts by 2046.

Proposed Facilities

- There is a proposal that identifies the opportunity to develop an additional court at Sportlink that would support netball.

The following summarises the current Whitehorse netball participation levels and facility provision.

Table 28: Facilities Overview for Netball

Category	Result
Participation numbers	3,153 Local indoor netball participation rate is 1.8%
AusPlay participation rate benchmark Adults 3.20% Children 6.70% *30% of the overall participation is Indoor Netball	 1,836 in 2021 2,597 in 2046
Current number of sports courts / facilities	26 courts Current court access is eight courts
State/National Facilities	0
Regional Facilities	0
District Facilities	3
Local Facilities	9
Does current facility provision meet current demand?	No – deficit of 1 court
Does current facility provision meet future demand?	No – deficit of 3 courts

The following map and table below detail netball facilities' current hierarchy and distribution across Whitehorse.

Table 29: Facility Hierarchy for Netball

Facility Name	Hierarchy	Ownership	Fields of Play	Details
Sportlink	District	Council	8	Shared use
Aqualink Box Hill	Local	Council	3	Shared use
Blackburn High School	Local	School	2	Shared use
Blackburn Primary School	Local	School	1	Shared use
Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre	Local (Social)	Private	3	Shared use
Box Hill Senior Secondary College	Local	School	1	Shared use
Deakin University Stadium	Local	School	2	Shared use
Old Orchard Primary School	Local	School	1	Shared use
Orchard Grove Primary School	Local	School	1	Shared use
Slater Reserve Stadium	Local	Council	2	Shared use
Vermont Primary School	Local	School	1	Shared use
Vermont Secondary College	Local	School	1	Shared use
Total			**26**	

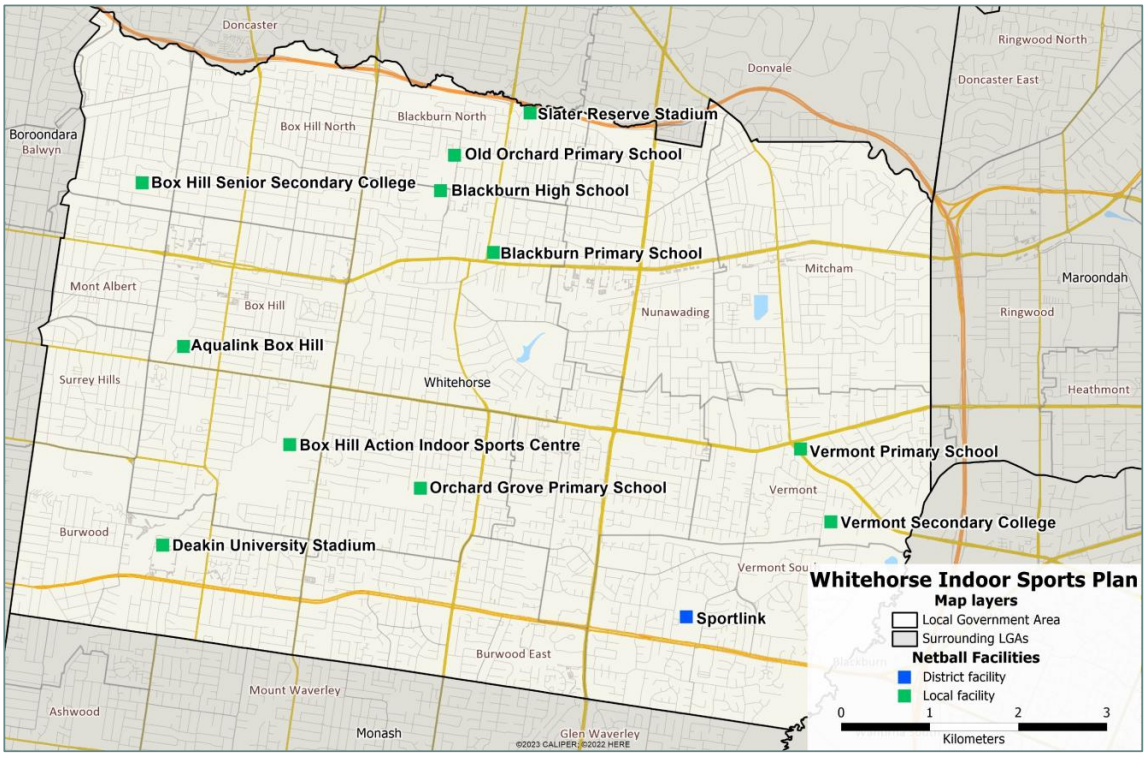

Figure 22: Current Indoor Netball Facilities Map

4.9.2 Stakeholder Engagement Feedback

Netball Victoria Feedback

Table 30: Netball Victoria Feedback

Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	• Whitehorse has consistent membership levels over the past five years and has recovered well post Covid-19 (2020) - see membership numbers below. The LGA demonstrates strong participation growth (that is, the number of members participating in netball activities - i.e., more than one competition per week) and has seen a significant increase in participation in the years from 2022 to 2023 with a growth of almost 300 participants in 12 months. There is strong participation growth reported through the experience of Whitehorse Netball Association. • Netball remains one of the highest female participation sports within the LGA and male participation is growing, although growth of mixed and male competitions is restricted due to limited court access for current membership numbers within the LGA. • Within the City of Whitehorse there are two Netball Victoria affiliated associations, Whitehorse Netball Association (WNA) & Slater Reserve Netball Association (SRNA). • WNA is a large association which operates out of the Sportlink facility and conducts most of the Netball Victoria affiliated netball activity within the LGA. The SRNA is a small association that operates out of the Slater Reserve facilities. • WNA services all the LGA but has very strong participation from Blackburn, Mitcham, Vermont. WNA runs a large domestic netball program that includes the entry level program of NetSetGo, Junior and Senior competition and a Representative Pathway program. Netball is well supported in the local primary schools and interschool netball sports programs are hosted at Sportlink (home of WNA). On a Saturday WNA have over 1500 players coming through to play (domestic competition), another 250

Discussion Topic	Comments
	on a Monday (NetSetGo), 750 on a Thursday (social comp) and over 200 kids involved in our rep program. They would like to grow their programs and offerings but are restricted with not enough courts for growth. • SRNA is a small Association with most members in a higher senior level. They offer two senior competitions on a Wednesday and Friday evening. Participation is 4-5 teams on both nights.
Current facilities	Whitehorse currently has two active facilities that are used for Netball Victoria affiliated activities: • Sportlink (8 courts - 4 indoor and 4 outdoor covered courts, Whitehorse Netball Association). • Slater Reserve Stadium (2 indoor courts, SRNA). Also, home of Blackburn Vikings Basketball.
Issues and challenges	• WNA struggles fitting all their junior program on the courts when running competitions and have ongoing issues with Council in terms of being the major stakeholder but often not being able to get the preference times/access they need to enable competition growth and development. • SRNA are happy in their facility and have no plan for growth, however, note that their facility is predominantly used for basketball and there are limited times for access for netball.
Gaps and opportunities for indoor sports facility provision	• Currently the LGA does not have enough netball facilities to meet the current needs, or to support future growth, of its netball community. Netball remains the highest female participation team sport in Australia and is also experiencing growth with male participation through mixed and male competitions. The forecasted population growth for Whitehorse City in the next 10 years is an increase of over 37, 000 people by 2031. This would see a predicted increase of 639 netball members which equates to an additional 91 teams (refer Forecast Growth tab). The LGA will need to invest in facilities to support this growth. • Indoor facilities support growth in netball participation at all levels and ensures activities can be undertaken without impact from weather. This optimises, and maximises, participation opportunities when compared with outdoor courts. Indoor courts also better support multi-sport participation.
Support for project	• Netball Victoria support the development of indoor sports centres that support the growth of netball within Whitehorse City.

Whitehorse Netball Association Feedback

The Whitehorse Netball Association (WNA) conducts all its programs at Sportlink, which has four indoor courts and four outdoor under-cover outdoor courts. The following programs are hosted by WNA at Sportlink:

- Saturday all ages competition – 8 courts (inside 4 courts used until 6pm, outside courts used until 3pm) – over 1,500 players.
- Monday NetSetGo competition 4pm-6pm on 4 indoor courts. Outside courts used for club training. Representative training on 2-3 inside courts – 11 teams.
- Saturday and Monday competitions host 160 teams = 1,600 players.
- Tuesday mid-week ladies' competition. Representative training at night – 11 teams.
- Wednesday mid-week ladies' competition 9am-11am on two inside courts – 40 players. Walking netball 10am-11am court – up to 20 players.
- Thursday mid-week ladies' competition 9am-11am on two inside courts – 40 players. Adult night competition 7pm-10pm. 380 players on 4 indoor and 1 outdoor court.

Outdoor courts are not at full capacity. Currently inline skating and pickleball utilise some outdoor courts when not in use by WNA.

WNA has an aspiration for a Victorian Netball League (State League) team. However, a facility with appropriate support facilities (amenities and spectator seating) would be required. If the redevelopment of Nunawading Basketball Centre was to offer multi-use courts, WNA would consider a decentralised facility for netball provision in order to grow the sport both in participation and elite programming.

Netball Clubs Feedback

As part of the survey, clubs were asked to identify any new or upgraded facility requirements. Netball clubs identified the following requirements.

Table 31: Netball Clubs Feedback

Sport	New or Upgraded Facility Requirements
Netball	• **St James Netball Club** indicated that there is a need for more dedicated indoor netball facilities. The existing indoor venues are heavily booked and often used by other sports like volleyball and pickleball, which can make the playing surface unsafe for netball. The Club calls for the creation of spaces specifically designed and reserved for netball to ensure player safety and adequate availability. • **Slater Reserve Netball Association** highlights the need for infrastructure maintenance and upgrades. For example, updated changerooms and fixed roof leaks. • **Whitehorse Netball Association** indicated a shortage of court availability which may be hindering the ability to cater to the growing number of players. They also requested support from Council to make them the primary tenant at Sportlink.

4.9.3 Key Challenges and Opportunities

The following key challenges and opportunities are identified:

- There is a current shortfall of one netball court, which is projected to grow to three courts by 2046.
- The indoor courts used by netball are shared with other indoor sports codes and are not compliant for netball.
- Whitehorse Netball Association have access to all four courts at Sportlink on a Saturday. The Association would like to access additional indoor court time but have not had the critical mass to expand beyond current programming. Club's membership didn't bounce back strongly from Covid-19 and is only now returning to pre-Covid-19 levels.
- Competition for indoor courts use is high at Sportlink, a multi-sport venue, and expanding netball programming may be a challenge.

4.9.4 Strategic Objectives

To foster the growth of netball participation in Whitehorse the strategic objective is to build on the network of local level facilities for netball training, as well as exploring the potential of a regional level fit-for-purpose facility. This would include:

- Ensuring that any new/redeveloped indoor facilities are compliant for netball.
- Consider expanding the netball allocation of the indoor courts at Sportlink following the proposed expansion of Nunawading Basketball Centre.
- Ensuring the Active Communities and Leisure Team partner with clubs/associations and Netball Victoria to proactivity develop the participation opportunities for all ages, genders and abilities, and pathways for players from grass-root to elite competition.

4.10 Table Tennis

4.10.1 Code Overview

Participation

- Table Tennis Victoria reports 183 registered players within the City of Whitehorse. However, there are approximately 1,250 (affiliated and unaffiliated) players who play competitively or socially or are coached every week for around 48 weeks of the year within the City of Whitehorse. The current registered participation converted to a participation rate is 0.92%.
- This participation is provided by clubs/associations, community organisations and private coaches. Many players play multiple times during the week and may pay their fees at different locations, so their membership is then tied to that association.
- The Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association (ESCTTA) is the main table tennis competition in the City of Whitehorse. In 2023/24, the Association had 64 members.
- There are also unaffiliated clubs, social competitions and private table tennis coaches operating in the City of Whitehorse. These include private coaches: Scorpio Table Tennis Academy, Box Hill Table Tennis Centre, The Disruptor Coach (play at Vermont Primary School) and Smythe Table Tennis (Play at Sportlink).
- The following clubs/associations and private coaches provided data:
  - Balwyn United Table Tennis Incorporated has 69 players (25 men, 28 boys, 7 women and 9 girls).
  - Deakin Table Tennis Club has 65 players (51 men, 10 women and 4 non-binary).
  - Mark Smythe Table Tennis coaches 78 players (48 men, 19 boys, 8 women and 3 girls).
  - The Disruptor Club Incorporated coaches 45 players (28 men and 30 boys).
  - Scorpio Table Tennis Academy coaches 223 players.
  - Whitehorse Activities Club has 600 members (200 men and 400 women). This club hosts a range of activities including social table tennis.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 3,534 table tennis participants in Whitehorse in 2021, which will grow to 3,571 in 2031 and 4,383 in 2046.

Existing Facilities

- There is a capacity for 32 table tennis courts across 13 facilities. Three of these facilities (10 courts) are used by the table tennis association. The remaining courts are used for unaffiliated social play and private coaching. However, a review of the occupancy of shared-use courts/multi-purpose rooms by table tennis, the current table tennis court access is eight courts.
- Key facilities are:
  - Mahoneys Reserve Pavilion Hall – Association Competition (4 to 5 tables)
  - Eley Park Community Centre – Association Competition (3 tables)
  - Sportlink Vermont South – Association Competition (3 tables)
  - Deakin University Stadium – Social Play (2 tables)
  - Mullauna College – Private Coaching (7 tables)
  - Other facilities are school facilities that are sometimes hired for social play.

Future Demand

- The Demand Analysis Model predicts a current deficit of six table tennis courts that is anticipated to grow to 10 courts by 2046. However, all courts areas are non-compliant, and some table tennis coaching and competition is provided in shared-use venues which means access is restricted.

Proposed Facilities

- A planning application is currently under assessment for a new 12-table facility in the Box Hill area, proposed to accommodate social play and coaching activities with 4 carpark spaces proposed. The facility is not intended to host competitions or events.
- Table Tennis Victoria are in discussions with Haven Group for the potential development of a seven to nine table facility at Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre.

The following table summarises the current Whitehorse table tennis participation levels and facility provision.

Table 32: Facilities Overview for Table Tennis

Category	Result
Participation numbers	183 (unaffiliated 1,250) Local participation rate is 0.92%
AusPlay participation rate benchmark Adults 0.35% Children 11.10%	 3,534 in 2021 4,383 in 2046
Current number of sports courts / facilities	13 facilities / 32 table tennis courts Only 10 table tennis courts used for Association competition in Whitehorse All table tennis courts are non-compliant Current court access is 8 table tennis courts
State/National Facilities	0
Regional Facilities	0
District Facilities	0
Local Facilities	??
Does current facility provision meet current demand?	No – deficit of 6 table tennis courts Inefficient delivery model restricting participation
Does current facility provision meet future demand?	No – deficit of 10 table tennis courts Inefficient delivery model restricting participation

Table 33 and the map below detail the current hierarchy and distribution of table tennis facilities across Whitehorse.

Table 33: Facility Hierarchy for Table Tennis

Facility Name	Hierarchy	Ownership	Fields of Play	Details
Aqualink Box Hill	Local	Council	4 tables	Shared Use
Eley Park Community Centre	Local	Council	3 tables	Shared use
Mahoneys Reserve Sports Pavilion Hall	Local	Council	4 tables	Shared use
Mullauna College (Private Coaching Only)	Local	School	7 tables	Shared use
Sportlink	Local	Council	3 tables	Shared use
Deakin University Stadium (Social Only)	Local	Private	2 tables	Shared use

10.2 – ATTACHMENT 1. Draft Indoor Sports Plan

Facility Name	Hierarchy	Ownership	Fields of Play	Details
Aqualink Box Hill	Local	Council	4 tables	Shared Use
Box Hill Senior Secondary College (Social Only)	Local	School	1 table	Shared use
Deakin University Stadium	Local	School	2 tables	Shared use
Old Orchard Primary School	Local	School	1 table	Shared use
Orchard Grove Primary School	Local	School	1 table	Shared use
Slater Reserve Stadium	Local	Council	2 tables	Shared use
Vermont Primary School	Local	School	1 table	Shared use
Vermont Secondary College	Local	School	1 table	Shared use
Total			**32**	

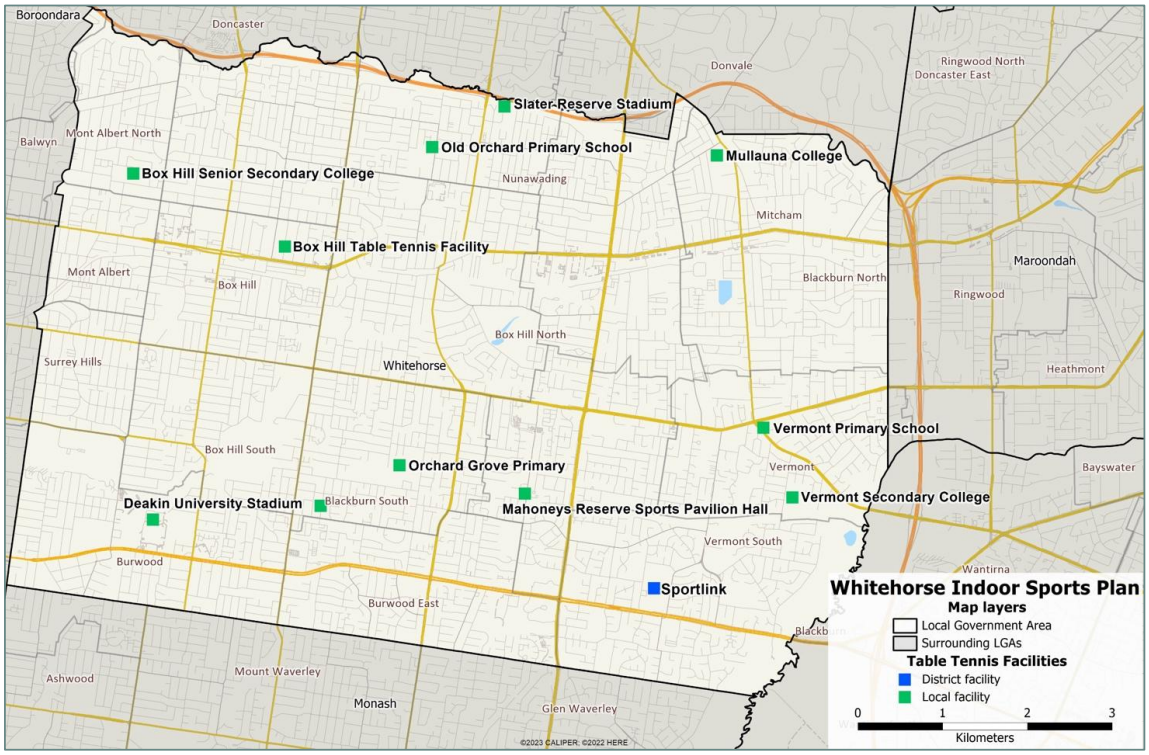

Figure 23: Current Table Tennis Facilities Map

4.10.2 Stakeholder Engagement Feedback

Table Tennis Victoria Feedback

Table 34: Table Tennis Victoria Feedback

Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	• There are 5,500 registered players within Victoria. There would be much higher participation numbers as there are unaffiliated clubs for social and competition throughout the State. • Registered table tennis players within the City of Whitehorse are 183. • There is however, a much higher number of approximately 1,250 documented by a local table tennis representative within the City of Whitehorse which consists of a small portion of competition and larger social participation.
Current facilities	• Mahoneys Reserve, Eley Park, Sportlink and St Phillips Church (in Mount Waverley which is outside LGA) support the ESCTTA.
Issues and challenges	• Unaffiliated play is much larger, and therefore hard to capture data. • There is no dedicated table tennis facility within the municipality, however the demographic of Whitehorse supports the sport.
Gaps and opportunities for indoor sports facility provision	• TTV agrees there is a need for an Association run competition facility of about 20 tables and support local Association position and advocacy. • There is also a commercial opportunity at Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre (Haben are the owners) – Table Tennis Victoria would run a commercial entertainment venue of 7-9 tables that support social recreation play, but also where clubs can book and TTV can run programs.
Support for project	• TV is supportive of the development of a dedicated regional table tennis facility and further investigating if the commercial opportunity at Forrest Hill Chase Shopping Centre is viable.

Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association Feedback

The Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association (ESCTTA) is the only table tennis organisation within the City of Whitehorse affiliated with Table Tennis Victoria. There are a number of non-affiliated social table tennis competitions and private organisations running coaching programs.

Within Whitehorse and surrounding areas there is currently no central venue for table tennis competition. The ESCTTA hires the following four venues:

- Mahoneys Reserve, Forest Hill – 4 tables for competition/5 tables for social play.
- Eley Park Community Centre – 3 tables.
- Sportlink Vermont South – 3 tables.
- St Philips Church, Mount Waverly (City of Monash) – 3 tables.

The lack of a central location limits the number of players they can accommodate and is a major barrier to introducing a junior competition and catering for community groups, schools and individuals who wish to play in a social setting.

Given the size of the existing facilities there are constraints on the number of tables that can be set up. As a consequence, instead of having a single fixed night on which to compete, players must compete on different nights of the week over the course of a season and may play on a Tuesday, Wednesday or even a Thursday night. This means that some people are prevented from playing due to work, family or other commitments.

During finals when all Grades must compete on the same night, ESCTTA must hire the use of the Kilsyth Table Tennis Centre, and all competing players and spectators must travel a considerable distance (on average about 20 km) to the venue.

Creation of a single venue for table tennis in Whitehorse would address many of these issues, allow for increased participation by Whitehorse residents and provide a more streamlined experience for participants.

Table tennis could be included in a multi-purpose venue, but table tennis would need their own space within the venue due to both the OH&S issues of setting up and packing away the 120kg tables and the potential damage to the tables during this process.

Contemporary table tennis venues require a PVC foam backed flooring that is anti-slip and cushioning for any movement, lessening strain on the players body or injury caused by accidental falls. All the sections of flooring are welded together to prevent any slipping hazards, so is unable to be packed up. The flooring is unsuitable for most of the sports identified for the indoor sports facility, except for badminton.

The following tables detail the current facilities, programs participation numbers and key facility issues.

Table 35: Mahoneys Reserve Pavilion Hall

Facility Name	Day	Hours of Use	Type of Activity	Number of participants	Organisation
Mahoneys Reserve Pavilion Hall Forest Hill • 4 tables for competition • 5 tables for social	Monday	Evening	Social & community play	20	Private
	Tuesday	Morning Afternoon	Social Social	21 21	Whitehorse Activity Club
	Wednesday	Afternoon Evening	Social Social	20 20	Whitehorse Activity Club St Johns
	Thursday	Evening	Competition	32	ESCTTA
	Friday	Morning Afternoon Evening	Training and coaching	23 20 20	Whitehorse Activity Club Whitehorse Activity Club Private
	Saturday	Afternoon Evening	Social competition	15 20	ICC Balwyn United Table Tennis
	Sunday	Evening	Social	60	DPC table tennis Association

- The Association currently pays the Committee of Management, the Northern Pavilion Association, $30 per night for the use of the hall.

Table 36: Eley Park Community Centre

Facility Name	Day	Hours of Use	Type of Activity	Number of participants	Organisation
Eley Park Community Centre 3 tables	Tuesday	Evening	Pennant A Grade Comp	16	ESCTTA
	Wednesday	Evening	Pennant B Grade Comp	16 21	ESCTTA

- The Association pays approximately $5,000 per annum ($110 per night) rental for the use of the Eley Park facility.
- The floor surface has a concrete surface covered in vinyl which can be slippery if not cleaned regularly.
- Lighting level is sufficient, however is below contemporary standards.

- The facility has limited storage that is difficult to access.
- Tables were being damaged by social functions using the tables.

Table 37: Sportlink

Facility Name	Day	Hours of Use	Type of Activity	Number of participants	Organisation
Sportlink Vermont South 3 tables	Monday	Evening	Competition	78	Private MSTT
				5	Mullauna College Coaching
	School holidays			30/32 3 days per week of school holidays	

Table 38: St Philip's Church (Outside Municipality)

Facility Name	Day	Hours of Use	Type of Activity	Number of participants	Organisation
St Philip's Church, Blackburn South 3 tables	Wednesday	Evening	Pennant C Grade Comp	15	ESCTTA

- The Association currently pays $30 per night for the use of the hall.

Social competition and coaching activities are undertaken at the following venues:

Table 39: Facilities that host Social and Coaching Table Tennis Activities

Facility Name	Day	Hours of Use	Type of Activity	No. of participants	Organisation
Box Hill Baptist Church	Monday - Friday	Evening	Social	20	Private
Deakin University	Monday-Friday	Afternoon/ Evening	Coaching	122	Private
Scorpio Table Tennis Academy			Coaching only	223 coached	Private
Box Hill Table Tennis Club			Coaching only – primary school aged	60	Private
The Disruptor Coach – Vermont Primary School			Primary aged coaching	45	Private

In the City of Whitehorse, more than 1,250 people play table tennis, either competitively or socially, or are coached every week for around 48 weeks of the year.

There are approximately 180+ TTV members playing in Whitehorse. Official state figures will be lower if members have paid for their membership through other Associations. Most players in Whitehorse are not TTV members. Many players play multiple times during the week and may pay their fees at different locations as their membership is linked to one association only.

There are no facilities within Whitehorse for junior to play table tennis outside their school. All juniors are required to travel at least 20km (Kilsyth, Dandenong, MSAC) to participate.

Within the ESCTTA, 58% of their playing cohort is made up of people of Asian background. This is proportionally larger than the percentage of the Asian population in Whitehorse and reflects the popularity of this sport within that community. There are concerns by members that limited Council rates are being expended on table tennis facilities.

ESCTTA proposed possible options for the location of a dedicated table tennis facility. They are:

- Aqualink Box Hill, either location off former outdoor pool or at the end of the existing indoor courts.
- Surrey Park, adjacent to the baseball diamond.

Table Tennis Clubs Feedback

As part of the survey, clubs and providers were asked to identify any new or upgraded facility requirements. Table tennis clubs and providers identified the following requirements.

Table 40: Table Tennis Clubs Feedback

Sport	New or Upgraded Facility Requirements
Table Tennis	• **Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association** calls for a dedicated venue for table tennis. There is safety concerns associated with setting up and taking down heavy tables, which weigh approximately 120 kg each, leading to injuries and damage. A dedicated area would eliminate the need for frequent table setup and takedown, extending the life of the tables and improving safety. Additionally, they highlight the need for modern PVC foam-backed flooring that is anti-slip and cushioned, which is critical for table tennis. • **The Disruptor Club Incorporated** suggests that obtaining more high-quality tables would greatly benefit the children who play, enhancing their experience. • **Deakin Table Tennis Club** expresses the need for new tables, new barriers and a potential switch of venue to Deakin University Stadium for better facilities. • **Mark Smythe Table Tennis** advocates for red synthetic flooring (such as Taraflex) and improved lighting of approximately 1,000 lux, similar to what other clubs in Melbourne have. They also highlight the need for more space to accommodate additional tables, as their current venue at Sportlink is fully booked and does not allow for expansion. • **Balwyn United Table Tennis Incorporated** identifies the need for better toilet and changing room facilities, as well as an increased seating area to accommodate their members more comfortably.

4.10.3 Key Challenges and Opportunities

The following key challenges and opportunities are identified:

- There is a current shortfall of six table tennis courts, which is projected to grow to 10 by 2046.
- The current provision of courts across several small halls is restricting growth. The small number of courts in each location is impacting the ability for the sport to grow and attract participants, in particular juniors.
- The facilities are not fit for purpose. They are shared use, which requires them to be pack up/set up operations. There is no dedicated table tennis facility that meet current competition standards.
- There is a need to investigate the feasibility of developing a regional 20-court table tennis facility in Whitehorse.

4.10.4 Strategic Recommendations

To foster the growth of table tennis participation in Whitehorse the strategic objective is to build on a network of fit-for-purpose table tennis facilities. This would include:

- Considering the outcomes of the Table Tennis Facility Feasibility Study.
- Considers the need for a consolidated table tennis facility as part of the statutory planning processes for new table tennis centre applications.
- Considering proposal for two additional indoor courts previously proposed at Aqualink Box Hill that could accommodate a regional table tennis centre.
- Ensuring the Active Communities and Leisure Team partner with clubs/associations and Table Tennis Victoria to proactivity develop the participation opportunities for all ages, genders and abilities, and pathways for players from grass-root to elite competition.

4.11 Volleyball

4.11.1 Code Overview

Participation

- There is no volleyball association or competition in Whitehorse affiliated with Volleyball Victoria. Currently, the sport is delivered by private providers in Whitehorse
- Volleyball is played weekly at Sportlink. There are social groups that regularly book a court on weekday evenings.
- Deakin University Volleyball Club trains every Friday night in the HB gym at the Burwood Campus and plays social matches on Sundays.
- The Alliance Volleyball Club is a large club that services Whitehorse. They have 171 members which includes 66 juniors. The average age of members is 22 years and 34.3% are girls and women.
- In addition to unaffiliated competitions played in Whitehorse, affiliated volleyball associations run competitions at facilities bordering Whitehorse, including Mullum Mullum Stadium (Manningham) and Maroondah Nets (Maroondah).
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 1,074 volleyball participants in Whitehorse in 2021 which will grow to 1,318 by 2031 and 1,577 by 2046.
- Volleyball consistently ranks among the top five most popular sports and is often reported as the most gender-equal sport in Victoria and Australia. In 2023, Volleyball was ranked the third most participated sport in Victorian Secondary Schools, reflecting its appeal across broad student communities, including underrepresented and minority groups, with strong all-ability appeal for both the game and officiating.

Existing Facilities

- There are nine volleyball courts within the City of Whitehorse. However, the occupancy review of shared use courts, indicates the current volleyball court access is one court.
- Key facilities are:
  - Aqualink Box Hill – Three available multi-purpose courts for volleyball. The facility is mainly used by school groups.
  - Nunawading Christian College – Local school indoor sports stadium providing for unaffiliated social volleyball competition. One used for volleyball.
  - Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre – Private regional indoor sports centre providing for indoor cricket, indoor netball, futsal, volleyball, pickleball, basketball and other sport and recreation activities. One court is used for volleyball.
  - Sportlink – Four available multi-purpose courts for volleyball. However, limited court access is restricting the growth potential of volleyball at the facility.

Future Demand

- The Demand Analysis Model predicts a current deficit of two volleyball courts that will increase to three courts by 2046.

Proposed Facilities

- Two additional indoor courts are proposed at Aqualink Box Hill that could accommodate additional volleyball participation.

The following table summarises the current Whitehorse volleyball participation levels and facility provision.

Table 41: Facilities Overview for Volleyball

Category	Result
Participation numbers	Registered participation data for volleyball is unavailable Largest volleyball club servicing Whitehorse has 171 members and there are four social competitions
AusPlay participation rate benchmark Adults 0.70% Children 0.51%	 1,074 in 2021 1,577 in 2046
Current number of sports courts/facilities	9 courts Current court access of one court
State/National Facilities	0
Regional Facilities	0
District Facilities	2
Local Facilities	2
Does current facility provision meet current demand?	No – deficit of 2 court
Does current facility provision meet future demand?	No – deficit of 3 courts

The following map and table detail the current hierarchy and distribution of volleyball facilities across Whitehorse.

Table 42: Facility Hierarchy for Volleyball

Facility Name	Hierarchy	Ownership	Fields of Play	Details
Aqualink Box Hill	District (Local use)	Council	3 courts	Shared
Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre	Local (Local use)	Private	1 court used for volleyball	Shared
Sportlink	District (Local use)	Council	4 courts	Shared
Nunawading Christian College	Local	School	1 court	Shared
Total			**9 courts**	

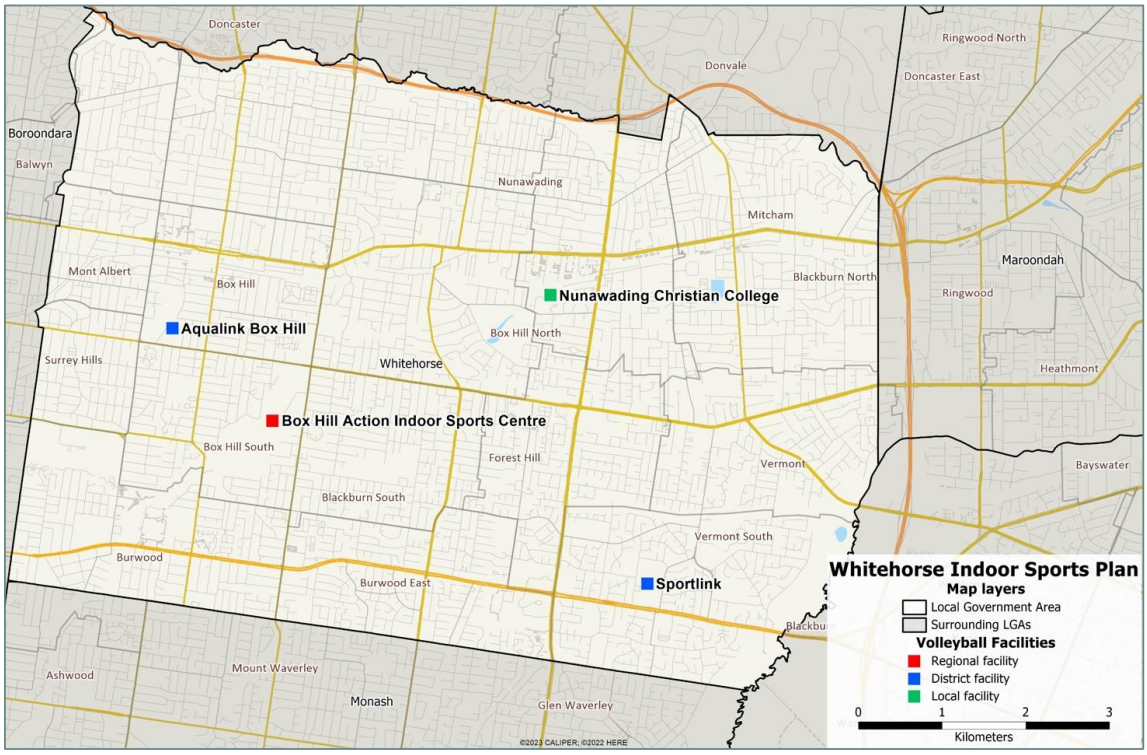

Figure 24: Current Volleyball Facilities Map

4.11.2 Stakeholder Engagement Feedback

Volleyball Victoria

Table 43: Volleyball Victoria Feedback

Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	• There is no affiliated club that plays at facilities in Whitehorse. However, Whitehorse volleyball participation is through clubs that participate at regional Associations located outside the City of Whitehorse including Mullum Mullum Stadium (Manningham) and Maroondah Volleyball. Most Whitehorse residents will access these facilities, which are nearing capacity. • There is unaffiliated volleyball social competition in the area. • Volleyball participation in Victoria has doubled in the last five years and high interest through the school program. Appeals to broad audience to the sport including multi-cultural, gender diverse, adaptive (disability) volleyball and school volleyball across diverse cultures. Volleyball is seeking to translate school play to local competition and pathways. Most growth is metropolitan based. • State league competition has now grown to about 244 teams. Premier, State League and Junior State League. VV developing a primary school aged introductory program. • SSV competition – Primary school over 2000 participants and secondary school 1600 participants. Second highest.
Current facilities	• Nunawading Christian College and Box Hill Indoor Action Centre are utilised for unaffiliated play. • Outside of LGA - Mullum Stadium, Maroondah Nets, Ringwood SC, Templestowe College, Waverley Christian College, Donvale Christian College and MLC Kew.
Issues and challenges	• Understanding the 'real' participation number of Volleyball within the State and LGA's as there is so much unaffiliated play occurring. Translating uncaptured data to complete a true demand analysis Is not easy.

Discussion Topic	Comments
Gaps and opportunities for indoor sports facility provision	• Support a 'location-driven Association' that starts with competitions and then develops into training and programming. Volleyball Victoria would assist in creating these Associations. • Mildura Stadium and Maroondah Nets Volleyball Stadium support two-to-one court configurations and pole location to host tournament events. Benchmark design examples that support flexible programming for volleyball programming.
Support for project	• Advocates for another facility with access to multiple courts to support participation and team growth in Whitehorse, with a local affiliated Association to support provision of the sport.

4.11.3 Key Challenges and Opportunities

The following key challenges and opportunities are identified:

- There is a current shortfall of two volleyball courts, which is projected to grow to three by 2046.
- Volleyball is played on multi-use venues that have restricted use.
- In addition to unaffiliated competitions played in Whitehorse, there are affiliated regional volleyball associations running competitions at facilities on the border of Whitehorse, including Mullum Mullum Stadium (Manningham) and Maroondah Nets (Maroondah). These facilities serve Whitehorse residents, which means there is no demand for a regional volleyball competition facility.

4.11.4 Strategic Recommendations

To foster the growth of volleyball participation in Whitehorse, the strategic objective is to build on the local and district-level volleyball facilities network. This would include:

- Ensure any new/redeveloped indoor facilities include courts compliant with volleyball.
- Ensure the Active Communities and Leisure Team partners locally with clubs/associations and Volleyball Victoria to proactively develop participation opportunities for all ages, genders, and abilities and pathways for players from grassroots to elite competition.

4.12 Emerging Indoor Sports

4.12.1 Code Overview

Participation

- Within the City of Whitehorse there are several emerging activities that are using indoor sport facilities. These include:
  - Cheer
  - Sport Climbing
  - Pickleball and Paddle Ball.
- Pure All-Stars Cheerleading and Dance and Eastern Cheer and Dance Academy have a high membership base within Whitehorse and drawing members from outside the municipality.
- Sport Climbing Australia reports that Urban Climb Blackburn is recognised as one of Australia's highly regarded facilities and attracts high usage across the week, including hosting national speed wall climbing events.
- With the recent introduction of pickleball the operators of Sportlink and Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre report growing interest and participation.

Existing Facilities

- There are 26 sports courts and 18 multi-sport halls that are currently being used for a range of activities including emerging and other indoor sports. There are two specialised indoor climbing facilities.
- The key facilities that are currently being used are:
  - Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre – A private regional indoor sports centre providing for indoor cricket, indoor netball, futsal, volleyball, pickleball, basketball and other sport and recreation activities.
  - Urban Climb Blackburn – A private regional indoor climbing walls including one of Australia's best speed walls.
  - Pure All-Stars Cheerleading and Dance – A high quality private district cheer and dance studio,
  - Eastern Cheer and Dance Academy – A high quality private district cheer and dance studio.
  - Bounce Indoor Trampoline Park – A high quality district indoor trampolining and parkour facility.
- Pickleball is played in indoor and outdoor facilities. Within the City of Whitehorse, it is played at Sportlink and on the Heatherdale Tennis Club's outdoor court.

Future Demand

- Most emerging sports are accessing existing indoor sports courts where available.
- Due to a shortfall across the traditional indoor sports courts, the available court space to support emerging sports like pickleball is limited.
- Additional courts will be required to support major participation sports and emerging sports now and into the future.

Proposed Facilities

- The proposed one additional court at Sportlink and two additional courts at Aqualink Box Hill could support emerging sports like pickleball and cheer.

The following table summarises the current Whitehorse emerging sports participation levels and facility provision.

Table 44: Facilities Overview for Emerging Indoor Sports

Category	Result
Current number of sports courts / facilities	9 facilities supporting emerging sports
State/National Facilities	0
Regional Facilities	2
District Facilities	5
Local Facilities	2
Does current facility provision meet current demand?	Yes
Does current facility provision meet future demand?	No – due to the overall demand for indoor sports courts by other indoor sports courts i.e. basketball, netball, volleyball

The following map and table detail the current hierarchy and distribution of emerging sports facilities across Whitehorse.

Table 45: Facility Hierarchy for Emerging Indoor Sports

Facility Name	Hierarchy	Ownership	Fields of Play	Details
Deakin University Stadium	Local (Pickleball)	School	2 courts	Shared
Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre	Regional (Pickleball and Other)	Private	6 courts	Shared
Sportlink	District (Pickleball)	Council	4 indoor courts, 4 outdoor covered courts	Shared
Burwood East Primary School	Local (Cheer)	School	2 studio halls	Shared
Burwood Heights Primary School	Local (Cheer)	School	1 court	Shared
Eastern Cheer Dance Academy	District (Cheer)	Private	1 studio hall	Dedicated
Pure Allstars Cheerleading & Dance	District (Cheer)	Private	1 studio hall	Dedicated
Hardrock Climbing Company	District (Sport Climbing)	Private	Indoor climbing walls	Dedicated
Urban Climb Blackburn	Regional (Sport Climbing)	Private	Indoor climbing walls	Dedicated
Total			**13 indoor courts** **4 outdoor covered courts** **4 studio halls**	

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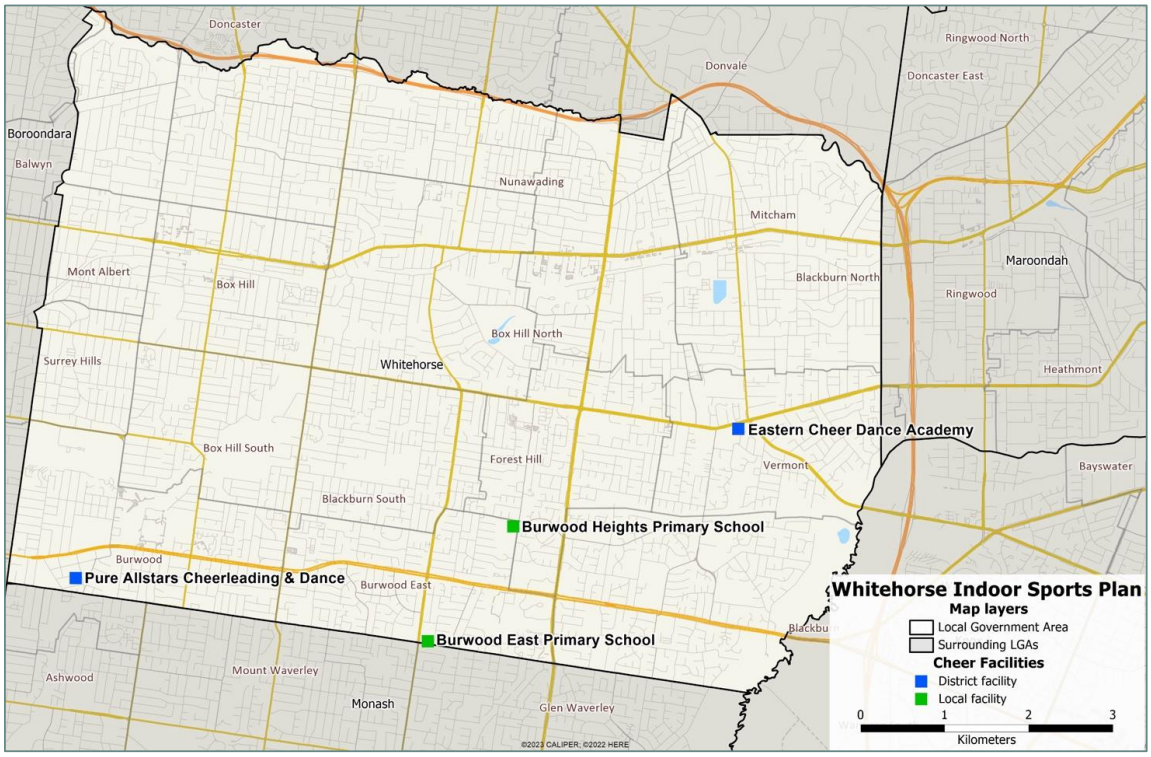

Figure 25: Current Cheer Facilities Map

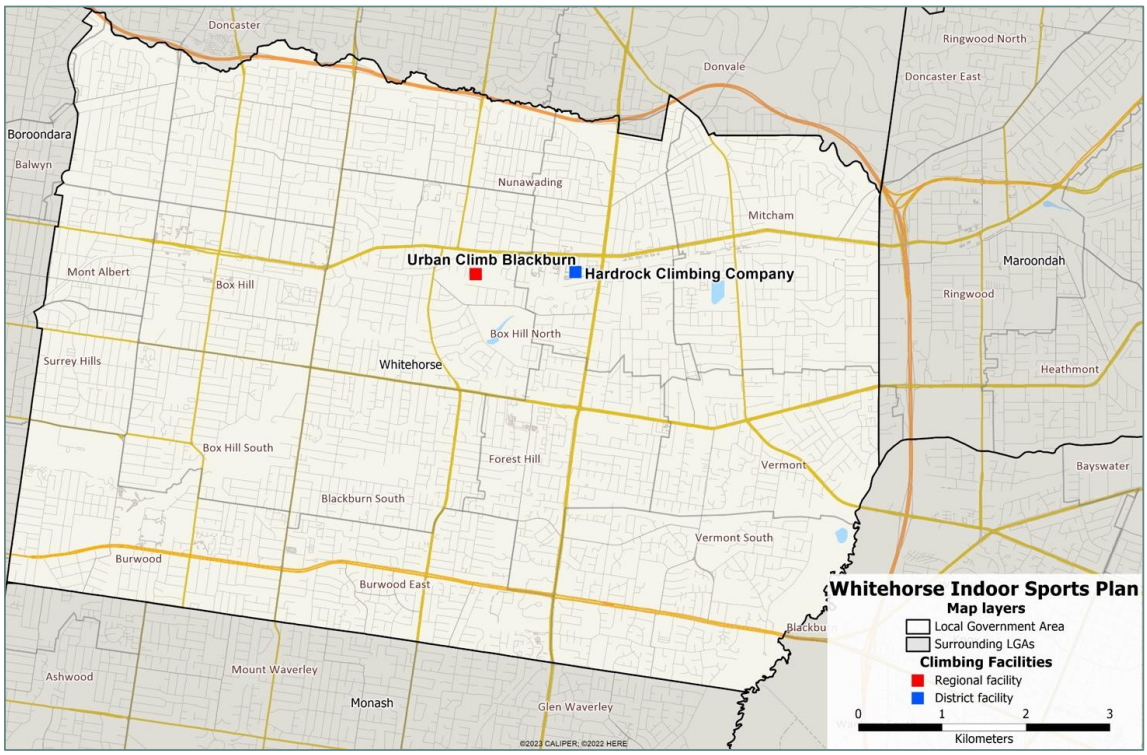

Figure 26: Current Sport Climbing Facilities Map

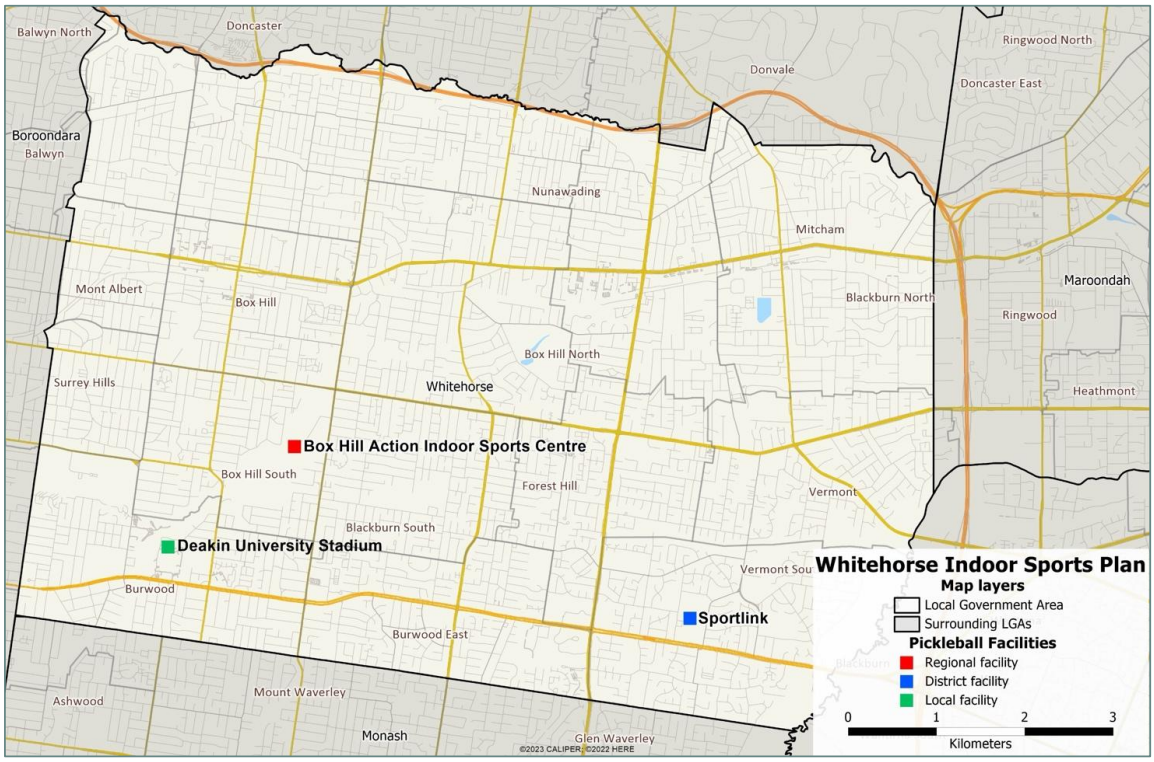

Figure 27: Current Pickleball Facilities Map

4.12.2 Stakeholder Engagement Feedback

Climbing Victoria Feedback

Table 46: Climbing Victoria Feedback

Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	22.50% of recreational climbers are based in Victoria, so the current estimate for climbers in Victoria is ~85,000. The Sport Climbing Australia membership base is mostly competition climbers. Recreation climbers account for 20 to 30 times the membership numbers.
Current facilities	There are some private entrants in the market. They are more commercial rather than a public offering. Need a mix to service a community. Gymnastics is a closer model to climbing with commercial operators leading the market. Two facilities in City of Whitehorse: • Hard Rock Climbing – Dated facility now. Not contemporary. • Urban Blackburn – Best facility in country. Best speed wall in the country. There is an opportunity to invest in certifying the speed wall that would be the only one in Australia.
Issues and challenges	• Events disrupt/impact commercial providers. They don't like to host events. • Fees are high for sport, and operators lose out on hosting events compared to revenue raised for general business.
Gaps and opportunities for indoor sports facility provision	• Sport Climbing Australia is looking for an event-focused venue in metropolitan Melbourne. The sports ambition for more event-focused facilities, high performance programming and coaching training centre. Although, if developed in Whitehorse, this would impact current operators.

Discussion Topic	Comments
	• There could be an opportunity for Council to partner with Urban Blackburn and Sports Climbing Australia. The facility is best placed to support a high-performance program. • Sport Climbing Australia received Victorian Government funding to complete a 'Sport Climbing National Performance Centre Feasibility Study'. The scope of the project included multiple potential sites as areas of interest. At this stage, the Feasibility Study is still progressing through the Victorian Government internal assessment process.
Support for project	Supports further conversation to increase visibility and participation of sport.

4.12.3 Key Challenges and Opportunities

The following key challenges and opportunities are identified:

- Indoor sports courts are restricted in use for emerging sports due to a high competition by other high participation indoor sporting activities.
- Additional courts will be required to support major participation sports and emerging sports now and into the future.

4.12.4 Strategic Recommendations

To foster the growth of emerging and other indoor sports participation existing facilities. This would include:

- Continuing to monitor the growth and participation of emerging and other indoor sports.
- Ensuring that any new/redeveloped indoor facilities are designed to meet the needs of some of the emerging sports, i.e. pickleball.
- Ensuring the Active Communities and Leisure Team partners with clubs/associations/providers and respective peak sporting bodies of emerging sports proactivity develop the participation opportunities for all ages, genders and abilities, and pathways for players from grass-root to elite competition.

5. Strategic Directions

The Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan serves as a strategic guide to maximise the utilisation and enhance the capacity of existing indoor sports facilities within the City of Whitehorse. Additionally, it provides a framework for the development of new or improved indoor sports facilities where necessary. This Plan will support strategic partnerships and inform future investment decisions, aiding the council in its decision-making process.

5.1 Key Findings

The market research and consultation has identified the following key findings that will inform and guide the future provision and investment in indoor sports courts.



Indoor sports encourage active lifestyles



A strategic approach is needed to inform improvements to meet future participation needs



Investing in indoor sports infrastructure delivers social and economic benefits



Growing and diverse population leading to increased participation demand in indoor sports



Current facilities are at capacity, ageing and/or not fit for purpose

The Appendices document provides a detailed summary of market research and engagement findings and covers:

- Appendix 1: Design Standards
- Appendix 2: Facility Inventory
- Appendix 3: Council Facilities Occupancy Schedules
- Appendix 4: Strategic Review Paper
- Appendix 5: Facilities Review Paper
- Appendix 6: Demand Assessment Paper
- Appendix 7: Trends Analysis Paper
- Appendix 8: Engagement Findings Paper.

Indoor sports are identified as key to encouraging active lifestyles that will address health and wellbeing concerns in the community

Physical inactivity remains high where more than a third of Australians aged 15 and over do very little or no exercise at all, and 8 in 10 Australian children do not meet national guidelines of 60 minutes of physical activity per day. The cost of physical inactivity to the Australian economy is over $800 million annually and causes an estimated 16,000 deaths each year.

Physical activity levels and obesity levels for Local Government Authorities were measured in the Victorian Population Health Survey 2017. The survey found for Whitehorse residents that 48.8% of people undertake sufficient physical activity. This is lower than the Victorian average of 51.1%. Also, a higher proportion of residents spent seven or more hours sitting on an average weekday (29.3%) compared with all Victorian adults (26.5%). Furthermore, 32.6% of adults in Whitehorse were overweight or pre-obese and 10.7 per cent of adults were obese. This compares to the Victorian averages of 30.1% and 20.9% respectively.

We need to reverse this trend. People who participate in indoor sports or engage in regular physical activity are 36% less likely to die from cardiovascular disease. They also experience improvements in cardiovascular fitness, strength, conditioning, flexibility, coordination, as well as mental health and well-being.

A strategic approach is needed to optimise the use of facilities, improve financial performance and inform investment decisions. It is a key ingredient to the Council's funding advocacy and approaches

The Council has acknowledged that previous improvements to indoor sports facilities have been ad hoc and that a strategic approach is needed to guide the development of indoor sports facilities and ensure it is targeted in a way that provides the greatest value and addresses priority needs.

This Plan is an opportunity to provide a network approach to addressing these challenges and developing site-specific recommendations. A framework that includes a hierarchy and design standards will be designed to inform future improvements. These local, district and regional indoor sports facilities will support athlete pathways from entry to elite level competition.

A range of strategies will be needed to meet future indoor sports participation needs. These include optimising the use of facilities, expanding existing facilities, and partnering with other indoor sports providers like schools and private operators.

Investing in sports Infrastructure delivers social and economic benefits

In 2018, Sport Australia partnered with KPMG and La Trobe University to investigate the value of community sport infrastructure to Australia. The study quantified the value of community sport infrastructure across Australia to be at least $16.2 billion with $6.3 billion worth of economic benefit, $4.9 billion worth of health benefit and $5.1 billion worth of social benefit.

Community sport infrastructure also enables other qualitative benefits including employment, volunteering, reduction in drowning and falls, social inclusion, community pride, reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour and increased levels of trust.

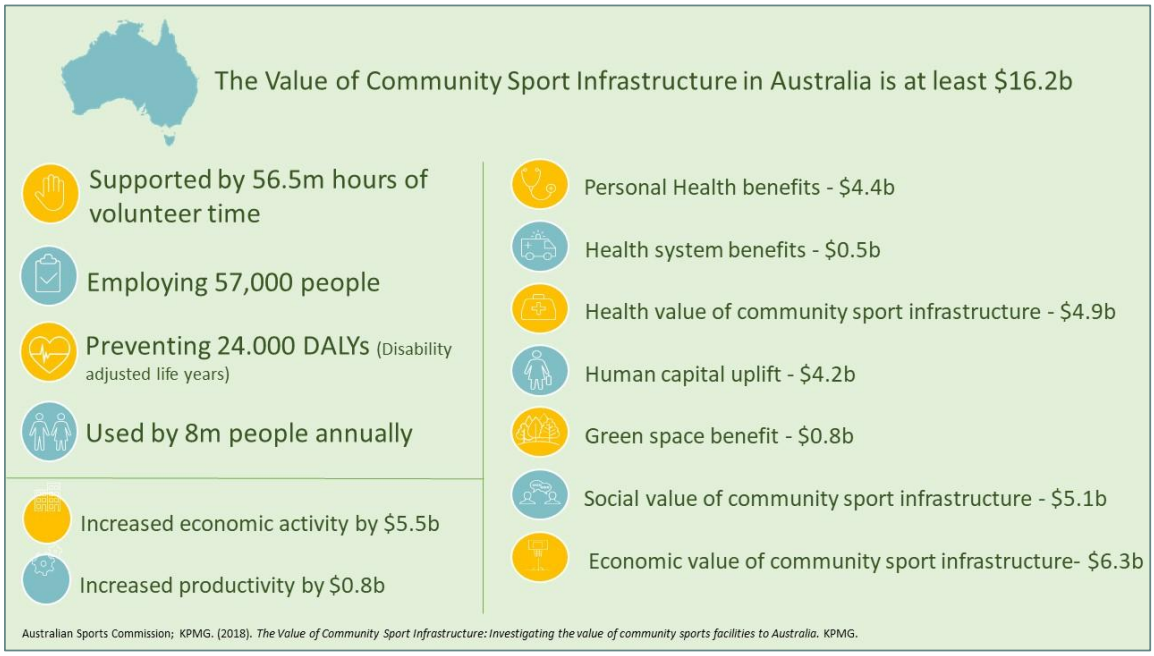

Figure 28: Summary of the Sport Australia Report into the Value of Community Sport Infrastructure (Source: Sport Australia, 2018)

Population growth is fuelling an increase in indoor sports participation, and current facilities are at capacity

The City of Whitehorse population is growing rapidly. The current population of 178,639 (2023) has grown by 8,998 people since 2016 and is expected to reach 234,277 by 2046 (additional 55,638 people or 31% growth).

Much of this growth will be in our most active years age groups (5-49 years) that report high indoor sport participation. This age cohort accounts for 102,224 persons or 59.7% of the 2021 population and will grow to 143,935 persons by 2046, 61.4% of the population.

This population growth will translate into more indoor sports participants. There are very high participation levels across all indoor sports, and indoor sports facilities are reaching capacity.

Using the AusPlay Participation Survey for weekly participation rates of organised sport, it has been identified that there are currently an estimated 33,574 participants across the eleven identified indoor sports. This will grow to 45,343 participants by 2046. An additional 11,769 indoor sport participants are projected in the next 20 years. Please note that emerging sports like sport climbing and pickleball were not assessed due to insufficient data.

The table on the following page shows the projected participation for the proposed major participation sports for the Whitehorse population in 2021, 2031 and 2046 (Source: .id – informed decisions).

Please note that the Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) population projections and recently adopted Victoria's Housing Statements (that sets a goal of 800,000 new homes over a decade) are excluded from the above population and participation forecasts. There is no specific population data on the impact of SLR that will increase future housing, employment and development densities in the Box Hill Metropolitan Activity Centre and Burwood Major Activity Centre. These areas are likely to be a focus of the Housing Statement's implementation in Whitehorse.

Table 47: Participation Projections 2021/2031/2041

Sport	Current SSA Registered Participation	Local participation	AusPlay Participation Rate (State or National Rate)	AusPlay Participation Rate applied to 2021 Population	AusPlay Participation Rate applied to 2031 Population	AusPlay Participation Rate applied to 2046 Population
Badminton	307	High number of unaffiliated badminton players 6 clubs / associations 2 providers	Adults 2.00% Children 15.60%	6,978	7,563	9,193
Basketball	7,019	MEBA membership 12,279 and 15 clubs 2 other clubs in Whitehorse competing in other Associations	Adults 4.20% Children 13.70%	9,387	10,765	12,988
Calisthenics	298	298 1 club in Whitehorse 1 club servicing Whitehorse located in neighbouring LGAs	Adults 0.02% Children 0.30%	108	113	138
Cricket (Indoor)	Not available	Approximately 536 players 1 provider running competitions in Whitehorse	Indoor and outdoor cricket: Adults 2.60% Children 4.80% *15% of the overall participation is Indoor Cricket	719	851	1,023
Futsal	Not available	Approximately 280 players across 3 clubs	Adults 3.70% Children 9.30% *39% of the overall participation is Futsal	2,927	3,408	4,104
Gymnastics	1,927	Approximately 695 futsal participants High number of unaffiliated futsal players 2 providers running competitions in Whitehorse	Adults 0.45% Children 13.50%	4,331	4,384	5,379

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Sport	Current SSA Registered Participation	Local participation	AusPlay Participation Rate (State or National Rate)	AusPlay Participation Rate applied to 2021 Population	AusPlay Participation Rate applied to 2031 Population	AusPlay Participation Rate applied to 2046 Population
Martial Arts	Not available	2,326 across two clubs in Whitehorse 2 clubs servicing Whitehorse located in neighbouring LGAs	Adults 1.72% Children 0.88%	2,537	3,138	3,751
Netball	3,153	7 martial arts providers plus 3 Tai Chi providers	Adults 3.20% Children 6.70% *30% of the overall participation is Indoor Netball	1,836	2,159	2,597
Table Tennis	183	Whitehorse Netball Association membership 3,153	Adults 0.35% Children 11.10%	3,534	3,571	4,383
Volleyball	Not available	Estimated 1,250 unaffiliated and affiliated players	Adults 0.70% Children 0.51%	1,074	1,318	1,577
Total				**33,574**	**37,446**	**45,343**

* Football Australia and Netball Australia National Participation Reports. Applied 15% indoor cricket participation rate.
** There are no local participation data or an AusPlay participation rate for emerging sports, pickleball and sport climbing.

Current facilities are at capacity and not fit for purpose.

The City of Whitehorse manages nine indoor sports facilities. Overall, Whitehorse has 75 indoor sports facilities managed by Council, schools, and private providers, all of which are used for indoor sports activities. Refer to **Appendix 1** for an inventory of all indoor sports facilities.

All Council, school and private indoor sports providers are reporting high occupancy rates (80+%). Several of these facilities are in average condition, do not meet contemporary design standards (i.e. non-compliant courts) and require renewal to meet participant needs. This is demonstrated by the occupancy levels in the Council-owned indoor sports facilities (Nunawading Basketball Centre, Sportlink and Aqualink Box Hill) that operate at 80+% across peak periods during weekdays and weekends.

The following table summarises the occupancy levels of the five Council-owned indoor sports facilities:

Table 48: Court Occupancy Levels

Facility Name	Total Occupancy	Weekday Off Peak	Weekday Peak	Weekends
Nunawading Basketball Centre	87.92%	81.90%	100.00%	83.67%
Sportlink				
• Indoor Courts	73.40%	35.00%	92.00%	99.20%
• Undercover Outdoor Courts	53.60%	33.75%	71.70%	62.50%
Aqualink Box Hill	61.95%	24.20%	81.90%	95.80%
Slater Reserve	63.86%	28.75%	90.20%	82.00%
Nunawading Community Hub	72.40%	68.00%	72.30%	78.60%

Future participation growth will result in the need for additional indoor sports courts and facilities.

State Sporting Association registered participation trends have shown an increase in participation across indoor sports. Local indoor sports associations and clubs have also shown an increase in participation.

The projected Whitehorse population growth will exacerbate the deficit in indoor court provision.

The map on the following page shows the current population and location of all indoor sports facilities within Whitehorse. The map identifies in a light blue dotted line the suburb boundary, and the black line the municipal boundary.

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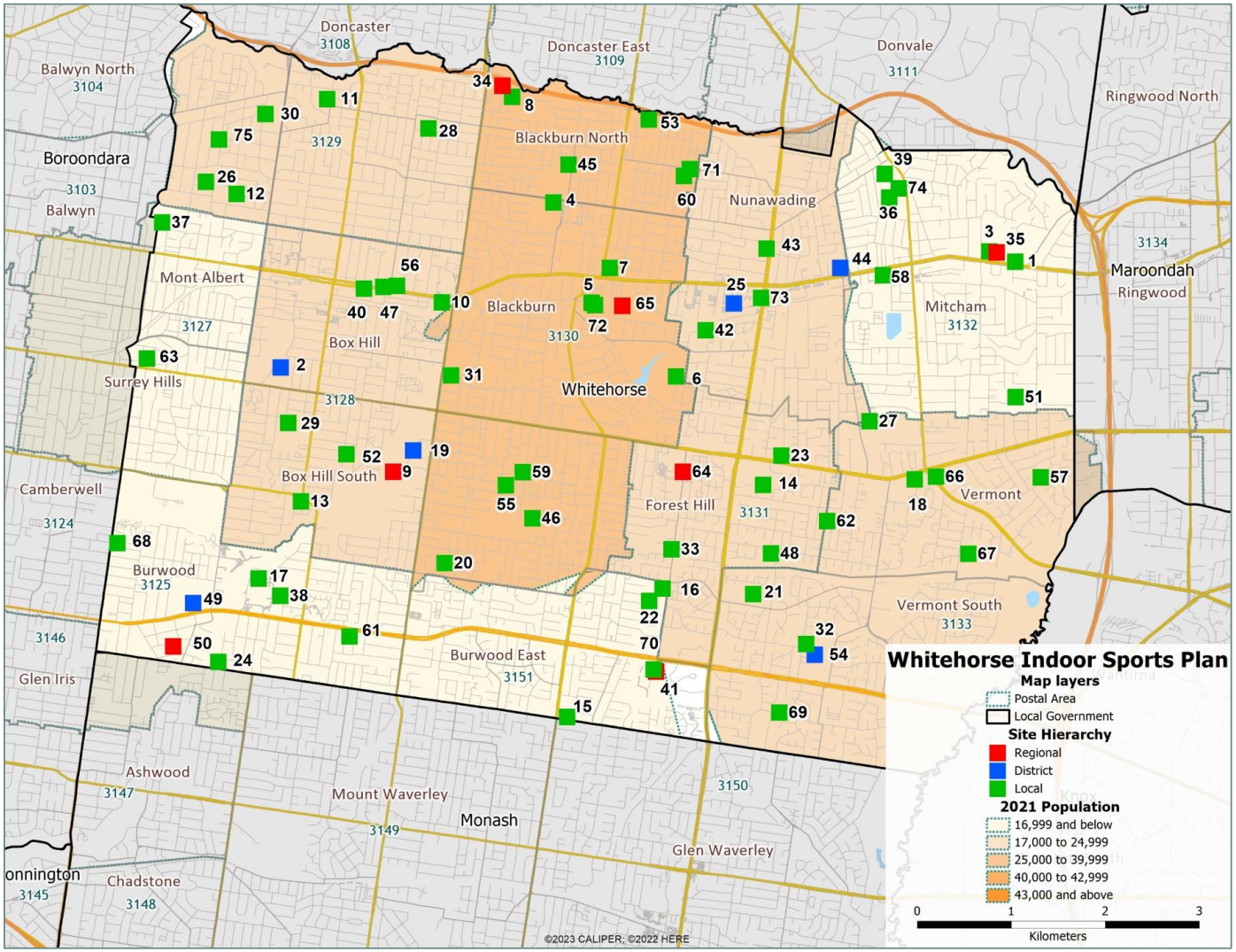
Figure 29: 2021 Current Population Density by Suburb and Hierarchy of Facilities in Whitehorse



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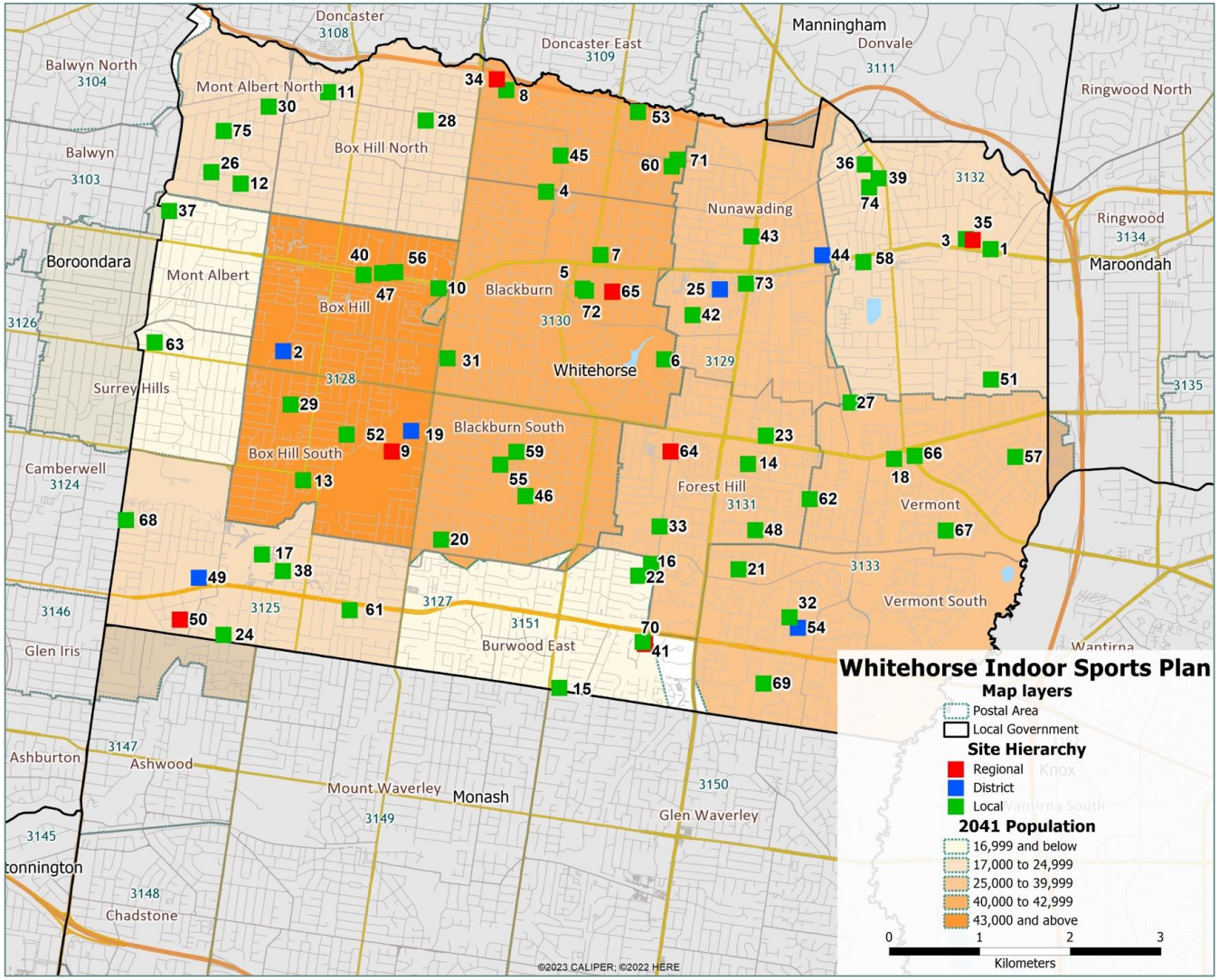
Future Supply

The adjacent map shows the projected future population and location of existing facilities.

The facility catchments for Council and school facilities that propose improvements will service high population growth areas in Whitehorse.

Figure 30: 2046 Projected Future Population Density by Suburb and Hierarchy of Facilities in Whitehorse



5.2 Key Challenges

The following key challenges are identified:

- **Challenge 1** – Population growth is driving increased participation in indoor sports, and this will continue over the next fifteen years.
- **Challenge 2** – The existing indoor sports facilities are nearing capacity. To meet future demand, additional indoor courts and facilities will be necessary in Whitehorse.
- **Challenge 3** – Some sports, such as table tennis, are spread across multiple smaller venues, hindering their ability to grow and serve all age groups and competition levels.
- **Challenge 4** – Several indoor sports (e.g., badminton, indoor cricket, volleyball) are operated by private providers, some of which are not affiliated with State Sporting Associations. There is a risk of losing access to these sports if private providers cease operations.
- **Challenge 5** – A shortage of indoor courts limits the availability for emerging sports like pickleball and paddleball. Existing facilities are in high demand by traditional sports, necessitating the development of additional courts to support both major and emerging sports.
- **Challenge 6** – Some indoor sports facilities are in average condition and require upgrades. Many courts do not meet netball and basketball run off standards, and some facilities fail to comply with contemporary design requirements.
- **Challenge 7** –School facilities play a key role in supporting sport competition and training and also activities such as martial arts, calisthenics, and cheer. These partnerships should continue, and further opportunities should be supported.

The following strategic vision is recommended to guide the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan to address key challenges.

5.3 Vision

Whitehorse sports facilities will enable everyone in the community to participate in indoor sport and recreation.

5.4 Strategic Approach

The strategic approach to meeting indoor sports facilities infrastructure needs have been developed and are presented in priority order.



Strategy 1 – Adopt a strategic approach

- Use the evidence-based data collected to inform strategic directions and investment decisions.
- Adopt a planning framework with a hierarchy of indoor sports facilities with supporting planning and design principles (i.e. multi-use) and design standards.
- Applying this planning framework across existing indoor sports facilities and identification of gaps and opportunities.
- Determining the mix of indoor sports facilities required to meet the current and future demand of each sport.

Case Study: Eagle Stadium

This case study showcases the key learnings and benefits of a regional sports stadium

Organisation: Wyndham City Council
Year Opened: 2015
Capital Cost: $47.5 million
Funding Mix:

- State Government: $650,000
- Federal Government: $9 million

Project Outcomes:

- The Feasibility Study identified the need for the facility, the preferred site and facilities/components to be included in the stadium.
- Design issues to ensure functional and operating imperatives were addressed.
- Operating costs determined following development of robust business and operational plans.
- Funding success and delivery.

Project Challenges/Key Learnings:

- Opportunity to upgrade and extend existing facility to create a regional level facility.
- Displacement of users during the construction period was problematic.
- Creating a larger regional facility provide economies of scale improving the financial performance of the facility.

Community Benefits:

- Development of a multi court facility on one site provides ease of access for both users and participants.
- The health and wellness area supports the Council objective to increase participation in physical activity.
- Regional facility with spectator seating to show court supports event opportunities.





Strategy 2 – Optimise the use of existing facilities

- Optimise use of existing facilities by redistributing and maximising indoor sports facilities allocation and use across the network of existing indoor sports facilities.

  Examples include:

- Sportlink introducing a pickleball competition in available time slots outside the use by netball, basketball, volleyball and futsal.
- If Nunawading Basketball Centre is redeveloped with additional courts, this may open up use by other indoor sports at existing facilities i.e. netball use of Sportlink.
- Explore non-traditional spaces to provide opportunities for indoor sports programming.
- Adopt the Fair Access Policy principles in planning, designing and allocating indoor sports facilities.

Case Study: Macedon Ranges Regional Sports Precinct

This case study showcases the key learnings and benefits of co-location and multi-sport precincts

Organisation: Macedon Ranges Shire Council
Year Opened:
Stage 1: 2024
Stage 2: Late 2026
Stage 3: In planning

Capital Cost:
- Stage 1: $29 million
- State Government: $14.8 million
- Macedon Ranges Shire Council: $15.5 million
- Melbourne Water: $377,000
- AFL Victoria: $100,000
- Stage 2: $17 million
- Federal Government: $15 million
- Macedon Ranges Shire Council: $2 million
- Stage 3: $15.5 million (estimated)

Project Outcomes:
- Feasibility Study and Business Case
- Recommendation for a four-court stadium in Stage 1.
- Facility forms part of an overall sport hub with sports ovals and recreation park areas.
- Funding success and delivery.

Project Challenges/Key Learnings:
- Agreed community vision assisted in the development of an integrated precinct.
- Community and council working together provide a strong lobby for external funding opportunities.

Community Benefits:
- Development of an integrated sporting precinct with a range of sporting codes co located providing ease of access for users and spectators.
- Precinct provides enhanced sporting facilities, increased community engagement, and economic growth.





Strategy 3 –Partner with schools and private providers:

- Recognises the significant role schools and private indoor sports providers play in servicing participation demand in Whitehorse.
- Adopt a Strategic Partnerships Framework that will guide the Council's engagement on partnership opportunities for developing new indoor sports courts and facilities.
- Partner with schools for shared joint use of indoor sports facilities and consideration of opportunities to expand school facilities, if considered feasible. This would be achieved by Council entering into Joint Use Agreements with the Department of Education for community access to indoor sports courts at key strategic sites. Advocate for a simplified and consistent approach in partnering with schools.
- In relation to private operators this could include reducing barriers for commercial operators to enter the marketplace via Councils' approval process and Council proactively seeking opportunities (incentivise) to attract private commercial operators.
- Partner with universities to explore opportunities for social play/community use of indoor sports facilities.
- Collaborate with the Eastern Region councils in the funding and development of regional indoor sports facilities through the delivery of the Melbourne East Region Sport and Recreation Strategy. There is potential for other councils to invest in Whitehorse facilities (and vice versa).

Case Study: Wurdi Baierr Multi-Purpose Stadium

This case study showcases the key learnings and benefits of strategic partnerships

Organisation: Surf Coast Shire Council
Year Opened: 2021
Capital Cost: $12.75 million

Funding Mix:
- Federal Government: $5 million
- State Government: $3 million
- Surf Coast Shire Council: $5.5 million

Project Outcomes:
- Feasibility Study confirmed facilities/components to be included in the stadium.
- Design issues to ensure functional and operating imperatives were addressed.
- Operating costs determined following development of robust business and operational plans.
- Negotiation of Joint Use Agreement between the Education Department and the Council.
- Funding success and delivery.

Project Challenges/Key Learnings:
- Partnership with the secondary college enabled the opportunity to expand existing community infrastructure (Education Department) and achieve economies of scale.

Community Benefits:
- Development of a larger integrated indoor stadium with capacity to expand further to include aquatic components (currently under construction).





Strategy 4 – Build new facilities where required

- Once existing facilities have been optimised, consider the opportunities to expand existing or develop new facilities in line with the agreed planning framework.
- This would include the development of detailed feasibility and business case that would include the identification of a funding strategy and funding partners.
- Advocate for Federal and State Government funding towards indoor sports facility projects.
- Consider inclusion of indoor sports facility projects as part of Development Contributions Policy in growth areas.

Case Study: Bundha Sports Centre

This case study showcases the key learnings and benefits of a stacked court sports stadium

Organisation: Sport and Recreation Victoria
Year Opened: 2024
Capital Cost: $54.5 million

Funding Mix:
- Victorian State Government: $49.5 million
- City of Yarra: $5 million

Project Outcomes:
- Development of a stacked court stadium that includes five dedicated indoor sports courts and a gym, including a purpose-built futsal court.
- Business Case developed that confirmed management model options and operating model; and development of a 20-year Capital Replacement and Maintenance Plan.
- Development of the operating agreement and tender documentation for the external lease arrangement.

Project Challenges/Key Learnings:
- Limited development footprint, resulting in a stacked court model.
- Developed adjacent to a secondary school, enabling community use of school courts after school hours.
- Integration of facility components across a stacked building.

Community Benefits:
- Opportunity for local basketball and netball clubs to access quality sporting infrastructure.
- The stacked court model enables multi-court development on a limited site.
- Integration of school and community facilities maximises community assets.





5.5 Strategic Recommendations

The Strategic Partnership Framework has been used to help inform the prioritisation of sport recommendations.

The table on the next page links the recommendations for each sport to the strategic directions.

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Table 49: Strategic Recommendations

Sport	Recommendations	Link to Strategic Direction	Timeline	Responsibility
Badminton	Support the identified need for additional badminton courts as part of the statutory planning processes for new privately operated district badminton centre applications. Considers increasing badminton access to district indoor sports facilities including Aqualink Box Hill and Sportlink.	Strategy 1 – Adopt a strategic approach Strategy 2 – Optimise the use of existing facilities	Short Term (0-5 years) Short (0-5 years) to Medium Term (6-10 years)	City Planning and Development Leisure and Recreation Services
Basketball	Support the redevelopment of the regional Nunawading Basketball Centre in the short term. Investigate the feasibility of developing additional indoor courts and negotiating Joint Use Agreements at identified site opportunities. This includes exploring proposals on Department of Education land and privately owned land. This could include, but is not limited to: • Box Hill Secondary College • Koonung Secondary College • Forest Hill Secondary College • Vermont Secondary College.	Strategy 4 – Build new facilities where required Strategy 3 – Partner with schools and private providers	Short (0-5 years) to Medium Term (6-10 years) Medium (6-10 years) to Long Term (11-15 years)	Major Projects / Leisure and Recreation Services Leisure and Recreation Services
Calisthenics	Partner with Blackburn Calisthenics College and explore opportunities in the central/western area of Whitehorse for a new district-level studio. Consider the inclusion of multi-purpose program rooms to support calisthenics in indoor sports facility developments/upgrade.	Strategy 3 – Partner with schools and private providers Strategy 4 – Build new facilities where required	Medium Term (6-10 years) Long Term (11-15 years)	Leisure and Recreation Services Leisure and Recreation Services
Cricket (Indoor)	Continue to monitor indoor cricket participation and programming demands at the regional Box Hill Indoor Sports Centre.	Strategy 2 – Optimise the use of existing facilities	Ongoing	Leisure and Recreation Services
Fencing	Relocate the Blacklords Fencing Club to an alternative district-size facility that can accommodate 10 compliant pistes. This need should be considered as part of any development or upgrade of indoor courts or use of an existing facility i.e. Nunawading Community Hub. Consider the inclusion of multi-purpose program rooms to support fencing in indoor sports facility developments/upgrade.	Strategy 2 – Optimise the use of existing facilities Strategy 4 – Build new facilities where required	Short (0-5 years) to Medium Term (6-10 years) Long Term (11-15 years)	Major Projects / Leisure and Recreation Services Leisure and Recreation Services

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Sport	Recommendations	Link to Strategic Direction	Timeline	Responsibility
Futsal	Identify opportunities within the programming of existing local and district indoor sports courts for increased access for futsal. As part of the development of Nunawading Basketball Centre Include the necessary futsal protection infrastructure to at least four courts to support futsal growth. It is important to take measures to protect assets in facilities where futsal is played due to the impact of rebounding balls. Continue to monitor futsal participation and programming demands. Strengthen the messaging on multipurpose courts. Although outside the scope of the Indoor Sports Plan, the provision of outdoor facilities for social futsal should be explored where opportunities exist to complement existing soccer fields.	Strategy 2 – Optimise the use of existing facilities Strategy 2 – Optimise the use of existing facilities	Medium Term (6-10 years) Ongoing	Leisure and Recreation Services Leisure and Recreation Services
Gymnastics	Upgrade the Nunawading Gymnastics Centre to provide a fit-for-purpose district gymnastics facility in Whitehorse. Collaborate with Presbyterian Ladies College to establish a community-accessible gymnastics club at the new PLC sports facility.	Strategy 4 – Build new facilities where required Strategy 3 – Partner with schools and private providers	Medium Term (6-10 years) Short Term (0-5 years)	Major Projects / Leisure and Recreation Services City Planning and Development
Martial Arts	Contiune to monitor and review martial arts participation to understand supply and demand. As part of any upgrades or development of indoor sports facilities consider the inclusion of multi-purpose program rooms that could be support martial arts participation. Investigate and incentivise commercial/ school partnership opportunities for the delivery of martial arts facilities.	Strategy 4 – Build new facilities where required	Long Term (11-15 years)	Leisure and Recreation Services
Netball	Ensure that any new/redeveloped indoor facilities are compliant for netball. As part of the development of Nunawading Basketball Centre ensure the courts are compliant for netball.	Strategy 4 – Build new facilities where required Strategy 2 – Optimise the use of existing facilities	Short (0-5 years) to Medium Term (6-10 years) Medium Term (6-10 years)	Major Projects / Leisure and Recreation Services Leisure and Recreation Services

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Sport	Recommendations	Link to Strategic Direction	Timeline	Responsibility
	Partner with OOPS Netball Club Consider expanding the netball allocation of the indoor courts at the Sportlink following the proposed expansion of Nunawading Basketball Centre.			
Table Tennis	Consider the outcomes of the Table Tennis Facility Feasibility Study. Consider proposal for two additional indoor courts previously proposed at Aqualink Box Hill that could accommodate a regional table tennis centre (18-20 tables). Investigate and incentivise commercial/ school partnership opportunities for the delivery of table tennis facilities. Consider the need for a consolidated table tennis facility as part of the statutory planning processes for new table tennis centre applications.	Strategy 1 – Adopt a strategic approach Strategy 4 – Build new facilities where required Strategy 1 – Adopt a strategic approach	Short Term (0-5 years) Short (0-5 years) to Medium Term (6-10 years) Short Term (0-5 years)	Major Projects / Leisure and Recreation Services Major Projects / Leisure and Recreation Services City Planning and Development
Volleyball	Any new or redeveloped indoor facilities should include courts that meet volleyball compliance standards.	Strategy 2 – Optimise the use of existing facilities	Short (0-5 years) to Medium Term (6-10 years)	Major Projects / Leisure and Recreation Services
Emerging Sports	Continuing to monitor emerging sports participation and programming demands. Ensuring that any new/redeveloped indoor facilities are designed to meet the needs of some of the emerging sports, i.e. pickleball.	Strategy 2 – Optimise the use of existing facilities Strategy 4 – Build new facilities where required	Ongoing Short (0-5 years) to Medium Term (6-10 years)	Leisure and Recreation Services Major Projects / Leisure and Recreation Services
All Sports	Ensure the Active Communities and Leisure Team partners locally with clubs/associations/providers and State Sporting Associations to proactively develop participation opportunities for all ages, genders, and abilities and pathways for players from grassroots to elite competition.	Strategy 2 – Optimise the use of existing facilities	Ongoing	Leisure and Recreation Services
Participation Data and Facility Utilisation Monitoring and Reporting	Council to develop a monitoring mechanism / tool to annually collect and report data on indoor sports participation and facility utilisation across both Council and non-Council venues (where possible). This will ensure that the principles and strategic directions outlined in the Indoor Sports Plan are applied adaptively to respond to the	Strategy 1 – Adopt a strategic approach	Ongoing	Leisure and Recreation Services

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Sport	Recommendations	Link to Strategic Direction	Timeline	Responsibility
	evolving supply and demand landscape for indoor sports in Whitehorse.			
Partnership	It is recommended that opportunities for partnerships with neighbouring municipalities, schools, and commercial entities be continually explored to support the provision and development of indoor sports facilities. ***Refer to 5.4 Strategy 3 –Partner with schools and private providers***	Strategy 3 –Partner with schools and private providers	Ongoing	Leisure and Recreation Services

5.6 Road Map of Strategic Recommendations

The Strategic Partnership Framework has been used to help inform the prioritisation and sequencing of site-specific recommendations within a **Road Map**.

Whitehorse City Council will now consider funding in their respective Council Capital Works Program. The Plan will inform the Council's advocacy to other levels of government on priority projects that are eligible under existing funding grants and streams, including advocacy during election periods.

This is important because the Council will need other funding contributions to deliver. The funding strategy requires a partnership approach that includes State and Federal Government funding grants and commitments, National and State Sporting Association funding, developer contributions and local club/association and private organisation contributions. Certain projects have high costs and can only be delivered with assistance from the other levels of government.

Benchmarked indicative cost estimates are provided as a guide only A quantity surveyor should be engaged to prepare a cost plan as part of the detailed design process to determine project costs. Benchmark cost estimates are provided as a guide only.

The road map will be reviewed every two years. This review process will consider the outcomes of planning and funding processes and ensure that any emerging community and industry trends/demands, as well as external funding opportunities and Council funding capacity, are assessed and priority projects remain relevant throughout its 15-year timeline.

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Table 50: Strategic Road Map

Site Name	Recommendations	Type of Action	Priority	Benchmark Cost
Nunawading Basketball Centre	Redevelop and provide a 10-court regional indoor sports facility. Include the necessary futsal protection infrastructure to at least four courts to support futsal growth. Demolish Whitehorse Club and relocate the Blacklords Fencing Club to an alternate venue, one option is the Nunawading Community Hub.	Redevelopment	Short term (Year 1-5)	$86M - $117M
Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Complex	Provide access to a district gymnastics facility within the City of Whitehorse. This could be achieved by the following options **Option 1 –** Redevelop the Walker Park gymnastic facility as a district gymnastics centre. **Option 2 –** Relocate to an alternative location (e.g., an industrial site). ***Refer to section 5.6.1 below for the advantages and disadvantages of the two proposed options***.	Option 1: Redevelopment	Short term (Year 1-5)	$10M
		Option 2: Industrial Site	Short term (Year 1-5)	$70K for Investigation work. Cost to purchase/lease site and retrofit is subject to investigation.
Eley Park Community Centre	Conduct a comprehensive assessment of building redevelopment options to evaluate the facility's functional lifespan and determine the most effective strategy for upgrading or redeveloping the Centre.	Investigate building capacity and redevelopment options	Short term (Year 1-5)	$100K
New Regional Table Tennis Centre	Develop a new regional table tennis facility within the City of Whitehorse. This could be achieved by the following options: **Option 1 –** Extend AQBH to include the regional table tennis centre **Option 2 –** Purchase / Lease an industrial site in Burwood area in partnership with a neighbouring municipality. **Option 3 –** Re-purpose Slater Reserve Stadium and upgrade front of house area as the regional table tennis centre potentially in partnership with Manningham City Council ***Refer to the Table Tennis Feasibility Study for and assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of these three options.***	Option 1: New facility	Short term (Year 1-5)	$10M-$15M
		Option 2: Industrial Site	Short term (Year 1-5)	$2m-$3M
		Option 3: Re purpose Slater Reserve Stadium	Short term (Year 1-5)	$3M - $6M

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Site Name	Recommendations	Type of Action	Priority	Benchmark Cost
Aqualink Box Hill (AQBH)	Aqualink Box Hill has capacity to accommodate additional indoor sports courts to meet current and future demand. This could include the following options: **Option 1 -** Extend the stadium for regional table tennis facility (being considered as part of Table Tennis Regional Feasibility Study) **Option 2 -** Extend the stadium for additional 2 multipurpose courts taking into consideration additional car parking requirements ***Refer to section 5.6.1 below for the advantages and disadvantages of the two proposed options***.	Option 1: Extension for Regional Table Tennis Facility	Short term (Year 1-5)	$18M -$22M
		Option 2: Extension of 2 indoor courts	Option2: Long term or beyond (Year 10 +)	$20M -$25M
Sportlink	Undertake condition assessment of water damaged courts to determine appropriate next steps, i.e. reflooring.	Investigation	Short term (Year 1-5)	$20K
	Relocate indoor sports use at Mahoney Reserve Hall subject to Council's decision, upgrade lighting and minor retrofitting to meet user's needs.	Minor upgrade	Short term (Year 1-5)	$100 – $200K
Mahoney's Reserve Indoor Sports Hall	Demolish and relocate indoor sports hall users to alternative facilities i.e. Sportlink	Decommission	Short term (Year 1-5)	Part of Mahoneys pavilion redevelopment
Slater Reserve Stadium	Undertake a building condition and fit for purpose assessment to determine the facility's functional life and identify if major works are required within the 10-15 years' time. Options for the future use of this facility include: **Option 1-** Undertake the necessary repairs based on the outcome of the building condition assessment. **Option 2 –** Redevelop the two-court facility on a like-for-like basis when the building reaches the end of its functional life. **Option 3 –** Transition Viking Basketball Association to AQBH as the tenant club of the existing three court facility with the long-term option to expand AQBH with two additional courts subject to a demand assessment. Decommission Slater Stadium at the end of functional life. **Option 4 –** Transition Viking Basketball Association to AQBH. Re-purpose Slater Stadium to Regional table tennis centre with front of house area upgrade. ***Refer to section 5.6.1 below for the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed options***.	Investigation	Short term (Year 1-5)	Condition Assessment $20K -$30K
		Option 1: Undertake repairs	Short term (Year 1-5)	Repairs $100K - $150K
		Option 2 Redevelopment	Beyond (Year 15 +)	$25M- $30M
		Option 3 Transition & decommission	Medium to Long term (Year 5-15)	Transition $500K - $1M Additional courts AQBH $20M - $25M
		Option 4: Re-purposing & Upgrade	Short to Medium term (Year 1-10)	$3M - $6M

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Site Name	Recommendations	Type of Action	Priority	Benchmark Cost
Nunawading Community Hub	No extension/upgrade is required within the planning timeframe of this ISP. Routine facility maintenance will be undertaken as required.	Maintenance	Ongoing	NA
Partnerships	That opportunities for partnerships with neighbouring municipalities, schools, and commercial entities be continually explored to support the provision and development of indoor sports facilities.	Strategic partnerships	Ongoing	NA
Participation Data and Facility Utilisation Monitoring and Reporting	Council to develop a monitoring mechanism / tool to annually collect and report data on indoor sports participation and facility utilisation across both Council and non-Council venues (where possible). This will ensure that the principles and strategic directions outlined in the Indoor Sports Plan are applied adaptively to respond to the evolving supply and demand landscape for indoor sports in Whitehorse.	Monitoring and Reporting	Ongoing	$10K

5.7 Options Analysis

The above Roadmap presents possible development options for a number of the Council owned facilities. The following table provides a summary of the advantages and disadvantages of the options presented.

5.7.1 Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club

The following table details the advantages and disadvantages of the options identified for the Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club

Table 51: Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club Options – Advantages and Disadvantages

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
Option 1 – Redevelop the Walker Park gymnastic facility as a district gymnastics centre.	• Facility remains at existing location to support current membership catchment • Club has long term history as tenant of Walker Park • Preferred option of the gymnastics club • Opportunity to be part of a wider sports hub with capacity to share infrastructure i.e. carparking • Potential for lower occupancy cost	• Club may need to be displaced while new facility constructed • Site constraints may limit development opportunities • Capital cost may be higher
Option 2 – Relocate to an alternative location (e.g., an industrial site).	• Reduced risk of displacement during any construction • Site of suitable size could be identified to enable fit for purpose facility to be developed • Potential for lower capital cost • New location may be more accessible for a larger catchment of residents • Opportunity to repurpose the site for alternate use or return to open space	• Club would be displaced from their historical home base, potentially away from membership catchment. • Potential for higher occupancy costs • Potential for long term tenure to be limited (if leased) • Location of facility in industrial area may not be conducive to safe and secure access.

5.7.2 Aqualink Box Hill

Aqualink Box Hill has capacity to accommodate additional indoor sports courts to meet current and future demand. The following table details the advantages and disadvantages of the options identified.

Table 52: Aqualink Box Hill – Advantages and Disadvantages

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
Option 1 - Extend the stadium for regional table tennis facility (being considered as part of Table Tennis Regional Feasibility Study)	• The site has capacity to accommodate a regional table tennis facility. • Locating the facility as part of a larger sports centre provide a number of economies of scale	• The development of the facility may result in car parking issues. • The capital cost may be higher than leasing an industrial site. • The development will result in a loss of open space.

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
	i.e. management/staffing, café, car parking • The location of the facility is within the primary catchment of table tennis participants.	The development of the facility will result in the loss of the tennis courts.
Option 2 - Extend the stadium for additional 2 multipurpose courts taking into consideration additional car parking requirements	• The two court extension is consistent with the current use of the site. • The site has capacity to extend the facility with two additional indoor sports courts creating a five court stadium. • A five-court stadium provide a more financially sustainable operating performance. • The extension of the facility will provide economies of scale i.e. i.e. management/staffing, café, car parking • The location of the facility is within the primary catchment of indoor sports participants. • The facility extension may be a lower capital cost.	• The development of the facility may result in car parking issues. • The capital cost may be higher than leasing an industrial site. • The development will result in a loss of open space. • The development of the facility will result in the loss of the tennis courts.

5.7.3 Slater Reserve

The following options have been considered for the future long-term use of Slater Reserve. The following table details the advantages and disadvantages of the options identified.

Table 53: Aqualink Box Hill – Advantages and Disadvantages

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
Option 1- Undertake the necessary repairs based on the outcome of the building condition assessment.	• This will ensure the facility remains operational and meets all access and OH&S requirements.	
Option 2 – Redevelop the two-court facility on a like-for-like basis when the building reaches the end of its functional life.	• Courts will be retained within the network of indoor court provisions and updated to meet current industry and design standards. • The upgrade is consistent with the current use of the site. • The location of the facility is within the primary catchment of the Blackburn Vikings Basketball Association members.	• Future resident concerns about traffic and noise given the location of the facility within a residential area. • The existing two-court stadium will be insufficient to accommodate future demand for court access. • A two-court facility is less sustainable financially and operationally.
Option 3 – Transition Viking Basketball Association to AQBH as the tenant club of the existing three court facility with the long-term option to expand AQBH with two additional courts subject to a demand assessment. Decommission	• Vikings Basketball Association will have access to one additional court in the short term and three additional	• The loss of two courts from the current network of indoor courts will increase the deficit of court provision.

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Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
Slater Stadium at the end of functional life.	courts in the long term to meet demand. • Reduced impact on local residents • Opportunity to repurpose the site for alternate use or return to open space	• AQBH may be outside of the primary catchment of Blackburn Vikings Basketball Association members. • Increased capital cost to build new courts in the long term at AQBH. • The development of the facility may result in car parking issues.
Option 4 – Transition Viking Basketball Association to AQBH. Re-purpose Slater Stadium to Regional table tennis centre with front of house area upgrade.	• Vikings Basketball Association will have access to one additional court in the short term and three additional courts in the long term to meet demand. • Opportunity to provide dedicated table tennis facility in Whitehorse.	• AQBH may be outside of the primary catchment of Blackburn Vikings Basketball Association members. • Increased capital cost to build new courts in the long term at AQBH. • The development of the facility may result in car parking issues • Resident near Slater reserve may have concerns about traffic and noise given the location of the facility within a residential area. • Location of facility is not visible from main roads. • Cost to retrofit existing facility may be unsustainable.

6. Strategic Partnerships Framework

The City of Whitehorse Strategic Partnerships Framework (SPF) provides a set of principles that guide and encourage partnerships that expand community use of indoor sports facilities.

6.1 Framework

Purpose

The aim of the SPF is to assist Council in considering suitable indoor sports facility projects or partnerships for Council investment where these opportunities provide additional community use.

Objectives

The objectives of the SPF are:

- Support strategic investment by Council in indoor sports projects that provide community use.
- Provide a consistent approach for decision making in prioritising capital investment for indoor sports projects involving external partners.
- Assist Council assess project options that target priority areas for development that ensure community access, as identified in the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan.
- Consider Council's Asset Renewal program when opportunities arise for indoor sport facilities that provide community use.
- To ensure partnership contributions or equivalent assistance, the Council should consider the principles with external partners.

Scope

The SPF applies to those sports identified in the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan. It covers new facilities, redevelopments or upgrades of facilities. The SPF provides a framework for the Council to explore partnerships that complement the Council's strategic objectives in providing sports facilities for the community.

Inclusions: The Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan identified a suite of sports with the perception that by meeting large footprint sports such as netball and basketball, the smaller sports may also be served. The provision of other indoor sports is classified below.

Exclusions: This SPF does not apply to the development of Aquatic Components of a Leisure Facility.

Definitions

Indoor Sports Facility: An enclosed area where indoor sports are undertaken and ideally provides courts, halls or studios with a playing surface that is appropriate for indoor sporting activities.

Indoor Sports – The following indoor sports have been included in the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan, badminton, basketball, calisthenics, cricket (indoor), fencing, gymnastics, futsal, martial arts, netball, table tennis, volleyball and emerging sports.

Partners

Council is interested in discussing project/partnership proposals with the following stakeholders:

- Schools – Primary, Secondary, Private, Universities, TAFE Institutions.
- Neighbouring/Eastern Region LGA's – Boroondara, Manningham, Knox, Maroondah, Yarra Ranges and Monash Councils.
- Private landowners, operators or investors. These could also include with Shopping centres, business parks and industrial sites.
- State and Federal Governments.
- State Sporting Associations and Local Sporting Clubs and Associations.

Council Partnership Position in Negotiation

The following details council's position in negotiating partnership opportunities:

- It will consider the partnership approach and principles outlined in the SPF.
- Council approaches partnership negotiations with a commitment to transparency, equity, and long-term value /sustainable to the community.
- It will be grounded in on fostering a collaborative relationship that is aligned with strategic priorities.
- Council will seek partners who are willing to co invest and share a vision for the development of community facilities that provide participation opportunities and outcomes that deliver measurable benefits.
- The Council sees partnerships as an enduring strategic alliance that strengthens community capacity, rather than a transactional relationship.
- Negotiations will be guided by the principles of mutual respect, accountability and shared risk, and will ensure that all parties contribute meaningfully to shape the direction of the partnership.

Partnership Approach

The table below summarises the partnership approach and mechanisms for each type of partner identified above.

Table 54: Partnership Mechanisms

Agreement Type	Use Case	Key Considerations
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	Collaboration or early-stage partnership	Non-binding; useful for pilot programs or shared intent
Community Joint Use Agreement (CJUA)	Shared use of facilities and co-investment (e.g. schools, clubs)	Define access schedules, maintenance responsibilities, insurance
Commercial Arrangements	Long-term lease or co-investment	Ensure market testing, valuation, and community benefit
Works in Kind Agreement	External funding with council-led delivery	Clarify scope, timelines, and governance; ensure transparency in procurement and project management

Table 55: Partnership Approach

Partners	Partnership Approach	Partnership Mechanism
Department of Education and Schools	• Partner with schools by establishing Joint Use Agreements with schools and the Department of Education that enable the facility to be used for community use. If feasible, the partnerships will consider opportunities to expand school facilities. • Joint funding advocacy to State and Federal Government.	• Memorandum of Understanding • Community Joint Use Agreements
Universities and Private Schools	• Partner with universities and private schools to explore opportunities for social play/community use of indoor sports facilities. • Encourage participation pathways and facilitate access for community groups. • Reduce barriers to enter the marketplace via the Councils' approval process.	• Memorandum of Understanding • Possible lease/license agreement or commercial arrangement • Support planning permit process
Private Commercial Operators	• Partner with private commercial operators by reducing barriers for them to enter the marketplace via the Councils' approval process and proactively seeking opportunities (incentivising) to attract private commercial operators. • Encourage participation pathways and facilitate access for community groups.	• Memorandum of Understanding • Possible lease/license agreement or commercial arrangement • Support planning permit process
Other Local Councils	• Collaborate with the Eastern Region councils in the funding and development of regional indoor sports facilities through the delivery of the Melbourne East Region Sport and Recreation Strategy. • Joint funding advocacy to State and Federal Government. • Joint investment for regional level facilities supported by the Melbourne East Region Sport and Recreation Strategy.	• Strategic planning and funding advocacy support - Terms of Reference • Funding agreement
State and Federal Government	• Advocate to Federal and State Government for funding towards indoor sports facility projects • Joint funding investment for priority projects.	• Funding agreement
Peak Sporting Bodies	• Partner State Sporting Associations (traditional and emerging sports) to proactively develop participation opportunities for all ages, genders, and abilities and pathways for players from grassroots to elite competition. • Joint funding advocacy to State and Federal Government.	• Strategic planning and funding advocacy support - Terms of Reference
Local Sporting Clubs and Associations	• Partner locally with clubs/associations/providers to proactively develop participation opportunities for all ages, genders, and abilities and pathways for players from grassroots to elite competition. • Club funding contributions.	• Timely review of lease/license agreements to ensure contemporary approach is adopted • Funding agreement, if applicable

Partnership Principles

Council's key principles for partnership include investing in facilities that:

- Address the sports prioritised in the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan with the greatest need for additional facilities in the short term.
- Prioritise sports identified in the Indoor Sports Plan where private provision is minimal and government delivery is the most feasible option.
- Provide multi-court facilities (especially 2+ courts) as they offer greater flexibility in use and additional participation opportunities.
- Upgrade or reconfigure sports facilities and supporting infrastructure such as court compliance, lighting upgrades and improved access, to maximise the use of existing infrastructure.
- Scope to develop ancillary services, including car parking and strong connections to public or active transport
- Flexibility in the approach to management models.
- Enable Council to optimise capital resources via asset renewal process and reduce asset duplication.
- Consider partnership contributions or equivalent assistance that may include the following:
  - Access to site/land
  - Purchase of additional land
  - Private-public funding opportunities (capital investment) that deliver community and commercial benefits
  - Hours of community use (subject to an agreed licence)
  - Respond to the closure of existing facilities (where further facility investment is not considered viable)
  - Works in-kind, where an external stakeholder provides funding for a facility but lacks the capability to deliver the project i.e. project management.

6.2 Assessment Criteria

An assessment criterion will be used to determine the suitability of partnership proposals for the development or upgrade of indoor sport facilities:

Strategic Alignment

- How does the partnership proposal benefit the community, address indoor sport needs, and deliver on the objectives of the Whitehorse Indoor Sports plan?
- Is there a shared ambition amongst partners to pursue a development that delivers a mutual benefit?
- How does the partnership proposal respond to the key principles of the SPF?

Project Development

- Has the partnership proposal a supporting master plan, concept plans and cost plans, feasibility study and business case?
- Have key user groups been consulted, confirmed their use of the proposed facility and support the partnership proposal?

Financial Viability

- What is the proposed capital, operational and asset management funding model?
- Is the operating model sustainable?'

Site Feasibility

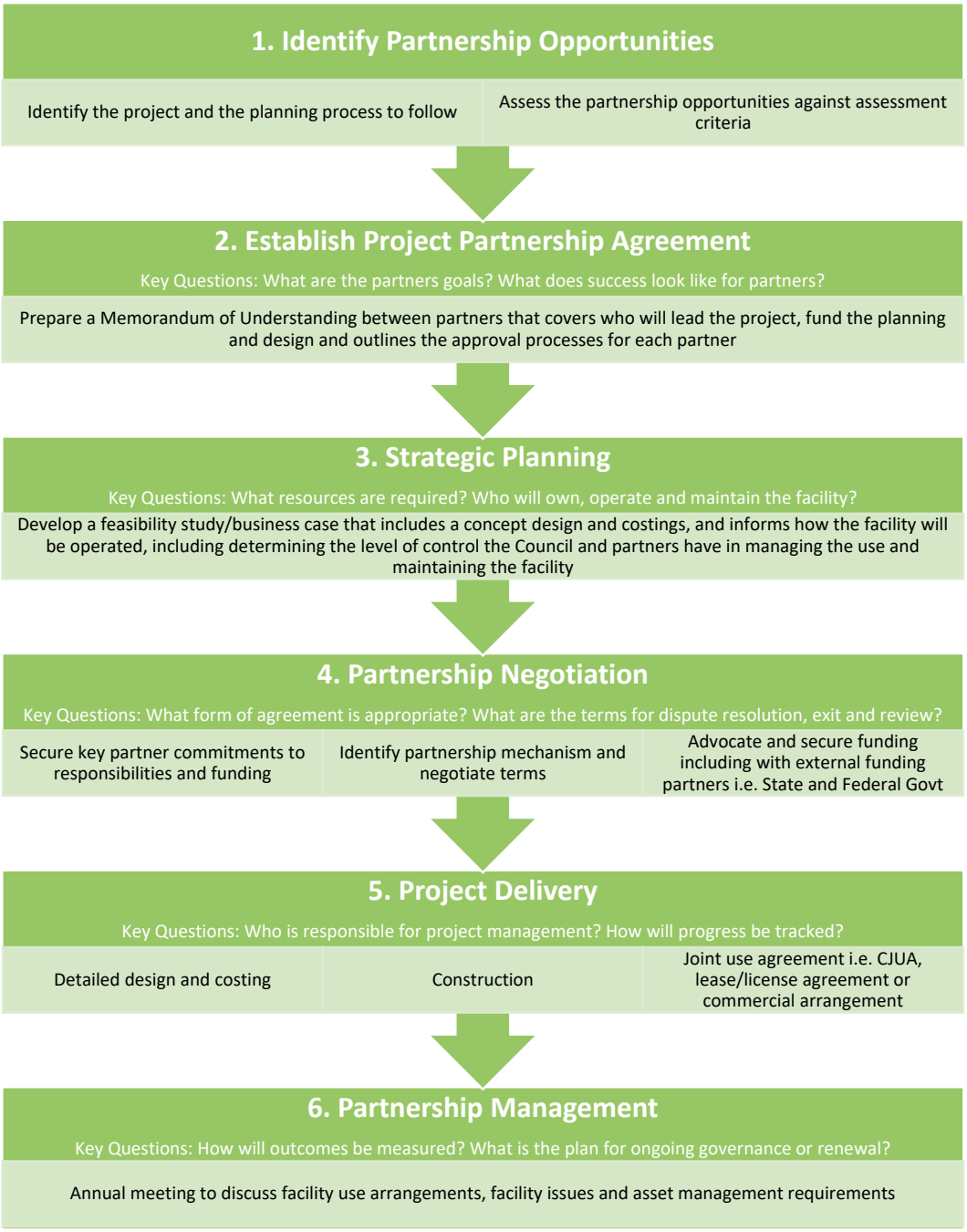
- Is there access to land to support a development
- What is the land tenure?
- Is the site suitable? Key site considerations include:
- The facility location will deliver a complementary facility catchment to other indoor sports facilities
- The site is of sufficient size
- The land is relatively flat, have suitable stable soil conditions, can be protected from floods or high-water table, and does not have a previous landfill or fill site history
- The proposed indoor sports facility will benefit the place and adjacent land uses and contribute to engaging people in a safe, accessible and welcoming way
- The site is available to develop and has no known land tenure or occupancy agreement constraints.

Legal and Governance

- What are the key terms of the partnership proposal and is there an ability to successfully negotiate an agreement between partners?
- Does the partnership proposal share risk?
- What is the governance structure and management model?

6.3 Guidance Notes

- The Strategic Partnership Framework will be used to help guide the Council in negotiating partnership projects.
- The following process map identifies the steps to establishing a partnership and delivering partnership projects.



6.4 Priority Partnerships

The Strategy has identified the following priority partnerships for the City of Whitehorse to pursue in the short to medium term to improve the network of indoor sports facilities.

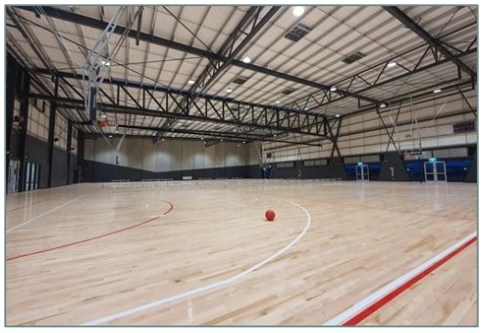
Table 56: Priority Partnerships

Key Partner	Targeted Outcome	Partnership Approach
Box Hill Senior Secondary College	• Proposal to provide three new courts	• Community Joint Use Agreements • Joint funding advocacy to State and Federal Government
Koonung Secondary College	• Proposal to provide three new courts	• Community Joint Use Agreements • Joint funding advocacy to State and Federal Government
Forest Hill College	• Proposal to provide four new courts	• Community Joint Use Agreements • Joint funding advocacy to State and Federal Government
Kerrimuir Primary School	• Proposal to provide one new court	• Community Joint Use Agreements
Presbyterian Ladies College	• Proposal to provide three new courts and gymnastics hall	• Planning permit support to facilitate community access • Lease/license agreement
Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre	• Proposal to provide three new courts	• Planning permit support to facilitate community access • Lease/license agreement
Box Hill Private Table Tennis Facility	• Proposal to provide a new twelve-table facility	• Planning permit support to facilitate community access • Lease/license agreement
Blackburn Calisthenics College	• Proposal to provide a new dance studio	• Planning permit support to facilitate community access
Boroondara / Monash City Council	• Proposal to provide a regional table tennis facility	• Partner in planning process

6.1 Partnership Case Studies

This section includes partnership case studies.

Table 57: Case Studies

Case Study: Wurdi Baierr Multi-Purpose Stadium	
This case study showcases the key learnings and benefits of strategic partnership with Department of Education, Council and State and Federal Government **Organisation:** Surf Coast Shire Council **Year Opened:** 2021 **Capital Cost:** $12.75 million **Funding Mix:** • Federal Government: $5 million • State Government: $3 million • Surf Coast Shire Council: $5.5 million **Project Outcomes:** • Feasibility Study confirmed facilities/components to be included in the stadium. • Design issues to ensure functional and operating imperatives were addressed. • Operating costs determined following development of robust business and operational plans. • Negotiation of Joint Use Agreement between the Education Department and the Council. • Funding success and delivery. **Project Challenges/Key Learnings:** • Partnership with the secondary college enabled the opportunity to expand existing community infrastructure (Education Department) and achieve economies of scale. **Community Benefits:** • Development of a larger integrated indoor stadium with capacity to expand further to include aquatic components (currently under construction).	 

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Case Study: Jubilee Park Stadium

This case study showcases the key learnings and benefits of strategic partnership with a major sports association, peak sporting body, Council and State and Federal Government

Organisation: Frankston City Council
Year Opened: 2022
Capital Cost: $36.6 million

Funding Mix:

- Federal Government: $4.56 million
- State Government: $10 million
- Frankston City Council: $21.84 million
- Cricket Australia/Victoria: $200,000

Project Outcomes:

- Feasibility Study confirmed facilities/components to be included in the stadium.
- Design issues to ensure functional and operating imperatives were addressed.
- Operating costs determined following development of robust business and operational plans.
- Management models considered with a Lease Agreement approved by Council
- Lease negotiation with Frankston District Netball Association to manage the facility and deliver a multi-sport facility for netball, and other indoor sports including basketball, volleyball and cricket.
- Funding success and delivery.

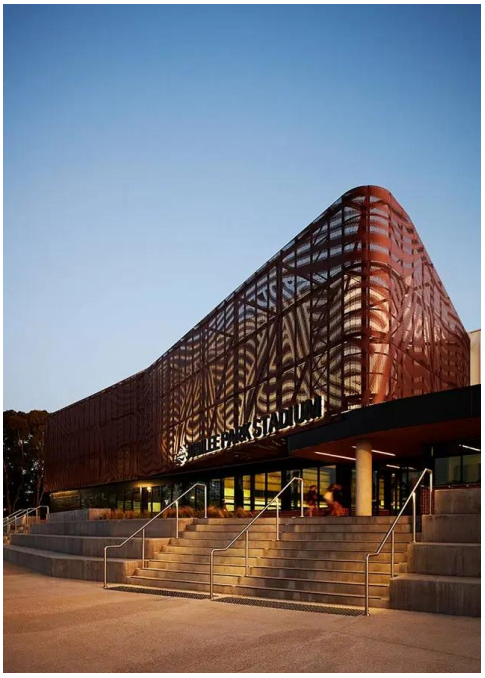
Project Challenges/Key Learnings:

- A robust business model helped inform the management model and lease negotiations with the Frankston District Netball Association. This included ensuring FDNA understand risk and operating performance measures required to deliver a sustainable business model.

Community Benefits:

- Development of an integrated indoor stadium with outdoor sports courts and link to outdoor sports fields.
- Delivers a grass root to elite level competition venue in Frankston.





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Case Study: Macedon Ranges Sports Precinct

This case study showcases the key learnings and benefits of strategic partnership with a peak sporting body, Council, State Government and Water Authority

Organisation: Macedon Ranges Shire
Year Opened: 2024
Capital Cost:

- Stage 1 - $29 million
- Stage 2 - $17 million
- Stage 3 – not yet funded

Funding Mix:
Stage 1

- State Government: $14.8million
- Macedon Ranges Shire: $10million
- Melbourne Water $377,590
- AFL Victoria $100,000

Stage 2

- Federal Government: $15 million
- Macedon Ranges Shire: $2 million

Project Outcomes:

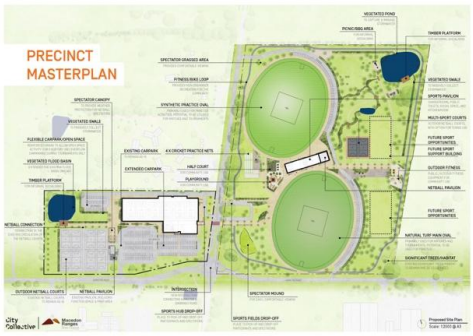
- The Macedon Ranges Sports Precinct is a three-stage $44.5 million project incorporating expansive indoor and outdoor recreation. It is spread across two interconnected sites in New Gisborne.
- Stage One of the precinct 2024 and includes:
  - Three-court sports stadium
  - Spectator seating
  - Kiosk and office space
  - Car parking/drop-off area
  - Natural grass AFL/cricket oval
  - Change rooms
  - Pavilion featuring a multi-function space
  - Fitness loop and outdoor fitness equipment
  - Half-court basketball
  - Playground
  - Barbecue areas
  - Wetlands/a detention basin.

Project Challenges/Key Learnings:

- Strong coordinated community lobbying helped to secure funding allocation.
- Partnership with state sport (AFL) secured second stage works.

Community Benefits

- Integrated sports precinct supporting indoor and outdoor sporting activities in one location.
- Create an inclusive, accessible space for community engagement
- Support a wide range of sports including AFL, cricket, soccer, basketball, netball, futsal and tennis





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Case Study: Community Bank Stadium Diamond Creek Multi-Purpose Stadium

This case study showcases the key learnings and benefits of strategic partnerships between Council, State Government and local bank.

Organisation: Nillumbik Shire Council
Year Opened: 2011
Capital Cost: $10million

Funding Mix:

- Federal Government: $3.4 million plus land
- State Government: $3.4 million
- Nillumbik Shire Council: $7.2million
- Bendigo Bank: $1 million

Project Outcomes:

- The community Bank Stadium is located on Education Department land between Diamond Creek Primary School and Diamond Valley College.
- Community Bank Stadium funding comes a mix of government contributions and a significant 10-year naming rights agreement from a local Community Bank® branch. Community groups and foundations, like the Australian Sports Foundation (ASF), also played a role by facilitating tax-deductible donations for stadium construction.
- Feasibility Study confirmed facilities/components to be included in the stadium.
- Design issues to ensure functional and operating imperatives were addressed.
- Operating costs determined following development of robust business and operational plans.
- Negotiation of Joint Use Agreement between the Education Department and the Council.
- Funding success and delivery.

Project Challenges/Key Learnings:

- Partnership with the secondary college and primary school enabled the opportunity to expand existing community infrastructure (Education Department) and achieve economies of scale.

Community Benefits:

- The Stadium serves more than 6000 people each week and features a three-court stadium
- with 900 seat retractable seating, a multipurpose room, performing arts space, gymnastics hall and café.
- The stadium has a multi-functional role servicing the primary and secondary school needs and the local community needs.





7. Warranties and Disclaimers

The information contained in this report is provided in good faith. While Otium Planning Group Pty Ltd (Otium) has applied their experience to the task, they have relied upon information supplied to them by other persons and organisations.

We have not conducted an audit of the information provided by others but have accepted it in good faith. Some of the information may have been provided 'commercial in confidence', and these venues or sources of information are not specifically identified. Readers should be aware that the preparation of this report may have necessitated projections of the future that are inherently uncertain and that our opinion is based on the underlying representations, assumptions and projections detailed in this report.

Otium's advice does not extend to, or imply professional expertise in the disciplines of economics, quantity surveying, engineering or architecture. External advice in one or more of these disciplines may have been sought, where necessary, to address the requirements of the project objectives. There will be differences between projected and actual results because events and circumstances frequently do not occur as expected, and those differences may be material. We do not express an opinion as to whether actual results will approximate projected results, nor can we confirm, underwrite, or guarantee the projections' achievability, as it is impossible to substantiate assumptions based on future events.

This report does not constitute advice, investment advice, or opinion and must not be relied on for funding or investment decisions. Independent advice should be obtained in relation to investment decisions.

Accordingly, neither Otium nor any member or employee of Otium undertakes responsibility arising in any way whatsoever to any persons other than the client in respect to this report for any errors or omissions herein arising through negligence or otherwise caused.

Appendix 1: Facility Inventory

Facility Inventory Overview

A facility inventory has been prepared detailing the type and condition of indoor sports facilities, their roles and functions, and whether they are fit for purpose based on current industry and respective indoor sports facility standards. The inventory is supported by facility inspections and audits.

An electronic copy of the detailed facility inventory has been provided separately and includes a description of facilities, identifies key stakeholders using facilities, occupancy levels of facilities, asset condition and fit-for-purpose ratings. A summary is provided in the table on the next page.

The inventory has used the following capacity and rating systems to assess a court's capacity level and sports field infrastructure condition and whether it is fit for purpose.

The court usage (training and competition) and capacity levels have been assessed and categorised as follows:

- Low – Occupancy up to 40%
- Moderate – Occupancy 40-60%
- High – Occupancy 60-80%
- Very High – Occupancy 80% or above.

The following rating system was used to assess the quality of sports facility infrastructure:

- Poor—The Serviceability and condition of the asset are heavily impacted, requiring replacement to meet sports industry and facility standards.
- Moderate – Obvious deterioration of the asset and major improvements needed to meet sport and facility standards.
- Good – Some superficial deterioration of assets and minor improvements needed to meet sport industry and facility standards.
- Very Good – New asset or recently redeveloped to meet current sport industry and facility standards.

Current Supply

The following table shows the ownership, hierarchy, usage level and condition assessment for each of the sites. The location of each site is shown in the maps following the table. Please note that about 30 sites were inspected and assessed.

Table 58: Facility Inventory

Map Ref.	Site Name	Ownerships	Hierarchy (Proposed)	Current Sports Played	Usage Level	Current Sports Court Configuration	Sports Court Surface Type	Sports Court Compliance	Lighting Standard	Lighting Condition Rating	Building Condition Rating	Building Fit-For-Purpose Rating
1	Antonio Park Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Karate) Other Recreation (Dance, Fitness - Aerobics)	NA	1 (Not full sized) basketball	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2	Aqualink Box Hill*	Council	Local/ District	Badminton (Local) Basketball (Local) Futsal (Local) Martial Arts (Local) Netball (Local) Volleyball (District)	Very High	3 indoor multi-sport courts 3 outdoor covered netball courts 1 group fitness room used for martial, arts yoga etc	Timber	Average	Competition	Good	Very Good	Good
3	Blackburn Calisthenic College	Private	District	Calisthenics	Very High	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
4	Blackburn High School	School	Local	Basketball Futsal Netball	Very High	1 basketball sized court	Timber	Good	Good	Very good	Very good	Very Good
5	Blackburn Karate Club	Private	District	Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
6	Blackburn Lake Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Futsal	Very High	1 basketball sized court	Timber	Average	Good	Good	Very good	Good
7	Blackburn Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Martial Arts (Taekwondo) Futsal Netball (Training)	Very High	1 basketball sized court	Timber	Average	Good	Good	Very good	Good
8	Bounce Indoor Trampoline Park	Private	District	Other Sport (Trampolining, Dodgeball, Kindergym, Slam Dunk, Parkour)	NA	1 multi-purpose space	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

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Map Ref.	Site Name	Ownerships	Hierarchy (Proposed)	Current Sports Played	Usage Level	Current Sports Court Configuration	Sports Court Surface Type	Sports Court Compliance	Lighting Standard	Lighting Condition Rating	Building Condition Rating	Building Fit-For-Purpose Rating
9	Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre	Private	Local/ District/ Regional	Cricket (Indoor) (Regional) Futsal (District) Netball (Social) (Local) Volleyball (Local) Emerging Indoor Sport (Pickleball) (Regional)	Very High	6 (3 netball /3 competition compliant futsal)	Synthetic courts and futsal rubber courts	Very Good	Competition	Very Good	Good	Good
10	Box Hill High School	School	Local	Basketball Futsal	Very High	2 basketball courts	Timber	Very Good	Competition	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
11	Box Hill North Primary School	School	Local	Fencing	NA	Multi-purpose room only	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
12	Box Hill Senior Secondary College*	School	Local	Basketball Netball (Training)	Very High	1 basketball court	Timber	Average	Competition	Good	Average	Good
13	Box Hill South Family Centre	Private	Local	Martial Arts	NA	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
14	Aqualink Nunawading	Council	Local	Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	1 Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
15	Burwood East Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Taekwondo) Emerging Indoor Sport (Cheer and Other)	NA	2 studio halls	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
16	Burwood Heights Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Taekwondo) Emerging Indoor Sport (Cheer and Other)	NA	1 basketball court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
17	Deakin University Stadium	School	Local	Badminton Basketball Futsal Netball Table Tennis Emerging Indoor Sport (Pickleball) Other Sport (Dodgeball)	Very High	2 netball courts	Timber	Good	Competition	Very Good	Very Good	Good
18	Eastern Cheer Dance Academy	Private	District	Emerging Indoor Sport (Cheer)	Very High	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
19	Eastern Gymnastics Club	Private	District	Gymnastics	Very High	2 gymnastics rooms with range of	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

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Map Ref.	Site Name	Ownerships	Hierarchy (Proposed)	Current Sports Played	Usage Level	Current Sports Court Configuration	Sports Court Surface Type	Sports Court Compliance	Lighting Standard	Lighting Condition Rating	Building Condition Rating	Building Fit-For-Purpose Rating
						gymnastics facilities						
20	Eley Park Community Centre	Council	Local	Table Tennis Other Recreation (Dance, Disability Programs, Fitness - Yoga, Exercise, Pilates, Meditation)	High	1 studio hall	Vinyl	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
21	Emmaus College	School	Local	None (School Use Only)	NA	1 basketball court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
22	Forest Hill College*	School	Local	Basketball	Very High	2 basketball courts	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
23	Forest Hill Uniting Church	Private	Local	Martial Arts (Karate) Other Recreation (Dance, Fitness - Aerobics)	NA	Small multi-purpose hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
24	Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Burwood	Private	District	Martial Arts (Jiu-Jitsu)	NA	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
25	Hardrock Climbing Company	Private	District	Emerging Indoor Sport (Sport Climbing)	NA	Not known	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
26	Healthways Recreation Centre	Private	Local	Other Sports (Ten Pin Bowling) Other Recreation (Dance, Fitness)	NA	10 bowling lanes, 3 lane 25m pool, gym	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
27	Hung Gar Yau Shu Martial Arts	Private	Local	Martial Arts	NA	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
28	Kerrimuir Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Judo, Karate)	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
29	Kingswood College	School	Local	Basketball Futsal	Low	1 basketball court	Futsal rubber courts	Very Good	Good	Good	Very Good	Average
30	Koonung Secondary College	School	Local	Basketball Other Recreation (Fitness)	Very High	1 basketball court, 1 gymnasium	Timber	Good	Good	Good	Good	Average
31	Laburnum Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	1 basketball sized court	Timber	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average

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Map Ref.	Site Name	Ownerships	Hierarchy (Proposed)	Current Sports Played	Usage Level	Current Sports Court Configuration	Sports Court Surface Type	Sports Court Compliance	Lighting Standard	Lighting Condition Rating	Building Condition Rating	Building Fit-For-Purpose Rating
32	Livingstone Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
33	Mahoneys Reserve Sports Pavilion Hall	Council	Local	Badminton Table Tennis	Mode rate	1 small table tennis hall	Synthetic vinyl	Average	Training	Average	Average	Average
34	Melbourne Badminton Centre	Private	Regional	Badminton	Very High	9 courts	Synthetic vinyl	Very Good	Competition	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
35	Mitcham Badminton Centre	Private	Regional	Badminton	Very High	12 badminton courts	Synthetic vinyl	Very Good	Competition	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
36	Mitcham Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Karate) Netball	High	1 half sized multi-purpose court/space	Timber	Good	Good	Good	Good	Average
37	Mont Albert Primary School	School	Local	Basketball	High	1 basketball court						
38	Mount Scopus Memorial College	School	Local	Other Recreation (Dance and Fitness)	NA	2 volleyball courts; indoor pool. The Besen Theatre	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
39	Mullauna College	School	Local	Basketball Table Tennis (Coaching)	High	2 basketball courts	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
40	St Peters Anglican Church	School	Local	Martial Arts	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
41	Nunawading Basketball Centre	Council	Regional	Basketball Martial Arts (Taekwondo)	Very High	5 basketball courts, 1 room used for martial arts	Timber	Good	Good	Good	Good	Average
42	Nunawading Christian College	School	Local	Volleyball	NA	1/2 basketball court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
43	Nunawading Community Hub	Council	Local	Badminton Basketball Fencing Other Recreation (U3A Sport Program)	Very High	1 indoor court available for full court and half court hire, or 3	Timber	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good

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Map Ref.	Site Name	Ownerships	Hierarchy (Proposed)	Current Sports Played	Usage Level	Current Sports Court Configuration	Sports Court Surface Type	Sports Court Compliance	Lighting Standard	Lighting Condition Rating	Building Condition Rating	Building Fit-For-Purpose Rating
						badminton courts.						
44	Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club	Council	District	Gymnastics	Very High	2 spaces	Spring Floor	Good	Average	Average	Poor	Average
45	Old Orchard Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Netball Table Tennis Other Recreation (Dance)	High	1 basketball sized court	Vinyl	Poor	Average	Average	Poor	Poor
46	Orchard Grove Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Netball Table Tennis	High	1 basketball court	Timber	Good	Training	Good	Good	Good
47	Our Lady of Sion College	School	Local	No community use	Low	1 basketball court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
48	Parkmore Primary School (at Forest Hill Secondary College site)	School	Local	No community use	Low	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
49	Presbyterian Ladies College	School	District	Gymnastics	NA	3 indoor courts and gymnastics hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
50	Pure Allstars Cheerleading & Dance	Private	District	Emerging Indoor Sport (Cheer and Other)	High	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
51	Rangeview Primary School	School	Local	Basketball	NA	1 (not compliant basketball court)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
52	Roberts McCubbin Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	1 court + gym	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
53	Slater Reserve Stadium	Council	Local	Basketball Netball Table Tennis	Very High	2 basketball sized courts (run-offs not compliant)	Timber	Good	Good	Good	Good	Average
54	Sportlink*	Council	Local/ District	Badminton (Local) Basketball (District) Martial Arts (Local)	Very High	4 indoor courts and 4 outdoor	Timber	Average	Good	Good	Good	Good

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Map Ref.	Site Name	Ownerships	Hierarchy (Proposed)	Current Sports Played	Usage Level	Current Sports Court Configuration	Sports Court Surface Type	Sports Court Compliance	Lighting Standard	Lighting Condition Rating	Building Condition Rating	Building Fit-For-Purpose Rating
				Futsal (District) Netball (District) Table Tennis (Coaching) (Local) Volleyball (District) Emerging Indoor Sport (Pickleball) (District) Other Recreation (Dodgeball, Dance, Fitness) (Local)		covered netball courts						
55	St Edwards Anglican Church	Private	Local	Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
56	St Francis Xavier Primary School	School	Local	No community use	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
57	St James' Primary School	School	Local	No community use	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
58	St Johns Parish Durkin Hall	School	Local	Fencing	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
59	St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South	Private	Local	Other Recreation (Tai Chi)	NA	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
60	St Philips Primary School	School	Local	No community use	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
61	St Scholastica's Primary School	School	Local	No community use	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
62	St Timothy's Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
63	Surrey Hills Primary School	School	Local	No community use	NA	1 basketball court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
64	Timezone and Zone Bowling Forest Hill	Private	Regional	Other Sports (Ten Pin Bowling)	NA	24 bowling lanes	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
65	Urban Climb Blackburn	Private	Regional	Emerging Indoor Sport (Sport Climbing)	Very High	Indoor climbing walls	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

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Map Ref.	Site Name	Ownerships	Hierarchy (Proposed)	Current Sports Played	Usage Level	Current Sports Court Configuration	Sports Court Surface Type	Sports Court Compliance	Lighting Standard	Lighting Condition Rating	Building Condition Rating	Building Fit-For-Purpose Rating
				Other Recreation (Yoga)								
66	Vermont Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Netball (Training) Table Tennis	NA	1 basketball	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
67	Vermont Secondary College	School	Local	Basketball Futsal Martial Arts (Karate) Netball (Training) Table Tennis	NA	1 basketball	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
68	Wattle Park Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Futsal Martial Arts (Karate) Other Sports (Handball - Training)	High	1 basketball court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
69	Weeden Heights Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Karate) Other Recreation (Yoga)	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
70	Whitehorse Club	Private	Local	Fencing Other Sports (Bocce Indoors)	NA	Multi-purpose room and indoor bocce 2 rinks	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
71	Whitehorse Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Futsal Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	1 basketball sized court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
72	Century Indoor Cricket Centre	Private	Local	Cricket (Indoor) training	NA	4 indoor training nets	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
73	Kando Martial Arts Club	Private	Local	Martial Arts	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
74	Mitcham Aikido School	Private	Local	Martial Arts	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
75	Whitehorse Shotokan Karate-Do Australia	Private	Local	Martial Arts	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

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WHITEHORSE INDOOR SPORTS PLAN

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS REPORT - APPENDICES



APRIL 2025

CITY OF WHITEHORSE

Prepared by Otium Planning Group Pty Ltd
www.otiumplanning.com.au

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Otium acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal, Torres Strait and South Sea Islander peoples of this nation. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which our company is located and where we conduct our business. We pay our respects to ancestors and to Elders, past, present and emerging. Otium is committed to national reconciliation and respect for Indigenous peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas, and their rich contribution to society.

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10.2 – ATTACHMENT 2. Draft Indoor Sports Plan Appendices

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Appendix 1: Design Standards

Design Principles

The following design principles have been developed to help inform the future design of the sports. It will be used to guide the future prioritisation framework.

- **Accessible and Inclusive:** Sport and active recreation facilities will be universally designed and inclusive, fostering participation in sport and active recreation by all our community, across all life stages, genders and cultures.
- **Diverse and Equitable:** Sport and active recreation facilities will offer a diverse mix of facilities, programs and experiences. Council will provide an equitable distribution of sport and active recreation precincts across the municipality.
- **Safe and Welcoming:** Sport and active recreation facilities and programs are designed to be visible, open and welcoming to the community, creating a safe place for girls and women to participate.
- **Multi-Use:** Sport and active recreation facilities will be multi-use, offering several activities, programs and experiences for users.
- **Connected:** Sport and active recreation facilities connection across our communities and our unique natural environment.
- **Sustainable:** Sport and active recreation facilities will be designed and operate efficiently, whilst being well managed and maintained.

Design Standards

Please note that the facility standards are supported by preferred facility design guidelines for specific sports.

Table 1: Indoor Multi-Sports Courts Facility Standards

Planning Consideration	Local	District	Regional	State/National
Level of participation/ competition	• Local sport and recreation competition providing for junior to senior players. • Supports one to two sports. • Year-round use.	• Local to regional level sport and recreation competition providing for junior to senior players. • Supports multiple sports. • Year-round use.	• Local to elite (top tier) level sport and recreation competition and events. • Provides an athlete development pathway. • Hosts local finals. • Hosts Tier 1 and 2 level events including local and regional	• Elite level sport and recreation competition and high performance/specialist training and events for sport. • High-performance centres provide world-leading training and administration facilities to develop, attract and retain the best talent

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Planning Consideration	Local	District	Regional	State/National
			sports and community events and expos. • Year-round use.	among athletes, coaches and support staff across multiple sports. • Hosts Tier 1, 2 and 3 level events including local and regional sports and community events, expos and concerts for Australian and international artists. • Year-round use.
Location, size and distribution provision	• Services multiple suburbs such as a ward boundary. • Approximately 10-minutes' drive time. • 40,000 – 70,000 catchment population. • Building footprint 4,000-6,000m2. • Site area (1ha).	• Services the entire local government area. • Approximately 20-minutes' drive time. • 70,000 – 100,000 catchment population. • Building footprint 8,000-10,000m2. • Site area 1-2ha.	• Services multiple local government areas. • Approximately 30 minutes' drive time. • 100,000 – 150,000 catchment population. • Building footprint 12,000m2+. • Site area 2-3ha. • Located within the largest population catchment.	• Services multiple local government areas. • Approximately one-hour drive time. • 100,000 – 150,000 catchment population. • 12,000-15,000m2+. • Site area 3-4ha. • Located within the largest population catchment.
Quality and design standards	• 1-2 indoor courts. • No show court. • Courtside seating only. • Front of house with reception, foyer, first aid room and 2 change rooms, toilets. • Kiosk and small lounge. • Merchandise space. • Car parking. • Universal access for all community members with consideration to ramps and/ or chair lifts.	• 3-4 indoor courts. • Show court with 500 seats that supports sports team events. • Courtside seating. • Front of house with administration, reception, foyer, first aid room/medical rooms and 2-4 change rooms, toilets. • Kiosk and small lounge. • Merchandise space. • Function room. • Car parking. • Universal access for all community members with consideration to ramps and/ or chair lifts.	• 5-8 indoor courts. • Show court on multi-purpose courts with 1000+ seats that can support regional sport and entertainment events. • Courtside seating. • Front of house with administration, reception, large foyer, first aid room/medical rooms and 4+ change rooms, toilets. • Café, bar and large lounge. • Merchandise space. • Function room. • Car parking.	• 8+ indoor courts. • Separate show court / concert arena with 5000+ seats that can support Tier 1 sport and entertainment events. • Surrounding courtside seating. • Front of house with administration, reception, large foyer, first aid room/medical rooms and 4+ change rooms, toilets. • Café, bar and large lounge. • Merchandise space. • Function room. • Green room. • Car parking.

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Planning Consideration	Local	District	Regional	State/National
		• Provided in highly visible locations with good vehicular access. • Shaded car parking areas and bus drop-off areas. • Connected to public transport. • Complements other (community/ private) community services/ programs. • Provides room for facility expansion with population growth.	• Universal access for all community members with consideration to ramps and/ or chair lifts. • Provided in highly visible locations with good vehicular access. • Shaded car parking areas and bus drop-off areas. • Connected to public transport. • Complements other (community/ private) community services/ programs. • Provides room for facility expansion with population growth. • Considers co-location opportunities, especially with aquatic and leisure facility, district and regional outdoor sports precincts. • Consider outdoor public access courts (e.g. 3 x 3 courts at BSEC) associated with indoor stadium.	• Universal access for all community members with consideration to ramps and/ or chair lifts. • Provided in highly visible locations with good vehicular access. • Shaded car parking areas and bus drop-off areas. • Connected to public transport. • Complements other (community/ private) community services/ programs. • Provides room for facility expansion with population growth. • Considers co-location opportunities, especially with aquatic and leisure facility, district and regional outdoor sports precincts. • Considers commercial co-location opportunities.

Appendix 2: Facility Inventory

Facility Inventory Overview

A facility inventory has been prepared detailing the type and condition of indoor sports facilities, their roles and functions, and whether they are fit for purpose based on current industry and respective indoor sports facility standards. The inventory is supported by facility inspections and audits.

An electronic copy of the detailed facility inventory has been provided separately and includes a description of facilities, identifies key stakeholders using facilities, occupancy levels of facilities, asset condition and fit-for-purpose ratings. A summary is provided in the table on the next page.

The inventory has used the following capacity and rating systems to assess a court's capacity level and sports field infrastructure condition and whether it is fit for purpose.

The court usage (training and competition) and capacity levels have been assessed and categorised as follows:

- Low – Occupancy up to 40%
- Moderate – Occupancy 40-60%
- High – Occupancy 60-80%
- Very High – Occupancy 80% or above.

The following rating system was used to assess the quality of sports facility infrastructure:

- Poor—The Serviceability and condition of the asset are heavily impacted, requiring replacement to meet sports industry and facility standards.
- Moderate – Obvious deterioration of the asset and major improvements needed to meet sport and facility standards.
- Good – Some superficial deterioration of assets and minor improvements needed to meet sport industry and facility standards.
- Very Good – New asset or recently redeveloped to meet current sport industry and facility standards.

Current Supply

The following table shows the ownership, hierarchy, usage level and condition assessment for each of the sites. The location of each site is shown in the maps following the table. Please note that about 30 sites were inspected and assessed.

Table 2: Facility Inventory

Map Ref.	Site Name	Ownerships	Hierarchy (Proposed)	Current Sports Played	Usage Level	Current Sports Court Configuration	Sports Court Surface Type	Sports Court Compliance	Lighting Standard	Lighting Condition Rating	Building Condition Rating	Building Fit-For-Purpose Rating
1	Antonio Park Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Karate) Other Recreation (Dance, Fitness - Aerobics)	NA	1 (Not full sized) basketball	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2	Aqualink Box Hill*	Council	Local/ District	Badminton (Local) Basketball (Local) Futsal (Local) Martial Arts (Local) Netball (Local) Volleyball (District)	Very High	3 indoor multi-sport courts 3 outdoor covered netball courts 1 group fitness room used for martial, arts yoga etc	Timber	Average	Competition	Good	Very Good	Good
3	Blackburn Calisthenic College	Private	District	Calisthenics	Very High	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
4	Blackburn High School	School	Local	Basketball Futsal Netball	Very High	1 basketball sized court	Timber	Good	Good	Very good	Very good	Very Good
5	Blackburn Karate Club	Private	District	Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
6	Blackburn Lake Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Futsal	Very High	1 basketball sized court	Timber	Average	Good	Good	Very good	Good
7	Blackburn Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Martial Arts (Taekwondo) Futsal Netball (Training)	Very High	1 basketball sized court	Timber	Average	Good	Good	Very good	Good
8	Bounce Indoor Trampoline Park	Private	District	Other Sport (Trampolining, Dodgeball, Kindergym, Slam Dunk, Parkour)	NA	1 multi-purpose space	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

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Map Ref.	Site Name	Ownerships	Hierarchy (Proposed)	Current Sports Played	Usage Level	Current Sports Court Configuration	Sports Court Surface Type	Sports Court Compliance	Lighting Standard	Lighting Condition Rating	Building Condition Rating	Building Fit-For-Purpose Rating
9	Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre	Private	Local/ District/ Regional	Cricket (Indoor) (Regional) Futsal (District) Netball (Social) (Local) Volleyball (Local) Emerging Indoor Sport (Pickleball) (Regional)	Very High	6 (3 netball /3 competition compliant futsal)	Synthetic courts and futsal rubber courts	Very Good	Competition	Very Good	Good	Good
10	Box Hill High School	School	Local	Basketball Futsal	Very High	2 basketball courts	Timber	Very Good	Competition	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
11	Box Hill North Primary	School	Local	Fencing	NA	Multi-purpose room only	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
12	Box Hill Senior Secondary College*	School	Local	Basketball Netball (Training)	Very High	1 basketball court	Timber	Average	Competition	Good	Average	Good
13	Box Hill South Family Centre	Private	Local	Martial Arts	NA	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
14	Aqualink Nunawading	Council	Local	Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	1 Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
15	Burwood East Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Taekwondo) Emerging Indoor Sport (Cheer and Other)	NA	2 studio halls	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
16	Burwood Heights Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Taekwondo) Emerging Indoor Sport (Cheer and Other)	NA	1 basketball court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
17	Deakin University Stadium	School	Local	Badminton Basketball Futsal Netball Table Tennis Emerging Indoor Sport (Pickleball) Other Sport (Dodgeball)	Very High	2 netball courts	Timber	Good	Competition	Very Good	Very Good	Good
18	Eastern Cheer Dance Academy	Private	District	Emerging Indoor Sport (Cheer)	Very High	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
19	Eastern Gymnastics Club	Private	District	Gymnastics	Very High	2 gymnastics rooms with range of	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

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Map Ref.	Site Name	Ownerships	Hierarchy (Proposed)	Current Sports Played	Usage Level	Current Sports Court Configuration	Sports Court Surface Type	Sports Court Compliance	Lighting Standard	Lighting Condition Rating	Building Condition Rating	Building Fit-For-Purpose Rating
						gymnastics facilities						
20	Eley Park Community Centre	Council	Local	Table Tennis Other Recreation (Dance, Disability Programs, Fitness - Yoga, Exercise, Pilates, Meditation)	High	1 studio hall	Vinyl	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
21	Emmaus College	School	Local	None (School Use Only)	NA	1 basketball court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
22	Forest Hill College*	School	Local	Basketball	Very High	2 basketball courts	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
23	Forest Hill Uniting Church	Private	Local	Martial Arts (Karate) Other Recreation (Dance, Fitness - Aerobics)	NA	Small multi-purpose hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
24	Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Burwood	Private	District	Martial Arts (Jiu-Jitsu)	NA	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
25	Hardrock Climbing Company	Private	District	Emerging Indoor Sport (Sport Climbing)	NA	Not known	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
26	Healthways Recreation Centre	Private	Local	Other Sports (Ten Pin Bowling) Other Recreation (Dance, Fitness)	NA	10 bowling lanes, 3 lane 25m pool, gym	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
27	Hung Gar Yau Shu Martial Arts	Private	Local	Martial Arts	NA	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
28	Kerrimuir Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Judo, Karate)	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
29	Kingswood College	School	Local	Basketball Futsal	Low	1 basketball court	Futsal rubber courts	Very Good	Good	Good	Very Good	Average
30	Koonung Secondary College	School	Local	Basketball Other Recreation (Fitness)	Very High	1 basketball court, 1 gymnasium	Timber	Good	Good	Good	Good	Average
31	Laburnum Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	1 basketball sized court	Timber	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average

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Map Ref.	Site Name	Ownerships	Hierarchy (Proposed)	Current Sports Played	Usage Level	Current Sports Court Configuration	Sports Court Surface Type	Sports Court Compliance	Lighting Standard	Lighting Condition Rating	Building Condition Rating	Building Fit-For-Purpose Rating
32	Livingstone Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
33	Mahoneys Reserve Sports Pavilion Hall	Council	Local	Badminton Table Tennis	Mode rate	1 small table tennis hall	Synthetic vinyl	Average	Training	Average	Average	Average
34	Melbourne Badminton Centre	Private	Regional	Badminton	Very High	9 courts	Synthetic vinyl	Very Good	Competition	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
35	Mitcham Badminton Centre	Private	Regional	Badminton	Very High	12 badminton courts	Synthetic vinyl	Very Good	Competition	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
36	Mitcham Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Karate) Netball	High	1 half sized multi-purpose court/space	Timber	Good	Good	Good	Good	Average
37	Mont Albert Primary School	School	Local	Basketball	High	1 basketball court						
38	Mount Scopus Memorial College	School	Local	Other Recreation (Dance and Fitness)	NA	2 volleyball courts; indoor pool. The Besen Theatre	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
39	Mullauna College	School	Local	Basketball Table Tennis (Coaching)	High	2 basketball courts	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
40	St Peters Anglican Church	School	Local	Martial Arts	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
41	Nunawading Basketball Centre	Council	Regional	Basketball Martial Arts (Taekwondo)	Very High	5 basketball courts, 1 room used for martial arts	Timber	Good	Good	Good	Good	Average
42	Nunawading Christian College	School	Local	Volleyball	NA	1/2 basketball court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
43	Nunawading Community Hub	Council	Local	Badminton Basketball Fencing Other Recreation (U3A Sport Program)	Very High	1 indoor court available for full court and half court hire, or 3	Timber	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good

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Map Ref.	Site Name	Ownerships	Hierarchy (Proposed)	Current Sports Played	Usage Level	Current Sports Court Configuration	Sports Court Surface Type	Sports Court Compliance	Lighting Standard	Lighting Condition Rating	Building Condition Rating	Building Fit-For-Purpose Rating
						badminton courts.						
44	Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club	Council	District	Gymnastics	Very High	2 spaces	Spring Floor	Good	Average	Average	Poor	Average
45	Old Orchard Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Netball Table Tennis Other Recreation (Dance)	High	1 basketball sized court	Vinyl	Poor	Average	Average	Poor	Poor
46	Orchard Grove Primary	School	Local	Basketball Netball Table Tennis	High	1 basketball court	Timber	Good	Training	Good	Good	Good
47	Our Lady of Sion College	School	Local	No community use	Low	1 basketball court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
48	Parkmore Primary School (at Forest Hill Secondary College site)	School	Local	No community use	Low	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
49	Presbyterian Ladies College	School	District	Gymnastics	NA	3 indoor courts and gymnastics hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
50	Pure Allstars Cheerleading & Dance	Private	District	Emerging Indoor Sport (Cheer and Other)	High	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
51	Rangeview Primary School	School	Local	Basketball	NA	1 (not compliant basketball court)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
52	Roberts McCubbin Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	1 court + gym	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
53	Slater Reserve Stadium	Council	Local	Basketball Netball Table Tennis	Very High	2 basketball sized courts (run-offs not compliant)	Timber	Good	Good	Good	Good	Average
54	Sportlink*	Council	Local/ District	Badminton (Local) Basketball (District) Martial Arts (Local)	Very High	4 indoor courts and 4 outdoor	Timber	Average	Good	Good	Good	Good

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Map Ref.	Site Name	Ownerships	Hierarchy (Proposed)	Current Sports Played	Usage Level	Current Sports Court Configuration	Sports Court Surface Type	Sports Court Compliance	Lighting Standard	Lighting Condition Rating	Building Condition Rating	Building Fit-For-Purpose Rating
				Futsal (District) Netball (District) Table Tennis (Coaching) (Local) Volleyball (District) Emerging Indoor Sport (Pickleball) (District) Other Recreation (Dodgeball, Dance, Fitness) (Local)		covered netball courts						
55	St Edwards Anglican Church	Private	Local	Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
56	St Francis Xavier Primary School	School	Local	No community use	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
57	St James' Primary School	School	Local	No community use	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
58	St Johns Parish Durkin Hall	School	Local	Fencing	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
59	St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South	Private	Local	Other Recreation (Tai Chi)	NA	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
60	St Philips Primary School	School	Local	No community use	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
61	St Scholastica's Primary School	School	Local	No community use	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
62	St Timothy's Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
63	Surrey Hills Primary School	School	Local	No community use	NA	1 basketball court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
64	Timezone and Zone Bowling Forest Hill	Private	Regional	Other Sports (Ten Pin Bowling)	NA	24 bowling lanes	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
65	Urban Climb Blackburn	Private	Regional	Emerging Indoor Sport (Sport Climbing)	Very High	Indoor climbing walls	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

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Map Ref.	Site Name	Ownerships	Hierarchy (Proposed)	Current Sports Played	Usage Level	Current Sports Court Configuration	Sports Court Surface Type	Sports Court Compliance	Lighting Standard	Lighting Condition Rating	Building Condition Rating	Building Fit-For-Purpose Rating
				Other Recreation (Yoga)								
66	Vermont Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Netball (Training) Table Tennis	NA	1 basketball	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
67	Vermont Secondary College	School	Local	Basketball Futsal Martial Arts (Karate) Netball (Training) Table Tennis	NA	1 basketball	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
68	Wattle Park Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Futsal Martial Arts (Karate) Other Sports (Handball - Training)	High	1 basketball court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
69	Weeden Heights Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Karate) Other Recreation (Yoga)	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
70	Whitehorse Club	Private	Local	Fencing Other Sports (Bocce Indoors)	NA	Multi-purpose room and indoor bocce 2 rinks	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
71	Whitehorse Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Futsal Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	1 basketball sized court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
72	Century Indoor Cricket Centre	Private	Local	Cricket (Indoor) training	NA	4 indoor training nets	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
73	Kando Martial Arts Club	Private	Local	Martial Arts	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
74	Mitcham Aikido School	Private	Local	Martial Arts	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
75	Whitehorse Shotokan Karate-Do Australia	Private	Local	Martial Arts	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Appendix 3: Council Facilities Occupancy Schedules

Nunawading Basketball Centre Occupancy Table

TIME SLOT	MONDAY					TUESDAY					WEDNESDAY					THURSDAY					FRIDAY					SATURDAY					SUNDAY				
Off Peak Time	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6.30-7.00am																																			
7.00-7.30am																																			
7.30 – 8.00am																																			
8.00-8.30am																																			
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2.00-2.30pm																																			
2.30-3.00pm																																			
3.00-3.30pm																																			
3.30-4.00pm																																			
Peak Time	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
4.00-4.30pm																																			
4.30-5.00pm																																			
5.00-5.30pm																																			
5..30-6.00pm																																			
6.00-6.30pm																																			
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8.30-9.00pm																																			
9.00-9.30pm																																			
9.30-10.00pm																																			
10.00-10.30pm																																			
10.30-11.00pm																																			

Key:

Basketball - Competition		Basketball – Development Programs		Basketball - Training	
Basketball - School Competition (approx. 50 participants)		Basketball - Academy			

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Sportlink Occupancy Schedule Indoor Courts

TIME-SLOT	MONDAY				TUESDAY				WEDNESDAY				THURSDAY				FRIDAY				SATURDAY				SUNDAY			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Off-Peak Time																												
8.00am – 9.00am																												
9.00am - 10.00 am																												
10.00am – 11.00am																												
11.00am – 12noon																												
12noon 1.00pm																												
1.00pm – 2.00 pm																												
2.00pm – 3.00 pm																												
3.00pm – 4.00 pm																												
Peak Time																												
4.00pm - 5.00pm																												
5.00pm - 6.00pm																												
6.00pm - 7.00pm																												
7.00pm - 8.00pm																												
8.00pm - 9.00pm																												
9.00pm - 10.00pm																												
10.00pm – 11.00 pm																												

Key:

Basketball		Netball		Volleyball	
Indoor Soccer		Other			

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Sportlink Occupancy Schedule Outdoor Courts

TIME-SLOT	MONDAY				TUESDAY				WEDNESDAY				THURSDAY				FRIDAY				SATURDAY				SUNDAY			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Off-Peak Time																												
8.00am – 9.00am																												
9.00am - 10.00 am																												
10.00am – 11.00am																												
11,00am – 12noon																												
12noon 1.00pm																												
1.00pm – 2.00 pm																												
2.00pm – 3.00 pm																												
3.00pm – 4.00 pm																												
Peak Time																												
4.00pm - 5.00pm																												
5.00pm - 6.00pm																												
6.00pm - 7.00pm																												
7.00pm - 8.00pm																												
8.00pm - 9.00pm																												
9.00pm - 10.00pm																												
10.00pm – 11.00 pm																												

Key:

Basketball	Netball	Other

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Aqualink Box Hill Occupancy Schedule

TIME-SLOT	MONDAY			TUESDAY			WEDNESDAY			THURSDAY			FRIDAY			SATURDAY			SUNDAY		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Off-Peak Time																					
7.00am-8.00am																					
8.00am – 9.00am																					
9.00am – 10.00am																					
10.00am – 11.00am																					
11.00am - 12 noon																					
12 noon - 1.00pm																					
1.00pm - 2.00pm																					
2.00pm - 3.00pm																					
3.00pm - 4.00pm																					
Peak Time																					
4.00pm - 5.00pm																					
5.00pm - 6.00pm																					
6.00pm - 7.00pm																					
7.00pm - 8.00pm																					
8.00pm - 9.00pm																					
9.00 pm – 10.00pm																					
10.00pm - 11.00pm																					

Key:

Basketball		Netball		Volleyball	
Indoor Soccer		Other			

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Slater Reserve Occupancy Schedule

TIME SLOT	MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
Off Peak Time														
8.00am-8.30am														
8.30am-9.00am														
9.00am-9.30am														
9.30am-10.00am														
10.00am-10.30am														
10.30am-11.00am														
11.00am-11.30am														
11.30am-12.00pm														
12.00pm-12.30pm														
12.30pm-1.00pm														
1.00pm-1.30pm														
1.30pm-2.00pm														
2.00pm-2.30pm														
2.30pm-3.00pm														
3.00pm-3.30pm														
3.30pm-4.00pm														
Peak Time														
4.00pm-4.30pm														
4.30pm-5.00pm														
5.00pm-5.30pm														
5..30pm-6.00pm														
6.00pm-6.30pm														
6.30pm-7.00pm														
7.00pm-7.30pm														
7.30pm-8.00pm														
8.00pm-8.30pm														
8.30pm-9.00pm														
9.00pm-9.30pm														
9.30pm-10.00pm														
10.00pm-10.30pm														
10.30pm-11.00pm														

Key:

Basketball		Netball		School Group - NCC	

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Mahoneys Reserve Occupancy Schedule

TIME SLOT	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Off Peak Time							
9.00am-9.30pm							
9.30am-10.00am							
10.00am-10.30am							
10.30am-11.00am							
11.00am-11.30am							
11.30am-12noon							
12noon-12.30pm							
12.30pm-1.00pm							
1.00pm-1.30pm							
1.30pm-2.00pm							
2.00pm-2.30pm							
2.30pm-3.00pm							
3.00pm-3.30pm							
3.30pm-4.00pm							
Peak Time							
4.00pm-4.30pm							
4.30pm-5.00pm							
5.00pm-5.30pm							
5.30pm-6.00pm							
6.00pm-6.30pm							
6.30pm-7.00pm							
7.00pm-7.30pm							
7.30pm-8.00pm							
8.00pm-8.30pm							
8.30pm-9.00pm							
9.00pm-9.30pm							
9.30pm-10.00pm							
10.00pm-10.30pm							

Key:

WAC Carpet Bowls	ICC Table Tennis	Balwyn United Table Tennis Club	WAC Table Tennis	WAC Badminton	
HP Badminton	St Johns Table Tennis Club	Forrest Hill Ladies Badminton	ESCTTA Table Tennis	Eastern Badminton	
Hall Cleaning	Badminton	DPL Table Tennis	DPC TABLE TENNIS Association		

10.2 – ATTACHMENT 2. Draft Indoor Sports Plan Appendices

Nunawading Community Hub Occupancy Schedule

TIME SLOT	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Off Peak Time							
8.30am-9.00am							
9.00am-9.30pm							
9.30am-10.00am							
10.00am-10.30am							
10.30am-11.00am							
11.00am-11.30am							
11.30am-12noon							
12noon-12.30pm							
12.30pm-1.00pm							
1.00pm-1.30pm							
1.30pm-2.00pm							
2.00pm-2.30pm							
2.30pm-3.00pm							
3.00pm-3.30pm							
3.30pm-4.00pm							
Peak Time							
4.00pm-4.30pm							
4.30pm-5.00pm							
5.00pm-5.30pm							
5.30pm-6.00pm							
6.00pm-6.30pm							
6.30pm-7.00pm							
7.00pm-7.30pm							
7.30pm-8.00pm							
8.00pm-8.30pm							
8.30pm-9.00pm							
9.00pm-9.30pm							
9.30pm-10.00pm							
10.00pm-10.30pm							

Key:

Basketball		U3A - Licence		U3A - Outside of Licence - until end of 2024	
Badminton				Whitehorse Chevaliers (Fencing)	

10.2 – ATTACHMENT 2. Draft Indoor Sports Plan Appendices

Eley Park Community Centre Occupancy Schedule

TIME SLOT	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
4.00pm-4.30pm							
4.30pm-5.00pm							
5.00pm-5.30pm							
5.30pm-6.00pm							
6.00pm-6.30pm							
6.30pm-7.00pm							
7.00pm-7.30pm							
7.30pm-8.00pm							
8.00pm-8.30pm							
8.30pm-9.00pm							
9.00pm-9.30pm							
9.30pm-10.00pm							
10.00pm-10.30pm							

Key:

Eastern Suburbs & Churches Table Tennis Association	

Please note that Eley Park Community Centre runs social recreation programs during 8am to 4pm from the studio hall.

Appendix 4: Strategic Review Paper

This Strategic Review Paper reviews the strategic directions the Council has made to the provision of indoor sports facilities in the City of Whitehorse and identifies relationships with other recreation strategies including State Government and State Sporting Association facilities plans.

1.1 City of Whitehorse Strategies

City of Whitehorse Council Plan 2021-2025



The City of Whitehorse Council Plan 2021-2025 provides eight strategic directions for how Council will deliver on the Whitehorse 2040 Community Vision for the five-year period. This framework is used to inform how Council adapts to change, long-term financial planning and resource capability and determine project priorities.

Strategic Direction 4 – Our Built Environment, Movement and Public Places includes objectives and strategies relevant to the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan:

- Objective 4.1. Assets, facilities and urban design of a quality that provides the highest levels of utility and enhances the connection between the built, natural, heritage and social environments.
- Objective 4.2. Foster development that has access to a range of facilities, services and amenities to meet future community needs.
- The Indoor Sports Plan is also strategically aligned with the Draft Whitehorse City Council Integrated Council Plan 2025–2029, ensuring consistency with broader municipal objectives and priorities.

Draft Whitehorse City Council Integrated Council Plan 2025–2029



The Indoor Sports Plan is also strategically aligned with the Whitehorse City Council Integrated Council Plan 2025–2029, ensuring consistency with broader municipal objectives and priorities.

The below strategic directions and objectives are relevant to the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan:

Strategic Direction 1 - Community

- Objective 1.3: A healthy and active community.

Strategic Direction 2 - Built

- Objective 2.2 Community facilities and shared spaces are well used.
- Objective 2.3: Sustainable planning and infrastructure to respond to population change.

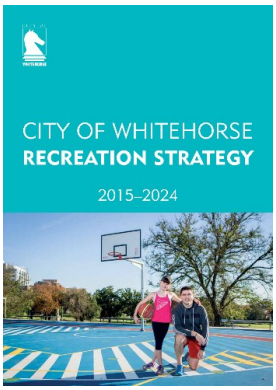
The Whitehorse Health and Wellbeing Plan (2025–2029)

The Whitehorse Health and Wellbeing Plan (2025–2029) supports the Council Plan by guiding Council's efforts and resources toward achieving health and wellbeing goals over four years, contributing to the long-term Whitehorse Community Vision 2040.

The objectives that relate to this Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan are:

- Seek further opportunities to roll out gender equality initiatives in Sports Clubs and the broader community in Whitehorse.
- Collaborate with local sports clubs and other community groups to increase community participation.
- Seek opportunities to open up and diversify use of Council spaces and facilities for multi-use, e.g. on-demand lighting, casual use sports infrastructure.

Whitehorse Recreation Strategy 2015-2024



The Recreation Strategy is designed to serve as a guiding framework for the Council's planning and development of recreation and sports services and facilities until 2024. This plan is due for review.

The strategy's main purpose is to ensure the community has access to resources that promote active, healthy lifestyles and overall wellbeing. The strategy aims to achieve this through several key objectives:

- The strategy seeks to encourage residents, families, and visitors to engage in regular physical activity by making it easier to integrate movement into daily routines.
- It outlines a strategic approach to planning future recreation facilities and services, ensuring they meet the evolving needs of the community.
- By providing direction on the development of facilities, the strategy supports efforts to help people lead healthier lives through recreation and physical activity.
- The strategy establishes clear guidelines regarding the type and level of support the Council should offer to recreation and sports, ensuring resources are allocated efficiently.
- It sets out specific short, medium, and long-term actions, creating a timeline for implementation and a structure for monitoring progress.

In relation to this Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan, the consultation revealed challenges for indoor and outdoor court sports in Whitehorse, particularly a need for more court space and facilities meeting indoor sports facilities guidelines.

Participation in basketball has grown, and while the city has access to school courts, many did not meet competition standards. Opportunities to address court shortages exist through regional partnerships, such as with Knox Regional Sports Park. Additionally, netball clubs face challenges with outdoor court conditions. A feasibility study was recommended to assess demand and long-term facility needs, with a focus on regional collaboration. This feasibility study was completed in 2020 and is summarised below.

1.2 Whitehorse Indoor Sports Strategies

Whitehorse Indoor Sports Feasibility Study 2020

The Whitehorse Indoor Sports Feasibility Study was prepared with data collected in 2018 and 2019. The Study requires a review because indoor sport participation has significantly changed following the global COVID-19 pandemic. This Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan 2024 will build on the 2020 Study, reviewing the key findings and recommendations and considering current 2024 participation data and trends and use of indoor sports facilities.

Key findings:

- Additional sports facilities are desirable to meeting existing and future participation for an increasingly diverse population and to provide for an increasing number of sports that are played indoors.
- There is a good diversity of indoor sports availability within Whitehorse that provided across a range of small and large indoor sports facilities. These include at Council facilities, school facilities and private facilities.
- Some large footprint sports such as indoor hockey and handball are not played in Whitehorse.
- There is little or no capacity in the current facilities during peak times to provide for either additional sports or an expansion of the competitions played.
- Some Council and school facilities are nearing the end of their useful life and require renewal to meet current building or sports requirements.
- A strong focus on sharing of indoor sports facilities needs to continue, however at a club competition level some sports (such as table tennis, badminton and indoor cricket) need dedicated facilities, potential in partnership with the private sector.

Key investment priorities:

- Upgrade existing Council facilities that require renewal and provide more courts.
- Explore opportunities for a multi-use community facility to include table tennis in central Box Hill.
- Advocate to encourage community use, when partnerships with schools propose upgrades to indoor sports courts.

Recommendations:

- Council to adopt the key investment priorities.
- Undertake further exploration and feasibility work at each of the preferred sites. These sites include Nunawading Basketball Centre, Sportlink, Aqualink Box Hill, Slater Reserve Stadium, Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club and a new facility in central Box Hill.
- Commence concept design of Sportlink in consultation with the Whitehorse Netball Association and Sportlink stakeholders.
- Undertake a Master Plan for East Burwood Reserve.
- Actively seek Federal, State and other funding opportunities.
- Include these preferred development sites in Council's long term financial plan and relevant Council Capital Works Plans.

The Council has made the following progress in delivering these recommendations:

- The Council adopted the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Feasibility Study and in doing so the key investment priorities.
- A Master Plan has been prepared for East Burwood Reserve that recommends six additional courts at Nunawading Basketball Centre (total of 11 courts recommended). A Feasibility Study is being prepared concurrently with this Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan.
- The outdoor netball courts at Sportlink have been covered to increase the capacity of these courts for netball and other sports. No further design or asset management works have been undertaken at the venue.

- A Master Plan is being prepared at Walker Park that is considering the future of Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club stadium.
- A Feasibility Study into a new table tennis facility is being prepared concurrently with this Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan.

East Burwood Reserve Master Plan 2023

The East Burwood Reserve Master Plan 2023 supersedes the 2001 Master Plan. The Master Plan recommends:

- Prepare a Business Case for the redevelopment of the Nunawading Basketball Stadium.
- Subject to the outcome of the Business Case, redevelop the Nunawading Basketball Stadium to a new 11-court complex with car parking in an under croft.

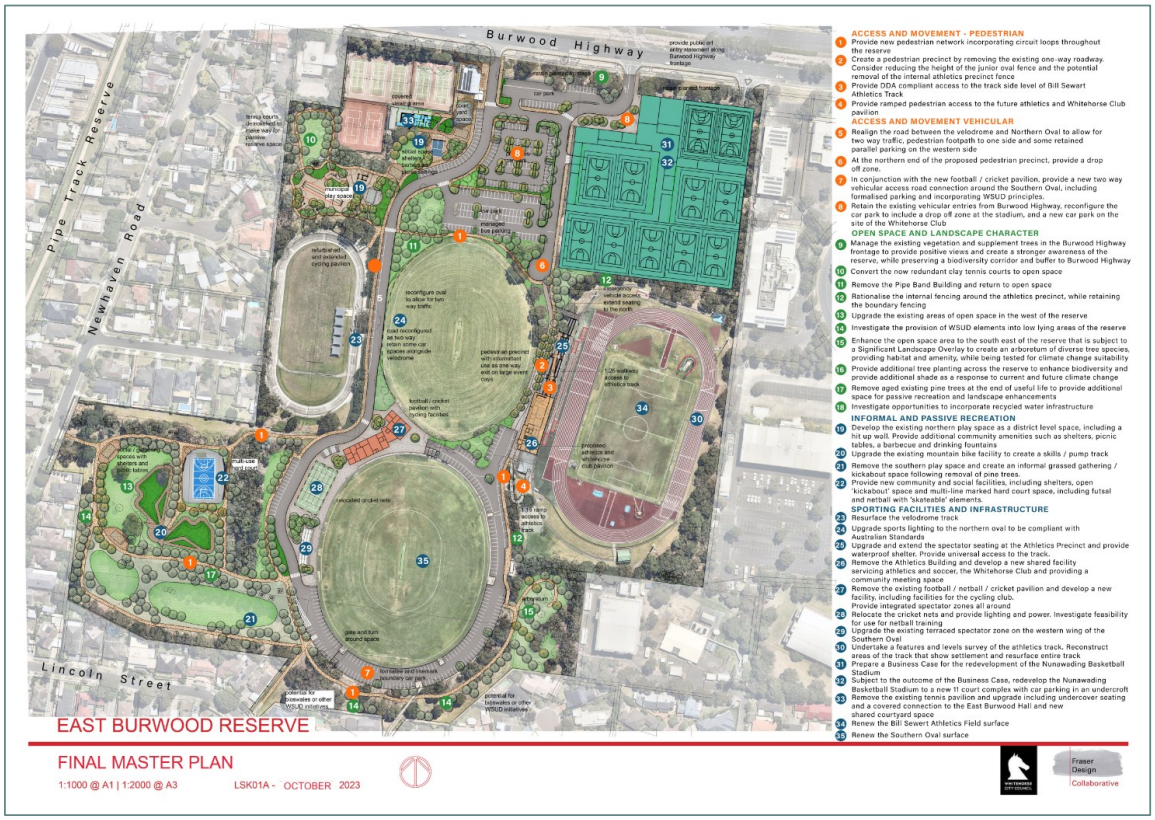


Figure 1: East Burwood Reserve Master Plan

Mahoneys Reserve Master Plan 2024 (In Progress)

The Mahoneys Reserve Master Plan is currently in development. The Northern Pavilion Hall is useutilised seven day a week from 9.00am to 10.00pm by more than 330 older adults playing table tennis, badminton, and carpet bowls. The research and engagement findings have found the hall to be an inadequate size for the larger user groups.

Walker Park Reserve Master Plan 2024 (In Progress)

The Walker Park Reserve Master Plan is currently in development. The Nunawading Gymnastics Centre is utilised seven days a week for beginner to level 2 gymnastics programs. The research and engagement findings have found the facility to be in poor condition and inadequate for supporting Level 3 and above gymnastics programs.

Forest Hill College Master Plan 2024 (In Progress)

The Forest Hill College Master Plan is currently in development. The focus of the master plan is to develop sporting facilities to support the school and community sport use. There is an existing two court stadium at the College. These courts are heavily used by the school and community sport by Nunawading Basketball. The research and engagement findings has found a need for additional courts and proposes a new four court multi-sport stadium.

1.3 Regional Strategies

Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy 2022-2032



The Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy has been developed to support and guide seven councils and stakeholders in the Eastern Metropolitan Region in the planning and delivery of regional-level sport and recreation facilities and shared recreation trails for the next 10 to 20 years.

The first Strategy was developed in 2016 and has been subsequently updated in 2022. The updated Strategy prioritises a network approach to collaboration within the require with the establishment of four strategic pillars:

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

The Strategy identifies continued investment in co-located, multi-purpose facilities to create efficiencies for project partners, with the regional sport and recreation facility network creating participation and pathway opportunities that cross local government boundaries.

Key strategic directions relevant to the Indoor Sports Plan include:

- Progress the develop of established regional facility priorities.
- Address gaps in existing regional facility provision.
- Plan for emerging and under-represented sports and recreation activities.
- Create regional facility development opportunities in partnership with schools and other land managers.
- Consider and plan for the impacts of urban development on the regional sport and recreation facility network.

The Strategy identifies the following key infrastructure priorities relevant to the Indoor Sports Plan:

- East Burwood Reserve Master Plan, including Nunawading Basketball Centre.
- Sportlink Facility Development Planning.

The Strategy identifies the following emerging trends relevant to the Indoor Sports Plan:

- Facility capacity is becoming an issue for sport within Whitehorse.

- Demand for indoor sports such as gymnastics and table tennis require consideration within Whitehorse and across the regional network.
- Partnership opportunities with schools should be considered at a regional level.

1.4 State Government Strategies

The following table summarises State Government strategies relevant to indoor sports provision and future funding approaches.

Active Victoria

Active Victoria is the Victorian Government's strategic framework for sport and recreation in Victoria. The framework aims to reset the sector following the COVID-19 global pandemic, build on the existing foundations for the State to be recognised as the nation's sporting capital and to deliver a more active Victorian population.

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

The framework includes 12 key directions:

- Increase and promote opportunities so Victorians can participate in ways that suit them.
- Target efforts towards individuals and communities who participate less.
- Improve community sport and active recreation infrastructure coordination to better meet demand, with a focus on areas and populations who need it most.
- Deliver inclusive, multi-use and sustainable community sport and active recreation infrastructure.
- Attract and retain a skilled sport and active recreation workforce (paid and unpaid).
- Promote more financially sustainable organisations that reduce duplication and inefficiencies in service delivery.
- Implement frameworks to create safe and inclusive sport and active recreation settings.
- Build insights through better use of evidence and data.
- Develop a world-leading suite of major stadium and state facilities.
- Connected and co-ordinated pathways exist to pursue sport at the highest level.
- Invest in state infrastructure that can host international and regional events and support event content that boosts the Victorian economy.
- Partner to maximise leverage from investment in Victoria's major events.

The Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan will need to respond to the strategic directions outlined above, and directly align with the identified need to increase participation and deliver multi-use sustainable community sporting infrastructure to seek State Government funding.

Fair Access Policy

The Fair Access Roadmap outlined by the Victorian Government aims to develop a state-wide foundation for gender equitable access to, and use of, community sports infrastructure for women and girls.

There is a significant gap in both the participation of women and girls in sport and recreation and an identified gender imbalance in leadership positions across all levels of the Victorian sporting and recreation industry:

- Only 9% of women and girls participate in sport across all ages compared to 17% of men and boys (AusPlay, 2021).
- Only 21% of girls aged 0-14 years participate in organised sport and active recreation outside of school hours three times a week (AusPlay, 2021).
- There has been a decline of 22,000 women and girls' participation after COVID-19 where men and boys' participation rose by over 20,500 participants in 2021 compared to 2019 (VicHealth Sports Participation in Victoria 2015-2021).
- 29% of executive positions and 33% of board positions were held by women in State Sporting Associations (Inquiry into Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation 2015).
- 28% of women have considered leaving their club due to inequitable treatment (State of Play Survey 2022-2023, Change Our Game).
- Women are 2.5 times more likely to report feeling unwelcome at their sporting club compared to men.
- Of people who played community sport, women were less likely than men to agree that club facilities were shared equally.
- Many Victorian women and girls don't have access to the best courts or grounds, have facilities of lesser standard, or are relegated to less convenient competition and training times.

Local Governments have an obligation to gender equality, not only under State Government legislation but also under Commonwealth legislation. The State and Commonwealth Government legislation includes:

- Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic).
- Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic).
- Gender Equality Act 2020 (Vic).
- Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cwth).

The Commission for Gender Equity in the Public Sector was established after the *Gender Equity Bill 2019 (Vic)* passed in February 2020. The Commission supports the Public Sector Gender Equity Commissioner in overseeing the implementation of the Gender Equity Act 2020 and promoting gender equity in the public sector workforce and the broader Victorian community.

Local Government Authorities are required to complete Gender Impact Assessments and submit these to the Commission for Gender Equity. The Commission reports on progress made towards delivering on the *Gender Equity Act 2020*.

The Victorian Government initiated an Inquiry into Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation which resulted in key monumental changes in the sector. The changes included establishing a Victorian Office of Women in Sport, followed by the Female Friendly Sport Infrastructure Guidelines (2017) and funding program and then the Change Our Game Initiative. These resources were developed to support LGAs to engage better and provide for women and girls in sports.

Following the Inquiry and Change Our Game funding program, the Victorian Government in 2022 released the Fair Access Policy Roadmap. The Fair Access Policy 'RoadMap' includes the following six principles:

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.

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 all user groups who demonstrate and ongoing commitment to gender equitable access and use of allocated community sport infrastructure.

The City of Whitehorse has adopted the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy Fair Access Policy. This policy aligns with the six principles outlined in the Fair Access Policy Road Map.

1.5 State Sporting Association Strategies

Badminton Victoria Strategic Plan 2021-2025

The Badminton Victoria Strategic Plan 2021-2025 includes strategic directions for engaging participants and volunteers, supporting the talent pathway and aims to ensure badminton clubs are sustainability, support inclusion and deliver events.

Basketball Victoria Facility Master Plan 2017

The Basketball Victoria Facility Master Plan identified the key facility requirements to meet future basketball participation needs. The priority for the Melbourne East Region at the time was to develop the State Basketball Centre at the Knox Regional Sports Park. This has since been achieved.

The 2017 Master Plan recommendations for the City of Whitehorse are:

- An additional two courts are needed at Nunawading Stadium.
- An additional 2 to 3 courts in the Box Hill/Burwood East area.

Calisthenics Victoria Strategic Plan 2023-2026

The Calisthenics Victoria Strategic Plan identifies having access to a state-wide network of accessible and suitable facilities that meet the needs of calisthenics is a key strategic direction.

The proposed new home of calisthenics is the Karralyka Centre in Ringwood. The facility would include administration space for Calisthenics Victoria and studio and performance space for programs, competitions and events.

Football Victoria – State Football Facilities Strategy to 2026

The Strategy aligns the development of soccer facilities to Football Federation Australia's Whole of Football Plan, stating: *Footballers need space to play. Whether it's a full-sized synthetic pitch, a rooftop Futsal court or a local park for social games, facilities are fundamental to football's future health and popularity. The provision of good quality facilities to football's participants will be a critical focus.*

The Strategy includes an investment logic map that identifies the benefits of soccer, the issues the sport is currently facing and solutions. These include the strategies and facilities needed and changes that need to be made. The Strategy's focus is primarily on outdoor soccer field requirements.

The Strategy recommends Football Victoria (FV) targets the development of new pitches and lighting at new schools being built throughout the state. The FV strategy states that some sites identified are not appropriate nor being planned for soccer facilities.

FV acknowledges in the Strategy that Local Governments are "significant champions of football in Victoria" and seeks to partner with councils in regional planning and development project.

The Strategy identifies Whitehorse as requiring five full size soccer pitches. Due to the landlocked nature of Whitehorse, the provision of synthetic pitches and access to futsal courts and competitions will be important to facilitate participation growth.

Gymnastics State Facilities Strategy 2021 - 2030

The Gymnastics State Facilities Strategy provides priorities for improving 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-year-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 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.

Netball Victoria Statewide Facilities Strategy (2016)

The Netball Victoria Statewide Facilities Strategy identifies a shortfall of indoor and outdoor netball facilities needed across Victoria to meet future participation demand.

In the Eastern Region, Netball Victoria have determined 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. Whitehorse had a deficit of 17 courts.

Volleyball State Facilities Strategy (2018)

The Volleyball State Facilities Strategy includes strategic directions for: Partnering in new indoor sports facilities development, broadening the participation base and to adopt a regional approach.

The Strategy recognises the Croydon Aquahub and Oakleigh Recreation Centre regional hubs for the Metropolitan Eastern Region.

Since this strategy was developed, regional volleyball facilities have been developed in Manningham (Mullum Mullum Stadium) and Maroondah (Maroondah Nets).

Table Tennis Victoria Strategic Plan 2024

The Table Tennis Victoria Strategic Plan seeks to build a community for all Victorian where anyone is able to participate and achieve their aspirations through table tennis.

A key strategic direction under ‘connecting people with table tennis’ is to develop strategies to grow the affiliated facility footprint, venue capacity, and operational sustainability.

1.6 Key Findings of Strategic Review



There is strategic support for providing indoor sports facilities in Whitehorse



Local Government must provide equitable access to indoor sports facilities and services



Peak Sporting Bodies seek additional access to indoor sports courts in Whitehorse to grow participation

City of Whitehorse strategic plans support the provision of indoor sports facilities and programs as an ingredient to improving community health and wellbeing

The Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan align with the Council's strategic commitments to recreation facilities that are of high standard and foster access to a range of services and amenities that meet future community indoor sport's needs, as outlined in the Council Plan 2021-2025, Community Vision 2040 and the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25.

These Council strategic documents emphasise improving community health and wellbeing (Theme Seven of Community Vision 2040) as a key outcome for providing indoor sports facilities.

The strategies also provide a framework for planning infrastructure, programs, and services to enhance community benefits. The Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan will deliver recommendations based on sound evidence-based to meet the current and future indoor sports needs, promoting a more active community.

The Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan will inform a review of the Whitehorse Recreation Strategy. The plans will integrate with other strategic plans of Council including Council's Financial Plan, Asset Plan, Council's Four-Year Budget, Revenue and Rating Plan, Workforce Plan and Community Engagement Policy.

The Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan will build on the findings of the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Feasibility Study 2020.

Following the adoption of this Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan and consideration of supporting feasibility studies into the Nunawading Basketball Centre Redevelopment and a regional table tennis centre, the Council will consider including priority projects in its long-term financial plan and relevant Capital Works Plans.

Local Government must provide equitable access to indoor sports facilities and services

Local Government is legally obliged to provide equitable access to sporting infrastructure under State and Federal Government legislation.

The Fair Access Policy Roadmap guides councils in the development of fair access policies. This strategy will consider the approaches and measures to delivering the six principles outlined in the roadmap. The City of Whitehorse has endorsed the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy (MERSRS) Fair Access Policy.

Peak Sporting Bodies seek additional access to indoor sports courts in Whitehorse to facilitate future participation growth and programming

Strategic Plans for badminton, calisthenics, and table tennis include actions that support developing pathways to participate through accessible facilities that meet the needs of the sport and have the capacity to grow competitions, programs and use.

State Facilities Plans for basketball, football (soccer), gymnastics, netball and volleyball identify a shortfall of indoor sports courts and that existing facilities are at capacity. Since these strategies, there have been new indoor sports facilities constructed in the Metropolitan Eastern Region that service the Whitehorse community. These include the Mullum Mullum Stadium (Manningham), Maroondah Nets (Maroondah) and State Basketball and Gymnastics Centre (Knox).

Appendix 5: Facilities Review Paper

This Facilities Review Paper reviews the indoor sports facilities provision in the City of Whitehorse.

1.7 Indoor Sports Facility Planning Framework

A planning framework with facility hierarchy and facility design standards has been designed for indoor sports facilities. The framework is informed by hierarchy definitions from State and Federal Government and peak sporting bodies sports facility guidelines.

This hierarchy is applied to current and future indoor sports facilities. This hierarchy is supported by design standards (refer to **Appendix 1**).

The design standards are scaled for local to district to regional to State/National level participation and competition standards. The preferred facility design guidelines from indoor sports have helped inform and complement the design standards. Contemporary sports facility design standards complement the design standards including design guidelines for making spaces for girls and women, transgender and gender diverse people, and universally accessible places. Importantly, new indoor sports facilities are constructed as multi-sport courts (**Note**, netball court dimensions are the largest standard and can accommodate all indoor sports court dimensions i.e. basketball, volleyball, futsal and badminton.)

Indoor Sports Facility Hierarchy

International: International facilities are the highest-level facilities, capable of hosting international events and competitions and national competition games. These facilities promote elite sport competitions and games and provides entertainment.

International facilities have very specific requirements which vary depending on the sport they service, the spectator seating and amenity required for the capacity of the venue, including corporate suites to public seating areas. They are venues that include a high level of technology including large electronic scoreboards, lighting and sound systems for entertainment purposes. They are normally provided for by State and Federal Governments, national sporting organisations and professional sporting clubs. These venues have a separate show court/concert arena with 5000+ seats and support Tier 1 sport and entertainment events. An example is John Cain Arena that hosts Australian and NBL games, Super Netball games, the Australian Open and Australian and International artists.

State/National: A facility with the ability to host state/national competitions and events or to serve as a state/national performance training hub for one or more sports codes. They are destinations for sport and recreation and events and deliver social and economic benefits to the wider regional/country region. This facility is 3-4ha in size and provide for more than eight local community sports courts. An example is the State Basketball Centre that has 12 sports courts and a show court with seating for 3,100 spectators.

Regional: A facility with the ability to provide for regional or municipal catchment. They can host regional competitions, serve as a regional high-performance training hub for one or more sports codes or provide community participation opportunities for a high number of people across municipal boundaries. Regional spaces and places are often the primary centre of co-located, multi-sport and active recreation facilities within a regional catchment. This facility is 2-3ha in size and provide for five to eight local community sports courts and some have seating of up to 1000 seats. Examples include Sportlink and Nunawading Basketball Centre. Sportlink has four indoor courts and four covered outdoor courts that has three and supports multiple sports local competitions.

District: A facility with the ability to organised community sport participation opportunities for a catchment of one to three suburbs. They provide multiple courts and opportunities for a number of teams/ competitors/ participants within a district to participate. This community facility is 1-2ha in size and provide for three to four local community sports courts. An example is Aqualink Box Hill that has three and supports multiple sports local competitions.

Local: A facility that provides organised community sport participation opportunities for a local neighbourhood or community catchment. This community stadium is approximately 1ha in size and provides for one to two local community sports courts. They are generally overflow and training venues. An example is Blackburn High School which has a single court and is used for basketball training and junior-level competition and social netball.

1.8 Current Supply Analysis

The City of Whitehorse has a range of indoor sports facilities that support regional and local domestic sports teams and competitions. These facilities are managed by the City of Whitehorse, schools and private providers.

A facility inventory has been prepared detailing the type and condition of indoor sports facilities, their roles and functions, and whether they are fit for purpose based on current industry and respective indoor sports facility standards. The inventory is supported by facility inspections and audits.

The catchment maps on the following pages support the inventory and show that most indoor sports have provision of regional, district and local facilities that service all of the Whitehorse community. However, with the population growing so too is participation growth and these facilities are nearing capacity.

Provision Assessment

Within the City of Whitehorse:

- There are 75 indoor sports facilities that provide for the full range of indoor sports including badminton, basketball, calisthenics, cheer, combat sports, dance, fencing, futsal, gymnastics, netball, table tennis, pickleball and volleyball.
- When applying the hierarchy across the indoor sports facilities network, there are eight regionals (red squares), four district (blue squares) and 62 local facilities (green squares).
- These facilities are owned and managed by Council (nine), schools (44) and private providers (22).
- Nine Council facilities that host domestic indoor sports competition and social competition play across several sports including basketball, netball, volleyball, futsal, badminton, table tennis and emerging sports like pickleball. These facilities are Aqualink Box Hill (3 courts), Eley Park Community Centre (Hall), Mahoneys Reserve Sports Pavilion Hall (Hall), Nunawading Basketball Centre (5 courts), Nunawading Community Hub (1 court), Nunawading Gymnastics Centre (2 halls) Slater Reserve Stadium (2 courts), Sportlink (4 indoor courts and 4 outdoor covered courts) and Whitehorse Club (Hall and 2 indoor bocce rinks). These facilities are generally in good serviceable condition and attract high use (80+% occupancy rate).
- Forty-four school facilities with indoor court(s) that are available for community use. These facilities are being used after school hours for community sport training and competition. This use is primarily by basketball clubs, combat sports providers and social futsal programs. There are potential school indoor sports facility development projects proposed in Whitehorse. These include Box Hill Senior Secondary College, Forest Hill College and Kooning Secondary College and Mullane College. The Presbyterian Ladies College is in the progress of building a new sports facility that includes a three indoor court stadium, a gymnastics hall and multi-purpose rooms that could be used for cheer or martial arts activities (due for completion in early 2025).

- Twenty-two private indoor sports facilities. Key facilities include: two private district standard badminton facilities, four private district standard gymnastics, cheer facilities, two private climbing facilities including one of Australia's best speed climbing walls, and The Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre draws participants from a regional area. It is highly used for social and competitive indoor cricket, futsal, netball, basketball, volleyball and pickleball.
- Given the high indoor sports participation in the eastern suburbs there are a number of regional indoor sports facilities in neighbouring municipalities that are servicing Whitehorse residents. These include the State Basketball Centre (Knox), Dandenong Stadium and Springers Leisure Centre (Greater Dandenong), Mullum Stadium (Manningham), Boroondara Sports Centre (Boroondara), Waverly Indoor Stadium (Monash) and Maroondah Nets (Maroondah).
- Nunawading Basketball Centre, Slater Reserve Stadium and Aqualink Box Hill courts are non-compliant on side and end run-offs.
- Sportlink indoor courts are compliant, however show deterioration and will require renewal in short term. The facility is a multi-sport facility hosting basketball, netball, and futsal and emerging sports like pickleball.
- The new Nunawading Community Hall court and studios are in excellent condition and are well used by U3A and a variety of other sport and recreation groups such as fencing.
- The Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Centre located at Walker Park is in average condition and requires renewal or relocation.
- There are development plans for additional courts on the following Council facilities: Aqualink Box Hill (additional two courts), Nunawading Basketball Centre (additional five/six courts) and Sportlink (additional one court).
- There are Master Plans at Walker Reserve and Mahoneys Reserve that will impact future use of the Nunawading Gymnastics Centre and Mahoneys Reserve Pavilion Hall respectively.
- There are school indoor sports facility development projects proposed in Whitehorse. This includes at Box Hill Senior Secondary College, Forest Hill College and Koonung Secondary College. The Presbyterian Ladies College is in the progress of building a new stadium with three indoor courts and gymnastics hall.
- Melbourne East Basketball Association and Table Tennis Victoria are in discussions with Haven Group for the potential development of three indoor sports courts and seven to nine table tennis courts at Forest Hill Chase shopping centre.

Facility Inventory

The detailed facility inventory is provided in **Appendix 2** and includes a description of facilities, identifies key stakeholders using facilities, occupancy levels of facilities, asset condition and fit-for-purpose ratings. A summary is provided in the table on the next page.

The inventory has used the following capacity and rating systems to assess a court's capacity level and sports field infrastructure condition and whether it is fit for purpose.

Usage Rating

The court usage (training and competition) and capacity levels have been assessed and categorised as follows:

- Low – Occupancy up to 40%
- Moderate – Occupancy 40-60%
- High – Occupancy 60-80%

- Very High – Occupancy 80% or above.

Condition Rating

The following rating system was used to assess the quality of sports facility infrastructure:

- Poor—The serviceability and condition of the asset are heavily impacted, requiring replacement to meet sports industry and facility standards.
- Moderate – Obvious deterioration of the asset and major improvements needed to meet sport and facility standards.
- Good – Some superficial deterioration of assets and minor improvements needed to meet sport industry and facility standards.
- Very Good – New asset or recently redeveloped to meet current sport industry and facility standards.

Current Supply

The location of each site is shown in the following maps. Please note that about 30 sites were inspected and assessed. The 30 sites chosen were private (commercial and privately owned sites) sites that support regional activity or basketball and table tennis, school (education) sites that support local community use and Council owned sites.

10.2 – ATTACHMENT 2. Draft Indoor Sports Plan Appendices

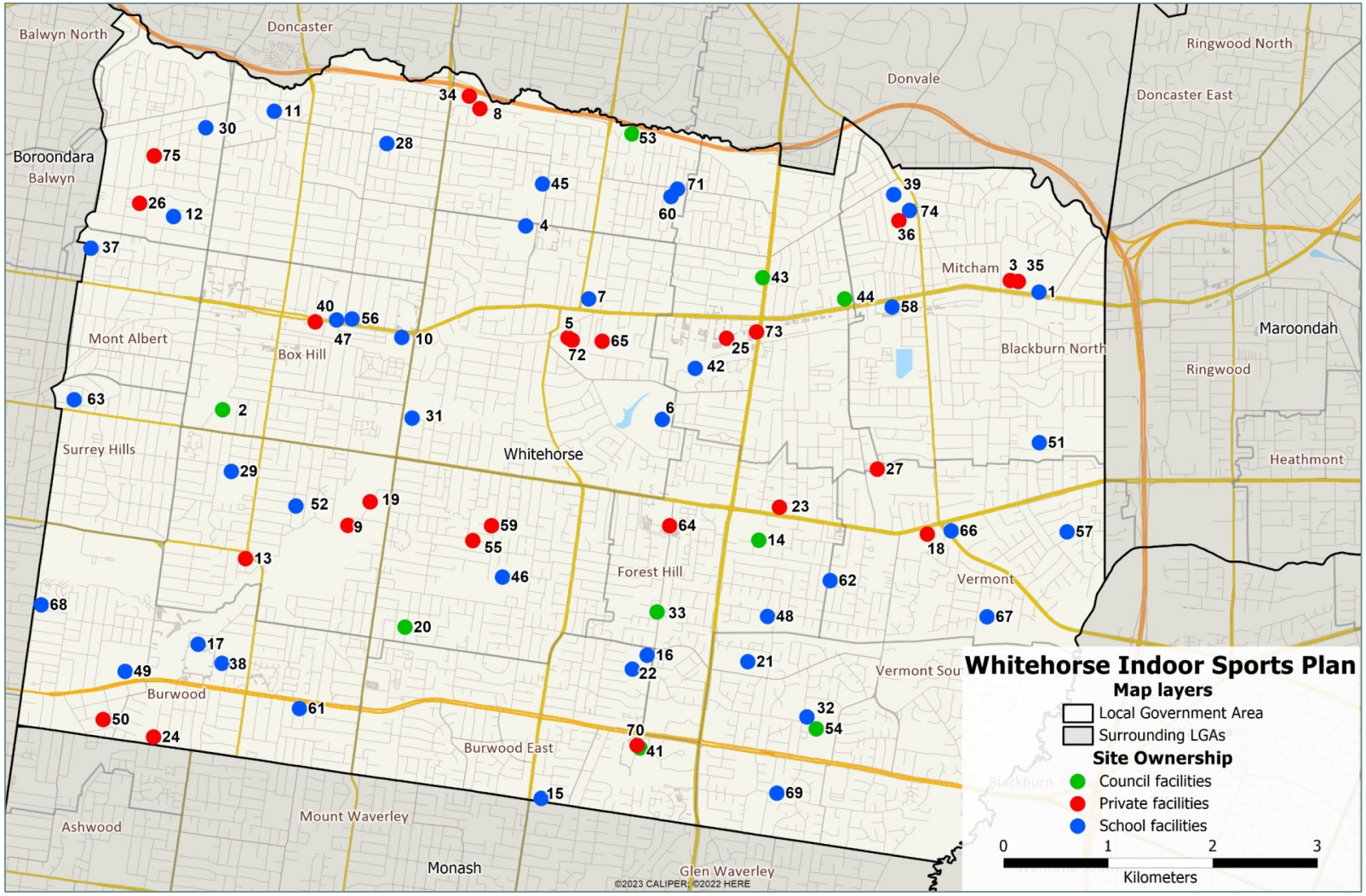


Figure 2: Site Ownership of indoor sports facilities in Whitehorse

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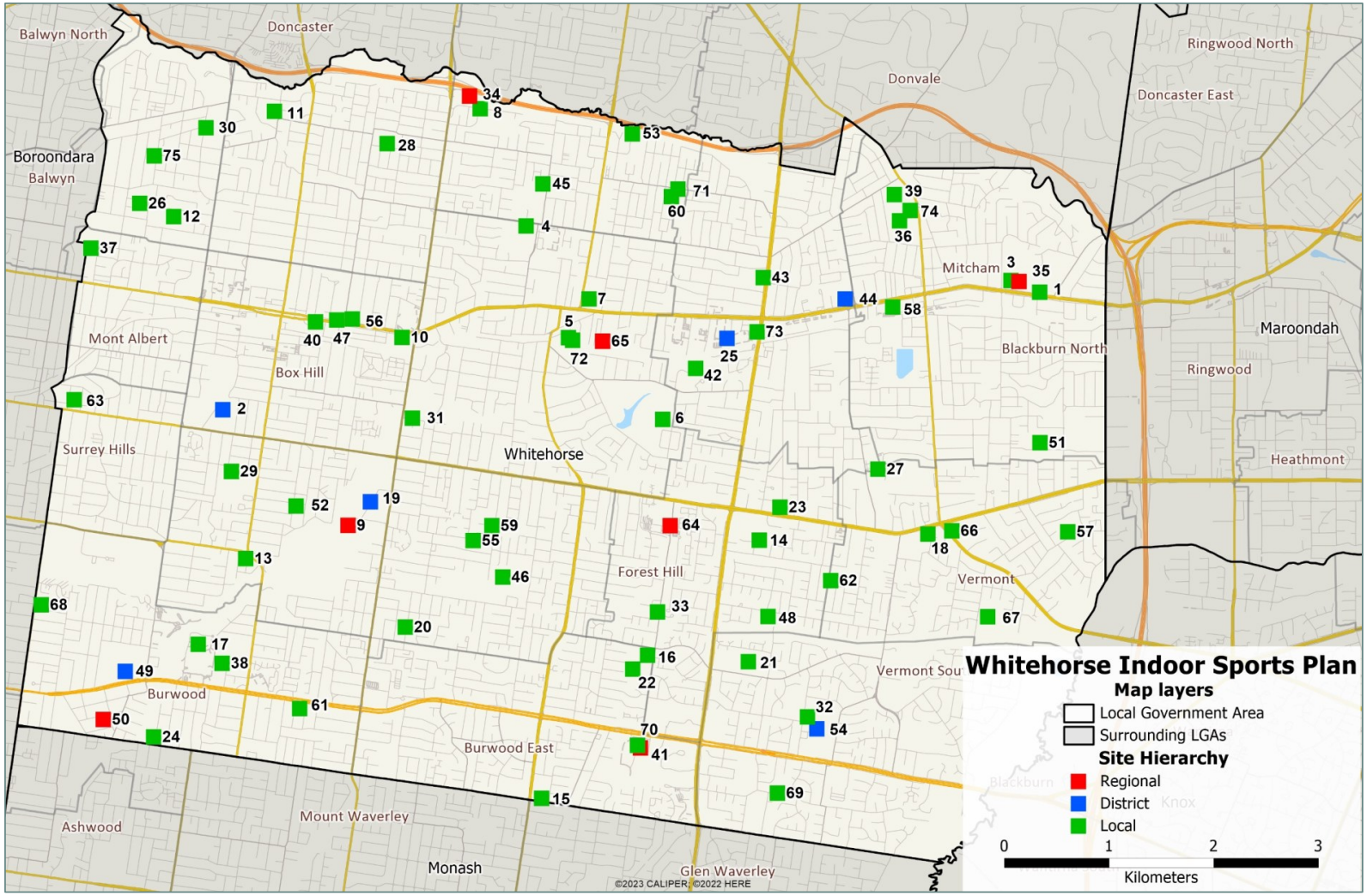

Indoor Sport Facility Hierarchy in Whitehorse

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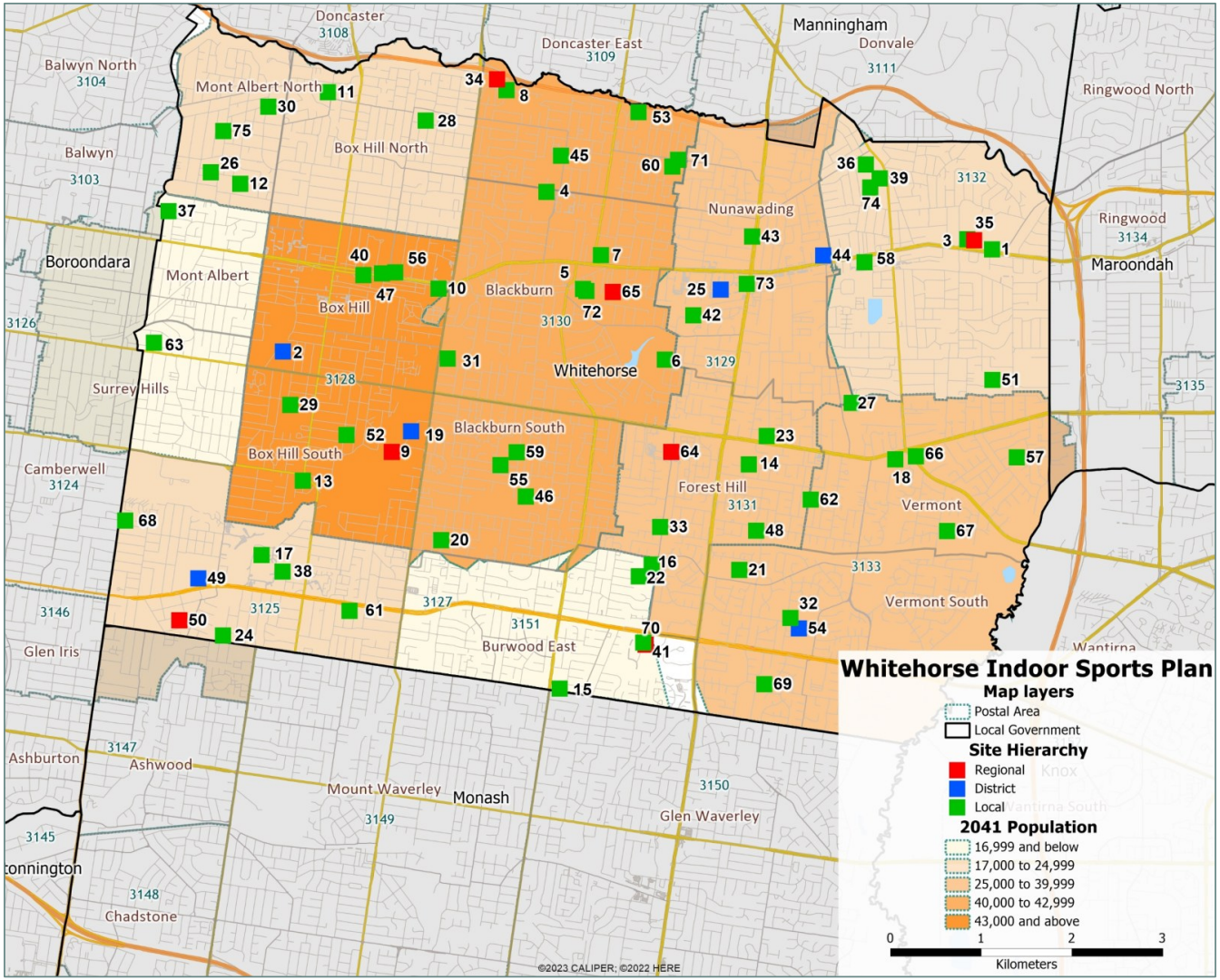
Current Supply Map

The adjacent map shows the current population and location of Whitehorse facilities.

Figure 3: 2021 Population and Hierarchy of Facilities in Whitehorse



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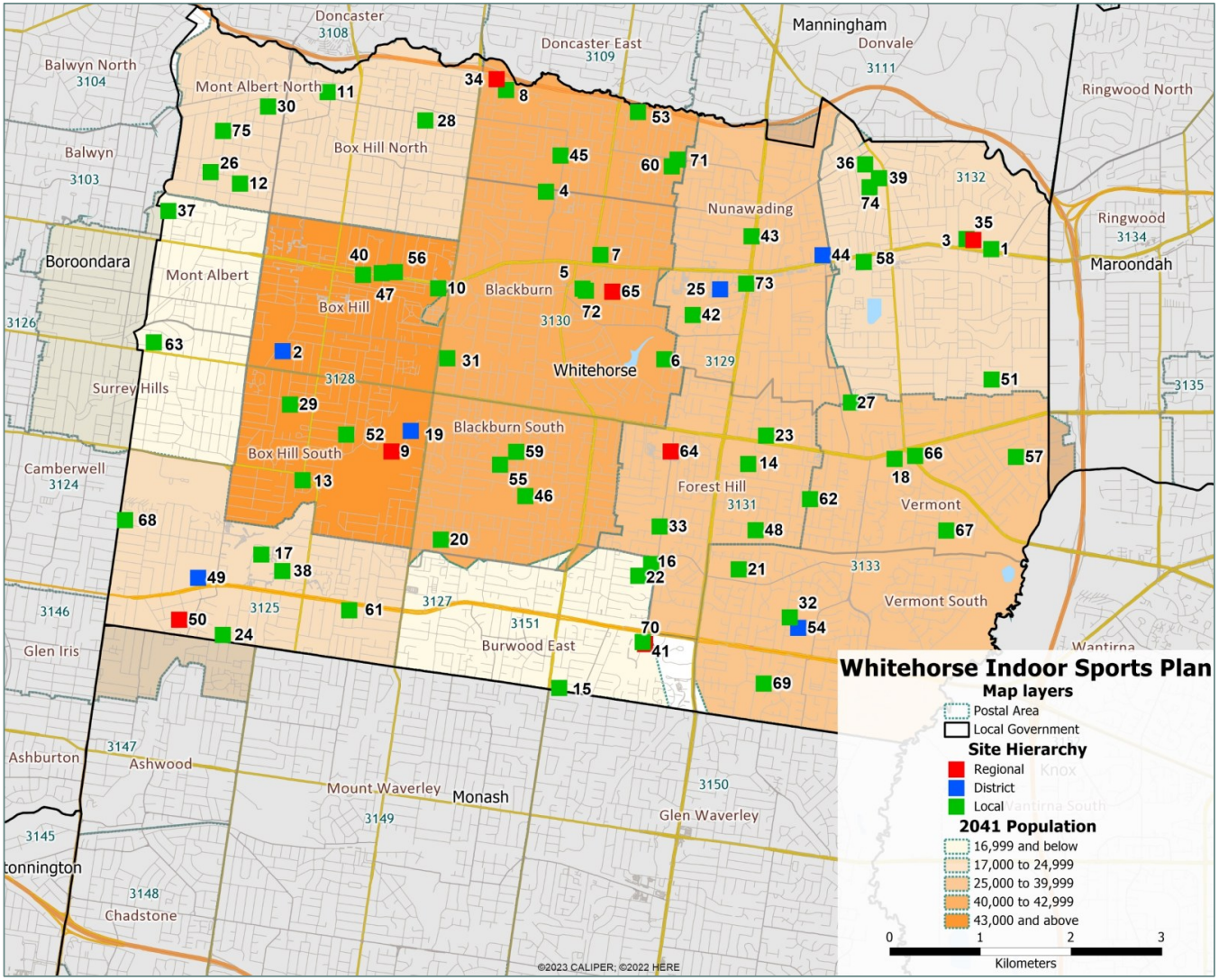
Future Supply Map

The adjacent map shows the projected future population and location of existing facilities.

The facility catchments for Council and school facilities that propose improvements will service high population growth areas in Whitehorse.

Figure 4: 2041 Projected Population and Hierarchy of Existing Facilities in Whitehorse



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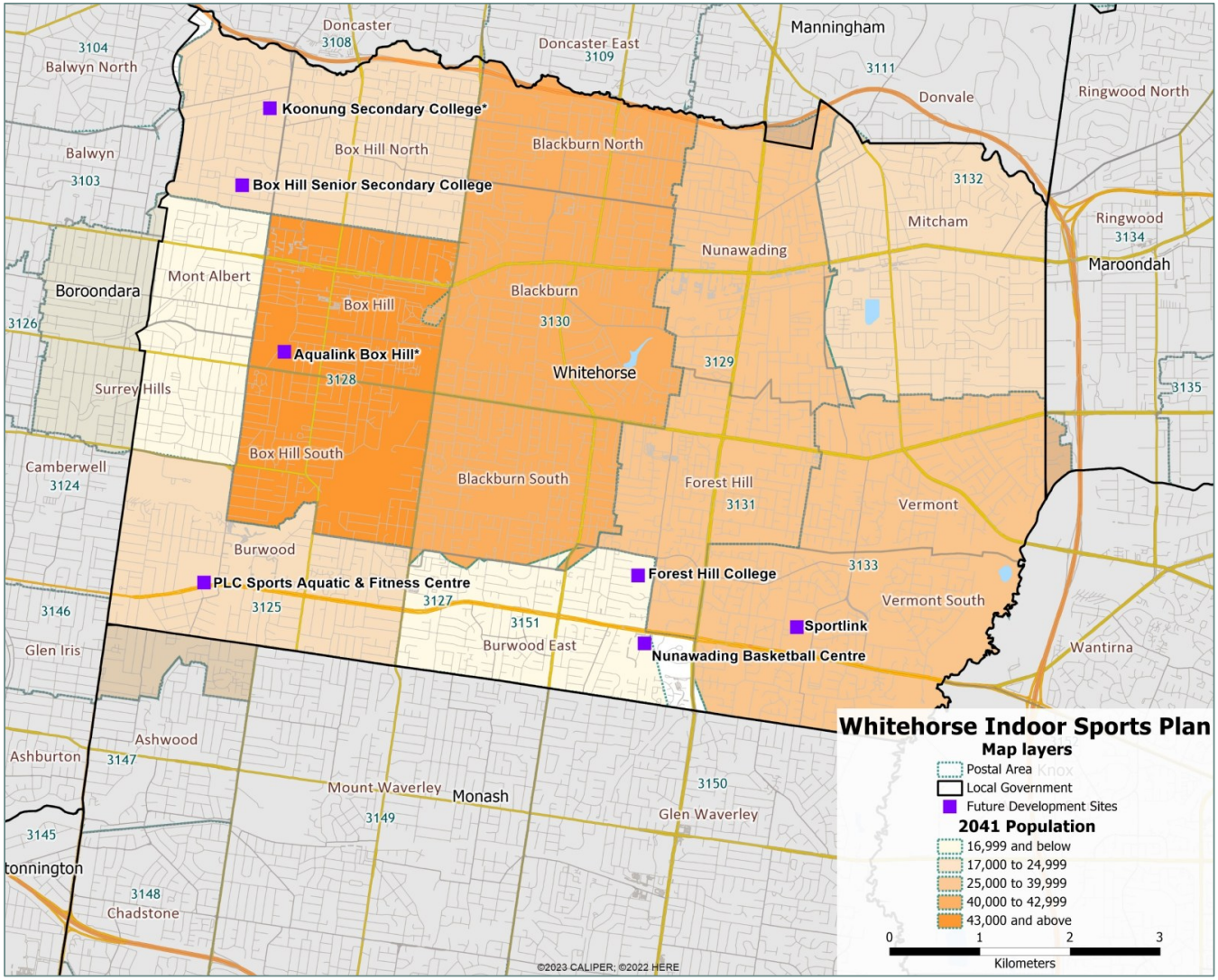
The adjacent map shows the projected future population and location of facilities, which have been earmarked for the potential development of additional courts for indoor sports.

Figure 5: 2041 Projected population and facilities identified for potential future development opportunities in Whitehorse



The following section summarises the existing facility provision by sport

Badminton

- Two facilities support district badminton operations, where the other venues support local social play.
- There is potential capacity to provide for 52 badminton courts at shared-use or dedicated venues where badminton is played. However, when occupancy levels of shared-use courts are reviewed, the current badminton court access is 30 courts.
- Due to the multi-use nature of indoor courts, the use of shared-use venues for badminton is restricted. There is competition for use of courts by other indoor sports at multi-use venues i.e. badminton cannot use the courts at the same time as another code i.e. basketball or netball.
- Key facilities of a district standard include:
  - Melbourne Badminton Centre – A high-quality private regional nine court badminton facility.
  - Mitcham Badminton Centre – A high-quality private regional 12 court badminton facility.

Basketball

- There are 25 facilities and 41 indoor sports courts in Whitehorse used for basketball. Of these courts, 36 courts are used by community sports clubs and associations. Only four of these courts are compliant for basketball (run off meets standards). However, when occupancy of shared-use courts is reviewed, the current basketball court access is 33 courts.
- Nunawading Basketball Centre is a regional five-court basketball stadium that is home to one of Australia's largest basketball associations, the Melbourne East Basketball Association (MEBA). The Nunawading Basketball Centre has a very high average occupancy rate of 87.92%. The following indicates the usage of the facility:
  - Weekday Off Peak (9am-4pm) – 81.8%
  - Weekday Peak (4-10pm) – 100%
  - Weekends (9am-4pm) – 83.67%.
- The 30-minute drive time catchment for the Nunawading Basketball Centre mirrors the participant reach following a postcode assessment of membership. This facility catchment represents 2,407,691 people which will grow to almost 3 million people by 2041. The postcode membership map shows a very high proportion of Melbourne East Basketball Association participants coming from the municipalities of Whitehorse, Monash, Maroondah and Knox. Nunawading Basketball Centre is the regional facility supporting these participants.
- The Melbourne East Basketball Association utilises Nunawading Basketball Centre and several satellite indoor sports facilities located in Whitehorse (15 facilities), Monash (11 facilities), Maroondah (four facilities) and Knox (one facility).
- Other facilities used for basketball include:
- Sportlink – A district four-court stadium with four covered outdoor netball courts that supports netball, basketball, futsal and pickleball. It is home to one of Victoria's largest netball associations.
  - Aqualink Box Hill – A three-court multi-sport stadium. The facility includes the stadium and an aquatic and leisure centre.
  - Slater Reserve Stadium – A two-court indoor stadium used for basketball and netball.

Calisthenics

- The Blackburn Calisthenics College is located in Mitcham is a district level facility. The club is seeking an additional studio.
- Regent Calisthenics is located in Ringwood on the boundary of the City of Whitehorse within Maroondah City Council.

Cricket (Indoor)

- The Box Hill Indoor Sports Centre is a regional indoor cricket centre with six compliant indoor cricket courts. The venue is in excellent condition and is supported by kiosk, bar, administration and toilets.
- The Century Cricket Centre, located in Blackburn, provides private coaching for cricket under a membership model. The centre provides five indoor cricket courts.

Fencing

- There are four local facilities in Whitehorse where fencing is provided:
  - The Whitehorse Club is a dedicated district-level fencing facility with 10 pistes. The fencing facility is used each weekday evening and Saturdays and is a training facility only because it is non-compliant for competitions (insufficient run offs). This facility is proposed to be demolished in the East Burwood Reserve Master Plan.
  - The Nunawading Community Hall and Durkin Hall at St Joseph's Parish have a multi-sport court where fencing is played. These two facilities and accommodate six pistes.
  - The Box Hill North Primary School multi-purpose room is used for fencing training.
  - The State Fencing Centre, located in North Melbourne, supports the main fencing activities in Victoria.

Futsal

- There are 12 facilities providing capacity for 21 futsal courts at shared-use or dedicated venues in the City of Whitehorse that support unaffiliated futsal competition and social play. However, when occupancy of shared-use courts is reviewed, the current futsal court access is four courts.
- Sportlink is classified as a district facility that supports futsal competition across the four sports courts.
- Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre is a private indoor sports centre that supports a district-level futsal competition on three fit for purpose futsal courts.
- There are local schools' sports courts being hired for social futsal games/competitions.

Gymnastics

- There are three district gymnastics facilities located in Whitehorse, the Eastern Gymnastics Club and Nunawading Gymnastics Centre. A third gymnastics hall is being constructed at Presbyterian Ladies College that may be available for community use:
  - Eastern Gymnastics Club, Box Hill South - a high-quality private district gymnastics facility with two gymnastics halls. The Club has a commercial lease for use of their gym.
  - Nunawading Gymnastics Centre, Nunawading - a district gymnastics facility located at Walker Park. The facility is not fit for purpose to support senior events and can only support beginner to intermediate levels. The Club reports that the facility has reached capacity, and they require a larger facility to grow participation and programming.

- A new gymnastics hall is being constructed at Presbyterian Ladies College. The school is currently considering the options for community access to the gymnastics area.
- The BTYC district gymnastics facility is located in Manningham and Burwood United Gymnastics Squad district gymnastics facility is located in Monash. They are located on boundary of the City of Whitehorse and service Whitehorse residents.
- The State Sport Centre in Wantirna is the home of the Knox Gymnastics Club also services Whitehorse residents.

Martial Arts

- Martial Arts providers are operating from 25 schools, churches, private facilities, the Nunawading Basketball Centre and Sportlink.

Netball

- There are 25 netball courts, of which eight courts are used by the regional netball association. However, when occupancy of shared-use courts is reviewed, the current netball court access is eight courts
- Sportlink is the key netball facility. It is a regional four-court indoor stadium plus four covered outdoor netball courts.
- Box Hill Indoor Action Sports Centre hosts mid-week indoor social netball competitions on three courts.
- The remaining courts are used by community sports clubs for training and social play.

Table Tennis

- There is a capacity for 28 table tennis courts across 12 facilities. Three of these facilities (10 courts) are used by the table tennis association. The remaining courts are used for unaffiliated social play and private coaching. However, a review of the occupancy of shared-use courts/ multi-purpose rooms by table tennis, the current table tennis court access is eight courts.
- Key facilities are:
  - Mahoneys Reserve Pavilion Hall – Association Competition (4 tables)
  - Eley Park Community Centre – Association Competition (3 tables)
  - Sportlink Vermont South – Association Competition (3 tables)
  - Deakin University Stadium – Social Play (2 tables)
  - Mullauna College – Private Coaching (7 tables)
  - Other facilities are school facilities that are sometimes hired for social play.

Volleyball

- There are nine volleyball courts within the City of Whitehorse. However, the occupancy review of shared use courts, indicates the current volleyball court access is one court.
- Key facilities are:
  - Aqualink Box Hill – Three available multi-purpose courts for volleyball. The facility is mainly used by school groups.
  - Nunawading Christian College – Local school indoor sports stadium providing for unaffiliated social volleyball competition. One used for volleyball.

- Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre – Private regional indoor sports centre providing for indoor cricket, indoor netball, futsal, volleyball, pickleball, basketball and other sport and recreation activities. One court is used for volleyball.
- Sportlink – Four available multi-purpose courts for volleyball. However, limited court access is restricting the growth potential of volleyball at the facility.

Emerging Sports

- There are 26 sports courts and 18 multi-sport halls that are currently being used for a range of activities including emerging and other indoor sports. There are two specialised indoor climbing facilities.
- The key facilities that are currently being used are:
  - Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre – A private regional indoor sports centre providing for indoor cricket, indoor netball, futsal, volleyball, pickleball, basketball and other sport and recreation activities.
  - Urban Climb Blackburn – A private regional indoor climbing walls including one of Australia's best speed walls.
  - Pure All-Stars Cheerleading and Dance – A high quality private district cheer and dance studio,
  - Eastern Cheer and Dance Academy – A high quality private district cheer and dance studio.
  - Bounce Indoor Trampoline Park – A high quality district indoor trampolining and parkour facility.
- Pickleball is played in indoor and outdoor facilities. Within the City of Whitehorse, it is played at Sportlink and on the Heatherdale Tennis Club's outdoor court.

1.9 Catchment Mapping Analysis

A series of catchment maps were prepared for each indoor sport. These are provided for in the body of the report.

1.10 Provision Benchmarking Analysis

This section compares the provision of indoor courts for Whitehorse to:

1. The City of Monash
2. The City of Maroondah
3. The City of Greater Dandenong.

These three councils were selected for benchmarking due to their proximity to Whitehorse, location in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne and similar presence of key indoor court facilities such as Oakleigh Recreation Centre, Waverley Basketball Centre, Springers Leisure Centre, Dandenong Stadium, Maroondah Nets and Maroondah Rings.

The table below provides a comparison of the population to council-owned indoor courts ratio. The table above indicates that the City of Whitehorse is ranked third among the benchmarked councils, and the Whitehorse courts per resident are slightly higher (1:11,898) than the average (1:10,275) of the benchmarked councils.

Table 3: Indoor Court Provision Benchmarking

Council	No. of Indoor Council Courts	Population (2024)	Courts per resident	Rank
Whitehorse	15 (3 at Aqualink Box Hill) (4 at Sportlink) (5 at Nunawading Basketball Centre) (1 at Nunawading Community Hub) (2 at Slater Reserve)	178,477	1:11,898	3
Dandenong	24 (15 at Dandenong Stadium) (5 at Springers Leisure Centre) (4 at Gloria Pyke Netball Complex)	167,000	1:6,958	1
Maroondah	12 (4 at The Rings) (8 at Maroondah Nets)	119,308	1:9,942	2
Monash	17 (6 at Waverley Basketball Centre (5 at Oakleigh Recreation Centre) (4 at Waverley Netball Centre) (1 at Southern Community Centre) (1 at Brandon Park Reserve)	209,178	1:12,304	4

* Note – only indoor sports courts provision could be benchmarked from information provided by local councils.

The City of Whitehorse Active Communities Team preferred provision ratio for basketball and netball courts is one court per 5,000 people. This standard is consistent with other local government provision ratios (i.e. Hobson Bay and Casey). This ratio is not adopted by the Council.

Growth Areas Authority (GAA) Standards adopted for Community Infrastructure Planning for Victorian Growth Councils in April 2008 for indoor recreation centres and courts indicate:

- Level 1 Indoor stadium (1 court per 10,000 to 15,000 people).
- Level 2 Indoor stadium (2 courts per 20,000 to 30,000 people).
- Level 3 Indoor stadium (4-6 courts per 40,000 to 60,000 people).

This quantitative benchmarking analysis against provision ratio standards shows a current undersupply of indoor sports courts in Whitehorse that will grow if additional courts are not provided.

Table 4: Quantitative Indoor Sports Provision Benchmarking Assessment

Population	Number of public (Council owned) courts if applying Active communities/ local government ratio of 1 court: 5000 people	Shortfall of Council owned (public) courts	Number of public (Council owned) courts if applying GAA ratio of 1 court: 10,000 people	Shortfall of Council owned (public) courts
2024 – 178,477	36 courts	21 courts	18 courts	3 courts
2046 – 234,277	47 courts	32 courts	24 courts	9 courts

This quantitative assessment is one tool for assessing demand. The Otium Analytics Demand Analysis Model is also used for the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Play. This tool is a more detailed analysis that considers each sport individually, the capacity of current facilities servicing each sport, population by junior and senior age groups, programming frequency for junior and senior participants for each sport, etc.

1.11 Asset Review

A review of the Council-owned building condition register was completed to understand the building condition and fit-for-purpose rating as assessed by the Council for the following buildings:

- Eley Park Community Centre (Inc Avenue Neighbourhood House and Eley Park Pavilion)
- Sportlink
- Mahoneys Reserve North Pavilion
- Nunawading Gymnastics & Sports Club
- Slater Reserve Basketball Stadium
- Nunawading Basketball Centre.

This building condition and fit for purpose assessment involved a site inspection from a qualified building condition assessor and surveying user groups. In addition to the information below, Otium Planning Group conducted a visual assessment of 30 facilities including Council owned, schools and private facilities. The findings from this assessment are identified in the facility inventory.

Building Condition

The table below summarises the building conditions and remaining useful life of these facilities.

Table 5: Building Condition Assessments

Building Name	Date Inspected	Sub-component	Condition Rating	Remaining Useful Life
Eley Park Community Centre	14/12/2022	Ceiling	7	15
		Fitments	6	6
		Flooring	6	6
		Plumbing Fixtures	6	14
		Plumbing Services	6	6
		Wall Finish	6	4
		Downpipe	6	12
		Roofclad	6	12
		Ext-Clad	6	22
		Ext-Door	6	22
		Ext-Finish	6	4
		Int-Wall	6	18
		Ext-Path	5	28
		Signage	6	6
Sportlink	12/01/2023	Ceiling	6	20
		Fitments	6	6
		Flooring	6	6
		Downpipe	6	12
		Gutter	6	12
		Roofclad	7	9
		Ext-Clad	6	22
		Bound-Fence	6	10
Mahoneys Reserve North Pavilion	19/01/2023	Ceiling	7	15
		Fitments	6	6
		Plumb-Fix	6	14
		Plumb-Srv	6	6
		Roofclad	7	9
		Fire	6	6
		Mechanic	6	8

Building Name	Date Inspected	Sub-component	Condition Rating	Remaining Useful Life
		Ext-Clad	6	22
		Ext-Finish	6	4
		Int-Door	6	14
		Int-Wall	6	18
		Bound-Fence	6	10
		Carpark	6	8
Nunawading Gymnastics & Sports Club	18/01/2023	Ceiling	6	20
		Fitments	6	6
		Flooring	6	6
		Plumb-Fix	6	14
		Plumb-Srv	6	6
		Downpipe	6	12
		Gutter	6	12
		Electric	6	10
		Ext-Clad	6	22
		Ext-Door	6	22
		Ext-Finish	6	4
		Int-Door	6	14
		Staircase	6	20
		Ext-Path	6	22
Slater Reserve Basketball Stadium	10/01/2023	Ceiling	6	20
		Fitments	6	6
		Plumb-Fix	6	14
		Downpipe	6	12
		Gutter	6	12
		Roofclad	9	2
		Mechanic	6	8
		Ext-Door	6	22
Nunawading Basketball Centre	09/01/2023	Ext-Clad	6	22
		Ext-Finish	6	4

A review of the table above indicates:

- Nearly all building components were rated 6 or 7, except the **Slater Reserve roof cladding** which was rated as a 9.
- The **Slater Reserve roof cladding** was identified in January 2023 as only having two years of useful remaining life.
- Otherwise, most facilities identified various maintenance and renewal items ranging from 4 to 28 years of useful remaining life.

Fit for Purpose

The following table presents the key findings from the fit-for-purpose assessment for each facility, conducted by the Council and captured in the building condition register.

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Table 6: Fit for Purpose Assessment

Facility	Eley Park Community Centre (incl. Avenue Neighbourhood House and Eley Park Pavilion)	Mahoneys Reserve North Pavilion	Nunawading Gymnastics & Sports Club	Slater Reserve Basketball Stadium	Nunawading Basketball Centre	Nunawading Community Hub	Aqualink Box Hill
Is the facility capable of handling intended use	Overall, the facility was assessed as capable of handling its intended use.	Overall, the facility was assessed as capable of handling its intended use.	Overall, the facility was assessed as **NOT** capable of handling its intended use.	Overall, the facility was assessed as capable of handling its intended use.	Overall, the facility was assessed as **NOT** capable of handling its intended use.	Overall, the facility was assessed as capable of handling its intended use.	Overall, the facility was assessed as **NOT** capable of handling its intended use.
Functional issues with facilities	More storage is required in the kitchen.	Upstairs is cricket and downstairs is activities club, table tennis etc.	They are at capacity as there is a high demand for more members. There is a wait list.	Office is small and has no airflow /ventilation or windows.	Capacity issues. Having to use alternative venues as they cannot service the numbers and clubs.	The NCH is a fully accessible centre with lift, ramps built with the community in mind.	No further commentary was provided in the assessment.
	Toilets require an upgrade.	Each storage room is for different uses but the space per user group isn't enough.	Too much equipment in the space. The facility is too small.	Meeting room get used for seminars and childminding facilities.	Heat and condensation when it is cold or hot plays a part on whether the games are cancelled.	Additional storage required (clients asked to bring and take their equipment with them).	
		Leaking issues, aged facilities, no hot water, there is a step down into the toilets which is dangerous and an OHS issue.	The cooling is inadequate. They have to cancel classes on hot days.	Not enough cooling. The stadium becomes very hot on a sunny day, so heat rules apply, causing cancellations. Court 2 is hotter.	The facility requires more storage.	Change room and shower toilets connected to the stadium.	
		The Kitchen is not used for its intended purpose downstairs.		Due to humidity, the floors are slippery. In winter, when it rains with wind, there are	Need bigger evaporative cooling and fans to move the air. Fans needed for		

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Facility	Eley Park Community Centre (incl. Avenue Neighbourhood House and Eley Park Pavilion)	Mahoneys Reserve North Pavilion	Nunawading Gymnastics & Sports Club	Slater Reserve Basketball Stadium	Nunawading Basketball Centre	Nunawading Community Hub	Aqualink Box Hill
		Upstairs kitchen is used a lot.		leaks, or when there has been frost and then sunshine, the courts leak.	condensation on court 3 in winter months.		
				The change room and shower facilities do not meet the current standards. Both have no privacy and fully open change rooms.	Disabled parking is inadequate and incorrectly located.		
				Slater Reserve does not meet current stadium requirements for the Vikings Big V competition (Seating requirements).	Insufficient CCTV coverage over car park.		
				Need more disabled parking as there is only one.			

* **Note**: Fit for purpose information for Sportslinks was not provided.

1.12 Key Findings of Facilities Review



The City of Whitehorse has a good level of indoor sports facility provision that offers a range of programs and services at facilities servicing local, district and regional catchments



Some indoor sports facilities in the City of Whitehorse require renewal and don't meet current facility standards



Indoor sports facilities in the City of Whitehorse are near capacity

The City of Whitehorse has a good level of indoor sports facility provision that offers a range of programs and services at facilities servicing local, district and regional catchments

There are 75 indoor sports facilities offering sports courts for basketball, netball, volleyball, futsal, badminton and emerging sports like pickleball and sports halls for gymnastics, callisthenics, cheer/dance, combat sports and fencing.

These facilities are provided by Council, schools and private operators and all play a key role in supporting indoor sports participation in Whitehorse. Key facilities include:

- Nunawading Basketball Centre – A regional five-court basketball stadium that is home to one of Australia's largest basketball associations.
- Sportlink - A regional four-court stadium plus four covered outdoor netball courts. Sportlink is a multi-sport stadium that supports netball, basketball, futsal and pickleball. It is home to one of Victoria's largest netball associations.
- Aqualink Box Hill - A district three-court multi-sport stadium. The facility includes the stadium and an aquatic and leisure centre.
- Slater Reserve – A two-court indoor stadium used for basketball and netball.
- Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre – A private regional indoor sports centre providing for indoor cricket, indoor netball, futsal, volleyball, pickleball, basketball and other sport and recreation activities.
- Melbourne Badminton Centre – A private high-quality nine court badminton facility.
- Mitcham Badminton Centre – A private high-quality 12 court badminton facility.
- Eastern Gymnastics Club – A private district gymnastics facility with two gymnastics halls.
- Pure All-Stars Cheerleading and Dance – A private regional cheer and dance studio.
- Urban Climb Blackburn – A private regional indoor climbing walls including one of Australia's best speed walls.

Some indoor sports facilities in the City of Whitehorse require renewal and don't meet current facility standards

There are 51 indoor sports courts in Whitehorse. Only four Council courts, located at Sportlink, are compliant (run off not to netball court dimensions – largest court size that accommodate all indoor sports). The runoff for all other Council courts is non-compliant on sides and ends for basketball and netball competition.

Court compliance ensures the safety, accessibility and functionality of the facility in meeting the competition requirements of sports and building codes. Compliance not only reflects a commitment to safety and fair access for all users but also shields facility owners and operators from legal liabilities.

Most indoor sports facilities have access to basic support infrastructure including change rooms and toilets. In general, there is access to unisex change rooms and toilets however they are small in size. Administration, meeting room, storage and corridors are small and there are access issues. This is particularly the case at the Nunawading Basketball Association and Slater Reserve Stadium. The exception is Sportlink which has good size dimensions and the new Nunawading Community Hub, which is designed to contemporary standards and to a high treatment level.

The key Council asset condition concerns are:

- Sportlink indoor courts are compliant, however are showing deterioration and have experienced water damage. These will require renewal in the short to medium term.
- The run offs at the Nunawading Basketball Centre, Slater Reserve Stadium and Aqualink Box Hill courts are non-compliant on side and end for basketball and netball.
- Nunawading Gymnastics Centre is located at Walker Park. The building is in poor condition, it is not fit for purpose (i.e. facility is inaccessible), has inadequate cooling and requires replacement in the short term.
- The Slater Reserve stadium roof cladding was identified in January 2023 as only having two years of useful remaining life. Slater Reserve has a small office with no airflow/ventilation or window, inadequate cooling, humidity, rain and condensation issues which cause slippery floors, insufficient seating, and poor changeroom amenities.
- The Nunawading Basketball Centre is aged and does not meet current design standards for indoor courts. The facility has capacity issues i.e. it cannot service the numbers and clubs, there are heating and condensation issues, insufficient cooling, inadequate storage and disabled parking and CCTV.
- There are no asset concerns at the new Nunawading Community Hall court and studios. They are in excellent condition and are well used by U3A and a variety of other sport and recreation groups such as fencing.

Indoor sports facilities in the City of Whitehorse are near capacity

Otium spoke with facility providers and visited 30 key indoor sports facilities. A consistent theme was that these facilities were operating at a very high occupancy rate (80+%) and that providers received regular requests to use facilities, but there was no time to accommodate new use. Occupancy schedules for Council facilities support this finding and are included in **Appendix 3**.

Access to additional courts and sports halls will be required to support all indoor sports including fencing, combat sports and emerging sports like pickleball. Future development of Council indoor sports facilities should consider access to courts and sports halls for these sports.

This quantitative benchmarking analysis found Whitehorse currently provides 1 court for every 11,898 people. When compared to the City of Monash (1 court: 12,304), City of Maroondah (1 court: 9,942) and City of Greater Dandenong (1 court: 6,958) and applying local government and Growth Area Authority provision ratio standards, this suggests a current shortfall in provision of indoor sports courts.

Appendix 6: Demand Assessment Paper

This Demand Assessment Paper reviews the current and future demand for indoor sports facilities in the City of Whitehorse.

1.13 Demographic Review

The following key population and demographic characteristics and trends will influence indoor sport and recreation participation within Whitehorse.

The resident profile is based wherever possible on the 2021 ABS Census data and has been sourced from .id, an online company that analyses ABS Census data.

Population

- The City of Whitehorse population is growing rapidly. The current population of 178,639 (2023) has grown by 8,998 people since 2016 and is expected to reach 234,277 by 2046, representing a 31% growth (Source: .id – informed decisions).
- There is a large proportion of the Whitehorse population that fall into the 5-49 years old age bracket that are most likely to make regular use of sports facilities. This age cohort accounts for 102,224 persons or 59.7% of the 2021 population and will grow to 143,935 persons by 2046, 61.4% of the population. This age bracket is also typical of those members of the population who would typically utilise and participate in indoor sports and recreation activities.
- Compared to Greater Melbourne, there is a growing number of young people aged 0 to 17 years (24%) that shows an increasing demand for junior programs and competitions.
- There is a higher proportion of people aged 50 years and older (36.2%) when compared to Greater Melbourne (32%). There will be a demand for social and therapy based indoor sport programs from this age group.
- Please note that the Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) population projections and recently adopted Victoria's Housing Statements (that sets a goal of 800,000 new homes over a decade) are excluded from the above population forecast. There is no specific population data on the impact of SLR that will increase future housing, employment and development densities in the Box Hill Metropolitan Activity Centre and Burwood Major Activity Centre. These areas are likely to be a focus of the Housing Statement's implementation in Whitehorse.

Diversity

- Indoor sports and recreation are popular across all cultures across the world. As of the 2021 Census, cultural diversity is higher within the Whitehorse with 41.5% of residents being born overseas, compared to 35.7% in Greater Melbourne.
- The proportion of residents who speak a language other than English at home within the Whitehorse (40.5%) is higher than the proportion of residents who speak a language other than English at home in Greater Melbourne (34.1%).
- There are over 150 cultures represented in Whitehorse, particularly from those born from China, India and Malaysia. Indoor sports like table tennis and badminton are popular in these countries that is translating to increasing participation for these sports in Whitehorse.

Disadvantage and Social Capital

- Whitehorse ranks as the 12th most advantaged Local Government Authority using the SEIFA index score. Whitehorse scores 1,049 on the index, whilst in comparison the Victorian average score is 1010 and the Greater Melbourne average score is 1021.
- There are pockets of disadvantage in Whitehorse with Box Hill recording a SEIFA index of 991. Providing access to affordable sports facilities and services will be important for this community.

1.14 Local Participation

To gain an insight into the local participation level of indoor sports in the City of Whitehorse, three participation assessments were undertaken:

1. **AusPlay –** In October 2023, the Australian Sports Commission commenced the AusPlay survey, a large-scale national survey to track the sporting behaviours and activities of the Australian population.

   Using the AusPlay Participation Survey for weekly participation rates of organised sport, it has been estimated that there are 33,574 Whitehorse City Council participants across the eleven identified indoor sports. This will grow to 45,343 participants by 2046; therefore, an additional 11,769 indoor sport participants are projected in the next 20 years. Please note that emerging sports like sport climbing and pickleball were not assessed due to insufficient data.

2. **State Sporting Associations -** State Sporting Associations (SSAs) were invited to supply registered participation data and identify key demands and opportunities. Of the eleven indoor sports only five SSAs were able to provide participation data for the City of Whitehorse. Three additional SSAs being Football (Soccer), Netball and Cricket could only provide participation data on their mainstream activity being outdoors. It was too difficult to obtain information for Martial Arts as it doesn't have an overarching peak body, and the activity is highly commercially driven. The SSA participation data obtained is reflected in each sport's State of Play. This information was not reliable enough to use as the input data for the demand modelling.

3. **Local Participation Data –** Indoor sports participation data was obtained from clubs, groups and associations operating independently of council involvement via leases, hiring of venues or commercial operations. This information while not completely reliable to use as the input data, the data obtained was an important ground truthing of participation for demand modelling.

   Based on the Whitehorse club and association database, 77 local indoor sporting clubs and associations were invited to participate in the Local Sporting Clubs online survey. The survey asked for information on membership/participation numbers.

   Of the 77 clubs/association, 29 responses were received, which was a good response, however information on local participation numbers was still lacking. As a result, a significant amount of consultant and officer time was spent directly gathering participation data from clubs, associations, groups, leisure services and commercial operators. We were able to gain some insights to local participation, which is reflected in each sport's State of Play. This information was not reliable enough to use as the input data for the demand modelling.

City of Whitehorse Organised Indoor Sport Participation

The AusPlay Participation Survey reports high participation rates in physical activity and sport within the City of Whitehorse (92.9% participation rate for adults and 69.1% for children) on this finding, we can assume that the State or National participation rates for major indoor sports is likely, if there are enough fit-for-purpose sports facilities provided.

Using the AusPlay Participation Survey for weekly participation rates of organised sport, it has been identified that there are currently an estimated 33,574 participants across the eleven identified indoor

sports. This will grow to 45,343 participants by 2046. An additional 11,769 indoor sport participants are projected in the next 20 years. Please note that emerging sports like sport climbing and pickleball were not assessed due to insufficient data.

The table on the following page shows the projected participation for the proposed major participation sports for the Whitehorse population in 2021, 2031 and 2046 (Source: .id – informed decisions).

Table 7: Participation Projections 2024/2036/2041

Sport	Current SSA Registered Participation	Local participation	AusPlay Participation Rate (State or National Rate)	AusPlay Participation Rate applied to 2021 Population	AusPlay Participation Rate applied to 2031 Population	AusPlay Participation Rate applied to 2046 Population
Badminton	307	High number of unaffiliated badminton players 6 clubs / associations 2 providers	Adults 2.00% Children 15.60%	6,978	7,563	9,193
Basketball	7,019	MEBA membership 12,279 and 15 clubs 2 other clubs in Whitehorse competing in other Associations	Adults 4.20% Children 13.70%	9,387	10,765	12,988
Calisthenics	298	298 1 club in Whitehorse 1 club servicing Whitehorse located in neighbouring LGAs	Adults 0.02% Children 0.30%	108	113	138
Indoor Cricket	Not available	Approximately 536 players 1 provider running competitions in Whitehorse	Indoor and outdoor cricket: Adults 2.60% Children 4.80% *15% of the overall participation is Indoor Cricket	719	851	1,023
Fencing	Not available	Approximately 280 players across 3 clubs	Adults 0.09% Children 0.06%	143	176	210
Futsal	Not available	Approximately 695 futsal participants High number of unaffiliated futsal players 2 providers running competitions in Whitehorse	Adults 3.70% Children 9.30% *39% of the overall participation is Futsal	2,927	3,408	4,104

10.2 – ATTACHMENT 2. Draft Indoor Sports Plan Appendices

Sport	Current SSA Registered Participation	Local participation	AusPlay Participation Rate (State or National Rate)	AusPlay Participation Rate applied to 2021 Population	AusPlay Participation Rate applied to 2031 Population	AusPlay Participation Rate applied to 2046 Population
Gymnastics	1,927	2,326 across two clubs in Whitehorse 2 clubs servicing Whitehorse located in neighbouring LGAs	Adults 0.45% Children 13.50%	4,331	4,384	5,379
Martial Arts	Not available No central peak body	7 martial arts providers plus 3 Tai Chi providers	Adults 1.72% Children 0.88%	2,537	3,138	3,751
Netball	3,153	Whitehorse Netball Association membership 3,153	Adults 3.20% Children 6.70% *30% of the overall participation is Indoor Netball	1,836	2,159	2,597
Table Tennis	183	Estimated 1,250 unaffiliated and affiliated players	Adults 0.35% Children 11.10%	3,534	3,571	4,383
Volleyball	Not available	High number of unaffiliated volleyball players Alliance Volleyball has 171 members 4 local social volleyball providers 2 regional associations servicing Whitehorse located in neighbouring LGAs	Adults 0.70% Children 0.51%	1,074	1,318	1,577
Total				**33,574**	**37,446**	**45,343**

* Football Australia and Netball Australia National Participation Reports
** There are no local participation data or an AusPlay participation rate for emerging sports, pickleball and sport climbing

The section below summarises the participation for each sport in Whitehorse. For those sports that supplied data, participation has increased over the last five years.

Badminton

- Badminton Victoria reports 307 registered players within the City of Whitehorse. However, there is a high proportion of unaffiliated badminton players that participate locally.
- Badminton is provided for by local clubs, associations and private providers, some of which are unaffiliated with Badminton Victoria.
- Badminton clubs and associations include:
  - Thornburn Ladies Badminton Club – Thornburn Ladies Badminton Club is the only club within Whitehorse City Council affiliated with Badminton Victoria. In 2024 the club had 63 registered senior women players. Membership has declined in recent years from 73 members in 2019/20. The club's main venue is Nunawading Community Hub.
  - Deakin Badminton Club – The club has 60 members (40 senior men and 20 senior women) in 2024. The club's main venue is Melbourne Badminton Centre, the second venue is Deakin Indoor Sports Stadium, and they have also hired local primary school sports stadiums.
  - Elite Sports Association - The association operates from the Mitcham Badminton Centre. The club offers coaching, pathways programs and competition.
  - Infinity Badminton Association - The association operates from the Mitcham Badminton Centre. The club offers coaching, pathways programs and competition.
  - JT Ultra Badminton Association – The association operates from the Melbourne Badminton Centre. The club offers coaching, pathways programs and competition.
  - Whitehorse Activities Club – The club hosts social badminton weekly at Mahoneys Reserve Pavilion. The program attracts about 10 people.
- There are two major private badminton centres that provides for casual hire, coaching, group bookings and social events:
  - Mitcham Badminton Centre - Mitcham Badminton reports 1,547 members across their social mornings (817) and night court (730) categories. The Centre has 200 registered members playing weekly. The courts are booked out every evening on weekdays and during the day on weekends. They estimate 150 visits per day, equating to 54,000 annual visits. The Centre recorded 4,590 bookings for individuals, groups and schools in 2024.
  - Melbourne Badminton Centre – Melbourne Badminton Centre reports over 5,000 customers registered on their booking website with courts booked out every evening on weekdays and during the day on weekends. The facility hosts A-One Badminton Academy and Pro Badminton Academy and several clubs and local level competitions. There are 70 regular users that play at least once a week.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 6,978 badminton participants in Whitehorse in 2021 which will grow to 7,563 in 2031 and 9,193 in 2046.

Basketball

- There are currently 7,019 Basketball Victoria-registered participants in Whitehorse, excluding those involved in non-registered development programs. The registered State Sports Association participation rate for the Whitehorse population is 4.36%.
- The Melbourne East Basketball Association (MEBA) is the primary basketball association within the City of Whitehorse and operates out of the Nunawading Basketball Stadium (NBS). The NBS is

a regional level facility, located within East Burwood Reserve. MEBA has approximately 12,279 members, half of whom reside outside the City of Whitehorse.

- The MEBA Domestic Competition is run as follows:
  - Senior Domestic – Monday-Thursday Evenings.
  - Junior Domestic – Saturdays. The junior domestic competition is referred to as the Greater Eastern Basketball Conference (GEBC). This is a competition run in partnership with the Ringwood Basketball Association.
- MEBA has 15 affiliated clubs participating in competitions:
  - Ashwood Wolves
  - Blackburn Vikings – Complete in MEBA on Mondays and Fridays. The club also competes in the Eastern District Junior Basketball Association (EDJBA) on Saturdays.
  - Donvale Dunkers
  - E Bees
  - Eastern Bulls
  - Huntingtower Heat
  - Syndal Storm
  - Mitcham Thunder – Compete in MEBA. The club also competes in the EDJBA and GEBC.
  - Mulgrave Mambas
  - Nunawading Kangas
  - Vermont Vultures
  - Wattle Park Saints
  - Waverley Basketball Club
  - Waverley Raiders
  - Waverley Wildcats.
- In addition to this, the MEBA representative team is the Nunawading Spectres.
- The City of Whitehorse is also home to other basketball clubs that participate in other basketball associations. These clubs include Blackburn Vikings and Mitcham Thunder identified above and:
  - Koonung Comets - Compete in EDJBA on Saturdays with weekly training sessions.
  - Whitehorse Mustangs - Compete in EDJBA and the Greater Eastern Basketball Conference (GEBC) on Saturdays.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 9,387 basketball participants in Whitehorse in 2021 which is anticipated to grow to 10,765 in 2031 and 12,988 in 2046.

Calisthenics

- There are currently 298 calisthenics Victoria-registered participants in Whitehorse. The registered participation rate is 0.19%.
- Calisthenics participation in Victoria has increased by 13.1% from 6,928 participants in 2020 to 7,836 in 2023. Calisthenics Victoria report that this trend is being realised in the City of Whitehorse.
- There are two clubs that service Whitehorse:

  - Blackburn Calisthenics College has 160 members in 2024. This club is affiliated with Calisthenics Victoria.
  - Regent Calisthenics is located just outside the boundary of the City of Whitehorse. It is the second largest club in Victoria and services Whitehorse residents.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 108 calisthenics participants in Whitehorse in 2021, which is anticipated to grow to 113 by 2031 and 138 by 2046. This comparison against the actual Whitehorse registered calisthenics participants shows a significantly higher participation rate and proportion than the State average.

Cricket (Indoor)

- Cricket Victoria does not provide data on registered indoor cricket players due to the commercial nature of the activity.
- Indoor cricket competition in Whitehorse is provided at the Box Hill Indoor Sports Centre, a private operator. The Centre is very well used seven days a week and hosts indoor cricket competitions, including eight senior divisions with 37 registered teams playing three nights per week and Sunday evenings; and junior grades three to 10 with 30 teams playing four afternoons each week. Each team has a minimum of eight players, so it is assumed there are 536 indoor cricket participants in Whitehorse.
- Cricket Victoria reports that outdoor cricket participation in Whitehorse has increased across all categories of participants including junior and master blasters, juniors and seniors over the past three years. There are 3,585 junior and senior players participating in teams and 891 participants in the junior and master blaster program.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 4,794 cricket participants in Whitehorse (indoor and outdoor) in 2021 that is anticipated to grow to 5,675 by 2031 and 6,820 by 2046.

Fencing

- There are approximately 280 fencing participants in Whitehorse.
- There are three fencing clubs in the City of Whitehorse:
  - The Blacklords Fencing Club uses the Whitehorse Club. They are one of the largest and most successful fencing clubs in Victoria with 70 members. Pre-Covid-19 the membership was 120 members, which dropped to 30 members post-Covid-19. It is likely the membership will grow to pre-Covid-19 levels. The membership is culturally diverse with 40% of members women, special needs fencers and across a wide range of age groups.
  - The Victorian Fencing Academy operates from Box Hill and North Melbourne. They report 11 participants in Whitehorse.
  - The Whitehorse Chevaliers book the Nunawading Community Hub at least twice a week. About 100 participants attend their sessions.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 143 fencing participants in Whitehorse 2021 which will grow to 175 in 2031 and 210 in 2046.

Futsal

- Football Victoria does not provide data on registered futsal players due to the commercial nature of the activity.
- The Box Hill Indoor Action Centre offers futsal competition on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday. There are five divisions with 42 teams (210 players) on Monday, three divisions with 26 teams (130 players) on Wednesday, one division with six teams (30 players) on Thursday and one

division with five teams (25 players). An approximate total of 395 futsal players playing weekly, year-round.

- Futsal Super 5's competition is run from Sportlink on Sunday (Men's – 16 teams), Tuesdays (Men's – 20 teams) and Wednesday (Mixed – 16 teams and Men's – 8 teams). There are approximately 300 people playing futsal each week.
- The competition and most teams are not affiliated with Football Victoria. However, there are two futsal clubs in the City of Whitehorse which are affiliated with Football Victoria - Kingston Royals Futsal Club and Nunawading City Owls Futsal Club.
- Soccer participation generally has increased by 146.05% from 608 participants in 2020 to 1,496 in 2024. Football Victoria report that although these figures represent soccer, futsal participation growth has also grown exponentially, with the provision of futsal being provided by both affiliated clubs and private providers.
- Given the high demand for access to existing indoor sports facilities, there are limited access opportunities for futsal to use indoor courts, impacting their ability to grow the sport.
- The Football Australia National Participation Report identifies that 39% of overall soccer participants are futsal players. If applied to Whitehorse soccer participants, the number of Futsal players is approximately 583. This current registered participation converted to a participation rate is 0.36%.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 2,927 futsal participants in Whitehorse in 2021 which will grow to 3,408 in 2031 and 4,104 in 2046.

Gymnastics

- There are currently 2,326 Gymnastics Victoria-registered participants in Whitehorse. The registered participation translates to a rate of 1.2%. This does not account for club members participating in non-affiliated gymnastics programs.
- There are two gymnastics clubs in the City of Whitehorse:
  - Eastern Gymnastics Club runs senior and junior training and competitions seven days a week (Weekdays daytime and evenings, Saturday daytime, Sunday evenings). Membership has remained stable.
  - Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club have 500-550 members. They operate senior and junior training and competitions and programs. Programs are offered to all age groups from beginner to intermediate levels.
- There are two large gymnastics clubs in neighbouring municipalities (Manningham) that also service Whitehorse residents - BTYC and Burwood United Gymnastics Squad.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 4,331 gymnastics participants in Whitehorse in 2021 that will grow to 4,384 in 2031 and 5,379 in 2046.

Martial Arts

- Registered participation data for martial arts is unavailable due to the lack of an integrated peak representative body and the commercial nature of the activity.
- There are seven martial arts sports providers in the City of Whitehorse including:
  - Blackburn Karate Club runs a karate program seven days a week, year-round for children (5-8 years), young people (9-15 years), adults (16 years and above), and fitness classes.

  - Gracie Jiu-Jitsu in Burwood runs seven days a week, year- round for pre-school (3-5 years), children (5-12 years), teen and adult classes, women only classes, black belt club and private lessons.
  - Hung Gar Yau Shu Arts School in Nunawading runs weekly martial arts classes for students aged 12 years and above on Saturdays.
  - Kando Martial Arts Club in Nunawading runs seven days a week, year-round for pre-school (3-5 years), children (5-12 years), teenagers, adults, and cardio kickboxing classes.
  - Mitcham Aikido School in Mitcham runs weekly martial arts classes for students aged 12 years and above on Saturdays.
  - Whitehorse Shotokan Karate-Do Australia in Mont Albert runs weekly martial arts classes.
  - Wado Ryu Karate in Box Hill operates from Aqualink Box Hill on Thursdays for junior and adults' classes.
- Tai Chi is also a martial art but is not recognised as a sport in Australia. Tai Chi providers in the city of Whitehorse include:
  - Blackburn Tai Chi Academy – The Academy reports 12 senior men and 14 senior women in 2024. They operate Monday evenings between February to early December from St Luke's Church Hall Blackburn South.
  - Celestial Tai Chi College – The College report 98 senior men and 479 senior women in 2024. Membership has increased since 2019. They operate weekday evenings year-round from St Peter's Anglican Church Hall. They operate weekday evenings year- round from St Peter's Anglican Church Hall.
  - Taichi for Life in Forest Hill runs seven days a week and year-round for children, young people and adult classes across Tai Chi, Wushu, Qigong martial arts.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 2,537 martial arts participants in Whitehorse in 2021, growing to 3,138 by 2031 and 3,751 by 2046.

Netball

- There are currently 3,153 Netball Victoria-registered participants in Whitehorse, which translates to a participation rate of 1.8%.
- Netball competition is played on indoor and outdoor sports courts. The competition is administered through both Netball Associations and Football and Netball Leagues.
- The Whitehorse Netball Association (WNA) is the primary netball competition in Whitehorse, operating out of Sportlink. There are sixteen clubs affiliated with the WNA. These are:
  - Aces
  - Blackburn South
  - Blackburn Primary
  - Hi-Lites
  - Holy Saviour
  - Ignite
  - Laburnum
  - OOPS
  - Parkmore

  - St. Luke's Rosellas
  - St. Scholastica's
  - St. Thomas
  - St. Timothy's
  - Surrey Hills
  - WCNC.
- The WNA also has a representative team who utilise Sportlink as a training facility, playing matches at the Waverley Netball Centre, located in the City of Monash.
- Slater Reserve Netball Association (SRNA) is a small Association. They offer two senior competitions on a Wednesday and Friday evening with 4-5 teams competing on each night.
- There are sixteen neighbouring netball associations within adjacent municipalities where participants from the City of Whitehorse participate.
- Social netball competitions are also played mid-week at Sportlink and Box Hill Indoor Action Centre.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 1,836 netball participants in Whitehorse in 2021, growing to 2,159 in 2031 and 2,597 in 2046.

Table Tennis

- Table Tennis Victoria reports 183 registered players within the City of Whitehorse. However, there are approximately 1,250 (affiliated and unaffiliated) players who play competitively or socially or are coached every week for around 48 weeks of the year within the City of Whitehorse. The current registered participation converted to a participation rate is 0.92%.
- This participation is provided by clubs/associations, community organisations and private coaches. Many players play multiple times during the week and may pay their fees at different locations, so their membership is then tied to that association.
- The Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association (ESCTTA) is the main table tennis competition in the City of Whitehorse. In 2023/24, the Association had 64 members.
- There are also unaffiliated clubs, social competitions and private table tennis coaches operating in the City of Whitehorse. These include private coaches: Scorpio Table Tennis Academy, Box Hill Table Tennis Centre, The Disruptor Coach (play at Vermont Primary School) and Smythe Table Tennis (Play at Sportlink).
- The following clubs/associations and private coaches provided data:
  - Balwyn United Table Tennis Incorporated has 69 players (25 men, 28 boys, 7 women and 9 girls).
  - Deakin Table Tennis Club has 65 players (51 men, 10 women and 4 non-binary).
  - Mark Smythe Table Tennis coaches 78 players (48 men, 19 boys, 8 women and 3 girls).
  - The Disruptor Club Incorporated coaches 45 players (28 men and 30 boys).
  - Scorpio Table Tennis Academy coaches 223 players.
  - Whitehorse Activities Club has 600 members (200 men and 400 women). This club hosts a range of activities including social table tennis.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 3,534 table tennis participants in Whitehorse in 2021, which will grow to 3,571 in 2031 and 4,383 in 2046.

Volleyball

- There is no volleyball association or competition in Whitehorse affiliated with Volleyball Victoria. Currently, the sport is delivered by private providers in Whitehorse
- Volleyball is played weekly at Sportlink. There are social groups that regularly book a court on weekday evenings.
- Deakin University Volleyball Club trains every Friday night in the HB gym at the Burwood Campus and plays social matches on Sundays.
- The Alliance Volleyball Club is a large club that services Whitehorse. They have 171 members which includes 66 juniors. The average age of members is 22 years and 34.3% are girls and women.
- In addition to unaffiliated competitions played in Whitehorse, affiliated volleyball associations run competitions at facilities bordering Whitehorse, including Mullum Mullum Stadium (Manningham) and Maroondah Nets (Maroondah).
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 1,074 volleyball participants in Whitehorse in 2021 which will grow to 1,318 by 2031 and 1,577 by 2046.
- Volleyball consistently ranks among the top five most popular sports and is often reported as the most gender-equal sport in Victoria and Australia. In 2023, Volleyball was ranked the third most participated sport in Victorian Secondary Schools, reflecting its appeal across broad student communities, including underrepresented and minority groups, with strong all-ability appeal for both the game and officiating.

Emerging Indoor Sports

- Within the City of Whitehorse there are several emerging activities that are using indoor sport facilities. These include:
  - Cheer
  - Sport Climbing
  - Pickleball and Paddle Ball.
- Pure All-Stars Cheerleading and Dance and Eastern Cheer and Dance Academy have a high membership base within Whitehorse and drawing members from outside the municipality.
- Sport Climbing Australia reports that Urban Climb Blackburn is recognised as one of Australia's highly regarded facilities and attracts high usage across the week, including hosting national speed wall climbing events.
- With the recent introduction of pickleball the operators of Sportlink and Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre report growing interest and participation.

1.15 State and National Participation

Since 2001, data has been collected on participation in exercise, recreation and sport by adults aged 15 years and over. Consistent data was collected via the Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS) between 2001 and 2010. Similar data was collected by the ABS between 2011 and 2014. The AusPlay Survey was introduced by the Australian Sports Commission in 2015 and collects sports participation data for children aged 0-14 and adults aged 15 and over. The latest data was released in October 2022, with results for the 2021-22 financial year. Annually, about 20,000 interviews are conducted with adults aged 15 and over and about 3,500 interviews with parents/guardians of children under 15 years of age.

The AusPlay survey results are summarised in this section.

Key physical activity participation statistics from AusPlay show:

- Children (0-14 years) are getting back to regular participation, at least 1+ per week. 42% of children participated in organised out-of-school hours sport and physical activity in 2020/21 increasing to 47% in 2021/22. This shows participation levels in organised sport and physical activity is returning to pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels.
- Mental health is a growing motivator of participation across all age groups and genders.
- Inactive adult Australians reporting that physical activity is not a priority has increased from 7% in 2020/21 to 11% in 2021/22.
- Adult participation in sport and physical activity remained at similar levels since 2016/17 to 2021/22:
  - 81% of adults participate at least 1+per week in 2021/22 compared to 80% in 2020/21 and 81% in 2016/17.
  - 41% of adults participate in sport-related activity at least 1+ per week in 2021/22 compared to 41% in 2020/21 and 42% in 2016/17.
  - 21% of adults participate through a sports club or association at least 1+ per week in 2021/22 compared to 21% in 2020/21 and 21% in 2016/17.
- Physical health and fitness remain the primary motivators for 83% of 15+ year olds and for all ages and abilities. A greater percentage of 15–19-year-olds recorded health and fitness as their motivation, the most significant increase (14%) of all age/ability groups from 62%-84% between 2016/17 and 2021/22.
- Nearly double the percentage of the population were motivated by mental health benefits over the same period, increasing by 15% from 16% to 31%. This trend occurred equally across all age/ability groups apart from the 55+ age group for whom the increase was 11%.
- Fun and enjoyment have continued to be the second most significant motivator for engagement in physical activity across all age and ability groups (46%), the increase being more significant in the 55+, LOTE (Language other than English) and disability cohorts. However, it continues to be the primary motivator for 70% of 15-19-year-olds, followed by fitness and health.
- Young people 15-19 (39%) are also more motivated by the social benefits compared to the general population (39%). Benefits associated with being in the outdoors is now significantly more important to females (23%) than males (17%) than in 2016/17 when it was important to 16% of females and 13% of males.
- Poor health or injury (27%), not enough time/too many other commitments (24%) and not a priority (11%) are major barriers to participation.

- Children participation (0-14 years) in sport and physical activity has increased in the last 12 months but still below 2016/17 levels:
  - 47% of children participate in out-of-school hours sport and physical activity at least 1+per week in 2021/22 compared to 42% in 2020/21 and 62% in 2016/17.
  - 43% of children participate in out-of-school hours sport and physical activity at least 1+ per week in 2021/22 compared to 37% in 2020/21 and 57% in 2016/17.
  - 43% of children participate through a sports club or association at least 1+ per week in 2021/22 compared to 41% in 2020/21 and 46% in 2016/17.

The following figure shows the adult frequency of participation rates:

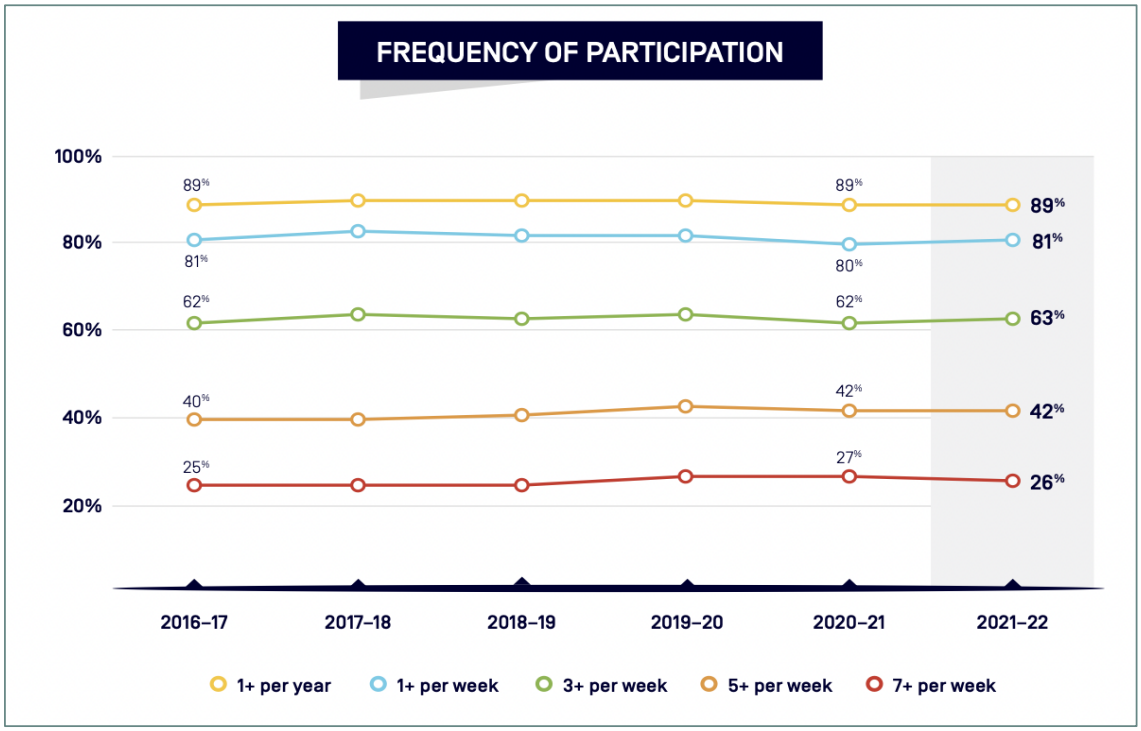


Figure 6: Adult Frequency of Participation Rates 2016/17 to 2021/22

The figure below shows the children frequency of participation rates:

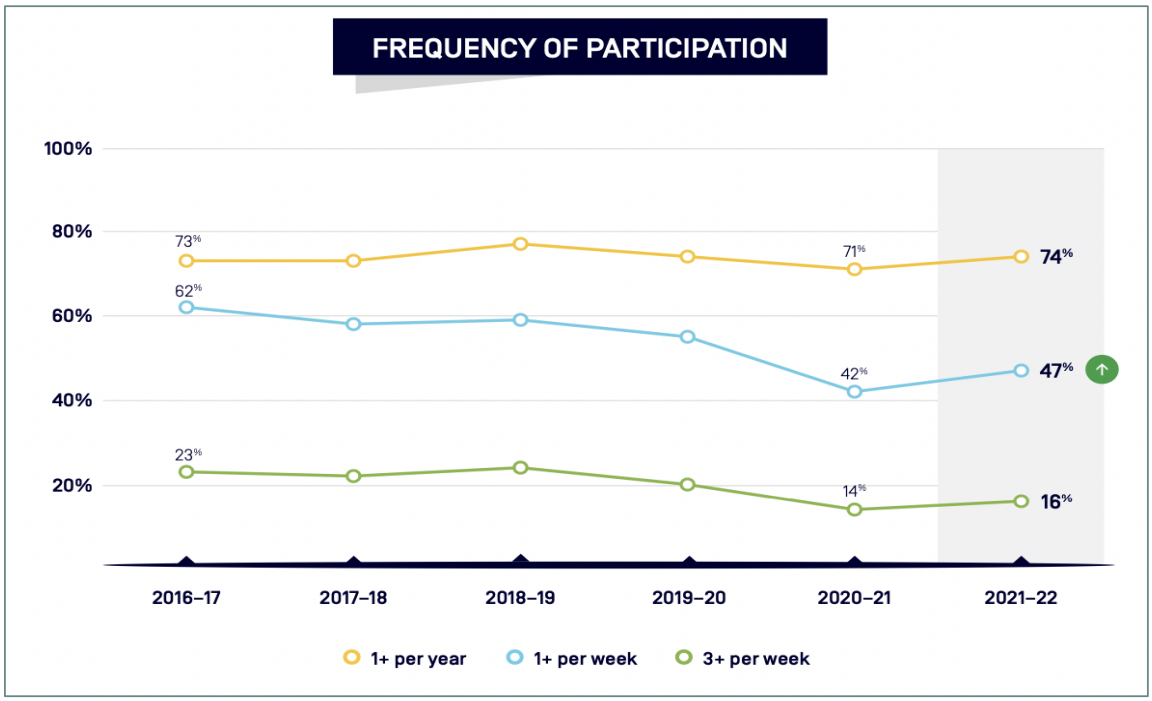


Figure 7: Children Frequency of Participation Rates 2016/17 to 2021/22

Ausplay has prepared participation insights for the following indoor sports:

- There were 247,200 adults and 9,000 children playing badminton annually. The peak age for participation is 12 to 34 years of age. There was 37.8% of the overall badminton participation in Victoria.
- There were 850,200 adults and 370,400 children playing basketball annually. The peak age for participation is 12 to 17 years of age. There was 35.2% of the overall basketball participation in Victoria.
- There were 96,800 adults and 491,800 children playing gymnastics annually. The peak age for participation is 0 to 17 years of age. There was 31.1% of the overall table tennis participation in Victoria.
- There were 238,400 adults and 64,300 children playing martial arts annually. The peak age for participation is 5 to 17 years and 65+ years of age. There was 32.9% of the overall martial arts participation in Victoria.
- There were 145,000 adults and 8,900 children playing table tennis annually. The peak age for participation is 35 to 65+ years of age. There was 36.4% of the overall table tennis participation in Victoria.
- There were 272,500 adults and 24,900 children playing volleyball annually. The peak age for participation is 12 to 17 years of age. There was 24.9% of the overall volleyball participation in Victoria.

Please note that indoor cricket, futsal and indoor netball were not captured individually in sport profiles.

1.16 Future Participation Demand

A facility demand model has been developed to guide the current and future indoor court and facilities requirements. **The model is a guide only** and includes assumptions on court and facility capacity, usage, and participation.

The Otium Analytics **Demand Analysis Model** determines the estimated participants, required hours of access, number of facilities, playing space and total space for sports. The model considers shared use of facilities. The infographic below shows the key inputs and outputs of the model.

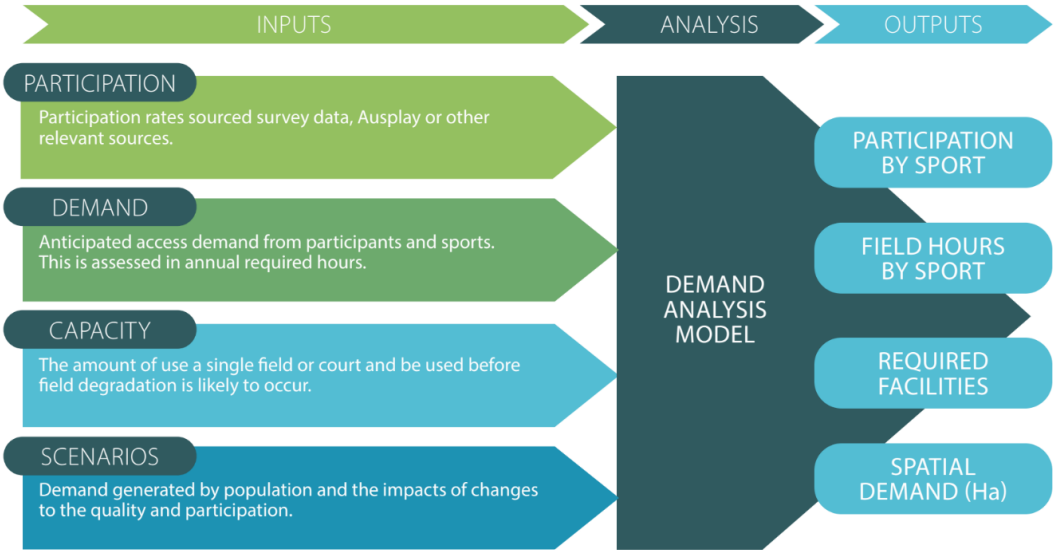


Figure 8: Otium Analytics Demand Analysis Model

The model considers the current court capacity, participation rates, and usage levels. Other factors such as the capacity of a court to accommodate playing numbers, the current distribution of clubs to courts, and opportunities for clubs to share need to be overlaid.

The model is overlaid with local factors impacting a facility's use. These include:

- Distribution and accessibility of courts. It may not be feasible for clubs to travel significant distances to access courts.
- Quality and condition of facilities. The quality (whether a facility is fit for purpose), and condition of a facility may restrict the amount of use possible. This could be because the infrastructure is nearing the end of life.
- Participation numbers within indoor sports clubs/associations changing from year to year. There has been for some sports a drop off in participation over the COVID-19 restriction years that are now returning to and exceeding pre-pandemic levels.
- Programming of sports competition. For example, sports associations stipulate required start times, competition formats, game length times and the number of games played at each court each week.
- Inequitable participation distribution across sports at facilities.
- Location of facilities that have a wider catchment beyond a municipal boundary. For example, regional indoor sports facilities like Nunawading Basketball Centre and Sportlink.

- Practicality of indoor sports sharing. Sharing of facilities amongst competing sports may not be possible due to competition structures.

Impact of occupancy levels in shared use courts on provision:

The pie chart below shows the average proportion of use by sport for shared-use courts which that sport access. This has been used to modify the current court accessed for each sport.

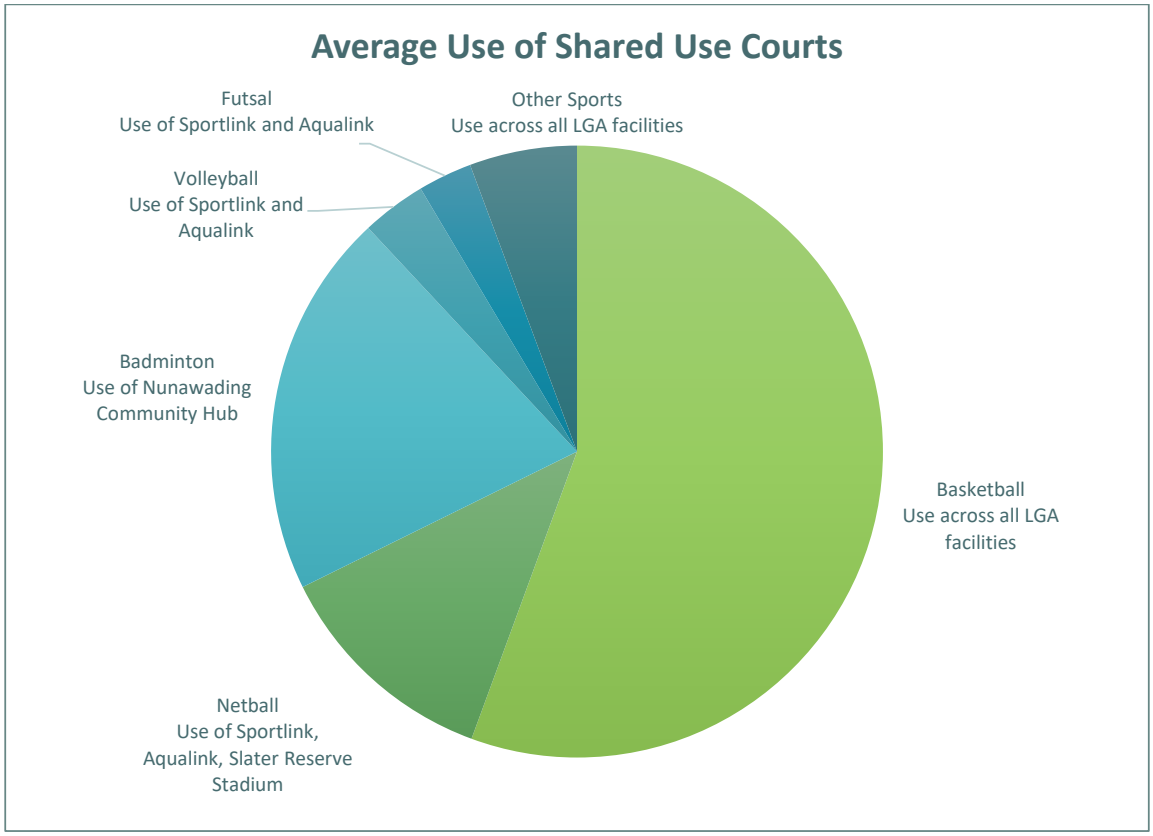


Figure 9: Proportion of use by sport for shared use courts across Council facilities

Demand Analysis Model Assumptions

The model applies full optimisation of all court for the average field/court capacity across the sports field network based on participation and usage assumptions.

The model applied the key assumptions in the table below.

Table 8: Model Assumptions

Category	Assumption
Population	• City of Whitehorse population will grow from 171,845 (2023) to approximately 234,277 by 2046. • The 2021 age breakdown is used to determine the current proportion of people aged between 0-14 years (children) was 18% and for 15+ years (adults) was 82% in Whitehorse. • In 2046, the proportion of people aged between 0-14 years (children) is estimated to be 15% and for 15+ years (adults) 85% in Whitehorse.
Sport Participation	• Participation rates for major participation sports identified in the recent AusPlay Participation Survey 2023-24 for once-a-week organised sport participation.

10.2 – ATTACHMENT 2. Draft Indoor Sports Plan Appendices

Category	Assumption	
	• This participation rate is considered appropriate following a review of registered State Sporting Association participation and local association participation data.	
Court Capacity	• Indoor sports courts have a capacity of 54 hours of use each week. • For indoor specialty courts/facilities: – Gymnastics 54 hours. – Calisthenics 54 hours. – Table Tennis 25 hours. • The size of facilities is based on a full-size equivalent court for that sport.	
Current Community Courts/ Facilities	The current court access for each sport for training and/or competition purposes: • Basketball – 33 basketball courts. • Netball –8 netball courts. • Volleyball – 1 volleyball courts. • Badminton – 30 badminton courts. • Table Tennis – 8 table tennis courts. • Futsal –4 futsal courts. • Gymnastics – 2 district sized gymnastics halls • Callisthenics – 1 district sized studio space * Please note that the current provision of courts for each sport is currently restricted due to competition with other sports and use by schools.	
Utilisation	• The benchmark average training and competition hours each week and participant numbers per field/court has been informed by State Sporting Associations and AusPlay participation reports.	
	• Basketball	• Adult – 3 hours per week and 12 participants per court • Child – 2 hours per week and 14 participants per court • All Year
	• Netball	• Adult – 3 hours per week and 16 participants per court • Child – 2 hours per week and 16 participants per court • All Year • Applied 30% of overall netball participation rate – indoor participation
	• Volleyball	• Adult – 3 hours per week and 16 participants per court • Child – 2 hours per week and 16 participants per court • All Year
	• Futsal	• Adult – 2 hours per week and 16 participants per court • Child – 1 hours per week and 16 participants per court • All Year • Applied 39% of overall football (soccer) participation rate – Futsal participation
	• Badminton	• Adult – 2 hours per week and 4 participants per court • Child – 1 hours per week and 4 participants per court • All Year
	• Table Tennis	• Adult – 2 hours per week and 4 participants per court • Child – 1 hours per week and 4 participants per court • All Year
	• Gymnastics	• Adult – 4 hours per week and 32 participants district size hall • Child – 2 hours per week and 32 participants per district size hall • All Year • 8 participants per coach (4 classes each hour time slot) • Size of facility is equivalent of one court – district size • Applied 85-90% of overall participation rate is children
	• **Calisthenics**	• Adult – 4 hours per week and 10 participants district size studio • Child – 2 hours per week and 20 participants per district size studio • All Year • Size of facility is equivalent of 1/3 court – district size

Demand Analysis Model – Facility Requirement Modelling

Based on the above methodology and assumptions, The table below details the facility requirements for major participation sports in the short and long term.

The table shows for each major participation sport:

- The current number of courts accessed.
- The number of courts required to meet the current population and participation demand.
- The number of courts required to meet the future population and participation demand.

Table 9: Facility Requirements Current to 2046

Sport^	Current Court/Hall Used by Sport	Current Court/Hall Access*	Current Court/Hall Access Requirement for Participation Demand (2024)	Current Surplus/ Deficit of Court/Hall Access	Future Court/Hall Access Requirements for Participation Demand (2046)	Future Surplus/ Deficit of Court/Hall Access
Badminton	52	30	26	4	54	-24
Basketball	41	33	41	-8	64	-31
Calisthenics	1	1	2	-1	2	-1
Futsal	21	4	5	-1	7	-3
Gymnastics~	3	3	4	-1	6	-3
Netball	26	8	9	-1	11	-3
Table Tennis	28	8	14	-6	18	-10
Volleyball	9	1	3	-2	4	-3

* The current court access considers firstly a sport's access to dedicated courts (100% access) and secondary the proportion of use by that sport for shared multi-sport courts.
^ Indoor cricket and martial arts are not included because there is insufficient participation rate data or facility usage information to run a demand analysis model.
~ Gymnastics hall access includes new PLC gymnastics hall.

Please note that due to a shortfall across the above indoor sports courts, the available court space to support emerging sports like pickleball is limited. Also, these courts are restricted in use for sports due to a high competition for access to courts across sports and school usage requirements for school stadiums. Additional courts will be required to support major participation sports and emerging sports now and into the future.

Also, private and school facilities are playing an important role in supporting sports like combat sports, martial arts, dance and cheer. Provision of access to Council managed facilities to support these sports may de-risk the potential loss of these sports clubs and providers.

Access to these facilities can be provided on multi-use/shared arrangement.

1.17 Key Findings of Demand Assessment



Population growth is fuelling an increase in indoor sports participation



Whitehorse is culturally diverse and home to cultural groups that enjoy a variety of indoor sports



Good level of indoor sports provision offering a range of programs and services



Facilities are at capacity and there is high competition for additional courts by all indoor sports whether it is major participation sports or emerging sports



Some indoor sports facilities require renewal and don't meet current facility standards

Population growth is fuelling an increase in indoor sports participation, and current facilities are at capacity

The City of Whitehorse population is growing rapidly. The current population of 178,639 (2023) has grown by 8,998 people since 2016 and is expected to reach 234,277 by 2046 (additional 55,638 people or 31% growth).

Much of this growth will be in our most active years age groups (5-49 years) that report high indoor sport participation. This age cohort accounts for 102,224 persons or 59.7% of the 2021 population and will grow to 143,935 persons by 2046, 61.4% of the population.

This population growth will translate into more indoor sports participants. There are very high participation levels across all indoor sports, and indoor sports facilities are reaching capacity.

Using the AusPlay Participation Survey for weekly participation rates of organised sport, it has been identified that there are currently an estimated 33,574 participants across the eleven identified indoor sports. This will grow to 45,343 participants by 2046. An additional 11,769 indoor sport participants are projected in the next 20 years. Please note that emerging sports like sport climbing and pickleball were not assessed due to insufficient data.

There are very high participation levels across all indoor sports and indoor sports facilities are reaching capacity. Several of these facilities are in average condition, they do not meet contemporary design standards (i.e. non-compliant courts) and require renewal to meet participant needs.

All Council, school and private indoor sports providers are reporting high occupancy rates, exceeding 80%. A common challenge across providers is that facilities are operating at full capacity during peak times (after school hours and weekends), with frequent requests for additional access that cannot be accommodated. The occupancy schedules for Council facilities further validate this finding.

A detailed assessment of the occupancy levels of the key indoor sport facilities was undertaken and has informed the proportion of access to courts by sports.

Access to additional courts and sports halls will be required to support all indoor sports including lower participation and emerging sports such as fencing, martial arts and combat sports, pickleball and paddle ball. Future development of Council indoor sports facilities should also consider access to courts and sports halls for these sports.

The following table summarises the occupancy levels of the three Council-owned indoor sports facilities:

Table 10: Court Occupancy Levels

Facility Name	Total Occupancy	Weekday Off Peak	Weekday Peak	Weekends
Nunawading Basketball Centre	87.92%	81.90%	100.00%	83.67%
Sportlink				
Indoor Courts	73.40%	35.00%	92.00%	99.20%
Outdoor Courts	53.60%	33.75%	71.70%	62.50%
Aqualink Box Hill	61.95%	24.20%	81.90%	95.80%
Slater Reserve	63.86%	28.75%	90.20%	82.00%
Nunawading Community Hub	72.40%	68.00%	72.30%	78.60%

Future participation growth will result in the need for additional indoor sports courts and facilities.

State Sporting Association registered participation trends have shown an increase in participation across indoor sports. Local indoor sports associations and clubs have also shown an increase in participation.

If there is no change, there will be a shortfall in indoor sports courts and facilities to meet 2046 participation demand

The Otium Analytics Demand Analysis Model shows a current and future shortfall of indoor sports courts to provide for these participants in the future. The key challenges and opportunities for each sport is summarised below**:**

Badminton

- The current provision of badminton courts meets the current demand in the short to medium term. However, there is a projected shortfall of badminton courts in 2046.
- The use of existing major badminton centres at peak times is very high and near capacity. This finding suggests local badminton participation and demand is high.
- District facilities support club and association competition, coaching, training and programming. The local facilities support social play.
- The City of Whitehorse facilities are primarily used to support local social badminton participation. However, if the private providers cease operations, Whitehorse risks losing facilities that support competitive badminton opportunities.

Basketball

- There is a current shortfall of eight basketball courts, which is projected to grow to 31 in 2046.
- Basketball Victoria reports that existing teams have limited access to courts, with most timeslots currently filled for competition. Compliant facilities are fully booked, restricting the sport's participation growth.
- The majority of basketball courts in the City of Whitehorse are non-compliant, with insufficient run off.

- The City of Whitehorse basketball facilities primarily support Association competition. School courts also play an important role in supporting Association competition and club training. However, if schools cease community access or community access to school facilities were not endorsed by planning, Whitehorse risks losing competitive basketball opportunities.
- The Melbourne East Basketball Association lacks a contemporary regional indoor sports stadium that supports athlete development pathways from entry-level programs to elite (NBL1) standard competition.
- All basketball associations and clubs indicated a need for access to additional courts.

Calisthenics

- There is a current and future shortfall of one calisthenic studio. There is a gap in provision of a calisthenics facility in the central/northwestern area of Whitehorse.
- Calisthenics Victoria report compliant facilities are at capacity restricting the participation growth of the sport.
- The district private calisthenics club is seeking additional studio spaces to support participation growth.
- There is a reliance on private and school providers. If private providers and schools cease operations, Whitehorse risks losing calisthenics opportunities.

Cricket (Indoor)

- The current indoor cricket facility is sufficient to meet both present and future demand.
- The Box Hill Indoor Action Centre is a regional indoor sports centre that offers indoor cricket competitions. Cricket Victoria supports the Centre as the regional indoor cricket competition facility and do not advocate for any additional competition facility. However, if this private provider ceases operations, there is a risk of losing indoor cricket competitions in Whitehorse.
- The City of Whitehorse are upgrading cricket nets with lighting at strategic locations to facilitate year-round use for training. There is also a private cricket coaching indoor cricket centre. These initiatives support the pre-season and winter cricket training programs.

Fencing

- The current fencing facilities are sufficient to meet both present and future demand. However, there is a risk of losing fencing competitions in Whitehorse if private providers cease operations.
- The Whitehorse Club is proposed to be demolished as part of the East Burwood Reserve Master Plan. The Blacklords Fencing Club seeks a larger facility to accommodate a minimum of ten pistes. The current pistes have non-compliant run offs, there are limited spectators viewing areas and wheelchair access is a concern.
- The State Fencing Centre in North Melbourne supports competition fencing and athlete pathway development in metropolitan Melbourne.

Futsal

- There is a current shortfall of one futsal court, which is projected to grow to three by 2046.
- The current access to the 21 courts is restricted due to the courts being shared with other indoor sport users. Participation demand and access to these courts should be monitored to assess future court requirements.
- Any new indoor courts developed or upgraded should be designed to accommodate futsal.

- There is a reliance on private providers for competition and if they cease operation, there is a risk of losing access to futsal competition in Whitehorse.

Gymnastics

- The number of district gymnastics facilities meet current and future demand. However, The Nunawading Gymnastics Centre is ageing and not fit for purpose. Its limitations restrict the Club's programming. The Centre can only accommodate junior gymnastics competitions up to Level 2.
- There are large district gymnastics clubs in neighbouring municipalities that all service the needs of Whitehorse residents, particularly those that live within close proximity.
- There is a new private gymnastics facility being constructed at Presbyterian Ladies College that may help to meet future demand requirements in Whitehorse if the facility and club are accessible to community members.
- There is a reliance on private providers for gymnastics programming and competition and if they cease operation, there is a risk of losing gymnastics programming and competition in Whitehorse.

Martial Arts

- The current provision of martial arts facilities meets current requirements.
- There is a large network of private providers in Whitehorse, with some operating from private dedicated facilities and others from shared multi-purpose multipurpose rooms and courts within school and Council indoor sports facilities. There is a risk of losing martial arts programming to Whitehorse if the private providers cease operation.
- Multi-purpose halls within Council's indoor sports facilities such as Nunawading Community Hub, Aqualink Box Hill and Sportlink could provide access for martial arts as participation demand increases. Private providers may also introduce new facilities to meet this demand.

Netball

- There is a current shortfall of one netball courts, which is projected to grow to three by 2046.
- The indoor courts used by netball are shared with other indoor sports codes and are not compliant for netball.
- Whitehorse Netball Association have access to all four courts at Sportlink on a Saturdays. The Association would like to access additional indoor court time but have not had the critical mass to expand beyond current programming. Club's membership didn't bounce back strongly from Covid-19 and is only now returning to pre-Covid-19 levels.
- Competition for indoor courts use is high at Sportlink, a multi-sport venue, and expanding netball programming may be a challenge.

Table Tennis

- There is a current shortfall of six table tennis courts, which is projected to grow to 10 by 2046.
- The current provision of courts across several small halls is restricting growth. The small number of courts in each location is impacting the ability for the sport to grow and attract participants, in particular juniors.
- The facilities are not fit for purpose. They are shared use, which requires them to be pack up/set up operations. There is no dedicated table tennis facility that meet current competition standards.

- There is a need to investigate the feasibility of developing a regional 20-court table tennis facility in Whitehorse.

Volleyball

- There is a current shortfall of two volleyball courts, which is projected to grow to three by 2046.
- Volleyball is played on multi-use venues that have restricted use.
- In addition to unaffiliated competitions played in Whitehorse, there are affiliated regional volleyball associations running competitions at facilities on the border of Whitehorse including Mullum Mullum Stadium (Manningham) and Maroondah Nets (Maroondah). These facilities service Whitehorse residents that means there is no demand for a regional volleyball competition facility.

Emerging Indoor Sports

- Within the City of Whitehorse there are several emerging activities that are using indoor sport facilities. These include:
  - Cheer
  - Sport Climbing
  - Pickleball and Paddle Ball.
- Indoor sports courts are restricted in use for emerging sports due to a high competition by other high participation indoor sporting activities.
- Additional courts will be required to support major participation sports and emerging sports now and into the future.

Nunawading Basketball Centre is a regional basketball facility and is operating at capacity

The Nunawading Basketball Centre is a regional facility that supports 12,279 members, attracting half of its membership from outside the City of Whitehorse. This East Burwood Reserve Master Plan supports additional courts to develop this facility as a contemporary indoor sports stadium that supports the breadth of Nunawading Basketball Association programming. This includes training and competitions, programs such as SEDA and accommodation for staff.

The Nunawading Basketball Centre has a very high overall occupancy rate of 87.92% across off peak and peak periods:

- Weekday Off Peak – 81.8%
- Weekday Peak – 100%
- Weekends – 83.67%.

The facility catchment map of a 30-minute drive time mirrors the reach shown in the postcode membership map. This facility catchment represents 2,407,691 people which will grow to almost 3 million people by 2041. The postcode membership map shows a very high proportion of Melbourne East Basketball Association participants coming from Whitehorse, Monash, Maroondah and Knox. Nunawading Basketball Centre is the regional facility supporting these participants. This facility is supported by satellite indoor sports facilities in Whitehorse (15 facilities), Monash (11 facilities), Maroondah (four facilities) and Knox (one facility).

There is high competition for additional courts by all indoor sports whether it is major participation sports or emerging sports

All Council, school and private indoor sports providers are reporting very high occupancy rates (80+%). Access to additional courts and sports halls will be required to support all indoor sports including fencing, combat sports and emerging sports like pickleball. Future development of Council indoor sports facilities should consider access to courts and sports halls for these sports.

Appendix 7: Trends Analysis Paper

This Trends Analysis Paper reviews recreation participation and facility trends and how they will influence the programming and facility requirements of indoor sports facilities in the City of Whitehorse.

1.18 General Participation Trends

Factors affecting participation and facility provision

Otium research has identified a range of general recreation participation trends that are likely to impact on local communities in the future. These are:

- **A gradual ageing of the population**. As life expectancy increases, birth rates stay low and the "baby boomers" of the 1950s and 1960s grow older. The percentage of population of 5 to 14-year-olds will continue to decrease with the greatest growth in the 55+ age group. This will create a demand for programs and services in sport and recreation that go well beyond a focus on junior participation.
- **Flexibility in the times when people recreate**. As demands on people's time increases and work practices change, people are seeking to take their sport and recreation at different times, over a broad spread of hours and at facilities that offer a lot of activities under the one roof. Health and fitness facilities are particularly attractive and getting easier to use, as many are open 12 to 16 hours per day, 7 days a week, with some now also open 24/7.
- **Increased variety in sport and recreation options**. People's sport and recreation options are changing towards newer, more varied activities offered over a greater range of timeframes compared to previous decades where limited variety in activities and scheduling occurred. This has supported the trend to more multi-use facilities to attract a broader range of users as well as multiple programs to meet different needs at the one facility.
- **Constraints to sport and recreation participation**. Lack of time, lack of facilities nearby, family and work constraints, health problems and cost of service or use of facilities are the main constraints to many people's sport and recreation participation. The development of targeted markets of users, programs and services at many health and fitness centres has assisted in reducing some of these participation constraints.
- **Changing employment structures, trading and work hours**. These trends often make participation in traditional sport and recreation activities difficult and therefore people are looking for facilities that are open longer hours and have a lot of activity options at the one site. This makes opportunities such as indoor sports courts attractive as their long opening hours and days open per year means usage can be made in a wide range of social, training, competition and educational settings.
- **Different people want different activities**. The different population characteristics sees the need for facilities to offer potential users a much more varied range of programs and services than previously offered. All year round available indoor and outdoor sport and recreation facilities also provide the greatest diversity of activities throughout the different seasons impacted by the areas weather.

- **Provision of high standards and quality of facilities and services**. People are more and more looking for high standard, high quality facilities and services to meet their sport and recreation needs. This has also seen the trend for indoor facilities becoming very popular as they allow activity in safe and secure spaces in all weather and environmental conditions. This leads to indicating that building low standard, low-cost facilities will not attract the maximum user market. The development by a number of peak sporting bodies of sport specific facility standards and guidelines has also placed pressure on facility providers to meet higher standards of provision.
- **Desire for activities to be affordable**. The development of multi-purpose fitness and indoor sport centres has enabled the high operating cost activities to be cross subsidised by more profitable activity areas such as health and fitness, food and beverage and entertainment areas. This has enabled many facilities to keep general entry fees low to encourage use whilst seeking users who want special services to contribute at a greater level to the cost of such activities. In general, there is a greater reliance on locally accessed and lower cost opportunities by those without the resources to travel and pay for more expensive activities.
- **Recognition of strong links between physical activity and health**. Preventative health care and active lifestyles are very important to many people and health and fitness and indoor sport activities are becoming a large part of people's activity choices. There is increased recognition of the strong links between involvement in recreational activity and good health, and the development of appropriate activities and services which support this.
- **Expectations of equity and access**. Today's society expects all people to have equitable access to public facilities. There is a particular demand to provide sports facilities for the growing female participation across all sports. There are a growing number of competitions and programs for people all abilities to participate. This means we need to improve the design of our sport and recreation facilities and ensure we provide accessible facilities.
- **Sustainable development**. In addition to the trends above there are specific trends relating to leisure and sporting facility development such as sport facility planners and operators need to respond to community demand for more sustainable and eco-friendlier infrastructure.

All recreation providers are operating in an environment of change. Providers will need to respond to the following challenges:

- **Consumer expectations**. As a result of consumers being exposed to high quality programs, events and services through the media and other leisure industry providers they are expecting more and more from their sport and recreation programs. This includes quality of facilities, support amenity, player and spectator comfort, quality of service, coaching and expecting the service to be provided when they want it. However, this has meant that significantly less program space can be achieved per investment dollar.
- **Competition for participants**. All of Australia's sporting codes have recognised the need to recruit young players into their sport at an early age. Many of the sports face competition from large, well-funded junior programs and high-profile sports as well as other forms of entertainment competing for the time and interest of young people. A key challenge for many sports and recreational activities is the retention of those recruits beyond their early to mid-teen years.
- **Reliance on external revenues**. Participants provide a large proportion of funding for most sport and recreation activities, programs and services. Competition is intense for funding, sponsorship, spectators, profile and members. Providers will need to clearly differentiate and market products and benefits to seek to access other revenue streams. This is particularly important in the development and upgrade of facilities and equipment.

- **Funding challenge**. Maintaining and developing new facilities is a major challenge for the sport and recreation industry. The future may require sporting and recreation providers to partner in multi-sport/recreational developments either in local government or commercially built complexes.
- **Well-trained personnel**: Volunteers predominantly service most sports. Recruiting and retaining paid staff and volunteers are critical to operations. In an increasingly regulated world, volunteers need and demand access to training and education in a flexible delivery model that responds to their busy lives. Coaches, officials and administrators must be supported to ensure the delivery of quality programs and competitions. Supporting and recognising volunteers is a task not to be underestimated.

1.19 Future Participation Trends

The sporting landscape can rapidly change. The most recent AusPlay Survey 2021 results for the most popular sport and physical activities across age groups shows a wide range of sports and physical activities are now being played, outside traditional sports. This is particularly the case for adult participation where unstructured sports that can be played at flexible times and support a person's lifestyle, health and wellbeing are now preferred.

Table 11: Future Participation Trends 2021

Life Stage	Popular Indoor Sports and Physical Activities
0 to 4 years	Gymnastics, Dance
5 to 14 years	Basketball, Netball, Volleyball, Gymnastics, Dance, Combat Sports
15 to 17 years	Basketball, Netball, Volleyball, Gymnastics, Fitness Gym
18 to 34 years	Basketball, Netball, Fitness Gym, Pilates/Yoga
35 to 54 years	Basketball, Fitness Gym, Pilates/Yoga
55 years and over	Fitness Gym, Pilates/Yoga

We have seen traditional sports introduce new formats that are gaining in popularity and growing participation. These new formats of traditional sports have broadened the audience of participants to sports. Examples include:

- New formats that are derivatives of traditional sports. Examples include pickleball and Padel which are derivatives of tennis now being played in indoor courts and outdoor tennis court venues.
- Social fast-paced competition formats that are played on smaller courts take less time to play and are more accessible. An example is Netball Fast 5.

The recent AusPlay Survey 2021 also shows several new emerging indoor sports trends in Australia. These include:

- Female sports: Women and girls sports have been the fastest growing participation across traditional and emerging sports.
- eSports (Exergaming): eSports or competitive gaming has been gaining popularity not just in Australia but worldwide. There are now several eSports' leagues and tournaments.
- Virtual training and racing: Zwift is an example of an online platform that allows cyclists to connect their indoor trainers or stationary bikes to a virtual environment through a computer or smart phone. Zwift features include gamification elements, allows for multi-player and social cycling, and host racing events and challenges.
- Adaptive and inclusive sports: Adaptive sports for people with disabilities are gaining recognition and support. These sports promote inclusivity and support people with a wide range of abilities.

There is a growing number of adaptive sport competitions offered from local community to elite level. These include blind cricket and wheelchair sports for Australian Rules Football, rugby, basketball and tennis.

- Combat sports: Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) is an example of a combat sport in Australia growing participation with more gyms and competitions emerging and greater visibility of the sport through the global popularity of Ultimate Fighting Championships (UFC).
- Climbing and bouldering: Indoor and outdoor climbing and bouldering facilities have become more.

1.20 Facility Trends

Contemporary Sports Facility Principles

Otium Planning Group research has identified the following design principles for contemporary sports facilities:

Provision Framework

- **Meet contemporary standards:** Meet contemporary industry standards for building and sports including for community, regional, national and international competition, depending on the hierarchy classification of the sports facility.
- **Design and maintain facilities to hierarchy level**: This will mean Council can strategically invest in quality sports facilities to the level the sports facility provides for, whether that is delivering for local (community) standard competition or for regional (elite) standard competition. If a regional facility the facilities will offer a higher level of service and quality design standard.

Create Destinations

- **Take a place-making approach**: The Creating Places for People urban design protocol should be used in designing sports facilities. This approach will be supported by adherence to Universal Design and female-friendly design principles.
- **Be hub precincts**: Sports facilities can be provided within a hub for sport, entertainment, community, health and/or tourism activities. A regional sports hub should complement other precincts in a city/township for retail, food, arts, and culture, etc.; and connect via pedestrian and public transport links.
- **Be multi-purpose**: Promote shared-use and offer mixed-use programming. Sports facilities will be active places that operate seven days a week in peak and off-peak times. Use should be optimised.
- **Respond to the community**: Sports facilities will interact with and support a mix of community sport and event activity. The design will include a future expansion area that will future-proof sports facilities if additional facility needs or opportunities are identified.

Design Approach

- **Be designed to deliver multiple solutions**: The design of sport facilities should include a canopy that provides shade for daily activities and capture rainwater; a roof structure with solar panels that generate energy for the building; maximise the use of natural light and double glazing for climate control; flexible lighting systems that offer security and safe passage for pedestrians.
- **Consider biomimicry in design**: Sports facilities will respond to the local climate, allowing the building to breathe, provide comfort for every human sense and adapt to year-round requirements.
- **Embrace technology**: Sports facilities will respond to new technology in terms of entertainment, operations and monitoring facility performance.

- **Be sustainable**: The design should include strategies like harvesting water, creating energy, turning waste into food, enhancing the habitat and adding value for the surrounding community.

Operational Efficiency

- **Efficient**: Sports facilities will consider the maintenance and operational requirements of facilities with a view to making them efficient and easy to maintain.

Manage Budget

- **Keep budget in mind**: Government is operating in a tight fiscal environment and therefore the design must balance the above principles with delivering the service objectives of sports facilities and to a reasonable budget.

Indoor Sports Facility Sustainability Trends

Common indoor facility management trends have been observed in recent times including:

- The number of companies in the marketplace with the capability to manage and operate specialist facilities is now increasing.
- There is a growing number of councils establishing Company Limited by Guarantee models to manage leisure facilities.
- Incorporation of commercial facility components into the overall service mix, e.g., retail outlets, health services and café facilities.
- Establishment of community Boards of Management/Committees to oversee the operation of indoor facilities.
- Pursuit of non-sporting uses for indoor facilities, e.g., events, displays, functions.

Financial Performance of Indoor Sports Facilities

The following are relevant trends in the financial performance of indoor sporting facilities:

- Generally, stadiums with less than three to four courts have a lower income generating capacity and lower likelihood of being financially viable. A minimum of four courts is required for a commercial service, whilst a one to two court facility is considered a community service.
- Facilities that are designed and operated to be 'multi-use' are generally operated at higher levels of usage capacity and financial performance than single sport/specialist facilities.
- Large regional facilities with four or more courts that are centrally located in large catchment areas, with a low level of external competition, in prominent positions have a greater chance of being financially viable.
- Larger centralised facilities are more efficient in terms of both competition coordination and financial sustainability.
- Successful indoor sporting associations have access to a larger multi-court facility of four or more courts for competition and a range of smaller facilities e.g., schools, for training.
- Indoor sports stadiums provide social and economic benefits to a region, whilst generating jobs during construction and operation.

Making Spaces for Girls and Women

The design for recreation infrastructure has been more suited to male participation. The following design guidelines and resources respond to extensive research and engagement with women and girls that focus on barriers faced when participating.

Female-Friendly Sport Infrastructure Design Guidelines

Female sports participation at the elite and peak of athlete pathways is increasing and rapidly in line with an increase in grassroots participation in sport and physical activity. This represents an exciting time for Australia but also presents challenges for sports administrators and facilities.

Sport and Recreation Victoria has developed the Female Friendly Guidelines that include the following design principles to create female-friendly facilities:

- **Fit for purpose**: While promoting a flexible and multi-use approach, ensure female-friendly design elements and specific requirements meet the level and type of activities being delivered, as well as occupant, club or tenant needs.
- **Multi and shared use**: Infrastructure should be efficiently designed to promote equitable and flexible use by a mixture of users capable of sharing facilities and usage times. The facility space planning and design of public spaces should adopt a multi-purpose approach.
- **Compatibility**: Identification of compatible sports, teams, activities, clubs or organisations with similar objectives and requirements for facility design, use and management should be promoted.
- **Universal Design**: The principles of Universal Design should be applied to community sport and recreation facilities so that they accommodate users of all ages, gender, ability and cultural backgrounds.
- **Public Safety**: Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) takes into consideration the relationship between users and the physical environment in the design of public spaces in crime prevention and assists with public safety.
- **Health and safety**: Security and safety of users should be paramount. Sport and active recreation facilities and their surrounds should be designed, built and maintained in accordance with relevant occupational health and safety standards. They should also incorporate child safe and safer design principles into facility design.
- **Functionality**: Facility design and layout should promote safe and optimal functionality to accommodate formal, competitive, social and recreational forms of usage and participation.

Making Spaces for People with Disabilities

Otium has engaged with Disability Sport and Recreation Victoria about key drivers and barriers for participants with disabilities engagement and facility, program and service ideas for delivering their meaningful engagement in sport and recreation.

The following key drivers were identified by participants engaged with sport:

- Providing opportunities for physical activities.
- Ability to play sport they enjoy, as close to able-bodied rules as possible.
- At the same time, considering their various needs to ensure they enjoy the activity.
- Clear pathways of progression as skills improve.
- Where possible, integration and understanding between able and disabled participants.
- Providing opportunities for social connection and emotional support.

The following key barriers were faced by participants' engagement with sport:

- A lack of awareness of the sport and where to play.
- Time, cost and effort involved in travel.
- The cost involved in getting kitted out.
- Lack of critical mass of participants.
- Lack of consistent and convenient scheduling.
- General lack of organisation and administration, needing them to step into this role to ensure gameplay goes ahead.

Disability Sport and Recreation Victoria advocates for 'Disability Sport Hubs' that service a regional catchment. These hubs were seen as an important ingredient to encouraging people with disabilities to participate.

The Disability Sports Hub would provide:

- An information portal for how people with disabilities can get involved in sport.
- A central physical location, a dedicated fit-for-purpose space for adaptive (disability) sport.
- A place for bringing people together and cross-pollination of experience and expertise.

The Disability Sports Hub would involve project partners who would connect and engage with various stakeholders including the local community of people with disabilities, State Sporting Associations, disability sport organisations and local disability service providers.

The programs and services at a Disability Sports Hub would be:

- Driven by people with disabilities.
- Low-cost participation opportunities.
- Encourage engagement with local schools, sport clubs, coaches, leisure providers and disability organisations.

The physical activities and programs would be complemented by an information and education hub for the delivery of capacity-building training amongst local providers of sport and recreation programs. This would create a welcoming and skilled environment that supports greater participation by people with disabilities, addresses the key barriers and delivers more sustainable long-term outcomes.

The facility requirements of a Disability Sports Hub would consider:

- Indoor sports courts are ideal for most disability sports.
- Netting/walls.
- Ample circulation space.
- Access to facilities is important – older venues are set up for one or two people in a wheelchair (one accessible toilet and car park). When you have competition, you could have up to 40 people.
- Storage areas for wheelchairs (10 chairs) for programs.
- Lifts (bigger is better).
- Light switches at the right height.

- Braille signage.
- Access keys/downloadable information.

Disability Sport and Recreation identified the **Phoenix USA – Ability360 Sport and Fitness Centre** as the best example of a fit-for-purpose Disability Sports Hub for adaptive sports. It is a best practice in terms of welcoming and functional requirements for people with a disability.

The centre has wheelchair-accessible weight machines, an aquatic area equipped with lifts and elevators, accessible locker rooms, indoor courts, a climbing wall (35ft), an indoor track, personal training, swim lessons, group fitness classes, recreation therapy, team sports, etc. All programs, facilities, and activities are inclusive.

See the following weblinks to a fly-through of the facility.
https://ability360.org/sports/
https://nirsa.net/nirsa/portfolio-items/ability360-sports-and-fitness-center/

Universal Design Principles

The seven Principles of Universal Design were developed in 1997 by a working group of architects, product designers, engineers and environmental design researchers. The following principles will guide the design of the new Sports Performance Event Activity Centre in terms of place and function, environment and sustainability, products and communications:

- **Equitable use**: The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.
- **Flexibility in use**: The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
- **Simple and intuitive use**: Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language, skills, or current concentration level.
- **Perceptible information**: The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.
- **Tolerance for Error**: The design minimises hazards and errors – most used elements, most accessible; hazardous elements eliminated, isolated or shielded.
- **Low physical effort**: The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.
- **Size and space for approach and use**: Appropriate size and space are provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of the user's body size, posture, or mobility.

1.21 Key Findings of Trends Analysis



Diverse and accessible network of sports facilities are needed to deliver the full range of activities and benefits.



New and upgraded sports facilities should adopt industry design principles that deliver inclusive, multi-use and sustainable facilities.

Diverse and accessible network of sports facilities are needed to deliver the full range of activities and benefits

Key trends influencing the provision and design of sport and recreation facilities and services are:

- There is a trend for new or improved sport and recreation facilities to be designed as multi-use and multi-functional. This is partly due to sports facility investment being used smarter to not put unnecessary financial pressure on Council by duplicating facilities with available capacity.
- The large growth in female participation within traditionally male-oriented sports is increasing pressures on playing facilities and increasing the need to diversify amenities to be universally accessible.
- Whilst the nature and intensity of participation in sport may change over time, the need for suitable and adaptable spaces to accommodate demand will remain. Future facility provision and design needs to ensure spaces are adaptable to accommodate changing participation trends.
- The location of sports precincts needs to be accessible to most of the community in order to maximise use. They should be well connected by active transport links and public transport.

New and upgraded sports facilities should adopt industry design principles that deliver inclusive, multi-use and sustainable facilities

The following design principles have been developed to help inform the future design of the sports. It will be used to guide the future prioritisation framework.

- **Accessible and Inclusive:** Sport and active recreation facilities will be universally designed and inclusive, fostering participation in sport and active recreation by all our community, across all life stages, genders and cultures.
- **Diverse and Equitable:** Sport and active recreation facilities will offer a diverse mix of facilities, programs and experiences. Council will provide an equitable distribution of sport and active recreation precincts across the municipality.
- **Safe and Welcoming:** Sport and active recreation facilities and programs are designed to be visible, open and welcoming to the community, creating a safe place for girls and women to participate.
- **Multi-Use:** Sport and active recreation facilities will be multi-use, offering several activities, programs and experiences for users.
- **Connected:** Sport and active recreation facilities connection across our communities and our unique natural environment.
- **Sustainable:** Sport and active recreation facilities will be designed and operate efficiently, whilst being well managed and maintained.

The following reference documents are provided for guiding design principles:

- Creating Places for People
- Making Places for Girls
- Healthy Active by Design
- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design
- Universal Design Principles
- Female Friendly Design Guidelines.

Appendix 8: Engagement Findings Paper

This Engagement Findings Paper summarises the key findings from surveys and interviews with key stakeholders and community.

1.22 Engagement Process

A Community Engagement Plan was developed to ensure Whitehorse residents and community had the opportunity to provide input to help shape the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan to meet current and future demands. The engagement process ensures the Council has a clear understanding of the community's views about indoor sports facilities in Whitehorse.

The engagement was conducted in August 2024 and included:

- Community survey of the Whitehorse community
- Survey of local sporting clubs and associations
- Survey of local schools
- Interviews with State Sporting Associations
- Interviews with a targeted group of local sporting clubs
- Internal Council Officer discussions.

The following section summarises key engagement findings.

1.23 State Sporting Associations Interviews

The following information was captured during interviews with State Sporting Associations.

Basketball

Basketball Victoria, 21 August 2024

Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	Whitehorse basketball participation profile – 7,019 registered players: • Players mostly participate at Whitehorse, Blackburn, Knox and Ringwood Basketball Association. • 55% in Whitehorse, 25% Nillumbik then Maroondah, Knox and Monash remaining. • There is also a migration of players into Whitehorse from these municipalities, particularly Maroondah and Monash. • There is "one in four basketballers reside in the Eastern corridor of Melbourne". Nunawading Basketball Association – 11,600 registered players. • High participation Association in Victoria. • Strong governance model. • Full-service basketball associations. • These participation numbers do not include social, and school programs are in addition to this.
Current facilities	The provision of indoor courts is through Council, government and independent schools. Not many within the municipality are compliant, impacting ability to grow the sport and offer programs are competition grade facilities.
Issues and challenges	• The 4% participation rate growth has been 7% over the last couple of years as a State average. The number of participants is growing across the board; however, the

Discussion Topic	Comments
	largest growth is shown in junior participants. Demand is outstripping supply. Across the state, we are currently at a 220-court deficit and on track to 600 in 10 years. • ActiveXchange shows 10 court deficits within City of Whitehorse, growing to 25 courts short by 2033. This is based on 4% participation rate. • The current Council and School facilities are at capacity, and Clubs use facilities in other LGAs. There is a latent demand for participation that can't be serviced by current facilities. An example is the Nunawading Basketball Association. They use a four-court facility but have 1500 more members than Knox.
Gaps and opportunities for indoor sports facility provision	Development proposals: • Business Case to knock down the Nunawading Basketball facility and build a new 12-court facility. • Seeking new courts in Box Hill area – No site. • Seeking additional courts at Forest Hill Secondary College. • Seeking additional courts at Forest Hill Chase.
Support for project	Support the project to enable the growth of basketball and increase the future provision of courts within the City of Whitehorse.

Netball

Netball Victoria, 21 August 2024

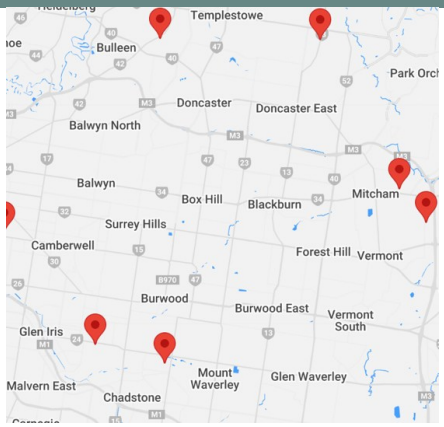
Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	• Whitehorse City has consistent membership levels over the past five years and has recovered well post COVID (2020) - see membership numbers below. The LGA demonstrates strong participation growth (that is, the number of members participating in netball activities - i.e., more than one competition per week) and has seen a significant increase in participation in the years from 2022 to 2023 with a growth of almost 300 participants in 12 months. There is strong participation growth reported through the experience of Whitehorse Netball Association. • Netball remains one of the highest female participation sports within the LGA, but male participation is growing, although growth of mixed and male competitions is restricted due to limited court access for current membership numbers within the LGA. • Within Whitehorse City Council there are two Netball Victoria affiliated associations Whitehorse Netball Association (WNA) & Slater Reserve Netball Association (SRNA). WNA is a large association that operates out of the Sportlink facility and conducts most of the Netball Victoria affiliated netball activity within the LGA. The SRNA is a small association that operates out of the Slater Reserve facilities. • WNA services all the LGA but has very strong participation from Blackburn, Mitcham, Vermont. WNA runs a large domestic netball program that includes the entry level program of NetSetGo, Junior and Senior competition and a Representative Pathway program. Netball is well supported in the local primary schools and interschool netball sports programs are hosted at Sportlink (home of WNA). On a Saturday WNA have over 1500 players coming through to play (domestic competition), another 250 on a Monday (NetSetGo), 750 on a Thursday (social comp) and over 200 kids involved in our rep program. They would like to grow their programs and offerings but are restricted with not enough courts for growth. • SRNA are a very small Association with most members in a higher senior level. They offer two senior competitions on a Wednesday and Friday evening. Participation is 4-5 teams on both nights.
Current facilities	Whitehorse currently has two active facilities that are used for Netball Victoria affiliated activities: • Sportlink (8 courts - 4 indoor and 4 outdoor covered courts, Whitehorse Netball Association).

Discussion Topic	Comments
	• Slater Reserve Stadium (2 indoor courts, Slater Reserve Netball Association) - home of Blackburn Vikings Basketball.
Issues and challenges	• WNA struggles fitting all their junior program on the courts when running competitions and have ongoing issues with Council in terms of being the major stake holder but often not being able to get the preference times/access they need to enable competition growth and development. • SRNA are happy in their facility and have no plan for growth, however, note that their facility is predominantly used for basketball and there are limited times for access for netball.
Gaps and opportunities for indoor sports facility provision	• Currently the LGA does not have enough netball facilities to meet the current needs, or to support future growth, of its netball community. Netball remains the highest female participation team sport in Australia and is also experiencing growth with male participation through mixed and male competitions. The forecasted population growth for Whitehorse City in the next 10 is an increase of over 37, 000 people by 2036. This would see a predicted increase of 639 netball members which equates to an additional 91 teams (refer Forecast Growth tab). The LGA will need to invest in facilities to support this growth. • Indoor facilities support growth in netball participation at all levels and ensures activities can be undertaken without impact from weather. This optimises, and maximises, participation opportunities when compared with outdoor courts. Indoor courts also better support multi-sport participation.
Support for project	• Netball Victoria is happy to provide support for the development of indoor sports centres that support the growth of netball within Whitehorse City.

Calisthenics

Calisthenics Victoria, 5 August 2024

Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	• 7,782 participants in Victoria. • 7,725 Female, 57 Male, 5 Non-binary. • 298 within the City of Whitehorse.
Current facilities	• There is currently 1 calisthenics club in the City of Whitehorse, located within an industrial setting to the very east of the municipality. • Out of the 91 Clubs within Victoria, a handful own their own facility, approximately 20 have long-term leases, and the others go year to year – this is unsettling for Clubs.
Issues and challenges	• There are several challenges, including increasing costs and a lack of appropriate spaces with suitable flooring. Most clubs require access to two spaces that can be used simultaneously. When clubs approach local councils for space hire, they often face limited availability, carpeted floors or spaces that are not large enough. Storage is also a common issue.
Gaps and opportunities for indoor sports facility provision	From the map below, there is a gap in the City of Whitehorse for facility provision and thus limits the sport's growth.

Discussion Topic	Comments
	
Support for project	• Calisthenics Victoria welcomes additional indoor facility provision to cater to a range of sports and would take up the opportunity to consult on further facility developments to assist in expanding Calisthenics in a fit-for-purpose facility within Whitehorse.

Sport Climbing

Climbing Victoria, 19 August 2024

Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	22.50% of recreational climbers are based in Victoria, so the current estimate for climbers in Victoria is ~85,000. The Sport Climbing Australia membership base is mostly competition climbers. Recreation climbers account for 20 to 30 times the membership numbers.
Current facilities	There are some private entrants in the market. They are more commercial rather than a public offering. Need a mix to service a community. Gymnastics is a closer model to climbing with commercial operators leading the market. Two facilities in City of Whitehorse: • Hard Rock Climbing – Dated facility now. Not contemporary. • Urban Blackburn – Best facility in country. Best speed wall in the country. There is an opportunity to invest in certifying the speed wall that would be the only one in Australia.
Issues and challenges	• Events disrupt/impact commercial providers. They don't like to host events. • Fees are high for sport, and operators lose out on hosting events compared to revenue raised for general business.
Gaps and opportunities for indoor sports facility provision	• Sport Climbing Australia is looking for an event-focused venue in metropolitan Melbourne. The sports ambition for more event-focused facilities, high performance programming and coaching training centre. Although, if developed in Whitehorse, this would impact current operators. • There could be an opportunity for Council to partner with Urban Blackburn and Sports Climbing Australia. The facility is best placed to support a high-performance program. • Sport Climbing Australia received Victorian Government funding to complete a 'Sport Climbing National Performance Centre Feasibility Study'. The scope of the project included multiple potential sites as areas of interest. At this stage, the Feasibility Study is still progressing through the Victorian Government internal assessment process.
Support for project	Supports further conversation to increase visibility and participation of sport.

Volleyball

Volleyball Victoria, 2 September 2024

Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	• There is no affiliated play at facilities in Whitehorse. Volleyball Victoria has unaffiliated volleyball social competition in the area. Mullum Mullum Stadium (Manningham) and Maroondah Volleyball has a large volleyball competition. Most Whitehorse residents will access these facilities, which are nearing capacity. • Volleyball participation has doubled in the last five years and high interest through the school program. Appeals to broad audience to the sport including multi-cultural, gender diverse, adaptive (disability) volleyball and school volleyball across diverse cultures. Volleyball is seeking to translate school play to local competition and pathways. Most growth is metropolitan based. • State league competition has now grown to about 244 teams. Premier, State League and Junior State League. VV developing a primary school aged introductory program. • SSV competition – Primary school over 2000 participants and secondary school 1600 participants. Second highest.
Current facilities	• Nunawading Christian College is utilised for unaffiliated play. • Outside of LGA - Mullum Stadium, Ringwood SC and Templestowe College, Waverley Christian College, Donvale Christian College, MLC Kew, Templestowe College.
Issues and challenges	• Understanding the 'real' participation number of Volleyball within the State and LGA's as there is so much unaffiliated play occurring. Translating uncaptured data to complete a true demand analysis Is not easy.
Gaps and opportunities for indoor sports facility provision	• Support a 'location-driven Association' that starts with competitions and then develops into training and programming. Volleyball Victoria would assist in creating these Associations. • Mildura Stadium and Maroondah Volleyball Stadium support two-to-one court configurations and pole location to host tournament events. Benchmark design examples that support flexible programming for volleyball programming.
Support for project	• Advocates for another facility with access to multiple courts to support participation and team growth in Whitehorse, with a local affiliated Association to support provision of the sport.

Table Tennis

Table Tennis Victoria, 30 August 2024

Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	• There are 5,500 registered players within Victoria. There would be much higher participation numbers as there are unaffiliated clubs for social and competition throughout the State. • Registered table tennis players within the City of Whitehorse are 183. • There is however, a much higher number of approximately 1,300 documented by a local table tennis representative within the City of Whitehorse which consists of a small portion of competition and larger social participation.
Current facilities	• Mahoneys Reserve, Eley Park, St Phillips Church (in Mount Waverley which is outside LGA).
Issues and challenges	• Unaffiliated play is much larger, and therefore hard to capture data. • There is no dedicated table tennis facility within the municipality, however the demographic of Whitehorse supports the sport.
Gaps and opportunities for indoor sports facility provision	• TTV agrees there is a need for an Association run competition facility of about 20 tables and support local Association position and advocacy. • There is also a commercial opportunity at Forest Hill Chase (Haben are the owners) – Table Tennis Victoria would run a commercial entertainment venue of 7-9 tables that

Discussion Topic	Comments
	support social recreation play, but also where clubs can book and TTV can run programs.
Support for project	• Yes, alongside further investigating if the commercial opportunity is viable.

Futsal

Futsal Victoria, 2 September 2024

Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	• The East of Whitehorse has a high participation in social futsal. • The participation in football has doubled in Whitehorse in the last 10 years (2014 - 791 players; 2023 – 1,057 and fairly sure this has increased again, particularly girls and women participation and mini roos and junior teams). The current clubs will not have capacity to support this participation on outdoor sports fields too. The growth of the game requires access to Futsal competition and venues. • Futsal grows the game. Encouraging clubs to have Futsal teams that will support growth of participation in clubs and not being reliant. • Demographic of Whitehorse supports Futsal participation. Futsal is popular in Asia.
Current facilities	• Sportlink, Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre. • Outside of the LGA Oakleigh Recreation Centre, Mount Evelyn, Nets and Springers in Dandenong also have high futsal participation programs.
Issues and challenges	• The biggest challenge to the sport is access to venues. It is a struggle to host tournaments because of lack of venues. Access to more facilities is required.
Gaps and opportunities for indoor sports facility provision	• By increasing futsal participation, it leads to growth in soccer and overall engagement with the world sport. • Football Victoria support multi-sport venues and seek Futsal access to facilities. Seek goals and lines (40m x 20m wide).
Support for project	• By increasing Futsal participation, it leads to growth in soccer and overall engagement with the world sport.

Cricket

Cricket Victoria, 23 August 2024

Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	Whitehorse indoor cricket participation is played at Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre. It is an unaffiliated competition with Cricket Victoria and therefore participant numbers are unknown. Whitehorse cricket participation in outdoor cricket has increased over the last three years: • Junior and Master Blaster participants – 313 to 891 • Junior cricket players – 2054 to 6026 • Senior cricket players – 2797 (Current only). We assume that with the increase in outdoor cricket players, there is a growing demand for indoor cricket competitions. Girls' Sport Victoria (GSV): • Number of indoor competitions: 5 (Senior A / Intermediate A&B / Junior A&B) • Year levels in each competition: 7&8 / 9&10 / 11&12 • Number of teams in Inner East Metro Region: 39 • Number of participants in Inner East Metro Region: 390 • Venue: Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre.

Discussion Topic	Comments
	Eastern Independent Schools of Melbourne (EISM) • Number of indoor competitions: 8 (4 male and 4 female) • Year levels in each competition: 7 / 8 / 9 / 10-12 • Number of teams in Inner East Metro Region Female: 15 • Number of teams in Inner East Metro Region Male: 19 • Number of participants in Inner East Metro Region Female: 150 • Number of participants in Inner East Metro Region Male: 190 • Associations place teams within the indoor competition program to continue cricket participation year-round, however data is hard to capture as this is not affiliated with Cricket Victoria.
Current facilities	• The provision of facilities within the City of Whitehorse are private/commercial providers. • Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre only hosts competition; pre-season indoor training for local clubs is not available. • Century Cricket Blackburn – private 24/7 membership and training facility.
Issues and challenges	• The two facilities in the municipality do not cater to pre-season training, so Clubs travel outside of the LGA for this.
Gaps and opportunities for indoor sports facility provision	• Cricket Australia's Strategic Plan 2022-27 is targeting to attract kids (ages 5-12) and families from all backgrounds to inspire a lifelong love of cricket. Cricket Victoria is following this strategic direction too. • There is a gap in available space to build new facilities therefore, schools are seen as an opportunity for multi-use spaces for use during evenings and weekends.
Support for project	• Multi-use spaces, or enclosed/roofed outdoor nets.

1.24 Sports Clubs and Associations Feedback

Stakeholder interviews were conducted with the following Associations and Clubs and the following information was captured.

Nunawading Basketball Association

Nunawading Basketball Association (NBA) is one of Australia's oldest and most successful basketball Associations and for the past 50 years has managed the Nunawading Basketball Centre. Nunawading Basketball is now the largest Association in Australia with 12,279 registered players across beginner programs, domestic competitions and representative programs, with over 1,100 teams. Nunawading Basketball has consistently grown at nearly double the state average over the past 10 years, which has resulted in a significant increase in demand and as a result, a severe shortage in court capacity.

The following table lists the facilities the Nunawading Basketball Association and associated Clubs utilise for training and competition.

Table 12: Facility List for Nunawading Basketball Association and Associated Clubs

Facility	Number of Courts	Compliance	Competition	Training	Teams/Associations
Nunawading Basketball Centre	5	No	Yes	Yes	NBA, Kangas, Vultures
Forest Hill College	2	No	Yes	Yes	NBA, Kangas, Vultures
The Knox School	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	NBA, Vultures, Kangas
The Rings	4	No	Yes		NBA
Sportlink	3 out of 4	Yes	Yes	Yes	NBA, Kangas

10.2 – ATTACHMENT 2. Draft Indoor Sports Plan Appendices

Facility	Number of Courts	Compliance	Competition	Training	Teams/Associations
Norwood Secondary	2	Yes	Yes		NBA
Brentwood Secondary	1	No	Yes	Yes	NBA, Waverley
Heathmont Secondary	1	No	Yes		NBA
Huntingtower College	1	No	Yes	Yes	NBA, Huntingtower Heat
Mulgrave Primary	1	No	Yes	Yes	NBA, E.Bees, Mulgrave Mumbas, Waverley
Roberts McCubbin Primary	1	No	Yes		NBA
Wheelers Hill Secondary	1	No	Yes	Yes	NBA, Syndal Storm, Raiders
Wesley College	1 mid-week, 2 Friday night	No	Yes	Yes	NBA, Vultures
Rangeview Primary	1	No	Yes		NBA
Essex Heights PS	1	No		Yes	Ashwood Wolves
Donvale Christian College	1	No		Yes	Donvale Dunkers
Glendal PS	1	No		Yes	E.Bees
Huntingtower	1	No			
Mullauna College	1	No		Yes	NBA, Kangas, Vultures
Nunawading Christian College	1	No		Yes	Kangas
Blackburn Lake PS	1	No		Yes	Kangas
Vermont PS	1	No		Yes	Vultures
Vermont SC	1	No		Yes	Vultures
Eva Burrows College	1	No	Yes	Yes	NBA, Vultures
Wattle Park PS	1	No		Yes	Saints
Laburnum PS	1	No		Yes	Saints
Box Hill Senior Secondary	1	No		Yes	Saints
Jells Park Primary	1	No		Yes	Waverley
Brandon Park	1	No		Yes	Waverley
Mount View PS	1	No		Yes	Raiders
Holy Family School	1	No		Yes	Wildcats
Blackburn PS	1	No		Yes	Kangas
Kingswood College	1	No		Yes	Kangas

The Association has entered into a number of agreements for exclusive use. These agreements are in place at Forest Hill College, Mullauna College and The Knox School. Each of these venues are available to NBA at the times required (Mullauna and Knox not currently used on Sundays). To secure these partnerships the NBA contributes to the annual maintenance of the facility including floor re-sealing and have also invested capital with new backboards/rings/seating.

The Association's greatest challenge is that the demand for basketball participation is outstripping the current court supply, specifically compliant courts. As the above table shows, most of the courts are non-compliant due to limited court run-off, which proves a safety hazard for players and referees. The security/safety of these utilising single-court facilities is also of concern for the Association.

Whitehorse Netball Association

The Whitehorse Netball Association (WNA) conducts all their programs at Sportlink which has 4 indoor courts and 4 outdoor under-cover courts.

The following programs are hosted by WNA at Sportlink:

- Saturday all ages competition – 8 courts (inside 4 courts used until 6pm, outside courts used until 3pm) – over 1,500 players.
- Monday NetSetGo competition 4pm-6pm on 4 indoor courts. Outside courts used for club training. Representative training on 2-3 inside courts – 11 teams.

– Saturday and Monday competitions host 160 teams = 1,600 players.

- Tuesday mid-week ladies' competition. Representative training at night – 11 teams.
- Wednesday mid-week ladies' competition 9am-11am on two inside courts – 40 players. Walking netball 10am-11am court – up to 20 players.
- Thursday mid-week ladies' competition 9am-11am on two inside courts – 40 players. Adult night competition 7pm-10pm. 380 players on 4 indoor and 1 outdoor court.

Outdoor courts are not at full capacity. Currently inline skating and pickleball utilise some outdoor courts when not in use by WNA.

WNA has an inspiration for a WNL team. However, a facility with appropriate support facilities (amenities and spectator seating) would be required. If the redevelopment of Nunawading Basketball Centre was to offer multi-use courts, WNA would consider a decentralised facility for netball provision in order to grow the sport both in participation and elite programming.

Koonung Comets

The Koonung Comets have a membership base of 1,000 registered players, with a male to female participation ratio of 70:30. Their goal is to increase female participation, to a more balanced gender ration closer to 50:50.

The Club currently utilises the facilities listed below:

- **Koonung Secondary College**: Single court, available 4 nights a week for training and Saturdays for games.
- **Mont Albert**: Four nights of training after 6:00pm; limited by low roof and lack of run-off space, meaning no games can be played there.
- **Box Hill Senior Secondary College**: Two nights for training (Tuesdays and Thursdays) and all-day Saturdays for games.
- **Whitehorse Primary School**: Previously used for Saturday games, but the Club has lost access due to ongoing construction works (outside the catchment area).
- **Doncaster Secondary College**: Located outside the Whitehorse area, used midweek for netball and badminton after 6:00pm, and double courts are available on Saturdays for games.

The Club is experiencing challenges in securing additional court space in the City of Whitehorse and surrounds. They are only able to access courts if a cancellation occurs within another booking. The Nunawading Basketball Stadium is too far away from Koonung, and they currently do not play with the Association's competition, so the upgrade to this facility will not affect the Club and their ability to access additional court space.

The Club raised the long-term impact consideration of the proposed Suburban Rail Loop and that the associated urban planning will increase local population density, particularly in areas like Mont Albert and Doncaster Hill, putting additional pressure on court availability. More high-rise developments and population growth in these areas will affect court demand.

The Club is actively advocating for facility expansion at Koonung Secondary College.

Nunawading Gymnastic Club

Nunawading Gymnastic Club is located in a Council facility at Walker Park, 413-425 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading. The Club has seen significant growth since returning from COVID-19, with a stable enrolment base of between 500-550 participants. Key factors for their growth are considered to be:

- Clear vision for the Club, with better governance and management in place.
- Tailored service with a variety of program offerings.
- Encouragement and active involvement from the Club community.

The current programs on offer are:

- KinderGym: 132 participants (87 female and 45 male)
- Gymnastics for All (GFA): levels 1-11
- Recreation Gymnastics: 224 participants
- Acrobatics: State and national level with 19 participants
- WAG (Women's Artistic Gymnastics): 47 participants
- Rhythmic Gymnastics: 41 participants
- MAG (Men's Artistic Gymnastics): 11 participants
- GymStar: Specific to Gymnastics Victoria, 92 participants.

Their concern with the current facility is that it is ageing and dated. The existing facility has limitations, as there is only one sprung floor, and the rhythmic gymnastics program uses a soft foam floor for competitions. Due to the facility's limitations, such as the low ceiling height, lack of high-level equipment and seating for spectators, they can only host junior gymnastics competitions up to Level 2.

When planning for a new facility, the Club would like the following considered:

- Expansion of footprint due to general population growth and growth of the sport.
- Two sprung floors and a dedicated rhythmic gymnastics area.
- Consideration of satellite venues currently not in use: the Club requires a facility specific venue with a high ceiling for advanced training.
- Foam pit is required for higher-level gymnastics (they are currently using other clubs' facilities for this).
- Walker Park is ideal due to the proximity to other sports and public transport.

Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association

The Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association (ESCTTA) is the only table tennis organisation affiliated within the City of Whitehorse with Table Tennis Victoria. There are a number of non-affiliated social table tennis competitions and private organisations running coaching programs.

Within Whitehorse and surrounding areas there is currently no central venue for table tennis competition. The ESCTTA hires the following four venues:

- Mahoneys Reserve, Forest Hill – 4 tables for competition/5 tables for social play.
- Eley Park Community Centre – 3 tables.
- Sportlink Vermont South – 3 tables.
- St Philips Church, Mount Waverly – 3 tables.

The lack of a central location limits the number of players they can accommodate and is a major barrier to introducing a junior competition and catering for community groups, schools and individuals who wish to play in a social setting.

Given the size of the existing facilities there are constraints on the number of tables that can be set up. As a consequence, instead of having a single fixed night on which to compete, players must compete on different nights of the week over the course of a season and may play on a Tuesday, Wednesday or even a Thursday night. This means that some people are prevented from playing due to work, family or other commitments.

During finals when all Grades must compete on the same night, ESCTTA must hire the use of the Kilsyth Table Tennis Centre, and all competing players and spectators must travel a considerable distance (on average about 20 km) to the venue.

Creation of a single venue for table tennis in Whitehorse would address many of these issues, allow for increased participation by Whitehorse residents and provide a more streamlined experience for participants.

Table tennis could be included in a multi-purpose venue, but table tennis would need their own space within the venue due to both the OH&S issues of setting up and packing away the 120kg tables and the potential damage to the tables during this process.

Contemporary table tennis venues require a PVC foam backed flooring that is anti-slip and cushioning for any movement, lessening strain on the players body or injury caused by accidental falls. All the sections of flooring are welded together to prevent any slipping hazards, so is unable to be packed up. The flooring is unsuitable for most of the sports identified for the indoor sports facility, except for badminton.

The following tables detail the current facilities, programs participation numbers and key facility issues.

Table 13: Mahoneys Reserve Facility

Facility Name	Day	Hours of Use	Type of Activity	Number of participants	Organisation
Mahoneys Reserve – Forest Hill • 4 tables for competition • 5 tables for social	Monday	Evening	Social & community play	20	Private
	Tuesday	Morning Afternoon	Social Social	21 21	Whitehorse Activity Club
	Wednesday	Afternoon Evening	Social Social	20 20	Whitehorse Activity Club St Johns
	Thursday	Evening	Competition	32	ESCTTA
	Friday	Morning Afternoon Evening	Training and coaching	23 20 20	Whitehorse Activity Club Whitehorse Activity Club Private
	Saturday	Afternoon Evening	Social competition	15 20	ICC Balwyn United table Tennis
	Sunday	Evening	Social	60	DPC table tennis Association

- The Association currently pays the Committee of Management, the Northern Pavilion Association, $30 per night for the use of the hall.

Table 14: Eley Park Community Centre

Facility Name	Day	Hours of Use	Type of Activity	Number of participants	Organisation
Eley Park Community Centre • 3 tables	Tuesday	Evening	Pennant A Grade Comp	16	ESCTTA
	Wednesday	Evening	Pennant B Grade Comp	16 21	ESCTTA

- The Association pays approximately $5,000 per annum ($110 per night) rental for the use of the Eley Park facility.
- The floor surface has a concrete surface covered in vinyl which can be slippery if not cleaned regularly.
- Lighting level is sufficient, however is below contemporary standards.
- The facility has limited storage that is difficult to access.
- Tables were being damaged by social functions using the tables.

Table 15: Sportlink

Facility Name	Day	Hours of Use	Type of Activity	Number of participants	Organisation
Sportlink Vermont South • 3 tables	Monday	Evening	Competition	78	Private MSTT
				5	Mullauna College Coaching
	School holidays			30/32 3 days per week of school holidays	

Table 16: St Philips Church

Facility Name	Day	Hours of Use	Type of Activity	Number of participants	Organisation
St Philips Church, Blackburn South • 3 tables	Wednesday	Evening	Pennant C Grade Comp	15	ESCTTA

- The Association currently pays $30 per night for the use of the hall.

Social competition and coaching activities are undertaken at the following venues:

Table 17: Facilities that host Social and Coaching Table Tennis Activities

Facility Name	Day	Hours of Use	Type of Activity	Number of participants	Organisation
Box Hill Baptist Church	Monday Friday	Evening	Social	20	Private
Deakin University	Monday-Friday	Afternoon/ Evening		122	Private
Scorpio Table Tennis Academy			Coaching only	223 coached	Private
Box Hill Table Tennis Club			Coaching only – primary school aged	60	Private
The Disruptor Coach – Vermont Primary School			Primary aged coaching	45	Private

In the City of Whitehorse, more than 1,250 people play table tennis, either competitively or socially, or are coached every week for around 48 weeks of the year. All this without a dedicated venue and no junior players.

There are approximately 100 TTV members playing in Whitehorse. Official State figures will be lower if members have paid for their membership through other Associations. Most players in Whitehorse are not TTV members. Many players play multiple times during the week and may pay their fees at different locations, their membership is then tied to that Association.

There are no facilities within Whitehorse for children to play table tennis outside their school. All juniors are required to travel at least 20km (Kilsyth, Dandenong, MSAC) to participate.

Within the ESCTTA, 58% of their playing cohort is made up of people of Asian background. This is proportionally larger than the percentage of the Asian population in Whitehorse and reflects the popularity of this sport within that community. The are concerns by members that limited Council rates are being expended on table tennis facilities.

ESCTTA proposed possible options for the location of a dedicated table tennis facility. They are:

- Aqualink Box Hill, either location off former outdoor pool or at the end of the existing indoor courts.
- Surrey Park, adjacent to the baseball diamond.

1.25 Clubs and Associations Feedback

Local Whitehorse City Council sporting clubs and associations were directly invited to participate in a Local Sporting Clubs online survey.

There were 29 complete responses received from the following clubs and associations:

- Balwyn United Table Tennis Incorporated
- Blackburn Calisthenics College
- Blackburn Tai Chi Academy
- Burwood United Gymnastics Squad (BUGS Gymnastics)
- Camberwell District Basketball Association
- Camberwell Dragons- over 30's basketball
- Celestial Tai Chi College
- Deakin Badminton Club
- Deakin Table Tennis Club
- Eastern Gymnastics Club
- Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association
- Koonung Comets Basketball Club Inc
- Mark Smythe Table Tennis
- Mitcham Basketball Club*
- Mitcham Thunder Basketball Club
- Nunawading Basketball
- Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club Inc
- Nunawading Kangas Basketball Club
- Playball Basketball
- Respect Sports Incorporated
- Slater Reserve Netball Association
- St James Netball Club
- Syndal Storm
- The Disruptor Club Incorporated
- The Whitehorse Club
- Thornburn Ladies' Badminton Association Incorporated (TLBA)
- Victorian Fencing Academy
- Whitehorse Activities Club Incorporated (WAC)
- Whitehorse Netball Association.

*Mitcham Badminton Club is not a club but a private twelve-court badminton venue.

10.2 – ATTACHMENT 2. Draft Indoor Sports Plan Appendices

Membership

Clubs and Associations were asked to provide their membership figures for 2019/20 and 2023/24, categorised by male, female, and non-binary members at both junior and senior levels.

Table 18: Association Membership Figures 2019/20 and 2023/24

Associations	2019/20							2023/24						
	Junior Men/ Boys	Junior Women /Girls	Junior Non-Binary	Senior Men/ Boys	Senior Women /Girls	Senior Non-Binary	Total	Junior Men/ Boys	Junior Women /Girls	Junior Non-Binary	Senior Men/ Boys	Senior Women /Girls	Senior Non-Binary	Total
Balwyn United Table Tennis Incorporated	36	6	0	29	11	0	**82**	28	9	0	25	7	0	**69**
Burwood United Gymnastics Squad (BUGS Gymnastics)	64	398	3	0	13	0	**478**	50	423	2	0	10	0	**485**
Camberwell District Basketball Association	0	0	0	0	-	0	**8**	0	0	0	0	0	0	**8**
Camberwell Dragons- over 30's basketball	0	0	0	0	50	0	**50**	0	0	0	0	50	0	**50**
Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association	3	0	-	75	6	-	**81**	0	0	0	58	6	0	**64**
Nunawading Basketball Association	6,366	1,909	2	3,248	742	12	**12,279**	5,197	1,680	5	2,666	595	7	**10,150**
Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club Inc	84	459	-	3	6	-	**552**	0	0	0	0	0	0	**356**
Playball Basketball	232	117	0	0	0	0	**349**	246	255	0	0	0	0	**501**
Respect Sports Inc	0	0	0	143	61	0	**204**	0	0	0	126	48	0	**174**
Slater Reserve Netball Association	0	0	0	0	50	0	**50**	0	0	0	0	55	0	**55**
Thornburn Ladies' Badminton Association Inc. (TLBA)	0	0	0	0	63	0	**63**	0	0	0	0	73	0	**73**
Whitehorse Netball Association	10	1850	10	40	340	0	**2,300**	100	1,900	10	60	320	0	**2,040**

10.2 – ATTACHMENT 2. Draft Indoor Sports Plan Appendices

Table 19: Clubs Membership Figures 2019/20 and 2023/24

Clubs	2019/20							2023/24						
	Junior Men/ Boys	Junior Women /Girls	Junior Non-Binary	Senior Men/ Boys	Senior Women /Girls	Senior Non-Binary	Total	Junior Men/ Boys	Junior Women /Girls	Junior Non-Binary	Senior Men/ Boys	Senior Women /Girls	Senior Non-Binary	Total
Blackburn Calisthenics College	0	140	0	0	80	0	**220**	0	100	0	0	60	0	**160**
Blackburn Tai Chi Academy	0	0	0	12	14	0	**26**	-	-	-	11	8	-	**17**
Celestial Tai Chi College	0	0	0	98	146	0	**244**	-	-	-	93	114	-	**207**
Deakin Badminton Club	0	0	0	40	20	0	**50-60**	20-30	20-30	-	80-100	60-80	-	**200**
Deakin Table Tennis Club	0	0	0	51	10	4	**65**	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Eastern Gymnastics Club	71	454	3	0	0	0	**525**	-	-	-	-	-	-	**550**
Koonung Comets Basketball Club Inc	703	296	1	0	0	0	**1,000**	579	213	0	0	0	0	**792**
Mark Smythe Table Tennis	19	3	0	48	8	0	**78**	16	2	-	50	10	-	**78**
Mitcham Badminton Club	-	-	-	-	-	-	**409**	-	-	-	-	-	-	**512**
Mitcham Thunder Basketball Club	350	45	0	0	0	0	**395**	390	50	-	-	-	-	**390**
Nunawading Kangas Basketball Club	519	232	1	16	7	1	**776**	582	110	0	16	8	0	**716**
St James Netball Club	2	178	0	0	10	0	**189**	1	123	0	0	14	0	**137**
Syndal Storm	0	0	0	15	7	0	**22**	50	20	0	40	10	0	**120**
The Disruptor Club Incorporated	30	28	0	0	0	0	**45**	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
The Whitehorse club	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	20	10	0	**30**
Victorian Fencing Academy	12	3	0	0	0	0	**15**	8	3	0	0	0	0	**11**
Whitehorse Activities Club Inc (WAC)	0	0	0	150	300	0	**450**	0	0	0	200	400	0	**600**

Membership Changes

Respondents were asked to report whether their membership had increased, remained stable, or decreased in recent years, along with an explanation for the change.

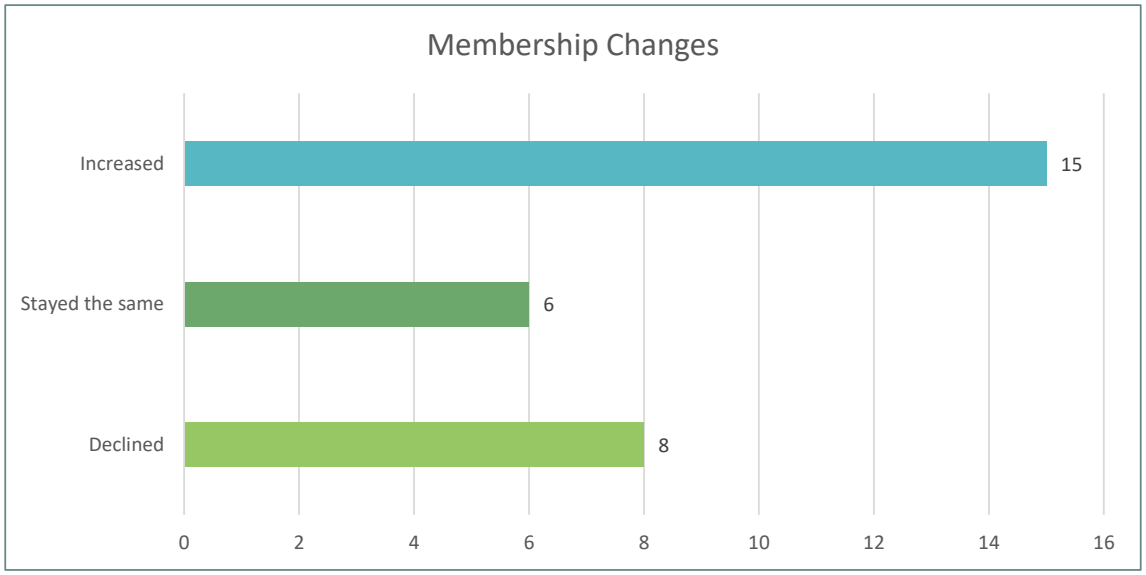


Figure 10: Membership Changes

The following themes emerged from clubs and associations who responded that their membership **increased**:

- Increased focus on engaging younger members and expanding youth development programs.
- Ongoing efforts to enhance program offerings, incorporating member feedback, and providing inclusive opportunities for all.
- Improved access to facilities or resources, allowing for greater participation.
- Growing interest in health and wellness initiatives as part of the club's offerings.
- Efforts to include diverse community members, such as new residents, and providing flexible options to accommodate different needs.
- Moving bookings online has made a significant difference in increasing membership.

The following themes emerged from clubs and associations who responded that their membership **declined:**

- The rising cost of living has impacted members' ability to participate.
- Competition from other local associations and new sports centres has drawn members away.
- An ageing membership base that is not being replaced by younger participants.
- Members struggling to manage their time due to work, study commitments, or energy levels.
- Lack of adequate facilities, equipment, and capacity to meet current demands.

Sports Represented

The survey responses included the following sports along with the number of clubs/associations for each sport:

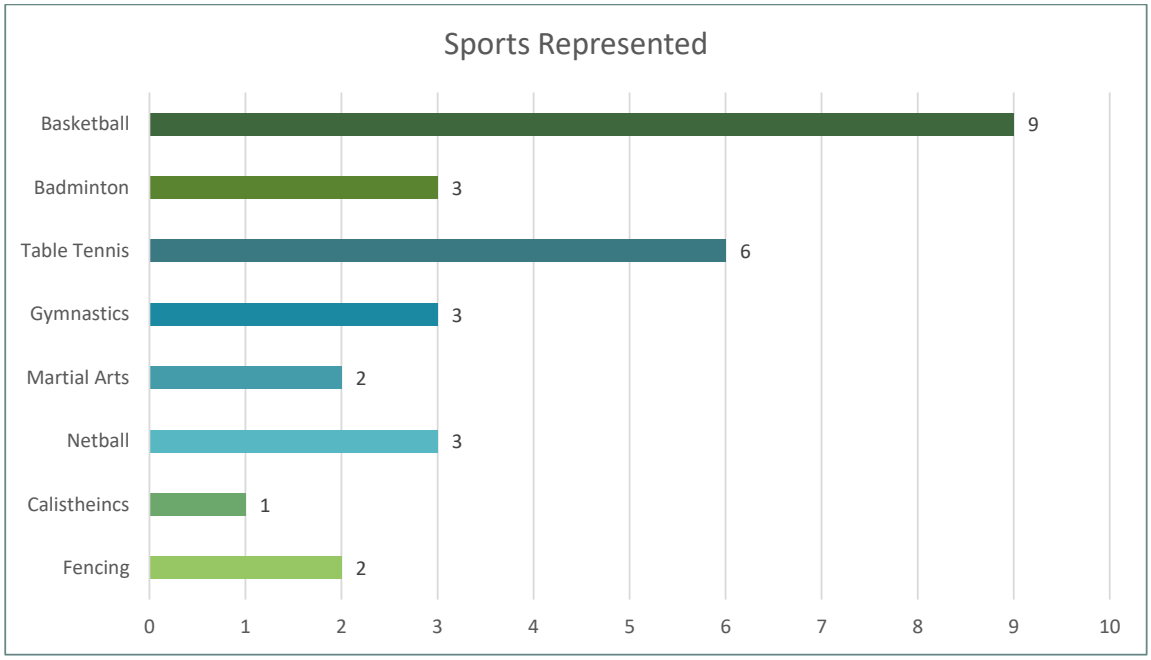


Figure 11: Sports Represented

The graph shows that:

- Basketball is the most popular sport, as 32.1% of all respondents reported participating in it.
- Table Tennis follows as the second most popular sport with 21.4%, while Netball, Badminton and Gymnastics all represented by 10.7% of respondents each.

Emerging Trends

The following table details themes that can be identified as emerging trends for each sport.

Table 20: Emerging Trends

Sport	Emerging Trends
Basketball	• An increase in women returning to sports post-COVID-19, with a greater emphasis on safety over competitiveness. • Participants are seeking local opportunities to play, and there are challenges in securing venues, particularly due to high costs and the need to finish games earlier. • The rising cost of living and lack of support in the sport are contributing to reduced participation. • A decline in participation during the winter months as children shift to playing other sports. • Growing interest in weeknight competitions, especially from cultural groups that have scheduling conflicts on weekends, leading to challenges in accommodating training sessions due to limited space.
Badminton	• Challenges in attracting younger members due to scheduling conflicts (unavailability during the day) and differences in preferences (lack of interest in social-oriented formats of play).

Sport	Emerging Trends
	• Increasing membership due to moving bookings online.
Table Tennis	• A lack of suitable venue is preventing the offering of junior competitions, despite significant interest from parents and players at a basic skill level. • Current use of school gym facilities is restricted to after-school hours, and there is a need for more flexible access to other facilities. • Members primarily use public or active transport to access venues. While play is mostly social, there is a growing interest in more structured training. • Increased immigrant participation is noted, which might reflect in increased demand.
Gymnastics	• Emphasis on catering to the specific strengths and weaknesses of each gymnast, with a focus on adjusting training methods to suit individual needs. • Prioritising the creation of a welcoming and inclusive community for families, ensuring that gymnasts feel safe and comfortable participating. • A trend towards more casual attendance rather than consistent, competitive involvement. • The rising costs of participation are making it increasingly difficult for some families to sustain involvement in gymnastics.
Martial Arts	• A growing commitment to martial arts as a means of improving personal wellbeing.
Netball	• There is a significant decline in participation among girls aged over 16, with about half of those previously registered not continuing to play in the open categories. • A growing number of players prefer playing during the day, as it better accommodates family responsibilities, rather than opting for evening or Saturday games.
Fencing	• Reduced interest in competition.

Facility Satisfaction

Clubs and associations were asked to rate their satisfaction with their main venue on a five-point scale. Following are the results.

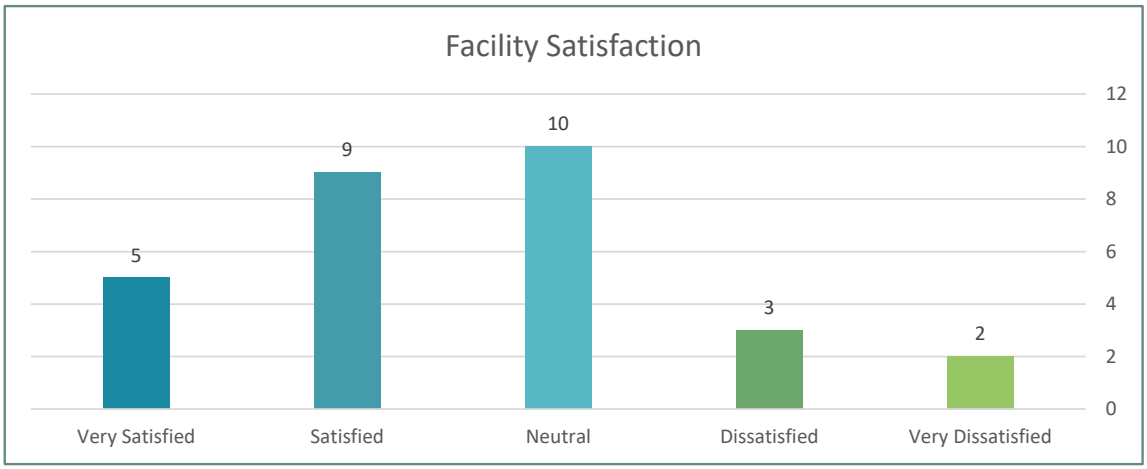


Figure 12: Facility Satisfaction

The graph indicates the following:

- Of the total respondents, 48.2% were “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” with the facilities at their main venue.
- A total of 34% were “Neutral” about the facilities.
- Only 17.2% of the total respondents reported feeling “Dissatisfied” or “Very Dissatisfied” with the facilities at their main venue.

Positive feedback

- **Whitehorse Activities Club** were satisfied with their current venue, stating that it meets their needs.
- **Camberwell Dragons - over 30's basketball** appreciated the location of their facilities.
- **Playball Basketball** mentioned satisfaction with the quality of lighting at their venue.
- **Respect Sports Inc** noted that while lighting is generally good, summer conditions can be challenging due to the glass walls, but overall, they are satisfied.
- **Thornburn Ladies' Badminton Association Inc. (TLBA)** were very satisfied with their facilities, describing them as "*very good*".

Areas of Concern

Clubs and associations were asked to select the reasons behind their "Dissatisfied" or "Very Dissatisfied" ratings, and the following were the results.

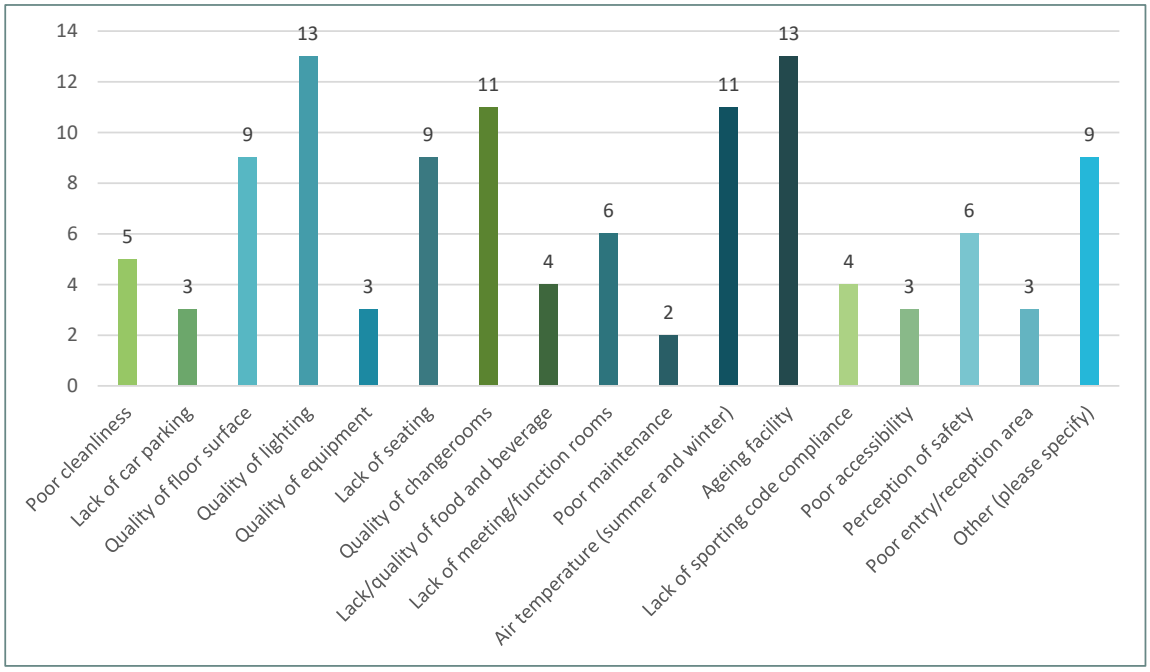


Figure 13: Areas of Concern

The graph indicates:

- A significant concern among respondents was the quality of lighting, with 11.4% of respondents identifying this as a major issue.
- It was tied with concerns about ageing facilities, with 11.4% of respondents citing it as a significant issue.
- Following closely was the quality of changerooms, and air temperature (summer and winter) each had 9.6% of respondents reporting dissatisfaction.

New or Upgraded Facilities Needed by Sport

Clubs and associations were asked to detail their requirements, either in form of facility upgrades or new facilities to accommodate current and future growth. Following table summarises the response from the clubs categorised by sport.

Table 21: New or Upgraded Facility Requirements

Sport	New or Upgraded Facility Requirements
Basketball	• **Camberwell Dragons -** maintaining the availability of the existing two basketball courts they currently use is of high importance. • **Playball Basketball** suggests upgrading the score tables to a flat surface rather than the current 45-degree angle and recommends changing the flooring to a lighter colour the next time it is sanded back. • **Respect Sports Inc** highlights the need for better lighting, particularly during summer when the glass walls can cause issues, though they note that everything else is satisfactory. • **Camberwell District Basketball Association** stresses the importance of having always functioning scoreboards to ensure smooth game operations. • **Koonung Comets Basketball Club** has need for more courts that meet competition-grade standards to accommodate their growing requirements. • **Nunawading Basketball** indicates a significant demand for at least 10 additional courts in the area to meet the current needs for competition, training and other programs. • **Mitcham Thunder Basketball Club** needs more facilities or renewal contracts that include struggling clubs, with upgrades that promote greater inclusivity. They also advocate for more indoor basketball courts that are managed by the Council in the Whitehorse area. • **Nunawading Kangas Basketball Club** indicates that their needs have grown, competition games have taken over traditional training venues, making it increasingly difficult to find suitable training times and locations. This situation is negatively impacting their ability to foster a strong club spirit, which is vital for the long-term viability of the club. They require help and additional facilities to address this issue. • **Syndal Storm** needs additional facilities to accommodate the rising participation levels.
Badminton	• **Deakin Badminton Club** has a critical need for improved car parking at the Sports Centre. They highlight the safety concerns of walking long distances from distant parking spots to the entrance, especially when accompanied by children, and mention that accidents have occurred due to the lack of footpaths. Additionally, increasing the number of WC (restroom) facilities is important, particularly for women, as there are often long waits for changing or restroom use, which becomes even more problematic when a restroom is out of order. • **Mitcham Badminton Club** mentioned that the lighting and flooring will need to be replaced in the next two years.
Table Tennis	• **Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association** calls for a dedicated venue for table tennis. There are safety concerns associated with setting up and taking down heavy tables, which weigh approximately 120 kg each, leading to injuries and damage. A dedicated area would eliminate the need for frequent table setup and takedown, extending the life of the tables and improving safety. Additionally, they highlight the need for modern PVC foam-backed flooring that is anti-slip and cushioned, which is critical for table tennis. • **The Disruptor Club Incorporated** suggests that obtaining more high-quality tables would greatly benefit the children who play, enhancing their experience. • **Deakin Table Tennis Club** expresses the need for new tables, new barriers and a potential switch of venue to Deakin University Stadium for better facilities. • **Mark Smythe Table Tennis** advocates for red synthetic flooring (such as Taraflex) and improved lighting of approximately 1,000 lux, similar to what other clubs in Melbourne have. They also highlight the need for more space to accommodate additional tables, as their current venue at Sportlink is fully booked and does not allow for expansion. • **Balwyn United Table Tennis Incorporated** identifies the need for better toilet and changing room facilities, as well as an increased seating area to accommodate their members more comfortably.

Sport	New or Upgraded Facility Requirements
Gymnastics	• **Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club Inc** mentioned significant upgrades, including improved amenities, a larger area for equipment, a redesigned entry and administration area, and a building with a higher ceiling. They also require a kitchen, meeting rooms, a square or rectangle-shaped building instead of the current L-shape, and the installation of heating and cooling systems. Additionally, they highlight the need for a proper viewing area, increased storage, disability access, and a designated pick-up and drop-off area. • **Burwood United Gymnastics Squad (BUGS Gymnastics)** is advocating for a larger venue to accommodate growth and provide adequate parent viewing. They also mention that the building is currently in disrepair and that there is limited parking, which needs improvement. • **Eastern Gymnastics Club** identifies the need for a foam pit to enhance training and safety. They also mentioned lower rent to ease financial pressures on the Club.
Netball	• **St James Netball Club** indicated that there is a need for more dedicated indoor netball facilities. The existing indoor venues are heavily booked and often used by other sports like volleyball and pickleball, which can make the playing surface unsafe for netball. The Club calls for the creation of spaces specifically designed and reserved for netball to ensure player safety and adequate availability. • **Slater Reserve Netball Association** highlights the need for infrastructure maintenance and upgrades. For example, updated changerooms and fixed roof leaks. • **Whitehorse Netball Association** indicated a shortage of court availability which may be hindering the ability to cater to the growing number of players. They also requested support from Council to make them the primary tenant at Sportlink.
Calisthenics	• **Blackburn Calisthenics College** reported the need for a home club with three dedicated studio spaces.

Open Comments

Following section summarises the open comments and feedback provided by the clubs and associations.

Increased demand for facilities:

- Multiple clubs and associations (e.g., Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association, Nunawading Basketball, Koonung Comets Basketball Club) mentioned a growing demand for additional and modern sports facilities, particularly for basketball and table tennis.
- Several clubs are advocating for new venues or the expansion of existing ones to accommodate increasing participation across different age groups.

Accessibility and inclusion:

- St James Netball Club points out the need for dedicated facilities for female sports, highlighting the lack of budget allocation and resources compared to male sports. This reflects a broader issue of gender equity in sports facilities.
- Various respondents (e.g., Deakin Table Tennis Club, Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association) call for greater accessibility to facilities for all age groups, including seniors and individuals with disabilities (e.g., through Swish for the visually impaired).
- Emphasis on creating inclusive programs that cater to diverse demographics, including junior coaching, social play for seniors, and women-only events.

Facility upgrades and maintenance:

- Feedback from Nunawading Kangas Basketball Club and Slater Reserve Netball Association indicates a need for upgrades to outdated facilities that do not meet current competition standards. There is a common concern regarding maintenance and improvement of existing venues.

- Mitcham Badminton Club recommended against situating a sports centre near residential areas, as noise issues could become a concern for the community and potentially discourage participation in the sport.

Financial support and resources:

- Several associations, including Mitcham Thunder Basketball Club and Balwyn United Table Tennis, mentioned the need for increased funding and resources to support grassroots clubs and enhance equipment. This includes calls for equitable distribution of financial support across all sports.

Operational challenges:

- Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association and Mark Smythe Table Tennis highlight logistical issues, such as the difficulty and safety risks associated with setting up and packing away table tennis tables, leading to the need for dedicated spaces that minimise these challenges.
- The Disruptor Club notes access restrictions to school facilities outside school hours, limiting adult participation opportunities.
- The Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association would prefer a centralised venue that could host community events, championships and competitions, encouraging community engagement and providing economic benefits to Whitehorse.

Key Findings

Key findings from the survey results are summarised below.

- **Growing membership:** Focus on youth engagement, program expansion, and health and wellness initiatives have driven membership growth. Moving to online bookings has made it easier for people to participate.
- **Declining membership:** Rising costs of living, an ageing membership base, competition from other clubs and inadequate facilities are leading to membership declines. Time constraints from work and study also contribute to declining participation.
- **Satisfaction levels:** While most respondents are generally satisfied with their facilities, concerns remain about lighting, ageing infrastructure and poor equipment conditions.
- **Facility upgrades and expansion:** There is a pressing need for more courts, dedicated spaces for certain sports (like table tennis) and better infrastructure across various clubs. Issues include poor lighting, lack of restrooms and outdated equipment.
- **Dedicated spaces and maintenance:** Many clubs request new or upgraded venues tailored to their specific sports. Common needs include better changerooms, flooring, seating and temperature control. Clubs are advocating for more resources and facilities for female athletes, particularly in netball, highlighting a need for dedicated spaces and budget allocation.
- **Inclusive programs:** Efforts are being made to offer more inclusive opportunities for diverse groups, including women, seniors, juniors and people with disabilities. Clubs emphasise the need for accessible facilities, better parking, seating and lighting to accommodate all members.
- Sport-specific trends and challenges:

  - **Basketball:** High demand for more courts and a growing interest in post-COVID-19 participation among women, but there are challenges with cost, scheduling and venue availability.
  - **Badminton:** Attracting younger members remains a challenge, but online booking has facilitated increased participation.
  - **Table Tennis**: Clubs highlight the need for dedicated venues and better equipment to meet increasing demand.

- **Gymnastics and Netball:** Clubs request venue expansions to accommodate growth, as well as more sport-specific facilities to improve player safety and experience.

- **Operational and funding issues:** Clubs face challenges such as restricted access to venues outside school hours, safety concerns with setting up heavy equipment, and overall lack of space. Clubs seek more financial support, equitable resource distribution, and better maintenance to improve grassroots participation and ensure long-term sustainability.

1.26 School Survey

Local Whitehorse City Council education institutions were directly invited to participate in an online School survey.

There were 19 complete responses received from the following clubs and associations:

- Aurora School
- Blackburn English Language School
- Blackburn Lake Primary School
- Blackburn Primary School
- Box Hill Senior Secondary College
- Burwood East Special Developmental School
- Deakin University
- Kingswood College
- Mitcham Primary School
- Mullauna Secondary College
- Orchard Grove Primary School
- Our Lady of Sion College
- Our Lady's Primary School
- Parkmore primary School
- St James Vermont
- St John's Primary School
- St Philip's Primary School
- St Thomas the Apostle School
- Wattle Park Primary School.

Enrolment numbers

Table 22: Enrolment numbers

Clubs	2019/20							2023/24						
	Junior Men/ Boys	Junior Women /Girls	Junior Non-Binary	Senior Men/ Boys	Senior Women /Girls	Senior Non-Binary	Total	Junior Men/ Boys	Junior Women /Girls	Junior Non-Binary	Senior Men/ Boys	Senior Women /Girls	Senior Non-Binary	Total
St James Vermont	171	179	0	0	0	0	**168**	172	0	0	0	0	350	**340**
Blackburn Primary School	228	212	0	0	0	0	**267**	241	0	0	0	0	440	**508**
Deakin University	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	27,372	**31,975**
Box Hill Senior Secondary College	0	0	0	180	160	2	**0**	0	0	200	150	0	350	**375**
Blackburn Lake Primary School	303	246	0	0	0	0	**250**	271	0	0	0	0	549	**521**
Blackburn English Language School	70	70	0	60	60	0	**70**	70	0	60	60	0	260	**260**
Aurora School	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	300	**260**
Wattle Park Primary School	135	121	0	0	0	0	**193**	185	0	0	0	0	256	**378**
Burwood East Special Developmental School	28	13	0	25	6	0	**33**	7	0	30	6	0	76.8	**79**
St Thomas the Apostle School	102	104	0	0	0	0	**147**	174	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Orchard Grove Primary School	355	293	0	0	0	0	**359**	307	0	0	0	0	648	**666**
St Philip's Primary School	13	17	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**40**	42	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30	**82**
Mitcham Primary School	259	246	0	0	0	0	**221**	213	0	0	0	0	505	**434**
St John's Primary School Mitcham	76	80	NA	NA	NA	NA	**70**	70	NA	NA	NA	NA	156	**140**
Parkmore primary School	62	50	0	0	0	0	**69**	53	0	0	0	0	112	**222**
Our Lady's Primary School	71	68	'-	0	0	0	**104**	71	0	0	0	0	139	**175**
Mullauna Secondary College	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	0	0	591	**0**
Our Lady of Sion College	0	0	0	0	915	5	**0**	0	0	0	960	0	920	**960**
Kingswood College	111	70	0	215	183	0	**67**	56	0	222	186	0	579	**531**

Enrolment Changes

Respondents were asked to report whether their enrolment numbers had increased, remained stable, or decreased in recent years, along with an explanation for the change.

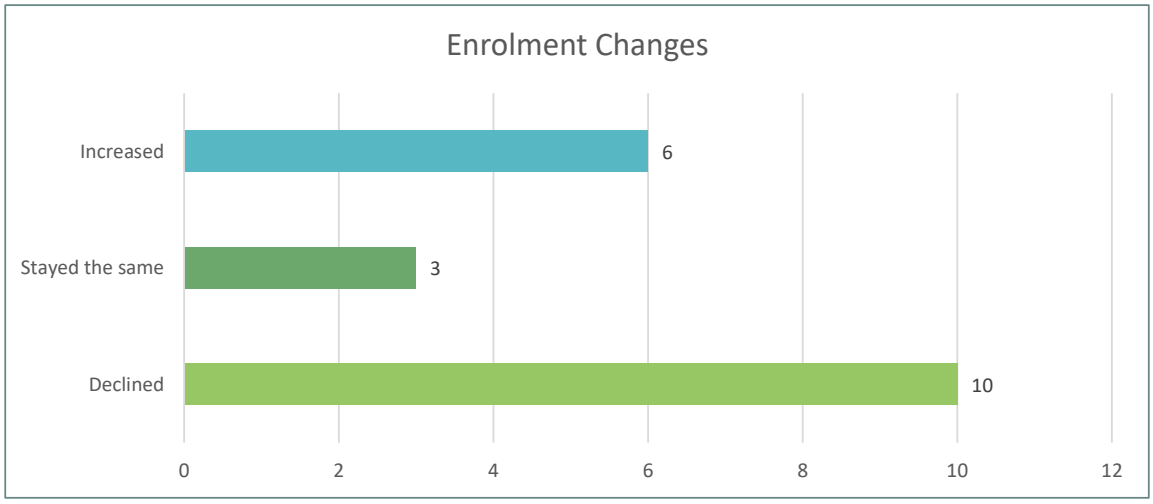


Figure 14: Enrolment Changes

The following themes emerged from schools who mentioned that their enrolment **increased**:

- The school is reaching or nearing its maximum capacity, indicating a high demand for enrolment.
- The school has undergone or plans to undergo improvements and renovations to its facilities, making it more appealing to potential students.
- A growing number of new families are moving into the area, leading to a potential rise in student enrolment.
- The school is adapting its programs and offers to better meet the needs of a shifting demographic, which may be drawing in more students.
- There is an increasing need for specialised language support services for young deaf children and their families, which could attract more students.

The following themes emerged from schools who mentioned that their enrolment **declined**:

- Changes in local residential patterns, including families moving out for affordable housing, declining birth rates, and lack of property development, have reduced the pool of potential students.
- Neighbouring schools with better sports facilities and other amenities are attracting students, making it harder for some schools to compete.
- Economic challenges faced by families, including the lack of affordable housing, have made it difficult for them to enrol their children.
- The school experienced setbacks during the pandemic, such as staffing issues and general direction problems, leading to a decline in enrolment and performance.

Schools with Indoor Sports Courts

Schools were asked to mention if they had indoor sports courts and following with results.

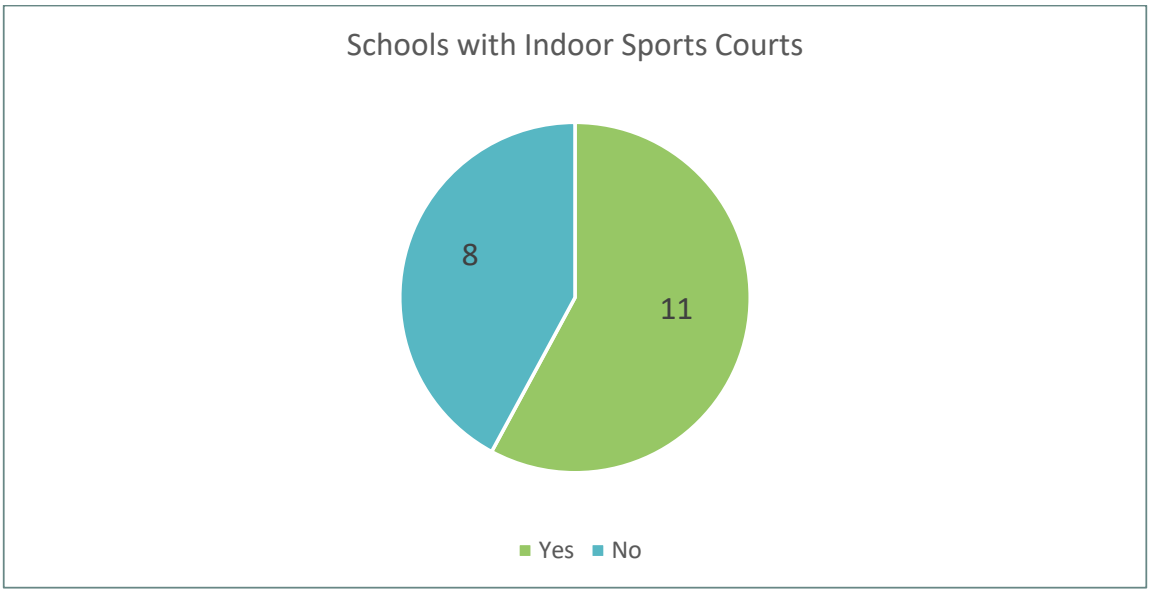


Figure 15: Schools with Indoor Sports Courts

Of the responses, eleven schools reported having indoor courts, while eight did not.

The eleven schools with indoor courts were then asked to specify how many courts they had:

- All but one school indicated that their courts are available for community use.
- Ten schools reported needing more courts to accommodate growing participants while nine schools were satisfied with the number of courts they currently have.
- Eight schools indicated that they use Council facilities. Facilities used included Sportlink, Nunawading Stadium, Vermont Tennis Club and Aqualink. Other facilities mentioned included The Rings, Action Indoor Sports and Melbourne Badminton Centre.

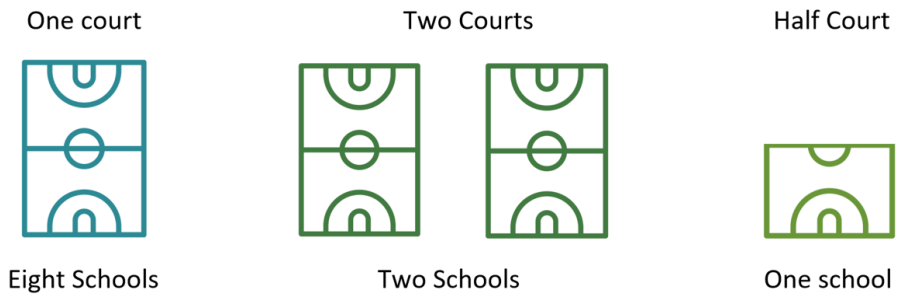


Figure 16: School Indoor Courts

Days and Times for Community Use

Schools were asked to report when their courts are available for community use.

Table 23: Days and Times

School	Days and Times for Community Use
Blackburn Primary School	• Monday to Friday 3:45pm - 10pm • Saturday - Sunday 9am - 6pm
Deakin University	• Weekends 8am - 6pm if available
Box Hill Senior Secondary College	• Indoor Court: Used essentially 7 days a week • Outdoor Tennis Courts: Used 3-4 days per week • Considering a synthetic soccer training pitch but requires support for establishment
Blackburn Lake Primary School	• Monday to Friday 4 - 9pm • Saturday 8am - 5pm • Sunday 8am -12pm
Wattle Park Primary School	• Monday 4pm - 9pm • Tuesday 4pm -7pm • Wednesday 4pm -9pm • Thursday 4pm -9pm • Friday 5pm -7pm • Saturday 8.30am -7pm • Sunday 5.30pm - 8.30pm
Burwood East Special Developmental School	• Monday to Friday 5.30pm - 8pm, Saturday and Sunday all day
Orchard Grove Primary School	• Basketball club - Monday - Friday - 4pm - 9pm and Saturday 9am - 11am • Church hire - Sunday - 9am - 5pm
Mitcham Primary School	• Monday - Friday 3.45pm - 8pm
Mullauna Secondary College	• Monday - Friday 4pm - 9:30pm • Saturday 9am – 5pm
Kingswood College	• Courts have previously been available Monday - Friday 5pm - 9pm and Saturday - Sunday 9am - 5pm, however this is no longer the case due to a directive from the Council following a neighbour complaint. The school is eager to make their facilities accessible to the community again.

Future Facility Needs

Schools were asked to specify their future facility needs and provide reasons for those requirements.

Table 24: Future Facility Needs

Schools	Facilities Needed
Deakin University	• Needs two additional courts in the future to meet growing demand.
Box Hill Senior Secondary College	• Lacks sufficient facilities for its Sports Academy and PE classes. In 2023, the school spent $50,000 on transport and court hire just for the basketball program, highlighting the urgent need for more courts.
Blackburn Lake Primary School	• Has only one basketball court and occasionally needs more space to accommodate activities.
Mitcham Primary School	• Requires at least two full-sized indoor courts to better attract external hirers and local clubs. One court is insufficient for multiple teams, and there is a lack of toilet facilities connected to the existing indoor court.
Mullauna Secondary College	• Faces space limitations, hindering its ability to fully support its sports programs.

Schools	Facilities Needed
Our Lady of Sion College	• Needs an indoor court for weekly Girls Sport Victoria events, such as badminton, volleyball, basketball and netball.
Kingswood College	• Has only one indoor court, which is insufficient due to rising enrolment numbers. The need is especially urgent during the winter and autumn months when outdoor sports are not feasible.

Future Considerations for Facilities

Schools were asked if they would consider the following:

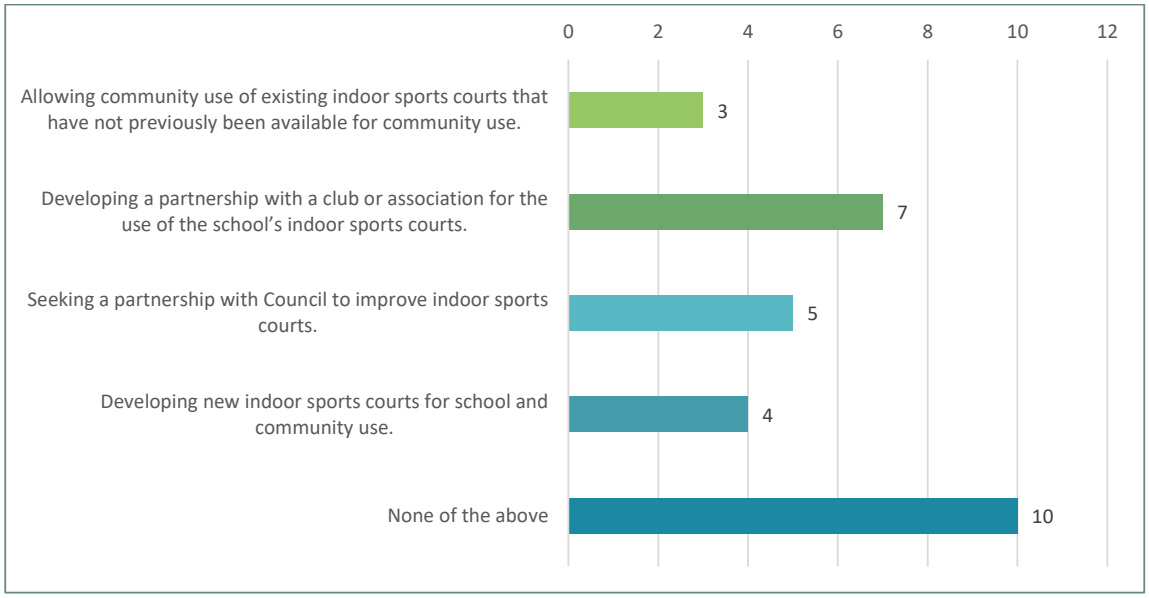


Figure 17: Future Considerations for Facilities

The graph above indicates that:

- Seven schools considered developing a partnership with a club or association for the use of the school's indoor sports courts.
- Five schools considered seeking a partnership with the Council to improve their indoor sports courts.
- Four schools would consider developing new indoor sports courts for both school and community use.
- Three schools considered allowing community use of existing indoor sports courts that had not previously been available for such use.
- Ten schools did not consider any of the options mentioned.

Key Themes from Open Comments

The key themes from open comments are summarised below.

Partnerships with the Council:

- Many schools are open to partnering with the Council to build and manage new indoor sports facilities, such as basketball courts or gymnasiums.
- Schools are particularly interested in collaborative efforts that would allow shared use of facilities between the school and the community.

Growing demand for indoor sports facilities:

- There is an increase in demand for indoor sports spaces, with pressure on schools to provide these areas often supported only by parent donations.
- There is a specific mention of the need for more facilities to support women's sports, such as netball.

Existing and planned collaborations:

- Schools and other institutions are already working with the Council or planning to do so.
- There have been past efforts to develop indoor sports facilities, but some schools report a lack of tangible support and action.

Current facility limitations:

- Some schools face limitations with their current facilities, such as small indoor courts unsuitable for larger groups.
- There are issues with accessing resources within the Council, leading schools to seek alternatives in neighbouring areas.

Community use and accessibility:

- There is a desire for facilities that can serve both school and community needs, with a focus on maximising usage during different times of the day.

Positive experiences with council venues:

- Some schools have had positive experiences with Council outdoor fields and are seeking similar support for indoor facilities.
- There is appreciation for the Council's responsiveness to specific scheduling needs, though some areas still require improvement.

Key Findings

The key findings from the survey results are summarised below.

- **Increasing demand for enrolment:** Schools are reaching or nearing maximum capacity due to high demand. Factors include ongoing improvements to facilities, a rising number of new families moving into the area, and programs adapted to meet changing demographic needs.
- **Interest in collaborative partnerships:** Many schools are open to partnering with the Council for the development and management of new indoor sports facilities and managing shared use between schools and the community.

- **Need for additional indoor sports facilities:** A significant number of schools have a need for more indoor sports courts to accommodate growing participation.
- **Limitations of current facilities:** Several schools face challenges with existing facilities, including inadequate space and limited access to resources, leading them to seek alternative options.
- **Positive experiences with Council facilities:** Many schools have had positive interactions with Council-managed outdoor fields and are looking for similar support and responsiveness for indoor facilities.
- **Challenges from competing schools:** Schools are facing competition from neighbouring institutions with better sports facilities, making it more challenging to retain and attract students.

1.27 Community Survey

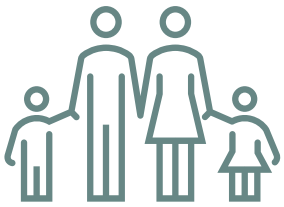
This section summarises the key findings from the community survey conducted online via the Council's "Your Say Whitehorse" webpage, as well as through written submissions. The survey took place in August 2024, with a total of 928 respondents participating.

Respondent Profile

The following information provides details on who responded to the survey.



The majority (50%) of respondents were men. Meanwhile, 44% of the respondents were women, four respondents were non-binary and 3% prefered not to say.



Age group that represents the highest percentage of the respondents is 35 to 44 years (20.7%) followed by 45 to 54 years (18.4%) and 12 to 17 years (15.4%).



The predominant postcodes where respondents lived were Mitcham, Nunawading, Blackburn and Box Hill North.



The majority (58%) of respondents were born in Australia. A total of 11.4% of the respondents were born in China, 5.5% were born in Malaysia, 4.7% were born in Hongkong and 3.9% were born in India.



Of the total respondents, 19.4% indicated that they have low proficienct in speaking English, 12 respondents reported some form of disabiltiy, 11 people were from low socio-economic background, three people were from the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island community and 11 people were from the LGBTQIA+ community.



The majority fo the respondents spoke English (73.1%), 9.8% respondents reported speaking Mandarin and 8.1% reported speaking Cantonenese.

Figure 18: Respondent Characteristics

The following tables summarise the user survey respondents' sample.

Table 25: User Survey Respondent Sample

Category	Sub-group	Number	% of the survey respondents
Gender	Men	465	50
	Women	404	44
	Non-Binary	4	0.4
	Prefer not to specify	26	2.8
Age Range	Below 12	85	9.2
	12-17	143	15.4
	18-24	76	8.2
	25-34	83	8.9
	35-44	192	20.7
	45-54	171	18.4
	55-64	62	6.7
	65-74	49	5.3
	75+	32	3.4

Table 26: User survey population statistics

Suburb	Count	% of the survey respondents
Mitcham	41	4.4%
Nunawading	41	4.4%
Blackburn	37	4.0%
Box Hill North	30	3.2%
Forest Hill	29	3.1%
Vermont	26	2.8%
Blackburn South	26	2.8%
Vermont South	22	2.4%
Burwood East	21	2.3%
Glen Waverley	20	2.2%
Box Hill South	18	1.9%
Blackburn North	17	1.8%
Mont Albert North	17	1.8%
Burwood	16	1.7%
Other	66	7.1%

A review of the survey respondents indicates that:

- A higher percentage of men (50%) participated in the survey compared to women (44%). A small proportion of respondents identified as non-binary (0.4%), and 2.8% preferred not to specify their gender.
- Most respondents fell within the 35 to 44 years age group, representing 20.7% of the total sample. This was followed by those aged 45 to 54 years (18.4%) and 12 to 17 years (15.4%).
- A lot of the respondents were from Mitcham (4.4%), Nunawading (4.4%), Blackburn (4%) and Box Hill North (3.2%).

Of the total respondents, 812 (87.5%) indicated that they play an indoor court sport. The survey results of these 812 respondents who indicated they use indoor courts are analysed below.

Visitation to the Indoor Courts

Following data represents the indoor courts visitation habits of the respondents.

Frequency of Play and Visitation

Respondents were asked how often they played an indoor sport.

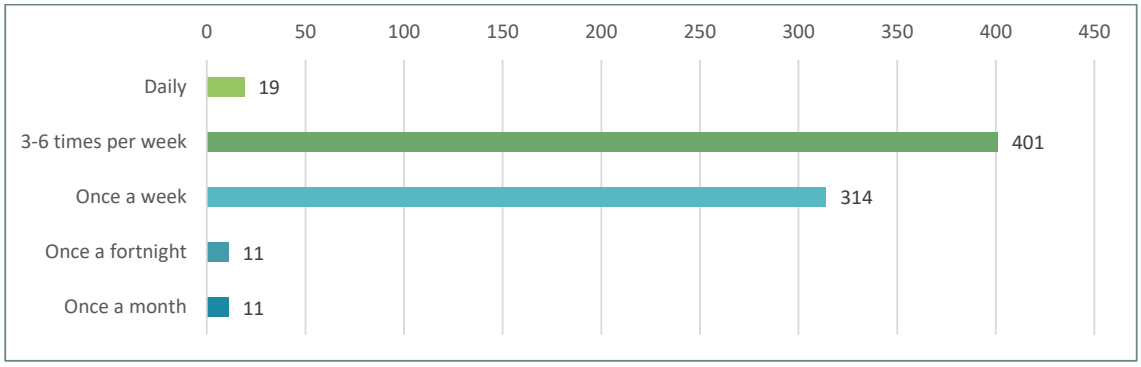


Figure 19: Frequency of Play

- Of the total respondents, 49.4% respondents reported playing an indoor sport three to six times a week, followed by 38.7% of the respondents who reported playing at least once a week.
- This indicates a heavy demand on the existing indoor courts provision in the City of Whitehorse.

Indoor Courts Visitation Time

Respondents were asked to report on what times of the week they visited the indoor courts in the City of Whitehorse. Overall, 27.2% of the respondents indicated they only played on weekdays, 12.7% only played on weekends and 53.2% respondents played all week.

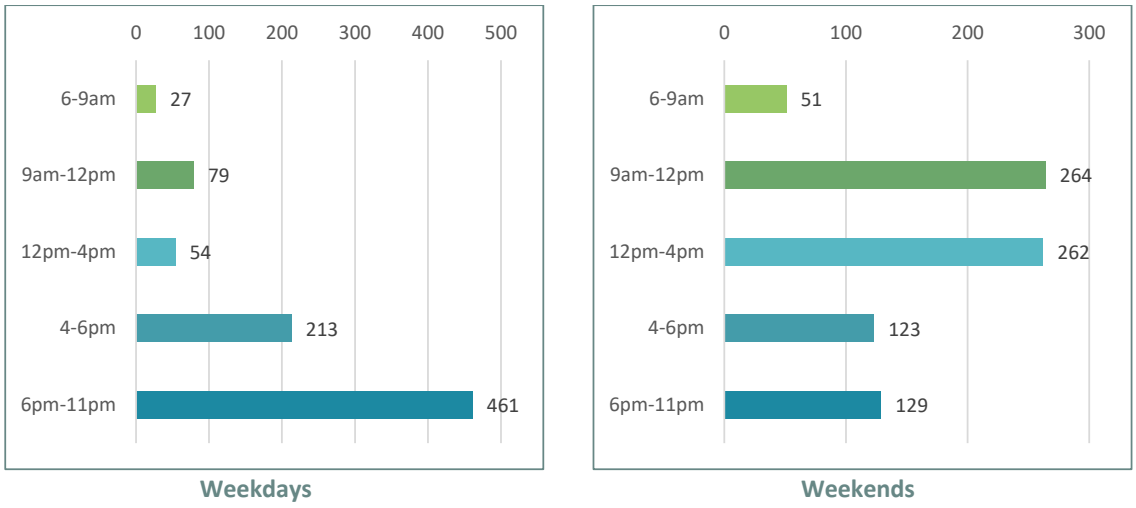


Figure 20: Indoor Courts Visitation time

The graphs indicate that:

- The most popular time to visit the indoor courts is weekdays between 6 pm to 11 pm, as indicated by 56.8% of the respondents.
- This was closely followed by the 9 am to 12 pm time slot (32.5%) and 12pm to 4pm time slot (32.3%) on weekends.
- This high demand may suggest that current facilities could be overbooked or at capacity during these hours.

Transport to the Indoor Courts

Respondents were asked to report on the method of travel to get to the Indoor Courts.

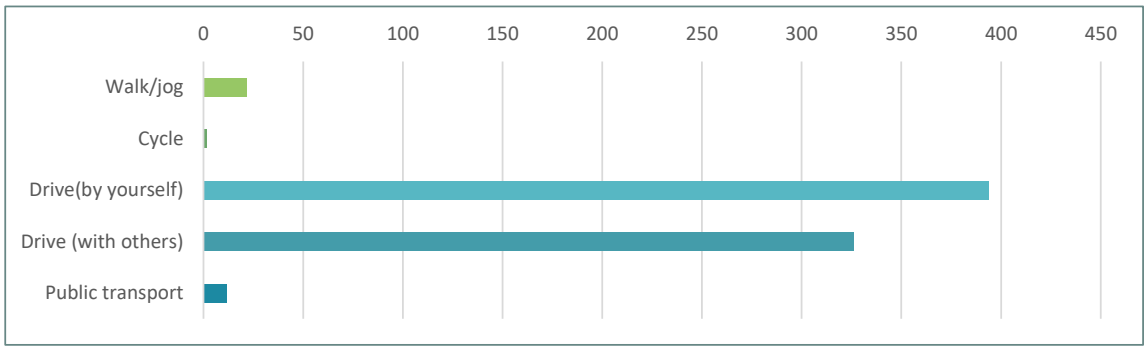


Figure 21: Transport to the Indoor Courts

The graph above indicates that:

- 48.5% of the respondents travel in a car by themselves while 40% carpool with friends or family.
- Only a small percentage (2.7%) walk or jog to the centres and an even smaller percentage (1.5%) take the public transport.
- This indicates that most users rely on cars to access indoor courts, highlighting potential challenges in parking demand and accessibility for those without cars.

Distance to the Indoor Courts

Respondents were asked how far they were willing to travel using different modes of transportation – walking, cycling and driving.

Walking

- Three respondents indicated that they would walk up to five minutes.
- Eight respondents indicated that they would walk five to ten minutes.
- Eleven respondents indicated that they would walk more than 10 minutes.

Driving and public transport

Following table indicates the willingness of respondents to travel different distances to indoor courts.

Table 27: Mode of Transport and Distance to Indoor Courts

Transport	Less than 5km	5 to 15 km	More than 15km
Drive car by themselves	182	186	26
Drive others	158	147	21
Public transport	2	9	1

The table shows that the majority of respondents (82.8%) would prefer to travel no more than 15 kilometres by car, either alone or with others, to an indoor court.

Use of Indoor Courts

The following analysis details the indoor sports played by the respondents and reasons for use. Overall, 44.8% of respondents played in facilities only in Whitehorse Council while 6.9% played only outside of Whitehorse Council and 48.3% mentioned that they played in facilities both inside and outside the Council.

Sports played by Respondents

Respondents were asked to select all indoor sports they played in Whitehorse Council. Following image illustrates different sports played in the Council.

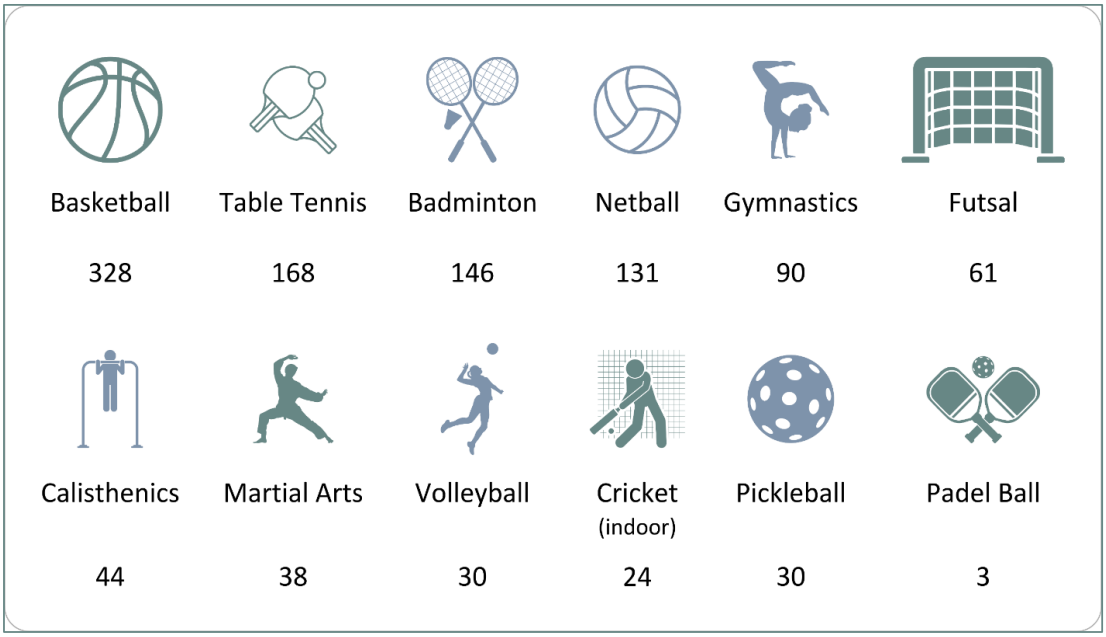


Figure 22: Sports played by Respondents

Results indicate:

- The top three sports played by the respondents are Basketball, Table Tennis and Badminton, followed by Netball, Gymnastics and Futsal.
- Other sports played included Squash and Dance.

Reasons to Participate

Respondents were asked the main reason to participate in indoor sports. Following reasons were the most popular.

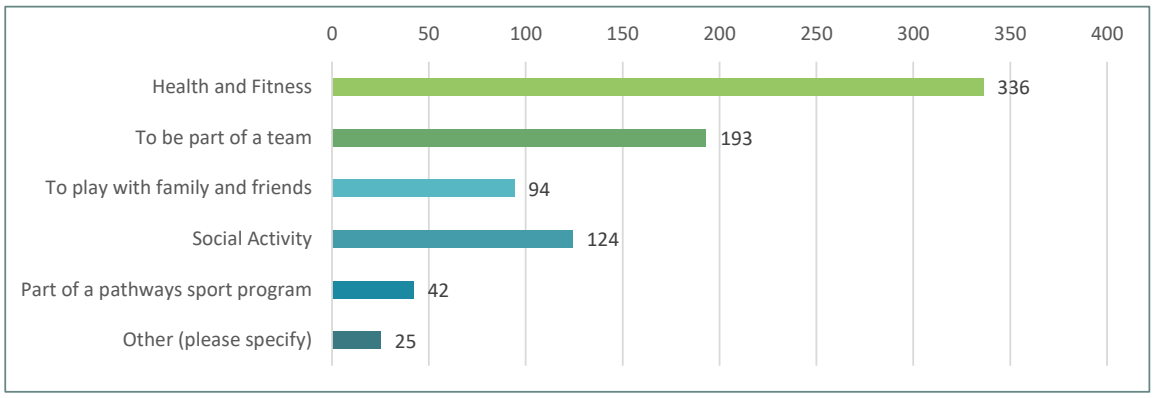


Figure 23: Reasons to Participate

The results indicate that the main reason to participate in indoor sports in Health and Fitness (41.2%), followed by the want to be part of a team (23.7%) and as a social activity (15.2%).

Facilities used by Respondents

The following Whitehorse City Council facilities were used by the respondents.

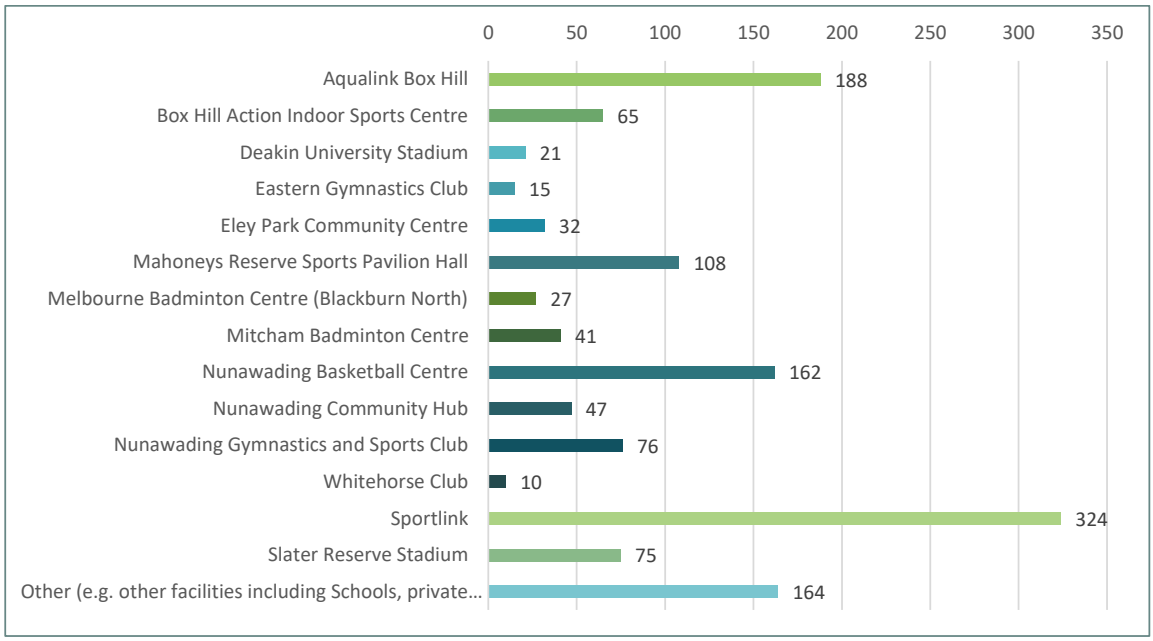


Figure 24: Facilities used by Respondents

The graph above indicates:

- The most used facility is Sportlink (39.9%), followed by Aqualink Box Hill (23.2%) and Nunawading Basketball Centre (19.9%).

- Other frequently used facilities include Mahoneys Reserve Sports Pavilion Hall (13.3%) and other facilities such as schools or private centres (20.2%).
- Among the school courts, Koonung Secondary College and Box Hill Secondary College were reported to be used the most.

Main Venue of Use

Respondents were asked to indicate their main venue of use. Following was the most popular:

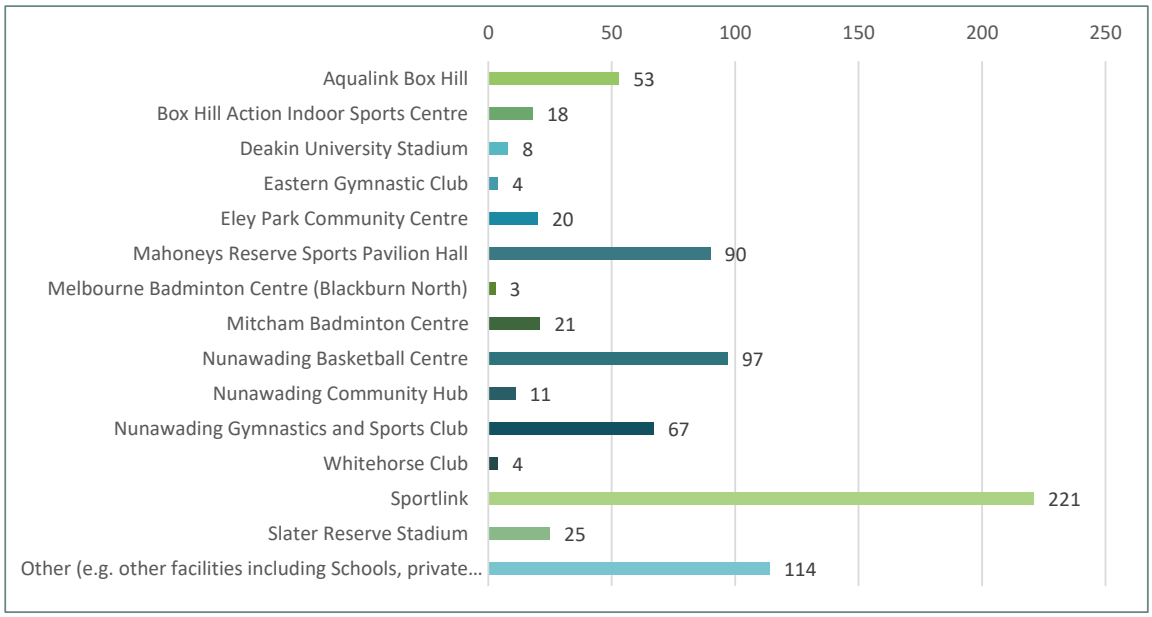


Figure 25: Main Venue of Use

The results indicate:

- The most frequently used main venue is Sportlink (29.2%), followed by Nunawading Basketball Centre (12.8%) and Mahoneys Reserve Sports Pavilion Hall (11.9%).
- Other venues include Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club (8.9%) and Aqualink Box Hill (7%).

Rating of Facilities

Respondents were asked to rate their main venue on a five-point scale. They could either rate it Excellent, Good, Adequate, Quite Poor or Very Poor. The following graph shows the results.

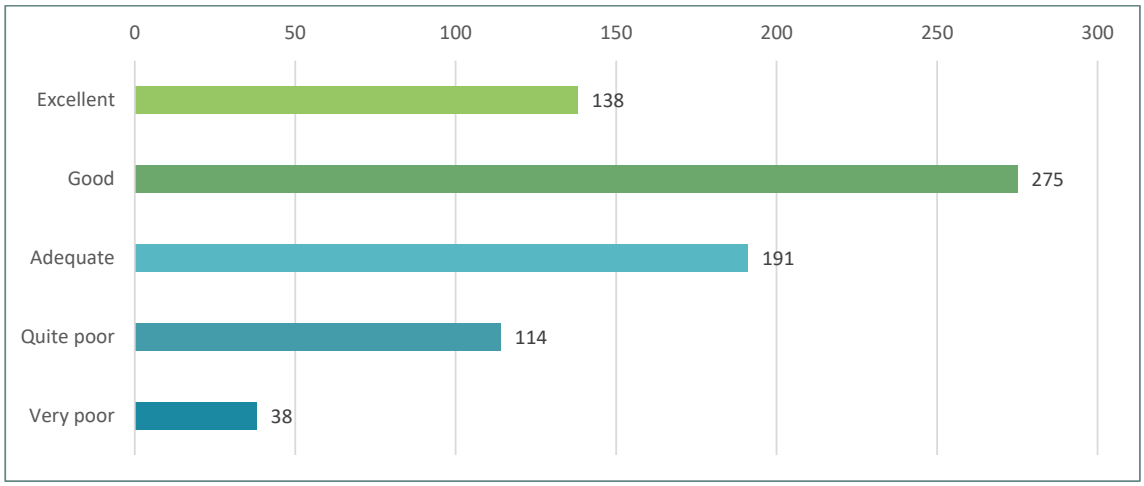


Figure 26: Rating of Facilities

The results show that 54.7% of participants rated their main venue as either Excellent or Good, while 29.4% rated it as Quite Poor or Very Poor. The remaining 25.3% rated their venue as Adequate.

Respondents who rated their main venue "Quite Poor" and "Very Poor" were asked to indicate the reason for their rating. Following are the results.

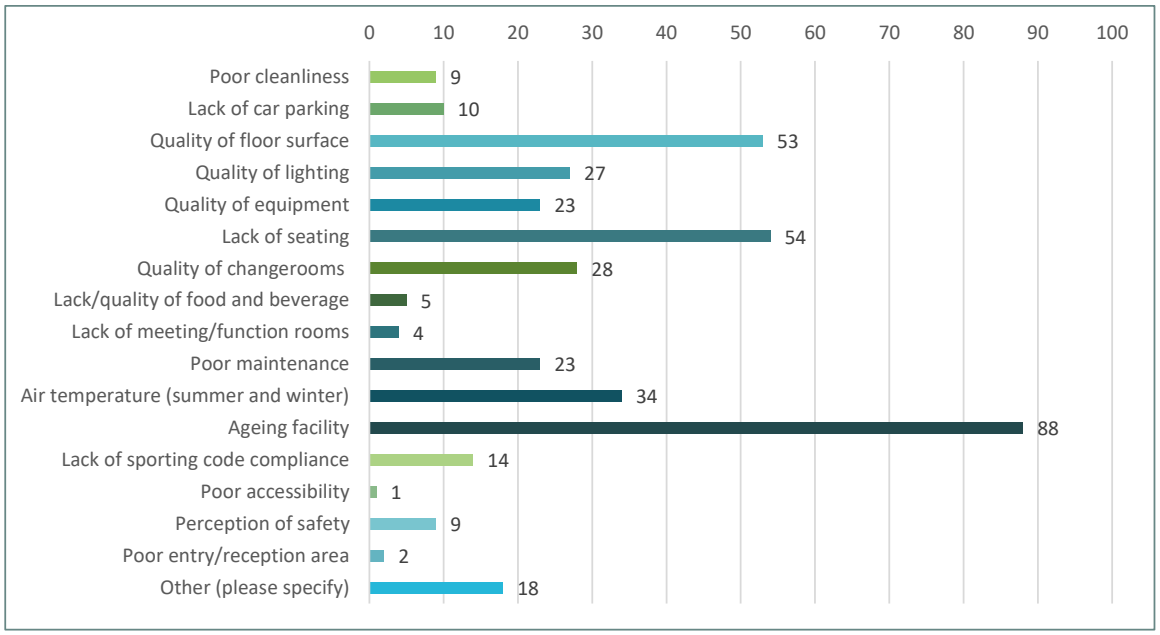


Figure 27: Reason for Dissatisfaction with Facilities

Responses indicated:

- The most common reasons for rating a facility as Poor or Quite Poor are Ageing facility at 21.8%, followed by Lack of seating at 13.4%, and Quality of floor surface at 13.1%.
- Other issues include Air temperature (8.4%) and Quality of lighting (6.7%).

Value of Indoor Sport

Respondents were asked what they valued the most about playing indoor sport and following were the results.

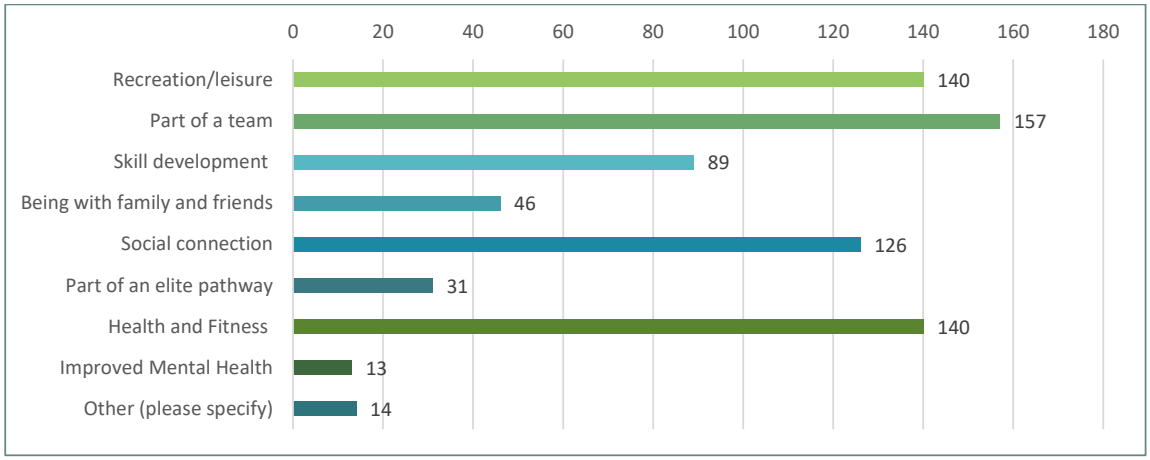


Figure 28: Value of Indoor Sport

The results indicate:

- The most valued aspects of playing indoor sports are being Part of a team (20.8%), along with Health and Fitness and Recreation/leisure (both at 18.5%).
- This is followed by social connection (16.7%) and skill development (11.8%).
- Being with family and friends is valued by 6.1% of participants, while part of an elite pathway accounts for 4.1%.

Barriers and Future Participation

Respondents were asked about barriers in participation as well as what would encourage them to participate more in the future.

A. Barriers for Participation in Indoor Sports

Current players were asked if there were any barriers to their participation in Indoor Sports in the City of Whitehorse. Following were the most popular responses.

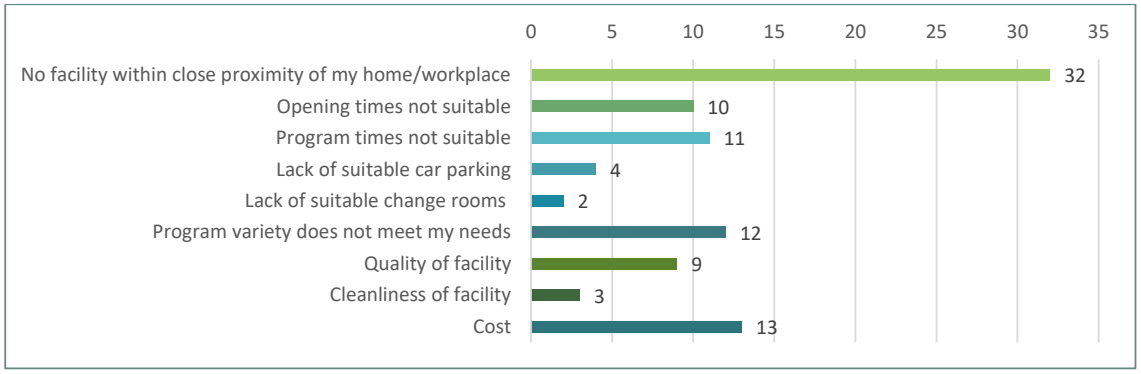


Figure 29: Barriers for Participation in Indoor Sports

The results indicate that:

- The main barriers to participating in indoor sports in Whitehorse include the lack of a facility close to home or workplace (33.3%), followed by high costs (13.5%), and a lack of program variety (12.5%).
- Other barriers include unsuitable program times (11.5%) and unsuitable opening times (10.4%).

B. Future Participation in Indoor Sports

Current players were asked what would encourage them to participate in indoor sports within the City of Whitehorse and following were the most popular answers.

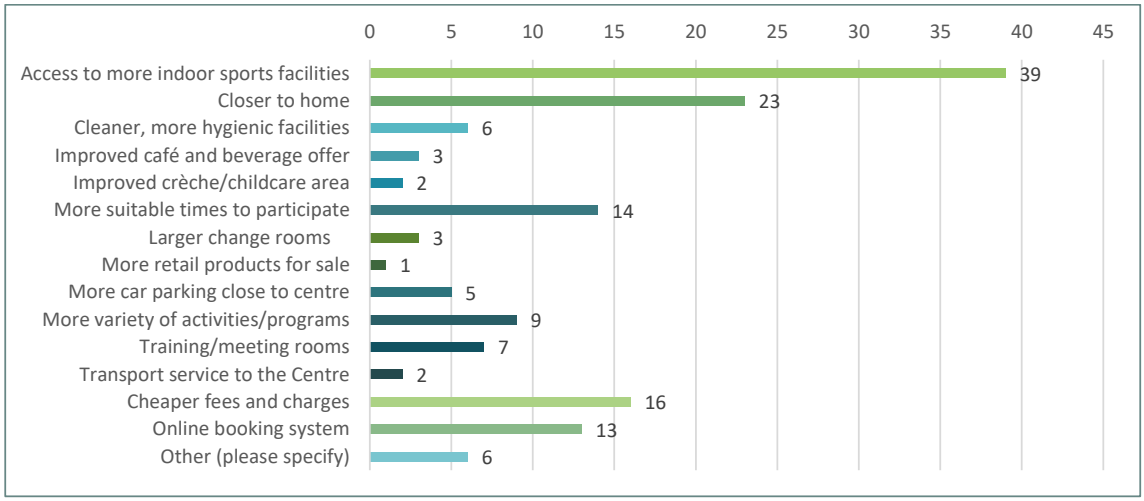


Figure 30: Future Participation in Indoor Sports

The survey results indicate:

- The primary factor encouraging participation in indoor sports in the City of Whitehorse is access to more indoor sports facilities (26.2%), followed by cheaper fees and charges (10.7%).
- This was followed by closer proximity to home (15.4%), more suitable times to participate (9.4%), and an online booking system (8.7%), with additional considerations including variety of activities (6.0%) and improved hygiene (4.0%).

C. Barriers for Participation in Indoor Sports

A total of 116 respondents reported that they do not participate in indoor sports. They were asked to share their reasons for not playing indoor sport in the City of Whitehorse. Following were the most common ones.

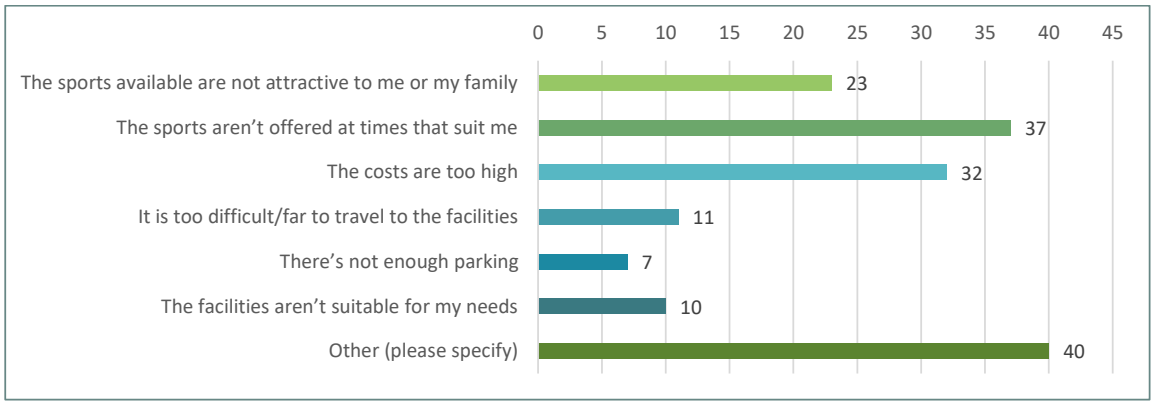


Figure 31: Barriers for Participation in Indoor Sports

The results indicate:

- The main reason for not playing indoor sports is that the sports aren't offered at convenient times (23.1%), followed by high costs (20.0%) and lack of attraction to available sports (14.4%).
- Additionally, 6.9% found it difficult to travel to facilities, and 4.4% cited insufficient parking.
- Of the 25% who cited other reasons, age and fitness-related limitations, lack of suitable indoor sports programs or awareness, and family or childcare responsibilities were the most common ones.

D. Choice of Future Sport

When asked about their interest in playing indoor sports in the future, 85 respondents (73.3%) mentioned that they would like to participate, while 31 respondents (26.7%) said they would not. The respondents who indicated that they would like to participate in the future were asked which sport they would be interested in. Following are the results.

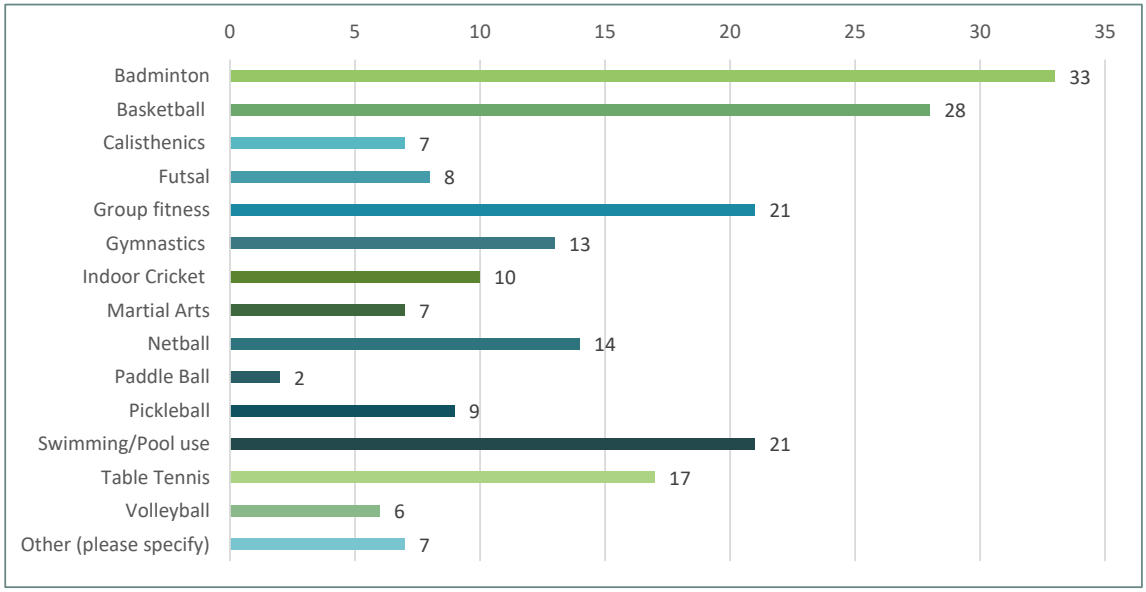


Figure 32: Choice of Future Sport

The results indicate:

- Badminton is the most preferred indoor sport among respondents, with 38.8% selecting it.
- This is followed by Basketball (32.9%) and Group fitness and Swimming/Pool use (all at 24.7%).
- Other popular options include Table Tennis (20%), Netball (16.5%), and Gymnastics (15.3%).

E. Likelihood of Participation in Indoor Sports

The 31 respondents who answered "no" to whether they would like to play more indoor sports were asked what could make them more likely to participate in indoor sports within Whitehorse. The following were the most mentioned factors.

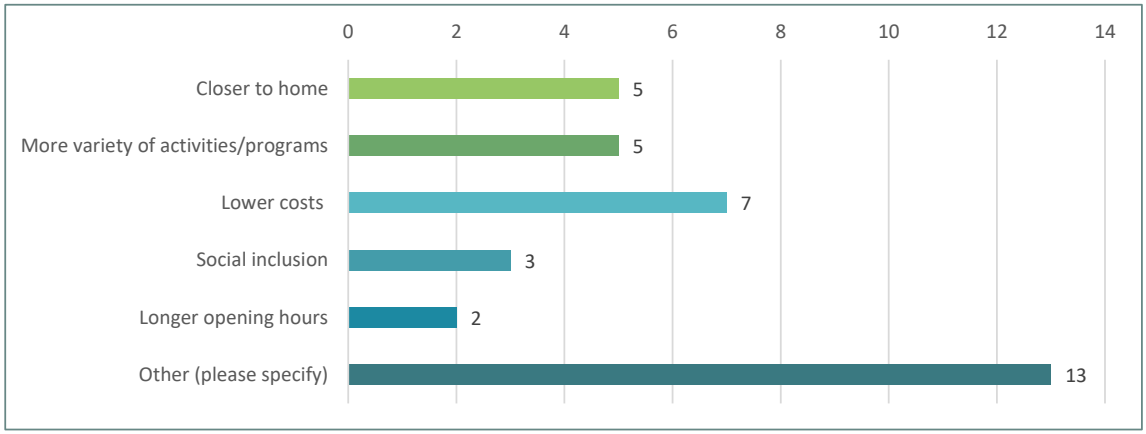


Figure 33: Likelihood of Participation in Indoor Sports

The results indicate:

- The most significant factor that would make respondents more likely to play indoor sports is lower costs (20%).
- Additionally, 14.3% would be encouraged by closer proximity to home and a greater variety of activities/programs, while 8.6% cited social inclusion, and 5.7% mentioned longer opening hours.
- Other reasons included more flexible access to sports facilities without the commitment to a competition format, highlighting personal barriers like health and comfort, and better accessibility for seniors and children.

Open Comments

Following section summarises the open comments and feedback provided by the respondents.

- **Need for improved basketball facilities**: Respondents emphasised the requirement for better-quality basketball courts. Concerns included outdated infrastructure, slippery floors, inadequate lighting, and insufficient seating. Many reported that the current conditions at venues like the Nunawading Basketball Centre did not meet the needs of the community or support the growth of the sport.
- **Facility upgrades and maintenance**: Many respondents mentioned the need for upgrades to existing sports facilities due to issues like poor hygiene, outdated amenities, and lack of maintenance. Concerns included dust on floors, deteriorating surfaces, and inadequate changerooms. It was suggested that improved facilities would enhance the experience for all users, encouraging greater participation in sports.

- **Demand for dedicated Table Tennis facilities**: A significant number of respondents called for a permanent table tennis centre to accommodate growing interest in the sport. They highlighted the challenges of setting up and dismantling equipment in temporary venues, which can be time-consuming and potentially dangerous. A dedicated facility would enhance safety, efficiency, and the overall experience for players.
- **Community connection and health benefits**: The social and health benefits of indoor sports were mentioned by many respondents, particularly in relation to senior citizens. Participation in these activities encourages community bonds and improves mental and physical wellbeing. Respondents wanted to see more accessible facilities that encourage social interaction and support a healthy lifestyle.
- **Community engagement and social connections**: Many respondents emphasised the importance of indoor sports in fostering community bonds and social interaction. Participants appreciated the opportunities to connect with friends and family through sports, highlighting the sense of belonging these activities create.
- **Accessibility and affordability**: Respondents raised concerns about the high costs associated with venue hire and the difficulties in booking available facilities. Many respondents recommended more affordable options that would make participation in sports accessible to a wider audience, particularly for families and seniors. The need for a streamlined booking process was also mentioned.
- **Parking and accessibility issues**: Several respondents noted logistical barriers to accessing sports facilities, particularly crowded parking situations and difficulties in reaching venues. They highlighted the need for improved parking facilities and better accessibility options to ensure that everyone can easily participate in sports activities.
- **Support for diverse sports**: There was a recognition of the community's diverse sporting needs, particularly for badminton and basketball, reflecting the interests of a multicultural population. Respondents called for facilities that cater to a variety of sports to ensure inclusivity and encourage broader participation across different age groups and cultural backgrounds.

Summary of Key Themes

The following points summarise the key findings from the community survey:

- **Demographics:** A slightly higher proportion of men (50%) responded compared to women (44%), with 0.4% identifying as non-binary responded to the survey. Most respondents were aged 35-44 (20.7%), followed by those aged 45-54 (18.4%). While the majority (58%) were born in Australia, a significant proportion were born in China (11.4%) and other countries, reflecting the multicultural nature of the community. Additionally, 19.4% of respondents had low English proficiency, and 11 respondents identified as LGBTQIA+.
- **Indoor sports participation**: Nearly half (49.4%) of respondents play indoor sports 3-6 times per week, indicating heavy demand for existing indoor courts. Popular sports include basketball, table tennis, and badminton, with reasons for participation centred on health and fitness (41.2%), team involvement (23.7%), and social connections (15.2%). The most frequently used facilities were Sportlink (39.9%) and Aqualink Box Hill (23.2%).
- **Usage patterns**: The busiest times at indoor sports venues are on weekdays from 6 pm to 11 pm (56.8%), with weekends between 9 am and 12 pm also popular. Most respondents travelled by car, either alone (48.5%) or carpooling (40%), indicating potential parking demand and accessibility challenges for non-drivers.
- **Facility conditions and feedback**: While 54.7% of respondents rated their main venue as excellent or good, 29.4% rated it as poor or quite poor. Common complaints included ageing facilities

(21.8%), lack of seating (13.4%), and poor floor quality (13.1%). Facility upgrades were mentioned as important, particularly better basketball courts and maintenance improvements.

- **Barriers to participation**: Lack of facilities near home or work (33.3%) and high costs (13.5%) were the main barriers to participating in indoor sports. Respondents suggested that access to more facilities, lower fees, and an easier booking system could increase participation.
- **Non-participants**: Of the 116 respondents who do not currently play indoor sports, 73.3% expressed interest in future participation, particularly in badminton (38.8%) and basketball (32.9%). The main reasons for non-participation were inconvenient times (23.1%) and high costs (20%).
- **Community needs and suggestions**: Respondents called for diverse sports options and dedicated facilities, such as a permanent table tennis centre, to accommodate growing interest. They mentioned the social and health benefits of indoor sports, particularly for seniors, and highlighted the need for affordability, improved accessibility, and better parking.

1.28 Local Clubs Meeting

Otium and the Council hosted an in-person meeting, inviting local clubs to engage in discussions about future plans for indoor sports in Whitehorse.

Ten clubs were in attendance representing the following sports.

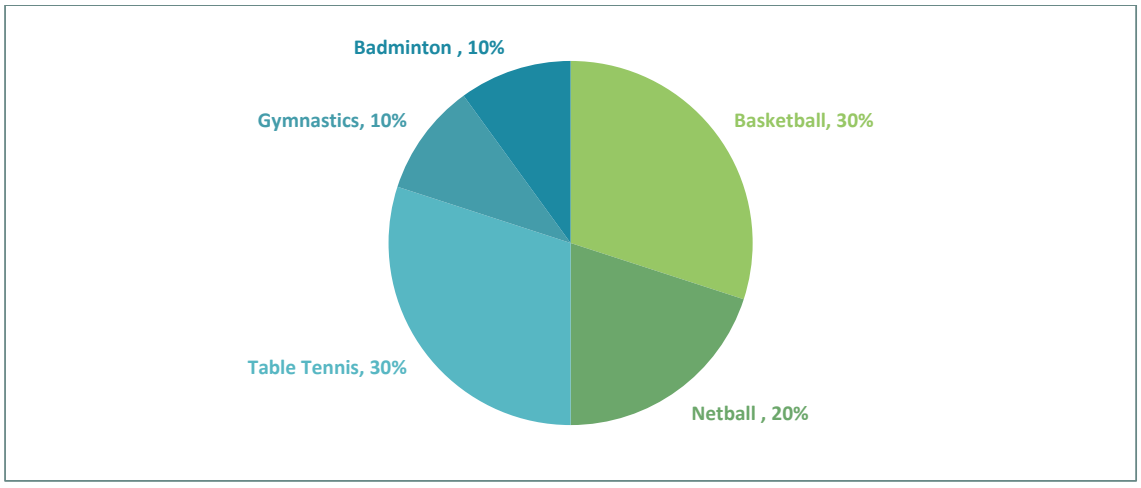


Figure 34: Sports in Attendance at Council Meeting

The following questions were asked using “Slido” polling in PowerPoint. The results are summarised below.

- Overall, 60% of the club members indicated that they use facilities outside of the City of Whitehorse for training and competition for their sport, while 40% only used facilities within the Council area.
- When asked if they use single or multiple facilities for their training and competitions, 60% of the clubs indicated that they use multiple, while 40% use a single facility.
- All clubs and associations within the City of Whitehorse were invited to complete a survey, 90% of the clubs present in the meeting indicated that they had completed the survey out while 10% mentioned that they had not yet.

- The clubs were asked if their membership numbers had changed since COVID-19. Seven clubs indicated that their membership had increased while three clubs indicated that it had stayed somewhat the same.
- The clubs were then asked if their current facilities and associated infrastructure (such as car parking, changerooms etc) met their expectations and 20% agreed while 10% were unsure and 70% strongly disagreed.
- The clubs were then asked what facility issues they faced and following were the results.

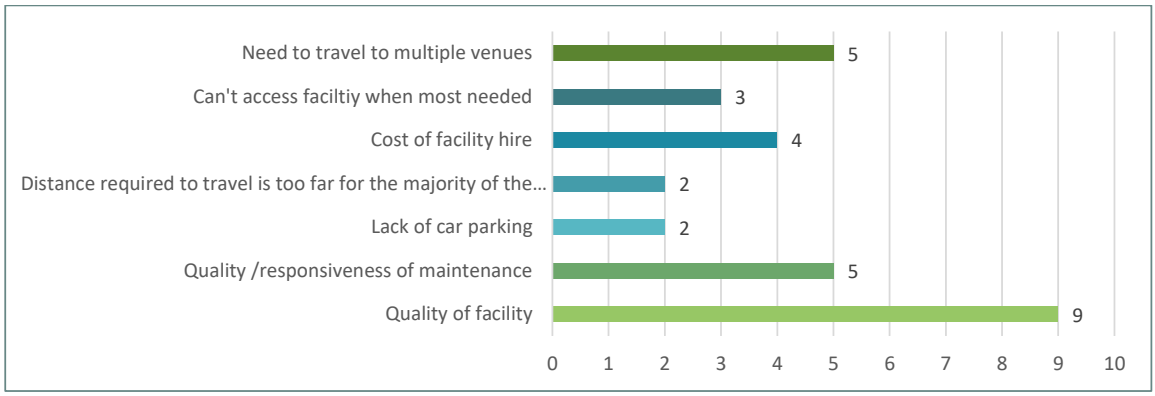


Figure 35: Clubs Responses to Facility Issues

The graph clearly illustrates that quality of facility were the major issue among the clubs, followed by the need to travel to multiple venues and quality/responsive of maintenance.

Clubs were then asked what membership/governance issues they faced. Following were the results.

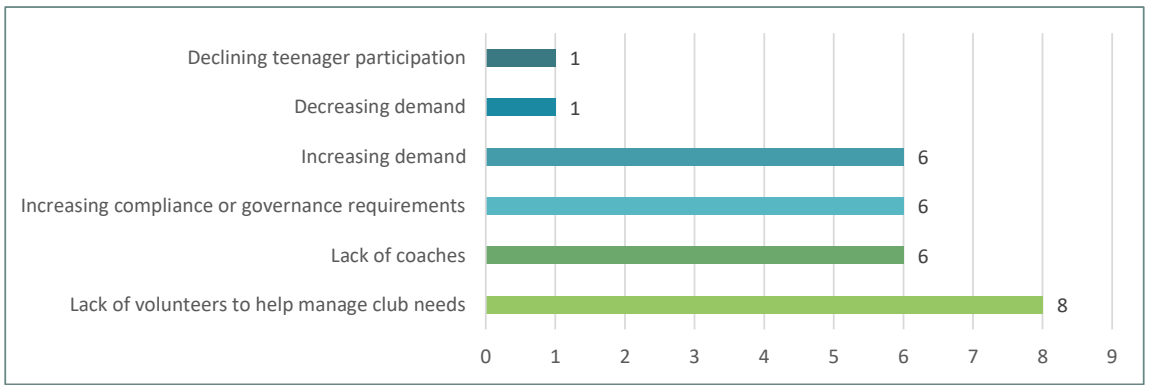


Figure 36: Clubs Responses to Membership/Governance Issues

The lack of volunteers is an issue faced by most of the clubs, followed by increasing demand among the residents, increasing governance requirements and compliance as well as lack of coaches.

- The next question was “What should the Council's investment priorities be (in priority order)?” The ranked results were the following:
    1. Support facility upgrades and extensions that encourage junior sport.
    2. Support investment in infrastructure to support female participation.
    3. Support the sports to meet their compliance needs.
    4. Support non-traditional sports that meet identified need.

- Clubs were then requested to rank a series of statements based on their level of importance. The results are as follows.
    1. Support facility upgrades and extensions that encourage junior sport.
    2. Support investment in infrastructure to support female participation.
    3. Support the sports to meet their compliance needs.
- Clubs were given the opportunity to make open comments. Following is the summary of open comments:
    - **Lack of youth participation:** There are no teenagers playing table tennis, and there are no opportunities for children to play in Whitehorse, which has a population of 24,000 students.
    - **Limited facilities:** Clubs are operating at maximum capacity and cannot expand due to a lack of available facilities. Some existing venues are outdated and beyond upgrading.
    - **Accessibility and compliance:** Prioritising disability accessibility in existing facilities is crucial, and compliance with sports body policies must be considered.
    - **Growing demand:** The need for more venues is urgent, as clubs, such as a local basketball club, have experienced significant growth (40% since COVID-19) and now have over 1,000 kids participating.
    - **Need for support:** There is a call for more community sport grants and events to support the growing demand.

Notes from Further Discussions

The following points summarise further discussions held in the meeting.

- **Storage for multi-purpose use:** There is a need for effective storage solutions that can accommodate various sports and activities, allowing for multi-purpose use of facilities.
- **Volunteer time constraints:** Time availability for volunteers poses a significant challenge, affecting the ability to manage and run sporting events and activities effectively.
- **Logistical issues with schools:** Collaborating with schools presents logistical difficulties, making access to school facilities challenging and inefficient for sports programs.
- **Affordability concerns:** The affordability of using and maintaining sports facilities is a concern, which may limit participation and access for the community.
- **Desire for permanent setups:** While facilities can support multiple sports, there is a preference for having permanent setups for certain sports, such as table tennis.

1.29 Key Findings from Stakeholder Engagement



Local and state sporting associations report high participation in indoor sports and call for more facilities to meet current and future demand.



Local Association and Clubs and School confirm an increased demand for indoor sport facilities



There is targeted youth engagement and new programs being introduced to increase participation



All stakeholders and community report a need to upgrade existing indoor sport facilities



Both clubs and schools are open to partnerships with the Council to develop and manage new or upgraded indoor sports facilities



The community report barriers to participation, including rising living costs and limited access to affordable facilities, are significant across all groups



There is a strong emphasis on inclusivity and accessibility in programming across clubs and schools

Local Associations and Club and State Sporting Associations confirm very high participation across all indoor sports and advocate for additional indoor sport facilities to meet current (latent) and future demand

Local Clubs and Associations are advocating for additional indoor sport courts and facilities in Whitehorse. The key reasons raised include:

- Population growth is resulting in an increase in participation levels.
- Continued growth in participation numbers from entry to elite levels.
- Insufficient courts and facilities to meet current and future participation demand.
- Existing courts and facilities are not fit for purpose.
- Existing facilities are ageing and require renewal.

State Sporting Association confirm high indoor sport participation levels in Whitehorse when compared to Victoria. The basketball and netball associations have very strong governance models and offer a full-service model. All State Sporting Associations report high competition for use of existing courts and a need for additional courts to maintain current indoor sport programming benefit and to service current (latent) and future participation demands.

Non-traditional indoor sports like badminton, table tennis, sport climbing are seeking community and commercial partnerships to service participation interest in their sports, due to the lack of access to existing facilities.

The following points summarise the key themes recognised from community, school and clubs/associations surveys.

Local Association and Clubs and School confirm an increased demand for indoor sport facilities

The community demonstrates a significant demand for additional indoor sports facilities, as both clubs and schools report the need for more courts to accommodate rising participation levels. Clubs highlight increased engagement in sports like basketball and badminton, while schools need more spaces, particularly for women's sports like netball.

There is targeted youth engagement and new programs being introduced to increase participation

Clubs are effectively driving membership growth through targeted youth engagement and program expansion. By focusing on health and wellness initiatives, clubs are attracting younger participants, which is mirrored by schools reaching or nearing maximum enrolment capacities due to facility improvements and adaptive programs that cater to the changing demographics.

All stakeholders and community report a need to upgrade existing indoor sport facilities

While many respondents express general satisfaction with their facilities, there are notable concerns regarding the quality of infrastructure. Issues such as inadequate lighting, ageing facilities, and worn-out floors are frequently raised in club and community feedback, and schools report similar limitations that affect their ability to meet the demands of students and the community effectively.

Both clubs and schools are open to partnerships with the Council to develop and manage new or upgraded indoor sports facilities

This collaborative approach aims to facilitate shared use between schools, clubs and the community, maximising resource utilisation and improving access to sports facilities for all residents.

The community report barriers to participation, including rising living costs and limited access to affordable facilities, are significant across all groups

Clubs and community members note that high costs and a lack of nearby facilities affect engagement, while schools face competition from neighbouring institutions with better amenities, highlighting the need for improved local infrastructure.

There is a strong emphasis on inclusivity and accessibility in programming across clubs and schools

Efforts are being made to ensure opportunities are available for diverse groups, including women, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. Clubs advocate for accessible facilities with better parking and seating, while schools recognise the necessity for specialised support services, particularly for young deaf children.

10.3 Mahoneys Reserve Draft Masterplan Council Report

Attachment 1 Mahoneys Reserve - Master Plan

Attachment 2 Mahoneys Reserve - Study Report

Attachment 3 Appendix - Pavilion Development Options

Attachment 4 Mahoney's Reserve - Cost Plan

10.3 – ATTACHMENT 1. Mahoneys Reserve - Master Plan

ACCESS AND MOVEMENT

1. New pedestrian path connecting with Vicki Street.
2. Open Kira Court to through traffic.
3. Install 4 short term car parks to facilitate passenger drop off and pick up.
4. Renew the main car park, including lighting and new pedestrian path.
5. New car park (est 40 spaces) to offset loss of spaces from main car park, and construct a new sealed path.
6. Seal the small existing car park.

SPORTING FACILITIES

7. Upgrade the playing surface and install a compliant cricket pitch (min 2.4m wide)
8. Install floodlighting (100 lux).
9. New combined unisex toilet, store and shelter to service sporting uses.
10. Install floodlighting (100 lux).
11. Remove the Cricket Practice Nets and realign the gravel path.
12. New Cricket Practice Nets (3 lockable lanes, 1 open lane).
13. Reconfigure Bob Saker Oval to accommodate a senior size (100 x 64m) soccer pitch and retain as the main cricket oval.
14. Install floodlighting (100 lux).
15. New Northern Pavilion to replace the existing building, includes public toilets.
16. Extend the height of the fence to 5m for a length of 25m behind the Main Soccer Pitch goals.
17. Remove the Southern Pavilion.
18. Renew the terracing and associated spectator seating and install a shelter over.
19. New soccer goal storage compound.

RECREATION FACILITIES

20. Upgrade the Scout hall: replace the floor, install heating / cooling, upgrade the southern Hall entrance to a compliant accessible entry, and waterproof the main store under the Scout Hall.
21. Install a Neighbourhood level playspace, and seating, BBQ / picnic facilities and shelters.
22. Spectator viewing area and community gathering space.
23. Remove the existing playspace and return to grass.
24. Cease all dog exercise on Bob Saker Oval. Install partial oval boundary fence around South Mid Oval to enhance park visitor safety during cricket and soccer use, and to facilitate its flexible use as a dog off lead area. Investigate the feasibility of relocating the shelter, seating and dog bowl from Bob Saker Oval, or install new.

OPEN SPACE / ENVIRONMENT

25. Renew the existing ephemeral wetland.
26. Replace the pine bollards with 1100mm high chain mesh fence. Dog off leash exercise permitted when not being used for organised sporting activities.
27. New 5m high chain mesh fence to protect adjacent properties from balls.
28. Retain the bushland park and enhance the natural and environmental values.
29. Retain as informal open space, and strengthen tree planting.
30. Realign the Main Soccer Pitch eastern perimeter fence.
31. New publicly accessible open space area.
32. Increase the power supply into the reserve: new pole mounted sub-station installed at the reserve entrance, and a new power distribution board southeast of Bob Saker oval.



LEGEND

- PROPOSED TREE
- EXISTING TREE TO BE REMOVED
- PROPOSED SEALED PATH
- PROPOSED GRAVEL PATH
- PROPOSED PLAY SPACE
- PROPOSED DOG PARK - GRAVEL SURFACE
- PROPOSED GRASS SPACE
- PROPOSED SEALED CAR PARK
- PROPOSED SPORTS FLOODLIGHTS
- PROPOSED BLACK CHAIN MESH FENCE
- PROPOSED PARK FURNITURE
- PROPOSED DRINKING FOUNTAIN
- PROPOSED BICYCLE RAILS
- PROPOSED SHELTER
- SITE BOUNDARY
- PROPOSED DOG OFF LEASH AREA
- PROPOSED DOG OFF LEASH NOT PERMITTED AT ANY TIME AREA

MAHONEYS RESERVE, FOREST HILL

MASTER PLAN

SCALE: 1:800 @ A1 | 1:1600 @ A3 LSK01 - OCTOBER 2025

DRAFT

WHITEHORSE CITY COUNCIL · Simon Leisure · Fraser Design Collaborative

10.3 – ATTACHMENT 2. Mahoneys Reserve - Study Report



Mahoney's Reserve Master Plan Study Report

October 2025

Mahoney's Reserve Master Plan

About this document

This report describes the process undertaken to prepare the Mahoney's Reserve Master Plan, including background information about the reserve, outcomes from research undertaken, the key findings from consultation carried out, and a description of the proposed improvement projects for the reserve.

The master plan will become the 'road map' to guide the future development of Mahoney's Reserve. Further investigation and feasibility of some of the proposed projects may be required depending upon their scale, likely impact and estimated cost.

It is important to note that projects proposed in the Mahoney's Reserve Master Plan do not directly commit the Whitehorse City Council, user groups, or any other organisations to a responsibility for their funding and implementation. Projects identified in the master plan will need to be considered against other Council priorities.

This study report is one of two reports prepared during the study period; the other report is the Mahoney's Reserve Master Plan Stakeholder Engagement Report. The information contained in the accompanying report has not been repeated in this study report, however, information summaries from the report and references to it are noted, as required.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the Whitehorse City Council officers who guided and supported the consultant team, and also provided information and input, as required.

We are also grateful for the involvement and input provided by the Mahoney's Reserve user groups, and for contributions received from residents and community groups via the community survey and pop-up sessions conducted during the period November 2023 to January 2024.

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10.3 – ATTACHMENT 2. Mahoneys Reserve - Study Report

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Policy Context - review of background reports
Appendix 2 – Draft Mahoney's Reserve Master Plan
Appendix 3 – Quantity Surveyor Report (Harlock Consulting)

Acknowledgement of Country

Whitehorse City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the land. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. Wurundjeri connection to this land dates back more than 40,000 years, and evidence of this connection still exists today.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mahoney's Reserve is a key sporting and recreation reserve in Forest Hill with a diversity of sporting facilities and open spaces. Currently, 16 community sporting and recreation organisations are based at Mahoney's Reserve and their estimated 1,066 members participate in a range of cricket, soccer, badminton, table tennis, indoor carpet bowls and scouting activities.

The landscape character of Mahoney's Reserve is of open grassed sports fields (4 No.) set within a strong unifying canopy of native and indigenous trees. This tree canopy is visually the most prominent element of the landscape, and creates a framework within which each sports field, building and car park appears as a distinct and defined space. Whilst the reserve currently offers only limited recreational infrastructure (a Local level playground), it is used extensively by a large group of dog walkers.

Council commissioned the master plan study to develop a new vision for Mahoney's Reserve to ensure it continues to meet the needs of user groups by providing fit for purpose facilities, and to also improve the offerings for the broader community to enjoy the reserve for passive and active recreation pursuits.

The process to develop the draft master plan has been comprehensive and inclusive; input has been provided by the user groups and other community organisations, the dog walkers who use the reserve, local residents, and Council staff and Councillors have all contributed.

The study required the following items to be investigated and assessed during the master plan development process:

- Options to provide for increased sporting use.
- Opportunities to increase the activation of the reserve for passive and active recreation pursuits by ensuring it is a welcoming place for people of all genders, ages and abilities.
- Condition of existing buildings and facilities, and options to consolidate infrastructure throughout the reserve.
- Options for the development and use of open space outside of the areas of the sporting fields of play.
- Options to provide a more efficient and effective road, car parking and pedestrian network throughout the reserve.
- Landscape amenity values and actions to enhance and strengthen the landscape.
- Opportunities to enhance environmental values, promote biodiversity, and incorporate environmentally sustainable design initiatives throughout the reserve.

Two key issues emerged during the study:

1. the feasibility of including a replacement indoor sports hall within the scope of works for the proposed new Northern Pavilion building, and
2. the ongoing impact to the surface quality of Bob Saker Oval from its current use as a dog off-lead exercise area (mainly from holes being dug).

Currently, the Northern Pavilion Hall accommodates 13 different table tennis, badminton and indoor bowls groups. There is a combined estimate of 327 people from the groups who are using the Hall at almost full capacity each week. The Hall users are a culturally diverse group and are mainly older adults; a majority of the user groups are social/ recreation groups, not clubs participating in organised table tennis and badminton competitions.

The master plan Project Working Group and Project Control Group both support the new Northern Pavilion primarily accommodating the needs of the Nunawading Cricket Club and the Nunawading City Football (soccer) Club, with the relocation of the Hall user groups into other existing or new Council indoor leisure centres, such as Aqualink Box Hill or Sportlink. In addition, a study currently in development (the 'Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan') has an interim direction for the development of a dedicated table tennis facility in Whitehorse.

The condition of the surface of Bob Saker Oval is significantly impacted by holes dug by dogs exercising off-lead on the oval. Nunawading Cricket Club volunteers are required to walk around the oval prior to all matches on Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays to check the surface for safety, and where necessary, to fill holes with sand. The Nunawading City Football Club ceased using Bob Saker Oval four years ago as its main competition pitch for its community soccer program due to injury concerns to players and officials from the holes.

Bob Saker Oval is the cricket club's main oval, and the oval should be reinstated as the soccer club's preferred second pitch, given that the new Northern Pavilion will be located between Bob Saker Oval and the Main Soccer Pitch. In order for Bob Saker Oval to be a safe, high quality sports field, the master plan is recommending that the use of the oval as a dog-off lead exercise area cease.

The community survey carried out prior to the master plan study commencing had off-lead dog exercise as the 3rd most popular use of Mahoney's Reserve, and '*installing a fenced dog park in Mahoney's Reserve*' was the top improvement project nominated. For these reasons, it is important that the master plan study identifies a potential alternate location for a fenced dog off-lead exercise area at the reserve. The recommended option can be further 'tested' during the development of the Fenced Dog Park Technical Report which is currently in-progress.

The master plan is supporting the South Mid Oval being partially fenced to become a shared sporting and dog off-lead exercise area. This decision is based on the South Mid Oval being used for lower level cricket and soccer matches compared to Bob Saker Oval and the Main Soccer Pitch, therefore there is a corresponding lessening of the impact of a poorer quality sports surface, if in fact that will result. In addition, the adjoining South West Oval will continue to be available for off-lead dog exercise when the South Mid Oval is unavailable for dogs due to it being used for organised cricket and soccer activities. To improve the appeal of the South West Oval for off-lead dog exercise, the master plan is supporting the replacement of the bollard fence along Ashcroft with a low height chain-mesh fence, which will make the oval more secure for dog use.

The Mahoney's Reserve Master Plan recommends more than 30 projects with an estimated total value of $18.2 million (ex-GST) – see the master plan in Appendix 2. Some of the key improvement projects identified include:

1. Installing a new Neighbourhood level playspace, and seating, BBQ/ picnic facilities and an outdoor fitness gym in a new central location within the reserve.
2. Creating a new public open space between the Main Soccer pitch and the Scout Hall by realigning eastern perimeter fence around the soccer pitch.
3. New Northern Pavilion to provide compliant facilities for community cricket and for community/ NPL soccer, and the removal of the current Southern Pavilion.
4. Installing floodlighting on the three oval sports fields to increase their use for soccer training.
5. New cricket practice nets.
6. New unisex toilet, store and shelter between the South Mid Oval and the South West Oval to service sporting uses, dog walkers and other reserve visitors.
7. Construction of a new car park (est. 40 spaces) to offset the loss of parking from central car park as a result of the development of the new Northern Pavilion. Applying WSUD principles to harvest rainwater and Investigate Storm water Harvesting and Permeable Pavement opportunities on the new car park.
8. Opening up Kira Court to through traffic to assist traffic flow into and out of the reserve.
9. Upgrades to the Scout Hall.
10. Additional tree planting throughout the reserve, particularly to strengthen existing bushland areas and reserve boundaries.

2. INTRODUCTION

Mahoney's Reserve is a major sporting and recreational reserve located in Mahoneys Road, Forest Hill within the municipal ward of Mahoneys.

Mahoney's Reserve is classified as a 'Municipal' open space[1] and offers a range of sporting and recreation facilities and open space areas.

The following sporting clubs and groups are based at Mahoney's Reserve:

- Nunawading Cricket Club
- Nunawading City Football Club
- 1st Tally Ho Scout Group
- Mahoney's Reserve Pavilion Association which coordinates the community use of the Northern Pavilion Hall

The reserve has a Local level playground and areas of bushland that attract local residents for passive recreation and dog walking.

The purpose of the master plan study is to identify and investigate a range of potential improvement projects for the further development of Mahoney's Reserve that meet the needs of Whitehorse's changing and growing community.

The process to develop the master plan was comprehensive and inclusive; input provided by user groups and other community organisations, residents, and Council staff and Councillors helped identify the new vision for Mahoney's Reserve.

2.1 Study Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the master plan is to set a new vision for the ongoing development of the reserve. The study required the following items to be investigated and assessed during the master planning process:

1. Options to provide for increased sporting use.
2. Opportunities to increase the activation of the reserve for passive and active recreation pursuits by ensuring it is a welcoming place for people of all genders, ages and abilities.
3. Condition of existing buildings and facilities to ensure they are fit for purpose and comply with standards and guidelines supported by peak organisations.
4. Options to consolidate infrastructure throughout the reserve and optimise opportunities for the shared-use of facilities.
5. Options for the development and use of open space outside of the areas of the sporting fields of play.
6. Options to provide a more efficient and effective road, pedestrian path and car parking network throughout the reserve.
7. Opportunities to improve path connections within the reserve and links with external paths and trails.
8. Landscape amenity values and actions to enhance and strengthen the landscape amenity.
9. Opportunities to enhance environmental values wherever possible and promote biodiversity within the reserve.
10. Incorporate environmentally sustainable design initiatives.

The development of the master plan provides a timely opportunity to integrate all potential improvement projects into one plan and to increase the use of Mahoney's Reserve by local residents and other visitors.

[1] Whitehorse Open Space Strategy 2025

10.3 – ATTACHMENT 2. Mahoneys Reserve - Study Report

2.2 Study Approach

Project Establishment
- Project inception meeting
- Confirm project scope and collate project resources

Strategic Context
- Site review of Mahoney's Reserve
- Review background reports
- Demographic analysis
- Geographical review of the project area
- Formulate preliminary issues and opportunities

Issues and Opportunities
- Review the community engagement findings (completed by Council)
- Conduct user group and internal Council engagement
- Prepare Background Report (includes Issues & Opportunities identification)
- PWG Workshop to review Background Report
- ELT considers Background Report
- Formulate key directions for the future development of Mahoney's Reserve
- Investigate functional use and design options for the replacement of the Northern Pavilion

Draft Master Plan
- Prepare 1st draft master plan
- PWG Meeting to review draft master plan
- ELT review of draft master plan
- Additional engagement with the Hall user groups and scenario testing for their relocation to other leisure centres
- Prepare final draft master plan and draft study report
- ELT review of final draft master plan
- Councillor Briefing to review final draft master plan and endorse to place on public exhibition

Final Master Plan
- Public exhibition of final draft master plan
- Update the master plan and study report based on community feedback
- Internal review of final master plan and study report
- Councillor Briefing to review final master plan and study report
- Update draft master plan and study report as may be required
- Council adoption of final master plan and study report



Main Soccer Pitch



Main internal reserve road off Mahoneys Road

3. PLANNING CONTEXT

This section provides an overview of the planning context for the Mahoney's Reserve Master Plan.

1. Policy context
2. Demographic characteristics
3. Neighbourhood sport and recreation context

3.1 Policy Context

The following background reports are important references to inform the future planning for Mahoney's Reserve.

State Plans

- Active Victoria 2022-2026, Sport and Recreation Victoria.
- Fair Access Policy Roadmap, Victorian Government (2022).
- Value of Community Sport & Active Recreation Infrastructure, Sport and Recreation Victoria (2020).

Council Plans and Strategies

- Whitehorse Council Plan 2021-2025 Year Three.
- Whitehorse Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025.
- Whitehorse Recreation Strategy 2015-2024.
- *Draft* Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan (2025).
- Whitehorse Table Tennis Facility Feasibility Study – Situational Analysis Report (2025).
- Whitehorse Sports Field Activity Audit 2022.
- Whitehorse Open Space Strategy (2025).
- Whitehorse Pavilion Development Policy (2019).
- Whitehorse Cycling Strategy 2016.
- Whitehorse Urban Forest Strategy 2021-2031.
- Whitehorse Climate Response Strategy & Plan 2023-2026.

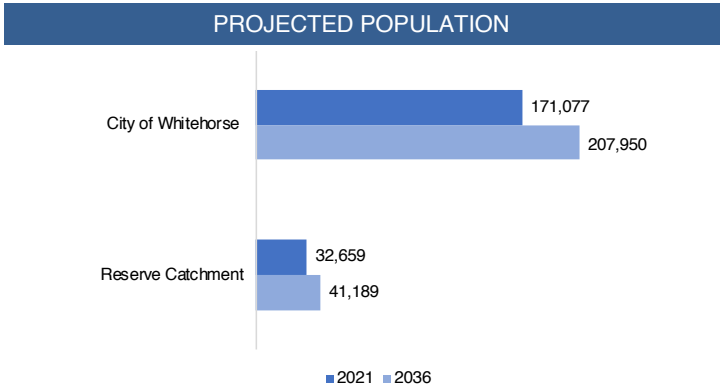
State Sporting Association Strategies

- Cricket Victoria Strategic Plan FY 24-27.
- Football Victoria State Football Facilities Strategy to 2026.
- Table Tennis Victoria Strategic Plan 2024.
- Table Tennis Victoria Facility Audit 2020.
- Badminton Victoria Strategic Plan 2021-2025.
- Scouts Victoria Strategic Plan 2021-2024.
- State Sporting Association facility standards and guidelines.

A full review of each report is provided in Appendix 1, including where directions might influence the reserve master planning.

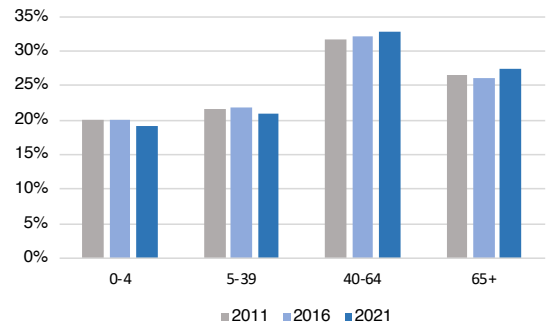
3.2 Demographic Characteristics

Mahoney's Reserve is located in Forest Hill on the border of Blackburn South, and only 300 metres from the border of Burwood East. The reserve serves a large catchment, so for the purpose of this demographic analysis the data for the combined suburbs of Forest Hill, Blackburn South and Burwood East have been used to define the reserve catchment.



10.3 – ATTACHMENT 2. Mahoneys Reserve - Study Report

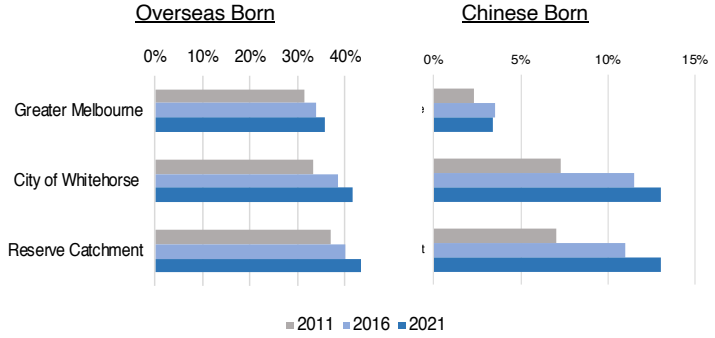
POPULATION COHORTS



PROJECTED ACTIVE AGE COHORT 5-39 years

2021	2036	Increase
14,004	18,357	4,353 (31%)

CULTURAL DIVERSITY



IMPLICATIONS

There will continue to be **strong demand for sport and for active recreation** infrastructure in the reserve catchment given the continued population growth to 2036: estimated to be an additional 8,500 residents (or 26.1%), compared to an overall population growth for Whitehorse of 21.6%.

The gradual ageing of the population since 2011 (evidenced by a lower proportion of 0-39 year olds and a higher proportion of people over 40 years between 2011 and 2021) makes it important that **sport and recreation offerings suitable for older adults** are considered, such as walking and outdoor fitness equipment. Further development of the path network will be important, as well as the availability of appropriate park furniture, such as seating, shade, and drinking fountains, and convenient access to public toilets.

The age cohort of 5-39 years is important for sports facility planning, as the highest proportion of people who participate in organised (club) sport fall within this age cohort[2]. It is estimated that more than 4,300 additional people within this age cohort will be residing within the reserve catchment by 2036. This again confirms continued strong demand will exist for soccer and cricket within the catchment during the forecast period.

The **cultural diversity of the reserve catchment** increased between 2011 and 2021, with Chinese born residents making up the highest proportion of overseas born people. In 2011, the reserve catchment comprised 7% Chinese born residents, and by 2021 this had increased to 13%.

The population characteristics of the reserve catchment confirms the importance for Mahoney's Reserve to continue to be a welcoming place with facilities and open spaces that are intergenerational, suitable for people from diverse backgrounds and interests, and will encourage residents to be physically active.

[2] AusPlay 2025 (AusPlay is a national sport and physical activity participation tracking tool funded and coordinated by Sport Australia)

3.3 Neighbourhood Sport and Recreation Context

Figure 1 shows the location of community facilities, open space, and active transport links within the neighbourhood catchment of Mahoney's Reserve.

As well as Mahoney's Reserve, which is classified as 'Municipal' level open space, there are another 10 parks.

- 3 are classified as 'Local' (Holbury Reserve, Heathcote Drive Reserve, Elmington Avenue Reserve).
- 3 are classified as 'Small Local' (Bindy Park, Raleigh Reserve, Mock Street Reserve).
- 3 are classified as 'Local Link' (Catherine Court, Parkview Court, Hawthorn Road).
- Cornwall Retarding Basin is restricted (fenced) open space.

As well as the playspace at Mahoney's Reserve, which is classified as a 'Local' level playspace, there are another 3 playspaces.

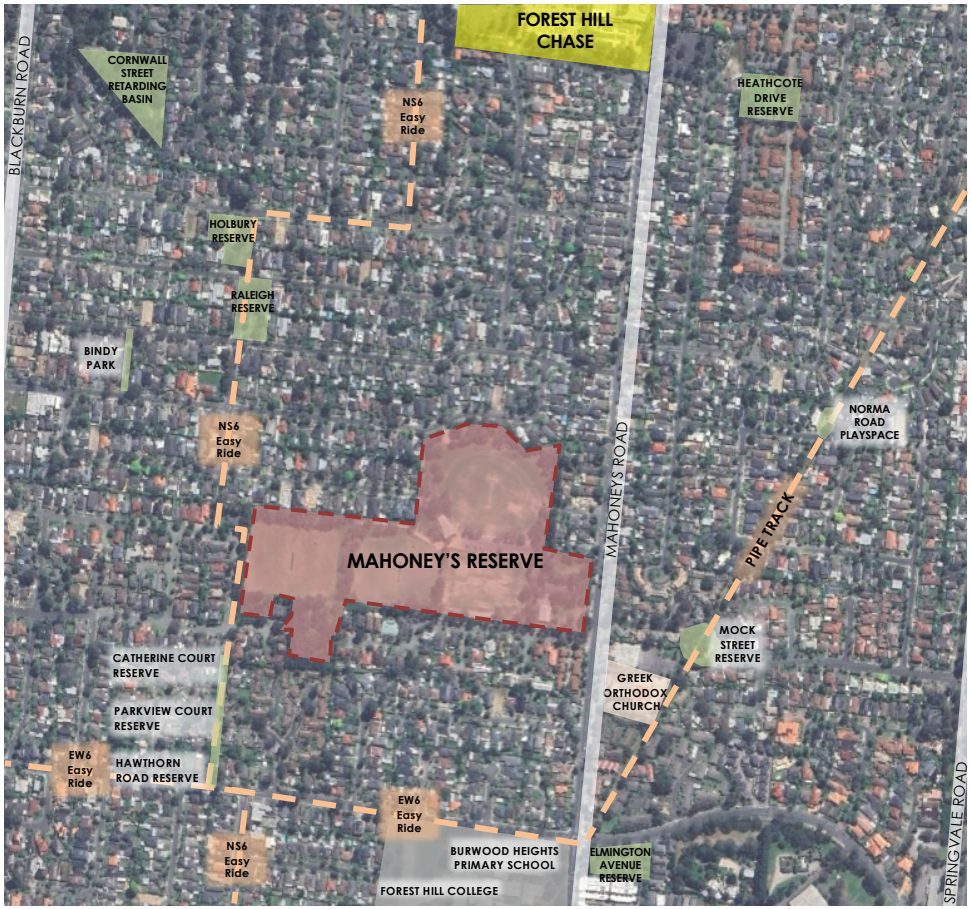
- Holbury Reserve ('Local').
- Norma Road Playspace ('Local').
- Mock Street Reserve ('Small Local').

Active transport (cycling & walking) links:

- Pipe Track ('Regional' level, off-road)
- EW6 & NS6 ('Easy Ride Route', on-road)

There is no active recreation infrastructure within the neighbourhood, such as skate parks, basketball half-courts and tennis rebound walls.

Figure 1 – Mahoney's Reserve Neighbourhood Catchment Sport and Recreation Facility Context



4. SITE CONTEXT

This section provides an overview of the site context for Mahoney's Reserve, including:

1. Ownership and planning
2. Existing conditions
3. User groups and other uses

4.1 Ownership and Planning

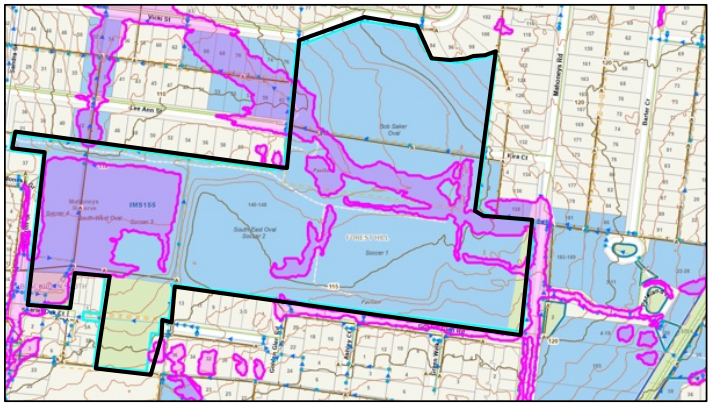
Mahoney's Reserve is located at 140-148 Mahoneys Road, Forest Hill and is 9.69 hectares in size. It comprises six land parcels all owned by the City of Whitehorse.

The reserve is zoned *Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ),* which is consistent with the primary function and use of the reserve as a site for community sport and recreation. It is classified in the Whitehorse Open Space Strategy 2025 as 'Municipal' open space with a primary character classification as 'Sporting' and a secondary character classification as 'Native', 'Nature Conservation' and 'Passive'.

Mahoney's Reserve is not subject to any planning overlays, however, an overland path for stormwater during heavy rain events traverses across the reserve in a westerly direction (see pink shading on Figure 2). It is Council's advice that any new pavilion building will require the internal floor level to be at least 300mm above the 1:100 year flood level, which early flood modelling suggests is around 300mm above the main car park level. A Yarra Valley Water easement exists along the centreline of the main car park, and will require 'build over' approval for any new pavilion building.

Figure 2 also shows that the Bob Saker Oval has a Yarra Valley Water sewer easement running east-west through the southern section of the oval, and the South West Oval may be more susceptible to flooding than the other ovals during heavy rainfall.

Figure 2 – Overland Stormwater Path (pink shade) Across Mahoney's Reserve



4.2 Existing Conditions

Figure 3 shows existing facilities and spaces in Mahoney's Reserve.

Access and Movement

The path network throughout the reserve is limited, and comprises:

- a gravel path along the northern edge of South West Oval and South Mid Oval connecting the reserve to Sandra Street,
- a gravel path beside the cricket nets connecting with Lee Ann Street and Vicki Street,
- an indiscriminate gravel path connecting Vicki Street and Bob Saker Oval, and
- a sealed path through the Bushland Area connecting Golden Glen Road with Forest Glen Avenue.

There are two vehicle entries into the reserve: the primary entry is off Mahoneys Road and the secondary entry is off Lee Ann Street. There is an estimated 138 sealed car parks within the reserve in a combination of 90-degree and parallel forms, plus the Scout Hall gravel car park with an estimated 8 spaces.

10.3 – ATTACHMENT 2. Mahoneys Reserve - Study Report

Figure 3 – Mahoney's Reserve Existing Conditions



10.3 – ATTACHMENT 2. Mahoneys Reserve - Study Report

Sporting Facilities

Mahoney's Reserve comprises the following sporting facilities:

1. Bob Saker Oval (cricket/ soccer)
2. Main Soccer Pitch (soccer)
3. South Mid Oval (cricket/ soccer)
4. South-West Oval (cricket / soccer)
5. Cricket practice nets (3 lanes)
6. Northern Pavilion and Hall
7. Southern Pavilion

Figure 4 shows the current summer/ winter sports field configurations for competition.

The Bob Saker Oval is a Class A oval (Whitehorse oval classification framework) and is used for senior and junior cricket. A senior soccer pitch of dimensions 98m x 60m and oriented east-west can be accommodated on the oval, and sleeves have been inserted into the oval sub-surface to secure senior-size soccer goals. However, the Nunawading City Football Club has not used the oval for soccer training and matches for the past 4 years due to the injury risk to players from holes dug by dogs. As a result, the club currently uses the oval only on Saturday mornings for its junior Mini Roos program.

The oval radius of 55m exceeds the minimum dimensions for community open age cricket (50m). The floodlights are well below the minimum recommended lux levels for soccer training and match practice which are 100 lux.

The oval surface has an excellent cover of grass, however the surface is significantly impacted by dogs digging holes. The oval is a designated off-lead dog exercise area and is highly utilised for this purpose as the oval is fenced.



The Main Soccer Pitch is a Class AA soccer pitch and is currently used exclusively for training and matches by the soccer club's National Premier League (NPL) teams. The size of the pitch meets the required dimensions for all ages of soccer, the surface is excellent, and the floodlights were recently upgraded to LED 200 lux.

The pitch is enclosed by a 1.2m high perimeter fence, and a 2.4m fence encloses the broader pitch and spectator precinct, which is a condition for open age NPL match venues. The 2.4m fence enables the pitch and surrounds to be locked at all times when not in use; the pitch is therefore not available to the public for recreational use and dog walking.



The pitch is occasionally used by the Nunawading Cricket Club for its Cricket Blasters program when other ovals are being used for cricket matches. The cricket club prefers to use this pitch rather than the South West Oval due to its closer proximity to the pavilion.

The South Mid Oval is a Class B oval used for senior and junior cricket and soccer. The size of the oval meets the required dimensions for all ages of cricket and soccer, however the 52m boundary is close to the minimum radius accepted for community open age cricket (50m), and is irregular in shape. The oval surface is good, however the floodlights are below the minimum recommended lux levels for soccer training and match practice.

As is the case with Bob Saker Oval, sleeves have been inserted into the oval surface to secure senior-size soccer goals, and to support an east-west senior size soccer pitch of dimensions 105m x 60m.

10.3 – ATTACHMENT 2. Mahoneys Reserve - Study Report

The South West Oval is a Class C oval used for senior and junior cricket, and for junior soccer matches and soccer training for all ages during the summer pre-season period. The radius of the oval (50m) just meets the required dimensions for all ages of cricket, however is the absolute minimum radius accepted for community open age cricket.

The oval also has sleeves inserted into the surface to secure soccer goals for two junior size pitches (90m x 60m) running north-south on either side of the centre cricket pitch. The club currently uses only the east pitch in winter for junior matches, as the oval has no floodlights for training.

The oval surface condition is poor and there are drainage issues at the northern end.

Both the South Mid Oval and the South West Oval are unfenced open space areas, and therefore attract informal recreational use, including off-lead dog exercise. However the level of use by dogs is lower than for Bob Saker Oval presumably due to the fact that these fields are not fenced.

The cricket practice nets contain three lanes and are located adjacent to a pedestrian path which presents as a safety risk for pedestrians during cricket practice sessions, and creates potential for conflict between bowlers and pedestrians. Other issues include:

- the shadowing from the adjacent western trees when being used for late afternoon training sessions,
- the eucalypts surrounding the nets cause significant leaf litter to build up on the surface of the practice pitches (creates a safety risk for batters), and
- the shading from the surrounding trees slows the drying of the pitch surfaces after rain.

Two of the three lanes are lockable by the cricket club to protect the surface from vandalism, with the third available at all times for public use other than when being used by the cricket club for organised training sessions.



South West Oval



Cricket practice nets

10.3 – ATTACHMENT 2. Mahoneys Reserve - Study Report

Figure 4 – Sports Field Configurations

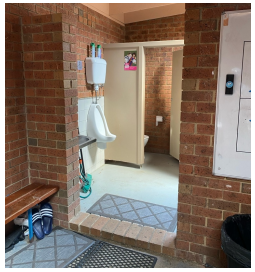


The Northern Pavilion and Hall is used by the Nunawading Cricket Club and the table tennis, badminton and carpet bowls groups that use the Hall. It is currently utilised as a 'second' pavilion for the Nunawading and City Football Club after the Southern Pavilion. The building was constructed many years ago and does not conform with current building codes and standards and is no longer fit for purpose for cricket and soccer.



The Hall can be configured for one badminton court or four table tennis courts, and for carpet bowls. Whilst the ceiling height of 5m is adequate for table tennis, it is below the minimum recommended height for badminton (7.5m). The Hall surface and surrounds are in good condition, however, the adjacent toilets are in poor condition and there is insufficient equipment storage for all groups.

Council has already determined that the Northern Pavilion is to be replaced in the short-term.



The Southern Pavilion is the main pavilion used by the Nunawading City Football Club. Being within the perimeter fence line of the Main Soccer Pitch, the pavilion is used exclusively by the soccer club. The building has significant non-compliances due to its age, including the two change rooms and amenities not being accessible and inclusive, and is no longer fit for purpose for soccer.

Council's preference is that the current function and use of the Southern Pavilion be incorporated within the new Northern Pavilion development project, and the Southern Pavilion building then removed.

Recreation Facilities

The 1st Tally Ho Scout Hall and the playspace are the recreational facilities currently available at Mahoney's Reserve.



The Scout Hall was built in the 1970s and is Council-owned. It is in good condition with recent upgrades including the roof being replaced, the building undergoing structural strengthening and the walls repaired, and the kitchen upgraded. The Hall has accessibility non-compliances, however it generally meets the needs of the scout group, which has a lease to 2031.

The playspace is classified as 'Neighbourhood' level. Council's recent playspace audit assessed its overall condition and functionality as 'Poor'. Its location adjacent to Vicki Street is not considered the optimal site in the reserve, and it restricts use by those children attending the reserve who are siblings of soccer and cricket players.

There is one externally accessed public toilet in the reserve that is located within the ground floor of the Northern Pavilion. It is a '7 Day Facility' (as defined in Council's Public Toilet Service Policy 2022) meaning that it is opened, closed and cleaned 7 days per week by Council. Both the male and female facilities have non-compliances due to the age of the building, and will be replaced with new public toilets in the new Northern Pavilion.

Open Space and Landscape Character

The landscape character of Mahoney's Reserve is of open grassed playing fields set within a strong unifying canopy of native and indigenous trees. This tree canopy is visually the most prominent element of the landscape, creating a framework within which each sports field, building or car park appears as a distinct defined space.

The protection and enhancement of the tree population is therefore essential to the character of the reserve.

A tree assessment undertaken by Greenwood Consulting in 2022, the 'Mahoney's Reserve Arboricultural Assessment', identifies 148 trees on site, of which four are of Exotic origin and the balance of either Melbourne, Victorian or Australian origin. This indicates that the tree population is relatively consistent in terms of species. Of the trees, four were assessed for removal (based on health or structure), and another 15 require some remedial work for long term health and community benefit.

There is also an area of remnant trees in the south western corner of the site, which has been enhanced by planting of indigenous ground level species to create a 'bushland' space.

Functionally, the reserve is dominated by the sports fields and associated supporting facilities, with passive or informal open space limited to the existing playspace, and two informal grass open spaces on either side of the reserve entrance off Mahoneys Road.

Apart from the playspace, and occasional seats and one shelter to the east of Bob Saker Oval, there is no defined community 'hub' or gathering space, limiting opportunities for local residents to congregate and socialise within the reserve.

The reserve has a number of road frontages (Mahoneys Road, Kira Court, Lee Ann Street, Vicki Street, Ashcroft Grove and Golden Glen Road) which provide a high degree of visibility/ surveillance. Views within the reserve are largely contained within the boundaries of the sports fields and constrained by the lines of prominent tree planting.

Topography across the reserve has been modified to form the playing fields, which further constrains some views towards the reserve boundaries, with batters in the following locations:

- Down from Vicki Street
- Between the South West Oval and the pedestrian path between Sandra Street and the Northern Pavilion
- Between the South West Oval and the South Mid Oval.



Trees framing the South Mid Oval



Bob Saker Oval shelter and seats

4.3 User Groups and Other Uses

The following groups are based at Mahoney's Reserve:

- Nunawading Cricket Club
- Nunawading City Football Club
- 1st Tally Ho Scouts
- Mahoney's Reserve Pavilion Association

The following groups utilise the Northern Pavilion Hall under the coordination of the Mahoney's Reserve Pavilion Association:

Table Tennis

- Whitehorse Activities Club Table Tennis
- Balwyn United Table Tennis
- Eastern Suburbs & Churches Table Tennis Association (ESCTTA)
- Monday Night Table Tennis
- DPC Table Tennis Association
- St John Table Tennis Club
- ICC Table Tennis Academy

Badminton

- Whitehorse Activities Club Badminton
- Eastern Badminton
- Forest Hill Ladies Badminton
- Annie Badminton Group
- HP Badminton

Carpet Bowls

- Whitehorse Activities Club Carpet Bowls

Table 1 shows a detailed breakdown of the active club membership for all Mahoney's Reserve groups in 2025. An estimated 1,066 people are active participants with the Mahoney's Reserve user groups, and most groups have experienced an increase in player/ participation numbers during the past few years.

Mahoney's Reserve is used extensively by a large group of dog walkers. This use is from early morning through to evening every day, and by more than 820 regular dog walkers [source: *Bob Saker Oval Dog Park* Facebook page]. All of the spaces within the reserve are designated dog off-lead areas except the Main Soccer Pitch. The fenced Bob Saker Oval is the space most used by dog walkers.

Table 1 - Club Membership/ Participation Numbers for Mahoney's Reserve User Groups (2025)

Club/ Organisation	No. of Teams					No. of Players/ Participants					
	Senior Men	Senior Women	Junior Boys	Junior Girls	Total	Male	Female	Senior	Junior	Intro	Total
Northern Pavilion Hall Users											
Whitehorse Activities Club Table Tennis						45	47	92	0	0	92
Balwyn United Table Tennis Club						30	12	42	0	0	42
Eastern Suburbs & Churches Table Tennis Association						30	0	30	0	0	30
Monday Night Table Tennis						20	5	25	0	0	25
DPC Table Tennis Association						60	0	60	0	0	60
St John Table Tennis Club						20	0	20	0	0	20
ICC Table Tennis Academy						10	5	15	0	0	15
Sunday Badminton Group						4	2	6	0	0	6
Whitehorse Activities Club Badminton						2	4	6	0	0	6
Forest Hill Ladies Badminton						0	6	6	0	0	6
Eastern Badminton						2	6	8	0	0	8
HP Badminton						6	0	6	0	0	6
Whitehorse Activities Club Carpet Bowls						1	10	11	0	0	11
TOTAL HALL USER GROUPS						**230**	**97**	**327**	**0**	**0**	**327**
Other Groups											
Nunawading Cricket Club	5	2	8	4	19	133	75	83	125	55	263
Nunawading City Football Club - NPL	3	1	5	2	11	95	61	59	97	0	156
Nunawading City Football Club - Community	0	0	20	2	22	220	25	0	229	16	245
1st Tally Ho Scout Group	-	-	-	-	0	55	20	12	63	0	75
TOTAL OTHER GROUPS	**8**	**3**	**33**	**8**	**52**	**503**	**181**	**154**	**514**	**71**	**739**
TOTAL USER GROUPS	**8**	**3**	**33**	**8**	**52**	**733**	**278**	**481**	**514**	**71**	**1066**

10.3 – ATTACHMENT 2. Mahoneys Reserve - Study Report

Table 2 shows the typical profile of use of Mahoney's Reserve by the user groups.

The Northern Pavilion Hall is being used at close to 100% capacity all year, and there is high usage of the sports fields and Scout Hall most evenings during the winter and summer seasons, and by the sporting clubs on both days of the weekend morning and afternoon.

Table 2 – Profile of Use of Mahoney's Reserve by User Groups

Winter Season

Facility	Monday			Tuesday			Wednesday			Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Northern Pavilion Hall																					
Bob Saker Oval																					
Main Soccer Pitch																					
South Mid Field																					
South West Field																					
Scout Hall																					

Summer Season

Facility	Monday			Tuesday			Wednesday			Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Northern Pavilion Hall																					
Bob Saker Oval																					
Main Soccer Pitch																					
South Mid Field																					
South West Field																					
Scout Hall																					

Nunawading Cricket Club
Nunawading City Football Club
1st Tally Ho Scout Group
Badminton/ Table Tennis/ Carpet Bowls Groups

5. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

An important component of the study was the comprehensive stakeholder engagement carried out with Mahoney's Reserve user groups, Council officers and Councillors, local residents, and other stakeholders, including local and state sporting associations.

The stakeholder engagement to develop the current draft master plan comprised two rounds of engagement:

First Round	information gathering, assessment of the adequacy of existing facilities and outdoor spaces, suggestions for improvements
Second Round	meetings with Council officers to review preliminary concept plans, meetings with the cricket and soccer clubs and scout group to seek feedback on options and scenarios identified as potential improvement projects, and meetings with Hall user groups to investigate relocation options

A third round of stakeholder engagement will take place when a final draft master plan is available for review and feedback by user groups, the broad community, and other stakeholders (the 'Public Exhibition' period).

5.1 First Round Stakeholder Engagement

The first round of engagement focused on the following:

1. Collecting information about the Mahoney's Reserve user groups, including size of groups and profile of use of Mahoney's Reserve.
2. Are existing facilities and open spaces meeting needs?
3. Who else is using Mahoney's Reserve and for what purposes?
4. Suggestions for improving Mahoney's Reserve.

Date	Engagement
17 November 2023 – 21 January 2024	Online community survey via Council's 'Have Your Say' page (479 responses)
9 December 2023, 11 & 18 January 2024	Community pop-up sessions at Mahoney's Reserve (50+ attendees)
5 March 2024	Combined meeting of all Hall user groups
19 March 2024	Separate meetings with the Nunawading Cricket Club, the Nunawading City Football Club and the 1st Tally Ho Scout Group
19 & 20 March 2024	3 workshops with different Council staff teams

In addition, 10 email submissions from Hall user groups were received by Council.

The following is a summary of the findings and outcome of the first round stakeholder engagement. See the Mahoney's Reserve Stakeholder Engagement Report for a full report on all stakeholder engagement.

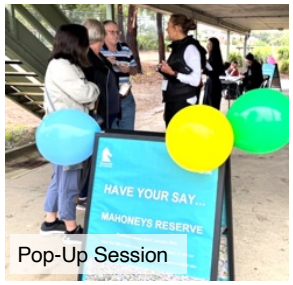
5.1.1 Community Engagement

The key findings from the **community survey** include:

1. There is high frequency of use of Mahoney's Reserve, with 75% of respondents visiting the reserve daily or a few times a week.
2. Most respondents either drive to the reserve (63.5%) or walk (30.9%).
3. A large proportion of respondents (35%) use Mahoney's Reserve to exercise (play sport, jog and walk), followed by exercising dogs (20%).

4. Most respondents typically stay 'an hour or two', and the peak periods of use by visitors are weekday evenings (after 5pm) and weekend daytime (9am-5pm).
5. A significant majority of respondents (98%) expressed feeling 'safe' or 'somewhat safe' in the reserve.
6. The top five improvements cited by respondents that would encourage them to use the reserve more frequently include:
   - A dedicated fenced dog park
   - Public toilets
   - Additional lighting to improve safety
   - Additional seating
   - Increased tree canopy

To supplement the community survey, **3 community pop-up sessions** were held in Mahoney's Reserve. The aim of the sessions was to provide information on the master plan process, discuss opportunities to improve the reserve, and to encourage residents to complete the online community survey.



Pop-Up Session

Ten email submissions were received advocating for either the retention of the Northern Pavilion Hall for table tennis, badminton and carpet bowls, or that a similar hall needs to be included in any planned replacement pavilion at Mahoney's Reserve.

Three petitions signed by a total of 326 signatories were submitted to Council at the Council Meeting held 12 February 2024. The 3 petitions requested that Council stop any current plans to demolish the Northern Pavilion at Mahoney's Reserve due to the disruption it will cause to its regular users.

5.1.2 User Group Engagement

In-person meetings were conducted with the Mahoney's Reserve user groups:

- Separate meetings were held with the Nunawading Cricket Club, the Nunawading City Football Club and 1st Tally Ho Scout Group.
- A combined meeting was held for all Northern Pavilion Hall user groups.

The key findings from the user group meetings include:

1. The Northern Pavilion Hall is used every day of the week from 9.00am – 10.00pm by almost 330 older adults playing table tennis, badminton, and carpet bowls.
2. In addition to the Pavilion Hall users, an estimated 730 people are using the reserve annually as players with the Nunawading Cricket Club and the Nunawading City Football Club, and participants with the 1st Tally Ho Scouts.
3. There is high usage of the sports fields and Scout Hall most evenings during the winter and summer seasons, and by the sporting clubs both days of the weekend morning and afternoon.
4. The Northern Pavilion Hall users are generally satisfied with the facility, but indicated that the toilets and kitchen require an upgrade.
5. The two pavilions at the reserve are not meeting all needs of the Nunawading Cricket Club and the Nunawading City Football Club. Both pavilions have significant non-compliances and shortfalls when compared to relevant peak body preferred facility standards.
6. The 1st Tally Ho Scouts are satisfied with the Scout Hall.
7. Key issues identified by Nunawading Cricket Club include:
   - The cricket practice nets are not safe or adequate in number of lanes to meet demand.

- Dog walkers not leaving the ovals prior to cricket use, not picking up after their dogs, and allowing dogs to dig holes. The Bob Saker Oval is the oval most impacted by holes.
- Shade for scorers, toilets, and equipment storage are required between the South Mid Oval and South West Oval.
- Car parking is required in Ashcroft Grove to service the South West Oval.
- Parking is an issue when soccer and cricket are being played concurrently, and there are no paths through or beside the car parks.

8. Key issues identified by Nunawading City Football Club include:
   - Any new pavilion must meet the minimum standards for an NPL club, including provision for covered spectator seating either side of the centre point of the Main Soccer Pitch.
   - The South West Oval is not viable for soccer use during the winter season due to no floodlights/ poor surface/ no toilets/ limited parking.
   - Dogs are an issue on all sports fields, particularly from holes dug which are dangerous for players and referees.
   - A passenger drop-off zone would be useful and could mitigate traffic congestion.

5.2 Second Round Stakeholder Engagement

The following table summarises the second round engagement.

Date	Engagement
15 July 2024	Ward Councillor meeting to discuss potential key directions for Mahoney's Reserve
13 November 2024	Project Working Group (PWG) Meeting to review preliminary reserve plans
25 November 2024	Project Control Group (PCG) Meeting to review preliminary reserve plans
20 December 2024	PCG Meeting to review preliminary reserve concept plans
6 March 2025	Meeting with 1st Tally Ho Scouts and Scouts Victoria to discuss potential use of scout halls for table tennis and badminton
14 March 2025	Meeting with Hall user groups to explain that a Hall will not be incorporated into the proposed new Northern Pavilion
17 Apr - 15 May 2025	Council coordinated a survey of all Hall user groups to inform them of relocation options
8 May 2025	Council meeting with the Nunawading City Football Club to update them on the master plan
30 May 2025	Informal discussions with Hall user groups
4 July 2025	Council meeting with Hall user groups to present the survey results
7 July 2025	Council meeting with the Nunawading Cricket Club to update them on the master plan
July-September 2025	Council coordinated various meetings/ workshop/ telephone interviews with Hall user groups and the sports clubs to capture operational and spatial requirements from all groups
25 September 2025	Meeting with Nunawading Cricket Club and the Nunawading City Football Club to review a concept plan for the proposed new Northern Pavilion

All meeting outcomes with the PWG and PCG assisted with the development of the current draft Mahoney's Reserve Master Plan and the Northern Pavilion concept floor plan.

Council officers coordinated all liaison with Hall user groups; it was designed for Council to gain a comprehensive understanding of the future facility needs of Hall user groups to help inform Council's investigation of relocation options and scenarios for each group.

6. ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The project consultant team completed an analysis of issues and opportunities for Mahoney's Reserve following the review of park assets and open space areas throughout the reserve, the review of background reports and other planning inputs, and the information and insights collected during the community engagement and user group meetings.

Issues and opportunities are noted below and were grouped into the following themes:

Access and Movement

- Existing pedestrian paths lack connectivity
- There is no pedestrian path through the main central car park
- There is a point of conflict between pedestrians and cricketers at the cricket practice nets
- The proposed new Northern Pavilion will result in a loss of onsite car parking
- The gravel car park at the Scout Hall has drainage issues and the lack of line marking results in inefficient use

Sporting Facilities

- The surface of Bob Saker Oval is significantly degraded from its use for off-lead dog exercise, and is negatively impacting its use for organised cricket and soccer activities
- The surface of the South West Oval is poor and the width of the cricket pitch is less than the preferred width preferred described in Cricket Australia facility standards
- Install compliant sports field lighting on Bob Saker Oval, the South Mid Oval and the South West Oval to increase their capacity for soccer training
- The existing pavilions are non-compliant and do not meet current standards for cricket and soccer club use, and the Northern Pavilion Hall does not meet all needs of the badminton and table tennis groups
- Investigate a more appropriate location for the cricket practice nets
- Investigate opportunities for the soccer facilities to better meet the needs for an NPL club

Recreation Facilities

- The existing Local level playspace is due for renewal, and there are only limited opportunities for informal active recreation throughout the reserve
- There is an opportunity to consider a new location for the playspace and to incorporate an expansion of social recreation offerings at the reserve
- Dog walking is extremely popular at the reserve, however, is causing damage to sports fields; an opportunity is to investigate options for a fenced dog park at the reserve or at another location within the neighbourhood

Open Space/ Environment

- The area around the Northern Pavilion is subject to flooding and is within a stormwater overland flow path
- Existing trees provide a strong landscape setting and character to the reserve; an issue is that significant trees may restrict/ influence development options
- Supplement existing tree planting to further enhance the landscape amenity of the reserve and to strengthen boundary plantings
- Increase community awareness of the bushland area along the southern boundary
- The northeast corner is remote and has limited use and passive surveillance; an opportunity is to activate this space and/or diversify its horticultural values with grassland plantings and additional tree planting

The following three items emerged as key issues from the analysis.

- Future use of Bob Saker Oval
- Redevelopment of the Northern Pavilion
- Reserve car parking

A discussion follows for each of the above three items. The rationale that underpins subsequent proposed directions relating to each item has been informed by input and feedback from Council officers, and where required, by reserve user groups and relevant state sporting associations.

For all other proposed directions and improvement projects in the draft master plan, a rationale for each has been included in Section 7 Master Plan Directions.



Off-lead dog exercise on Bob Saker Oval

6.1 Future Use of Bob Saker Oval

The condition of the surface of Bob Saker Oval is significantly impacted by holes dug by dogs exercising off-lead on the oval. Nunawading Cricket Club volunteers are required to walk around the oval prior to all matches on Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays to check the surface for safety, and where necessary to fill holes with sand. The Nunawading City Football Club ceased using Bob Saker Oval four years ago as its main competition pitch for its community soccer program due to injury concerns to players and officials from the holes.

Bob Saker Oval is the cricket club's main oval, and the oval should be reinstated as the soccer club's preferred second pitch, given that the new Northern Pavilion will be located between Bob Saker Oval and the Main Soccer Pitch. In order for Bob Saker Oval to be a safe, high quality sports field, the use of the oval as a dog-off lead exercise area needs to cease.

The master plan study is recommending that all dog exercise (on-lead and off-lead) be prohibited from Bob Saker Oval.

This will require an amendment to the current status of Mahoney's Reserve as an area approved by Council where dogs can be exercised off-lead (already excludes the Main Soccer Pitch).

The community survey carried out prior to the master plan study commencing had off-lead dog exercise as the 3rd most popular use of Mahoney's Reserve, and '*installing a fenced dog park in Mahoney's Reserve*' was the top improvement project nominated. For these reasons, it is important that the master plan study identifies a potential alternate location for a fenced dog off-lead exercise area at the reserve. The proposed option can be further 'tested' during the development of the Fenced Dog Park Technical Report which is currently in-progress.

The South West Oval currently has the least sporting use by the tenant clubs, mainly due to its distance from the pavilions and lack

of onsite facilities, its poor surface quality, and the lack of floodlights. On this basis, the oval was considered as a potential option for an exclusive use fenced dog off-lead area. However, the oval is still required by the cricket club as an overflow match day oval and by the soccer club as a junior teams' match day venue and a pre-season training venue for its community soccer program.

From a sports planning perspective, the South West Oval is an important asset for Council and local sporting clubs in its current form; the population of the reserve's catchment is projected to increase by an estimate 7,500 people by 2036 (refer Section 3.2), and there will be a corresponding increase in demand for sporting fields during that period.



South West Oval

Notwithstanding the challenges already described for fenced sports fields doubling as dog off-lead exercise areas, other constraints exist for the potential conversion of the South West Oval to an exclusive fenced dog off-lead exercise area.

1. The South West Oval is the lowest area within Mahoney's Reserve and is more susceptible to flooding than other areas within the reserve (refer Section 4.1). Sites that are prone to flooding, or experience prolonged wet surfaces, are not good options for fenced dog parks as there will likely be restricted access to the dog park at certain times, and if a natural turf surface is retained, it will deteriorate quickly during the wetter months.
2. There is currently very limited car parking in Ashcroft Grove, the street directly to the west of the South West Oval. Therefore, dog walkers that rely on vehicle transport will have very little convenient car parking adjacent to the site, and this may lead to conflicts between Ashcroft Street residents and dog walkers who may ultimately choose to park illegally.

The two rectangular shaped open spaces along Mahoneys Road are too small as individual sites to be transformed into a fenced dog park. The minimum recommended area for a fenced dog park is 3,000m² [3] due to the space needed to run most dogs irrespective of breed or size, and the ability of the surface to withstand such use before becoming degraded. The usable space within each rectangle open space area is less than 3,000m².

Similar to Bob Saker Oval, the primary purpose of the South Mid Oval is as a sports field, with an acceptable secondary use being an area where dogs off-lead can be exercised during times when the oval is not being used for organised sporting activities. If this oval was fenced for the purpose of providing an enclosed off-lead dog exercise area, there is a risk that the same issues of surface degradation may occur from dogs digging holes as is the case currently with Bob Saker Oval. Notwithstanding this risk, the master plan is supporting the South Mid Oval being securely fenced to become a shared sporting and dog off-lead exercise area. This decision is based on the following.

[3] Source: Fenced Dog Parks Siting, Design and Management Guidelines, City of Greater Geelong, 2019 and Wyndham Dog-Off Leash Plan, City of Wyndham, 2022

1. The need to identify an alternative to Bob Saker Oval for a fenced dog off-lead exercise area at Mahoney's Reserve.
2. The Fenced Dog Park Technical Report is not yet at a point in its development to identify any alternate is areas outside of Mahoney's Reserve to accommodate a fenced dog off-lead exercise area.
3. The South Mid Oval is used for lower level cricket and soccer compared to Bob Saker Oval and the Main Soccer Pitch, therefore there is a corresponding lessening of the impact of a poorer quality sports surface, if in fact that will result.
4. The availability of more convenient car parking compared to the South West Oval from the main reserve car park and the reserve car park off Lee Ann Street.
5. The proposal to install a new public toilet just west of South Mid Oval.

It is suggested that Council implement a comprehensive education campaign for dog walkers about the shared-use of the space for sport, and the need to monitor their dogs at all times when using South Mid Oval to prevent dog poo being uncollected and holes being dug.

6.2 Redevelopment of the Northern Pavilion

The Northern Pavilion has significant building condition and accessibility non-compliances due to its age, and is no longer fit for purpose for cricket and soccer. Whilst the adjoining Hall generally meets the core requirements of the user groups, the toilets are in poor condition, there is insufficient equipment storage for all groups, and the current configuration of the Hall for table tennis provides no gathering point inside the Hall for players arriving and leaving when matches are in progress.

The proposed new Northern Pavilion provides an opportunity to consolidate all soccer functions and uses into the one pavilion to enable the Southern Pavilion to be removed.



Northern Pavilion

The planning for the new Northern Pavilion has been a collaborative effort by both the consultant team and Council's Senior Project Officer Recreation and Open Space Development. Whilst the new pavilion needed to consider Cricket Victoria's and Football Victoria's preferred standards for pavilions that accommodate community cricket and both community and NPL soccer, the decision as to whether the pavilion could also include the Hall user groups was more complex and has required significant investigation and scenario analysis.

Currently, the Hall accommodates 13 different table tennis, badminton and indoor bowls groups under the coordination of the Mahoney's Reserve Pavilion Association. There is a combined estimate of 327 people from the 13 user groups who are using the Hall at almost full capacity. The Hall users are a culturally diverse group and are mainly older adults, and for many of them their participation is an important means for them to remain socially connected; a majority of the user groups are social/ recreation groups, not clubs participating in organised table tennis and badminton competitions.

Concurrent with the Mahoney's Reserve master plan study is the development of a new Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan, which is a review of the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Facility Feasibility Study (2020). Whilst the Indoor Sports Plan is still in development, interim directions support consolidated indoor sports facility developments and not single court facilities, such as the Northern Pavilion Hall. In addition, the plan is supporting:

- Possible provision of 2 indoor sports courts at Aqualink Box Hill that could also accommodate badminton and table tennis use.
- Increasing badminton and table tennis access to Sportlink.
- Development of a dedicated table tennis facility in Whitehorse (this direction is currently being further explored in a Whitehorse Table Tennis Facility Feasibility Study which is in progress).

Notwithstanding the interim findings and directions of the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan, planning for the new Northern Pavilion has explored the following three options:

1. New centralised pavilion for cricket and soccer uses plus a Hall.
2. New centralised pavilion for cricket and soccer and the retention of the current Hall as a separate building, with necessary upgrades to meet compliance.
3. New centralised pavilion for cricket and soccer uses and the relocation of the Hall user groups into other existing or new Council indoor leisure centres, such as Aqualink Box Hill or Sportlink.

Council's Senior Project Officer Recreation and Open Space Development led the investigation of these options, and one of the key constraints of options 1 & 2 is cost; with an additional $2.5M and $1.5M respectively required to be added to the estimated capital cost of a new pavilion primarily accommodating cricket and soccer uses ($14.6M). Other factors include the increased building footprint (as one or two separate buildings) and the resultant impact on open space and/or car parking, single-court indoor sports facilities are not strategically supported due to inefficiencies of operation, and increased recurrent building maintenance costs.

With the PWG and PCG supporting the new Northern Pavilion to primarily accommodate the needs of the Nunawading Cricket Club and the Nunawading City Football Club, some additional planning for the pavilion explored the potential for recreational table tennis activities to be accommodated in the pavilion. A concept floor plan was prepared with 8 change rooms (necessary to accommodate cricket and soccer training and matches that can occur concurrently across 4 fields of play) but with 4 of the change rooms shown as spaces flexible for use as 4 table tennis courts also, with adjoining stores and a kitchenette.

Whilst conceptually the flexible use of the change rooms seemed possible, operationally it was deemed not feasible. This is due to the restricted times that the change rooms would be available for use by the table tennis groups on weekday evenings and weekends outside of cricket and soccer training and match uses, and schools' use of Mahoney's Reserve during week days. The irregular and changing uses of the change rooms by the clubs and schools meant it would not be possible to guarantee the table tennis groups dedicated and regular timeslots for their use during the week. Another issue raised was the operational practicality of change rooms being able to be kept clean to the necessary standard for table tennis use immediately following cricket and soccer training and match day uses. This option for a flexible use pavilion was therefore not pursued.

A concept plan has been prepared for a new Northern Pavilion to primarily meet community cricket and community and NPL soccer uses. It is required to be a two storey building given the space constraints between Bob Saker Oval and the Main Soccer Pitch (its preferred location to equally service the main sports fields of both clubs), and a desire to minimise the loss of car parking and open space generally. The total estimated area of the pavilion is 1,354m², with the ground floor (and pavilion footprint) being an estimated 731m².

The main spaces within the pavilion include:

Ground Floor

- 4 main change rooms of size 35m² each, plus amenities (meets NPL and senior cricket guidelines)
- 4 secondary change rooms of size 25m² each, plus amenities (meets community soccer and junior cricket guidelines)
- 2 gender neutral referees/ umpires change rooms
- 1 large cricket store facing Bob Saker Oval
- 2 large soccer stores, one facing the Main Soccer Pitch and a second facing Bob Saker Oval, which will become the club's main community soccer teams' pitch in winter
- First aid room
- Canteen
- Pavilion entry foyer
- Public toilets (incl Unisex Accessible WC)

1st Floor

- Community social room
- Seated and undercover spectator viewing for 200 people towards the Main Soccer Pitch
- Undercover spectator viewing towards Bob Saker Oval
- Internal male and female toilets (incl Unisex Accessible WC)
- Kitchen & Bar
- 2 offices, with one also doubling as a media/ broadcast room for NPL matches

It is a preferred standard for NPL venues that the pavilion be located at centre pitch to enable the player's and referee's race to access the pitch at the midline and the spectator viewing (upstairs and ground level) to be central to the pitch. The master plan locates the pavilion towards the centre of the pitch to enable the players/ referees race and the upstairs spectator seating to be mid pitch. This has an impact on car parking (see Section 6.3).

The pavilion will need to be elevated approximately 300mm to overcome the 1:100 flood level (specific level to be confirmed during design development).

The ground level spectating area in front of the pavilion will require the 2.4m pitch enclosure fence in this location to be removed. As a result, the pavilion needs to become part of the Main Soccer Pitch enclosure fence in order to meet an NPL requirement that the pitch and immediate surrounds be secure during matches.

This requirement will remove the current east-west pedestrian access outside the Main Soccer Pitch when the new Northern Pavilion is constructed. To offset this, and to ensure uninterrupted east-west pedestrian flow at all times (including when the Main Soccer Pitch is hosting an NPL match), a new wide path with seating areas and landscaping will be constructed on the north side of the pavilion facing Bob Saker Oval. The master plan is supporting this precinct to be developed as a community gathering space which will also be a spectator viewing area to the oval and will connect directly with the proposed new Neighbourhood level playspace and family/ social recreation space on the site of the current pavilion and cricket practice nets.

It is the intent of the master plan that this precinct and the new pavilion will combine to be 'reserve attractors' that will stimulate an increase in the activation of Mahoney's Reserve. The community social room in the pavilion will be available for hire, and with its close location to the new playspace and family/ social recreation space, is expected to become a popular venue.

6.3 Reserve Car Parking

A key consideration during the development of the master plan was the replacement of the in-reserve car parking that will be lost as a result of the new Northern Pavilion having to be sited on a section of the central car park (see following image).



Central car park

The loss is estimated to be 40 car parks. The decision to use a section of the central car park to site the new pavilion is based on:

- the need for the pavilion's internal finished floor level to be higher than the 1:100 year flood level in the reserve; such level is estimated to be 300mm above the level of the existing central car park surface,
- the high retention value of many of the trees around the current pavilion prevents this space being used for the larger footprint for the new pavilion as would require the removal of several trees, and
- the preference to centralise the pavilion between the two main sports fields, the Main Soccer Pitch and Bob Saker Oval.

The current total in-reserve car parking (146) is adequate to meet the needs of reserve user groups and other visitors, such as dog walkers. The estimated 44 car parks that will be lost to the new Northern Pavilion should ideally be replaced elsewhere within the reserve to minimise the number of relocated car parking spaces having to be accommodated in surrounding streets.

An independent Traffic Impact Assessment Study was undertaken in February and March 2024 and concluded that there is sufficient capacity within the adjoining streets of Mahoneys Road, Vicki Street and Lee Ann Street to absorb any relocated car parking demand required during Saturday game day peak parking periods (estimated to be 31 vehicles). This conclusion may require further testing, as the car parking capacity assessment was conducted on Saturday 10 February and Saturday 9 March 2024. Whilst the selected days were intended to capture peak match day usage by soccer and cricket club teams, the soccer matches were only the club's early season NPL team matches and not matches involving the club's larger community soccer program whose season commences in April. Notwithstanding this, the Traffic Study data is useful as no cricket matches are scheduled after March, therefore additional car parking demand generated by the increased number of soccer teams playing at the reserve from April onwards should be able to be largely accommodated.

In order to minimise the additional car parking that may be required on-street, and to also future-proof the reserve for the growth of the Nunawading City Football Club, the master plan process investigated three options to increase in-reserve car parking.

1. Utilising the current site of the Northern Pavilion.
   This site was ultimately assessed as not feasible due to the 8 trees in the vicinity all assessed as 'high value'[4]. In addition, up to 3 existing car parks off Lee Ann Street would be lost to enable a car park access road to be constructed from this access. As a consequence, the site has been proposed to accommodate a new Neighbourhood level playspace' and accompanying seating, picnic tables, BBQs, and outdoor exercise equipment to create a centrally located family recreation space.
2. Expand the Lee Ann Street car park.
   Two options were considered to expand this car park: duplicating the car parking on the western side of the access road as it extends north; and extending the access road and eastern side car parking northwards. Both options will require the removal of a several trees of 'Moderate' to 'High' value and will generate a maximum of 15 car parks. This return is

[4] Source: Preliminary Arboricultural Assessment, Greenwood Consulting, 2022

considered low given the impact on the horticultural value in this location of the reserve and the high capital cost of construction due partly to the steep grade change towards Vicki Street.

3. Construct a new car park in the open space area on the northern side of the reserve entry off Mahoneys Road

   This area is open space that is unallocated, however still provides landscape and amenity value and recreational value in its current form. Car park modelling suggests that up to 40 car spaces are possible and would require the removal of 2 trees. (These trees were outside the study scope of the 2022 arboricultural assessment, so their specific value is not known). This site is flat, and is within the cluster of existing reserve car parking that is accessed using the main internal road from the reserve entrance off Mahoneys Road.

Car park option 3 is supported in the master plan due to the high car parking yield possible, its flat topography, its current low use, its expected low impact on local residential amenity, and the low number of trees that will be required to be removed (an indicative offset from the planting of 10 new trees around the car park is proposed).

Given the reduction in the number of car parks and length of road in the central car park area, the master plan is supporting the provision of a new and dedicated passenger drop off zone to create efficiencies and to improve pedestrian safety (mainly junior cricket and soccer players). The proposed location is along the main internal road east of Bob Saker Oval, and will connect with a proposed new pedestrian path with a direct link to the new Northern Pavilion. It is planned to accommodate short stay parking for 4 vehicles, and will require the removal of up to 10 trees. All trees are *Melaleuca stypheliodes* and were assessed as 'Low' value trees in the 2022 arboricultural assessment.



Open space area on the northern side of the reserve entry

7. MASTER PLAN DIRECTIONS

7.1 Plan Development

This section describes the key directions of the draft Mahoney's Reserve Masterplan, which have been grouped into four themes.

- Access and Movement
- Sporting Facilities
- Recreation Facilities
- Open Space/ Environment

Each numbered item below corresponds with the number on the masterplan and should be read in conjunction with the masterplan attached in Appendix 2. A description and rationale have been prepared for each masterplan direction listed below.

7.2 Access and Movement



1. New pedestrian path connecting with Vicki Street

   The current pedestrian path from Vicki Street into the reserve is not well defined. The master plan is supporting the installation of a more formal gravel path to connect to a new gravel path around the northern perimeter of Bob Saker Oval. This will improve the pedestrian connection from Vicki Street to the oval, the proposed new cricket practice nets (No. 12) and the proposed new playspace (No. 21).



2. Open Kira Court to through traffic

   To assist traffic flow into and out of the reserve the master plan is supporting the re-opening of Kira Court to through traffic; the history of its closure is not known to Council.

   The proposed passenger drop-off/ pick-up zone (No. 3) east of Bob Saker Oval and just south of Kira Court will function more efficiently with cars being able to exit the reserve through Kira Court.

3. Install 4 short-term car parks to facilitate passenger drop-off and pick-up

   The passenger drop-off and pick-up zone will create traffic management efficiencies for vehicles entering the reserve with the specific purpose to only drop-off and collect passengers; vehicles will utilise the loop road between the main reserve entry off Mahoneys Road and exit through Kira Court (No. 3). The zone will improve pedestrian safety for junior cricket and soccer players with its link directly to the proposed new Northern Pavilion (No. 15).

4. Renew the main car park, including lighting and new pedestrian path

   With the proposed new Northern Pavilion (No. 15) reducing the capacity of the central car park from 75 to an estimated 31 spaces, it will be important that the car park is upgraded to cater for the expected increase in the number of pedestrians walking within the car park zone. The suggested upgrades include a new sealed walking path on the north side of the car park, additional lighting, and the resealing of the car park surface, if required following the building works.

5. New car park (est. 40 spaces) to offset the loss of spaces from main car park

   The proposed new Northern Pavilion (No. 15) will result in the loss of an estimated 40 car parks from the central car park. To offset this loss a new car park is proposed in the grass area to the north of the main reserve entrance; apply WSUD principles to harvest rainwater, and Investigate Storm water Harvesting and Permeable Pavement opportunities on the new car park.

   A new sealed pedestrian path from Mahoneys Road will direct pedestrians safely from the car park to the pavilion and sports fields, and to the proposed new playspace and family recreation space (No. 21). Refer Section 6.3 for more information relating to this proposed car park.

6. Seal the small existing car park

   The car park adjacent to the 1st Tally Ho Scout Hall is currently unsealed and has drainage issues. By sealing the car park and installing kerb and channel the capacity of the car park will be increased, stormwater will be better controlled, and the access to the Scout Hall store will be improved.



7.3 Sporting Facilities

7. Upgrade the playing surface and install a compliant cricket pitch (min. 2.4m wide)

The surface of South West Oval is in poor condition and degrades quickly during winter. The oval is used for senior and junior cricket, and for junior soccer matches and for pre-season soccer training for all ages. Its use will increase as the cricket and soccer clubs continue to grow and it is important that the surface is upgraded to increase its usage capacity.

The current cricket pitch is non-compliant (too narrow) and should be replaced when the synthetic surface reaches end of life.



8. Install floodlighting (100 lux)

The installation of floodlighting will enable the oval to be used for soccer training throughout the winter season. This will have the benefit of soccer training being able to be spread equally across all ovals as a strategy to maintain the surfaces to a high standard for soccer use and for recreational use by the community.

9. New combined unisex toilet, store and shelter to service sporting uses

Providing toilet, shelter and storage capabilities at grade with the South West Oval will significantly improve the playing and spectating experience at this oval for the cricket and soccer clubs. Currently, all sporting equipment is carried from the pavilions for training and matches, and public toilets are only available on the eastern side of the Northern Pavilion, almost 200m away.

The public toilet will be conveniently located for the sporting uses at South Mid Oval, and for dog walkers using the oval (No. 24).

10. Install floodlighting (100 lux)

The current floodlighting on the South Mid Oval is below the minimum recommended lux levels for soccer training and matches. The conversion to LED supports Council's objectives to reduce its carbon footprint and will be less costly to operate.

11. Remove the Cricket Practice Nets and realign the gravel path

The current location of the cricket practice nets is not safe for pedestrians using the gravel path to the south and there is further risk of injury to people using the northern area of South Mid Oval. The condition and use of the nets is severely impacted by the surrounding mature trees, which cause shadowing and leaf litter.

Removal of the cricket practice nets will allow the opportunity to establish a new playspace and family recreation precinct (No. 21) and will require a minor alignment of the gravel path.

12. New Cricket Practice Nets (3 lockable lanes, 1 open lane)

The proposed location for the new cricket practice nets is less impacted by trees and will permit a fully enclosed facility to be constructed which will eliminate the risk of injury to other reserve users from errant cricket balls (see precedent image below). A 4 lane facility will better meet the training needs of the cricket club, with one lane remaining open at all times for public use other than when the cricket club is conducting training. The project will include the installation of a power bollard to operate the bowling machine.

The grade change in this area of the reserve will require significant excavation and terracing in order to site the cricket practice nets in their required north-south orientation and to achieve maximum clearance from adjacent trees. The required footprint for the nets plus the desire to install a path around the northern and western corners of the oval may mean the fence around Bob Saker Oval may need to be slightly realigned at this point.



13. Reconfigure Bob Saker Oval to accommodate a senior size soccer pitch and retain as the main cricket oval

    The Nunawading City Football Club currently uses Bob Saker Oval for its junior Mini Roos program due to the injury risk to players from the uneven surface caused by dogs digging holes.

    Currently, the oval can accommodate a 98m x 60m soccer pitch, however the minimum width for a senior soccer pitch is 64m (source: Football Victoria Field Dimensions and Pitch Markings Guide, 2019). The master plan is supporting a minor reconfiguration of Bob Saker Oval to accommodate a soccer pitch of dimensions 100m x 64m and 3m run-offs which will result in a fit for purpose pitch for the club's community soccer program (currently using South Mid Oval). This switch is sensible as the proposed new Northern Pavilion (No. 15) between Bob Saker Oval and the Main Soccer Pitch will ensure convenient access to players' and officials' change rooms and equipment storage.

14. Install floodlighting (100 lux)

    The current floodlighting on Bob Saker Oval is below the minimum recommended lux levels for soccer training and matches. The conversion to LED supports Council's objectives to reduce its carbon footprint and will be less costly to operate.

15. New Northern Pavilion to replace the existing building, includes public toilets

    The current Northern Pavilion has many non-compliances and no longer meets the needs of the cricket club and the soccer club. The soccer club currently uses the southern pavilion as their main pavilion which also has significant non-compliances and is not fit-for-purpose for soccer. The proposed new Northern Pavilion will become the main pavilion for both the cricket and soccer clubs and will provide fit for purpose facilities for players, officials and spectators that meet the minimum facility standards for community cricket and community/ NPL soccer. Refer Section 6.2 for more information relating to the new pavilion.

    On the master plan, the grey shade over the pavilion shows an indicative floor area for a second storey, which will include a community social room and associated facilities, and outdoor tiered spectator seating oriented to the Main Soccer Pitch. The second storey overhang in front of the pavilion and to the east will provide an expansive undercover area.

16. Extend the height of the fence to 5m for a length of 25m behind the Main Soccer Pitch goals

    This is required to contain soccer balls to the pitch enclosure after being kicked at goal. They will also reduce the risk of injury to spectators viewing training and matches from behind the goals. See precedent image top right.



17. Remove the Southern Pavilion

    The current function and use of the Southern Pavilion will be incorporated within the proposed new Northern Pavilion.

18. Renew the terracing and associated spectator seating, and install a shelter over

    The current terracing and spectator seating at the Main Soccer Pitch will continue to be an important spectator area during NPL soccer matches. The condition of the terracing is average and requires renewal. Installing a shelter over the terraced seating will enhance the spectator experience and comfort. See precedent image below.



19. New soccer goal storage compound

The soccer club currently stores their portable goals for training and junior matches along the northern fence of the Main Soccer Pitch, but detracts from the visual presentation of the high-use area between the Main Soccer Pitch and Bob Saker Oval. It will no longer be feasible as a goal storage area, as it will be required for spectators with the proposed new Northern Pavilion development.

The master plan is supporting the installation of new secure storage compound between the Main Soccer Pitch and the South Mid Oval. This location adjacent to the South Mid Oval will provide more convenient access to the goals as the South Mid Oval in the future will accommodate junior soccer training and matches, and the club's junior Mini Roos program. The compound will likely be a fenced area using black PVC chain-mesh at 2.0 metres high, with double gates to the east and west sides.

7.4 Recreation Facilities

20. Upgrade the Scout Hall: replace the floor, install heating/ cooling, upgrade the southern Hall entrance to a compliant accessible access, and waterproof the main store under the Scout Hall

The Scout Hall is an important and much-used facility at the reserve. Whilst the hall generally meets the needs of the 1st Tally Ho Scout Group, the above infrastructure upgrades will enhance the scouting experience for the participants and leaders, particularly to make the rear door accessible which will enable people with mobility constraints to enter the Hall safely.

21. Install a Neighbourhood level playspace, and seating, BBQ/ picnic facilities and shelters

This project one of the most significant master plan improvement projects to ensure the reserve continues to be a welcoming and attractive destination for all members of the community. The new playspace with its associated seating, BBQs, picnic tables and shelters, plus some outdoor exercise equipment, will create a new intergenerational family recreation precinct at the reserve. See precedent images at right.

The current playground has been identified by Council for upgrade to a Neighbourhood level playspace', and its relocation to a larger and more central location in the reserve will help maximise the benefits of this upgrade. The relocation of the Cricket Practice Nets (No. 12) and the new site for the Northern Pavilion (No. 15) both work to create this new open space set amongst established trees and well serviced by pedestrian paths and car parking.



22. Spectator viewing area and community gathering space

This area will be an important outcome from the planning and design of the proposed new Northern Pavilion (No. 15). Not only will the space be a popular area for viewing cricket and soccer matches, but will become the main east-west pedestrian thoroughfare through the reserve. The need for a secure connection between the new pavilion and the Main Soccer Pitch will result in the public not being able to access this space at any time (refer Section 6.2 for additional background information).

It is proposed that the area between the pavilion and Bob Saker Oval comprise a combination of wide paths (fully accessible), concrete terracing for seating, attractive landscaping, and ramp access from the change rooms to the oval. It should be designed to complement the new playspace and social recreation precinct and ensure there is a strong physical and visual connection between the two areas.

23. Remove the existing playspace and return to grass

The current playspace will no longer be required following the construction of the new playspace and family recreation space (No. 21).

24. Cease all dog exercise on Bob Saker Oval. Install an oval boundary fence around South Mid Oval to enhance park visitor safety during cricket and soccer use, and to facilitate its flexible use as a dog off lead area. Investigate the feasibility of relocating the shelter, seating and dog bowl from Bob Saker Oval, or install new

    The master plan recommends that all dog exercise cease on Bob Saker Oval. The condition of the oval surface is significantly impacted by holes being dug by dogs exercising off-lead. This is impacting the use of the oval by the cricket and soccer clubs, and is not a sustainable outcome for both clubs as they continue to expand both in size and their program offerings to members.

    In the absence of an alternate fenced dog off-lead exercise venue in the surrounding neighbourhood, the master plan is supporting the use of South Mid Oval for this purpose. It is noted that Council is currently preparing a Fenced Dog Park Technical Report and this work may identify an alternative fenced dog off-lead site.

    For the South Mid Oval to become a secure dog off-lead exercise area, it is necessary to secure the northern, western and southern sides of the oval area with an 1100m high chain mesh fence, which will also help contain cricket balls to the oval. The master plan supports two gates along the north side, one gate along the west side to allow direct access to the proposed Unisex toilet (No. 9), and one gate on the south side at the corner of the Main Soccer Pitch.

    All current conditions of the shared use of a sports field by dog walkers will apply to South Mid Oval, including organised sporting activities having priority use. Refer Section 6.1 for more information relating to this proposal. When South Mid Oval is being used for organised sporting activities, South West Oval will become an option for dog off-lead exercise with the proposal to install a low height chain mesh fence along the Ashcroft Grove boundary (No. 26).

7.5 Open Space/ Environment

25. Renew the existing ephemeral wetland

    This functional water detention and treatment wetland requires renewal through management of planting and levels to better achieve its intended water quality outcomes.



26. Replace the pine bollards with a 1100mm high chain-mesh fence; dog off leash exercise permitted when not being used for organised sporting activities

    The installation of a less permeable fence along the western boundary of the South West Oval will likely make this open space more appealing to dog walkers and can be an alternate venue for dog off-lead exercise when South Mid Oval is being used for organised sporting activities. The fence will also assist to contain cricket balls and soccer balls to the oval.

27. New 5m high chain-mesh fence to protect adjacent properties from balls

    The residential properties along the southern boundary of South Mid Oval are often impacted by cricket balls hit over their fences during matches. The proposed new fence treatment is currently being used to effect along the southern boundary of the South West Oval (see right).



28. Retain the bushland park and enhance the natural and environmental values

    The bushland park is a distinctive and attractive feature of Mahoney's Reserve. It comprises a mix of remnant canopy trees as well as indigenous ground level plantings. The reserve complements and extends the dominant landscape character of the reserve, being established informal native trees framing formal open sports fields. The master plan is supporting Council's continued maintenance of this site as a natural area suitable for passive use and contemplation.



29. Retain as informal open space, and strengthen tree planting

    Similar to the bushland park described above, the northeast corner of Mahoney's Reserve, beyond Bob Saker Oval, provides a relatively natural landscape with established trees (see below). The density of planting is not as high as the bushland park and could be strengthened with additional high-canopied tree planting to help screen adjoining properties.



30. Realign the Main Soccer Pitch eastern perimeter fence

    Currently, all of the treed open space between the Main Soccer Pitch and the Scout Hall is within the soccer pitch enclosure. The quality of the open space and vegetation is very good.

    The Nunawading City Football Club has advised that this area is not used by spectators and is therefore surplus to the club's needs. The proposed project to realign the fence will 'transfer' this land to the public domain to increase the quantity of unallocated open space in the reserve that will be accessible to the community.

31. New publicly accessible open space area

    Refer No. 30.

32. Increase the power supply into the reserve: new pole mounted sub-station installed at the reserve entrance, and a new power distribution box southwest of Bob Saker Oval

    The current power supply into Mahoney's Reserve is insufficient to accommodate the oval sports lighting projects (No.s 8, 10 & 14) and the proposed new Northern Pavilion (No. 15). Council is currently collaborating with United Energy to upgrade the power supply.

    The location for the pole mounted transformer at the main reserve entrance is recommended due to its low impact on surrounding residents and ease of access for service vehicles. The distribution box needs to be located within the reserve and the nominated location outside the southeast corner of Bob Saker Oval will have no impact on current uses of the reserve.

7.6 Other Recommendations

1. That all dog exercise (on-lead and off-lead) be prohibited from Bob Saker Oval (refer Section 6.1)
2. That Council initiate an education campaign for dog walkers about the shared-use of sports ovals for dog exercise, and the need to monitor their dogs at all times to prevent dog poo being uncollected and holes being dug.

8. MASTER PLAN COSTINGS

The Mahoney's Reserve Master Plan recommends more than 30 improvement projects. The total estimated cost for full implementation of the master plan is $17,735,000 (ex-GST).

Table 3 shows the total estimated capital cost and suggested prioritisation for each improvement project. For a full breakdown of costs, refer to the quantity surveyor report in Appendix 3.

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

- Availability of funding.
- Current and future priorities of Council, the user groups, and other stakeholders, and the broader needs of the community.
- Further investigation, research and consultation.

All projects have been grouped into the four themes used to describe the key master plan directions (refer Section 7), and all projects have been assigned one of three project prioritisation categories, which are colour-coded for quick reference.

High	Now – 7 years	Year 2025/26 – 2032/33
Medium	8 – 12 years	Year 2033/34 – 2037/38
Low	13+ years	Year 2038/39 onwards

Notes about the Master Plan Costings

- **The directions contained in the master plan do not commit Council or other organisations to a responsibility for funding**.
- All capital cost estimates shown in the tables are based on works being undertaken by professional contractors, and have been determined by a quantity surveyor (Harlock Consulting). See Appendix 3 for the quantity surveyor report.
- Cost estimates include a design and construction contingency (15% of the construction budget).
- Cost exclusions include:
  - Professional fees.
  - Permit and authority fees.
  - Goods and Services Tax (GST).
  - Adverse ground conditions, contamination, etc.
  - Security.
  - Major services infrastructure upgrades and diversions.
  - Cost escalation beyond October 2025.
  - Any costs/ loss of income, which may be incurred by user groups or Council during construction of projects.
- It should be noted that some capacity might exist for cost savings during the implementation of the capital improvement program by packaging multiple projects into one larger contract.

Table 3 - Master Plan Cost and Prioritisation

The item number assigned to a project corresponds with the same number on the master plan drawing (see Appendix 2).

Item No. on Plan	Improvement Project	Priority	Opinion of Probable Cost
Access and Movement			
1	New pedestrian path connecting with Vicki Street (includes the oval perimeter path)	Medium	$110,000
2	Open Kira Court to through traffic	High	$5,000
3	Install 4 short-term car parks to facilitate passenger drop-off and pick-up	Medium	$35,000
4	Renew the main car park, including lighting and new pedestrian path (includes resealing, if required following the construction of the new Northern Pavilion)	Medium	$245,000
5	New car park (est. 40 spaces) (includes lighting and new gravel path to the internal road crossing)	High	$500,000
6	Seal the small existing car park (Scout Hall)	Low	$30,000
Access and Movement Sub-Total			**$935,000**
Sporting Facilities			
7	Upgrade the playing surface and install a compliant cricket pitch (min. 2.4m wide) (includes new sub-surface drainage and irrigation, topsoil and grassing)	Low	$535,000
8	Install floodlighting (100 lux) to South West Oval	Low	$480,000
9	New unisex toilet, store and shelter to service sporting uses	Medium	$400,000
10	Install floodlighting (100 lux) to South Mid Oval	Medium	$465,000
11	Remove the cricket practice nets and realign the gravel path	High	$55,000
12	New cricket practice nets (3 lockable lanes, 1 open lane) (includes necessary terracing and power bollard)	High	$490,000
13	Reconfigure Bob Saker Oval fencing as required to accommodate a senior size soccer pitch	High	$55,000
14	Install floodlighting (100 lux) to Bob Saker Oval	High	$360,000
15	New Northern Pavilion and public toilets (includes demolition of the existing pavilion, building up the surface by 300mm, and concourse and	High	$10,400,000
16	Extend the height of the fence to 5m for a length of 25m behind the Main Soccer Pitch goals	Low	$70,000
17	Remove the Southern Pavilion	Medium	$200,000
18	Renew the terracing and associated spectator seating (includes screed and pave over the pavilion slab, and an open shelter over the seating)	Medium	$1,150,000
19	New soccer goal storage compound	High	$35,000
Sporting Facilities Sub-Total			**$14,710,000**

10.3 – ATTACHMENT 2. Mahoneys Reserve - Study Report

Item No. on Plan	Improvement Project	Priority	Opinion of Probable Cost
Recreation Facilities			
20	Upgrade the Scout Hall (includes replacing the floor, installation of heating/ cooling, new accessible access in southern door, and waterproofing the main store under the Scout Hall)	Medium	$365,000
21	Install a Neighborhood Play space (includes new playground, seating, BBQ/ picnic facilities, shelters, and outdoor fitness gym)	Medium	$695,000
22	Spectator viewing area and community gathering space (includes paving, terraced seating and landscaping)	High	$445,000
23	Remove the existing playspace and return to grass	High	$30,000
24	Enclose the South Mid Oval with a new 1100mm high chain mesh fence	High	$170,000
Recreation Facilities Sub-Total			**$1,705,000**
Open Space/ Environment			
25	Renew the existing ephemeral wetland	Low	$250,000
26	Replace the pine bollards along Ashcroft Grove with a 1100mm high chain-mesh fence	Medium	$40,000
27	New 5m high chain-mesh fence to protect adjacent properties from errant balls	High	$135,000
28	Retain the bushland park and enhance the natural and environmental values (operational budget)		$0
29	Retain as informal open space, and strengthen tree planting (operational budget)		$0
30	Realign the Main Soccer Pitch eastern perimeter fence	Low	$35,000
31	New publicly accessible open space area		$0
32	Increase the power supply into the reserve (includes new pole mounted sub-station and a new power distribution box)	High	$275,000
-	New tree planting; various locations (includes supply and planting of 50 No., and initial maintenance)	ongoing	$35,000
Open Space/ Environment Sub-Total			**$770,000**
TOTAL MASTER PLAN COSTS (ex GST)			**$18,120,000**

High	$12,970,000
Medium	$3,740,000
Low	$1,410,000

APPENDIX 1

Policy Context - review of background reports

State Plans

- Active Victoria 2022-2026, Sport and Recreation Victoria.
- Fair Access Policy Roadmap, Victorian Government (2022).
- Value of Community Sport & Active Recreation Infrastructure, Sport and Recreation Victoria (2020).

Council Plans and Strategies

- Whitehorse Council Plan 2021-2025 Year Three.
- Whitehorse Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025.
- Whitehorse Recreation Strategy 2015-2024.
- Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan *Draft* (2025).
- Whitehorse Sports Field Activity Audit 2022.
- Whitehorse Open Space Strategy 2025.
- Whitehorse Pavilion Development Policy (2019).
- Whitehorse Cycling Strategy 2016.
- Whitehorse Urban Forest Strategy 2021-2031.
- Whitehorse Climate Response Strategy & Plan 2023-2026.
- Whitehorse Integrated Water Management Strategy (2022-2042)

State Sporting Association Strategies

- Cricket Victoria Strategic Plan FY 24-27.
- Football Victoria State Football Facilities Strategy to 2026.
- Table Tennis Victoria Strategic Plan 2024.
- Table Tennis Victoria Facility Audit 2020.
- Badminton Victoria Strategic Plan 2021-2025.
- Scouts Victoria Strategic Plan 2021-2024.
- State Sporting Association facility standards and guidelines.

State Plans

Active Victoria 2022-2026, Sport and Recreation Victoria



Active Victoria, is the State Government's strategic framework for sport and recreation in Victoria. Its vision is -

> *To build a thriving, inclusive and connected sport and active recreation sector that benefits all Victorians*

Active Victoria is underpinned by three objectives and six outcomes to guide activities and investment in sport and active recreation. The first two objectives and their outcomes are relevant to this project.

Objective 1: Connecting Communities

All Victorians have access to high-quality environments and appropriate participation opportunities.

Outcomes

1. More Victorians Participate equitably in sport and active recreation.
2. Victoria has inclusive, accessible, and respectful places and spaces for sport and active recreation.

Objective 2: Building Value

The sport and active recreation workforce create positive experiences for people.

Outcomes

3. The sport and active recreation workforce is highly skilled and leads a strong, sustainable workforce.
4. Sport and active recreation is a safe, inclusive, and resilient sector.

Fair Access Policy Roadmap, Victorian Government (2022)

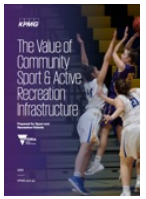


Fair Access Policy Roadmap has been developed by the Victorian Government in partnership with local governments, the state sport and active recreation sector, and other key stakeholders to improve gender equitable access and use of publicly owned community sports infrastructure across Victoria.

Six Fair Access Principles have been developed to provide clear and defined lanes for any organisation to build a gender equitable access and use policy. The relevant principles for master planning are:

- Community sports infrastructure and environments are genuinely welcoming, safe, and inclusive.
- Women and girls can fully participate in all aspects of community sport and active recreation.
- Women and girls will have equitable access to and use of community sport infrastructure.

Value of Community Sport & Active Recreation Infrastructure (2020)



This report considers the economic, health and social benefits that community sport and active recreation infrastructure can add to individuals, communities and society. These benefits are generated from the construction and operation of these facilities and spaces, and the activities that take place within them.

The annual value supported by community sport and active recreation infrastructure in Victoria is at least $7.04 billion.

Economic Benefits

The construction and operation of community sport and active recreation infrastructure makes a direct impact on Victoria's economy through a number of different channels. These facilities create employment and generate economic activity both through spend on the facilities and at the facilities. The economic benefits supported by community sport and active recreation infrastructure in Victoria have been estimated at $2.1 billion on an average annual basis.

Health Benefits

The health benefits of community sport and active recreation infrastructure are driven by the physical activity this infrastructure supports. The many health benefits of being physically active are well documented. The health benefits supported by community sport and active recreation infrastructure has been estimated at $2.3 billion annually.

Social Benefits

The social benefits of community sport and active recreation infrastructure can be driven by two factors: firstly, the social connections that this infrastructure creates through events, programs and activities; and secondly, the role that infrastructure plays in communities in which it is located. The social benefits supported by community sport and active recreation infrastructure have been estimated at $2.6 billion on an average annual basis.

These findings make the case at a micro-level for Whitehorse City Council that community sport and active recreation infrastructure deliver outcomes that make people happier, healthier and more productive to improve social cohesion, and contribute directly and indirectly to a stronger local economy.

Council Planning Reports

Whitehorse Council Plan 2021-2025 Year Three



The Whitehorse 2040 Community Vision Statement was developed by the community and reflects the community's aspirations and priorities for the next 20 years.

The Vision statement is ……

Whitehorse is a resilient community where everyone belongs.
We are active citizens who value our natural environment, history and diversity.
We embrace sustainability and innovation.
We are dynamic. We learn, grow and thrive.

The Vision is underpinned by strategic directions for Council to focus on to achieve the Whitehorse 2040 Community Vision.

The directions most relevant to inform the Mahoney's Reserve Master Plan study are:

Strategic Direction 4: A built environment that encourages movement with high quality public places

Strategic Actions:	Deliver a capital works program that strengthens the inclusiveness and accessibility of our local neighbourhoods, assets, facilities and services.
Indicators:	Play spaces are less than 20 years old.
	Number of playgrounds with accessible play opportunities.
	Increased number of community groups using Council sports pavilions for community activities.

Strategic Direction 5: Sustainable climate and environmental care

Strategic Actions:	Sustainably manage, enhance and increase trees and vegetation in Council's streetscapes, parks and gardens, with species that enhance neighbourhood character, support biodiversity and are adaptable to a changing climate

Strategic Direction 7: A safe and healthy community

Strategic Actions:	promote community participation in sporting and recreational opportunities, especially by underrepresented groups.
Indicators:	Percentage of females participating in organised sport.

Whitehorse Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025



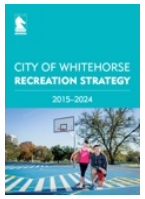
The plan outlines the role that Council will play in improving the health and wellbeing of people in Whitehorse. The plan directs the work over eleven domains towards achieving the Whitehorse Community Vision 2040. The domain and strategy that best informs the master plan study are:

Neighbourhood Liveability

Strategies:	Seek opportunities to open up and diversify use of Council spaces and facilities for multiuse, eg. on-demand lighting, casual use sports infrastructure, such as basketball/netball rings, oval walking tracks, picnic seats, community gardens; unlock athletics tracks, open toilet facilities.

10.3 – ATTACHMENT 2. Mahoneys Reserve - Study Report

Whitehorse Recreation Strategy 2015-2024



The strategy provides Council with a decision-making framework for recreation and sport for the period to 2024. The strategy developed 8 principles to guide the planning of recreation services and facilities:

1. Different needs
2. A range of opportunities
3. Addressing recreation and sport priorities
4. Integration and design of urban infrastructure
5. Universal design
6. Partnerships
7. Facilities
8. The natural environment

The strategy is underpinned by four Key Themes and related actions that respond to recreation objectives and identified needs of the community.

The Key Themes are:

Theme 1: Active communities.
Theme 2: Effective information and communication.
Theme 3: Flexible community facilities.
Theme 4: Deliverable partnerships.

Themes and Actions relevant to the master plan study are:

<u>Theme 1 Active Communities</u>

Increasing levels of physical activity

Action 1: Encourage an increase in walking through:
- consideration of infrastructure, as part of site specific park planning
- planning well connected and accessible trails and paths

<u>Theme 3 Flexible Community Facilities</u>

Park master plans

Action 16: Ensure planning of Council's parks and reserves considers:
- pathways for casual/ local recreation and fitness activities for different age groups
- ancillary infrastructure, such as seating, bike racks, toilets, etc. as per Council's Open Space Strategy
- directional signage and distance markers
- spaces and infrastructure that optimise opportunities for local physical activity

Access to sports pavilions

Action 21 Enhance use of sports pavilions with a focus on:
- increasing the level of use by casual users
- optimising shared use of facilities by sporting clubs and other community groups
- design of facilities that optimise use by compatible activities and organisations

Potential upgrade of sports fields

Action 22 Consider/ identify existing sports fields that could have potential upgrades to accommodate additional usage.

Access to sports fields

Action 23 Enhance use of sports fields with a focus on:
- optimising use of grounds via field upgrades where appropriate
- increasing lighting of sports fields and training areas where appropriate
- design of sports fields that optimises use by compatible activities and organisations

Accessible facilities

Action 33 Apply universal design principles when planning new recreation facilities, or upgrading existing facilities, in order to optimise use by all ages and abilities.

***Draft* Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan (2025)**



The draft plan provides a road map to optimise the use and increase the capacity of existing indoor sports facilities across the City of Whitehorse; it also considers the development of new indoor sports facilities where required and appropriate.

The indoor sports demand analysis shows that there is currently a surplus of 4 badminton courts in Whitehorse, however, by 2046 this will have changed to a deficit of 24 courts. In relation to table tennis the demand analysis shows that there is currently a deficit of 6 table tennis courts in Whitehorse, and by 2046 this will have increased to a deficit of 10 courts.

Badminton Analysis

Due to the multiuse nature of indoor courts, the use of shared-use venues for badminton is restricted, as there is high competition for the use of courts by other indoor sports, such as basketball and netball, at the same time as they are required for badminton.

Interim strategic recommendation for Badminton -

To foster the growth of badminton in Whitehorse the strategic objective is to build on the network of district fit-for-purpose (competition) and local (social) level facilities that foster the growth of badminton that:

- Considers the need for additional badminton courts as part of the statutory planning processes for new badminton centre applications.
- Considers increasing badminton access to Aqualink Box Hill and Sportlink.
- Ensures the Active Communities and Leisure Team partner with clubs/associations/badminton providers and Badminton Victoria to proactively develop the participation opportunities for all ages, genders and abilities, and pathways for players from grass-root to elite competition.

Table Tennis Analysis

The Mahoney's Reserve Northern Pavilion Hall (4 tables) is listed as one of the current key facilities for table tennis in Whitehorse.

Interim strategic recommendation for Table Tennis -

To foster the growth of table tennis participation in Whitehorse the strategic objective is to build on a network of fit-for-purpose table tennis facilities. This would include:

- Considering the outcomes of the Table Tennis Facility Feasibility Study.
- Considers the need for a consolidated table tennis facility as part of the statutory planning processes for new table tennis centre applications.
- Considering proposal for two additional indoor courts previously proposed at Aqualink Box Hill that could accommodate a regional table tennis centre.
- Ensuring the Active Communities and Leisure Team partner with clubs/associations and Table Tennis Victoria to proactivity develop the participation opportunities for all ages, genders and abilities, and pathways for players from grass-root to elite competition.

Table Tennis Facility Feasibility Study - Situational Analysis Report (2025)



The demand analysis modelling carried out during the study shows that there is currently a deficit of 6 table tennis courts in Whitehorse and by 2046 this will increase to a deficit of 10 courts.

The current provision of courts across several small halls is restricted and not ideal. The small number of courts in each location is impacting the ability for the sport to attract participants (particularly juniors) and to grow the competition structure.

The findings of the study support the development of a dedicated 18-20 court table tennis facility in Whitehorse which will require a total area of 2,000m² plus 80-120 car parking spaces.

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Whitehorse Sports Field Activity Audit 2022



The purpose of the audit was to assess the compliance of sports fields against relevant standards, and the suitability of venues to host different levels of community sport and casual recreation. The assessment of risk was also informed by previously acquired information by Council on known safety and risk issues, planned future capital works likely to reduce the level of risk, and non-sporting use, such as dog off leash areas.

Identified risks were allocated a priority action rating which included a priority action timeline. The priority action rating has four levels of risk: Extreme, High, Medium and Low.

The sports fields at Mahoney's Reserve were identified as having items of Medium and Low risks only. The priority action timeline for Medium and Low risk items are:

Medium	actioned and/or reviewed within 12 months
Low	monitored on ongoing basis – risk status reviewed every 3 years

The following table summarises the risks associated with the sports fields.

Risk Area	Issue	Priority	Mitigation Strategy
South Mid			
Neighbouring Properties	Ball escape	Medium	Install protective fencing at exposed areas (45m wide x 5m high) or reduce the level of play to junior cricket only. Existing trees acting as natural barrier
Paths/ seating	Ball escape	Medium	Install protective fencing in exposed areas (30m wide x 5m high) or reduce the level of play to junior cricket only
Light towers/	Encroaching	Low	Pad light poles and relocate
drainage pits	in run off areas		drainage pit to outside compliant run off area
Floodlighting	Below recommended levels	Low	Upgrade lighting to 100lux
Bob Saker Oval			
Car parks	Ball escape	Medium	Erect signage advising of risk to vehicles and provide infill planting where gaps exists
Roads	Ball escape	Medium	Provide infill planting where gaps exists or reduce the level of competition to junior cricket
Paths/ seating	Ball escape	Medium	Erect signage advising of sport in progress
Playground	Ball escape	Low	Install protective fencing (15m wide x 5m high) in front of the playground
Pavilion	Ball escape	Low	Install warning signs or reduce the level of play on this field to junior cricket only
Goal posts	On cricket field	Low	Continue to remove goal posts for summer sport
South East			
Car parks	Ball escape	Low	Erect signage advising of risk to vehicles. Alternatively, install new 80m wide x 5m high cyclone fence – this would also reduce the risk of cricket balls entering the soccer field from north oval
Field of play	Ball escape	Low	Extend the height of the cyclone fence behind the west goals (25m wide x 5m high) and provide infill planting
Terrace	Spectator safety	Low	Undertake a risk / compliance audit

Risk Area	Issue	Priority	Mitigation Strategy
South West			
Paths/ seating	Ball escape	Medium	Install a straight cyclone perimeter fence 50m long x 1.1m high on north side and 30m long x 1.1m high on south side to prevent ground balls entering the path
Roads	Ball escape	Medium	Install a straight cyclone perimeter fence(65m long x 1.1m high) parallel to Ashcroft Grove to prevent ground balls entering the road
Run off areas	Drainage pits	Low	Clearly mark the location of drains so players are aware of proximity.

Whitehorse Open Space Strategy 2025
(and Technical Report)



The strategy outlines an overall framework and strategic direction for the future provision, planning, design and management of the public open space network in the City of Whitehorse for the next 15 years.

The strategy describes five overall directions for open space development in Whitehorse. The statements relevant to the development of Mahoney's Reserve are included below.

Improve the quality of existing open space

Quality includes the surrounding urban context, the facilities, the character, and overall condition of the open space.

Increase the diversity of facilities in open space

The diversity of facilities will be increased so they appeal to different age groups and provide a wide range of structured sport and unstructured recreation facilities along with informal social facilities and spaces. This includes spaces that are natural in character to allow the community to relax and unwind.

The intent is to encourage broader participation in unstructured recreation activities and socialising in open space while balancing this with the ability to relax and enjoy the natural values in open space.

Provide open space within a safe and easy walk of everyone

This will be achieved by a number of actions including expanding existing open spaces with new entry points into them to increase their visibility and accessibility.

Protect and strengthen biodiversity values

The presence of remnant or mature indigenous trees and vegetation in the open space network is a key feature that is to be protected and strengthened. This includes planting additional indigenous vegetation to introduce mid-storey and ground layer species where they increase diversity and do not impact on open and safe views into and within the open space.

Assist to mitigate urban heat island effect

Maximise permeable surfaces that will absorb moisture in combination with large broad spreading canopy trees that are effective at evapotranspiration and assists with urban cooling, along with incorporating sustainable water sources to support natural turf, garden beds and trees. The focus will also be on designs that allow winter sunlight and warmth and excellent shade and cooling in summer.

The following actions are included in the strategy and technical report and are specific to Mahoney's Reserve:

Ref 7.10B-16 It is proposed that there will be a major upgrade of unstructured recreation facilities, including a circuit path to improve access and protect nature conservation values. Additional information to this proposal includes providing a landscape plan to

	guide the provision of additional unstructured recreation and social facilities along with improving the landscape character, protecting the existing remnant indigenous trees and providing east-west shared path access through the reserve as part of the broader east-west link between KooyongKoot/ Gardiners Creek and Dandenong Creek.
Ref 7.10B-17	Continue to maintain and protect the remnant trees. In the future, continue to strengthen nature conservation values and plant additional tress.
Ref 7.10B-20	Mock Street Reserve – strengthen east-west path link to Mahoney's Reserve.
Ref 7.10C-2	Investigate options to improve the cycle/ pedestrian priority link west of Springvale Road, including along Mock Street, through Mock Street Reserve, along Parkland Place to Mahoney's Reserve, and into and through Mahoney's Reserve.
Ref 7.10C-3	As part of improving the east-west link between KooyongKoot/ Gardiners Creek and Dandenong Creek, investigate options to provide a clear and safe shared path crossing point over Mahoneys Road in the vicinity of Mahoney's Reserve and Parkland Place.

Pavilion Development Policy (2019)



The aim of the policy is to provide facility standards to guide the development and/or refurbishment of pavilions, and a framework for the funding contributions towards pavilions.

Council has three types of capital works projects for Council's sporting pavilions.

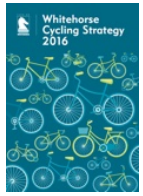
1. 'Stay in Business (Renewal)' of Council's sporting pavilions will refer to those capital works that involve the refurbishment of existing pavilions to a condition that is compliant with current standards but excludes building extensions.
2. 'Refurbishment' extends the service potential or functionality of the existing facility giving the user a greater ability to offer a wider range of services or activities.
3. 'New Development' will refer to capital works projects which involve the creation of a new asset where there previously was none, or where a pavilion cannot be refurbished due to its poor condition and requires demolition and a new development.

The policy notes that Council's priority is to renew and/or refurbish existing sports pavilions, before considering and planning for the development of new facilities.

The policy outlines pavilion components, standards and contributions, and contains the following universal design principles that any pavilion development needs to consider:

- Equitable Use
- Flexibility in Use
- Simple and Intuitive
- Perceptible information
- Tolerance for Error
- Low Physical Effort
- Size and Space for Approach and Use

Whitehorse Cycling Strategy 2016



The strategy aims to increase participation in cycling across the municipality while respecting the needs of others in the community. It has the Vision to increase cycling through creating a connected network of attractive, safe and inviting low-stress streets and paths which are accessible to all and respects the needs of all users.

There is nothing specific to Mahoney's Reserve in the strategy.

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Whitehorse Urban Forest Strategy 2021-2031



This strategy sets a vision for an urban forest that melds community aspirations and existing policies and strategies to guide Council to better protect, enhance and connect Whitehorse's natural assets.

The vision is for a '*diverse, healthy and resilient urban forest'.*

The strategy has 5 objectives and those relevant to the development of reserve master plans are:

Objective 1: Protect the urban forest - maximise the health, vigour and condition of Council-managed vegetation, while managing risks. Protect trees on private property.

Objective 2: Expand the urban forest and adapt to climate change - grow more trees and vegetation across both public and private realms and adapt to climate change.

Objective 3: Enhance biodiversity - protect native bushland, extend and connect habitat and improve connectivity.

Whitehorse Climate Response Strategy 2023-2030 (and Plan)



The strategy sets objectives and targets for Council's corporate operations, as well as how Council will support the community to reduce its emissions and adapt to climate change.

The plan outlines actions for Council to work towards, and those relevant to the master plan study are:

- Identify, prioritise and advocate for opportunities to improve connections between sustainable transport modes, including cycling routes and public transport hubs.
- Explore options for assets owned or operated by Council are powered by 100% renewable electricity.
- Support occupants of Council's leased buildings to improve energy and water efficiency, recover resources, and access State and Federal sustainability grants and rebates.
- Embed and implement the Environmentally Sustainable Design Policy for Council Buildings and Infrastructure.

State Sporting Association Strategies

Cricket Victoria Strategic Plan FY 24-27

The Cricket Victoria Strategic Plan sets the direction for the organisation 2027. The plan is a one page summary of what Cricket Victoria will focus on to achieve the plan, and there are only general references to guide the master plan development.



Football Victoria State Football Facilities Strategy to 2026

The strategy was launched in 2018 to guide the growth of football in Victoria to 2026. The goals and strategies relevant to this master plan are shown in the following table.



Goals	Relevant strategies
More pitches	• Develop additional pitches at existing venues
Increase the carrying capacity of existing pitches	
Facilities suited to all levels of the game	• Support programs to upgrade current standard of facilities to be more inclusive and code compliant • Increase the compliance of referee facilities • Increase the proportion of pitches that are compliant senior pitches
Facility development opportunities	This section lists specific venues for potential upgrades/ development. Mahoney's Reserve is not listed.

The strategy outlines projected player numbers in each LGA and additional pitches required. Based on a participation rate of 1.1% (the 2018 soccer participation rate in Victoria), the projected number of soccer players in Whitehorse by 2026 is estimated at 917, which converts to an additional 3 pitches being required.

The strategy notes the following priorities for Whitehorse by 2026:

1. Increase the number of pitches with lighting from 17 to 19, eg. Mahoney's Reserve.
2. Aim to have a minimum of 2 artificial pitches in Whitehorse.

The strategy has provided a list of each LGAs' estimated additional full size equivalent pitches desirable based on 2016 FFV registrations with 5% growth. The City of Whitehorse is estimated to require an additional 5 pitches.

Table Tennis Victoria Strategic Plan 2024

The plan has a vision to "*build a community for all Victorians where anyone is able to participate and achieve their aspirations through table tennis*".

The plan contains four themes, objectives and goals, with the ones relevant to the master plan study being:

Theme 1 Our Participation

Connecting people with table tennis

Goal 4: Develop strategies to grow affiliated facility footprint, venue capacity, and operational sustainability

The Strategic Plan also includes an Operational Plan, and of the four Operational Plan themes, the ones relevant to the master plan study are:

Theme 1 Our Participation

Connecting people with table tennis

Goal 6: Increase the number of recognised table tennis venues by 5% and grow capacity of existing sites to correlate with demand as required

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Table Tennis Victoria Facility Audit 2020



The Facility Audit analysed the level of table tennis club affiliation with Table Tennis Victoria. There are 40% more unaffiliated clubs (38) in Metro Melbourne than affiliated clubs (27). Of the affiliated clubs:

- 23% are permanent set-up facilities and 77% are shared facilities.
- 36% provide pennant play only, 23% provide social play only, and 41% provide for both.

Badminton Victoria Strategic Plan 2021-2025



The plan sets the vision, purpose and values for the organisation, and outlines six strategic pillars to guide Badminton Victoria,. There are only general references to guide the master plan development.

Scouts Victoria Strategic Plan 2021-2024



The Scouts Victoria Strategic Plan outlines five strategic pillars. Those relevant to the facilities at Mahoney's Reserve are:

Strategic Pillar 4: Unlock Scouting infrastructure for growth

Priorities: Explore models of outsourced and shared facilities management to give flexible options that reduce volunteer workload

Promote our facilities for external use to maintain the affordability of Scouting use

State Sporting Association facility standards and guidelines

Where the development of the master plan recommends new/ upgraded sporting facilities at Mahoney's Reserve, the following reports have been referred to, to ensure compliance with relevant standards endorsed by respective state sporting associations.

- Community Cricket Facility Guidelines (2023)
- Football Victoria NPL Victoria Licencing Criteria 2024.
- Football Victoria Field Dimensions and Pitch Markings Guide (2019)
- Football Victoria Football Lighting Guide (2019).
- Football Victoria - Football Facilities Building Development Guide (2019).

APPENDIX 2

Draft Mahoney's Reserve Master Plan



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APPENDIX 3

Quantity Surveyor Report (Harlock Consulting)

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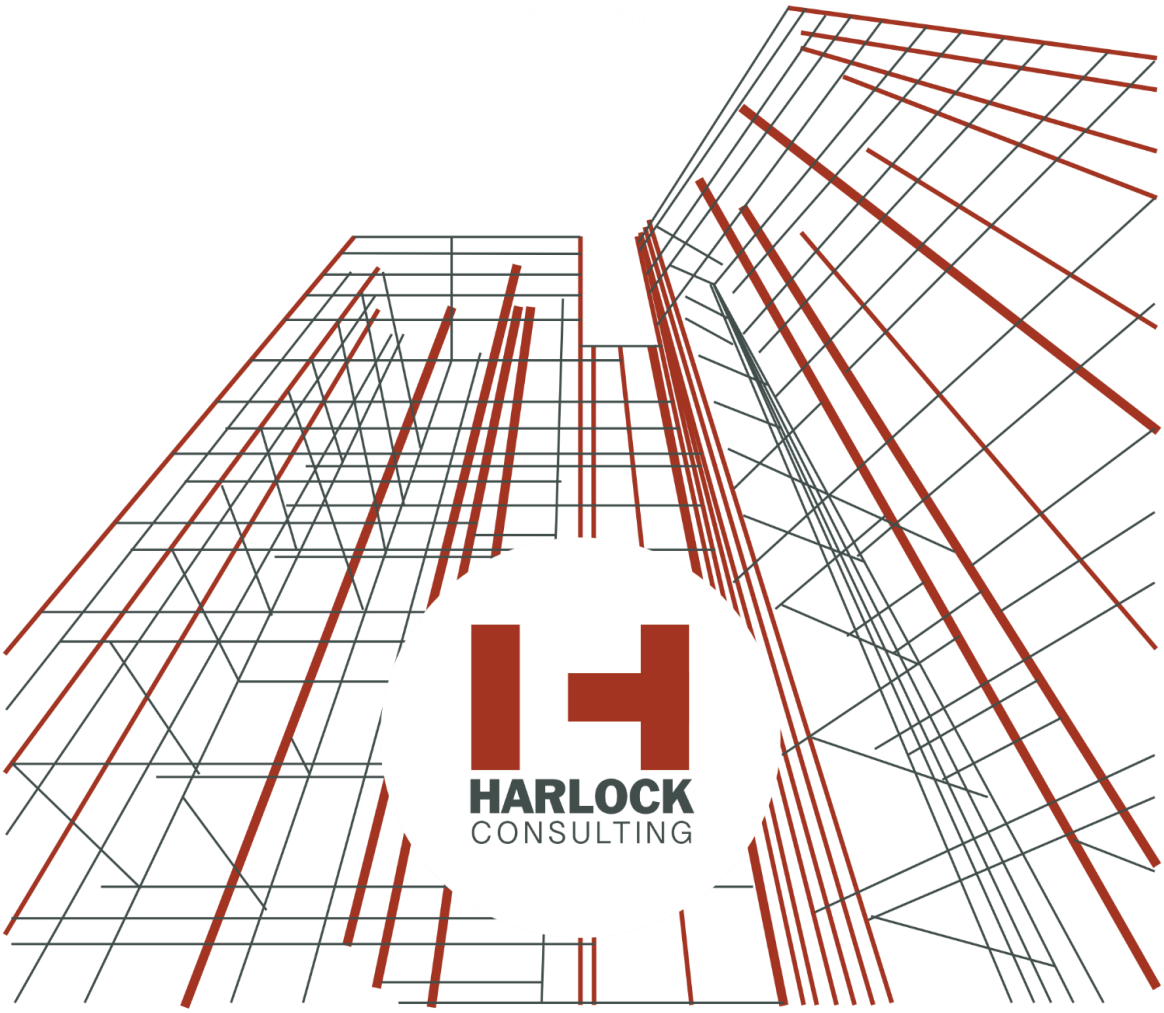

MASTERPLAN COST ESTIMATE

Project: Mahoneys Reserve Masterplan
Issued to: Simon Leisure
Date: 28th October 2025
Revision Number: 2

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1 Executive Summary

As requested, Harlock Consulting have prepared a masterplan stage estimate in relation to Mahoneys Reserve as documented by Simon Leisure and subconsultants.

The estimated total project cost for the scheme is anticipated to be in the order of **$19,685,000 (excluding GST)**

The estimate is inclusive of design and construction contingency allowances (15%) built into each project, 10% allowance for professional fees and 1% allowance for permits and authority fees.

Various notes and exclusions are set out in Section 4 of this report.

2 Basis of Cost Plan

This Cost Plan has been prepared on the basis of the following information:

- Existing conditions photographs
- Simon Leisure Master Plan drawings
- Aerial images
- Briefing provided by Simon Leisure
- Fraser Design Collaborative drawings
- Site surveys
- Katz Architecture building concepts

3 Cost Plan

Refer to Appendix 1 for a full breakdown of the cost plan.

4 Notes & Exclusions

Please note that any allowance for the following have been excluded from the estimate:

- GST
- Cost escalation beyond October 2025
- Adverse ground conditions, HAZMAT, contamination

Note: Harlock Consulting has no control over, without limitation, cost of labour, cost of materials, cost of equipment, pricing methods used by third parties, availability of competitive bids, economic factors and specific market conditions. Accordingly, Harlock Consulting does not guarantee or warrant that actual costs will not vary from any estimates or forecasts

5 Tendering & Market Assumptions

It is assumed that the works would be procured under a tradition lump sum tender methodology to several appropriately sized and qualified builders and the estimate reflects the expected preliminaries level and trade pricing associated with this form of procurement.

The rates in this estimate are based on our opinion of current market prices. It is recommended that an allowance of 4% per annum is budgeted for cost escalation up to construction commencement.

Appendix 1: Estimate

10.3 – ATTACHMENT 2. Mahoneys Reserve - Study Report

Elemental Summary

Project: Mahoneys Reserve
Building: Mahoneys Reserve
Details: Mahoneys Reserve MP Estimate

Code	Description	%BC	Cost/m2	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Subtotal	Factor	Total
	1.New pedestrian path connecting with Vicki Street	0.56%					110,000		110,000
	2. Open Kia Court to through traffic	0.03%					5,000		5,000
	3. Install 4 short term car parks to facilitate drop off and pick up	0.18%					35,000		35,000
	4. Renew the main car park including lighting and new pedestrian path	1.25%					245,000		245,000
	5. New car park (40 spaces) to offset loss of spaces from main car park	2.34%					500,000		500,000
	6. Seal small existing car park	0.16%					40,000		40,000
	7. Upgrade the playing surface and install a compliant cricket pitch	2.72%					535,000		535,000
	8. Install floodlighting (100 lux)	2.37%					480,000		480,000
	9. New combined unisex WC, store and shelter to service sporting uses	1.40%					400,000		400,000
	10. Install floodlighting (100 lux)	2.37%					465,000		465,000
	11. Remove the existing cricket nets and realign the gravel path	0.28%					55,000		55,000
	12. Nw cricket nets - 3 locakble lanes, one open lane	2.49%					490,000		490,000
	13. Reconfigure Bob Saker Oval to accommodate a senior size (100 x 64m) soccer pitch and retain as the main cricket oval	0.28%					55,000		55,000
	14. Install floodlighting (100 lux)	2.37%					360,000		360,000
	15. New Northern Pavilion to replace the existing building including public toilets	52.84%					10,400,000		10,400,000
	16. Extend the height of the fence to 5m for the length of 25m behind the Main Soccer Pitch goals	0.36%					70,000		70,000
	17. Remove the Southern Pavilion	0.84%					200,000		200,000
	18. Renew the terracing and associated spectator seating and install shelter over	5.85%					1,150,000		1,150,000
	19. New soccer goal storage compound	0.18%					35,000		35,000
	20. Upgrade the Scout Hall	1.35%					365,000		365,000
	21. Install a Neighbourhood Level Playspace and seating, BBQ, picnic facilities, exercise station	3.54%					695,000		695,000
	22. Spectator viewing space and community gathering space	2.27%					445,000		445,000
	23. Remove the existing playspace and return to grass	0.16%					30,000		30,000
	24. Cease all dog exercise on Bob Saker Oval - enclose South Mid Oval with chain mesh fence	0.87%					170,000		170,000

10.3 – ATTACHMENT 2. Mahoneys Reserve - Study Report

Elemental Summary

Project: Mahoneys Reserve **Details:** Mahoneys Reserve MP Estimate

Building: Mahoneys Reserve

Code	Description	%BC	Cost/m2	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Subtotal	Factor	Total
	25. Renew the existing ephemeral wetlands	0.51%					250,000		250,000
	26. Replace pine bollards with 1100mm high chain mesh fence	0.21%					40,000		40,000
	27. New chain mesh fence to protect adjacent properties from balls	0.69%					135,000		135,000
	28. Retain the bushland park and enhance the natural and environmental values	0.00%							Note
	29. Retain as informal open space	0.00%							Note
	30. Realign the Main Soccer Pitch eastern perimter fence	0.18%					35,000		35,000
	31. New publicly accessible open space area	0.00%							Note
	32. Increase the power supply into the reserve	1.40%					275,000		275,000
	General - Tree planting	0.18%					35,000		35,000
	Professional fees including studies, investigations, surveys (10%)	**9.02%**							**1,775,000**
	Authority fees and charges (1%)	**0.89%**							**175,000**
	Exclusions:								
	GST								
	Cost escalation beyond October 2025								
	Adverse ground conditions, HAZMAT, contamination								
		100.00%							**18,120,000**

10.3 – ATTACHMENT 2. Mahoneys Reserve - Study Report

Trade Detail

Project: Mahoneys Reserve **Details:** Mahoneys Reserve MP Estimate
Building: Mahoneys Reserve

Code	Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Subtotal	Factor	Total
1.New pedestrian path connecting with Vicki Street							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				12,375
	New 1.5m wide concrete pathway including site preparation	275	m	300.00	82,500		82,500
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				14,231
	Rounding						893
	1.New pedestrian path connecting with Vicki Street				**82,500**		**110,000**
2. Open Kia Court to through traffic							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				600
	Remove timber barrier fence and patch road		Item		4,000		4,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				690
	Rounding						-290
	2. Open Kia Court to through traffic				**4,000**		**5,000**
3. Install 4 short term car parks to facilitate drop off and pick up							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				3,975
	Demolish trees		Item		4,000		4,000
	Site clearance/demolition		Item		4,000		4,000
	Kerbs and channel		Item		6,500		6,500
	Aspahlt		Item		10,000		10,000
	Linemarking and signage		Item		2,000		2,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				4,572
	Rounding						-47
	3. Install 4 short term car parks to facilitate drop off and pick up				**26,500**		**35,000**
4. Renew the main car park including lighting and new pedestrian path							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				27,750
	New pathway		Item		15,000		15,000
	Re-surface and new linemarking	1,000	m2	75.00	75,000		75,000
	DDA parking - paving, bollards, linemarking, etc		Item		20,000		20,000
	Lighting	1,000	m2	75.00	75,000		75,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				31,913
	Rounding						337

10.3 – ATTACHMENT 2. Mahoneys Reserve - Study Report

Trade Detail

Project: Mahoneys Reserve **Details:** Mahoneys Reserve MP Estimate
Building: Mahoneys Reserve

Code	Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Subtotal	Factor	Total
4. Renew the main car park including lighting and new pedestrian path							*(Continued)*
	4. Renew the main car park including lighting and new pedestrian path				**185,000**		**245,000**
5. New car park (40 spaces) to offset loss of spaces from main car park							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				52,200
	Tree removal and site preparation/demolition	1,000	m2	12.50	12,500		12,500
	Asphalt	1,000	m2	140.00	140,000		140,000
	Kerbs	150	m	170.00	25,500		25,500
	Ligthing	1,000	m2	75.00	75,000		75,000
	Stormwater	1,000	m2	50.00	50,000		50,000
	Linemarking and signage	1,000	m2	5.00	5,000		5,000
	Sealed pathway	100	m	300.00	30,000		30,000
	Landscaping and make good of adjacent surfaces		Item		10,000		10,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				60,030
	Rounding						-230
	5. New car park (40 spaces) to offset loss of spaces from main car park				**420,000**		**500,000**
6. Seal small existing car park							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				5,600
	Seal small existing car park	180	m2	150.00	27,000		27,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				7,440
	Rounding						-1,740
	6. Seal small existing car park				**28,000**		**40,000**
7. Upgrade the playing surface and install a compliant cricket pitch							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				60,750
	Strip topsoil, new drainage, irrigation, topsoil and grassing, establishment	5,500	m2	70.00	385,000		385,000
	New cricket pitch		Item		20,000		20,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				69,863
	Rounding						-613
	7. Upgrade the playing surface and install a compliant cricket pitch				**405,000**		**535,000**
8. Install floodlighting (100 lux)							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				52,500

10.3 – ATTACHMENT 2. Mahoneys Reserve - Study Report

Trade Detail

Project: Mahoneys Reserve **Details:** Mahoneys Reserve MP Estimate
Building: Mahoneys Reserve

Code	Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Subtotal	Factor	Total
8. Install floodlighting (100 lux)							*(Continued)*
	Floodlighting (100 lux - 6 poles)		Item		420,000		420,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				60,000
	Rounding						
	8. Install floodlighting (100 lux)				**420,000**		**480,000**
9. New combined unisex WC, store and shelter to service sporting uses							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				35,000
	WC including services connections		Item		206,362		206,362
	Store		Item		45,000		45,000
	Shelter		Item		45,000		45,000
	Excavartion and terracing		Item		35,000		35,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				33,638
	Rounding						
	9. New combined unisex WC, store and shelter to service sporting uses				**331,362**		**400,000**
10. Install floodlighting (100 lux)							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				52,500
	Floodlighting (100 lux - 6 poles)		Item		350,000		350,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				60,375
	Rounding						2,125
	10. Install floodlighting (100 lux)				**350,000**		**465,000**
11. Remove the existing cricket nets and realign the gravel path							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				6,244
	Remove existing cricket nets		Item		25,000		25,000
	New gravel pathway	65	m	225	14,625		14,625
	Patch and make good adjacent grassing, etc		Item		2,000		2,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				7,180
	Rounding						-49
	11. Remove the existing cricket nets and realign the gravel path				**41,625**		**55,000**
12. Nw cricket nets - 3 locakble lanes, one open lane							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				42,750

Trade Detail

Project: Mahoneys Reserve **Details:** Mahoneys Reserve MP Estimate
Building: Mahoneys Reserve

Code	Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Subtotal	Factor	Total
12. Nw cricket nets - 3 locakble lanes, one open lane							*(Continued)*
	Site clearance/excavation	550	m2	40.00	22,000		22,000
	Retaining walls	60	m	1,250.00	75,000		75,000
	Cricket nets x 4		Item		275,000		275,000
	Power bollard and reticulation, footing		Item		10,000		10,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				63,713
	Rounding						1,537
	12. Nw cricket nets - 3 locakble lanes, one open lane				**382,000**		**490,000**
13. Reconfigure Bob Saker Oval to accommodate a senior size (100 x 64m) soccer pitch and retain as the main cricket oval							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				6,375
	Remove existing fenciung and instlal new 1000mm high chainwire mesh black PVC coated fencing, make good surfacing, etc	125	m	300	37,500		37,500
	Sleeves covers to soccer goals		Item		5,000		5,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				7,332
	Rounding						-1,207
	13. Reconfigure Bob Saker Oval to accommodate a senior size (100 x 64m) soccer pitch and retain as the main cricket oval				**42,500**		**55,000**
14. Install floodlighting (100 lux)							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				52,500
	Floodlighting (100 lux - 6 poles)		Item		350,000		350,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				60,375
	Rounding						2,125
	14. Install floodlighting (100 lux)				**350,000**		**465,000**
15. New Northern Pavilion to replace the existing building including public toilets							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				1,180,425
	Demolish existing building		Item		90,000		90,000
	Build up area 300mm for new building	1,350	m2	100.00	135,000		135,000
	New pavilion - Ground Floor	733	m2	5,500.00	4,031,500		4,031,500
	New pavilion - Level 1	353	m2	6,000.00	2,118,000		2,118,000
	New pavilon - Spectator Viewing (North)	50	m2	5,000.00	250,000		250,000
	New pavilion - Spectator Viewing (South)	220	m2	4,500.00	990,000		990,000
	Perimter concourse, ramps, etc	600	m2	425.00	255,000		255,000

10.3 – ATTACHMENT 2. Mahoneys Reserve - Study Report

Trade Detail

Project: Mahoneys Reserve **Details:** Mahoneys Reserve MP Estimate
Building: Mahoneys Reserve

Code	Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Subtotal	Factor	Total
15. New Northern Pavilion to replace the existing building including public toilets							*(Continued)*
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				1,357,489
	Rounding						-7,414
	15. New Northern Pavilion to replace the existing building including public toilets				**7,869,500**		**10,400,000**
16. Extend the height of the fence to 5m for the length of 25m behind the Main Soccer Pitch goals							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				7,500
	Remove section of chain mesh fence and footings	50	m	50.00	2,500		2,500
	New 5m high chain mesh fence and footings - Black PVC coated	50	m	1,000.00	50,000		50,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				9,000
	Rounding						1,000
	16. Extend the height of the fence to 5m for the length of 25m behind the Main Soccer Pitch goals				**52,500**		**70,000**
17. Remove the Southern Pavilion							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				18,750
	Remove the southern pavilon and terracing		Item		125,000		125,000
					35,000		35,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				21,563
	Rounding						-313
	17. Remove the Southern Pavilion				**160,000**		**200,000**
18. Renew the terracing and associated spectator seating and install shelter over							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				33,750
	Terraced seating	300	m2	1,750.00	525,000		525,000
	Shelter	300	m2	750.00	225,000		225,000
	Screed and pave over existing pavilion slab	400	m2	250.00	100,000		100,000
	Ramping, sundries		Item		125,000		125,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				151,313
	Rounding						-10,063
	18. Renew the terracing and associated spectator seating and install shelter over				**975,000**		**1,150,000**
19. New soccer goal storage compound							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				3,750
	New 8 x 6m soccer goal chaninwire compound with two double gates includin gremoval of section of existing fencing		Item		35,000		35,000

10.3 – ATTACHMENT 2. Mahoneys Reserve - Study Report

Trade Detail

Project: Mahoneys Reserve **Details:** Mahoneys Reserve MP Estimate
Building: Mahoneys Reserve

Code	Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Subtotal	Factor	Total
19. New soccer goal storage compound							*(Continued)*
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				4,313
	Rounding						1,937
	19. New soccer goal storage compound				**35,000**		**50,000**
20. Upgrade the Scout Hall							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				21,000
	Upgrade hall - replace floor, install heating and cooling, upgrade the entry to be compliant, waterproof main store	350	m2	600.00	310,000		310,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				34,650
	Rounding						-650
	20. Upgrade the Scout Hall				**310,000**		**365,000**
21. Install a Neighbourhood Level Playspace and seating, BBQ, picnic facilities, exercise station							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				76,000
	Install a Neighbourhood Level Playspace - nominated alllowance		Item		350,000		350,000
	Exercise Station		Item		100,000		100,000
	Seating, BBQ, picnic facilities, etc		Item		80,000		80,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				90,900
	Rounding						-1,900
	21. Install a Neighbourhood Level Playspace and seating, BBQ, picnic facilities, exercise station				**530,000**		**695,000**
22. Spectator viewing space and community gathering space							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				27,000
	Terraced seating	60	m2	2,000.00	120,000		120,000
	Shelter	60	m2	1,000.00	60,000		60,000
	Paving, landscaping, etc including raising 300mm	300	m2	600.00	180,000		180,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				58,050
	Rounding						-50
	22. Spectator viewing space and community gathering space				**360,000**		**445,000**
23. Remove the existing playspace and return to grass							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				3,000
	Remove the existing playspace and return to grass		Item		30,000		30,000

10.3 – ATTACHMENT 2. Mahoneys Reserve - Study Report

Trade Detail

Project: Mahoneys Reserve **Details:** Mahoneys Reserve MP Estimate
Building: Mahoneys Reserve

Code	Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Subtotal	Factor	Total
23. Remove the existing playspace and return to grass							*(Continued)*
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				3,450
	Rounding						3,550
	23. Remove the existing playspace and return to grass				**30,000**		**40,000**
24. Cease all dog exercise on Bob Saker Oval - enclose South Mid Oval with chain mesh fence							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				19,125
	Chain mesh fencing - 1100mm high	310	m	150.00	46,500		46,500
	Pedestrian gates	4	No	1,500.00	6,000		6,000
	Shelter, concrete paving, seating and dog bowl/tap		Item		75,000		75,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				21,994
	Rounding						1,381
	24. Cease all dog exercise on Bob Saker Oval - enclose South Mid Oval with chain mesh fence				**127,500**		**170,000**
25. Renew the existing ephemeral wetlands							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				11,250
	Renew the existing ephemeral wetlands - allowance		Item		225,000		225,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				13,750
	Rounding						812
	25. Renew the existing ephemeral wetlands				**225,000**		**250,000**
26. Replace pine bollards with 1100mm high chain mesh fence							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				4,350
	Remove bollards and install chain mesh fence 1100mm high	145	m	200.00	29,000		29,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				5,003
	Rounding						1,647
	26. Replace pine bollards with 1100mm high chain mesh fence				**29,000**		**40,000**
27. New chain mesh fence to protect adjacent properties from balls							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				15,000
	New 5m high chain mesh fence and footings - Black PVC coated	100	m	1,000.00	100,000		100,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				17,250
	Rounding						2,750

10.3 – ATTACHMENT 2. Mahoneys Reserve - Study Report

Trade Detail

Project: Mahoneys Reserve **Details:** Mahoneys Reserve MP Estimate
Building: Mahoneys Reserve

Code	Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Subtotal	Factor	Total
27. New chain mesh fence to protect adjacent properties from balls							*(Continued)*
	27. New chain mesh fence to protect adjacent properties from balls				**100,000**		**135,000**
30. Realign the Main Soccer Pitch eastern perimter fence							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				3,750
	Realign the Main Soccer Pitch eastern perimter fence - 2.4m chainwire PVC coated		Item		25,000		25,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				4,313
	Rounding						1,938
	30. Realign the Main Soccer Pitch eastern perimter fence				**25,000**		**35,000**
32. Increase the power supply into the reserve							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				31,500
	Power upgrade - pole mounted transformer		Item		110,000		110,000
	New main distributon board and group metering for the site including underground directional boring and cabling back to DB		Item		100,000		100,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				36,225
	Rounding						-2,725
	32. Increase the power supply into the reserve				**210,000**		**275,000**
General - Tree planting							
	Preliminaries, overheads and profit		Item				3,750
	Tree planting	50	No	500.00	25,000		25,000
	Design and construction contingency (15%)		Item				4,313
	Rounding						1,938
	General - Tree planting				**25,000**		**35,000**

Appendix – Pavilion Development Options (Scopes and Costing Assumptions)

Contents

1. Option 1, New Central Pavilion with Indoor Sports Accommodated within the Existing and Future Indoor sports network. 1

2. Option 2, New Centralised Pavilion (Including Hall and Indoor Sports Facilities) 2

3. Option 3, New Central Pavilion + Partial Retention and Refurbishment of North Pavilion 3

This appendix provides a detailed breakdown of the pavilion development options assessed for the Mahoney's Reserve Master Plan. Each option includes scope elements, indicative costs, and commentary on benefits and risks.

All costings are indicative and subject to Quantity Surveyor (QS) review.

1. Option 1, New Central Pavilion with Indoor Sports Accommodated within the Existing and Future Indoor sports network.

Overview

This option supports a modern, flood-free central pavilion for outdoor sports while relocating indoor sports to existing and future Council facilities such as Sportlink and Burwood East Indoor Sports Centre.

Scope Summary

- Demolish both North and South Pavilions.
- Construct a new central pavilion for cricket and football.
- Relocate indoor sports (table tennis, badminton) to dedicated multi-court facilities.
- Undertake minor Sportlink upgrades to accommodate relocated user groups.
- Provide new offset parking (~44 spaces) and improved pedestrian connections.
- Landscaping and spectator viewing integrated with Bob Saker Oval.

10.3 – ATTACHMENT 3. Appendix - Pavilion Development Options

- Basic terraced seating structure with roof covering to replace South Pavilion.

Sportlink Upgrade Scope

- Upgrade internal lighting to Australian standards (300–500 lux).
- Reconfigure two community rooms, kitchenette, and former childcare storage for indoor sport use.

Cost Estimate

- Central Pavilion: **$14.6M**
- Sportlink Upgrades: **$0.2–0.25M**
- **Total Project Estimate: ~$14.8M**

2. **Option 2, New Centralised Pavilion (Including Hall and Indoor Sports Facilities)**

Scope Summary

- **Demolition:** Remove both existing North and South Pavilions in full.
- **Construction:**
    - Central pavilion to support both cricket and football.
    - Multi-purpose community hall integrated into the new pavilion.
    - Indoor recreation space for table tennis and badminton.
    - Storage, amenities, and circulation areas.
    - Improved connections to paths, car parking, and site services.
    - New offset car park (~44 spaces).
    - Landscaping and spectator viewing areas adjacent to Bob Saker Oval.

Hall Floor Area Inclusions

Space	Dimensions (m)	Quantity	Total Area (m^2)
Club/Recreation Courts	10 × 5	5	250.0
Storage - Badminton	4.3 × 3.5	1	15.05
Storage - Table Tennis	8.5 × 3.5	1	29.75

Spectator Seating (each side)	0.4 × 25	2	20.0
Male Amenities	4.5 x 5.5	1	24.75
Female Amenities	4.5 x 5.5	1	24.75
Kitchenette Area	4.5 x 5.5	1	24.75
Breakout/Social Space	4.5 x 4.5	1	20.25
Total Additional Area			**409.3 m²**

Specialist Fit Out and Finishes

- Non-slip specialist sports flooring (products such as Taraflex®).
- Bench seating along both hall sides (0.4m × 25m).
- Sports lighting:
    - 300 lux (recreation)
    - 500 lux (competition)
    - Designed to meet Australian Standards.
- Purpose-built equipment storage for badminton and table tennis.

Cost Estimate

- Additional hall area 314.8 m² @ $5,500/m² = **$1.73M & Additional a**menities area: 94.5 m² @ $8,000/m² = **$0.756M**. Total: **$2.637M**
- Specialist sports fit-out and lighting: **$150,000–$200,000**
- Standard Pavilion Build: **$14.6M**
- **Total Project Estimate: ~$17.2M**

3. Option 3, New Central Pavilion + Partial Retention and Refurbishment of North Pavilion

Overview

This hybrid option seeks to balance new construction and refurbishment to retain some existing fabric while meeting contemporary standards.

Scope Summary

- Demolish the South Pavilion entirely.

- Construct a new central pavilion for cricket and football.
- Retain and refurbish the existing North Pavilion Hall structure, including storage and amenities.
- Remove redundant or unsafe sections (e.g., old change rooms).
- Implement significant compliance upgrades, including DDA path of travel and amenities.
- Address flood overlay implications through elevation or finished floor level (FFL) adjustments.
- New offset parking (~44 spaces).
- Integration of new landscaping and grey space between pavilions.
- Provide covered spectator terrace replacing the former South Pavilion.

Refurbishment Scope

- New internal finishes (floors, walls, ceilings).
- Upgrade of all building services (mechanical, electrical, hydraulic).
- Accessibility compliance: door widths, step removal, DDA path of travel.
- Emergency exits and lighting upgrades.
- New façade treatment and roof replacement.
- Covered entry and circulation link to central pavilion.

Cost Estimate

- Refurbishment: **$1.0–1.5M**
- New pavilion build: **$14.6M**
- **Total Project Estimate: ~$16.1M**

4. **Option 4, Retain North Pavilion and Hall (status quo)**

Overview

This represents the *status quo* scenario. It is included for comparison only, as the existing facilities are non-compliant, have significant accessibility constraints, and cannot support projected user growth.

Key Observations:

- Both the **North and South Pavilions** present high long-term maintenance liabilities.

10.3 – ATTACHMENT 3. Appendix - Pavilion Development Options

- Asset management plans identify that both structures require significant improvements to meet compliance.
- Even with upgrades, facilities would remain functionally inadequate and non-compliant with DDA and gender equity standards.
- Renewal costs for major components are projected to escalate from **2030–31**, with full renewal likely required by **2035**.

Accessibility and Compliance:

- No accessible path of travel to the North Pavilion.
- Multiple level changes and steps restrict access to amenities and the upper-level social space.
- The South Pavilion's internal grades allow water from showers to flood into change rooms.

Planning Constraints:

- The North Pavilion sits within a **flood overlay**, making significant refurbishment complex and costly due to likely requirements to elevate or relocate the structure.

Summary of Cost Comparison

Option	Description	Implications	Indicative Cost (ex GST)
1. New Central Pavilion + Indoor Sports Relocated	Construct a new central pavilion for outdoor sports and consolidate indoor sports at existing and future indoor venues, such as Sportlink, Burwood East Indoor Sports Centre).	Optimised network efficiency; minor Sportlink upgrades to support transition.	~$14.8 M

10.3 – ATTACHMENT 3. Appendix - Pavilion Development Options

2. New Centralised Pavilion (Including Hall and Indoor Sports)	Construct an integrated central pavilion incorporating football, cricket, and indoor recreation spaces.	New multi-use pavilion; hall (409.3 m² additional area); specialist flooring and sports lighting; storage and seating included. Increases the required ask for external funding. Not aligned with future indoor sports provision and does not meet the requirements of a regional Table Tennis facility.	~$17.1 M
3. New Central Pavilion + Partial Retention of North Pavilion	Seeking to combine the new central pavilion with a partial refurbishment of the existing hall.	This would seek to retain the existing hall structure; significant DDA and amenity upgrades, compliance upgrade works, flood overlay would challenge the feasibility. Impacts to centralised playspace and the centralised pavilion functionality.	~$16.1 M
4. Retain North Pavilion and Hall	Maintain existing facilities with essential maintenance only. Facilities remain non-compliant and unable to support future growth.	Retains status quo; accessibility limitations; high maintenance liabilities; sighting within flood overlay. This would not meet the functional requirements of the stakeholders and does not provide provision for growth for indoor sports which is at capacity.	Ongoing maintenance commitments to multiple existing assets. Does not meet functional requirements. Renewal costs for key building elements are expected to rise significantly from 2030–31, with full replacement likely required by 2035 due to

			the age, condition, and non-compliance of the existing pavilion

Conclusion

The preferred direction is expected to align with the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan and Table Tennis Feasibility Study, both of which advocate for consolidated multi-court indoor facilities across the municipality.

Option 1 best aligns with strategic direction and asset management efficiency, while maintaining community access through Sportlink and ensuring long-term compliance and sustainability.

10.3 – ATTACHMENT 4. Mahoney's Reserve - Cost Plan

Romsey Park Recreation Reserve Master Plan
Estimated Implementation Costs

Item No. on Plan	Improvement Project	Priority	FY	Opinion of Probable Cost
	Access and Movement			
1	New pedestrian path connecting with Vicki Street (includes the oval perimeter path)	Medium	**29/30**	$110,000
2	Open Kira Court to through traffic	High	**26/27**	$5,000
3	Install 4 short-term car parks to facilitate passenger drop-off and pick-up	Medium	**32/33**	$35,000
4	Renew the main car park, including lighting and new pedestrian path (includes resealing, if required following the construction of the new Northern Pavilion)	Medium	**28/29**	$245,000
5	New car park (est. 40 spaces) (includes lighting and new gravel path to the internal road crossing) apply WSUD principles to harvest rainwater and Investigate Stormwater Harvesting and Permeable Pavement opportunities on the new car park.	High	**28/29**	$500,000
6	Seal the small existing car park (Scout Hall)	Low	**30/31**	$40,000
Access and Movement Sub-Total				**$935,000**
	Sporting Facilities			
7	Upgrade the playing surface and install a compliant cricket pitch (min. 2.4m wide) (includes new sub-surface drainage and irrigation, topsoil and grassing)	Low	**33/34**	$535,000
8	Install floodlighting (100 lux) to South West Oval	Low	**31/32**	$480,000
9	New unisex toilet, store and shelter to service sporting uses	Medium	**29/30**	$400,000
10	Install floodlighting (100 lux) to South Mid Oval	Medium	**27/28**	$465,000
11	Remove the cricket practice nets and realign the gravel path	High	**29/30**	$55,000
12	New cricket practice nets (3 lockable lanes, 1 open lane) (includes necessary terracing and power bollard)	High	**29/30**	$490,000
13	Reconfigure Bob Saker Oval fencing as required to accommodate a senior size soccer pitch	High	**28/29**	$55,000
14	Install floodlighting (100 lux) to Bob Saker Oval	High	**27/28**	$360,000
15	New Northern Pavilion and public toilets (includes demolition of the existing pavilion, building up the surface by 300mm, and concourse and ramps)	High	**28/29**	$10,400,000
16	Extend the height of the fence to 5m for a length of 25m behind the Main Soccer Pitch goals	Low	**31/32**	$70,000
17	Remove the Southern Pavilion	Medium	**29/30**	$200,000
18	Renew the terracing and associated spectator seating (includes screed and pave over the pavilion slab, and an open shelter over the seating)	Medium	**30/31**	$1,150,000
19	New soccer goal storage compound	High	**27/28**	$50,000
Sporting Facilities Sub-Total				**$14,710,000**

Item No. on Plan	Improvement Project	Priority	FY	Opinion of Probable Cost
	Recreation Facilities			
20	Upgrade the Scout Hall (includes replacing the floor, installation of heating/ cooling, new accessible access in southern door, and waterproofing the main store under the Scout Hall)	Medium	**30/31**	$365,000
21	Install a Neighbourhood Playspace (includes new playground, seating, BBQ/ picnic facilities, shelters, and outdoor fitness gym)	Medium	**30/31**	$695,000
22	Spectator viewing area and community gathering space (includes paving, terraced seating and landscaping)	High	**29/30**	$445,000
23	Remove the existing playspace and return to grass	High	**29/30**	$30,000
24	Enclose the South Mid Oval with a new 1100mm high chain mesh fence	High	**29/30**	$170,000
Recreation Facilities Sub-Total				**$1,705,000**
	Open Space/ Environment			
25	Renew the existing ephemeral wetland	Low	**35/36**	$250,000
26	Replace the pine bollards along Ashcroft Grove with a 1100mm high chain-mesh fence	Medium	**34/35**	$40,000
27	New 5m high chain-mesh fence to protect adjacent properties from errant balls	High	**26/27**	$135,000
28	Retain the bushland park and enhance the natural and environmental values (operational budget)			$0
29	Retain as informal open space, and strengthen tree planting (operational budget)			$0

10.3 – ATTACHMENT 4. Mahoney's Reserve - Cost Plan

Romsey Park Recreation Reserve Master Plan
Estimated Implementation Costs

Item No. on Plan	Improvement Project	Priority	FY	Opinion of Probable Cost
30	Realign the Main Soccer Pitch eastern perimeter fence	Low	**35/36**	$35,000
31	New publicly accessible open space area			$0
32	Increase the power supply into the reserve (includes new pole mounted sub-station and a new power distribution box)	High	**26/27**	$275,000
-	New tree planting; various locations (includes supply and planting of 50 No., and initial maintenance)	ongoing		$35,000
Open Space/ Environment Sub-Total				**$770,000**

TOTAL MASTER PLAN COSTS (ex GST)		**$18,120,000**

High	**$12,970,000**
Medium	**$3,740,000**
Low	**$1,410,000**

10.4 Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan

Attachment 1 Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan

Attachment 2 Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report

Attachment 3 Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan 15 Year Action Plan

10.4 – ATTACHMENT 1. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan

Wurundjeri Walk Draft Master Plan



10.4 – ATTACHMENT 2. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report



10.4 – ATTACHMENT 2. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report

Acknowledgement of Country

Whitehorse City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the land. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. Wurundjeri connection to this land dates back more than 40,000 years, and evidence of this connection still exists today.

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All drone photography captured in elevation within Wurundjeri Walk, which abides by open space restrictions.

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Wurundjeri Walk Draft Master Plan	B	Whitehorse City Council	AECOM Australia	17 January 2025	RR
Wurundjeri Walk Draft Master Plan	C	Whitehorse City Council	AECOM Australia	10 April 2025	RR
Wurundjeri Walk Draft Master Plan	D	Whitehorse City Council	AECOM Australia	24 April 2025	SJ
Wurundjeri Walk Draft Master Plan	E	Whitehorse City Council	AECOM Australia	1 May 2025	SJ
Wurundjeri Walk Draft Master Plan	F	Whitehorse City Council	AECOM Australia	12 May 2025	SJ
Wurundjeri Walk Draft Master Plan	G	Whitehorse City Council	AECOM Australia	13 May 2025	SJ
Wurundjeri Walk Draft Master Plan	H	Whitehorse City Council	AECOM Australia	12 September 2025	SJ
Wurundjeri Walk Draft Master Plan	I	Whitehorse City Council	AECOM Australia	10 October 2025	SJ

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Tree trunk bark from Wurundjeri Walk

10.4 – ATTACHMENT 2. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report

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Executive summary

On behalf of Whitehorse City Council (WCC), AECOM Australia Pty Ltd (AECOM) has developed a draft Master Plan for Wurundjeri Walk.

The draft Master Plan identifies the vision, key design principles, and objectives for the Wurundjeri Walk. The plan has been developed through extensive consultation and collaboration with a range of stakeholders including community groups, sport clubs, and government agencies.

Project context

The draft Master Plan offers an overview of the key features of Wurundjeri Walk. Detailed background information on the site's geographical, planning, heritage, and environmental context can be found within the Appendices, along with the engagement report.

Wurundjeri Walk is situated on the traditional land of the Wurrundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation. Located in Blackburn South, to the east of Melbourne's Central Business District (CBD), within the City of Whitehorse. It encompasses several important natural open spaces, including Wurundjeri Wetlands, Orchard Grove Reserve, Mirrabooka Reserve, Hurter-Finch and Finch Place Reserves.

There are two interfacing projects that have been considered in the creation of the draft Master Plan. The redevelopment of Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion and upgrades to Orchard Grove Primary School amenities.

As participation in sport continues to grow within the City of Whitehorse, there is an increasing demand for modern, accessible, and well-equipped facilities to support both recreational and competitive activities. Many existing sports venues and amenities are reaching capacity, or no longer meet the needs of a diverse and expanding community. Upgrades to these facilities are essential to accommodate a wider range of sports, ensure accessibility for all user groups, and support the growing interest in women's and junior sports.

Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan

The Master Plan's key design principles include:

- Amenity
- Access and movement
- Environment
- People and culture

Key objectives and opportunities of the Master Plan have been identified through the guidance of these principles and have been informed by inputs from multiple professional disciplines, from WCC, key stakeholders, and the community.

The Master Plan provides conceptual illustrations of a number of the identified opportunities. These opportunities present possible ways in which the Master Plan's key design principles and objectives may be delivered, subject to future design development and approval.

Master Plan implementation

The Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan opportunities have been categorised into low, medium, and high priority. The viability of each opportunity is dependent upon adequate future funding. For some opportunities, funding may require future detailed design development and detailed costings.



Wurundjeri Walk and Mirrabooka Reserve Aerial

10.4 – ATTACHMENT 2. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Master Plan project overview

1.2 Current interfacing projects

1.3 Sport in Whitehorse

1.4 Wurundjeri Walk features

1.5 Mirrabooka Reserve facilities

Rainbow Lorikeet in Wurundjeri Walk

10.4 – ATTACHMENT 2. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report

1.1 Master Plan project overview

Whitehorse City Council (WCC) has developed a draft Master Plan for Wurundjeri Walk which has been informed by comprehensive background research, analysis, and feedback gathered from community and stakeholder engagement (refer to Appendices for supporting documents). These inputs have shaped Wurundjeri Walk's Master Plan's vision, key principles, and objectives. The plan then identifies specific opportunities for enhancements and new infrastructure, with the goal of providing a diverse range of recreational experiences for both the local and broader community.

Further community and stakeholder engagement and subsequent feedback will help to refine the final version of the Master Plan.

Purpose of the Master Plan

The draft Master Plan serves as a strategic framework for the long-term development of Wurundjeri Walk. It aims to guide decision making processes and support the strategic planning and operations of the site. The plan recognises that the needs and expectations of visitors will evolve over time, and provides a flexible approach to implementation that adapts to these changes.

Some initiatives and projects proposed in the draft Master Plan may require further investigation and feasibility studies, depending on their scope, potential impact, and cost estimates. As an aspirational document, the draft Master Plan will rely on securing funding from various sources for its successful delivery.



Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan sketch (NTS)

1.2 Current interfacing projects

The Master Plan aims to align with ongoing and upcoming projects in and around Wurundjeri Walk. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion redevelopment
- Orchard Grove Primary School and Aurora School Capital Works
- Joint Use Agreement
- Bungalook Nursery Capital Works

Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion

The Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion is undergoing a significant redevelopment to enhance its facilities, supporting increased sporting and community use. This upgrade will also promote greater participation in women's sport by addressing the current inadequacy of change room facilities. The redevelopment will include a new multi-purpose room suitable for events such as community gatherings, club functions, and group meetings.

Construction is scheduled to begin in late 2025 and complete by the end of 2026, with a temporary facility provided for sporting clubs during the construction period. The Master Plan considers the ongoing open space interface with the proposed redevelopment of the pavilion.

Orchard Grove Primary School and Aurora School Capital Works

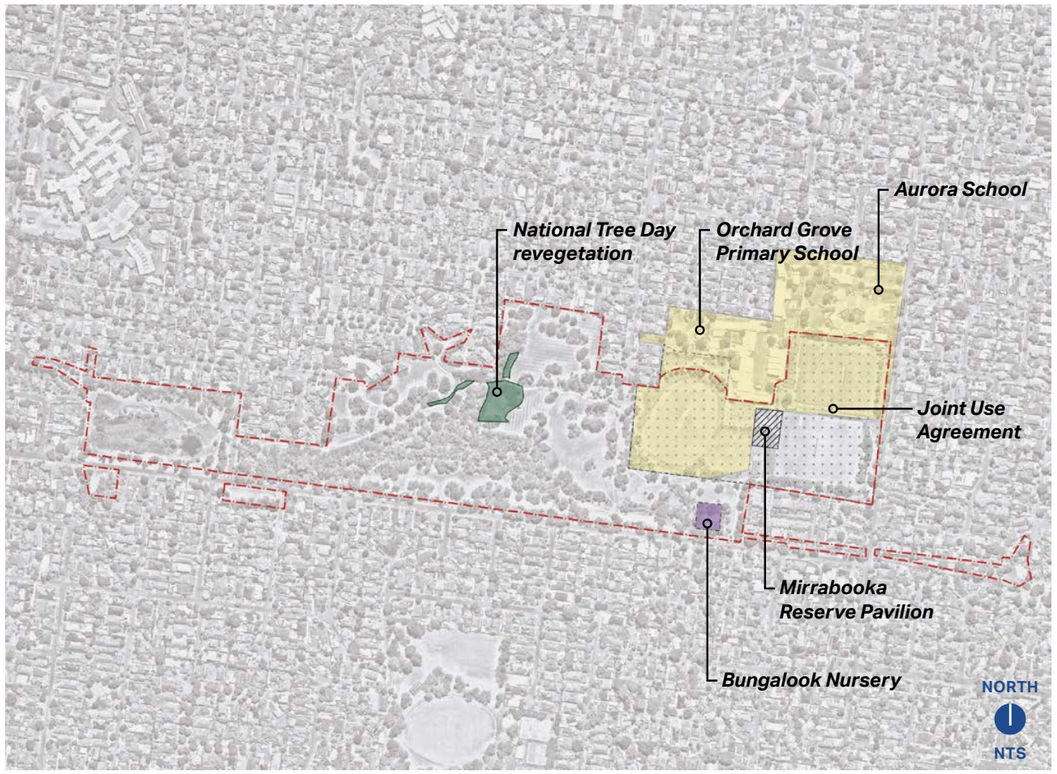
Orchard Grove Primary School is planning a modernisation of its facilities, which involves the construction of a new student amenities block funded as part of the 2023-24 State Budget's Minor Capital Works program. This project will impact one of the existing playgrounds located to the north of the West Field on school property.

As part of this initiative, Orchard Grove Primary School is aiming to delineate the school grounds by installing fencing around the West Field to enhance safety by restricting public access during school hours.

The Master Plan considers the school's direct interface with Wurundjeri Walk by proposing design opportunities to mitigate the impact of the school upgrades on play amenities. These opportunities aim to offset any loss of recreational space, ensuring that both the school community and broader public continue to have access to quality outdoor play and leisure opportunities.



Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion Plan



Interfacing project locations

Joint Use Agreement (JUA)

The Department of Education and WCC are in the process of negotiating a JUA for Mirrabooka Reserve, which includes the West and North Fields. This long-term agreement will facilitate the development of facilities in collaboration with local government and community organisations, benefiting both the Orchard Grove Primary School and Aurora School, as well as the wider local community.

Bungalook Nursery Capital Works

Bungalook Nursery has proposed works to improve the operational capacity and upgrade site assets. sales, storage, maintenance/equipment, and social spaces.

New assets include more irrigated plant production benches, a polyhouse for propagation, and shade for plants.

National Tree Day revegetation

As part of the 2025 National Tree Day WCC have selected an area of Wurundjeri Walk to plant over 3,500 indigenous plants. The project aims to enhance available habitat by focusing on the creek and tributary corridors.

Key	
	Wurundjeri Walk master plan boundary
	Orchard Grove Primary School and Aurora School boundary
	Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion
	Area under negotiation for Joint Use Agreement
	Bungalook Nursery Capital Works
	National Tree Day revegetation

1.3 Sport in Whitehorse

Facilities

Sporting facilities in Whitehorse are facing increasing pressure as usage demand continues to grow. The city offers a well-distributed network of sports fields, reserves, and pavilions that support a range of activities, from team sports like football, soccer and cricket to informal activities such as running or ball kicking practice. However, the heavy usage of these facilities is exceeding their capacity, creating challenges in maintaining safe and high-quality surfaces for play.

Many fields are showing signs of wear and tear, impacting both their condition and player safety. Additionally, some existing facilities do not fully support inclusivity and universality, with limited gender-neutral spaces, insufficient access for people with disabilities, and a lack of diverse options to meet the needs of emerging groups, such as women's and youth sports. This underscores the need for strategic planning and investment to upgrade and expand facilities to ensure they can accommodate the growing demand and provide safe, accessible spaces for all.

Participation

Sport participation in Whitehorse has been steadily increasing, particularly among youth and women, reflecting broader trends of greater inclusivity and community engagement in physical activity. The 2023/2024 summer season demonstrated the challenges posed by this growing demand, as six senior teams were forced to seek alternative locations in neighbouring municipalities due to the unavailability of grounds on Saturday afternoons. This not only disrupted team cohesion and local engagement but also added logistical burdens for clubs and athletes.

Additionally, the demand for grounds on Friday evenings is nearing full capacity, making scheduling and access increasingly difficult for all teams. The need for floodlit sports fields during the winter months is also high, with community usage estimated to exceed 112.2% of the turf industry's recommended levels for natural grass surfaces.

Team and player numbers have continued to rise in 2024 across all sports, particularly football (soccer), further highlighting the strain on existing facilities. As more people get involved in sports, it is crucial that the city's infrastructure evolves to support this growing participation and ensure access for everyone.



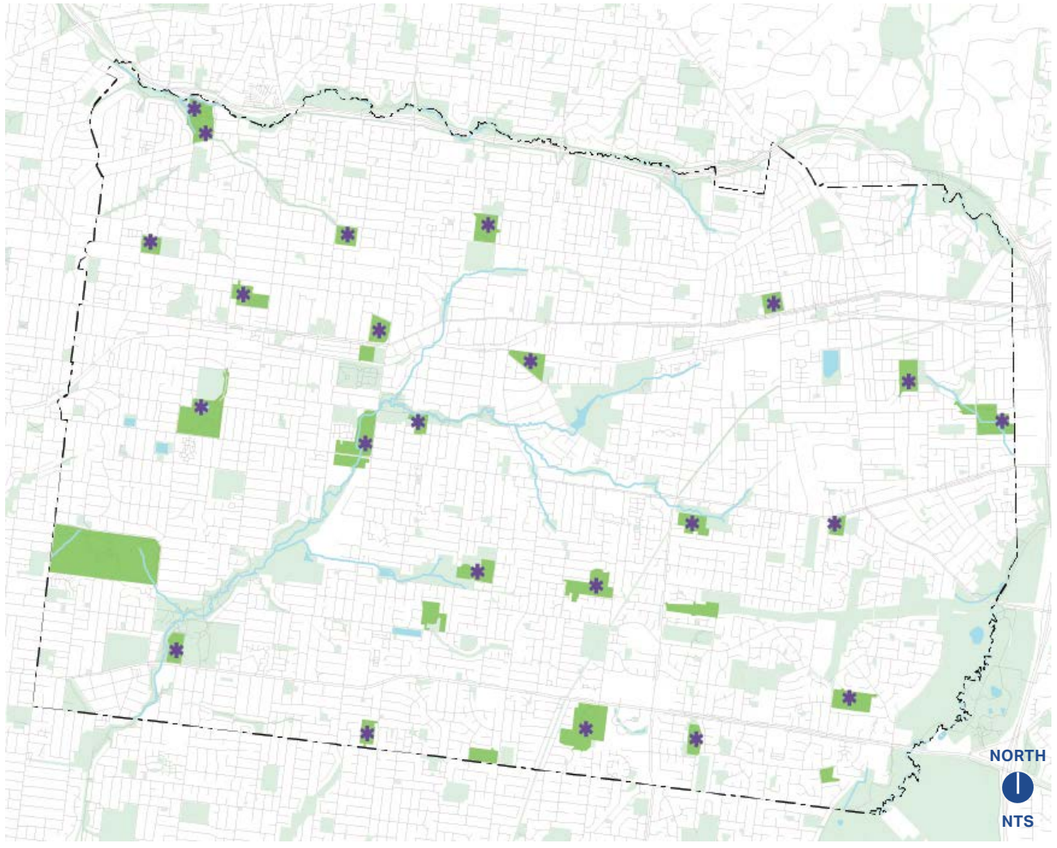
Blackburn New Hope Football Club - junior players



Blackburn South Cricket Club - training at Mirrabooka cricket nets



2024 Whitehorse sport player numbers



Whitehorse City Council Sport Fields, Reserves, and Pavilions

Key	
	Whitehorse municipality boundary
	Sports field or reserve
	Pavilion
	Open space
	Watercourse or water body

10.4 – ATTACHMENT 2. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report

1.4 Wurundjeri Walk features

In the Whitehorse Open Space Strategy (WOSS) (2007), Mirrabooka and Orchard Grove Reserve are classified as Municipal open space, and Fulton Reserve is a Neighbourhood open space. Municipal Open Space caters primarily to residents of Whitehorse but also can be used by residents from other municipalities.

In the draft WOSS 2024 currently in development, the site is identified as a very high priority for preparing and implementing a landscape master plan for structured and unstructured recreation facilities, including consideration of a circuit path network that links to the Wurundjeri Walk. The scale of the site is significant, enabling it to support a variety of activities and/or ensuring the adequate preservation of biodiversity values.

The park is well-established and offers a range of amenities, including walking paths, sports fields, playgrounds, and picnic areas, making it a popular destination for both active and passive recreation. The diverse landscapes within the park include a wetland, naturalised creek ecosystem, open grass spaces, tree-lined pathways, playgrounds, limited signage and sport field infrastructure.



Key

	Wurundjeri Walk master plan boundary
	Tree Canopy
	Dense Tree Canopy
	Paths
	Carpark

Key features of Wurundjeri Walk

1	Fulton Road Reserve West	7	Orchard Grove car park	13	Aurora School car park
2	Wurundjeri Wetlands	8	Orchard Grove Primary School playground	14	Bungalook Nursery
3	Indra Road playground	9	Mirrabooka Reserve car park	15	Hurter-Finch Reserve
4	Fulton Road Reserve East	10	Orchard Grove Primary School car park	16	Hurter-Finch Reserve playground
5	Orchard Grove Reserve	11	Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion		
6	Orchard Grove Reserve playground	12	Mirrabooka Reserve		

1.5 Mirrabooka Reserve facilities

Mirrabooka Reserve is located to the east of Wurundjeri Walk between Orchard Grove and Holland Road. It offers a number of facilities for sport and the community, including:

- West Field
- North Soccer Field
- Middle (Junior) Field
- South Field
- Cricket training nets (three bays)
- Pavilion
- 58 car spaces with one disabled space
- Open space and natural vegetation.

The four sports fields are configured into six soccer pitches during winter.

Reserve Sporting User Groups

The reserve is currently home to two sports clubs:

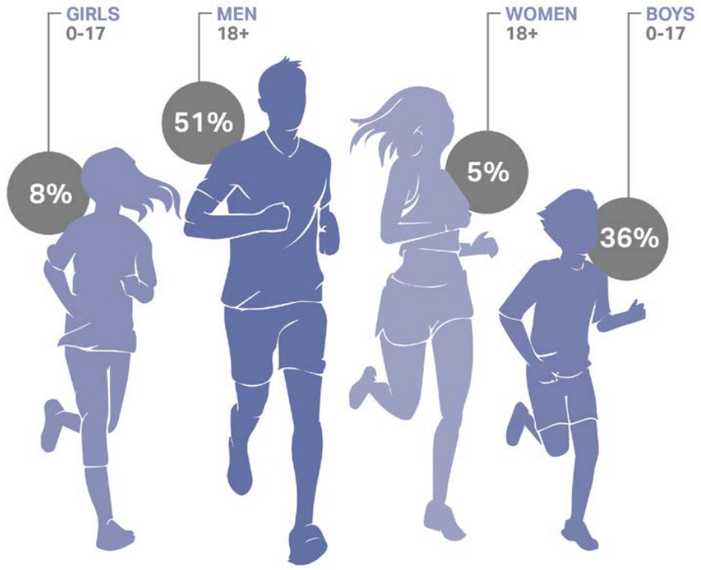
- Blackburn New Hope Football Club (winter)
- Blackburn South Cricket Club (summer).

Two clubs use the facilities as a secondary overflow ground:

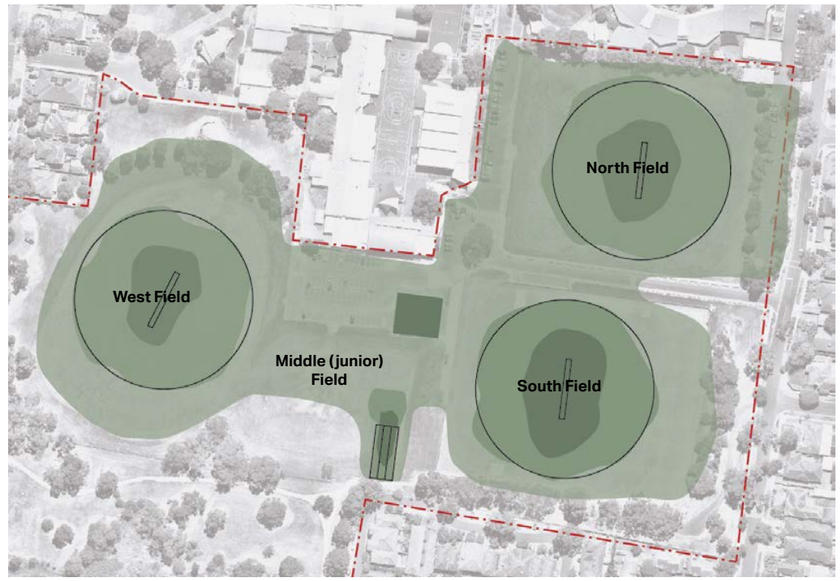
- Mont Albert Cricket Club
- Laburnum Cricket Club.

Across all participating clubs, approximately 800 players are actively using the Reserve for organised sports, with 12.5% of them being female or girls. Football (soccer) participation in Whitehorse has grown steadily in recent years, driven in part by the success of the Australian women's national team, and this trend is expected to continue.

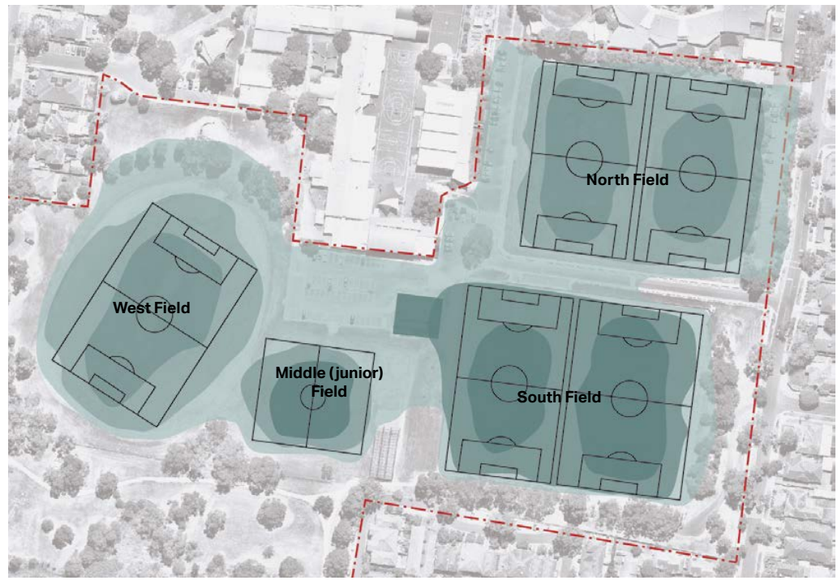
A total of 46 teams use the Reserve, with the South Field seeing the highest demand due to its floodlights and recent drainage upgrades. The field plays a crucial role as a key venue for both competitive and recreational sports in Whitehorse. Council is currently receiving a record number of allocation requests from soccer clubs for the upcoming winter season, with demand exceeding availability.



Gender proportion of players at Mirrabooka Reserve



Mirrabooka Reserve cricket distribution over summer



Mirrabooka Reserve football (soccer) distribution over winter

2.0

Master Plan vision, principles and objectives

3.1 Master Plan vision

3.2 Master Plan principles

3.3 Amenity

3.4 Access and movement

3.5 Environment

3.6 People and culture

Seating along Wurundjeri Walk

10.4 – ATTACHMENT 2. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report

2.1 Master Plan vision

The vision statement of the Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan aims to:

'Create a vibrant, inclusive, and resilient public open space that enhances the natural environment, celebrates it's cultural heritage whilst providing a diverse range of recreational and social opportunities.'

Alongside outlining the overarching vision, the Master Plan for Wurundjeri Walk will:

- Respect and honour the cultural heritage of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, fostering the sharing and celebration of their connection to Country.
- Enhance visitor experiences by offering accessible, engaging, and well-maintained spaces that cater to a variety of recreational and social needs.
- Celebrate the diverse landscape character of the site, while promoting environmental principles such as resilience, sustainability, and efficiency in park design and management.
- Foster partnerships with local and sporting communities, cultural groups, and organisations to enhance the experiences offered to visitors and ensure the park meets the needs of all users.



Wurundjeri Walk asphalt shared path

2.2 Master Plan principles

Four key design principles that underpin the Wurundjeri Walk draft Master Plan have been identified to guide the future management and decision making for the site. These principles demand that any future changes to the park are to bring positive benefits and are consistent with the motivation and intent of the Master Plan.

These principles include:

- Amenity
- Access and movement
- Environment
- People and culture.



Amenity

Improve community health and well-being by providing passive and active recreation opportunities for users of all ages and abilities.



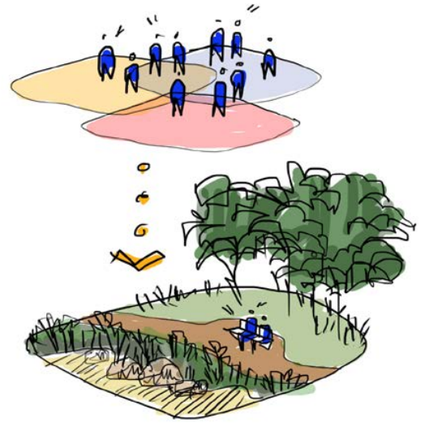
Access and movement

Improve connectivity and access to key park amenities, ensuring safe, efficient, and equitable movement for all users.



Environment

Protect and enhance the natural bushland environment of Wurundjeri Walk, to support biodiversity and ecological systems.



People and culture

Offer diverse visitor experiences that cater to all community members, while celebrating and reflecting the cultural heritage of the area.

2.3 Amenity

Master Plan principle:

Improve community health and well-being by providing passive and active recreation opportunities for users of all ages and abilities.

Key objectives to enhance amenity:

- Promote a community that participate in structured sport as well as non structured recreation to develop strong social bonds, and support mental and physical health.
- To provide the necessary facilities and amenities to support strong community and social connection with the opportunity for broad community use facilities.
- Foster intergenerational use, encouraging physical activity across all age groups and supporting community-wide participation.
- Create comfortable, accessible resting and gathering areas throughout the park, utilising the shade provided by mature trees.
- Design spaces that promote social interaction, connection, enjoyment, reflection and personal challenge.



Mirrabooka Reserve sports fields and pavilion

2.4 Access and movement

Master Plan principle:

Improve connectivity and access to key park amenities, ensuring safe, efficient, and equitable movement for all users.

Key objectives to enhance amenity:

- Upgrade park entrances and pathways to ensure ease of access and improved accessibility where feasible.
- Enhance pedestrian circulation throughout the park, facilitating smooth and safe movement for all visitors.
- Create clearly defined pathways that improve safety and navigation.
- Integrate signage and wayfining systems to guide users to key amenities and destinations within the park.
- Provide multiple access points to the park, ensuring convenient entry from surrounding areas for diverse user groups.



Wurundjeri Walk asphalt shared path

2.5 Environment

Master Plan principle:

Protect and enhance the natural bushland environment of Wurundjeri Walk, to support biodiversity and ecological systems.

Key objectives to enhance amenity:

- Increase environmental resilience through effective vegetation management, conservation, and augmentation.
- Protect and enhance the existing tree canopy, increasing canopy cover from approximately 42% to 57%, as a key device for shade protection and urban cooling.
- Recognise Wurundjeri Walk as part of a broader environmental corridor that contributes to local urban biodiversity and conservation efforts.
- Actively manage and control weeds while increasing the distribution of indigenous vegetation across the site.
- Promote sustainable land management practices that support the long-term health of the bushland environment.
- Foster community awareness and involvement in conservation efforts to strengthen the park's ecological integrity.



Rainbow Lorikeets along Wurundjeri Walk

2.6 People and culture

Master Plan principle:

Offer diverse visitor experiences that cater to all community members, while celebrating and reflecting the cultural heritage of the area.

Key objectives to enhance amenity:

- Foster engagement and collaboration with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung to deepen understanding of cultural connections to the site.
- Create opportunities for the community to learn about the site's key values, particularly cultural heritage and environmental conservation.
- Develop spaces for community events and gatherings that celebrate the diverse heritage of the region.
- Encourage and support local volunteer groups to support park initiatives and foster community involvement in park stewardship.



Mirrabooka Reserve football spectators

10.4 – ATTACHMENT 2. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report

3.0

Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan

3.1 Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan

3.2 Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Opportunities

3.3 Master Plan Detail Area - 1

3.4 Master Plan Detail Area - 2

Timber footbridge over Fulton Road Drain

10.4 – ATTACHMENT 2. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report

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3.1 Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan



Key

Wurundjeri Walk master plan boundary	Gravel path	Water sensitive urban design initiatives	New feature planting	New fence alignment
Fulton Road Drain alignment	Concrete path	Proposed informal bolder seats	Proposed public toilet	Upgraded cricket nets
New canopy trees	Asphalt access road and parking	New understorey planting	Proposed new shelter	Proposed wayfinding signage location

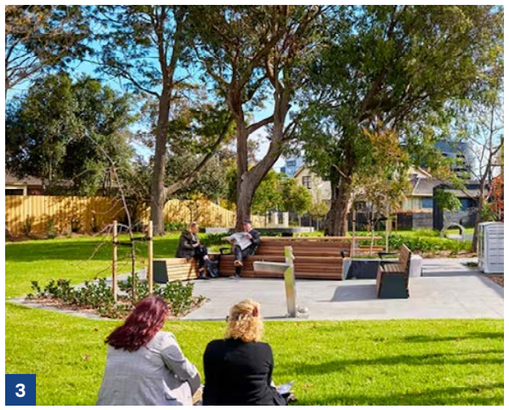
10.4 – ATTACHMENT 2. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report



1 Informal lookout seating - Dickson Wetlands, Canberra
Source: Flickr, 2024



2 Accessible path and equipment - Wattle Park, Melbourne
Source: Robyn Oliver, 2023



3 Small seating node with open grass and benches - Horscroft Place
Source: City of Kingston, 2022



4 Gravel circuit path with indigenous planting - Jells Park, Melbourne
Source: World Traveller Junior, 2012



5 Street outkerb WSUD and tree planting - Lansdown Terrace
Source: Walkerville Council, 2012



6 Water sensitive urban design - Fritsch Holzer Park, Hawthorn
Source: TripAdvisor, 2022



7 Small timber pedestrian bridge - Bellbird Dell Reserve
Source: Neil Follett, 2021



8 Native linear planting - Elster Creek Trail
Source: Glen Eira Council, 2024

10.4 – ATTACHMENT 2. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report

3.2 Master Plan opportunities

The principles and objectives have guided the development of the Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan and its specific opportunities. Opportunities are captured under one of the four principles and can be identified on the Master Plan by coloured key tag coding.

Amenity	
A.1	Upgrade playground infrastructure at Indra Road to create inviting spaces for families, incorporating sheltered areas, picnic settings and benches for comfort. *To be delivered with A2, A3, and M3.*
A.2	Introduce new universal play elements to existing Indra Road playground that are accessible and engaging for children of all abilities. *To be delivered with A1, A3, and M3.*
A.3	Introduce new social and exercise facilities catering to a wide range of ages, with a focus on accommodating the projected higher proportion of adults. *To be delivered with A1, A2, and M3.*
A.4	Explore opportunities to increase access to water features, creating spaces for recreation and education.
A.5	Design a gravel lookout area with informal seating, offering panoramic views of the wetlands to encourage users to spend time in and enjoy the natural surroundings.
A.6	Install new park benches, to encourage visitation and improve accessibility to the reserves south of Fulton Road.

Movement and access	
M.1	Install accessible pram ramps and zebra pedestrian crossings at Indra Road, Fulton Road West and East to enable safe connections across streets, prioritising pedestrian movement within Wurundjeri Walk.
M.2	Resurface path to improve connection to Wurundjeri Wetland and the Indra Road playground, ensuring universal access for visitors with diverse mobility needs.
M.3	Create clear and accessible paths that better define the Indra Road playground, ensuring universal access. *To be delivered with A1, A2, and A3.*
M.4	Provide compliant accessible parking spaces at Wurundjeri Wetlands with a gravel surface and adequate circulation space.

Environment	
E.1	Introduce new canopy tree planting along paths to enhance open space amenity, providing shade and creating new ecological habitats for local wildlife.
E.2	Investigate a tree replacement program to secure long-term open space shade amenity, ensuring continued comfort and environmental benefits.
E.3	Implement new understorey planting to provide visual interest while improving habitat connectivity.
E.4	Regenerate indigenous understorey planting at key entrances and decision points, enriching the ecological value and user experience by creating a cohesive, native plant palette that ties the site together.



Continues on page 21

10.4 – ATTACHMENT 2. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report

WURUNDJERI WALK DRAFT MASTER PLAN

Amenity	
A.7	Introduce new park amenities in the centre of Wurundjeri Walk, including picnic tables and benches, to encourage people to spend more time in the reserve and enhance use comfort.
A.8	Create a central social space with a shelter, bench seating and a small nature-based playspace to serve as a community gathering point for groups and events. *To be delivered with A10 and M9.*
A.9	Explore expanding the Orchard Grove playground to include BBQ, accessible benches, social and recreational facilities to broaden the range of equipment and accommodate the anticipated increase in the adult population. Work in collaboration with Positive Ageing team to identify opportunities for activation.
A.10	Create an informal community gathering point for groups and events at the central social space. *To be delivered with A8 and M9.*
Movement and access	
M.5	Develop a new path connection south of Canora Street properties to provide a secondary route and strengthen connections with the wider Wurundjeri Walk.
M.6	Concrete paving to be provided for select pathways subject to high levels of use to minimise long-term maintenance requirements.
M.7	Install wayfinding and legislative signage at key access points and park features to improve navigation and provide important information for visitors.
M.8	Provide concrete pads under key landscape furniture to enable accessibility. These include under picnic settings, drinking fountains and bench seats.
M.9	Introduce new angled parking along Fulton Road at the central social space to provide accessible car parks and kerb out stands to increase canopy trees. *To be delivered with A8 and A10.*
Environment	
E.5	Investigate new planting with key stakeholders and management strategies throughout Wurundjeri Walk to enhance biodiversity and visual amenity, with scheduled maintenance activities prioritising effective weed management.
E.6	Explore strategies to protect the creek bed and manage erosion, ensuring long-term health and stability of the waterway.
E.7	Incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design techniques in collaboration with Melbourne Water to improve water quality before it enters Fulton Road Drain and Gardiners Creek, contributing to healthier local ecosystems.
E.8	Increase understorey planting around existing canopy trees in Orchard Grove Reserve to enhance habitat and provide a visual buffer, while maintaining clear sightlines into the park.
People and culture	
P.1	Introduce a designated space for storytelling and celebration, allowing the community to share and honour significant cultural heritage and traditions. *To be delivered with A8 and A10.*
P.2	Install indigenous tree plantings accompanied by small scale signage to provide visitors opportunities to learn about the site's cultural heritage, ecological, and local historical values.
P.3	Continue to support management of park assets including paths, car parks, vegetation, and amenities by fostering strong partnerships with recreation and sports groups, Friends groups, volunteers, and other stakeholders to promote stewardship.
P.4	Upgrade existing notice board with interpretive signage to provide visitors with opportunities to learn about and explore the cultural heritage, ecological, and local historical values of Wurundjeri Walk.



10.4 – ATTACHMENT 2. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report

WURUNDJERI WALK DRAFT MASTER PLAN

Amenity	
A.11	Investigate oval resurfacing improvements and potential for new floodlight to optimise the West and North Field for sport programming, potentially through a partnership with Peak Sporting Bodies, Department of Education, and other external funding opportunities.
A.12	Expand cricket nets by adding a fourth lane to the east and installing lighting to support extended use.
A.13	Incorporate terrace seating to reduce batter steepness, provide informal spectator seating towards the Middle Field and cricket nets, and improve floodlighting to enhancing the viewing experience for visitors. *To be delivered as part of Pavilion works.*
A.14	Investigate oval resurfacing improvements and potential new floodlights to optimise the Middle (junior) Field for sport programming, potentially through a partnership with Peak Sporting Bodies, Department of Education, and other external funding opportunities.
A.15	As a part of the Joint User Agreement with the Department of Education, consider the Department's potential direction to install a 1.8m high palisade fence around the southern portion of the West Field to define school land and operations during school hours, creating a defined path of travel around the school for the public.
A.16	Provide a new public toilet near the Orchard Grove playground and car park to improve amenity, supporting longer stays and increased community use of the space.

Movement and access	
M.10	Improve compliance with dog walking during organised sports events by implementing clear signage that promotes responsible pet ownership, encourages dog owners to attend to their pets, and is supported by the provision of convenient bin infrastructure for waste disposal.
M.11	Consider providing a clear path of travel for emergency access to the pavilion, with adequate turning space in the Mirrabooka Reserve car park, ensuring safety and accessibility during emergencies.
M.12	Create a central path from the Mirrabooka car park and pavilion to provide a defined access corridor into Wurundjeri Walk.
M.13	Reconfigure car parks to provide parallel parking along the access road, incorporating a pedestrian path along the southern verge, a landscape buffer, a refurbished fence to prevent stray balls from entering the roadway.
M.14	Introduce new parallel parking along Holland Road, accompanied by a new path and verge planting to preserve existing canopy trees.

Environment	
E.9	Increase tree planting along Illowra Walk residential boundaries and between South and Middle Fields to provide a landscape buffer and shade for spectators.
E.10	Integrate native planting, including canopy trees, along the periphery of sports fields to promote biodiversity and increasing shade for football spectators.

People and culture	
P.5	Monitor Joint User Agreement progress and reporting.



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Hurter-Finch Reserve

Continues on page 22



Amenity

A.17	Upgrade Bungalook Nursery to improve the operational capacity, enhance workflow, working conditions and upgrade the site assets.
A.18	Create a visually prominent gateway entry and public address to Wurundjeri Walk, encouraging park users to access the site south of the sports fields.

Movement and access

M.15	Create a new stair connection and defined access corridor from Holland Road to provide an accessible route to Wurundjeri Walk, providing maintenance access to the South Field..
M.17	Improve wayfinding to provide a legible path of travel between Hurter-Finch Reserve, Wurundjeri Walk, and Mirrabooka Reserve.
M.18	Introduce grid-free solar lighting along the Hurter-Finch Reserve footpath to improve safety, ensuring minimal light spill to neighbouring properties.

Environment

E.11	Introduce new understorey and tree planting as a buffer between the South Field and Illowra Walk residential properties, to provide a visual buffer and mitigate light spill.
E.12	Enhance low-lying understorey planting and expand tree canopy using a native plant palette to create a visual link to Wurundjeri Walk and strengthen habitat corridors.
E.13	Investigate renewal of the Orchard Grove Reserve wetland near Bungalook Nursery as part of the Parks and Natural Environment Teams Asset Renewal Project.
E.14	Continue monitoring the feasibility and assessing potential WSUD infrastructure solutions.

3.3 Detail Area - Mirrabooka Sports Precinct



Mirrabooka Sports Precinct

Situated at the heart of the Mirrabooka Sports Precinct (Wurundjeri Walk East), the proposed new pavilion facility is complimented by appropriate surrounding landscape treatments that elevate the visual prominence of the new structure. These treatments are to include special landscape paving, tree planting and landscape furniture to cater for the pavilion's users.

Stemming from the pavilion's external access stairs are seating steps to serve as viewing amphitheatres to the Middle Field and cricket nets. New north/south pathways link the precinct to Wurundjeri Walk and Fulton Road to the south.

The carparking to the north of the South Field have been reconfigured to allow for more carparking spaces, buffer planting and a new verge path connection linking the precinct to the Holland Road entry. A protective fence to stop ball egress from the field is proposed within the buffer planting to protect parked cars.

The new east/west pathway also connects users to the new pavilion's northern entry via the reconfiguration of the entry driveway and school car park. The proposed changes result in a formalised pedestrian crossing, buffer planting and vehicle protection barriers, thus enhancing user safety and wayfinding by clearly defining the surrounding public realm.

Legend

- Wurundjeri Walk master plan boundary
- New canopy trees
- Gravel path
- Concrete path
- Asphalt access road and parking
- New understorey planting
- New feature planting
- Relocated football coaches boxes
- New fence alignment
- Upgraded cricket nets
- Proposed terrace seats

10.4 – ATTACHMENT 2. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report



1

Terrace seating - St Joseph's College, Ferntree Gully
Source: Concretum, 2024



2

Cricket Victoria compliant nets - Springfield Park, Box Hill
Source: Adam Calaitzis, 2018



3

Embankment canopy trees - Mirrabooka Reserve
Source: AECOM, 2024



4

Proposed Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion render
Source: CohenLeigh Architects, 2024



5

Forecourt and pavilion - Templestowe Road, Bulleen
Source: Development Victoria, 2023



6

Water sensitive urban design car park planting - West Ryde, NSW
Source: DesignInc, 2023

3.4 Detail Area - Southern picnic area



Southern picnic area

The proposed southern picnic area, located centrally within Wurundjeri Walk and adjacent to Fulton Road, is designed to provide a relaxed and inclusive space for informal social gatherings and to serve as a meeting place for community groups such as the local Friends Group for working bees.

Nestled beneath existing tree canopies, the area will feature a BBQ, shelter, picnic settings, and bench seating, encouraging group gatherings, passive recreation, and community activities. New tree planting within paved areas will enhance natural shade and thermal comfort, fostering an inviting space for social interaction.

Along Fulton Road, angled parking spaces will be incorporated to provide DDA parking, using permeable paving to improve water infiltration and reduce runoff. The design of out kerbs along the parking areas will support the establishment of a broader tree canopy, providing additional shade and aesthetic value. These features will enhance the overall environment, increase urban greening, and improve the park's sustainability.

The design prioritises accessibility, with generous circulation paths connecting to Wurundjeri Walk and Fulton Road, supporting movement through the space and improving passive surveillance. Informal seating opportunities throughout the area will offer quiet moments for individuals and small groups, while also accommodating the needs of community groups during events.

Landscape materials and furnishings will utilise natural tones and textures to visually integrate with the surrounding environment and reinforce the park's existing character.

Legend

	Wurundjeri Walk master plan boundary
	New canopy trees
	Gravel path
	Compacted gravel car parking
	Asphalt access road
	New understorey planting
	New feature planting
	Mulch
	Proposed new shelter
	Proposed picnic settings and bench seats

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1 BBQ and picnic area - Wattle Park, Melbourne
Source: Robyn Oliver, 2023



2 Open space for gathering - Pimelea Parklands, Western Sydney
Source: McGregor Coxall, 2017



3 Informal furniture and meeting place - Leichardt Street
Source: AECOM, 2011



4 Indigenous feature planting - Curtin University
Source: UDLA, 2021



5 Barongarook Creek Repatriation - Colac
Source: UDLA, 2021



6 Permeable paving car parks - Curtin University
Source: UDLA, 2021

3.5 Material Palette

The material palette for Wurundjeri Walk has been carefully selected to complement the natural character of the landscape and provide a cohesive, low-impact experience throughout the park. Gravel paths will form the primary circulation network, offering a natural aesthetic that blends seamlessly with the surrounding vegetation while supporting permeability and minimal environmental disturbance. A timber boardwalk will be introduced at a key crossing point, enhancing the visitor experience while minimising impact on sensitive ground conditions.

Around built elements such as the pavilion, durable concrete paving will be used to accommodate high foot traffic, ensure long-term resilience, and provide accessible, DDA-compliant access for all users. This balanced approach reinforces the park's identity as a nature-connected community space.



Gravel path
Source: AECOM



Concrete pavement
Source: Colorado Hardscapes



Lightly exposed aggregate concrete
Source: AECOM



Timber boardwalk
Source: Weekend Notes - Bellbird Dell Reserve



Concrete terrace seating
Source: Concretum



Permeable paving car parks - Curtin University
Source: UDLA

3.6 Furniture Palette



Table setting
Source: Draffin



Bench seat with back and arm rests
Source: Draffin



Bench seat with arm rests
Source: Draffin



Accessible barbecue
Source: AECOM



Curved stainless steel bike hoop
Source: Draffin



Solar powered path lighting, ngarrak nakorang wilam park
Source: AECOM



Accessible drinking fountain
Source: Botton + Gardiner



Bin enclosure
Source: Street Furniture Australia

3.7 Planting Palette

Creek Restoration

The creek restoration zone will focus on stabilising the banks of the waterway, enhancing biodiversity, and improving water quality through the use of locally indigenous, water-sensitive plant species. This planting will incorporate a layered structure of native trees, understorey shrubs, and dense groundcovers such as sedges and rushes. These plantings will help provide habitat for local wildlife, support erosion control, and naturally filter stormwater, improving the overall health and function of the waterway.

Scientific name	Common name
Trees	
Acacia melanoxylon	Blackwood
Eucalyptus ovata	Swamp Gum
Melaleuca ericifolia	Swamp Paperbark
Shrubs	
Goodenia ovata	Hop Goodenia
Leptospermum continentale	Prickly Tea-tree
Hardenbergia violacea	Purple Coral Pea
Groundcovers and grasses	
Carex fascicularis	Tassel Sedge
Dianella revoluta	Black-anther Flax-lily
Juncus usitatus	Common Rush
Lomandra longifolia	Spiny-headed Mat-rush



Site-wide Revegetation

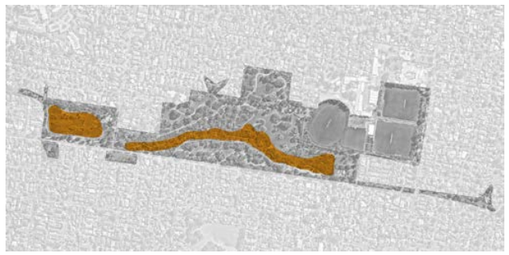
General revegetation across Wurundjeri Walk aims to restore the site's ecological character by re-establishing a resilient indigenous plant community. This approach includes a mix of native canopy trees, mid-storey shrubs, and a robust ground layer of grasses and herbaceous species.

The planting will support habitat creation, weed suppression, and long-term sustainability, contributing to the reserve's role as an important ecological corridor.

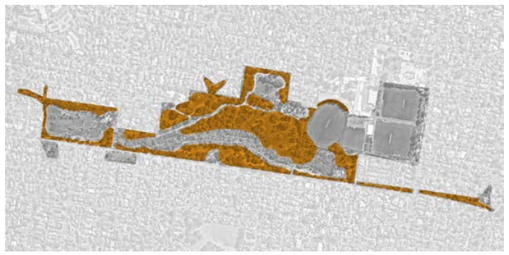
Scientific name	Common name
Trees	
Eucalyptus polyanthemos	Red Box
Eucalyptus goniocalyx	Long-leaf Box
Shrubs	
Acacia acinacea	Gold-dust Wattle
Bursaria spinosa	Sweet Bursaria
Dodonaea viscosa	Hop Bush
Groundcovers and grasses	
Einadia nutans	Nodding Saltbush
Lomandra filiformis	Wattle Mat-rush
Poa labillardierei	Tussock Grass



Key Plan



Key Plan



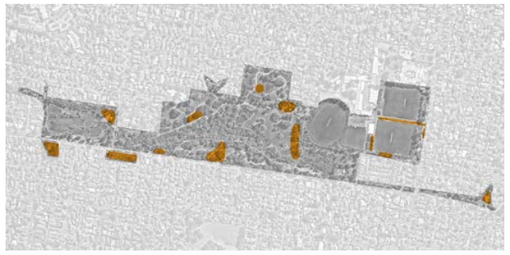
Feature amenity planting

Feature amenity planting will introduce visual interest, seasonal change, and biodiversity into prominent areas such as entrances, pathways, and seating zones.

The plant palette will focus on native species with appealing form, foliage, colour, and flowering characteristics to create attractive, low-maintenance landscapes. These areas will serve as key focal points within the reserve, enhancing user experience while remaining consistent with the natural theme of the broader site. Exotic flowering and fruit tree planting will be used in select newly activated open space areas to acknowledge the precinct's orchard history.

Scientific name	Common name
Trees	
Acacia melanoxylon	Blackwood
Eucalyptus viminalis	Manna Gum
Malus floribunda	Crab Apple
Shrubs	
Banksia spinulosa	Hairpin Banksia
Callistemon sieberi	River Bottlebrush
Correa reflexa	Common Correa
Groundcovers and grasses	
Chrysocephalum semipapposum	Clustered Everlasting
Poa ensiformis	Sword Tussock Grass
Xerochrysum bracteatum	Everlasting Daisy

Key Plan





Sensory and interactive planting

Sensory planting around playgrounds and gathering spaces will support mental well-being and children's learning through interaction with nature. Indigenous species with soft textures, fragrant foliage, seasonal colour, and gentle movement will create calming, engaging environments.

Positioned at accessible heights and near social spaces, these plantings encourage exploration, mindfulness, and playful learning while enhancing the natural character of the reserve.

Scientific name	Common name
Trees	
Acacia paradoxa	Hedge Wattle
Eucalyptus radiata	Narrow-leaed Peppermint
Shrubs	
Correa alba	White Correa
Pimelea humilis	Common Rice Flower
Rubus parvifolius	Native Raspberry
Groundcovers and grasses	
Brachyscome multifida	Cut Leaf Daisy
Dianella tasmanica	Tasman Flax-lily
Einadia nutans	Nodding Saltbush
Lomandra longifolia	Spiny-headed mat-rush

Key Plan





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4.0 Implementation strategy

4.1 Implementation strategy

4.2 Staging plan

Informal trail through native vegetation

4.1 Implementation strategy

The Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan's opportunities have been categorised into low, medium, and high priority.

The viability of each opportunity is dependent upon adequate future funding. This funding may be subject to further design development and detailed costings of elements.

Amenity

High priority

A.11	Investigate oval resurfacing and floodlighting improvements to optimise the West and North Field for sport programming, potentially through a partnership with Peak Sporting Bodies, Department of Education, and other external funding opportunities.
A.12	Expand cricket nets by adding a fourth lane to the east and installing lighting to support extended use.
A.13	Incorporate terrace seating to reduce batter steepness and provide informal spectator seating towards the Middle Field and cricket nets, enhancing the viewing experience for visitors. *To be delivered as part of Pavilion Work*
A.14	Investigate oval resurfacing improvements and potential new floodlights to optimise the Middle (junior) Field for sport programming, potentially through a partnership with Peak Sporting Bodies, Department of Education, and other external funding opportunities.
A.15	As a part of the Joint User Agreement with the Department of Education, consider the Department's potential direction to install a 1.8m high palisade fence around the southern portion of the West Field to define school land and operations during school hours, creating a defined path of travel around the school for the public.
A.17	Upgrade Bungalook Nursery to improve the operational capacity, enhance workflow, working conditions and upgrade the site assets.
A.18	Create a visually prominent gateway entry and public address to Wurundjeri Walk, encouraging park users to access the site south of the sports fields.
A.19	Construct a secondary path (gravel) exercise circuit along the perimeter of Canora Street properties to promote access and physical activity.

Medium priority

A.6	Install new park benches, to encourage visitation and improve accessibility to the reserves south of Fulton Road.
A.7	Introduce new park amenities in the centre of Wurundjeri Walk, including picnic tables and benches, to encourage people to spend more time in the reserve and enhance use comfort.
A.8	Create a central social space with a shelter, bench seating and a small nature-based playspace to serve as a community gathering point for groups and events. *To be delivered with A10.*
A.10	Create an informal community gathering point for groups and events at the central social space. *To be delivered with A8.*

Low priority

A.1	Upgrade playground infrastructure at Indra Road to create inviting spaces for families, incorporating sheltered areas, picnic settings and benches for comfort. *To be delivered with A2 and A3.*
A.2	Introduce new universal play elements to existing Indra Road playground that are accessible and engaging for children of all abilities.
A.3	Introduce new social and exercise facilities catering to a wide range of ages, with a focus on accommodating the projected higher proportion of adults.
A.4	Explore opportunities to increase access to water features, creating spaces for recreation and education.
A.5	Design a gravel lookout area with informal seating, offering panoramic views of the wetlands to encourage users to spend time in and enjoy the natural surroundings. *To be delivered with A10.*
A.9	Explore expanding the Orchard Grove playground to include BBQ, accessible benches, social and recreational facilities to broaden the range of equipment and accommodate the anticipated increase in the adult population. Work in collaboration with Positive Ageing team to identify opportunities for activation.
A.16	Provide a new public toilet near the Orchard Grove playground and car park to improve amenity, supporting longer stays and increased community use of the space.

Movement and access

High priority

M.1	Install accessible pram ramps and zebra pedestrian crossings at Indra Road, Fulton Road West and East to enable safe connections across streets, prioritising pedestrian movement within Wurundjeri Walk.
M.2	Resurface path to improve connection to Wurundjeri Wetland and the Indra Road playground, ensuring universal access for visitors with diverse mobility needs.
M.5	Develop a new path connection south of Canora Street properties to provide a secondary route and strengthen connections with the wider Wurundjeri Walk.
M.7	Install wayfinding and legislative signage at key access points and park features to improve navigation and provide important information for visitors.
M.12	Create a central path from the Mirrabooka car park and pavilion to provide a defined access corridor into Wurundjeri Walk.
M.13	Reconfigure car parks to provide parallel parking along the access road, incorporating a pedestrian path along the southern verge, a landscape buffer, a refurbished fence to prevent stray balls from entering the roadway.
M.10	Improve compliance with dog walking during organised sports events by implementing clear signage that promotes responsible pet ownership, encourages dog owners to attend to their pets, and is supported by the provision of convenient bin infrastructure for waste disposal.
M.15	Create a new stair connection and defined access corridor from Holland Road to provide an accessible route to Wurundjeri Walk, providing maintenance access to the South Field..
M.17	Improve wayfinding to provide a legible path of travel between Hurter-Finch Reserve, Wurundjeri Walk, and Mirrabooka Reserve.

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Medium priority

M.3	Create clear and accessible paths that better define the Indra Road playground, ensuring universal access. *To be delivered with A1 and A2.*
M.6	Concrete paving to be provided for select pathways subject to high levels of use to minimise long-term maintenance requirements.
M.8	Provide concrete pads under key landscape furniture to enable accessibility. These include under picnic settings, drinking fountains and bench seats.
M.9	Introduce new angled parking along Fulton Road at the central social space to provide accessible car parks and kerb out stands to increase canopy trees. *To be delivered with A10.*
M.11	Consider providing a clear path of travel for emergency access to the pavilion, with adequate turning space in the Mirrabooka Reserve carpark, ensuring safety and accessibility during emergencies.
M.14	Introduce new parallel parking along Holland Road, accompanied by a new path and verge planting to preserve existing canopy trees.
M.18	Introduce grid-free solar lighting along the Hurter-Finch Reserve footpath to improve safety, ensuring minimal light spill to neighbouring properties.

Low priority

M.2	Resurface path to improve connection to Wurundjeri Wetland and the Indra Road playground, ensuring universal access for visitors with diverse mobility needs.
M.4	Provide compliant accessible parking spaces at Wurundjeri Wetlands with a gravel surface and adequate circulation space.

Environment

High priority

E.1	Introduce new canopy tree planting along paths to enhance open space amenity, providing shade and creating new ecological habitats for local wildlife.
E.3	Implement new understorey planting to provide visual interest while improving habitat connectivity.
E.4	Regenerate indigenous understorey planting at key entrances and decision points, enriching ecological the value and user experience by creating a cohesive, native plant palette that ties the site together.
E.8	Increase understorey planting around existing canopy trees in Orchard Grove Reserve to enhance habitat and provide a visual buffer, while maintaining clear sightlines into the park.
E.9	Increase tree planting along Illowra Walk residential boundaries and between South and Middle Fields to provide a landscape buffer and shade for spectators.
E.12	Enhance low-lying understorey planting and expand tree canopy using a native plant palette to create a visual link to Wurundjeri Walk and strengthen habitat corridors.
E.13	Investigate renewal of the Orchard Grove Reserve wetland near Bungalook Nursery as part of the Parks and Natural Environment Teams Asset Renewal Project.
E.14	Continue monitoring the feasibility and assessing potential WSUD infrastructure solutions.

Medium priority

E.5	Investigate new planting with key stakeholders and management strategies throughout Wurundjeri Walk to enhance biodiversity and visual amenity, with scheduled maintenance activities prioritising effective weed management.
E.6	Explore strategies to protect the creek bed and manage erosion, ensuring long-term health and stability of the waterway.
E.7	Incorporate water sensitive urban design techniques in collaboration with Melbourne Water to improve water quality before it enters Fulton Road Drain and Gardiners Creek, contributing to healthier local ecosystems.
E.10	Integrate native planting, including canopy trees, along the periphery of sports fields to promote biodiversity and increasing shade for football spectators.
E.11	Introduce new understorey and tree planting as a buffer between the South Field and Illowra Walk residential properties, to provide a visual buffer and mitigate light spill.

Ongoing priority

E.2	Investigate a tree replacement program to maintain and secure long-term open space shade, ensuring continued comfort and environmental benefits.

People and culture

High priority

P.2	Install indigenous tree plantings accompanied by small scale signage to provide visitors opportunities to learn about the site's cultural heritage, ecological, and local historical values.

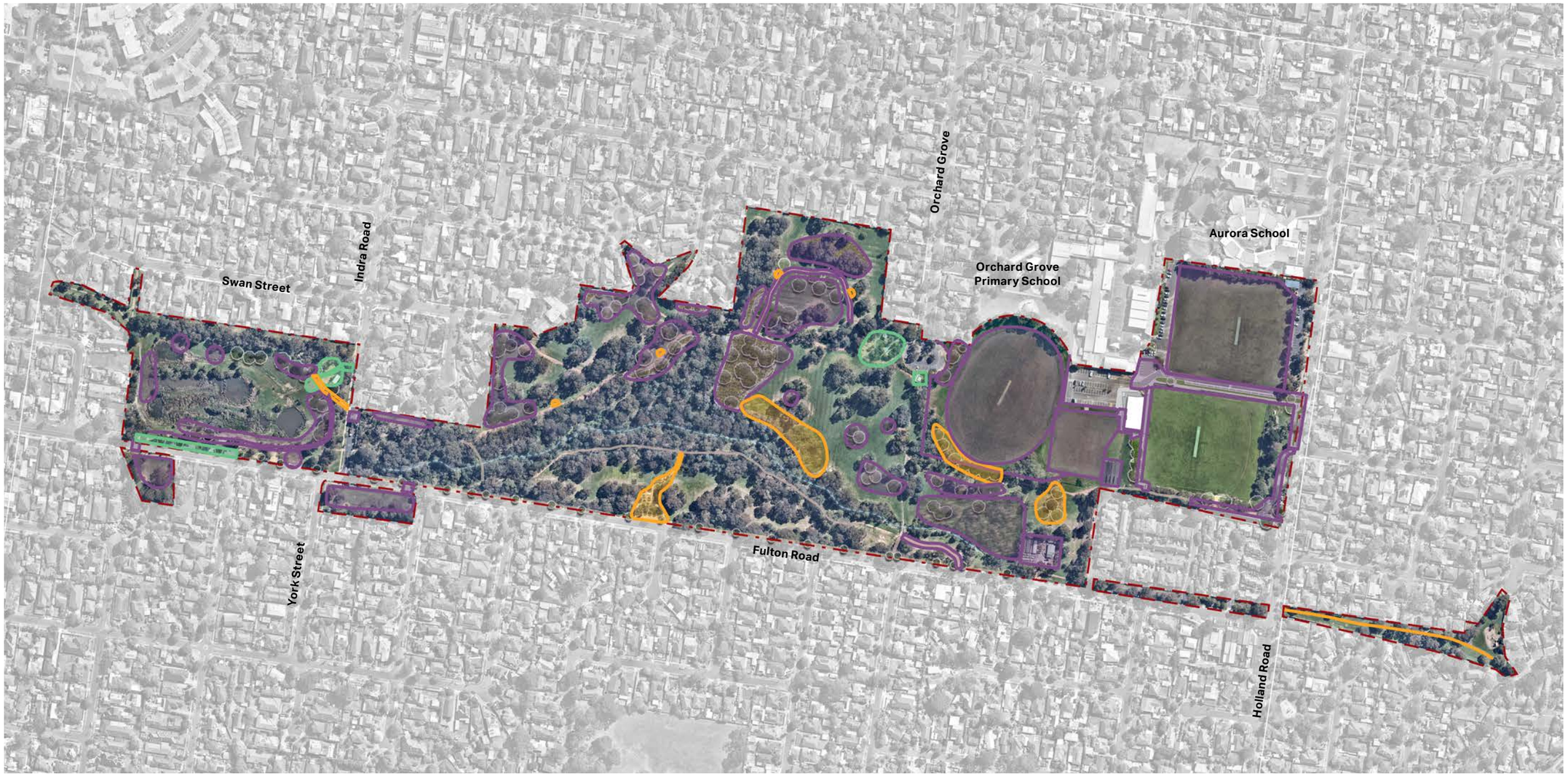
Medium priority

P.1	Introduce a designated space for storytelling and celebration, allowing the community to share and honour significant cultural heritage and traditions. *To be delivered with A8 and A10.*
P.4	Upgrade existing notice board with interpretive signage to provide visitors with opportunities to learn about and explore the cultural heritage, ecological, and local historical values of Wurundjeri Walk.

Ongoing priority

P.3	Continue to support ongoing maintenance and management of park assets including paths, car parks, vegetation, and amenities by fostering strong partnerships with recreation and sports groups, Friends groups, volunteers, and other stakeholders to promote stewardship.
P.5	Monitor Joint User Agreement progress and reporting.

4.2 Staging plan



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5.0 Appendices

The following documents have informed the Master Plan. These include:

1. **Wurundjeri Walk Background Report**
2. **Wurundjeri Walk Engagement Report**

Fulton Road Drain between Samuel Road and Bungalook Nursery

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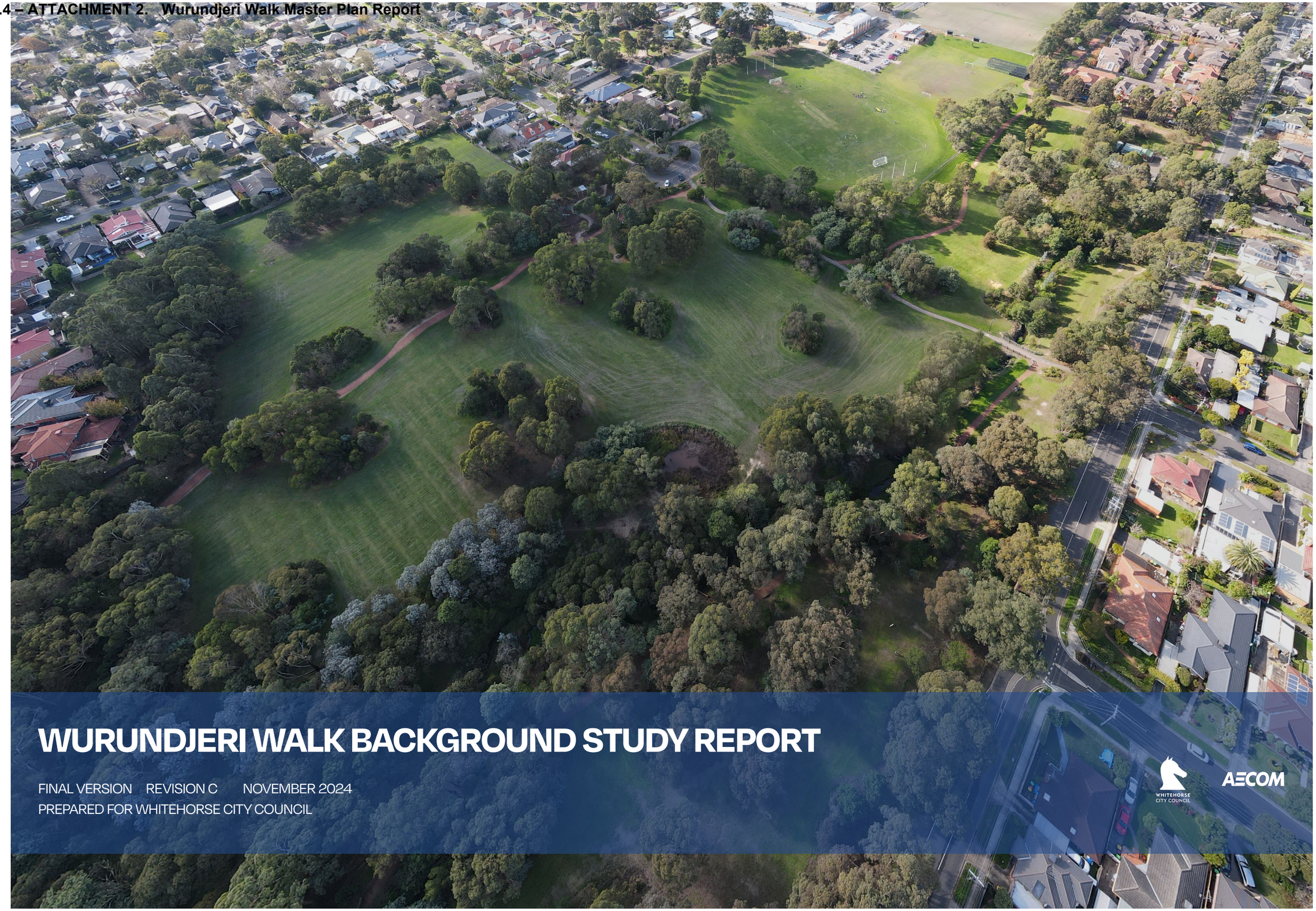

WURUNDJERI WALK BACKGROUND STUDY REPORT

FINAL VERSION REVISION C NOVEMBER 2024
PREPARED FOR WHITEHORSE CITY COUNCIL

WHITEHORSE CITY COUNCIL

AECOM

10.4 – ATTACHMENT 2. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report



Acknowledgement of Country

Whitehorse City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the land. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. Wurundjeri connection to this land dates back more than 40,000 years, and evidence of this connection still exists today.

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All drone photography captured in elevation within Wurundjeri Walk, which abides by open space restrictions.

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Background Study Report	B	Whitehorse City Council	AECOM Australia	1 November 2024	RR
Background Study Report	C	Whitehorse City Council	AECOM Australia	27 November 2024	RR

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1.0

Site Context

1.1 Geographic Context

1.2 Local Context

1.3 Demographics

Wurundjeri Wetlands looking west

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1.1 Geographic Context

Wurundjeri Walk is located in Blackburn South, within the Whitehorse City Council (WCC), approximately 16km east of Melbourne's Central Business District (CBD). The site is made up of four different Reserves: Mirrabooka, Orchard Grove, Fulton, and Hurter-Finch. Together these form Wurundjeri Walk, a 25 hectare linear park.

The Reserve is accessed via the local road network with key access points along Fulton Road. Middleborough Road connects to Fulton Road to the east providing a key north-south connection. The site does not have a direct public transport route to the CBD, requiring a bus transfer for nearby railway lines:

- Lilydale and Belgrave rail lines to the north
- Glen Waverley line to the south

Additionally, the planned Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) will provide a future station in Burwood west of the reserve, providing a connection to Box Hill and Cheltenham.

The Reserve is also connected to the Eastern Freeway (M3) to the north via Middleborough Road, linking Burwood with Melbourne's eastern suburbs and the CBD. To the south via Blackburn Road, the Monash Freeway (M1) provides a major route towards the south-eastern suburbs and beyond.

Wurundjeri Walk is one of nine sites that the WCC is currently producing a Master Plan for in the 2024-25 financial year. It is located towards the centre of the Local Government Area (LGA), the other two sites with Master Plans to be delivered in the same package are referred to as Bennettswood Reserve and Strathdon Davy Community Precinct which are located west and east of Wurundjeri Walk respectively.



Key

- Project boundary
- Reserves Undergoing Master Pan Process
- LGA boundary
- Freeway
- Tram line
- Train line and stations
- Future SRL line and stations

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1.2 Local Context

The Reserve is made up of Municipal (Mirrabooka and Orchard Grove), Neighbourhood (Fulton Reserve) and Local (Hurter-Finch Reserve) Open Spaces as identified in the Whitehorse Open Space Strategy 2024. It is situated adjacent to Orchard Grove Primary School and Aurora School. Blackburn English Language School is located approximately 500m south of the Reserve.

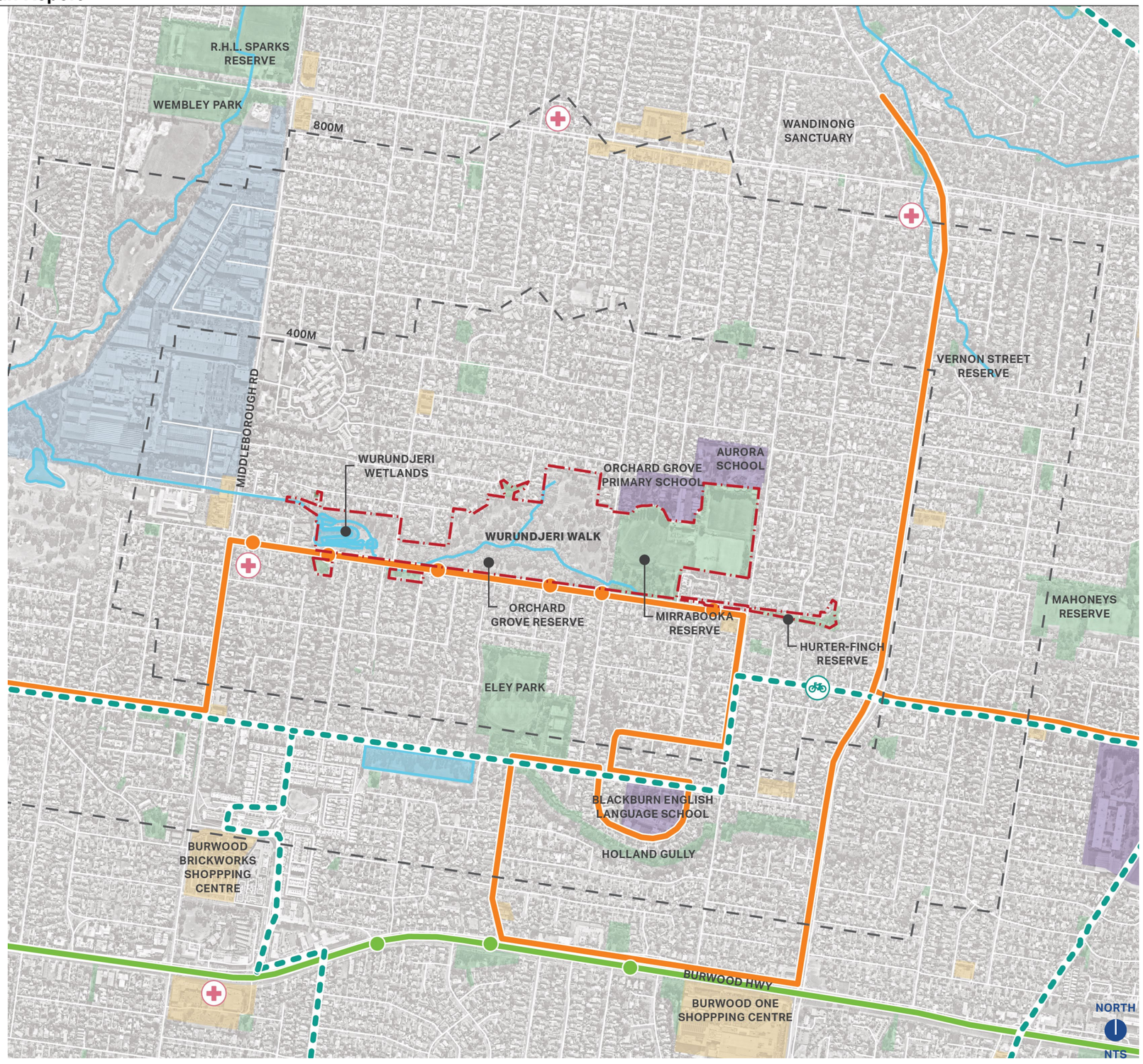
The Fulton Road Drain runs through the site along the southern boundary. The drain flows east to west connecting into the Wurundjeri Wetlands to the west of the site, before continuing to Gardiners Creek further west.

The Strategic Cycling Corridor (SCC) is located 500m south of the site along Eley Road, providing a key cycling route east - west through the Municipality. Nearby parks and open spaces include Eley park, Holland Gully, Vernon Street Reserve, and Mahoneys Reserve. Wurundjeri Walk is the largest open space in Blackburn South.

Public transport is well-serviced in the area: the 735 Box Hill to Nunawading bus service stops on the southern side of the Reserve along Fulton Road. Other bus services nearby include:

- 733 to Box Hill and Oakleigh, east via Middleborough Road
- 703 to Middle Brighton and Blackburn, east via Blackburn Road
- 765 to Box Hill and Forest Hill, north via Canterbury Road.

The closest local stops are along Middleborough Road,



Key

- Project Boundary
- 400m Offset
- Public Open Space
- Water Bodies and Course
- Industrial
- Education
- Commercial
- Hospital and Healthcare
- Strategic Cycling Corridor (SCC)
- Bus Stop
- Tram Stop

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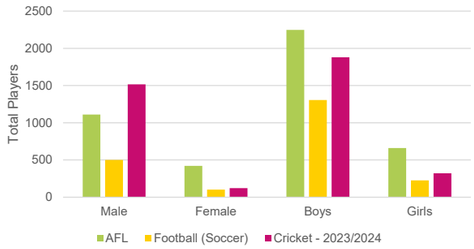
AREA CONTEXT 6

1.3 Sport Participation

Participation in sports in Whitehorse has seen a remarkable surge over the past decade, reflecting a broader trend of increased engagement in athletic activities. While traditionally dominated by male participation, there has been a notable rise in female sports and youth involvement. This growth indicates a positive shift towards inclusivity, as more girls and young athletes are embracing sports, contributing to a diverse sporting landscape.



Gender distribution of participation in Whitehorse sport

Despite this progress, the existing sports reserves and facilities in Whitehorse are struggling to keep up with the heightened demand. With usage at capacity, many of the grounds are experiencing overuse, leading to a deterioration in the quality of surfaces and limiting the availability for both training and competition. This situation is significantly impacting local sports clubs, which find it increasingly challenging to provide adequate programs and facilities for their athletes.

The 2023/2024 summer season highlighted these challenges, as six senior teams were forced to seek alternative locations in neighboring municipalities due to the unavailability of grounds on Saturday afternoons. This not only disrupts team cohesion and local engagement but also places additional logistical burdens on clubs and athletes. Similarly, the demand for grounds on Friday evenings is also approaching full capacity, further complicating scheduling and access for all teams. Demand for floodlit sports fields in winter is high also, with community usage estimated at up to 112.2% of turf industry recommended levels for natural grass surfaces. Team and player numbers increased in 2024 across all sports, particularly football (soccer).

To ensure the continued growth and development of sports in Whitehorse, especially in promoting female and youth participation, there is a need for enhanced investment in sports facilities and infrastructure. Addressing these capacity issues will not only support current athletes but will also lay the foundation for future generations to engage in sports, fostering a healthier, more active community.

Total players 2024

AFL
4,436

Football (Soccer)
2,130

Cricket
3,834





1.4 Demographics

Demographic overview

Bennettswood Reserve is located within the WCC LGA. The LGA encompasses an area of 65km2 in Melbourne's middle-eastern suburbs. The Reserve is approximately 14km from Melbourne's CBD. Suburbs within the WCC are Mount Albert, Mount Albert North, Box Hill, Box Hill North, Box Hill South, Blackburn, Blackburn North, Blackburn South, Nunawading, Mitcham, Vermont, Vermont South, Forest Hill, Burwood and Burwood East.

Population

The WCC had an estimated resident population of 178,639 in 2023. The average household size is 2.53 with 62% of the population living in separate house dwellings and 27.7% living in medium density dwellings. The largest growth in dwellings types has been high density with a growth of 3,966. An additional 2,320 residents are forecast to be living in Burwood by 2036, an 18% increase and an additional 935 residents in Blackburn South, an 8.5% increase.

178,639
Resident population

The population of Whitehorse comprised of 51.6% females and 48.4% males in the 2021 Census. 521 individuals identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

51.6% female

48.4% male

Age

In 2021, the WCC had a lower proportion of children (under 18) and a higher proportion of persons aged 60 years or older than Greater Melbourne. The median age was 39 years old.

Overall, 29.3% of the population were aged between 0 and 24, 46.9% were aged between 25 and 59, and 23.8% were aged 60 years and over.

Cultural diversity

Emerging Age Groups

The largest changes in age structure in the LGA between 2016 and 2011 were in the age groups:

35 to 39 (+1,752)
50 to 54 (+1,308)
0 to 4 (-1,035)
70 to 74 (+1,004)

41.5% of the population were born overseas and 13% (21,962) had a birthplace of China. 40.5% of people use a non-english language at home. The top language used at home was Mandarin (16.2%), followed by Cantonese, Greek, Vietnamese, Hindi, Sinhalese and Italian. In comparison to Greater Melbourne, the WCC population speaking Mandarin at home was greater by 11.9%.

The largest changes in reported ancestries of the population in the LGA between 2011 and 2016 were:

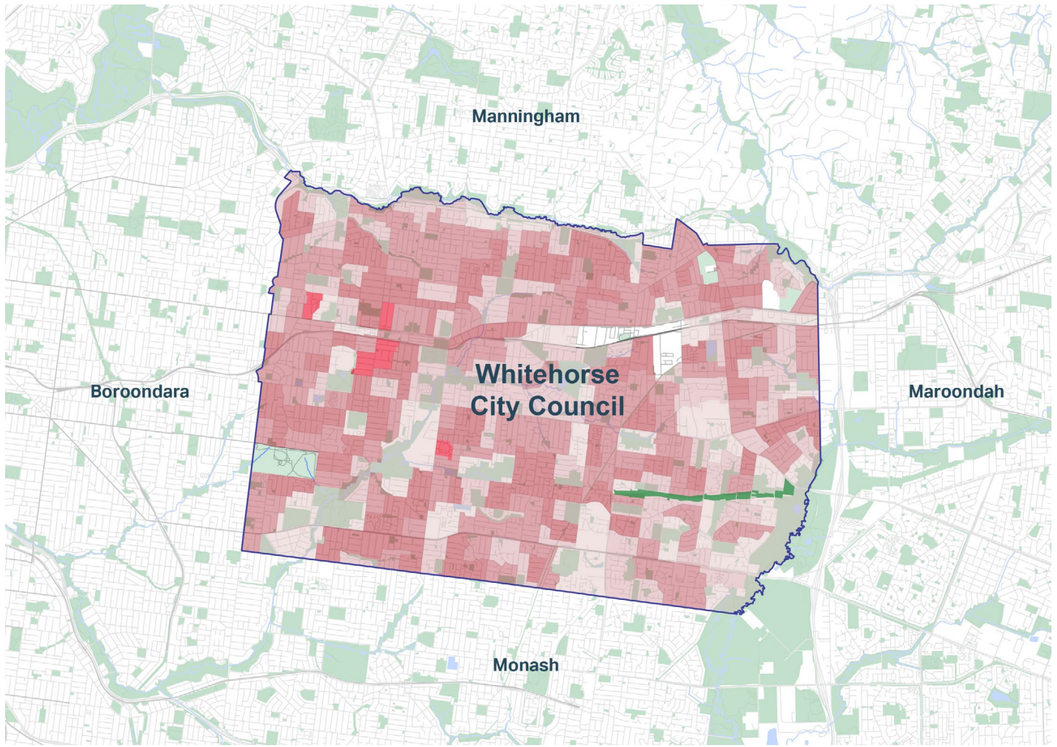
- Chinese (+11,987)
- Australian (-3,685)
- Indian (+1,949)
- Irish (+1,047)

Health and wellbeing

In 2021, 9,374 (5.5%) people in the WCC reported needing help in their daily lives due to disability. 29.7% of the population has a long-term health condition.

9,374 or 5.5%
People in Whitehorse needing daily help

**All data obtained from Profile.ID and Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census Data.*



Demographics

As of 2021, Blackburn South has a population of 11,022, an increase of 401 residents (about 4%) since the 2007 Strategy. The area has a higher proportion of primary school-aged children and residents aged 50 to 69 compared to the WCC, but fewer babies, young adults, and seniors aged 70 to 84. The population is projected to grow to 11,957 by 2036, representing an 8.5% increase.



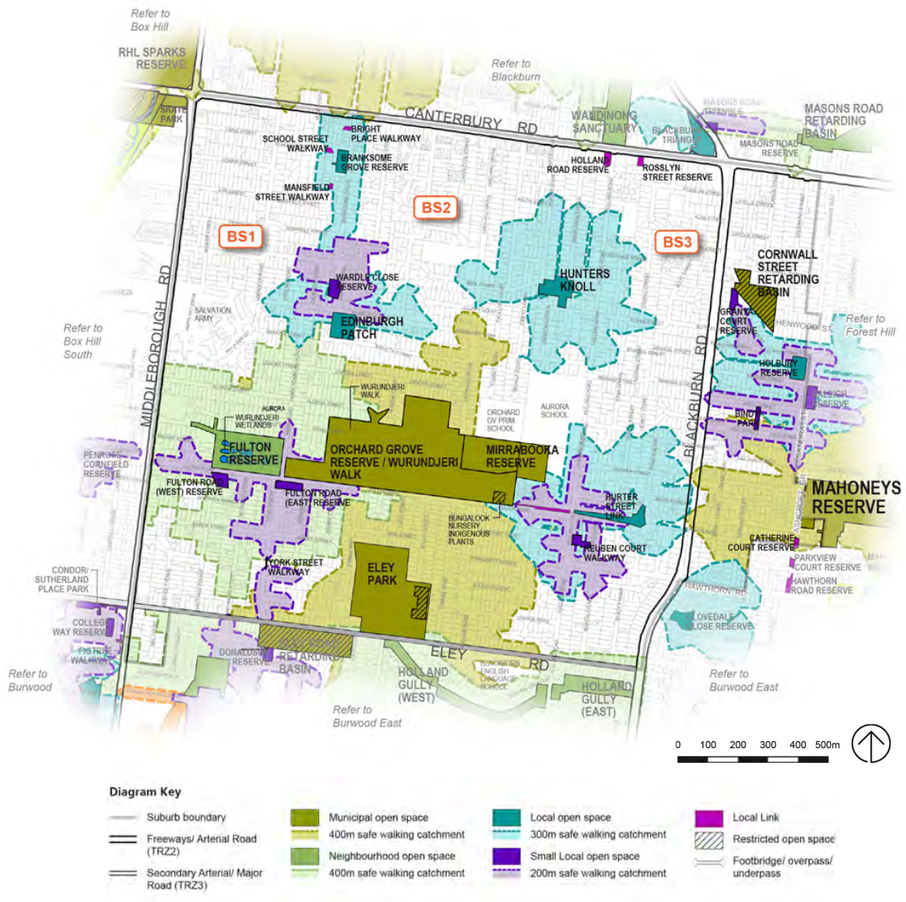
11,957

Blackburn South 2036 Population

Since 2006, there has been a shift toward medium and high-density housing. In 2006, 76% of residents lived in separate houses; by 2021, this dropped to 62%, while 28% lived in medium-density and 10% in high-density housing.

This demographic shift, with fewer children under 17 and a rising number of adults aged 18 to 84, is expected to increase demand for open spaces. As urban density increases and private outdoor areas decrease, the need for accessible public spaces becomes more critical.

Designing future open spaces should prioritise accessibility and facilities that cater to a wider age range, particularly for the older population. Research highlights the importance of physical fitness for all ages, especially the elderly, suggesting the inclusion of outdoor fitness equipment. There is potential for such facilities near existing aged care facilities in Blackburn South, addressing the needs of the older community effectively.



Whitehorse Open Space Strategy Blackburn South Gap Analysis

10.4 – ATTACHMENT 2. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report

2.0 Planning Context

2.1 Strategic Planning Policy and Strategic Context

2.2 Planning Control Zones

2.3 Planning Overlays

Bungalook Nursery northern boundary to Reserve

2.1 Strategic Planning Policy and Strategic Context

The Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan will be developed to align with the local policies of the Melbourne Planning Scheme, and high level strategic planning documents. Key information from these documents will be considered in the development of the Master Plan to ensure alignment with Council strategies and policies.

Whitehorse Arts and Culture Strategy

- Whitehorse has a rich history of arts and culture, stemming from the Australian Impressionist arts movement and its multi-cultural community.
- Focus on creating an environment where arts and culture can be supported, flourish and continue to evolve.
- The provision of infrastructure, services, and programs is important to support and enable participation in arts and culture. 19% of residents have participated in programs and classes at Council's neighbourhood or community centres.
- Community festivals and events have the highest attendance/participation rates in Whitehorse.
- Whitehorse has a shortfall for spaces that facilitate programs, classes, and meetings.
- Accessibility issues such as paths and lack of drop off facilities prevented people with disabilities or over 60s age groups participating in programs.
- Aim to continue to build links that support indigenous and multicultural heritage, and further development of interpretation and signage around the municipality.
- Resident feedback supports the continuing commission and installation of public and community artworks to improve and provide interest in public and open spaces.

Whitehorse Planning Scheme - Public Open Space Contribution

- Identifies the need for new developments to contribute to the provision of public open space.
- Public open space contributions from developers are a potential resource for the acquisition of land for public open space and the improvement of existing facilities.
- The western part of the municipality has more areas where some residents have to walk further to access local open space.
- Blackburn South has been identified as an area where developers are required to provide additional open space to meet population needs. Contributions are to be imposed at the subdivision stage, where land can be transferred to or vested in Council.

Whitehorse Climate Response Plan 2023-2030

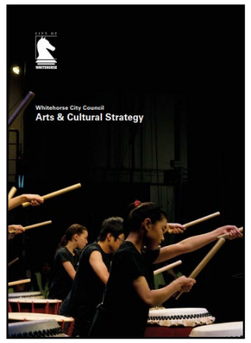
- Impacts from climate change are being felt across the Whitehorse community and are forecast to increase. Key impacts include:
  - Increased stormwater runoff and flash flooding,
  - Increased damage to buildings and infrastructure, leading to higher maintenance costs,
  - More heat-related deaths, particularly among the elderly and other vulnerable members of the community,
  - Loss of biodiversity due to decreased habitat quality and availability, and
  - Interruptions to supply chains and food production.
- Council declared a climate emergency on 12 September 2022, highlighting the urgent need for adaptation, mitigation, and systemic actions. These include:
  - Encourage supply chain to reduce emissions, giving preference to procurement of carbon neutral products and services.
  - Ensure infrastructure is resilient to climate change impacts and will be able to service its community during extreme weather and other emergency events.
  - Reduce energy use, and aim for zero carbon electricity.
  - Walk, cycle, rideshare or take public transport instead of driving.

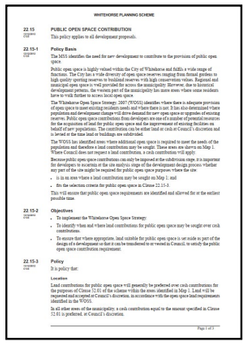
Whitehorse Disability Action Plan 2022-2025

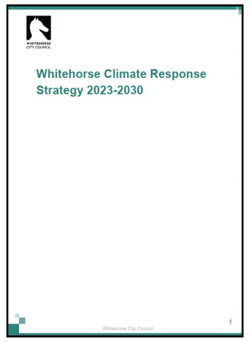
- People with disability continue to face multiple barriers to being included in all aspects of community life.
- A priority area for the Plan is to improve access to the built environment including footpaths, buildings, open spaces and play spaces. Actions under this priority include:
  - Increase the number of accessible car parks available in the municipality.
  - Increase accessibility of paths within parks and open spaces.
  - Increase the range of accessible equipment available in parks and play spaces.
  - Advocate for increased availability of Changing Places facilities and accessible toilets in the municipality.
- The Plan focuses on fostering the inclusion and participation of people with disability in the community by removing barriers experienced by people with disability.
- Follow Universal Design Principles to provide equitable use, flexibility in use, simple and intuitive, perceptible information, tolerance for error, low physical effort, size and space appropriate or use, and cultural appropriateness.

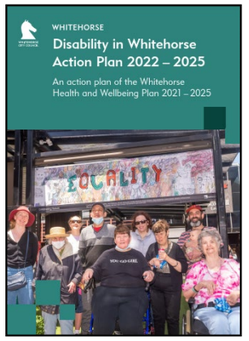
Whitehorse Open Space Strategy 2024

- The Strategy provides an overall framework for the future provision, planning, design and management of the public open space network for the next 15 years.
- Identifies where there is adequate provision of open space to meet existing residents needs and where there is not. Highlighting where population will drive demand for new open space or upgrades of existing Reserves.
- Orchard Grove and Mirrabooka Reserves are listed as Municipal Open Spaces. The role of this space is to provide facilities that the Whitehorse community will travel to including organised sport and recreation activities.
- Fulton Road is listed as a Neighbourhood Open Space, with the role to provide a diverse range of informal recreation facilities that appeal to the suburb.
- The strategy provides direction to improve the quality and diversity of facilities in open spaces that are within a safe and easy walk of everyone. It strives to protect and strengthen biodiversity values and to assist to mitigate urban heat island effect.
- A key priority is to prepare a Master Plan to guide the future upgrades to Wurundjeri Walk.
  - Integration of unstructured recreational use and access that complements structured sport including a circuit path that can be lit and connect into the broader path network through Wurundjeri Walk.
  - Upgrades to improve the picnic/BBQ/public toilet facilities adjacent to the playground and other works including ongoing revegetation of the waterway through the Reserve.
- Continue to maintain Fulton Reserve.











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Whitehorse Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025

- Identifies the work council will do to improve the health and well-being of people in Whitehorse. This is shaped by social justice, inclusivity, and sustainability.
- Top 5 priorities for action by 2025:
  - Mental wellbeing,
  - Physical activity,
  - Social and neighbourhood connection,
  - Social inclusion, and
  - Climate change mitigation.
- Strategies to promote health and well-being include:
  - Creating built environments and programs that enable the community to be active.
  - Ensure public spaces, recreation and play spaces are safe and accessible to all.
  - Promote participation in structured and unstructured physical activity.
  - Encourage physical activity and social interactions in the community including walking a dog, cycling, running and walking.
  - Ensure the urban realm and open spaces are conducive to the needs of the local community and businesses.
  - Support and promote intergenerational, intercultural and interfaith activities.
  - Embed the stories of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, new migrants, asylum seekers and international students within the narrative of Whitehorse.
  - Facilitate opportunities for people to socialise/ meet with others in their neighbourhood.
  - Open up and diversify use of Council spaces and facilities for multi-use.

Whitehorse Sporting Facilities Guide

- Sporting trends have reshaped the landscape.
- There are limited opportunities to develop new facilities across Whitehorse, requiring a collaborative approach with the sporting fraternity to manage growth and participation.
- Opportunities include:
  - Upgrade sports fields to optimise their use,
  - Increase floodlit training venues,
  - Retrofit pavilions,
  - Consider temporary facilities as required,
  - Support shared use of facilities,
  - Review programming opportunities including night competition, and
  - Identify opportunities to gain access to school facilities.

Whitehorse Gender Equality Action Plan 2022-2026

- Whitehorse is actively promoting gender equality in the broader Whitehorse community. Whitehorse values all genders and takes steps to reduce all forms of gender discrimination.

Whitehorse Cycling Strategy 2016

- Cycling for transport, sport or recreation plays an important role in supporting a healthy, vibrant, inclusive and diverse community.
- Whitehorse is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable environment for all.
- The Strategy aims to increase participation in cycling across the municipality.
  - Creating a connected network of attractive, safe and inviting low stress streets and paths.
  - Accessible to all.
  - Respects the needs of all users.
- An existing on-road cycle route runs along Blackburn Road, east of the Reserve.
- Wurundjeri Walk is identified as a low stress island, however, it is poorly connected and surrounded by high stress barriers of Middleborough Road and Blackburn Road.
  - A guiding principle of the Strategy is to link low stress islands with appropriate measures such as signalised crossing facilities.
  - Provide Easy Ride routes with appropriate treatments and wayfinding signage.

Whitehorse Integrated Transport Strategy 2011

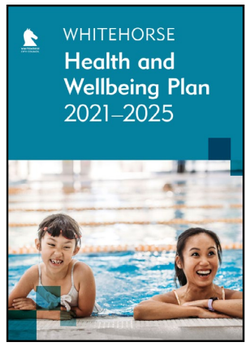
- Whitehorse is committed to ensuring that its community, and those who travel through the municipality, have access to transport options that are sustainable, convenient, accessible, safe and enhance the liveability of the city.
- Key strategy goals for Whitehorse are to:
  - Improve the links between transport modes for the efficient and convenient movement of people and goods.
  - Increase the use of sustainable transport modes that promote healthy lifestyles, such as walking and cycling.
  - Increase the safety of residents and commuters who travel within and through the municipality.
  - Promote economic development and social connectedness within the community.

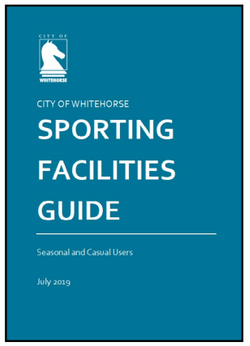
Whitehorse Integrated Water Management (IWM) Strategy 2022-2042

- Whitehorse is a resilient and thriving city, where water is valued as a precious resource and managed to support a healthy environment and prosperous communities.
- Acknowledgement that keeping some water in the landscape better supports green space, decreasing pollution resources.
  - Need to make the most of water sources like rainwater, stormwater and wastewater.
  - Need to reduce the negative impacts of stormwater and wastewater discharges on receiving waterways and bays.
- KooyongKoot (Gardiners Creek) is the largest catchment in Whitehorse. Seventy percent of the catchment is impervious generating significant stormwater flow.
- IWM opportunities include:
  - Water Sensitive Urban Design.
  - Large-scale stormwater harvesting systems for parks, sports fields and Reserves.
  - Targeted large-scale assets to improve waterway health and amenity.
  - Gross Pollutant Traps (GTPs) to reduce discharge of litter to waterways.
  - Point-source pollution investigation.

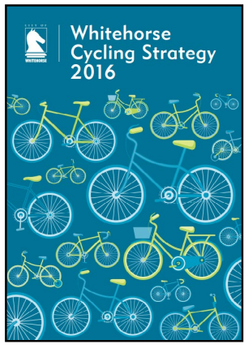
Whitehorse Biodiversity Strategy

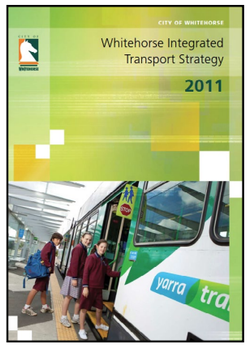
- Undertaking strategic vegetation management works that conserve and enhance biodiversity assets and urban habitat across community open space will provide the greatest single benefit to biodiversity within Whitehorse.
- Water management has been identified as of prime importance to biodiversity management. Riparian corridors provide opportunities for linkages across the municipality.
- Focus for management will be primarily on vegetation due to limited options available for fauna management in an urban context.
  - Underlying principle to not only improve vegetation, but to assist in habitat management an provision for fauna species.

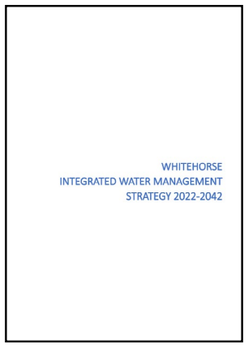












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- Missing habitat components within much of suburbia include: large old trees, hollow bearing trees, forests and woodland with a grassy understorey and clumps of shrubs, coarse woody debris, riparian corridors shading streams and aquatic habitats, wetlands, and large patches and connecting corridors.

Whitehorse Urban Forest Municipal Wide Tree Study

- There is an urgency to put appropriate controls into place to protect natural features to avoid further loss of the City's environmental assets.
- Whitehorse is renowned for its lush gardens, bushy character and tree-dominated vistas.
- Trees are an integral aspect of character within Whitehorse and are highly valued.

Whitehorse Urban Forest Strategy Action Plan 2021-2031

- Trees and vegetation make the municipality a vibrant place to live, work and visit.
- The urban forest is an essential element across private and public land.
- The strategy aims to protect, enhance and connect Whitehorse's natural assets, including trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses, soil and water.
- Council has targets to:
  - Increase canopy cover to 27% by 2031, and 30% by 2050.
  - Improve connectivity for both biodiversity and active modes of transport.
  - Plant a range of indigenous species including trees, shrubs, grasses and groundcovers to improve habitat and connectivity within public open space.
- Opportunity to provide a connection between Wurundjeri Walk, Gardiners Creek Trail, and Mahoneys Reserve.

Whitehorse 2040 Community Vision

- Whitehorse is a resilient community where everyone belongs.
- The city is made up of active citizens who value their natural environment, history and diversity, embrace sustainability and innovation, are dynamic, and learn, grow and thrive.
- A key priority of the community is for focus on understanding and celebrating First Nations Peoples, and removing barriers for access.
- Facilitate opportunities for the community to interact and immerse with natural and built environments.

Whitehorse Play Space Strategy 2011

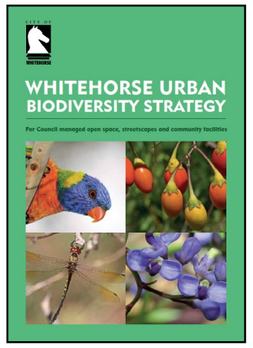
- Play is vital for a child's social, emotional and physical development. These spaces provide not only play opportunities but are important social meeting places which contribute more broadly to community wellbeing.
- The Strategy considers the international trend away from a dependence on modular play equipment towards spaces which incorporate play in a more natural environment.
- The Whitehorse community highly value its environment and where there are significant areas of bushland and linear parks that enhance play opportunities.
- The Strategy identifies opportunities to improve the Whitehorse play space network:
  - A need for play spaces and associated facilities to be designed and maintained to encourage use by children of all abilities.
  - Co-location of junior and senior play spaces to facilitate improved supervision.
  - Opportunities for children to experience stimulating, fun and, where appropriate, risk-taking challenges.
  - Opportunities to encourage interaction with the natural environment.

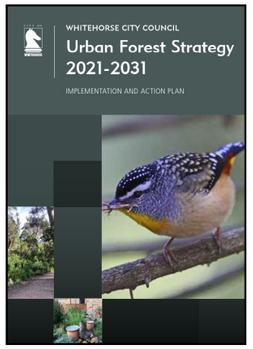
Whitehorse Recreation Strategy 2015-2024

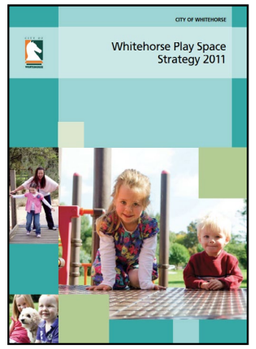
- Council is committed to the long-term planning for recreation and sport. This will ensure that facilities and services are provided in consideration of current needs, as well as emerging trends.
- Four themes emerged: active communities, effective information and communication, flexible community facilities, and deliverable partnerships.
- Council assets include more than 335 parks and Reserves, over 50 sports fields, over 150 community centres and buildings, 1300km of footpaths and trails, 170 play spaces and over 50 schools.
- Footpaths, roads and sport facilities play an important role in encouraging people to be active.
- There is also a requirement to support physical activities that do not require membership of a sporting club or have the constraints associated with playing team sport.
  - Support unstructured physical activities that assist residents to lead a healthy lifestyle through physical activity.
- Eight key principles to guide planning of recreation services and facilities:
  - Different needs
  - A range of opportunities
  - Addressing recreation and sport priorities
  - Integration and design of urban infrastructure
  - Universal design
  - Partnerships
  - Facilities
  - The natural environment

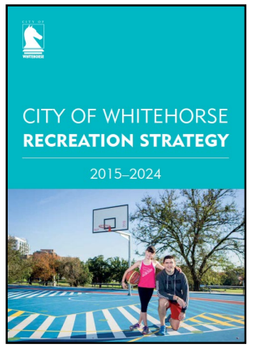
Wildlife habitat connectivity across the WCC

- Lists species recorded in Whitehorse in taxonomic groups: amphibians, arachnids, birds, fungi, insects, mammals, other invertebrates, plants, and reptiles.
- Wurundjeri Walk had a medium total species richness of 1-150 species (calculated across three 500m x 500m cells).
- Wurundjeri Walk is identified as a main habitat connectivity corridor in Whitehorse, council have ambitions to enhance habitat for native species.
  - Assist small birds living in Whitehorse that use native tree canopies for foraging.
  - Increase the density of trees on open green spaces and restore riparian vegetation to improve habitat connectivity for the Brown Goshawk (*Accipiter fasciatus*).
  - Plant Eucalyptus trees to improve habitat connectivity for the Spotted Pardalote (*Pardalotus punctatus*).
  - Restore habitat for the Eastern Yellow Robin (*Eopsaltria australis*) and Sugar Glider (*Petaurus breviceps*).
  - Reduce night time lights and habitat restoration for the Little Forest Bat (*Vespadelus vulturnus*), as the site is a buffer.
  - Maintain wetland and drainage lines to support the Eastern Long-necked Turtle (*Chelodina longicollis*) and Pobblebonk (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*).
  - Plant indigenous host plants to improve habitat connectivity for the Blue-banded Bees (*Amegilla asserta) and (Amegilla chlorocyanea).*
  - Plant *Acacia* sp. to support the Common Imperial Blue (*Jalmenus evagoras*).











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2.2 Planning Control Zones

Wurundjeri Walk is located within three zones under the Melbourne Planning Scheme. The Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ), Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ), and Public Use Zone (PUZ2).

The PPRZ is designated for public parks and recreational areas. It aims to recognise, protect, and conserve areas intended for public open space and recreation. The PPRZ also allows for certain commercial uses where appropriate.

The PCRZ has the purpose of protecting and conserving the natural environment and natural processes for their historic, scientific, landscape, habitat or cultural values.

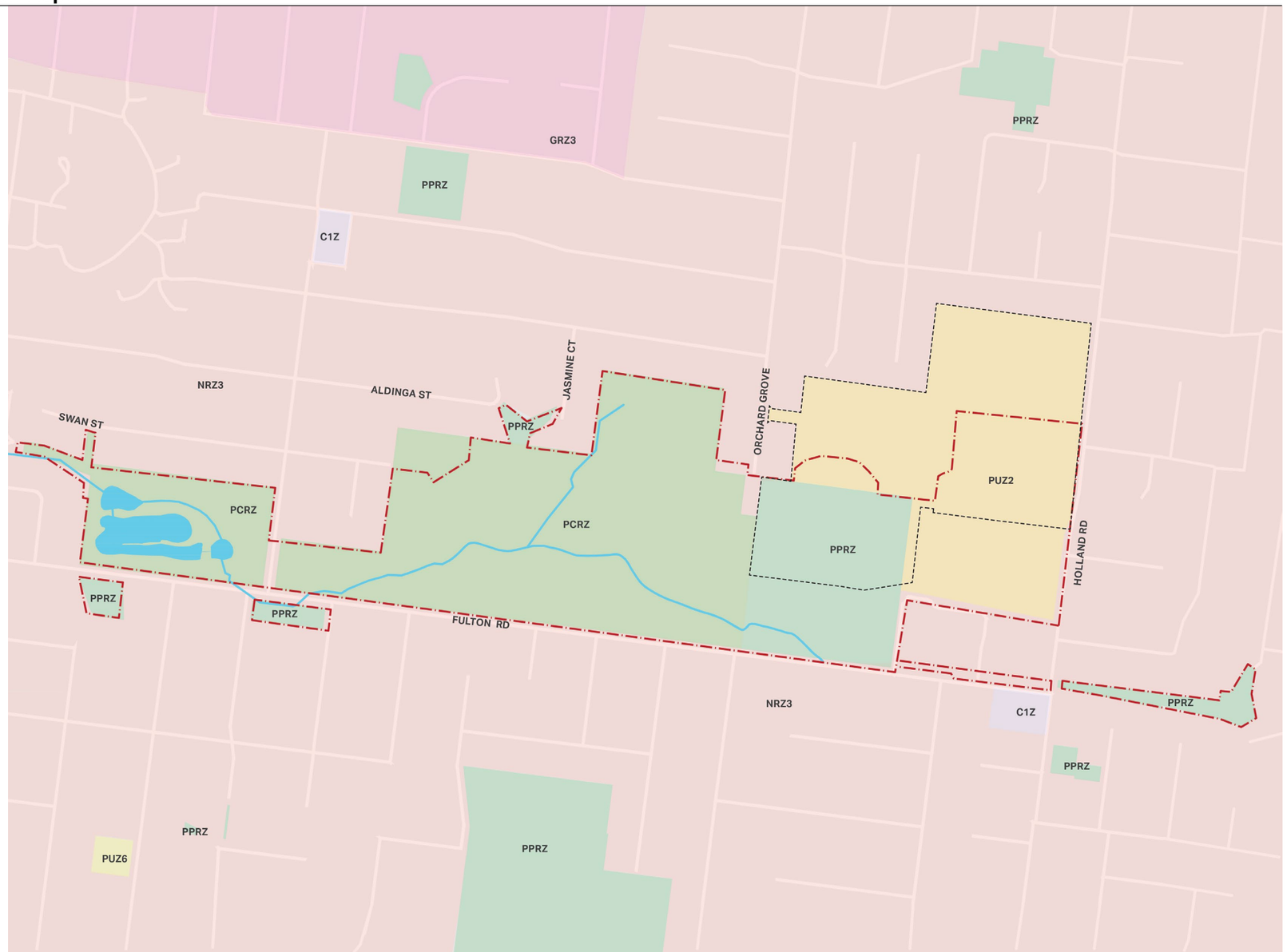
The PUZ2 applies to land used for education faculties and services, it applies to the portion of the Reserve that is managed by the Department of Education.

Surrounding Zones

The land surrounding Wurundjeri Walk contains a diverse range of zones, such as:

- Public Use Zone (PUZ2 & 6): Areas designated for public infrastructure and services.
- General Residential Zone 1 (GRZ3): Areas planned for residential development with a focus on maintaining local garden suburban character.
- Neighbourhood Residential Zone 3 (NZR3): Zones designated to protect and enhance the character of low-density residential areas.
- Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ).
- Commercial Zone 1 (CRZ1): Encourages a mix of predominantly commercial land uses that contribute to a diverse and active character.

These zoning classifications reflect the varies land uses and planning objectives in the vicinity of Wurundjeri Walk, balancing public open space, residential development, and education facilities.



Key

- Project Boundary
- Department of Education Ownership Boundary
- Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ)
- Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)
- Neighbourhood Residential Zone - Schedule 3 (NRZ3)
- Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z)
- Public Use Zone (PUZ2 & 6)

NORTH

NTS

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2.3 Planning Overlays

Wurundjeri Walk is subject to the following overlays under the Melbourne Planning Scheme:

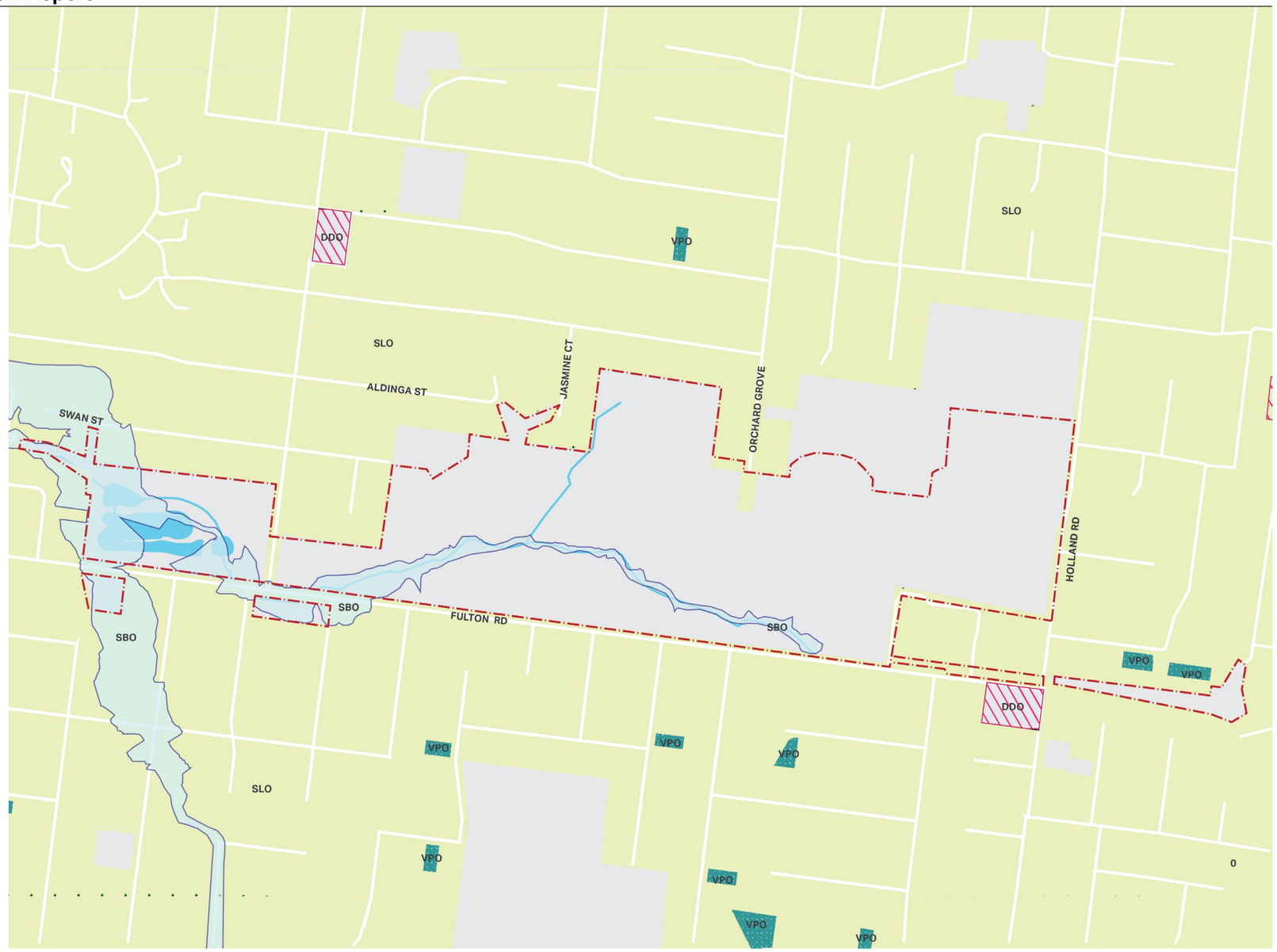
- Special Building Overlay (SBO): this identifies land liable to inundation by overland flows from the urban drainage system. The overlay ensures that development maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwaters, minimises flood damage, is compatible with the flood hazard and local drainage conditions and will not cause any significant rise in flood level or flow velocity.
- Development Contributions Plan Overlay (DCPO): requires a levy payment from developers to fund local infrastructure that services the needs of a changing population and local economy.

Surrounding overlays

Additional overlays which interface with Wurundjeri Walk include:

- Design and Development Overlay (DDO) : provides guidelines for the design and development of land to ensure that new developments are compatible with the surrounding area.
- Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO): aims to protect and enhance landscapes, including important visual and environmental features. It regulates development to ensure that is does not detract from the visual amenity or ecological value of the landscape.
- Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO): protects areas of significant vegetation, preserves existing trees and vegetation, and seeks to minimise loss of vegetation. It recognises vegetation that is of special significance, natural beauty, interest and importance.

These overlays collectively aim to manage environmental impacts, guide development, and protect cultural heritage and significant landscapes in and around Wurundjeri Walk.



Key

- Project boundary
- Vegetation Protection Overlay - VPO
- Overlay - DDO
- Special Building Overlay - SBO
- Significant Landscape Overlay - SLO
- Development Contributions Plan Overlay - DCPO

NORTH

1:2000

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3.0 Heritage

3.1 Story Telling Timeline

3.2 Non-Indigenous Heritage

Wurundjeri Walk pedestrian path and vegetation

3.1 Story Telling and Timeline

Wurundjeri Walk and the adjacent waterways connecting into Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) are integral parts of a significant cultural landscape, located on Wurundjeri Country. The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people's relationship with the land extends back thousands of years. The landscape and waterways are central to indigenous land management and cultural practices.

Following European settlement, in the late 1830s farms were established along Koonung Creek and Gardiners Creek. Following the discovery of gold in Warrandyte, land division and ownership grew in the Nunawading area. Many groups and individuals have played roles in the stewardship and development of Wurundjeri Walk. Recognising these contributions provides a fuller contextual understanding of the place.

The following timeline highlights a number of events that have influenced and shaped the region, activities of significance for First Nations People and milestones related to the Wurundjeri Walk.

65,000 BCE The earliest proposed human habitation of continental Australia.

For time immemorial the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people have cared for this Country. Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) was a significant waterway for First Nations people of the Kulin Nation. The area is integrated into their cultural landscape, with significant spiritual and practical connections to the waterways and surrounding environment.

1835 The first European settlers arrive in the Melbourne region.

1840s European colonists establish grazing and agricultural activities in the area, leading to changes in land use and disruption of Indigenous practices.

Orchard Road was named after a lemon orchard, there were many other fruit orchards in the area.

1851 Gold discovery in Victoria led to rapid growth in Melbourne spurring development of many manufacturing industries and the establishment of more farms to grow produce to feed the population.

1860s The area that is now Blackburn South began to be settled as part of the broader expansion of Melbourne's eastern suburbs. Fruit orchards and surrounding paddocks were replaced by family houses.

1882 Camberwell to Lilydale railway line extension stimulated a wave of subdivision which characterised much of the municipality.

1890s The Blackburn area began to see more residential development. By this time, it was becoming increasingly recognised as a desirable location for suburban living and described as a 'rising township'.

1969 The reservation for Healesville Freeway was incorporated into the Metropolitan Transport Plan extending from Riversdale Road to Healesville. Also referred to as the 'F9' or the 'F9 East', at the time it would have become Melbourne's longest freeway at 18km in length.

1984 Victoria State Government removes the Healesville Freeway road reservation through Blackburn South and Forest Hill.

1986 Development Advisory Committee set up to aid in planning the 20-hectare park. Local community groups advocate for retention of the land as a linear park with objective to improve the natural environment in an area of the city devoid of public open space.

1988 The first major community planting activity occurred with local residents planting more than 1000 trees and shrubs on Fulton Reserve.

1990 Nunawading Council made a firm commitment to purchase the land for parkland and open space.

1992 Site was officially named Wurundjeri Walk.

1994 The WCC was proclaimed following the amalgamation of the former cities of Box Hill and Nunawading.

2001 Completion of Wurundjeri Wetlands, enhancing recreational values and habitat for water birds.

2008 Raingarden wetland feature added near the corner of Fulton Road and Samuel Road to treat local storm water with wetland plants.

2014-23 Improvements to Fulton Road Drain and tributaries including stabilisation and planting, a new footbridge at Samuel Road, and new play space at Orchard Grove.

2024 Pavilion redevelopment underway to modernise the facility, improve amenities, and enhance its functionality for community use, including sports and recreational activities.

Master Plan for Wurundjeri Walk under development to guide future improvements to enhance green spaces, provide additional recreational facilities, and improve accessibility and environmental sustainability. Community and stakeholder consultation carried out to ensure the plan reflects the needs and preferences of users.

10.4 – ATTACHMENT 2. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report

3.2 Indigenous Heritage

Wurundjeri Walk holds cultural significance as part of the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, who have maintained a connection to this area for thousands of years. The Reserve's natural features, including the drainage corridor, are deeply embedded in the cultural practices and stories of the Wurundjeri people.

The wetland and surrounding landscape is part of a broader cultural heritage sensitivity overlay, recognising the site for the role it played in traditional practices and stories. These areas are often associated with important Indigenous practices such as fishing, ceremonial activities, and travel routes. The Cultural Heritage Sensitivity Overlay ensures that any development or activity within these sensitive zones respects and preserves the heritage values, integrating traditional knowledge into land management practices. This overlay aims to protect these culturally significant landscapes from adverse impacts while fostering greater awareness and respect for the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung's enduring connection to their ancestral lands.

Protecting this heritage involves recognising and respecting the spiritual and historical importance of these lands. Efforts to incorporate Indigenous perspectives into the Reserve's management and planning ensure that the cultural values and traditional knowledge of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung are honoured and preserved.



Key

- Project Boundary
- Areas of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity (200m offset from waterway)

NORTH

NTS

3.3 Non-Indigenous Heritage

Wurundjeri Walk is a significant natural area that reflects the rich history and cultural heritage of the region. Established in the late 1980s as an open space the site provides an educational pathway, with Wurundjeri Walk paying homage to the Wurundjeri people, the traditional custodians of the land. With strong community and activation during the 1990s, the reserve has been transformed to a vital recreational space.

With the establishment of schools and increased residential development, sport fields were established in the eastern precinct. The area has developed into a hub for local sports groups, including soccer and cricket clubs, providing facilities such as playing fields and a pavilion.

Throughout the 2000s, additional amenities such as playgrounds and picnic areas have been included, serving as gathering spot for families and community events. Enhancements to the Reserve include interpretive signage that highlights their cultural heritage, flora, and fauna. It serves to raise awareness of Indigenous history and promotes the importance of preserving natural environments. A wetland was constructed in 2001 with the aim of improving storm water quality.

In recent years the Reserve has continued to evolve with the redevelopment of the pavilion planned to occur in 2025. This will improve facilities to better support the needs of local sports teams, including the cricket and soccer club, and enhanced overall user experience.



1987 Aerial of Reserve



1992 Opening of Wurundjeri Walk



1997 BMX Track at Fulton Reserve



1980s open space of Freeway Reserve



1993 Orchard Grove Reserve South



1998 Fulton Reserve



1988 First community planting day



1995 Infill Orchard Planting by Primary School students



2001 Wetland Construction

10.4 – ATTACHMENT 2. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report

4.0 Site Analysis

4.1 Existing Conditions

4.2 Topography and Geology

4.3 Ecology

4.4 Access and Circulation

4.5 Edge Conditions

4.6 Existing Landscape Features

4.7 Materiality

Wurundjeri Wetlands looking north

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4.1 Existing Conditions

Wurundjeri Walk is a well-established open space located in Blackburn South, providing a range of recreational facilities and green spaces for the local community. The site encompasses four reserves to form a significant linear park of 25 hectares. To the east of the site, Mirrabooka Reserve includes four sports fields. The South Oval provides two soccer pitches and a cricket oval, and is the only field with flood lights. West of this are three lanes of cricket nets and a junior size soccer pitch, and further west is an oval with AFL and cricket amenities located on Department of Education Land. The Department also manages the North Oval, which provides a cricket pitch and two soccer pitches. A pavilion is located in the centre of Mirrabooka Reserve, it is currently under redevelopment, with the new facility to provide a community space that will look out across the South Oval. Mirrabooka Reserve is served by three car parks: a public car park to the west of the pavilion, the Orchard Grove Primary School car park to the north, and the Aurora School car park along Holland Road. Both school car parks have boom gates that restrict public access during school hours.

Central to the site, Orchard Grove Reserve serves as an important event space for local Council events. It features extensive open areas and a naturalistic creek environment to the south, providing ample space for casual recreation and relaxation. Walking paths along the Fulton Road Drain and across the Reserve offer connectivity and promote active lifestyles.

The Wurundjeri Wetlands to the west treat water from Fulton Road Drain before it enters Gardiners Creek further west. The constructed wetlands also provide habitat for native species.

A Council owned and volunteer operated Nursery operates in the south-east corner of the site providing local native plants to the community. There are two playgrounds within the site and two located north of Mirrabooka Reserve at Orchard Grove Primary School.



Key

- Project boundary
- Tree Canopy
- Dense Tree Canopy
- Paths
- Carpark

NORTH

NTS

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4.2 Topography and Geology

The Reserve features a diverse topography characterised by gently undulating land, with elevations gradually rising toward the northeast. The landscape is primarily flat, making it accessible for recreational activities, but it includes slight variations that create interest in the terrain, particularly along the Fulton Road Drain.

The underlying geology of the Reserve is predominantly composed of Quaternary sediments, which consist of clay, silt, and sandy soils. These sediments are a result of historical riverine and alluvial processes, contributing to the area's fertility and supporting diverse vegetation.

The site is also influenced by quaternary alluvium, which runs across the Reserve. Alluvial sediments are located further north west of the reserve. Quaternary alluvium is indicative of the area's drainage patterns and contributes to the hydrology of the region, affecting soil moisture levels and vegetation types. Meanwhile, Alluvial sediments represent a distinct geological formation that may include different soil types and drainage characteristics, influencing local ecosystems and habitat diversity.



Key

- Project boundary
- Contour Major
- Contour
- Qa1 (quaternary alluvium)
- Sxa (alluvial sediments)

NORTH

NTS

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4.3 Ecology

Wurundjeri Walk features a range of vegetation that supports its varied recreational and natural areas. The eastern open spaces are turf, designed to accommodate active recreational uses. West of these areas native and indigenous plants, such as eucalypts and wattles, are prominent, reflecting the region's natural flora and providing habitat for local wildlife.

Wurundjeri Walk encompasses two former Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs):

- EVC 83 – 'Swampy Riparian Woodland': This vegetation community is typically found near water sources, featuring a mix of tall trees and a dense understorey of shrubs and grasses. Swampy riparian woodlands provide essential habitat for a variety of wildlife, including birds, amphibians, and insects. The presence of this EVC helps stabilise soil along waterways, regulate water temperature, and filter pollutants, contributing to the overall health of the aquatic ecosystem.
- EVC 127 – 'Valley Heathy Forest': Characterised by a mix of eucalyptus trees and a diverse understorey of heathland plants, Valley Heathy Forest thrives in the well-drained soils of the reserve. This community supports a range of flora and fauna, providing habitat for numerous bird species, small mammals, and pollinators. The understorey often includes native shrubs and wildflowers, enhancing the ecological richness of the area.

The mid and understorey vegetation is relatively sparse in most areas, allowing clear views through the greenery. However, in areas along Fulton Road Drain, there is a greater density of mid and understorey vegetation, reflecting the richer riparian environment. All existing and new plantings are composed of locally indigenous species, reinforcing the ecological integrity of the site.

To support habitat creation, felled branches and trunks are left on-site, providing crucial resources for local wildlife, while organic mulch is spread throughout planting islands to promote soil health and plant growth.



Key

	Project boundary
	Swampy Riparian Wodland EVC 83
	Valley Healthy Forest EVC 1
	Tree Canopy
	Dense Tree Canopy

NORTH

NTS

10.4 – ATTACHMENT 2. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report

4.4 Access and Circulation

Wurundjeri Walk can be accessed by pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles. Vehicle access is along Fulton Road, with parking along the northern verge,. An off-street carpark is located within the Reserve between Orchard Grove Primary School and the sports fields. A concrete path provides access from Holland Road to the sports fields and pavilion. A network of gravel footpaths and trails run through the Reserve, providing pedestrian and cyclist access, particularly east to west, with a wooden footbridge providing access over Fulton Road Drain north of Harrow Street. These paths align with the Reserve's park-like character, and are well-maintained to support safe and enjoyable walking experiences. The sports fields are not well connected to the wider Reserve, requiring users to cross grass that can experience water logging.

A number of pedestrian access points are located around the Reserve that enhance connectivity and make it easier for people to enjoy the area.



Key

- Project boundary
- Vehicle access
- Pedestrian access
- Pedestrian bridge
- Gravel path
- Concrete path
- Bitumen path

NORTH

NTS

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4.5 Edge Conditions

In certain sections of the Reserve, particularly where it is bordered by residential properties, the edges are more enclosed, predominantly featuring wooden fences. This design choice provides privacy for the adjacent homes while maintaining a defined boundary for the Reserve.

Conversely, other sections of the Reserve boast open edges with more expansive views. These areas are typically found along road interfaces, where the vistas extend to open landscapes. This openness not only enhances the aesthetic appeal but also improves passive surveillance, contributing to a safer environment. A low chain mesh fence along Holland Road provides open views into the reserve, while providing a safety barrier to prevent school children and sports groups entering the road.

The juxtaposition of these edge conditions creates a harmonious balance between the Reserve's ecological functions and its recreational uses. The enclosed sections support habitat conservation by providing undisturbed areas for wildlife, while the open sections encourage community engagement by offering inviting spaces for visitors to enjoy the natural scenery.



Key

- Project boundary
- Open - Road Interface
- Closed - End of road interface
- Open - Fence interface
- Closed - Residential fence interface
- Closed - Building interface

NORTH

NTS

10.4 – ATTACHMENT 2. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report

4.6 Existing Landscape Features

The landscape across the Reserve changes from a constructed wetland, to a naturalistic creek line, through to open grass space with facilities for organised sport.



Key

Project boundary

1 View point

NORTH

NTS

SITE ANALYSIS 26

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1 View north east across Wurundjeri Wetlands



4 Looking west towards Wurundjeri Wetlands



7 Indra Road Playground



10 Gravel path adjacent to Fulton Road



2 Orchard Grove Reserve Playground



5 Fulton Road Drain



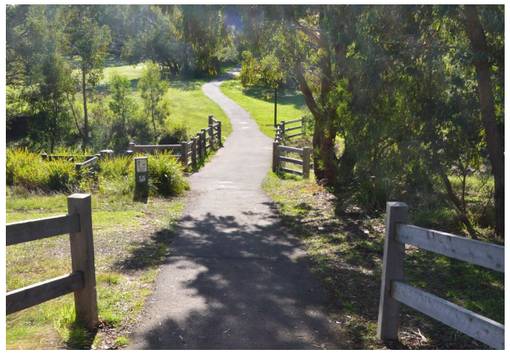
8 Bridge over Fulton Road Drain



11 Looking east across Wurundjeri Wetlands



3 Looking east towards sports field and cricket nets



6 Orchard Grove north-south path



9 Looking west towards Orchard Grove Reserve



12 Path with dense tree and mid-storey planting

4.7 Materiality

The Reserve features a mix of materials that are recessive and respond to the natural environment. The elements create a familiar identity across the site with materials around the pavilion and sports oval reflecting the local site conditions and character.



Galvanised Stainless Steel Stormwater Fence and Gates



Timber Community Noticeboard



Wayfinding signage



Timber Park Bench with no backrests



Timber Park Bench



Gravel footpath



Concrete path



Timber fence



Timber bollard fence



Indra Road Playground equipment



Bluestone rocks in Fulton Road Drain

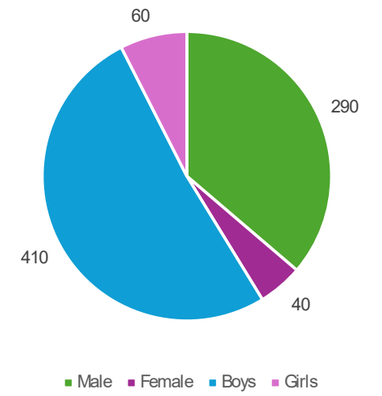
4.8 Site User Profile

In 2024, the Reserve was used by four different clubs for organised sport throughout the year. These include:

- Blackburn New Hope Football Club
- Blackburn South Cricket Club
- Mont Albert Cricket Club
- Laburnum Cricket Club

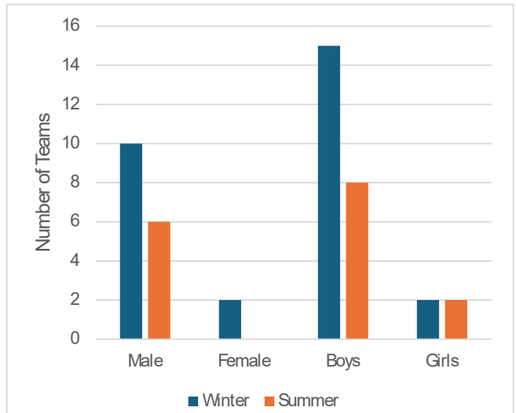
These clubs all use the South Field for a mix of training sessions and competition matches. Football activities are predominantly scheduled over winter months, while cricket takes centre stage over summer.

Across all participating clubs, there are approximately 800 players actively using the Reserve for organised sport. Approximately 12.5% of these players are female or girls, reflecting the growing participation of women in sports and the commitment of local clubs to promote inclusivity and build their female participation.



Gender proportion of players at Mirrabooka Reserve

There are a total of 46 teams that use the Reserve, which underscores the role that the South Field plays in providing a crucial venue for both competitive and recreational sports in Whitehorse.



Gender proportion of sport teams at Mirrabooka Reserve



Blackburn New Hope Football Club



Blackburn New Hope Football Club



Blackburn South Cricket Club

10.4 – ATTACHMENT 2. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report

5.0 Consultation

5.1 Community Consultation

5.2 Stakeholder Consultation

Looking west towards Orchard Grove Reserve

5.1 Community Consultation Background Information

The 1st round of engagement occurred between March 2024 and May 2024. There were two online surveys, one asked the community about the redevelopment of the Mirrabooka Pavilion, and the other focused on the Master Plan for the whole Wurundjeri Walk site. A community pop-up session was held at the Mirrabooka Reserve on the 20th of April.



Description



Description

5.2 Respondent Profile

Respondent key findings

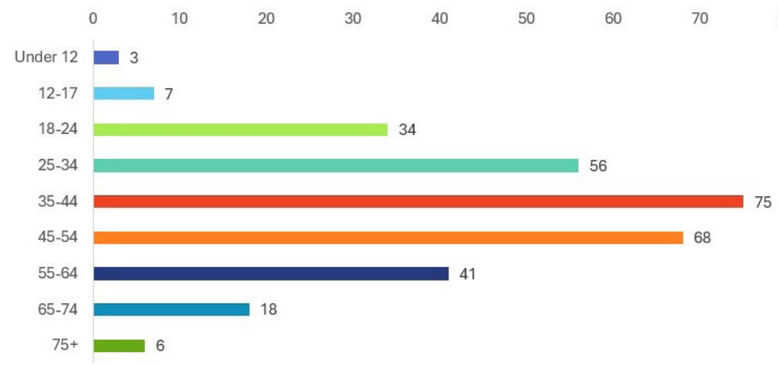
- Respondents between 35-44 made up a large proportion of responses (75 respondents). Only a small proportion of responses were from those between 65-74 (18 respondents) and 75+ (6 respondents).
- An almost even spread of responses were from females (155 respondents) and males (149). 3 respondents identified as non-binary and 7 preferred not to state their gender.
- 51 suburbs were reported in the catchment of respondents. Majority of respondents lived in Blackburn South (147 respondents) , followed by Blackburn (23 respondents) and Burwood East (18 respondents).
- 281 respondents were from an English speaking background. The highest number of respondents speaking languages other than English at home were Mandarin (9 respondents) or Cantonese (3 respondents).
- The Reserve users represent a diverse range of backgrounds, 232 being in born in Australia, 9 in China, India and the United Kingdom, 7 in the USA and 5 in Hong Kong as well as various other places.
- Of the 311 respondents, 17 described themselves as a person with a disability of impairment and 5 as being an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. 34 respondents described themselves as a person with a non-English speaking background.

Catchments of travel key findings

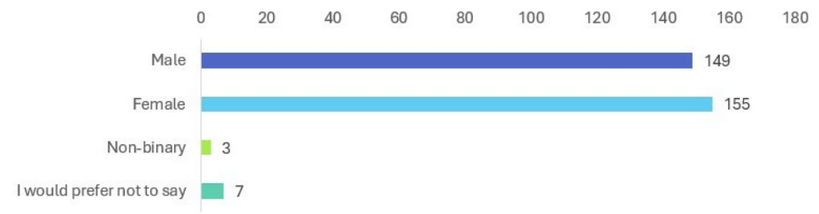
- Driving and walking to the Reserve were the top catchments of travel, 153 people drove, 128 people walked. Only 3 people caught public transport to the reserve. 13 respondents specified cycling as their mode of travel.
- 49% of respondents who drive to the park travelled less than 5km. 42% drove between 5-15km and 9% more than 15km.
- Of those who walked to the Reserve, 50% walked up to 5 minutes (or up to 400m)
- Jog/running had 17 respondents specifying that catchment of travel to the Reserve, 41% jogged/ran up to 5 minutes (or up to 800m).

49% of respondents drove to the Reserve, 41% walked

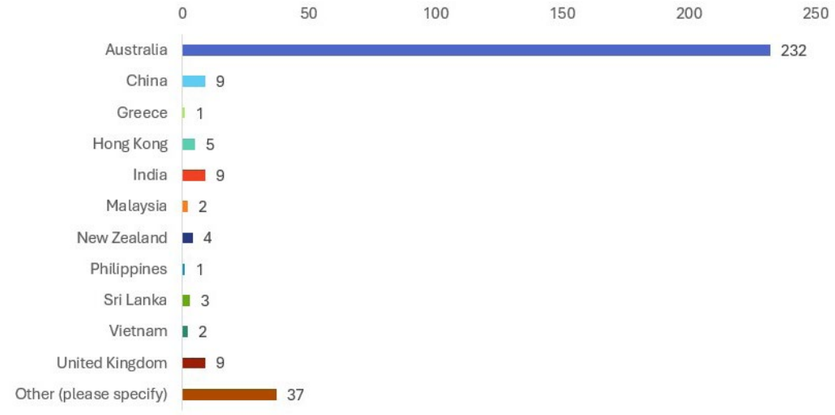
Age



Gender



Place of birth



5.3 Current Use

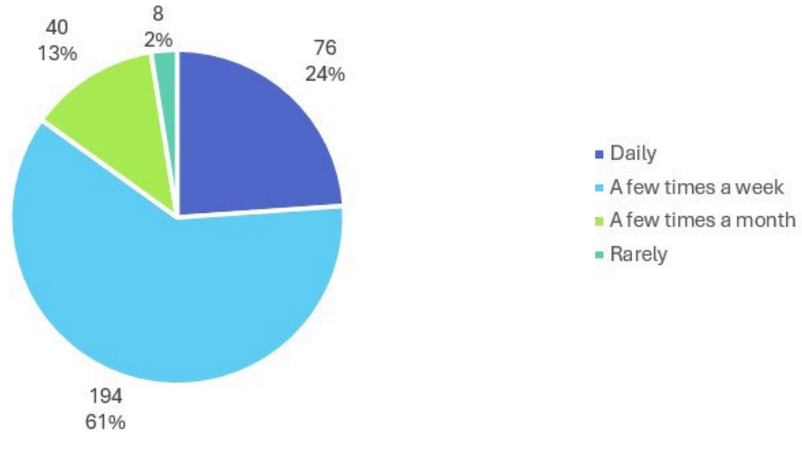
Current use key findings

- A large proportion of respondents (61%) specified that they use the Reserve a few times a week and 24% use the Reserve daily.
- Walking (197 responses) had the highest number of responses for the current park uses followed by sport (176 responses) and enjoying nature and green space (169 responses). Other top responses included play, meeting with friends and families and visiting wetlands.
- 187 respondents reported spending an hour or two at the Reserve during a typical visit and 86 respondents specified to stay more than two hours. 41 respondents stayed at the Reserve for less than 30 minutes.
- Weekend daytime was the most popular period of time the Reserve is visited (261 responses), followed by weekday evenings (205 responses).

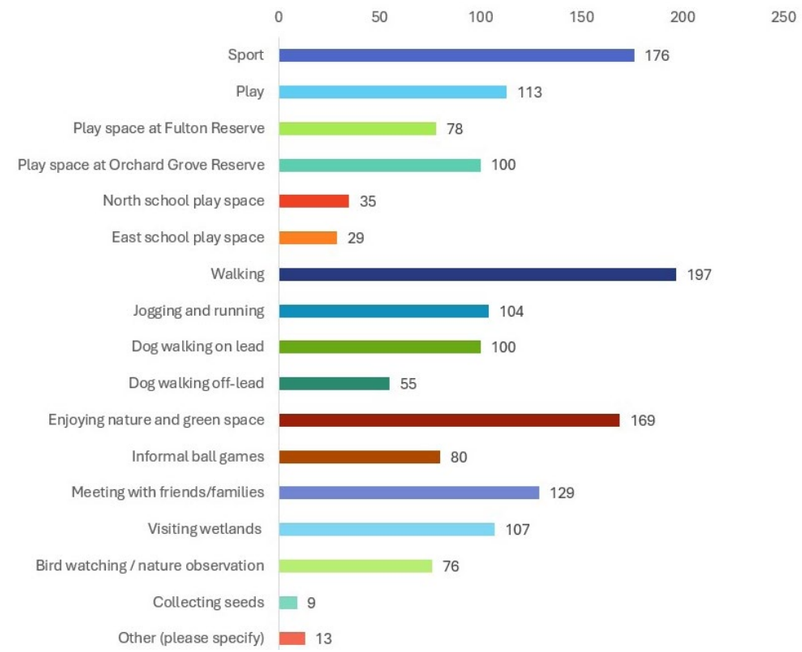
Top three current Reserve uses include walking, enjoying nature and green spaces and sport

A large proportion of users visited the Reserve multiple times per week

How often do you visit the Reserve?



How do you use the Reserve?



5.4 Future Use

Other comments

- Dog off-leash area: Requests for a designated space for an off-lead dog area (16 respondents). Some concern for safety around the dog off-lead area (3 respondents).
- Sporting grounds and facilities: Calls for sporting surfaces to be upgraded and maintained (19 respondents) and additional lighting (17 respondents).
- Play and fitness space: Many responses requested an increased amount of play space and types of activities for different age groups. (5 respondents)
- Increased biodiversity, planting and wildlife consideration: Concern for trees being removed when new developments arise. (6 respondents)
- Access, amenity and equity: Calls for improved and increased accessibility for parking, playgrounds and overall reserve (3 respondents). Request for an increased number of seating, shelter and BBQ facilities (8 respondents).

Q: What improvements would encourage you to visit the Reserve more often? (other)

"Varied play equipment for kids such as water play or a flying fox would be good. Outdoor fitness equipment/ sport facilities e.g. basketball hoop/half court, bouldering wall, calisthenics/bodyweight gym equipment like pull up bars etc."

"Bouldering wall would be superb for the older kids. Most of the play equipment is for younger kids."

"Better quality soccer pitch and facilities"

"Better quality of sports areas for winter sports, such as even playing surfaces and winter grass. "

"Orchard grove needs play equipment for younger children. It's mostly too advanced for toddlers."

"Dedicated, large off lead area for dogs. It doesn't have to be enclosed necessarily, but we are part of a community who get together occasionally to let our dogs play and we face a fair amount of discrimination from others due to there not being rules around it. We are probably some of the biggest users of the space and take a lot of pride and enjoyment in being able to be in the parks with our dogs and families. Additional lighting in the area for post-work winter dog walking would be amazing and maybe some seating as well."

Park safety key findings

- 224 respondents said they felt safe in the Reserve, 85 felt somewhat safe and 4 did not feel safe.
- Majority of responses to improve safety within the Reserve were to provide more lighting (55 respondents). Other suggestions for improving safety were to increase passive surveillance (11 respondents). Management of Dogs off-lead (6 respondents) and fixing of uneven surfaces to reduce injuries (6 respondents) were some other suggestions.

Q: Do you have any suggestions to improve the sense of safety in the Reserve?

"Needs more lighting around the path especially during winter when it's darker earlier in the evening and later in the morning. These lights should be on timers to go off at 10pm and on at 6am."

"Additional lighting would be great - there are often events of vandalism or antisocial behaviour at night"

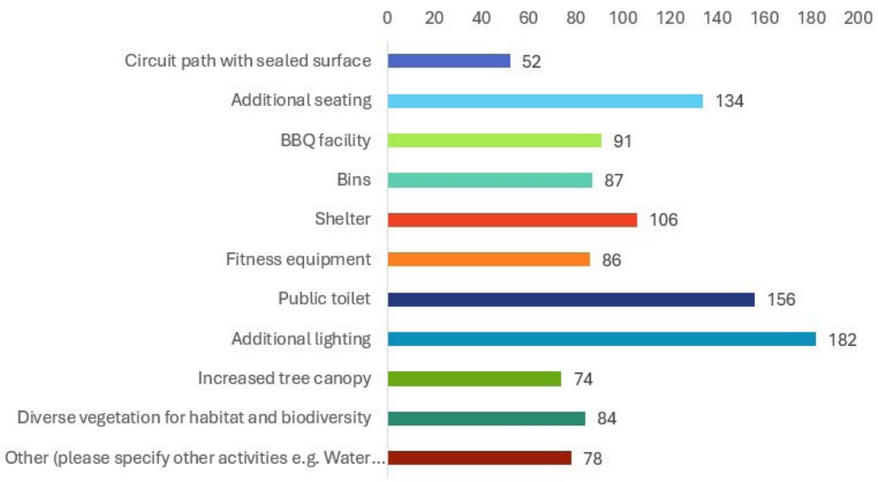
"Path lighting throughout Orchard Grove reserve would make a huge impact to individuals and families feeling safe. Especially coming into winter months. "

"Additional lighting on paths for walkers. More policing of off lead dogs."

"Additional lighting for the soccer grounds. Ground surface to be improved to prevent injuries."

"Enforce on leash zone. Many owners allow dogs off and the are usually poorly controlled. It's why we don't come to the park very often."

What improvements would encourage you to visit the Reserve more often?



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5.5 Stakeholder Consultation

Engagement sessions were held with key stakeholders in August and September 2024. The following groups were invited to participate:

- Peak Sporting Bodies
  - AFL Victoria
  - Football Victoria
  - Cricket Victoria
  - Box Hill Reporter District Cricket Association
- Local Sports Clubs
  - Blackburn Cricket Club
  - Blackburn New Hope Football Club
  - Laburnum Cricket Club
- Community Groups
  - Friends of Wurundjeri Walk
  - Bungalook Nursery
  - Aurora School
  - Orchard Grove Primary School
- Traditional Owners
  - Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation

A summary of findings is provided in the following table.

Issues	Opportunities	Future Aspirations

• Only 2 playable sports grounds.
  - The South Field has an extremely high ground allocation, as the only ground with lights, suffers from hosting a large portion of training and main game day competition.
  - Southern Oval can't handle capacity becomes a sand/dirt pit.
  - North and West oval are government and education land; no maintenance to fields.
  - Challenge to fit players on allocated grounds.
  - There is a lot of holes across field - potentially from dogs.
  - Oval is used as unofficial dog park and dogs are not being picked up after.
• Intermittent parking issues, inevitable for large sporting area (300 people into a space with 100 carparking spots).
  - No available parking when sport on fields and basketball at school, or when church activities occur on Sunday.
  - Carparks along south access road cut into cricket oval, cars can be hit by balls.
• No public drinking fountains, have to use toilet basins, no public rubbish bins.
• General park maintenance and upkeep.
  - Paths need constant maintenance to reduce/fix erosion.
  - Need more weed management.
  - Erosion occurring around creek banks.
  - Native trees falling over in storms
• Conflict between school and public.
  - Negative interactions asking users to leave during school hours.
  - Public should use playgrounds out of school boundaries during school hours.
  - Rubbish left from cricket supporters north of oval, requiring clean up every Monday morning.
  - Safety issues at back of the school where it became the local hangout.
• Swooping birds in spring (common minors) lead to people from the road running into school building to escape.
• Path along car park entry should be on the southern
	• Resurfacing of north and west ovals.
	  - Lighting upgrades to all 3 ovals.
	  - Drainage improvements to spread usage across grounds.
	  - Provide a formal walkway between pavilion and ovals.
	• Synthetic pitch for multi-use; soccer, netball, etc that wouldn't need maintenance.
	• Improve surface of gravel path to remove rivets from rain, option to seal.
	• Dogs in separated areas to minimise impact to playing surfaces.
	• South east corner, vestigial carpark from 30-40 years ago has old bitumen with no purpose. Could be used for overflow carpark or converted back into the park.
	• Implementing noise reduction strategies around the park.
	• More canopy cover to contribute to the city's Urban Forest targets. Shade should be provided to pathways.
	• Improved wayfinding, more signs and more noticeboards for the community to put up notices.
	• Transform large amounts of open grass space with vegetation to support biodiversity.
	• Barrier between residential properties and soccer fields needed to prevent balls hitting fence directly.
	• Making the path of traverse to include natural elements
	• Look into path alignment to schools to encourage users to walk to school.
	• Improve wayfinding between Holland Road and Orchard Grove.
	• Accessible park for children with mobility issues.
	• Reduce parking to one side of the street near school.
	• Ability for staff to get out in nature and de-stress
		• A reserve with only native and indigenous plant species.
		• Bottom of south oval is an unused road: making the opening of a path away from cars - lovely walkway in that is currently not used. Access is blocked off for cars.
		• Synthetic surface on small junior soccer area to take off the load.
		  - Use September as a fallow to let ground recover for start of cricket season.
		• Carpark at front of the reserve, during day - boom gate for staff usage, open to the community afterhours.
		• Northern fields ideally to fit 2 soccer fields. Very tight. Any development to maximise space
		• Orchard Grove Primary School would like to put fences down the side of the West Field to minimise risk in response to increased public use of the school grounds during school hours
		• The addition of a community centre could perform as a meeting place and give groups a proper address.
		  - New pavilion could perform as a means to meet.
		  - A larger storage space could be collocated with lockers.

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6.0

Issues and Opportunities

6.1 Issues

6.2 Opportunities

Gravel path through Reserve

6.1 Issues



Amenity

1. Lack of adequate lighting, DDA compliance, passive surveillance.
2. Poor legibility at street key entrances and wayfinding across the site.
3. Lack of park amenities including drinking fountains and rubbish bins.
4. No permanent infrastructure to support events.
5. No fencing to sports fields reduces safety of park users.
6. Mulitple playgrounds in close proximity.

Access and Movement

6. Conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists, sport users, and car parks.
7. No available parking when simultaneous events occur in the reserve.
8. Path along carpark entry should be relocated to south of the drive to separate from the school entrance.
9. Lack of connection to wider Reserve.
10. Lack of accessible footpath to north of Fulton Road.

Environment

11. Uneven sport field surfaces and overuse limit use.
12. Poor subsurface of North and West ovals impacts maintenance.
13. General maintenance is needed to address erosion and weeds.
14. Remove sediment build up in wetland.

People and Culture

15. Conflicts between school and public use during school hours.
16. Rubbish left by cricket supporters requires clean up every Monday morning.
17. Safety issues at the back of the school, becoming a local hangout.
18. Swooping birds in spring cause people to run into school buildings.
19. Reserves will face increasing pressure from the community as passive and active recreation space.

6.2 Opportunities



Amenity

1. Enhance access to high quality sports facilities for students and the community including surface, drainage, and lighting upgrades.
2. Investigate alternative surface treatments to maximise use of sports fields and ability to use by different sport and community groups.
3. Convert former car park area south of the sports fields into a small parking node, parkland, or formal access way and corridor connection to Wurundjeri Walk.
4. Improve signage and wayfinding throughout the Reserve.
5. Investigate provision of a community centre that can provide a meeting place and storage facilities for local community groups.

Access and Movement

6. Improve connectivity between pavilion, sports fields, and wider Reserve by providing a formal walkway.
7. Rationalise car parking to provide safe and convenient access for users.
8. Improve connectivity between open space amenity.

Environment

9. Protect and enhance the site's ecological qualities through habitat conservation, protection, and augmentation.
10. Investigate opportunities for Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) initiatives.
11. Increase canopy cover across the park, particularly along pathways to provide a comfortable pedestrian environment.
12. Negotiate with Melbourne Water to improve wetland function and biodiversity.

People and Culture

13. Further celebrate of First Nations' cultural values of the site through consultation of design opportunities.
14. Improved connectivity and interpretative art throughout Wurundjeri Walk.

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WHITEHORSE CITY COUNCIL

Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan

Stakeholder Engagement Report

August 2025



Aerial image of Wurundjeri Walk looking east towards Mirrabooka Reserve

AECOM

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1 Project overview

Whitehorse City Council (WCC) commissioned the Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan in 2024 as part of a broader strategic commitment during the 2023/24 Financial year to enhance its open space management by preparing 10 open space Master Plans.

AECOM was appointed in June 2024 to undertake the Master Plan study.

The Master Plan will set the vision and direction for the site to meet the needs of Whitehorse's changing and growing community. Wurundjeri Walk will play a key role in providing vital active and passive open space benefits as the area experiences continued population growth.

Wurundjeri Walk is a municipal open space that is maintained by WCC, with a portion of land owned by the Victorian Government. The site runs along Fulton Road and includes Wurundjeri Wetlands, Orchard Grove Reserve, Mirrabooka Reserve, and Hurter-Finch Reserve.

This Stakeholder Engagement Report collates data collected during the study from meetings, discussions, and workshops conducted with reserve user groups, residents, the broader Whitehorse community, council staff, and key stakeholders. Engagement has been undertaken during two different phases of the project, Round 1 during the background and concept development stage, and Round 2 following the completion of the draft Master Plan.

Stakeholder engagement activities and subsequent inputs are summarised in the table below:

Engagement Activity	Engagement Inputs
Round 1 community engagement	Information gathering, assessment of the existing conditions, understanding of project requirements.
Round 1 stakeholder engagement	Key stakeholder requirements, input, and feedback.
Round 2 community engagement	Feedback on draft Master Plan including location of design interventions and identified opportunities.
Round 2 stakeholder engagement	Confirmation that the draft Master Plan meets stakeholder requirements.

This report consolidates information gathered during Round 1 of engagement, held between April and October 2024. Insights from the community and stakeholders during this phase informed the development of the draft Master Plan for Wurundjeri Walk. Round 2 of engagement, conducted between June and August 2025, sought feedback on the draft Master Plan. This feedback will be incorporated in the final Master Plan report.

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1.1 Round 1 engagement

1.1.1 Community



Photos from the Community pop-up session at Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion

Community engagement

- Online community survey via WCC's 'Your Say' page on Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion redevelopment (163 responses)

  (18 March 2024 – 6 May 2024)

- Online community survey via WCC's 'Your Say' page on the Master Plan (318 responses)

  (18 March 2024 – 6 May 2024)

- Community Pop-up Session 1 (Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion)

  (20 April 2024)

1.1.2 Key stakeholders

Stakeholder engagement participants

Peaks sports body

- Football Victoria
- Cricket Victoria
- Australian Football League Victoria
- Box Hill Reporter District Cricket Association

Traditional Owner group

- Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation

Existing sports clubs

- Blackburn South Cricket Club
- Blackburn New Hope Football Club

Existing community groups

- Friends of Wurundjeri Walk
- Aurora School
- Orchard Grove Primary School

Landowners and authorities

- Whitehorse City Council Disability and Reconciliation
- Melbourne Water

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1.2 Round 2 engagement

1.2.1 Community




Photos from the Community pop-up session at Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion

Community engagement

- Online community survey via WCC's 'Your Say' page on Mirrabooka, Orchard Grove and Fulton Reserve Draft Master Plan

  (321 responses)

  (11 June 2025 – 15 July 2025)

- Community pop-up session at Mirrabooka Reserve on Mirrabooka, Orchard Grove and Fulton Reserve Draft Master Plan
  (28 June 2025)

1.2.2 Key stakeholders

Stakeholder engagement participants

Traditional Owner group

- Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation

Existing sports clubs

- Blackburn South Cricket Club
- Blackburn New Hope Football Club

Existing community groups

- Orchard Grove Primary School
- Students from Whitehorse Primary Schools involved in Council's Voicenater Meeting

Landowners and authorities

- Whitehorse City Council Disability Advisory Committee

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2 Summary of key findings

2.1 Round 1 engagement

2.1.1 Community

- Of all the parts within the reserves, Mirrabooka Reserve is selected as the most used by respondents (253 responses), followed by Orchard Grove Reserve (217), pathways (192), sporting grounds and facilities (175), Fulton Reserve (169), wetlands (143), pavilion (125) and outdoor reserve (122).
- The current top uses of the reserve are:
    - Walking (197 responses),
    - Sport (176 responses), and
    - Enjoying nature and green space (169 responses).
- The top three responses to improve play and social recreation and encourage users to visit the park more often were:
    - Additional lighting (182 responses),
    - Public toilet (156 responses), and
    - Additional seating (134 responses).

2.1.2 Key stakeholders

- Participation in sport is high with a need for improved facilities (drainage and lighting) to West, Middle, and North Fields to allow training and matches to be spread across all fields and reduce overuse of South Field.

Key issues identified:

- No available parking when Mirrabooka Reserve is hosting sport activities, which is exacerbated when events coincide with the church group or school.
- Conflicts between dogs off-leash with school and sports groups.
- Lack of wayfinding and key missing connections to facilities.
- Park requires regular maintenance to address path erosion and weed management.
- Strong desire to preserve and enhance natural spaces and habitat.
- The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWWCHAC) emphasise the importance of integrating cultural heritage into local reserves by enhancing signage for cultural education fostering connections to Country and local Indigenous language.

Key opportunities identified:

- Opportunity to upgrade sports fields in collaboration with peak sport bodies to distribute and maximise use.
- Improve wayfinding and connectivity between open spaces by providing signage and legible routes to direct users (particularly away from school facilities).
- Support educational initiatives to promote awareness of local flora and fauna.
- Rationalise the car park arrangements at Mirrabooka Reserve to improve safety.
- Provide a meeting place for community groups.

2.2 Round 2 engagement

2.2.1 Community

The following summary highlights key feedback from Round 2 community engagement, outlining both support and concerns raised by participants regarding the Draft Master Plan.

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Key areas of support:

- Strong support for upgrades to sporting grounds and amenities, including improved drainage, lighting, parking, and drinking water fountains.
- Emphasis on functionality and user-focused upgrades that foster social interaction and community events over purely aesthetic improvements.
- Support for a variety of sport fields catering to different age groups.
- Seating and shelters valued by many for hosting families and group gatherings.
- Support for dog-friendly spaces and integration of off-leash areas.
- Paths improving accessibility, with a mix of concrete for primary circuits and gravel for secondary loops suggested for year-round usability.
- Suggestions for additional connections, such as linking to the Gardiners Creek Trail, and providing more seating to enhance accessibility.
- Support for improved connectivity between Bungalook Nursery and Wurundjeri Walk.
- Calls for low-impact, well-placed signage to guide visitors without visual clutter.
- Broad support for tree and shrub planting across the reserve to enhance park character, biodiversity, and cultural recognition.
- Support for Indigenous planting over exotic fruit trees, and for celebrating Indigenous culture through sculptures, interpretive signage, and educational storyboards.

Key concerns identified:

- Concerns about path placement near residential fence lines, including increased noise and litter, potential anti-social behaviour, intrusion into private spaces, and insufficient separation from fences.
- Mixed views on parking upgrades, with some concerned that increasing parking could attract unwanted visitors or contribute to anti-social behaviour.
- Need to balance lighting for safety with ecological sensitivity.
- Residents concerned that planting near fences could obstruct sunlight, create dense vegetation encouraging anti-social behaviour, or block views into the reserve.
- Opposition to unnecessary concrete paths and tree removals; preference for low-impact, minimal-intervention approaches.
- Some questioned the placement or necessity of Indigenous signage.
- Concerns about long-term maintenance of cultural features, and transparency/funding of shared-use agreements between schools and clubs.

2.2.2 Stakeholder engagement

The following summary highlights key feedback from Round 2 stakeholder engagement, outlining both support and concerns raised by participants regarding the Draft Master Plan.

Key areas of support:

- Potential to install a pedestrian light crossing on Fulton Road with audible signals to improve safety.
- Support for compacted, water-permeable gravel paths.
- Upgrades to sports fields and pavilion use to increase female participation and allow community hire outside school hours.
- Enhance Wurundjeri cultural recognition through interpretive signage, educational content, and artwork by a Wurundjeri artist.
- Playground upgrades to reference Australian wildlife and Woi-wurrung language; wetlands theme for Indira Park playground.
- Naming creek in Wurundjeri language (if unnamed) and installing a Yarning Circle at southern entrance.

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- Active involvement of students (Junior Voicenators and Orchard Grove Primary Year 5) providing supportive feedback on Master Plan proposals.
- Local sports clubs supportive of sports field upgrades, resurfacing, improved drainage, and lighting.

Key concerns identified:

- Fulton Road crossing requires VicRoads approval due to existing bus route; traffic study recommended. Increased traffic expected during school drop-off/pick-up and early evening sports.
- Wurundjeri Wetlands subject to flooding; Orchard Grove precinct has undulations from previous orchard use, requiring careful replanting.
- Ongoing upkeep of cultural features, playgrounds, and sports facilities, as well as transparency in shared-use agreements with schools and clubs, noted as concerns.

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3 Round 1 engagement

3.1 Community

The community engagement comprised of two processes:

1. Online community survey.
2. Community pop-up session on site.

Table 1 shows the timeline and components of the community engagement.

Table 1 Schedule of Community Engagement

Date	Engagement Type
18 March 2024 – 06 May 2024	Online community survey - Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion redevelopment (163 responses)
18 March 2024 – 06 May 2024	Online community survey – Master Plan (318 responses)
20 April 2024	Community pop-up session at Mirrabooka Pavilion

The survey was available on WCC's 'Your Say' website. Community awareness of the survey and the pop-up session was achieved through a combination of the following:

- Letterbox drops to residents.
- Signage installed at the reserve.
- Social media posts during the survey period.

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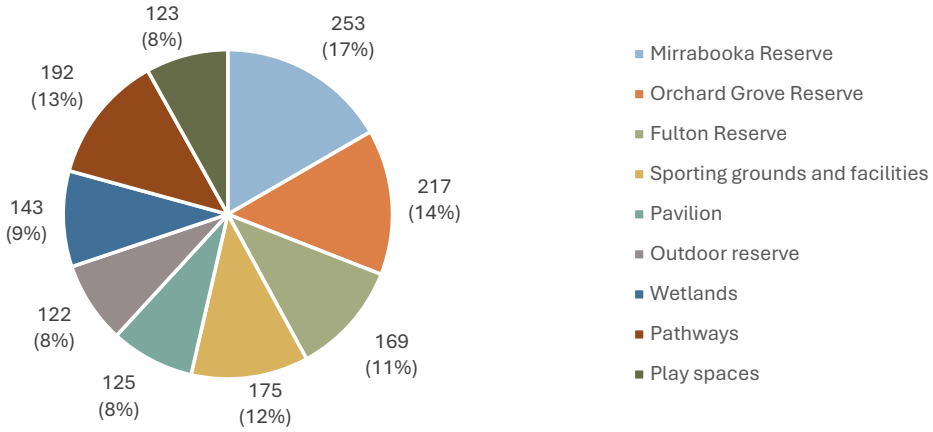
3.1.1 Online community survey results

3.1.1.1 Master Plan for Mirrabooka, Orchard Grove and Fulton Reserves

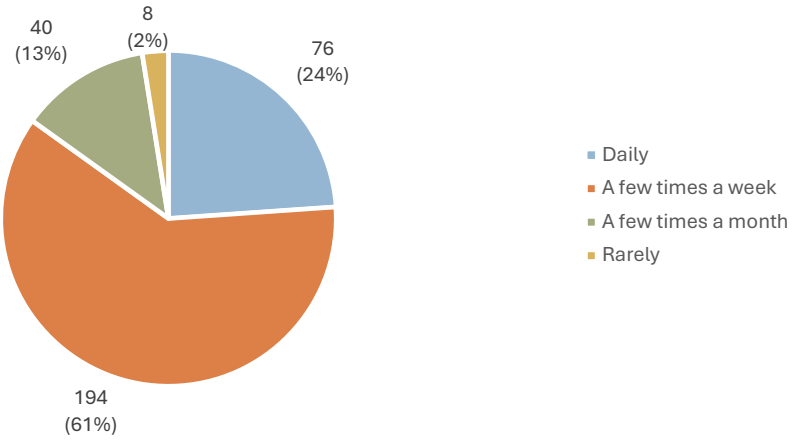
Q1. What part of the three reserves do you use?

Of all the parts within the reserves, Mirrabooka Reserve is selected as the most used by respondents (253 responses), followed by Orchard Grove Reserve (217), pathways (192), sporting grounds and facilities (175), Fulton Reserve (169), wetlands (143), pavilion (125) and outdoor reserve (122).



Q2. How often do you visit the reserves?

Most of the respondents visit the reserves a few times a week (61%), followed by those who visit daily (24%), and a few times a month (13%).



Q3. Are there reasons you don't use the reserves?

No responses.

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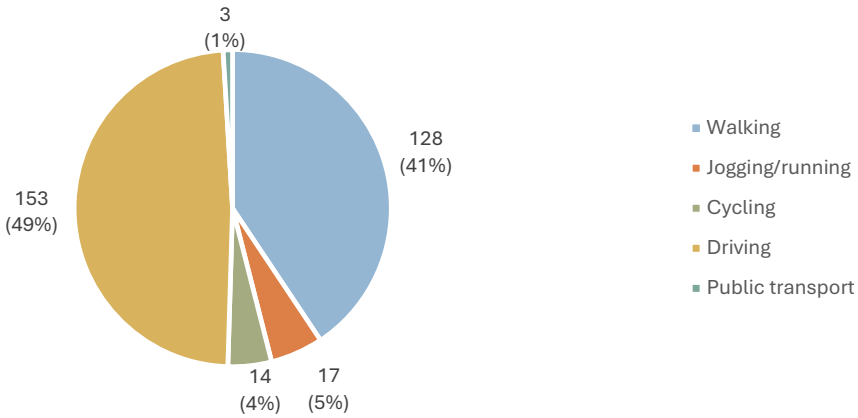
Q4. What is the main method of travel you use to get to the reserves?

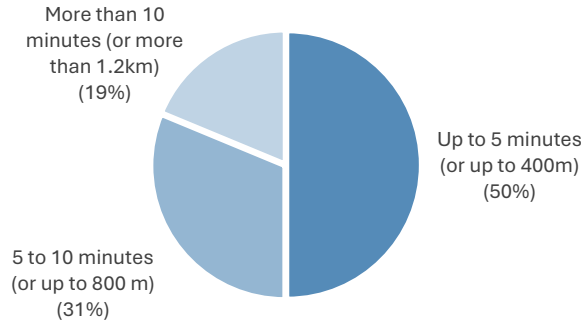
Most respondents drive to the reserves (49%) or walk (41%).



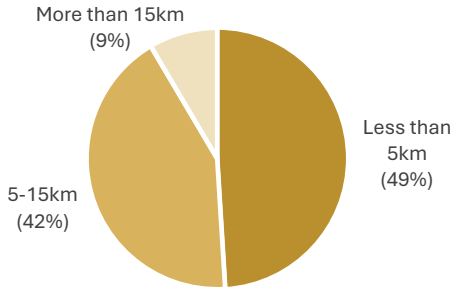
Q5. Catchments of Travel

The below graphs show the travel catchment of visitors to the reserves by mode of travel.

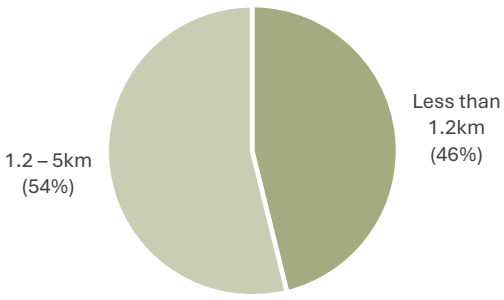
Walk (128 responses)



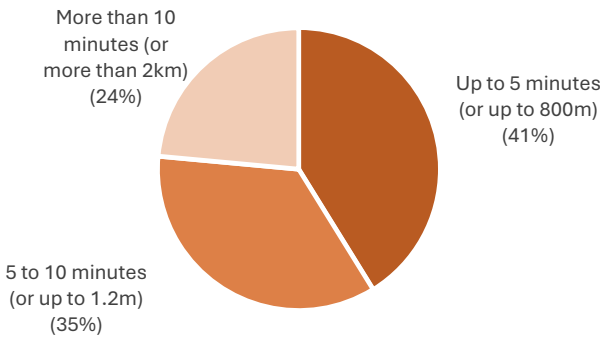
Drive (153 responses)



Cycle (13 responses)



Jog/Run (17 responses)



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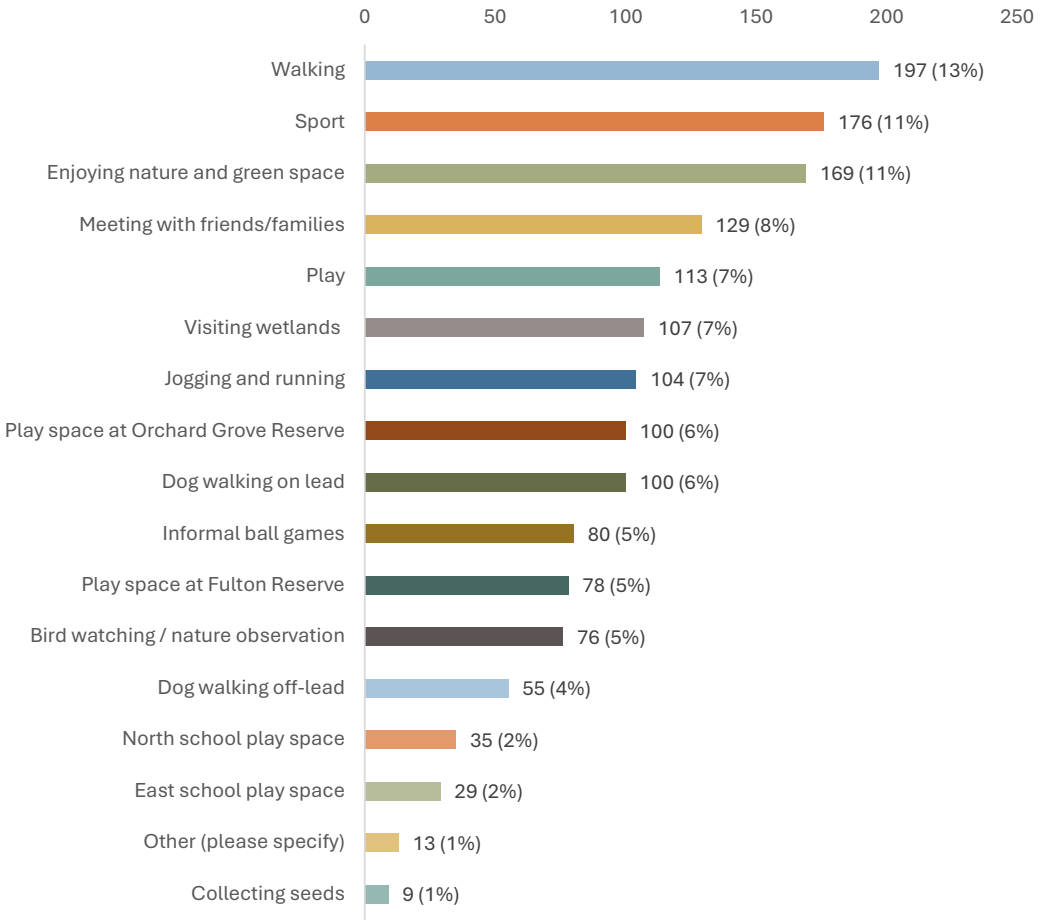
Q6. How do you use the reserves?

Current uses of the reserves were well spread across options, walking (197 responses), sport (176 responses) and enjoying nature and green space (169) are the top three uses of the reserves. Uses relating to play made up a large proportion of overall responses, which included play (113 responses), play space at Orchard Grove Reserve (100 responses), play space at Fulton Reserve (78 responses), north school play space (35 responses) and east school play space (29 responses). Meeting with friends/families (129 responses) and dog related uses of walking on lead (100 responses) and walking off-lead (55 responses) were also among top responses.



'Other' Responses

No. responses	Comments
5	Cycling
4	Community maintenance events (Clean up Australia day, weeding events)
1	A pass through to Bungalook Nursery
1	Passive recreation (boomerang throwing, kite flying)
2	Soccer Cricket
1	Line marking

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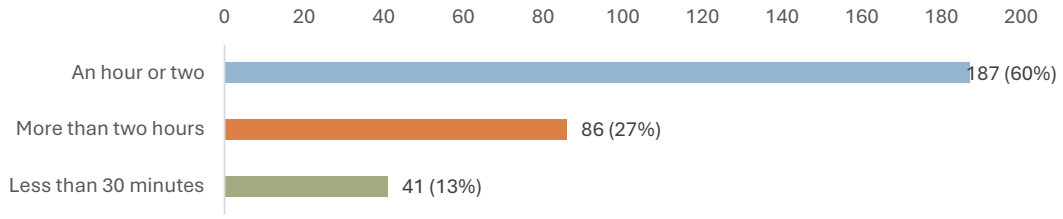
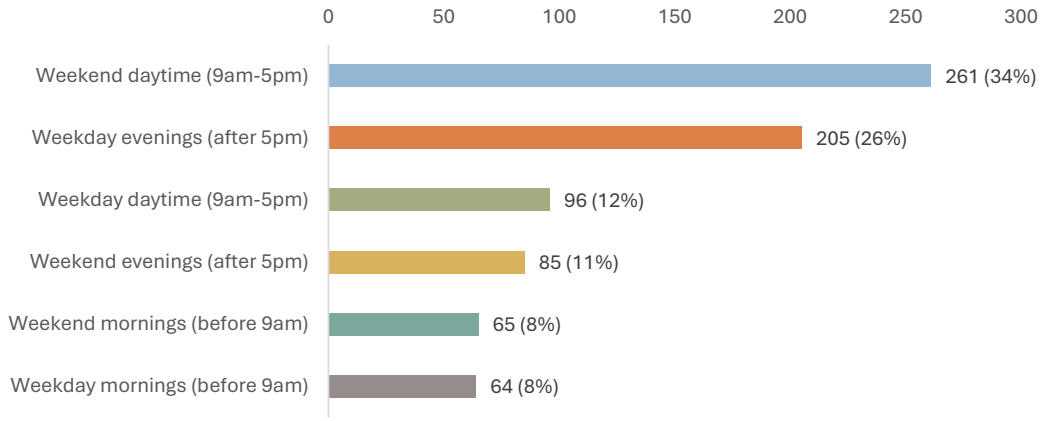
Q7. How long do you typically stay?

Majority of the respondents typically stay in the reserves for 'an hour or two', followed by 'more than two hours' and 'less than 30 minutes'.



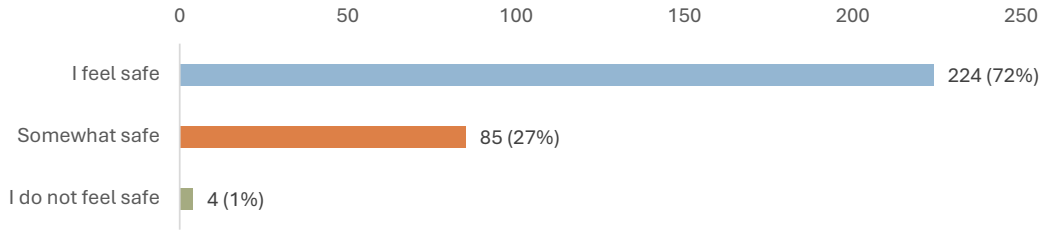
Q8. When do you typically visit the reserves?

Peak periods for visitors accessing the reserves were on weekends during 9am-5pm, followed by weekday evenings after 5pm and weekend daytime between 9am-5pm.



Q9. Do you feel safe in the reserves?

Majority of respondents indicated they felt safe in the reserves (224 respondents), followed by somewhat safe (85 respondents) and I do not feel safe (4 respondents).



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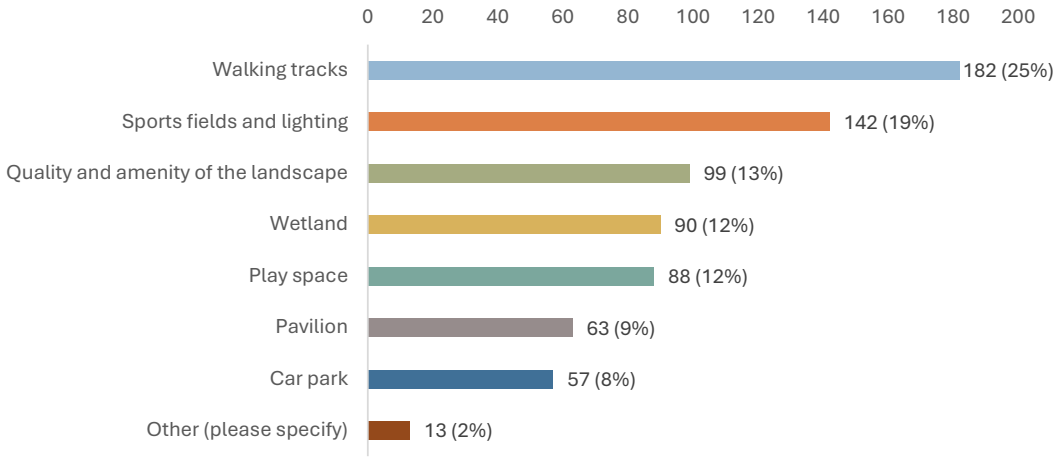
Q10. Do you have any suggestions to improve the sense of safety in the reserve?

An example of passive surveillance and additional lighting was provided to prompt responses.

No. responses	Comments
55	Lighting
6	Improved management of dogs off-lead
1	Vegetation clearances around walkways and rest spots
8	Surveillance, security cameras
11	Passive surveillance
2	Solar lighting
1	Deter bike track making
1	Path isn't accessible in wet periods
6	Pot holes / surface uneven
1	Fences

Q11. Which of the current facilities/features in the reserves do you like the most?

The most liked feature of the reserves is the walking tracks (182 responses), followed by sports fields and lighting (142 responses).



'Other' Responses

No. responses	Comments
1	Birds in the area
1	Open green spaces
1	Bushland atmosphere
2	Use for sporting purposes but need upgrading
1	Planting at Orchard Grove Reserve
1	The visibility of ovals from carpark
1	Rain garden behind Bungalook Nursery
1	The recently renovated pitches
1	Trees and understorey plants
1	Cycling
1	Abundance of nature and birds

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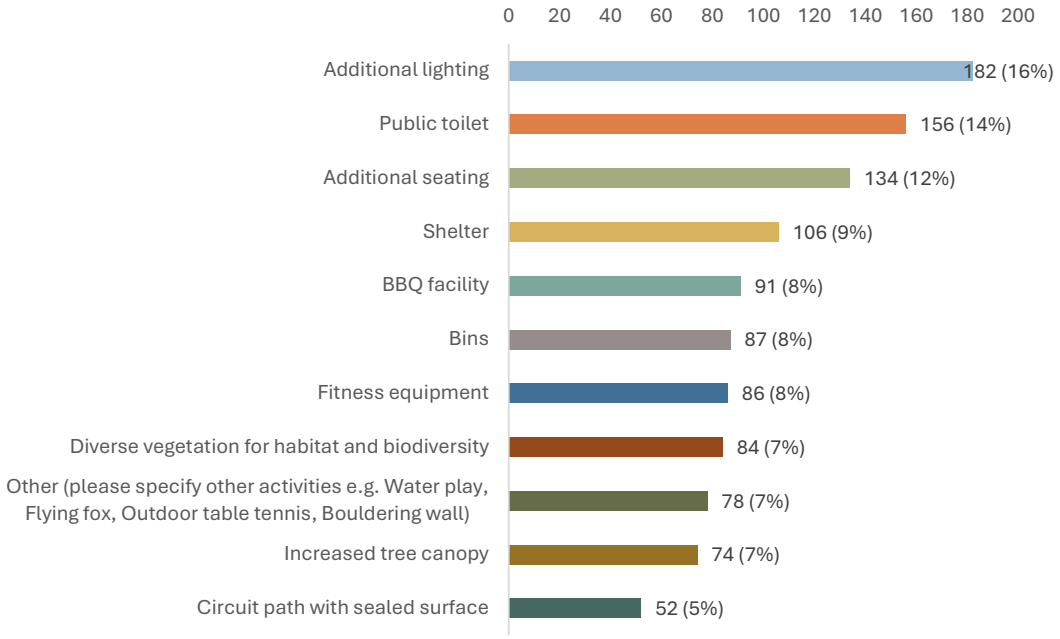
Q12. What improvements in play and social recreation would encourage you to visit the Park more often? Please choose your top five.

The top three responses were additional lighting (182 responses), public toilet (156 responses) and additional seating (134 responses).



'Other' Responses

No. responses	Comments
15	Water play / nature play
13	Off-lead dog area
12	Sporting courts and equipment (basketball court, tennis court, table tennis, rebound wall, disk golf)
8	Play equipment (Flying fox, bouldering wall, ninja style playground)
8	Soccer pitch and Oval surface improvements
6	More playground equipment for younger children (ie. swings with harnesses)
6	Exercise equipment
6	Pump track / riding area
5	Improved lighting
3	Picnic tables with views to playing fields and play areas
3	Outdoor tables and seating
3	Similar set up to Box Hill Gardens
2	Maintenance of erosion on paths and along creek
2	Play opportunities for older kids
2	Athletics track around oval, running track
2	Skate Park
2	Increased playground and area
2	Additional bridge between existing bridges

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No. responses	Comments
2	Pavilion upgrades and expansion
2	Car parking improvement
1	Weeding
1	Arboretum labelling Victorian native trees and shrubs
1	Reducing off-lead dogs
1	Exercise equipment for the elderly
1	Nature maze
1	Upgrade of existing sports fields
1	Drinking fountain
1	Swimming Pool
1	Improved drainage
1	Improved grass
1	Improved soccer facilities
1	Synthetic pitch
1	Track or path along north side of creek
1	Path connection to nursery from Fulton Rd
1	Bin maintenance
1	Clubrooms

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Q13. Do you have any other comments?

Number of comments	General comment description
	Sporting Capacity and Facilities
	Support:
19	• Sporting surface maintenance and upgrades
1	• Need more space for local sporting clubs
17	• Additional lighting to sporting grounds
1	• Additional shelters for second soccer pitch on roadside
2	• Improved fencing and gates
1	• Tennis court
2	• Improved soccer facilities
2	• Basketball ring installation
1	• More pitches
	Dog off-leash area
	Support:
1	• Old horse paddock area could be used as dog off-lead area
2	• Dog off-lead area / dog off-lead times
16	• Designated dog off-lead area
3	• Dog amenity (dog bags and disposal)
2	• Fenced dog off-lead area
1	• School oval used for off-lead use in non-school hours
1	• Dog playground
	Objection:
1	• Off-lead dog concerns for safety
1	• Opposed to dog off-lead area, if one is proposed suggestion to place it in vacant rea behind playground that is currently not used
1	• Dogs causing damage to sporting fields, suggest restriction off-lead use to non-playing surfaces
	Playscape, fitness areas, and equipment
2	• Current equipment and play space do not cater for all ages
2	• Play for young children
1	• Increased types of activities and events being able to be held in the park
2	• Indoor swimming pool
2	• Increased / improved play area
1	• Fitness equipment
	Retain reserves in current natural state / leave as is
1	• The untouched nature of area is appealing, concern for the new developments
	Paths
1	• Increase pathways in Orchard Grove northern section
2	• Increased pathways and circuits
6	• Current unsealed path - support
1	• Pedestrian crossing on Indira Road to connect paths
1	• Introduction of concrete paths
	Amenity – toilets, bins, seats
5	• Public Toilet
6	• Increased number of bins

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Number of comments	General comment description
2	• Increase lighting
3	• Bin maintenance
1	Objection • Not wanting public toilets
	Pavilion
13	• Upgrade size of sporting pavilion
5	• Pavilion upgraded facilities for particularly for females, and amenity for all
2	• Need for space to host social events for club events
5	• Pavilion upgrade
1	• Current pavilion upgrades don't include enough storage and social area
1	• Drink taps near pavilion
	Increased biodiversity, planting, wildlife consideration
2	• Bird watching facilities (rotunda with access bridge across wetlands)
1	• Concern for area becoming too busy/overdevelopment and disturbing birdlife
2	• Increased areas of bushland
2	• Concern for removal of trees and vegetation for new developments
3	• Increased vegetation (site wide, understorey and tree canopy)
6	• Preserve vegetation
4	• Keep paths gravel, concerns for pavement taking away from green space
2	• Concern for impacts on wildlife of new developments
1	• Enjoy current wildlife in reserves
1	• Improve bush habitat and concern for dogs being in vegetation
1	• Replacing large lawn/grass areas with native grasses and other vegetation
3	• Retain dam and frog habitat
1	• Fix erosion around creek
1	• Community vegetable garden and fruit tree
1	• Removal of weeds and non-indigenous planting
1	• Views east and south should be utilised
1	• Nursery integrated into the masterplan
2	• Maintain current open nature space
	Seating, BBQ facilities and Shelter
2	• BBQ facilities
3	• Shelter increase
1	• Increase seating for elderly
2	• Picnic tables and seating
1	• Concern for BBQ facilities increasing rodents in the area alongside maintenance and cleanliness of amenities
	Carparking
1	• Sealed parking along Fulton Road
2	• Need for carparking to cater for sporting facility users
	Bike activities
2	

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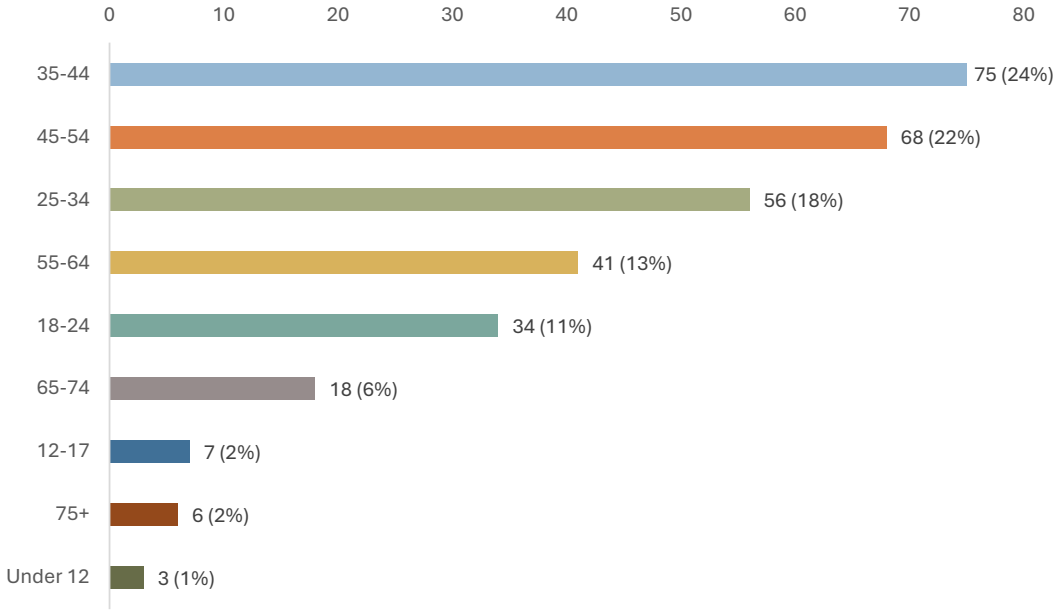
Number of comments	General comment description
	• Introduction of BMX/pump track to prevent children building their own tracks
	Signage, Wayfinding, Installations
1	• Maintain naming of Wurundjeri Walk and Wetlands
	Accessibility
1	• Reserve is not accessible for all
1	• Play areas need to be accessible for those with physical disabilities
1	• Accessible parking
	Activities
1	• Space for markets
1	• Nighttime activities
1	• Space for retail
	Traffic Management
1	• Noisy vehicles along Holland Road and issues of parking

10.4 – ATTACHMENT 2. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report

Respondent Profile

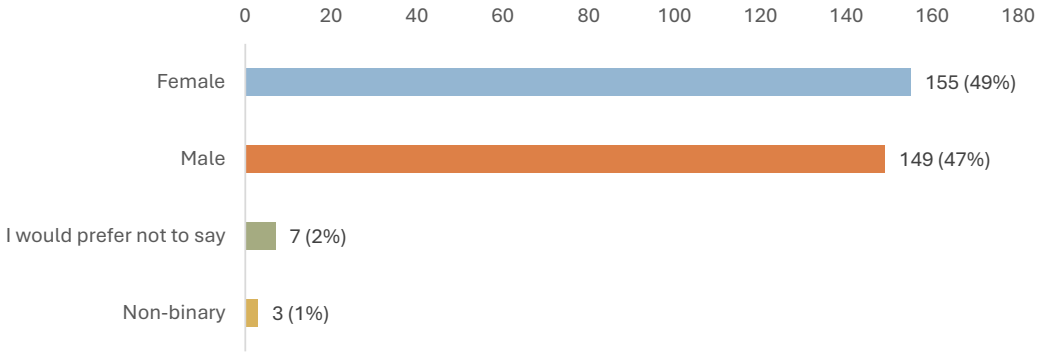
Age

Most respondents were between the ages of 35-44 (75 responses) and 45-54 (68 responses).



Gender

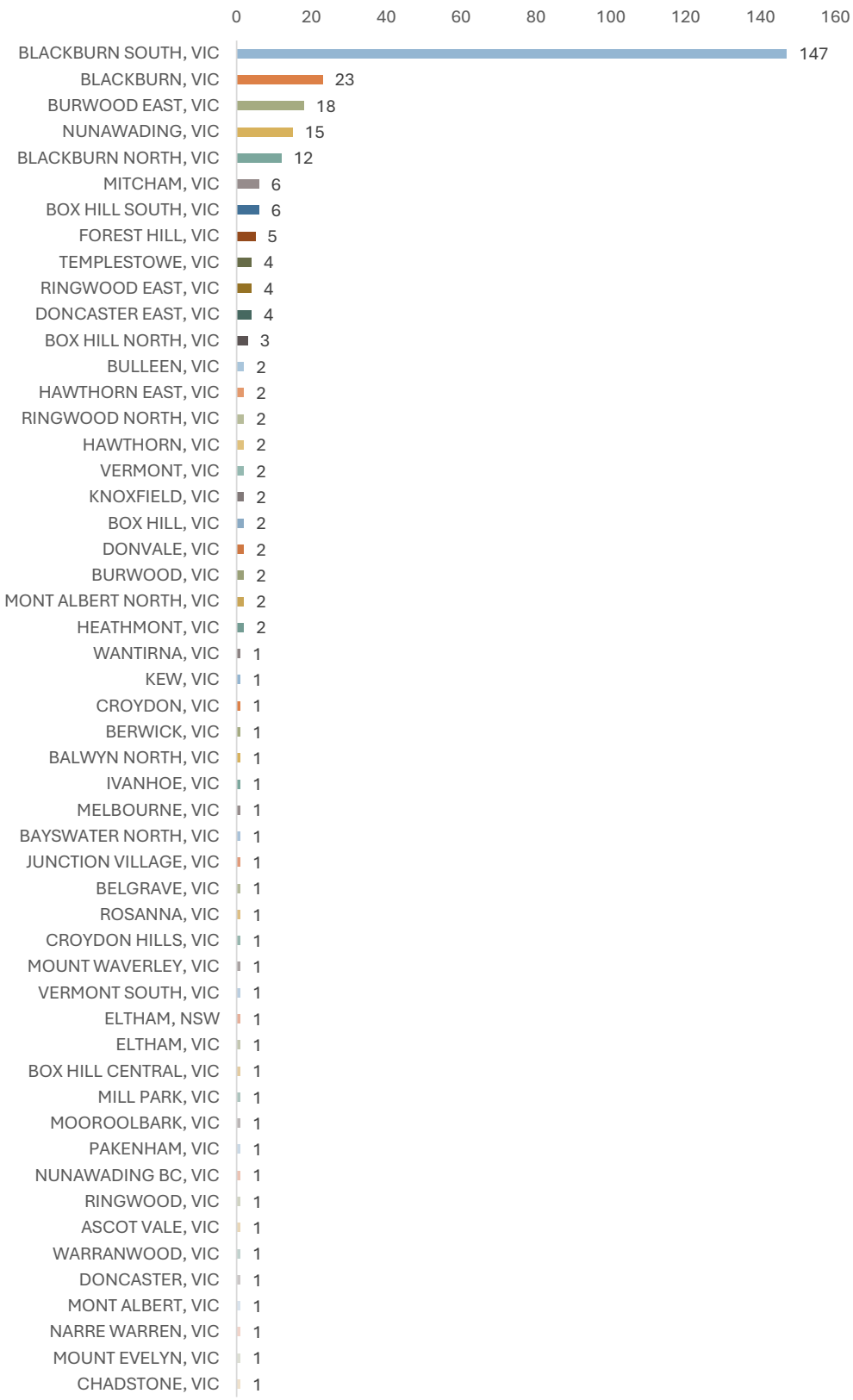
There was a balanced ratio of females (155 responses) and males (149 responses). 3 people responded as non-binary and 7 preferred not to say.



Suburb of Residence

51 suburbs were part of the responses. Majority respondents lived in Blackburn South (147), 23 respondents were from Blackburn and 18 from Burwood East.

10.4 – ATTACHMENT 2. Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Report



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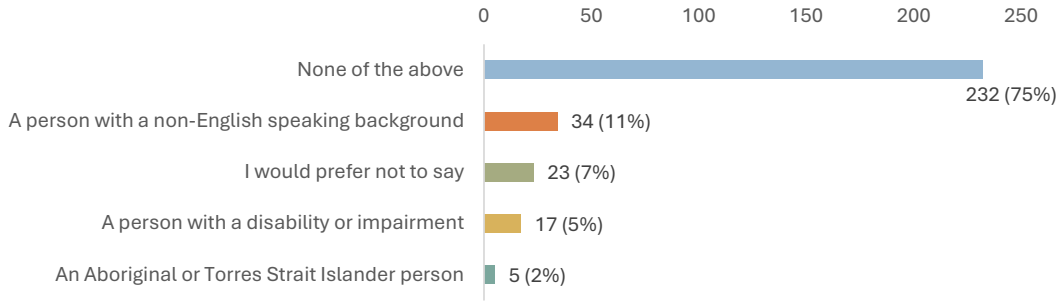
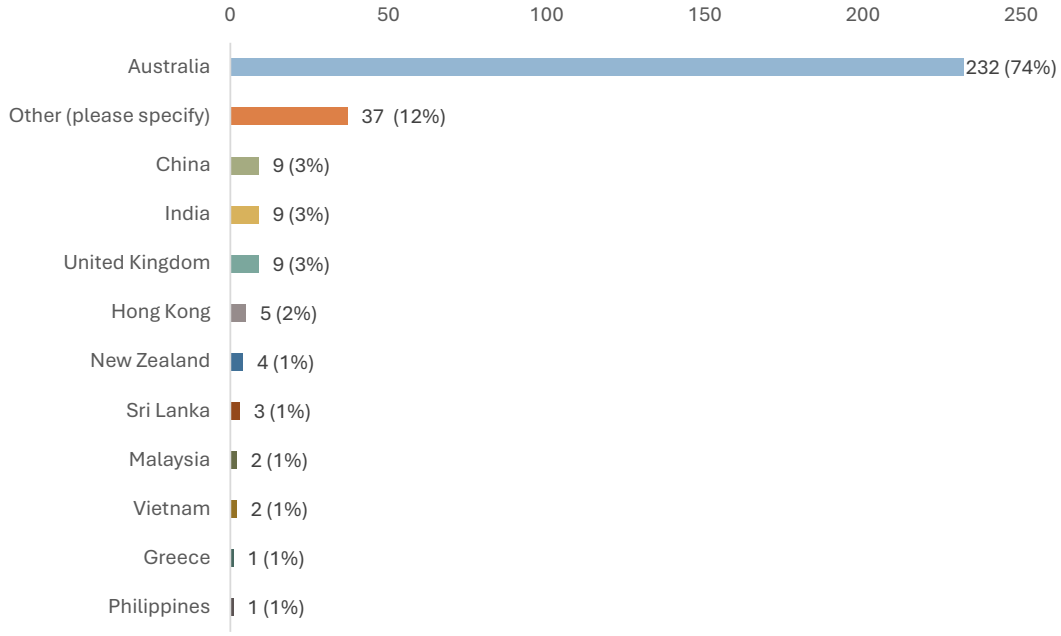
What describes you?



What is your place of birth?

Majority of respondents were born in Australia (232 responses), a wide variety of responses were present for those born in places outside Australia.



'Other' Responses

No. responses	Comments
3	Ireland
1	Kenya
3	South Africa
1	Colombia
1	Gibraltar
1	Europe
1	Iran
1	United Arab Emirates
7	USA
1	Russia

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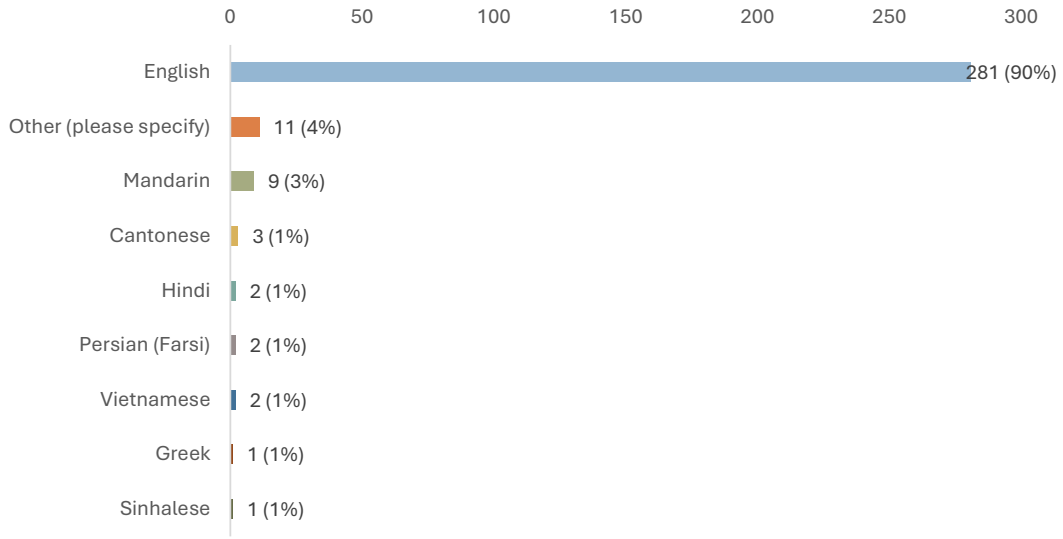
No. responses	Comments
3	Cambodia
1	Zambia
2	Indonesia
1	Singapore
1	Germany
1	Chile
1	Thailand
1	Mauritius
1	Egypt
1	El Salvador
4	Prefer not to say

What is the main language you speak at home?

English is the most widely spoken language at home from respondents (281 responses), Mandarin followed (9 responses), then Cantonese (3 responses).



'Other' Responses

No. responses	Comments
1	Assyrian
1	Spanish
1	Marathi
1	Farsi
1	Arabic
1	Russian
3	Tamil
2	I would prefer not to say

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3.1.1.2 Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion redevelopment

Summary of responses to 'What other things could be included as part of the pavilion redevelopment to help make it a great space?'

Comments outside of the redevelopment for the pavilion relate to:

- Need for public toilets (9)
- Undercover meeting spots/ viewing areas, seating and picnic areas (9)
- BBQ facilities (2)
- Landscaping around pavilion (1)
- Skatepark (1)
- Drink taps (6)
- Bicycle racks (1)
- Surface improvements to pitches and ovals (19)
- Additional lighting (34)
- Increased car parking (5)
- Indoor futsal arena (1)
- Raise fences behind goal posts (2)
- More pitches (1)
- Additional bins (1)

Summary of additional comments from the Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion Redevelopment Survey

Many comments outside of those relating to the redevelopment of the pavilion were in relation to elements outside of the pavilion such as the lack of maintenance for the surrounding pitches, specifically in relation to the surfaces (8). A need for lighting to support evening training and potentially twilight games (7) was also identified.

Other responses were:

- Additional parking is required for the busy times where many players and are present during these times (1).
- Introduction of a designated dog off-leash area (1)
- Inclusion of more trees and native planting around the space (1)

3.1.2 Community pop-up sessions

To supplement the online community survey, a community pop-up session was held at Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion. The aim of the session was to provide information on the Master Plan process, discuss opportunities to improve the reserve, and to encourage residents to complete the Online Community Survey via Your Say.

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3.2 Key stakeholders

The second phase of Round 1 engagement comprised of a series of meetings with key stakeholders. A set presentation was established for the site to cover:

- Project background
- Engagement process
- Master plan scope
- Stakeholder feedback: an open discussion to understand relationship with the site, issues and opportunities, and future aspirations
- Next steps

Table 2 below shows the type of engagement and participants.

Table 2 Schedule of Stakeholder Engagement

Engagement type	Participants
Peak sport bodies	• Football Victoria • Cricket Victoria • Australian Football League • Box Hill Reporter District Cricket Association (league)
Traditional Owner engagement and co-design	• Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
Sports clubs	• Blackburn South Cricket Club • Blackburn New Hope Football Club • Laburnham Cricket Club*
General stakeholder	• Friends of Wurundjeri Walk • Aurora School • Orchard Grove Primary School • Bangalook Community Nursery*
Landowner and authorities	• Whitehorse City Council Disability and Reconciliation • Melbourne Water

*Invitations to participate in an engagement session was extended to all groups listed in Table 2. Asterix indicates that engagement has not occurred with the stakeholder group.

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3.2.1 Peak sport bodies

The purpose of the sessions with peak sport bodies was to understand the requirements for each sport, future aspirations, and identify any competing interests. The sessions covered three sites that WCC are preparing master plans for: Bennettswood Reserve, Strathdon Davy Community Precinct, and Wurundjeri Walk.

A total of four sessions were held, one for each stakeholder group. Findings from these sessions are provided in Table 3 below.

Table 3 Peak Sport Body Feedback

Stakeholder Group	Notes
Football Victoria 22nd August 2024 Attendees: Leandro Mercaldi	Sport Overview • Over previous 10 years participation in football has doubled. • Growth experienced across all age groups with pressure on clubs to expand. • Currently undertaking an audit of grounds to generate data for Football Australia (Ballyshannassy, RHS Sparks, Mahoneys and Wembley Park). Issues • Concerns for female participation: quality of changerooms, inadequate lighting and parking especially for night training. • Poor drainage impacts play. Opportunities • Encourage synthetic or hybrid surface to prevent weather impacting play and increase lifespan of pitches. • Inclusion of smaller and potential indoor pitches to provide for different age and ability groups. • Provision of multipurpose courts that can be used for futsal/other sports. • Grants for sport facilities available through Football Victoria. Future Aspirations • Safeguarding and child safety need to be a priority. • Provision of 2 changerooms per field, minimum age group requiring a changeroom is U14s. • Football Victoria encourages Councils to have at least two synthetic/hybrid pitches within their municipality to accommodate participation rates. • Master Plans need to help contribute to retention within sport. Strategic Objectives • Goal to reach equity in female participation. • Achieve 50:50 gender participation by 2027. • Each LGA to have 2 synthetic or hybrid pitches.
Cricket Victoria 30th August 2024 Attendees: Clinton Kennon (*Customer experience*), Sharon Lynas (*Cricket*	Sport Overview • Some suburbs in Whitehorse have participation over state average of 4.9%; Box Hill – 6.9%, Nunawading 5.8%. • Municipality participation is projected to grow to 5.7% over the next 5-7 years. • Fair Access Roadmap will have an impact of facilities and requirements.

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Manager for NO's Metro), Callum Dean	• School Sport Victoria events currently held at Mirrabooka Reserve. Issues • Whitehorse facilities are at capacity across all age groups. • Not enough sporting facilities currently available (toilets, changerooms), particularly for grounds where 3rds, 4ths and juniors play. • Local clubs are forced to play far from their club bases (Laburnum, Vermont and Vermont South). • Playgrounds and active spaces need the correct buffer zones/nets for protection. Opportunities • Partnership with council to support funding facilities, looking to fund projects that align with objectives. Cricket Victoria offers infrastructure grants for minor – pitches and nets and major – ground and pavilion upgrades. • Work with dog owners to understand when use of areas is prioritised for sport and when appropriate for dog walking. Mont Albert Cricket Club as a precedent where club has built a positive relationship with the community. Future Aspirations • Open to smaller sizes, junior participation is needed. Strategic Objectives • Grow women's game and juniors 5-12 age groups. • Design factors to allow participation across junior and female, facilities fall short at secondary grounds – change rooms, parking, and lighting.
AFL Victoria 11th September 2024 Attendees: Shane Joules, Beau Tran	Sport Overview • Aspirational approach to have 1 million members by 2033. • Breaking New Ground initiative available to partner with AFL to support the provision of football amenities. • Looking at targeting schools to provide afterhours use to take pressure of ovals over weekends. • High demand in area for AFL. Issues • Whitehorse clubs are held back due to capacity of sites. • Community push back in providing floodlit regraded sport fields. Opportunities • Storage facilities for Auskick's unfixed equipment. • The transition of children from school to sport is important for Mirrabooka. Opportunity for AFL to help fund Department of Education in providing AFL facilities. • Access points, paths, ability to circulate to each oval would support grassroots developments. Shelters, benches and gathering points to share experience. Future Aspirations • Programs targeting younger audiences such as Auskick and juniors (5-17 years).

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	• Facilities that attract and retain users to hit the AFL 2033 target. • For a multipurpose flexible perspective, changeroom and storeroom spaces are crucial. • Gain AFL access to ovals for 15-20 hours per week to achieve the base target to supply their plan's participation. Strategic Objectives • AFL facilities are fit for purpose and welcoming for anyone to participate. Sites need to feel safe, be well lit, and accessible.
Box Hill Reporter District Cricket Association (BHRDCA) 12th September 2024 Attendees: Steve Flemming (*Admin Manager*), Peter Rosenthal (*President*), Lachlan Harty (*District Manager BHRDCA*)	Sport Overview • BHRDCA has 28 participating clubs, 16 are based in Whitehorse. • All clubs have similar guiding principles in growing their game and making their club viable. • Clubs are spread across all age groups; female participation has plateaued with introductions predominately at young ages. • Increase expected in under 7s and 9s, that use non-competitive fields (up to 4 teams playing on one oval at a time). • Critical need to have overflow grounds in the municipality. Issues • Grounds at capacity on Friday night and Saturday afternoon. • Mirrabooka main oval does not comply with size requirements for senior participation. • Grounds need to provide for women's participation, new policies prioritising clubs with participation across all groups. • Landlocked sites, need to provide infrastructure for increased residential growth. • Dog users will continue to use ovals even if separate facilities are provided. • Cricket nets are not up to standard. • Lack of lighting limit's ability to introduce T20 as a midweek twilight tournament. • Unaware of wider Reserve past sport facilities, lack of connectivity. Opportunities • Fair Access Policy will bring pavilion upgrades for all user groups to address participation hindrance. • Electronic scoreboards - future proof for amenities without impacting any other infrastructure. • Provide spaces to accommodate growth outside just infrastructure. • Provide an additional ground at Mirrabooka in large open space. Future Aspirations • Sports facilities to all have flexibility for use by other codes and school groups.

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3.2.2 Traditional Owner and codesign opportunities

The purpose of engagement with Traditional Owners was to identify themes and design opportunities that can be integrated into the Master Plans for deeper cultural engagement and relevance.

One session was held with feedback provided in Table 4 below.

Table 4 Traditional Owner and Codesign Opportunities Feedback

Stakeholder Group	Notes
Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWWCHAC) 17th October 2024 Attendees: Aunty Gail, Aunty Julianne, Anthony Huber Maureen D'Arcy (*WCC Disability and Reconciliation*)	<u>All Reserves</u> • Opportunity to engage with a local Wurundjeri artist to provide sculptural elements. Example: Lewis Wandin. <u>Bennettswood Reserve</u> • Incorporate signage to identify site specific cultural heritage. • Understand if there are specific cultural connections to KooyongKoot through the Whitehorse municipality. <u>Mirrabooka Reserve</u> • Investigate the renaming of 'Mirrabooka' to a Wurundjeri word. Or provide signage that gives context to the name from noongar language in Western Australia. • Understand where names came from, are there significant connections to culture? • Highlight that Victoria was the most impacted state in terms of loss of language from colonisation. <u>Davy Lane Reserve</u> • Focus on connection to Country. • Potential use of Wurundjeri language to name sports fields/areas of the site.

3.2.3 Existing sports clubs

The purpose of engagement with sports clubs was to understand how existing sports groups and clubs are using the sites, key challenges that they face, and opportunities or future aspirations that they have for the site.

One session was held with participation from two sports clubs, feedback is provided in Table 5 below.

Table 5 Sports Club Feedback

Stakeholder Group	Notes
Blackburn New Hope Football Club (BNHFC), Blackburn South Cricket Club (BSCC) 3rd September 2024 Stuart (*BNHFC*), Drew Sinclair (*President BSCC),* Peter (*Vic*	<u>Membership</u> • Approximate players: 600 football and 200 cricket across juniors and seniors. • Women's teams are growing. <u>Facility Use</u> • Organised soccer and training with occasional general recreation • Cricket during summer with senior and junior games and training.

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President BSCC), Chiara (*Vice President BNHFC)*	<u>Issues</u> • No parking on Sunday's when church and sport activities occur, hard to resolve without eating into parkland. • No public drinking fountains at sports fields, must use basins in the toilets. • No public rubbish bins result in dog waste left on ovals that needs to be picked up each weekend before matches. • Second largest facility in Whitehorse with only two playable grounds as referees/leagues won't allow play on other fields due to safety concerns. • Southern field can't handle the capacity, after 6 weeks of soccer it turns into a sand pit. • Minimal maintenance and general upkeep due to classification of fields. • Many holes in grounds needing to be filled with sand reducing the quality of the ground, likely from dogs. • Short-term issue of only having one changeroom while pavilion is being redeveloped. • Philosophy that everyone is welcome, challenging to fit into surface space available. • Parents often have children with them, sometimes preventing participating if there aren't playgrounds/shelters within eyesight and easy access of the pitch. • Carparks along south access road cut into cricket oval and result in cars being hit by balls. • No formal path between pavilion car park and fields, area becomes very muddy and hard to wheel bins down. • Stormwater flows out onto grass south of the pavilion and makes the pitch a mud bath. <u>Opportunities</u> • Upgrade drainage/surface of West and North fields and provide lighting to spread usage. • Use September as a fallow month to allow the grounds to recover before the start of the cricket season. • Separation of dogs to improve ground surface and safety of players. • Provide public bins to prevent rubbish build up that attracts foxes and rats. • Improve surface of gravel paths that have many rivets following rain, explore possibility of sealing sections. • Repurpose native trees that fall over in storms, manage trees to ensure safety. • Explore having a synthetic pitch on the junior field to provide multiuse: soccer, netball etc that wouldn't need maintenance. • Repurpose unused bitumen space in southeast corner as overflow parking or back into the park. • Extend stormwater south of the pavilion to the drainage system. • Look if there can be any development to the North field to maximise space to fit two soccer fields. <u>Future Aspirations</u> • No changes that impact biodiversity.

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	• Strategic goal to continue to build girls and women's teams and have a junior team participating at all age groups.

3.2.4 Existing community groups

The purpose of this engagement was to understand how community groups are using the sites, key challenges that they face, and opportunities or future aspirations that they have for the site.

Two sessions were held, one with the Friends group and a second with the schools, feedback is provided in Table 6 below.

Table 6 Existing community group feedback

Stakeholder Group	Notes
Friends of Wurundjeri Walk 9th September 2024 Sebastian (*Convenor and co-founder of FoWW)*	<u>Membership</u> • New group with five committee members. • Have held two working days – weeding, mulching, replant garden beds. • Will start guided tours with Tony Slater (previous WCC employee) so people can observe flora and fauna. <u>Issues</u> • Teenagers playing near the creek impacting the banks and potential to increase erosion. • Path maintenance needs to be constant and designed in a way to reduce erosion. • Lots of panic veldt weed that needs to be removed. • Bins fill up too quickly, need more bins, specifically near the playground. <u>Opportunities</u> • Noise reduction strategies around the park. • Only plant native or indigenous species. • Better wayfinding, more signs and more noticeboards. • Provide a community centre to perform as a meeting place and a larger locker facility than existing behind Bungalook Nursery. • Increase vegetation in open spaces for biodiversity. • Understand the meaning behind the name Mirrabooka. • Restrict unauthorised vehicles from open space area next to Fulton Road, no driving through reserve. <u>Future Aspirations</u> • No capital works within the park.
Aurora School, Orchard Grove Primary School 17th September 2024 Vicki Main *(Principal Aurora School),* Michelle Ogilvie *(Principal Orchard Grove Primary School)*	<u>Issues</u> • North Field is part of Aurora School but not an area that is used, the school is small and has enough space in the existing area. • Issues with rubbish in car park along Holland Road, has boom gates for staff use during school hours. • Negotiation of Joint Use Agreement has been in the making for 20 years. • Field is used as an unofficial dog park with owners regularly not picking after their dogs.

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- Post covid experience negative interactions with public after being asked to leave school grounds during school hours.
- Parking along Holland Road is bad at pickup times.
- Students and visitors from the deaf community walk through the Holland Road car park, public may not be aware of their presence.
- Children with mobility issues require an accessible park.
- Swooping birds in spring result in public running into school buildings to escape them.
- Back of Orchard Grove Primary School has become a local hangout spot that raises safety issues, access should be removed to prevent damage from wider community use.

Opportunities

- Improve connectivity to school to facilitate staff using the reserve for walking meetings and during breaks.
- Support school using the reserve to support education, particularly around STEM subjects.
- Investigate restricting parking to one side of Holland Road.
- Look into path alignment to schools to encourage users to walk to school.
- Make a legible pathway from Holland Road to Orchard Grove with wayfinding to direct people off the school fields.
- Move access path to reserve to southern side of road to separate from school entrance.
- Repurpose area south of the ovals to a walkway to the reserve, block off car access.
- Install a barrier between residential properties and school fields to prevent balls directly hitting fences.
- Provide public rubbish bins to reduce waste left over weekend.

Future Aspirations

- Orchard Grove Primary School would like to put fences down the side of the West Field to minimise risk in response to increased public use of the school grounds during school hours. Gates would be opened after hours for public use.

Other Comments

- Section above West Field is school land and not part of council management.
- School facilities are heavily used by the community – basketball, netball, performing arts, and church groups.
- There are two playgrounds in the school area, one is becoming non-compliant and will be lost with the new build. Currently used by public during the day who should be using public facilities.

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3.2.5 Landowners and authorities

The purpose of engagement with landowners and authorities was to understand how the sites are being used, key challenges that they face, and opportunities or future aspirations that they have for the site.

Two sessions were held, feedback is provided in Table 7.

Table 7 Sports Club Feedback

Stakeholder Group	Notes
WCC Disability and Reconciliation 30th August 2024 Attendees: Maureen D'Arcy	Issues • Need to protect Gardiners Creek corridor due to existing relationship with Wurundjeri. • Need for pathways to be accessible, flat/hard surfaces to achieve DDA compliance (2.5m to facilitate circulation). • Understand how the Mirrabooka precinct connects with pathways through whole site. Opportunities • Opportunities to further enhance paths through Mirrabooka. • Passive amenities to be provided at a distance from shared use path. • Connection between elements is important. • Consider how grounds can be used by people with a disability, e.g. blind cricket.
Melbourne Water 18th October 2024 Attendees: Rebecca Penrose *(Waterways and Land Officer, Lower Birrarung Team),* Dan Green *(Senior Asset Planner)*	Opportunities • Consider Healthy Water Ways Strategy, opportunities to secure funding through Melbourne Water initiatives. • Water harvesting opportunities, including infiltration and irrigation to stop flow into waterways and key risks of flooding/climate change. • Collaborate with Melbourne Water to integrate strategies into oval development and sitewide initiatives. • Pathway planning, consider peoples connection to waterways and placement of paths. Set back of DDA paths/hard surfaces from waterway. • Allow waterway to meander across the channel. • Greenlinks (DEECA funded project) to support future revegetation works, encouraging planting diversity (canopy, mid-storey and understorey for fauna). • Integrated water management opportunities e.g. harvesting, flow stress initiatives. • Increase biodiversity and revegetation along waterways, reduce flood pressures and loading on embankments. • Consider 'Health for the Catchment' to integrate water management.

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4 Round 2 engagement

4.1 Community

The community engagement comprised of two processes:

1. Online community survey.
2. Community pop-up session on site.

Table 8 below shows the timeline and components of the community engagement.

Table 8 Schedule of Round 2 Community Engagement

Date	Engagement Type
11 June 2025 – 15 July 2025	Online community survey – Master Plan for Mirrabooka, Orchard Grove and Fulton Reserves (321 responses)
28 June 2025	Community pop-up session at Mirrabooka Pavilion

The survey was available on WCC's 'Your Say' website. Community awareness of the survey and the pop-up session was achieved through a combination of the following:

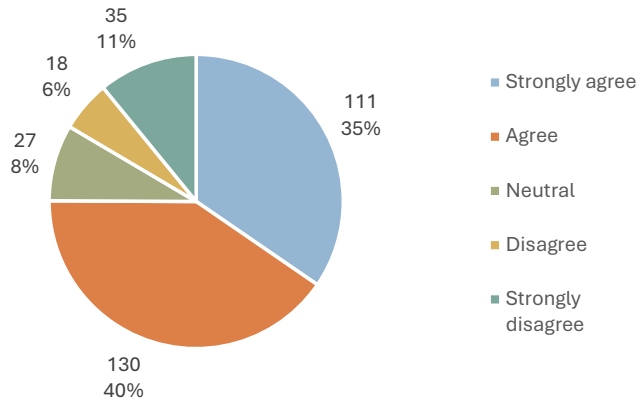
- Signage installed at the reserve.
- Social media posts during the survey period.

4.1.1 Online community survey results

4.1.1.1 Master Plan for Mirrabooka, Orchard Grove and Fulton Reserves

Q1. Do you agree with the Draft Master Plan - Amenity?

Most respondents agreed with the Draft Master Plan in relation to the level of amenity shown, 35% strongly agree (111 responses) and 40% agree (130 responses). 17% responded that they disagree with the amenity, either strongly disagree (35) or disagree (18).



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Q2. Do you have any additional comments about the Draft Master Plan - Amenity?

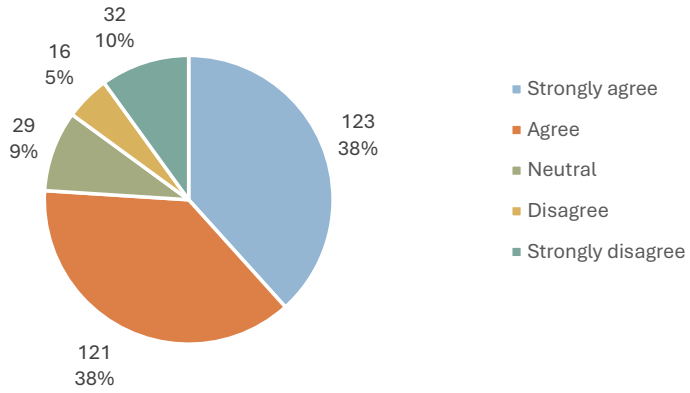
Overall, respondents expressed strong support for upgrades to sporting grounds and amenities, with calls for improved drainage, lighting, parking, and drinking water fountains. Many emphasised that functionality and user-focused upgrades that foster social interaction and community events are more important than purely aesthetic enhancements.

There was support for including a variety of sport fields catering to different age groups. Views on seating and shelters were mixed, some participants raised concerns about potential littering and misuse, while others saw them as valuable for welcoming families and hosting group gatherings. Suggestions were also made to ensure play spaces and amenities cater to all ages.

Dog owners strongly supported the inclusion of dog-friendly spaces and the integration of off-leash areas, though some expressed frustration at the perceived lack of consultation with dog owners for these spaces.

Q3. Do you agree with the Draft Master Plan - Access and Movement?

76% of respondents supported the Access and Movement opportunities with 123 responses strongly agreeing and 121 responses agreeing. 10% (32 responses) of respondents strongly disagreed.



Q4. Do you have any additional comments about the Draft Master Plan - Access and Movement?

Feedback showed a mix of support and objections regarding the use of concrete paths. Objections centred on concerns about drainage impacts, preserving the park's natural character, and maintaining the informal pathways that currently exist. Supporters valued concrete paths for improving accessibility, particularly for users with a range of mobility needs. Many suggested a combination of gravel and concrete surfaces, using concrete for primary circuits and gravel for secondary loops, to ensure year-round usability while retaining some of the park's informal feel.

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Concerns about path placement near residential fence lines focused on safety, privacy, and amenity, including:

- Increased noise and litter along rear boundaries.
- Potential for anti-social behaviour.
- Intrusion into private spaces.
- Insufficient separation between paths and fences.

Additional path-related suggestions included:

- Providing a link to the Gardiners Creek Trail.
- Adding more seating to improve accessibility for all users.

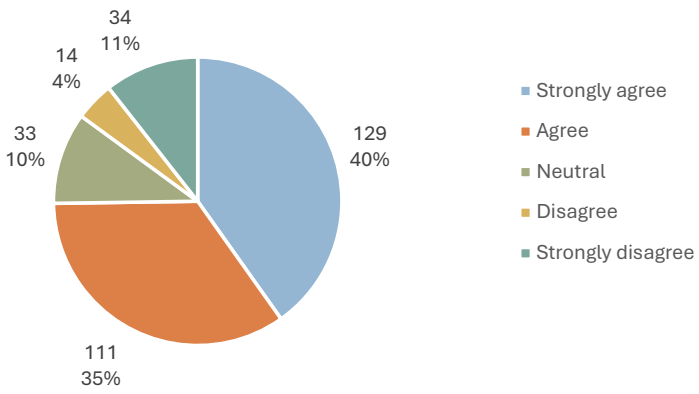
Comments on parking needs were mixed. Some supported upgrades to parking areas, particularly improving drainage and surfacing, to support use of sports fields and the Bungalook Nursery. Others were concerned that increasing parking capacity could attract unwanted visitors and contribute to anti-social behaviour.

Lighting was also a key theme, with feedback highlighting the need to balance safety and ecological sensitivity. Many advocated for appropriate, targeted lighting to help deter anti-social behaviour while minimising environmental impacts.

There was strong support for improving connectivity between Bungalook Nursery and Wurundjeri Walk, along with calls for low-impact, well-placed signage at entry points and key junctions to guide visitors without creating visual clutter.

Q5. Do you agree with the Draft Master Plan - Environment?

Majority of respondents supported the Environment opportunities with 75% either agreeing (111 responses) or strongly agreeing (129 responses). 11% of respondents (34 responses) strongly disagreed with the Environment opportunities.



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Q6. Do you have any additional comments about the Draft Master Plan - Environment?

Residents with fences backing onto the reserve expressed strong concerns about proposed planting, particularly where it may:

- Obstruct sunlight into backyards.
- Create dense vegetation that could encourage anti-social behaviour.
- Block views into the reserve.

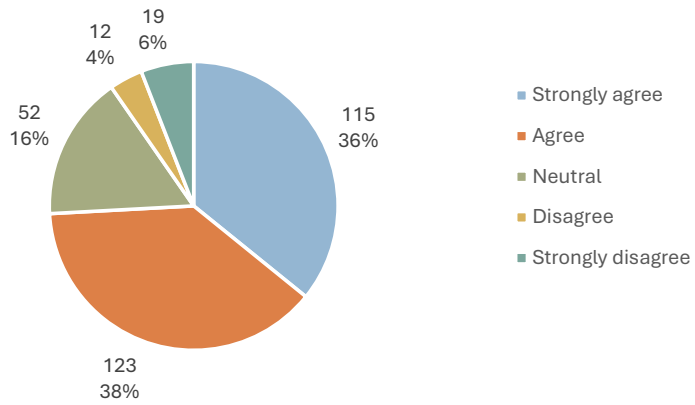
Many suggested that planting along or near fence lines should be limited to low shrubs and groundcovers to preserve visibility and sunlight. There was broad support for tree and shrub planting elsewhere in the reserve, provided it enhances the park's character and user experience.

Respondents supported the use of only indigenous plant species to improve biodiversity across the reserve. Some emphasised the importance of maintaining the park's openness and avoiding excessive shading from vegetation.

There was opposition to unnecessary concrete paths and tree removals, with a preference for low-impact, minimal-intervention approaches.

Q7. Do you agree with the Draft Master Plan – People and Culture?

Majority of respondents agreed with the People and Culture opportunities, 115 responses strongly agreeing and 123 responses agreeing. 10% of respondents (31 responses) either disagreed or strongly disagreed.



Q8. Do you have any additional comments about the Draft Master Plan – People and Culture?

Feedback generally supported celebrating and incorporating Indigenous culture into the reserve, with suggestions including sculptures, interpretive signage, and educational storyboards. While many welcomed these initiatives, some questioned the placement and necessity of Indigenous signage.

There was strong preference for Indigenous planting over exotic fruit trees, aligning with broader support for biodiversity and cultural recognition.

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A few concerns were raised regarding the long-term maintenance of cultural features, as well as the funding and transparency of agreements between schools and clubs for the use of shared spaces.

Q9. Any other comments about the Draft Master Plan for Mirrabooka, Orchard Grove and Fulton Reserves (Wurundjeri Walk)?

General comment description
Sporting Capacity and Facilities Support: • Upgrade pitches. • Upgrade lighting. • Inclusive clubrooms and facilities. • Improve drainage. • Increased maintenance of and around sporting grounds.
Dog off-leash area and amenity Support: • Need for fenced off-leash dog park. • Inclusion of dog amenity such as bins, water fountains. • Inclusion of flexible off-leash hours. • Frustration over current lack of dog-friendly amenity.
Playscape, fitness areas, and equipment Support • Need for all ages playscape and equipment. Objection • Concern for placement attracting anti-social behaviour.
Amenity Support: • Requests for BBQs and sheltered seating.
Paths Support • Inclusion of permeable path surfaces. • Need for accessible paths and consideration of those with mobility needs. • Support of looped trails and circuits. Objection • Concerns for paths close to fences of homes for privacy, safety and anti-social behaviour • Paths disrupting the natural feel of reserves.
Community Engagement and Transparency Support • Suggestions to involve volunteers in works to the Reserves. Objection • Requests of more transparency in the plans for Reserves. • Requests for better communication and more inclusive consultation.
Increased biodiversity, planting, wildlife consideration Support • Preference indigenous planting over exotic species. • Support for wetland restoration, biodiversity and wildlife corridor inclusion. Objection • Opposing fruit trees, concerns for maintenance and pests.

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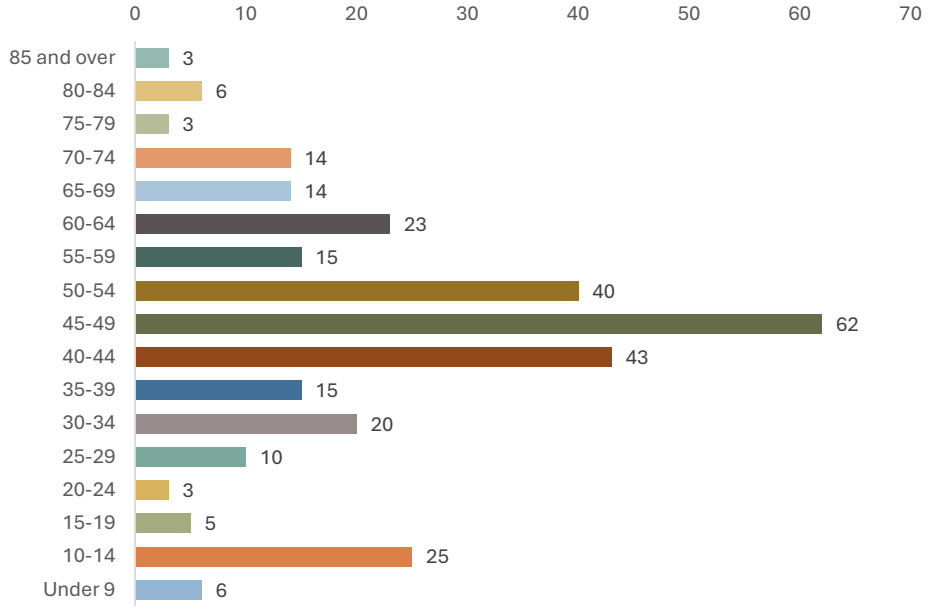
Privacy, Safety and Views
Objection

- Concern for anti-social behaviour with paths, planting and amenity near house fence lines.
- Planting near property fence lines blocking sunlight and views of homeowners.
- Suggestion to move paths away from fence lines.

Respondent Profile

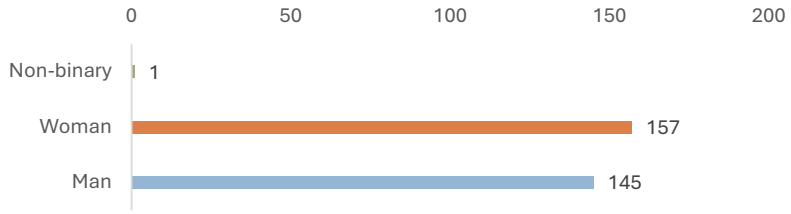
Age

A varied range of ages from under 9 to 85 years and older made up the responses, most respondents were between the ages of 45-49 (62 responses) and 40-44 (43 responses).



Gender

There was a balanced ratio of women (157 responses) and men (145 responses). 1 person responded as non-binary and 3 people responded that they use a different term.



Place of birth

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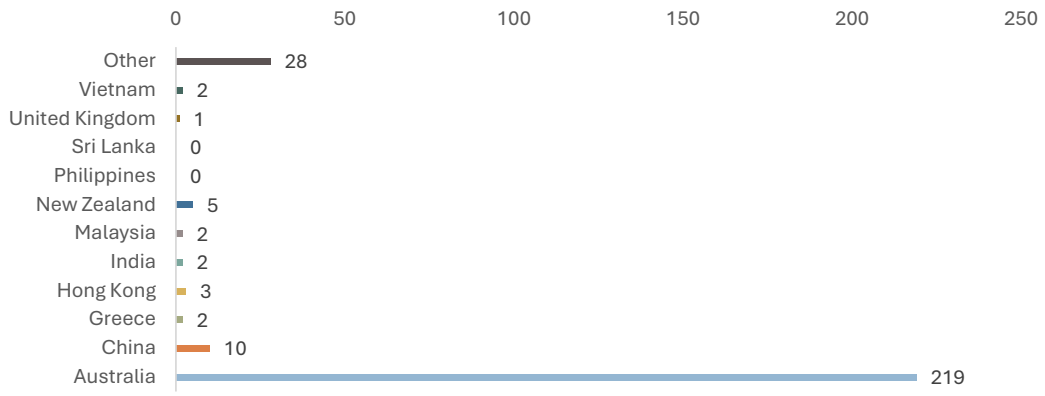

'Other' Responses

No. responses	Comments
1	Chile
1	United Arab Emirates
1	Lao
2	Indonesia
2	Germany
3	United States of America
1	South Africa
1	Iran
1	United Kingdom
1	Netherlands
2	Egypt
1	Zimbabwe
1	Thailand
2	Ireland
1	Brazil
1	Seychelles
1	Other
1	Singapore
1	Italy
2	Argentina
1	Nepal

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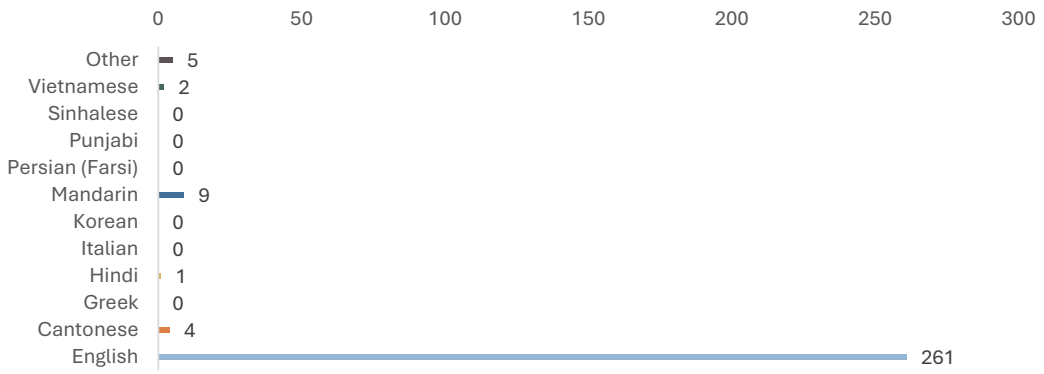
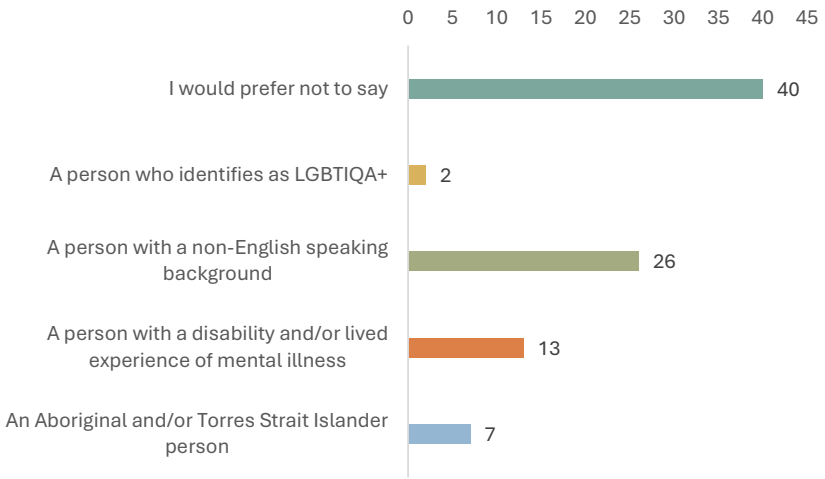
Language Spoken at Home



'Other' Responses

No. responses	Comments
1	Afrikaans
1	Portuguese
2	Spanish
1	Nepali

What best describes you?



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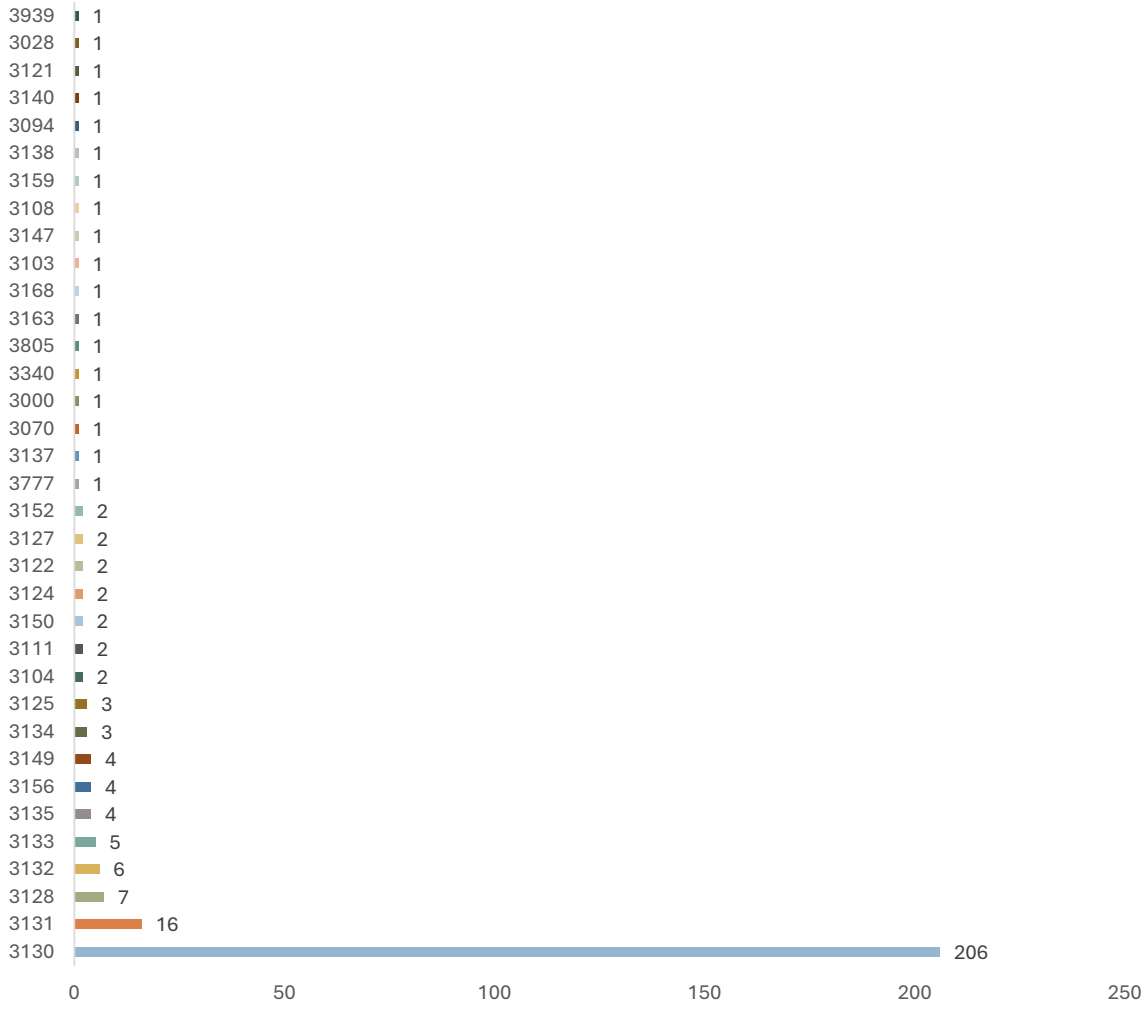
Postcode

35 postcodes were part of the responses. Majority respondents lived in 3130 (206), 16 respondents were from 3131 and 7 respondents from 3128.



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4.1.2 Key stakeholders

The Round 2 stakeholder engagement comprised of a series of meetings with key stakeholders. The purpose of these sessions was to present the draft Master Plan for review, gather feedback, and confirm that the proposed directions aligned with the priorities, issues, and opportunities identified during Round 1 engagement. This process also ensured that the draft plan addressed stakeholder requirements, reflected community values, and supported the long-term vision for Wurundjeri Walk.

Table 9 below shows the type of engagement and participants.

Table 9 Schedule of Round 2 Stakeholder Engagement

Engagement type	Participants
Sports clubs	• Blackburn New Hope Football Club. • Blackburn South Cricket Club.
Traditional Owner engagement	• Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.
General stakeholder	• 20 Orchard Grove Primary School year 5 students • 32 students from 13 Whitehorse Primary Schools involved in Council's Voicenater Meeting.
Landowners and authorities	• Whitehorse City Council Disability Advisory Committee.

4.1.2.1 Stakeholder feedback

For each stakeholder group, a dedicated session was held. A summary of feedback from the Traditional Owner engagement and Whitehorse City Council Disability Advisory Committee sessions is provided in Table 10. Other engagement activities included:

- **18 June** – Council's project team presented to Council's *Junior Voicenator* meeting, comprising 32 students from 13 primary schools across Whitehorse, introducing the Master Plan and inviting youth perspectives.
- **25 June** – Presentation to Blackburn NewHope Football Club (soccer) and Blackburn South Cricket Club. Both clubs expressed strong support for the proposed sportsfield upgrades, particularly the planned resurfacing, improved drainage, and lighting.
- **1 July** – Council's project team and Engagement Team visited Orchard Grove Primary School, meeting with 20 Year 5 students. The session raised awareness of the Master Plan, with feedback entered into *YourSay*. Students were generally supportive of the proposals.

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Table 10 Round 2 Stakeholder feedback

Stakeholder Group	Notes
Whitehorse Disability Advisory Committee 4th June 2025 Attendees: Cr Daniel Griffiths, Cr Kirsten Langford, Zoe Quinn, Ann-Marie Baker Rosemary Brown, Diane Casbolt, Jane Matthews- Bede, Kate de Josselin, Michael Janes, Mark Stockden, and Maureen D'Arcy	<u>Fulton Road Pedestrian Crossing</u> • A pedestrian light crossing on Fulton Road could improve safety in the area, particularly if fitted with audible signals. • As the location is on an existing bus route, approval from VicRoads would be required. • A traffic study may demonstrate the need for lights. • School drop-off and pick-up would increase traffic as well as sports in early evenings. <u>Gravel Paths</u> • Gravel paths described as compacted gravel paths that are water permeable.
Traditional Owners 10th July 2025 Attendees: Aunty Gail Smith, Aunty Julianne Axford and Charley Woolmore.	<u>Stormwater and flooding</u> • Wurundjeri Wetlands stormwater managed by Yarra Valley Water has significant catchment is subject to flooding. • Orchard Grove precinct has remaining undulations from use as an orchard. Replanting to include native species and edibles. <u>Sport grounds and facilities</u> • Memorandum of understanding between Council and the Department of Education to ensure capital works projects addressing the sporting fields can be undertaken and sporting clubs and public can access these outside of school hours. • Upgrades would enable increased female participation in soccer and cricket. • Community would be able to hire the pavilion in the future. <u>Signage</u> • Increase signage and references to Wurundjeri, particularly around the wetlands to provide educational information on plants, animals and Wurundjeri use of the waterways. • Inclusion of two major signs with artwork included and five smaller sings within the area. Artwork to be done by a Wurundjeri artist. <u>Playgrounds</u> • Upgrades to playgrounds to reference Australian wildlife and include Woi-wurrung word references. • Consider using a wetlands theme for the Indira Park playground with use of Wurundjeri language. <u>Naming</u> • Check whether the creek feeding into the waterways is named, if not, consider using Wurundjeri language. <u>Gathering areas</u> • Explore the installation of a Yarning Circle in the informal gathering area at southern entrance.

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	Amenity																		
1, 2, 3	Upgrade playground Infrastructure at Indra Road to create inviting spaces for families, incorporating shelter, picnic settings and benches for comfort. - Allowance for 1x shelter, demolish and stockpile existing picnic set and benches and upgrade to 2x accessible picnic setting, 2x accessible bench. - Demolition and remove existing play equipment - Allowance for introduce new universal play elements that are engaging for children for wider age group - allowance for small scale fitness pod	Low				$250,000	$50,000		$300,000	FY36/37	Renewal	50%	$150,000	20%	$25,000	42%	$125,000		
4	Explore opportunities to increase access to water features, creating spaces for recreation and education.	Low				Excl													
5	Fulton Wetland Design a gravel lookout area with informal seating, offering panoramic views of the wetlands to encourage users to spend time in and enjoy the nature surroundings- Allowance for large stone seating and new paving area	Low				$67,479	$13,496		$80,975	FY37/38	New Capital	50%	$40,487		$0			50%	$40,487
6	Fulton West and East Reserves - Install new timber bench seats to encourage visitation and improve accessibility to the reserves south of Fulton Road- Allowance for 3no benches to West reserve and 3no benches to East reserve only.	Medium				$6,000		$600	$6,600	FY32/33	New Capital	50%	$3,300	50%	$3,300				$0
7	South Social Space *To be delivered together with M19.* Introduce new park amenities in the centre of Wurundjeri Walk, including shelters, picnic tables, and benches, to encourage people to spend more time in the reserve and enhance use comfort. - Allowance for 1 shelters, 2 no. picnic tables and 3 no bench seating - Gravel path connecting to it	Medium				$125,000		$12,500	$137,500	FY32/33	New Capital	50%	$68,750	50%	$68,750				$0
9	Explore expanding the Orchard Grove playground to include BBQ, accessible modwood benches, and social and exercise facilities to broaden the range of equipment and accommodate the anticipated increase in the adult population. - allowance for upgrade play equipment to cater for wider age group - allowance for demolish and stockpile existing timber bench - allowance for medium scale fitness pod, 2x modwood benches, and 1x electric bbq with 2 hot plates Open up view line with associated vegetation pruning to improve passive surviliance and visibility from Mirrabooka Reserve	Low				$300,000	$60,000		$360,000	FY36/37	Renewal	50%	$180,000	50%	$180,000				$0
10	As a part of JUA Install a 1.8m palisade fence around the southern portion of the West Field to define school land and operations during school hours, creating a defined path of travel around the school for the public.	High	319	m	$200	$77,095		$7,710	$84,805	FY26/27	New Capital		$0	50%	$42,402			50%	$42,402
11	As a part of JUA Investigate oval resurfacing to optimise the West and North Field for sport programming, potentially through a partnership with Peak Sporting Bodies, Department of Education, and other external funding opportunities. - Provisional allowance for resurfacing, cricket wicket renewal, drainage works, and new floodlight - West oval floodlight to be 150lux, North Field to be 100lux with futureproofed to 200 Lux	High				$3,500,000	$700,000		$4,200,000	FY26/27 North Field and Lighting FY27/28 West Field and Lighting	New Capital	50%	$2,100,000		$0			50%	$2,100,000
12	Upgrade and realign cricket nets further east into embankment to facilitate maximising the Size of the Middle (Junior) Field. - Allowance for 4 lanes with 3.6 x 36m each lane - Allowance for lighting with capacity to 300lux	High	1	Lanes		$140,000	$28,000		$168,000	FY26/27	Renewal	50%	$84,000	50%	$84,000				$0
13	Incorporate terrace seating to reduce batter steepness and provide informal spectator seating towards the Middle Field and cricket nets, enhancing the viewing experience for visitors - This will be delivered as part of Pavilion Work	High	143	m		$306,027	$61,205		$367,232	FY26/27	New Capital	0%	$0		$0			100%	$367,232
14	Upgrade Bungalook Nuesery facility to improve the operational capacity, enhance workflow, working conditions and upgrade the site assets - $500K for feasibility and capital. $200K for capital works FY26/27	High				$50,000			$50,000	FY26/27	Renewal	0%	$0	100%	$50,000				$0
15	Create a visually prominent gateway entry and public address to Wurundjeri Walk, encouraging park users to access the site south of the sports fields. - Allowance for landscaping	High				$24,168	$4,834		$29,002	FY32/33	New Capital	50%	$14,501	50%	$14,501				$0

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	Amenity																		
16	Provide benches and additional planting at Hurter-Finch Reserve to provide a passive space that enhances user experience. - Allowance for 2x timber benches and 100sqm of groundcover planting	Low	2	no	$1,000	$4,000		$400	$4,400	FY26/27	New Capital	100%	$4,400		$0				$0
17	As a part of JUA Investigate oval resurfacing to optimise the Middle Field for sport programming, potentially through a partnership with Peak Sporting Bodies, Department of Education, and other external funding opportunities. - Provisional allowance for resurfacing, drainage works and loodlight installation	High				$1,000,000	$200,000		$1,200,000	FY27/28	Renewal	50%	$600,000		$0			50%	$600,000
19	Canora Street Secondary Footpath *To be delivered together with M5.* Construct a secondary exercise circuit at back fence of Canora Street properties to promote access and physical activity. - Allowance to prune trees and manage existing vegetation to improve sightline and visibility. - Allow 2x timber bench seat -expand tree canopy where appropriate	High				$172,000			$172,000	FY26/27	New Capital/ Operat	100%	$172,000						
8 &20	South social space informal community gathering point for groups and events. *To be delivered as one package with A7.* - Allowance for gravel and informal boulder seating	Medium				$20,000	$2,000		$22,000	FY32/33	New Capital	50%	$11,000	50%	$11,000				$0
21	New toilet block at Orchard Grove car park	Medium				$135,000	$15,000		$150,000	FY32/33	New Capital	50%	$75,000	50%	$75,000				
	Movement and access																		
1	Install 6x accessible pram ramp and zebra pedestrian crossings at Indra Road and Fulton Road to create a safe connection across streets, prioritising pedestrian movement within Wurundjeri Walk	High				$89,276		$8,928	$98,204	FY26/27	New Capital	50%	$49,102	50%	$49,102				$0
2	Footpath - within Fulton Wetland - RENEWAL Create clear and accessible paths that better define the Indra Road playground, ensuring universal access - Assume Gravel path (assume 1.5m wide) Resurface path to improve connection to Wurundjeri Wetland and the Indra Road playground, ensuring universal access for visitors with diverse mobility needs.	Low	300	m2	$75	$22,500	$4,500		$27,000	FY31/32	Operational	75%	$20,250	25%	$6,750				$0
3	Create clear and accessible paths that better define the Indra Road playground, ensuring universal access. To be delivered with A1	Medium																	
4	Fulton Wetland Carpark Formalisation - Allowance for gravel carparks and stud marking. formalise gravel accessible carparks at Fulton Wetland off Fulton Road	Low	500	m2	$350	$175,000	$35,000		$210,000	FY39/40	New Capital	50%	$105,000	50%	$105,000				$0
5	Canora Street Secondary Footpath - 1.5m wide gravel footpath with minor landscaping	High	200	m	$75	$15,000	$3,000		$18,000	FY27/28	New Capital	50%	$9,000	50%	$9,000				
8	Consider providing a clear path of travel for emergency access to the pavilion, with adequate turning space in the Mirrabooka Reserve carpark, ensuring safety and accessibility during emergencies. This is a part of Pavilion Work.	Medium																	
9	Reconfigure School Driveway and Carpark near Pavilion to enhance wayfinding, add more pick-up drop-off spaces, and improve user safety by prioritising pedestrian movement.	High	205	sqm	$330	$67,650	$13,530		$81,180	FY33/34	Renewal		$0	50%	$40,590			50%	$40,590
10	Create a central path from the Mirrabooka car park and pavilion to provide a defined access corridor into Wurundjeri Walk.	High	60	m	$79	$4,752	$950		$5,702	FY33/34	Renewal		$0	50%	$2,851			50%	$2,851
11	Reconfigure School Driveway to provide parallel parking along the access road - Resurfacing asphalt driveway with linemarking - New kerb alignment - 1.2m wide concrete pedestrian path along the southern verge - grass verge between pedestrian path and playing surface - renewal low timber fence on both south and north side to prevent stray balls from entering the roadway.	High	180	m	$1,944	$350,000	$70,000		$420,000	FY35/36	Renewal	50%	$210,000		$0			50%	$210,000

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12	Introduce new parallel carparking along Holland Road, accompanied by a new path and verge planting to preserve existing canopy trees.	Medium	50	m	$1,500	$75,000	$15,000		$90,000	FY35/36	New Capital	50%	$45,000	50%	$45,000				$0
14	South Old Carpark near South Pitch Primary Entrance and for maintenance access From Holland Road to south of sport field. - Resurfacing trafficable asphalt driveway and allow crossover for maintenance vehicle to south pitch. - allowing landscaping and understorey planting - Create a new concrete pedestrian stair connection and defined access corridor from Holland Road to provide an accessible route to Wurundjeri Walk.	High	600	m2	$363	$250,000	$50,000		$300,000	FY27/28	New Capital	75%	$225,000	25%	$75,000				$0
16	Provide concrete pads at key landscape elements - e.g. drinking fountain, benches, picnic settings and in areas with high traffic to improve accessibility and prevent erosion.	Medium	270	m2	$330	$89,100		$8,910	$98,010	FY33/34	Operational		$0	100%	$98,010				$0
19	Introduce new angled parking along Fulton Road at the central social space to provide accessible car parks and kerb out stands to increase canopy trees. To be delivered with A8.	Medium	300	m2	$363	$108,900	$21,780		$130,680	FY35/36	New Capital	50%	$65,340	50%	$65,340				
20	Hurter-Finch Reserve Footpath - introduce minimal spill, grid-free solar lighting for CPTED reasons at Hurter-Finch Reserve	Medium	20	ea	$5,000	$100,000	$20,000		$120,000	FY35/36	New Capital	50%	$60,000	50%	$60,000				
7, 15, 17	Install wayfinding and legislative signage at key access points and park features to improve navigation and provide important information for visitors. - Provisional allowance for 5x integrated major signage. - At Fulton Wetland near Fulton Road, Orchard Grove Playground, Mirrabooka Reserve near Pavilion, Fulton Road and Holland Road intersection near shopping strip and Bungalook Nursery Improve compliance with dog walking during organised sports events by implementing clear signage that promotes responsible pet ownership, encourages dog owners to attend to their pets, and is supported by the provision of convenient bin infrastructure for waste disposal.	High	5	ea		$50,000		$5,000	$55,000	FY27/28	New Capital	100%	$55,000		$0				$0
	Environment																		
1	Introduce new canopy tree planting along paths to enhance open space amenity, providing shade and creating new ecological habitats for local wildlife.	High	141	no	$100	$17,038		$1,704	$18,742	FY31/32	Operational	50%	$9,371	50%	$9,371				$0
2	Investigate a tree replacement program to maintain and secure long-term open space shade, ensuring continued comfort and environmental benefits.	Ongoing									Operational								$0
3	Within Fulton Reserves Implement new understorey planting to provide visual interest while improving habitat connectivity.	High	500	m2	$20	$10,000		$1,000	$11,000	FY30/31	Operational	50%	$5,500	50%	$5,500				$0
4	Regenerate indigenous understorey planting at key entrances and decision points, enriching ecological the value and user experience by creating a cohesive, native plant palette that ties the site together.	High	1800	m2	$20	$36,000		$3,600	$39,600	FY30/31	Operational	50%	$19,800	50%	$19,800				$0
5	Investigate new planting with key stakeholders and management strategies throughout Wurundjeri Walk to enhance biodiversity and visual amenity, with scheduled maintenance activities prioritising effective weed management	Medium	Excl																
6	Explore strategies to protect the creek bed and manage erosion, ensuring long-term health and stability of the waterway.	Medium	Excl																
7	Incorporate water sensitive urban design techniques in collaboration with Melbourne Water to improve water quality before it enters Fulton Road Drain and Gardiners Creek, contributing to healthier local ecosystems.	Medium	Excl																

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8	Orchard Grove Reserve Increase understorey and tree planting where appropriate.	High	3000	m2	$20	$60,000		$6,000	$66,000	FY30/31	Operational	50%	$33,000	50%	$33,000				$0
9	Increase tree planting along Illowra Walk residential property boundaries and between South and Middle Fields to provide landscape buffer and shade for spectators	High	40	no	$100	$4,000		$400	$4,400	FY30/31	Operational	50%	$2,200	50%	$2,200				$0
10	Mirrabooka Reserve Integrate native planting, including canopy trees, along the periphery of sports fields to blend the site's bushland character with the recreational areas, promoting biodiversity and increasing shade for users	Medium	347	m2	$30	$10,410		$1,041	$11,451	FY35/36	Operational	50%	$5,726	50%	$5,726				$0
11	Introduce new understorey and tree planting as a buffer between South Field and Illowra Walk residential properties, to mitigate light spill and introduce visual buffer. - Assume 2m wide landscaping and tree planting	Medium	211	m2	$100	$21,100		$2,110	$23,210	FY35/36	Operational	50%	$11,605	50%	$11,605				$0
12	Within Orchard Grover Reserve Enhance understorey planting and expand tree canopy using a native plant palette to create a visual link to Wurundjeri Walk and strengthen habitat corridors.	High	3500	m2	$20	$70,000		$7,000	$77,000	FY30/31	Operational	50%	$38,500	50%	$38,500				$0
13	Orchard Grove Bioretention System Redevelopment As a part of Parks and Natural Environment Teams Asset Renewal Project, investigate renewal Orchard Grove Reserve wetland near Bungalook Nursery	High		ea		$544,000			$544,000		New Capital		$0	50%	$272,000			50%	$272,000
14	Monitor investigation on feasibility study on water sensitive urban design infrastructure options	High				NA													
	People and culture																		
1	South Social Space *To be delivered with A8.* Introduce a designated space for storytelling and celebration, allowing the community to share and honour significant cultural heritage and traditions.	Medium	150	sqm	$100	$25,000	$5,000		$30,000	FY40/41	New Capital	50%	$15,000	50%	$15,000				
2	Install indigenous planting and small scale signage to provide visitors with opportunities to learn about and explore the cultural heritage, ecological, and local historical values of Wurundjeri Walk. Limited to 2 locations	High		ea		$10,000	$2,000		$12,000	FY40/41	New Capital	50%	$6,000	50%	$6,000				
3	Continue to support ongoing maintenance and management of park assets including paths, car parks, vegetation, and amenities by fostering strong partnerships with recreation and sports groups. Friends groups, volunteers, and other stakeholders to promote stewardship.	Ongoing				NA													
	Carparks maintenance	Ongoing	450	m2 per annum	$100	$45,000					Operational			100%	$45,000				
	Bushland maintenance	Ongoing	9358	m2 per annum	$1	$12,165					Operational			100%	$12,165				
	Trees maintenance	Ongoing	206	ea per annum	$30	$6,180					Operational			100%	$6,180				
	Gravel paths maintenance	Ongoing	500	m2 per annum	$1	$250					Operational			100%	$250				
4	Monitor JUA progress and reporting	Ongoing and High									Operational			100%	$0				
5	Jenner Street Community Notice Board - Upgrade existing notice board with interpretive signage to provide visitors with opportunities to learn about and explore the cultural heritage, ecological, and local historical values of Wurundjeri Walk. - Allowance for new notice board with interperative info.	Medium				$30,000	$6,000		$36,000	FY31/32	Renewal	100%	$36,000						
									$9,859,692				**$4,529,831**		**$1,592,893**		**$125,000**		**$3,675,563**

	Open space reserve/Development reserve	Rates	DCP	External funding	Total
High Priority Actions (FY26/27-FY31/32)	$3,632,974	$753,817	$0	$3,635,076	$8,021,866
Medium Priority Actions (FY32/33- FY35/36)	$396,721	$458,731	$0	$0	$855,451
Low Priority Actions (FY37/38- FY40/41)	$500,137	$316,750	$125,000	$40,487	$982,375
Ongoing Actions (FY 26/27 - FY 40/41)	$63,595	$0	$0	$0	$63,595
Total	**$4,593,427**	**$1,529,297**	**$125,000**	**$3,675,563**	**$9,923,288**

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WHITEHORSE CITY COUNCIL

WHITEHORSE

Household Kerbside Transition

Community Consultation Report October 2025



greenshoot CONSULTING

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Whitehorse Farmers Market Pop Up 14/09

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1.1. PROJECT CONTEXT

Whitehorse City Council is preparing to transition to a four-bin kerbside waste and recycling service by 1 July 2027, in line with the Victorian Government's Proposed Household Waste and Recycling Service Standards (2024). The change is part of a state-wide reform to create greater consistency across Victoria, improve recycling outcomes, and reduce the volume of waste sent to landfill.

This transition represents the potential for significant change for Whitehorse households, businesses, community organisations, sporting clubs and schools that currently receive Council's kerbside service. The new system will introduce four distinct waste streams: Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO – lime green lid), Mixed Recycling (yellow lid), Glass Recycling (purple lid), and Garbage (red lid). While the introduction of a four-bin service is mandated, Council will be able to determine bin sizes, collection frequencies, and the implementation of supporting measures that best meet local community needs.

The proposed changes are informed by Council's key strategic documents:

- The Whitehorse Waste Management Strategy (2018–2028), which targets an 80% landfill diversion rate by 2028;
- The Climate Response Strategy (2023–2030), which aspires for net-zero community emissions by 2040; and
- The Integrated Council Plan (2025–2029), which emphasises environmentally sustainable, climate-resilient, and responsibly managed waste services.

Currently, Whitehorse provides an 80-litre weekly garbage service and a 240-litre fortnightly recycling service, with an optional FOGO bin available. Around 76% of households have already opted in to the FOGO service, yet food waste still represents about 40% of garbage bin contents, highlighting the potential for improved diversion.

1.2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Between August and September 2025, Council engaged more than 6,700 community members through a mixed-methods program of surveys, pop-ups, focus groups and targeted sessions for key community segments, including residents of multi-unit dwellings (MUDs), households with nappies or medical needs, people living with disabilities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, young people, older citizens and local organisations. The purpose of this consultation was to:

i. Inform and educate the community on the State Government's mandatory requirements including the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021 and proposed Service Standards for councils to provide a mandatory food organics and garden organics (FOGO) service and a separate glass recycling service by 1 July 2027.

ii. Seek feedback on two four-bin service options:
    - Four-Bin Service Option 1: Garbage bin collected weekly. FOGO and Recycling bins collected fortnightly, Glass every 4-weeks.

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- Four-Bin Service Option 2: FOGO bin collected weekly. Garbage and Recycling bins collected fortnightly, Glass every 4-weeks.

iii. Seek feedback on proposed approach of shared FOGO and glass bin arrangements at apartments, townhouses and people living in units.

iv. Socialise Council's Waste Management Strategy (Rubbish to Resource!) 2018-2028 new draft 5-Year Action Plan (2024-2028).

Based on the current Whitehorse population of 183,462, the strong response to Council's YourSay page survey (5535 responses) significantly exceeds the industry standard of 95% confidence level that the results accurately reflect the attitudes of the population, based on a 1.5% margin for error.

1.3. KEY INSIGHTS

Feedback from the Whitehorse community demonstrates strong alignment with Council's environmental objectives but a range of responses to some options and changes proposed as part of the transition to four bins.

1.3.1. Feedback on the two service options

Option 1 (Weekly Garbage):

- 56% of respondents felt **they could not manage fortnightly garbage collection with their current bin size** (preference for Option 1), primarily due to odour, hygiene and bin capacity concerns. Of those households who indicated they could not manage fortnightly garbage collection, **25% were living in single person households, with a partner and with no dependents.**
- 62% of respondents indicated that **they prefer fortnightly FOGO**, citing that keeping organic waste out of landfill, reducing waste going to landfill, reducing costs and smells were important to them. However, these reasons would be more likely to be associated with Option 2.

Option2 (Fortnightly Garbage):

- 35% of survey respondents indicated that **they could manage with fortnightly garbage collection** (Option 2).
- 67% of the 56% of households who identified **they could not manage fortnightly garbage collection with their current bin size** indicated **they could adapt to fortnightly garbage if provided with larger or additional bins at no extra cost**.
- Of the 65% of respondents who felt unable to manage fortnightly garbage (56% of total respondents) or were unsure (9% of total respondents), 48% indicated that **they could manage with a larger or additional garbage bin.**

⇒ **Therefore, based on these engagement results, the total of residents who could manage fortnightly garbage (Option 2), if provided with an additional or larger bin is 66%.**

- Feedback from community cohorts highlighted that **households with nappies and those with medical needs or disabilities are least able to manage fortnightly garbage**, requiring larger bins.
- Anecdotal evidence from the focus groups suggested that **once participants had more information** regarding the benefits of more frequent FOGO collection, **they changed their preference from weekly garbage to fortnightly garbage**. The fact that only 5.2% of visitors to Councils YourSay page downloaded the Conversations Starter Kit which provided more detail information re the benefits of fortnightly garbage may suggest that **the community did not have all the information they needed to make an informed choice** regarding garbage & FOGO collection frequency.

1.3.2. Feedback on glass recycling

Feedback on the proposed introduction of a glass bin was divided. 36% of residents living in single unit dwellings or on sites with four or less dwellings provided comments on the proposed introduction of an 80L glass bin, collected every four weeks.

- The **logistical implications of having to manage four bins (544 mentions) were of the greatest concern**, with many identifying that they lacked either the storage space or nature strip spaces to keep four bins.
- A large number of respondents identified that **they did not have a need for a glass bin** (460 mentions), as they did not generate a significant amount of glass waste.
- This was further supported by comments relating to respondents' **use of the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) or other alternative glass recycling options**, including calls for communal drop off locations, which were raised 409 times.
- Concerns about **additional costs associated with the new glass bin** (328 mentions) were also a significant source of respondent concern.
- Not all respondent feedback was negative, with **some respondents providing supportive feedback (293 mentions).** This included comments regarding **the importance of glass recycling** as well as **support for the size and frequency** of the proposed glass collection service.

1.3.3. Feedback on Shared FOGO (MUDs)

Feedback from respondents living in MUDs on the proposed sharing of FOO bins.

- 47% of respondents living in MUDs **were against the idea of sharing FOGO bins**, citing a desire for their own bins, practical concerns re sharing bins for those living in smaller MUDs (as opposed to high-rise apartments), and bin capacity concerns for those with high amounts of green waste as the most common reasons for not wanting to share.
- 31% **agreed with the idea of sharing a FOGO bin** with neighbours, with limited storage or nature strip space as the greatest driver of this preference.

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1.3.4. Feedback on Shared Glass Bins (MUDs)

Feedback from respondents living in MUDs on the proposed introduction of an 80L glass bin, collected every four weeks.

- 71% of respondents who lived in MUDs indicated that **they were either supportive or neutral** when asked whether they would share a glass bin with neighbours, with not having enough glass waste and not having enough storage space as the major reasons.
- In general, **confusion exists around the need and practicality of glass collection and its cost implications** suggesting more community education and communication may be required to support the introduction of the glass bin

1.3.5. Feedback from Sporting Groups, Businesses and Community Organisations

While 26% had no concerns with the introduction of four-bin service, most non-residential respondents raised spatial constraints or limited need for certain bins, particularly glass.

A majority (65%) preferred Option 1 citing regular garbage collection, having the correct bin sizes as most important.

Only 26% supported Option 2, driven by environmental concerns such as reducing landfill and greenhouse emissions

1.4. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Community feedback across all engagement activities highlighted consistent priorities relating to how any future kerbside service changes should be introduced and supported. The following points are drawn from consolidate feedback received from all household types and stakeholder groups, outlining common implementation considerations relevant to the wider Whitehorse community.

General transition to 4-bins

- Provide exemptions where necessary for select cohorts (e.g. households living with medical needs), incentives, resources and on-the-ground support to help residents adjust to new collection frequencies or waste management behaviours.
- Ensure community education and communication materials address odour and hygiene concerns, correct bin use, and how to manage limited space in smaller properties or MUDs.
- Provide transparency around service costs, rates, and options for properties with limited FOGO or glass waste.
- Work collaboratively with key stakeholders including body corporates, property managers, developers, and community organisations to support service design and information sharing.

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Specific considerations for Option 1 (weekly garbage/fortnightly FOGO)

There were no specific considerations as this is the current bin collection frequency.

Specific considerations for Option 2 (weekly FOGO/fortnightly garbage)

- Implement a clear and consistent communication campaign explaining how weekly FOGO reduces garbage volume and odour, supported by visual materials and messaging tailored to different community groups (e.g. CALD communities, households with nappies, people living with disabilities or medical needs).
- Clearly explain the environmental and financial rationale for change, including cost savings from greater landfill diversion.
- Consider a staged rollout or trial phase to identify and address challenges before full implementation and to build community confidence in any proposed changes.
- Offer larger or additional garbage bins at no additional cost (up to a cap) and implement eligibility-based exemptions linked to household composition or specific needs.

Specific considerations for Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs)

- Where possible, design waste collection service models specific to MUD typologies (low-rise, townhouse clusters, apartments) rather than applying a one-size-fits-all approach.
- Provide smaller bin options and assistance to create shared bin enclosures or communal collection points.
- Develop clear management guidelines and communication tools for shared systems to address operational and safety concerns.

Specific considerations for households with nappies

- Offer larger or additional garbage bins at no additional cost.
- Explore sealed nappy disposal services or partnerships with nappy-cleaning providers and ensure cost parity for MUDs and smaller properties.

Specific considerations for households with medical needs and/or disabilities

- Consider maintaining weekly garbage collection exemptions for medical or disability-related waste.
- Provide larger or additional bins where required and consider a trial or phased approach with monitoring to assess impacts before full rollout.

Specific considerations for Sporting groups, businesses & community organisations

- Provide flexible service options (e.g. shared bins) to suit varying space and collection needs.
- Engage directly with these groups to identify infrastructure and storage support requirements.

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2 ENGAGEMENT APPROACH



Bunnings Box Hill Pop Up 20/09

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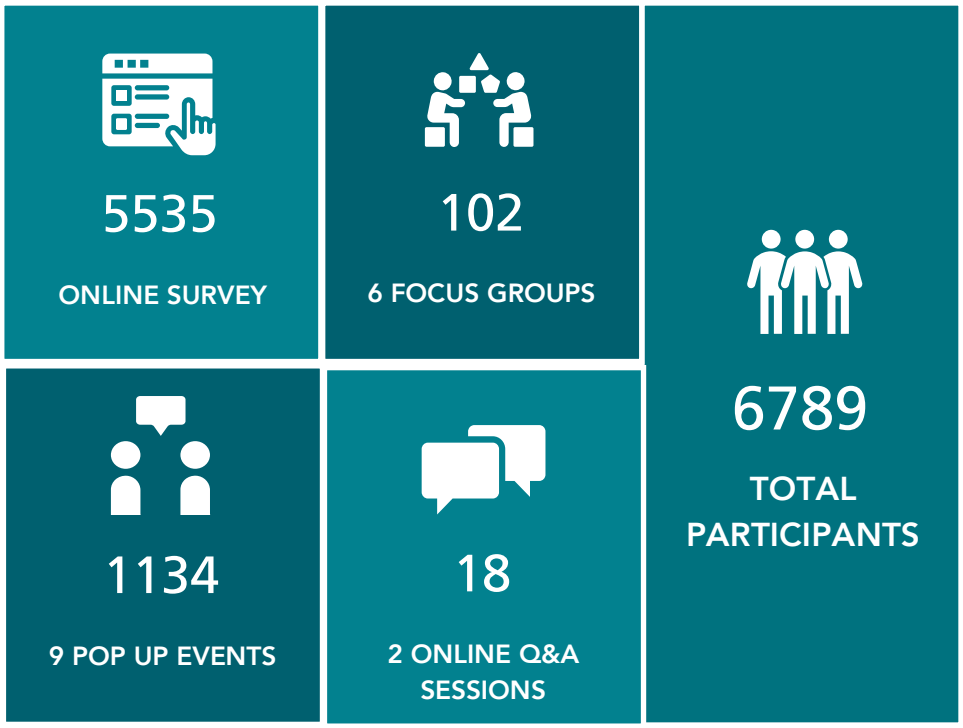
2.1. SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

Various methods of engagement were undertaken to collect meaningful quantitative and qualitative data from community including the nominated hard-to-reach groups.





Vermont Shopping Centre Pop Up 12/09

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2.2. TARGETED COMMUNITY SEGMENTS

A broad cross-section of the community and stakeholders, including targeted community segments, were engaged in order to capture the diversity of views on the community's kerbside waste collection needs and sentiment.





Burwood Brickworks Pop Up 5/09



General (CALD) Focus Group 23/09

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2.3. SURVEY SNAPSHOT

CONNECTION TO WHITEHORSE

99%
of respondents rent or own a dwelling in Whitehorse

1%
of respondents represent a business, organisation or education centre in Whitehorse

GENDER

57% women

40% men

1% non-binary or gender diverse

2% of respondents clicked "I use a different term"

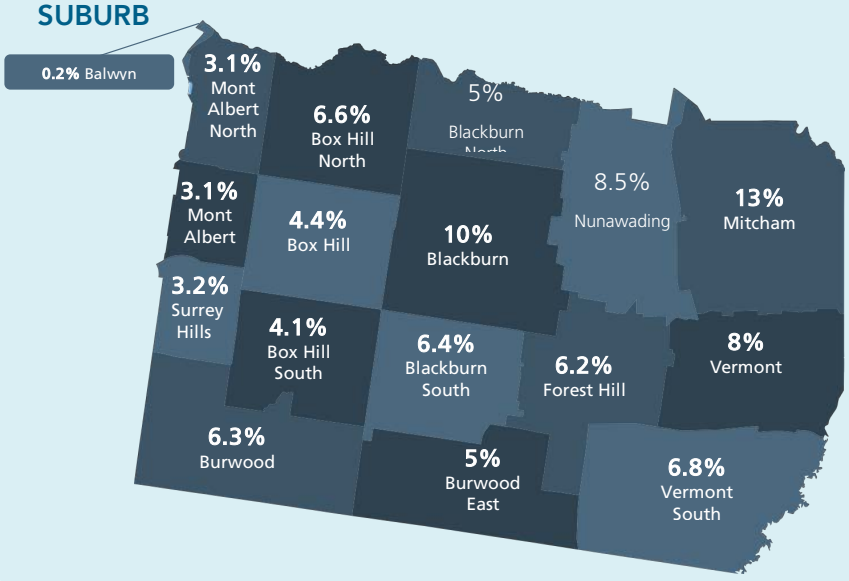
5%
have someone at home with a disability or mobility needs

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITIONS

Households alone or with a partner	Households with children under 18	Households with children over 18	Group households / share houses
33%	37%	19%	2%

5.2%
downloaded the conversation starter kit

SUBURB



TYPE OF HOME

77%
of respondents live in a standalone house

17%
of respondents live in a townhouse or unit (2-4 dwellings)

6%
of respondents live in an apartment (4+ dwellings)

TOP LANGUAGES

12%
Speak a language other than English at home

88%
of respondents speak English

5%
of respondents speak Mandarin

3%
of respondents speak Cantonese

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2.4. 4-BIN OPTIONS SOCIALISED DURING THE ENGAGEMENT

The engagement explored the forthcoming switch to a 4-bin service and aimed to capture community preferences on the following options.

2.4.1. Option 1: Weekly garbage fortnightly FOGO

Garbage	FOGO	Recycling	Glass
Collected Weekly	Collected Fortnightly	Collected Fortnightly	Collected Every 4 weeks
			
80 Litre	140 Litre*	240 Litre	80 Litre

2.4.2. Option 2: Fortnightly garbage, weekly FOGO

Garbage	FOGO	Recycling	Glass
Collected Fortnightly	Collected Weekly	Collected Fortnightly	Collected Every 4 weeks
			
80 Litre	140 Litre*	240 Litre	80 Litre

*140L is the proposed standard size of FOGO bin. There will be no change for residents with a 240L FOGO bin.

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3 ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES



Moon Festival Pop Up 13/09

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3.1. OVERALL COMMUNITY

3.1.1. Summary

This section explores the results from Whitehorse residents, excluding survey responses from businesses, sporting clubs and community organisations. Feedback from specific community segments, including those living in multi-unit dwellings, households living with disposable nappies, households living with medical needs and/or disabilities and young people is explored in more detail in subsequent sections.

Survey data and feedback from focus groups regarding the proposed transition to a four-bin waste service model suggests a mixture of support, concern, and acceptance of the need for a transition to four bins, if the right type of supports across key aspects of the proposed service models were put in place. Whitehorse residents broadly appreciate the environmental rationale of any proposed changes to the current waste service as well as Council's desire to achieve its sustainability objectives. However, many in the community expressed concerns about how any proposed changes, and in particular, a fortnightly garbage collection service and the introduction of a new glass bin, would work.

Survey results indicate that over half of respondents feel unable to manage with a fortnightly garbage collection. Concerns about odours, hygiene and bin capacity were most often raised by respondents. However, 48% of households indicated that with larger or additional bins, and appropriate supports, they could manage with fortnightly garbage collection. Those who were most supportive of fortnightly garbage collection seem to be motivated by environmental and cost-saving factors, while those who weren't supportive are more concerned about logistical, practical and amenity-related concerns.

In contrast, preferences around FOGO collection frequency demonstrate greater flexibility and awareness of environmental outcomes. 62% of respondents prefer the current fortnightly FOGO collection, which suggests either a confidence in their ability to manage waste with the current service or a resistance to change established behaviours. Many residents also cite home composting systems as a reason for not supporting more frequent FOGO collection. Those favouring weekly collection emphasised the convenience of having organic waste collected more frequently and greater ability to control odours and/or pests. Overall, residents demonstrate strong understanding of FOGO's environmental benefits, however there was less understanding of any cost efficiencies and landfill diversion benefits which would come with more regular FOGO collection. Results from focus groups indicate that a greater understanding of the benefits of weekly FOGO is a powerful determinant for community preferences regarding frequency of collection, with 72% of participants in general community focus groups and 100% of participants in the multi-unit dwelling focus group choosing Option 2 (fortnightly garbage/ weekly FOGO) over Option 1 (weekly garbage/fortnightly FOGO).

Community members were made aware of Whitehorse's ongoing advocacy to state government challenging the need to introduce the glass bin, and this position was widely supported by focus group participants. Of survey respondents who were living in single unit dwellings or in complexes with four or less households on the one site, 65%

provided no feedback relating to the proposal to implement an 80L glass bin collected every four weeks, should glass bins become mandatory as of 1 July 2027. Feedback from those in multi-unit dwellings is include in the next chapter of this report.

The 35% of respondents who did provide feedback on the proposed 80L glass bin, collected every four weeks expressed a range of perspectives, with a significant number of survey respondents and focus group participants expressing concerns. Most of these concerns were regarding the need for, or management of, an additional bin. This was particularly the case for households with limited space or low glass waste volumes. While some respondents supported the introduction of a glass bin, many expressed a preference for alternative models such as the Container Deposit Scheme, shared services or drop-off points. Cost, storage, logistics and accessibility were dominant themes.

Key Takeaways

- 56% of respondents felt **unable to manage fortnightly garbage with odour and hygiene concerns** being the main barriers and 9% were Unsure. Of the 56% who indicated they were unable to manage, 26% **live in single person households or with a partner and no dependents,** suggesting they may have lower garbage collection needs.
- Of the 65% of respondents who felt unable to manage fortnightly garbage or were unsure, 48% indicated that **they could manage with a larger or additional garbage bin**. This implies the **actual total of residents who could manage fortnightly garbage, if provided with an additional or larger bin, is 66%.**
- 67% of those who indicated they were unable to manage fortnightly garbage also indicated **they could adapt if provided larger or additional bins**.
- Supporters of fortnightly garbage are **more environmentally motivated**, while those who are opposed are more likely to **prioritise convenience and perceived hygiene outcomes**.
- While residents recognise environmental benefits of FOGO **most are comfortable managing their organic waste fortnightly** (or have a stronger preference for weekly garbage collection).
- There is **a lack of understanding** in some of the community some **regarding the benefits of a more regular FOGO collection**. Only 5.2% of visitors to the YourSay page **downloaded the Conversation Starter Kit** which contained more information regarding the benefits of weekly FOGO. Focus group participants indicated that **having more information about the benefits of weekly FOGO influenced their preference for weekly FOGO collection**.
- Significant **opposition to the introduction of a glass bin exists** in the community with most concerns focussing on limited space, additional costs, and low generation of glass waste. Hover **some in the community are supportive**, particularly if there is flexibility in its service design (bins size, frequency etc).
- Residents called for **more community education and clearer information** on what goes in each bin, odour control, and the benefits of implementing a four-bin system.

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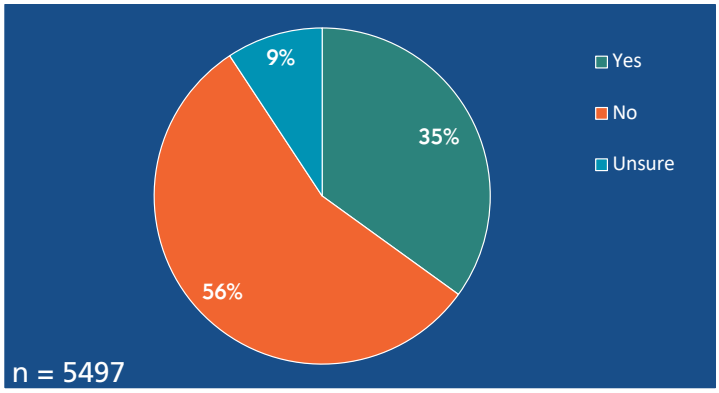
3.1.2. Survey Responses; Garbage

Preference for garbage collection frequency and associated support needs

Of the total of 5,497 community respondents (excluding businesses, sporting clubs & community organisations), 56% indicated they could not manage with their existing garbage bin collected every two weeks, even with weekly food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collection. Only 35% felt they could manage, while 9% were unsure.

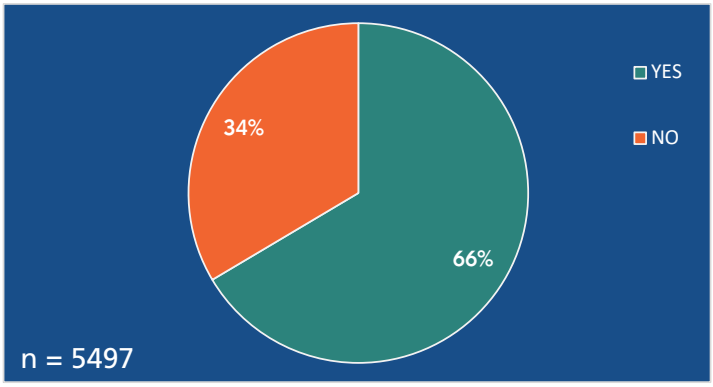
Respondents who could manage fortnightly garbage collection if FOGO was weekly



Graph 1: Respondents who could manage fortnightly garbage collection if FOGO was collected weekly

Of the 56% of respondents who said they could not manage fortnightly garbage collection and the 9% who were unsure, nearly half (48%) indicated they could manage if provided with a larger or additional bin. This implies that up to 66% of overall respondents could potentially manage fortnightly garbage collection under those conditions.

Implied count of respondents who could manage fortnightly garbage collection if they had bigger or additional bins



Graph 2: Implied count of respondents who could manage fortnightly garbage collection if they had a bigger or additional bins

Among those who answered *No* or *Unsure* (4,044 respondents), the main support need identified to be able to manage fortnightly garbage collection was to upsize existing garbage bins (67%), followed by adding an additional bin (18%), and other supports (15%).

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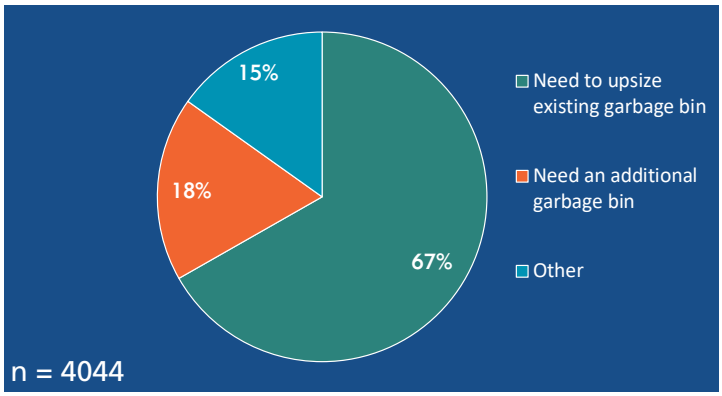
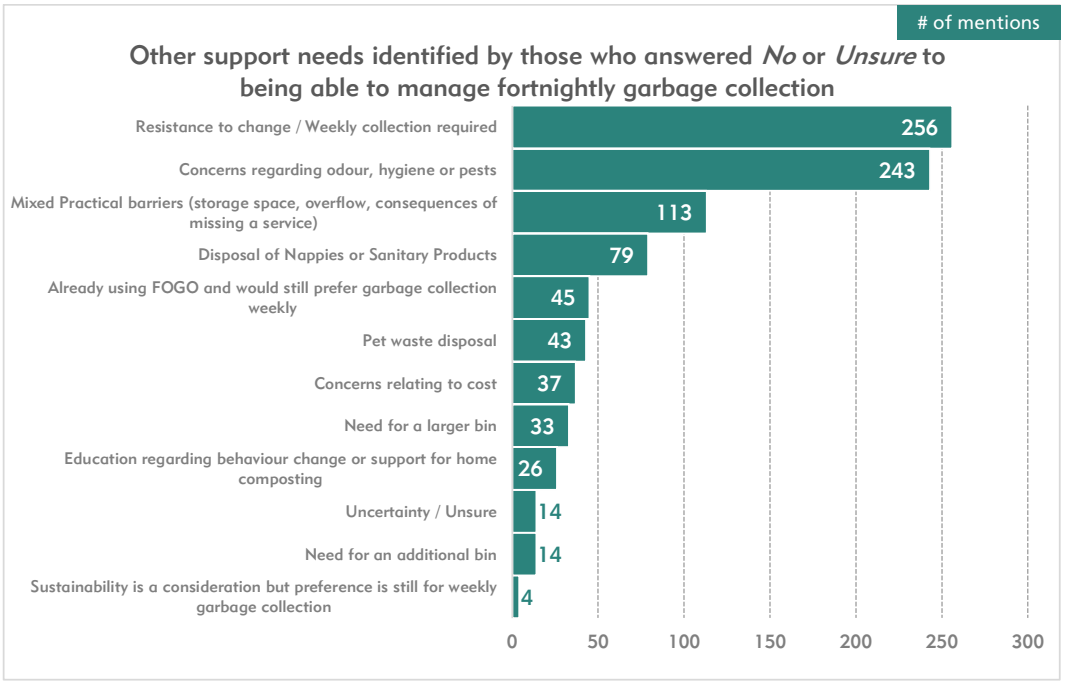
Support needs identified by those who answered *No* or *Unsure* to being able to manage fortnightly garbage collection



Graph 3: Support needs identified by those who answered No or Unsure to being able to manage fortnightly garbage collection

This suggests that for a majority of residents, a fortnightly garbage service could be manageable if they were provided with larger garbage bins or in some cases an additional garbage bin.

Analysis of the *Other* responses provides further insight into residents' concerns. The most common issues raised were a desire to retain weekly collection (256 mentions) and odour or hygiene concerns (243). Many also cited mixed practical challenges (113) such as limited storage space, nappy and sanitary product disposal (79) and pet waste issues (43) as reasons for preferring weekly garbage collection. While some respondents already use the FOGO bin for food waste, they expressed a preference for weekly garbage collection to accommodate higher levels of general waste (45).



Graph 4: Other support needs identified by those who answered No or Unsure to being able to manage fortnightly garbage collection

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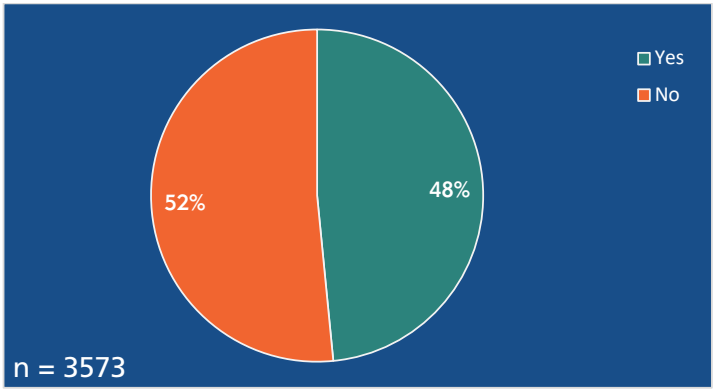
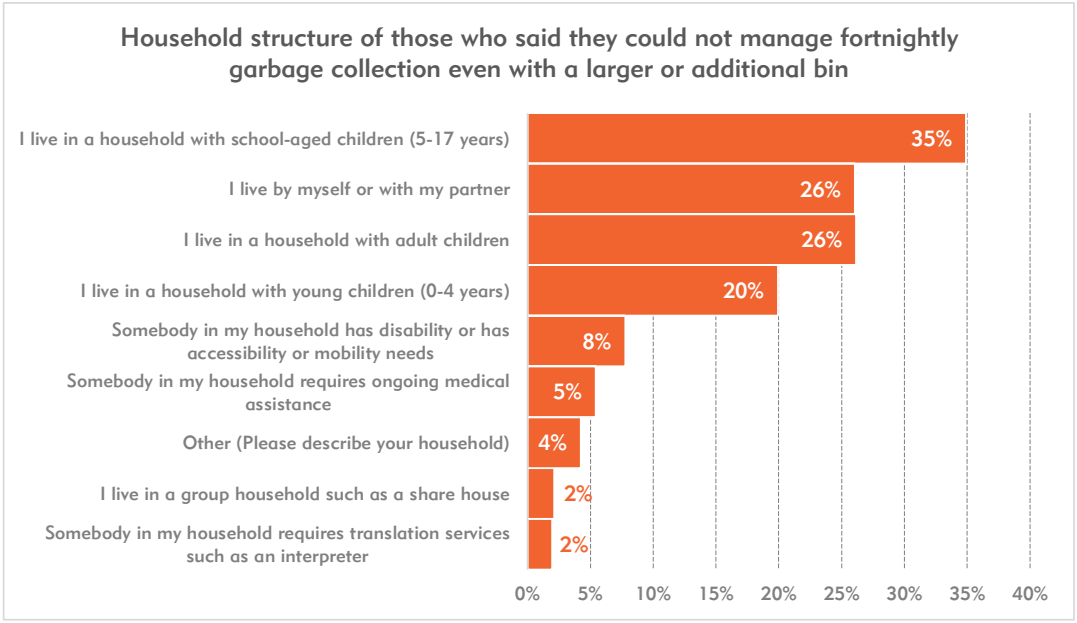
The option for fortnightly garbage was tested further by asking respondents whether they could then manage with fortnightly garbage collection if they were provided bigger or additional bins to suit their household needs. Community responses were evenly divided - of the 3,573 respondents to this question, 48% said *Yes*, indicating they could adapt if provided with greater bin capacity, while 52% said *No*, suggesting that even with larger or multiple bins, they would still face challenges.

Respondents who could manage fortnightly garbage collection if they had bigger or additional bins



Graph 5: Respondents who could manage fortnightly garbage collection if they had bigger or additional bins

Among respondents who said they could not manage fortnightly garbage collection, 35% live in households with school-aged children, 26% with adult children, and 20% with young children aged 0–4 years. A further 26% of this group live either alone or with a partner. Note respondents could choose more than one category.



Graph 6: Household structure of those who said they could not manage fortnightly garbage collection even with a larger or additional bin

Among those who said they could not manage (answered *No* to Q8), the most dominant concern was the importance of weekly garbage collection (1,739 responses),

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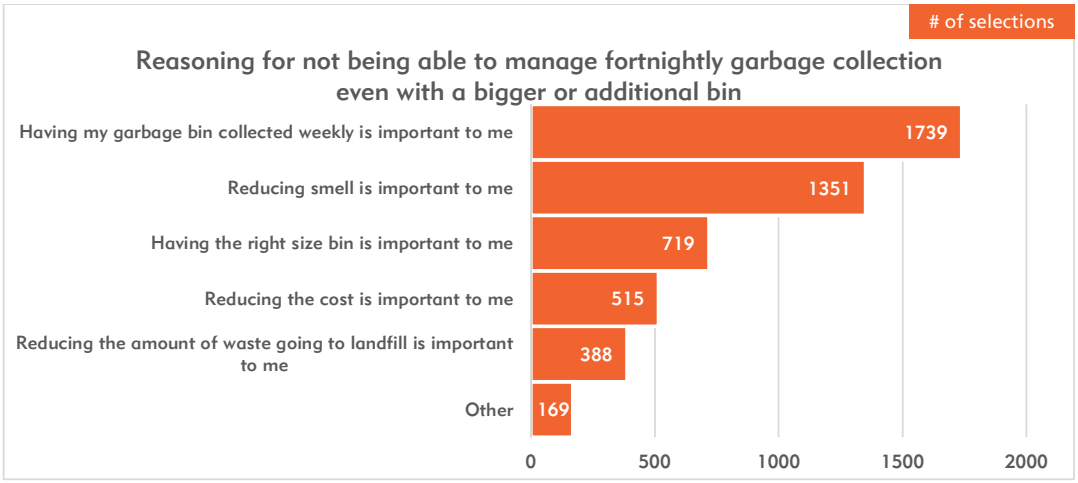
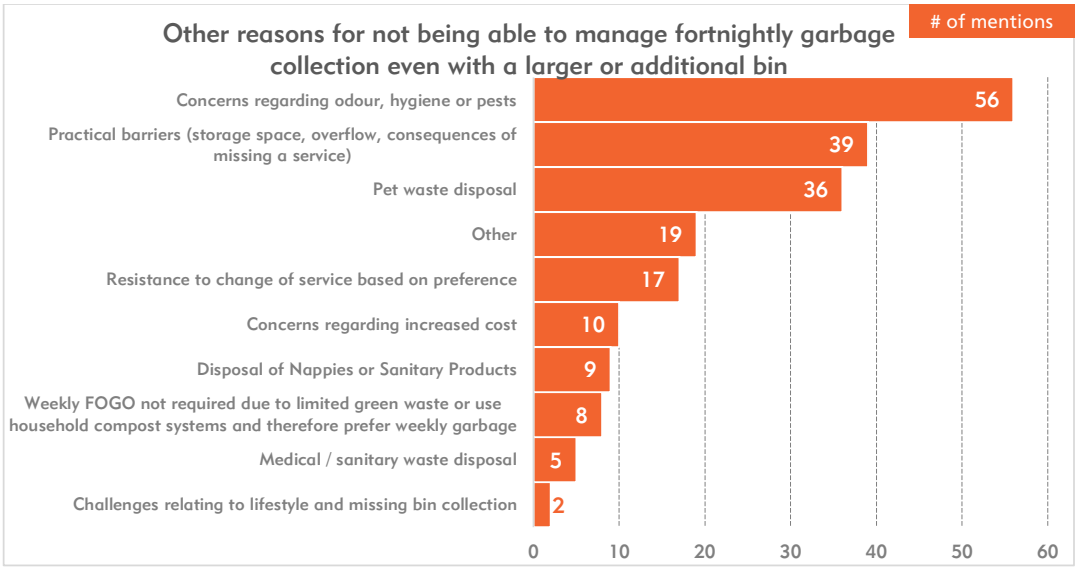
followed by a desire to reduce smell and hygiene issues (1,351). Other considerations included having the right bin size (719) and reducing cost (515), with fewer citing landfill reduction (388) as a priority.



Graph 7: Reasoning for not being able to manage fortnightly garbage collection even with a bigger or additional bin

Of those who indicated they could not manage with fortnightly garbage, and provided a reason other than the above, the most frequently cited issue was concerns about odour, hygiene, or pests (56%), indicating strong apprehension about the potential health and amenity impacts of storing waste for extended periods, followed by practical barriers (39%), including limited bin storage space, overflow, or the risk of missed collections, and pet waste disposal (36%), which many residents felt could not be effectively managed on a fortnightly basis.

Smaller but notable themes included resistance to change (17%), concerns about increased costs (10%), and the disposal of nappies or sanitary products (8%). A small proportion also referenced medical waste (5%) and lifestyle constraints (2%).



Graph 8: Other reasoning for not being able to manage fortnightly garbage even with a bigger or additional bin

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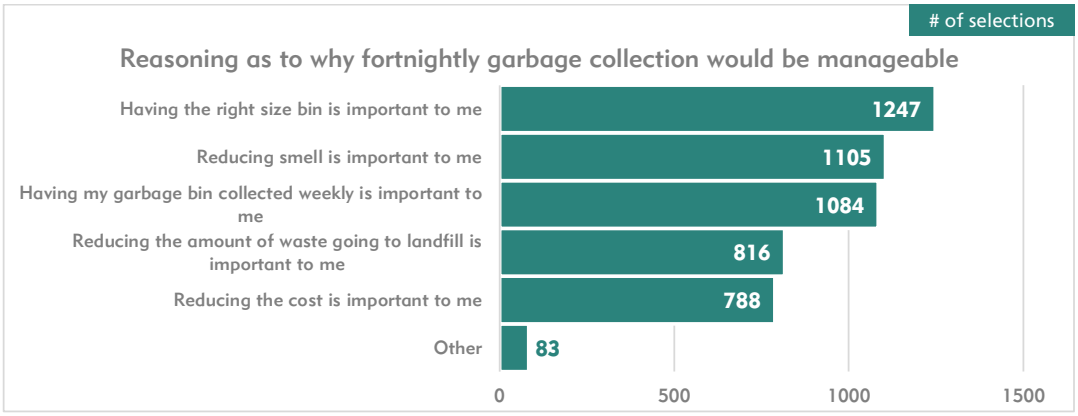
For those who said they could manage fortnightly garbage with a larger or additional bin, practical and environmental motivations were strongest. Having the right bin size (1,247) and reducing smell (1,105) were key enablers, while reducing waste to landfill (816) and cost savings (788) also featured prominently.



Graph 9: Reasoning as to why fortnightly garbage collection would be manageable

These results indicate a clear divide - while both groups value odour control and appropriate bin size, those supportive of fortnightly garbage collection are more motivated by environmental and efficiency outcomes, whereas those opposed to it are more driven by convenience and hygiene concerns.

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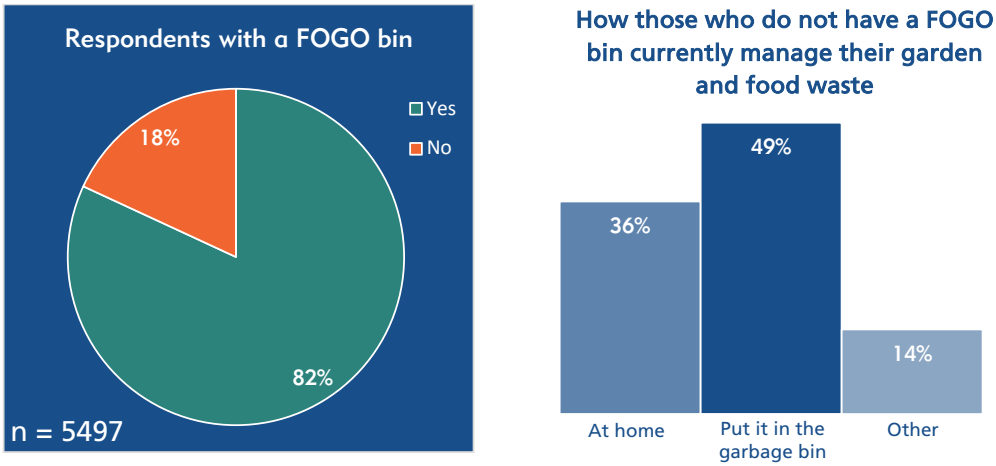
3.1.3. Survey Responses; FOGO

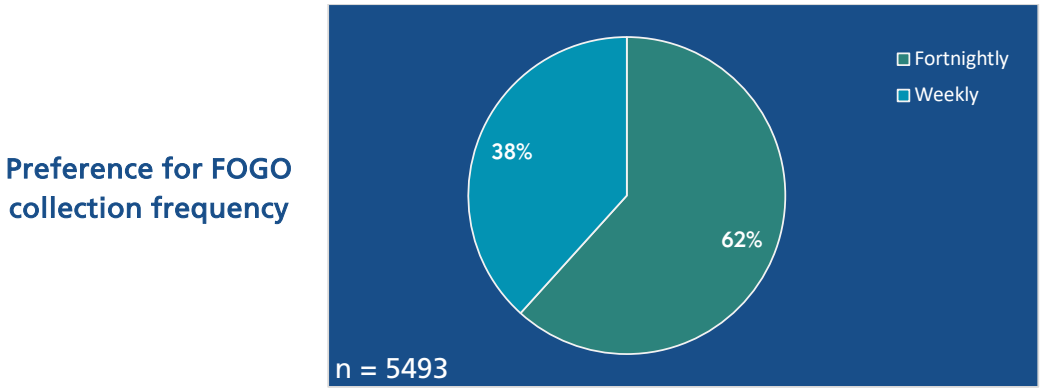
Of the 5497 survey respondents, 82% indicated that they already had a FOGO bin and 18% indicated they did not. Of those that didn't have a FOGO bin, 49% currently dispose of their food waste using their garbage bin (this is supported by waste audit data which indicates 41% of current kerbside garbage is food organics), while a further 36% dispose of food waste at home through composting or other means.



Graph 10: Respondents with a FOGO bin and how those who do not have a FOGO bin currently manage their garden and food waste

FOGO collection preferences

When asked their preference for fortnightly or weekly FOGO collection, Whitehorse residents indicted a strong preference for a fortnightly collection (62%) compared to weekly (38%).



Graph 11: Preference for FOGO collection frequency

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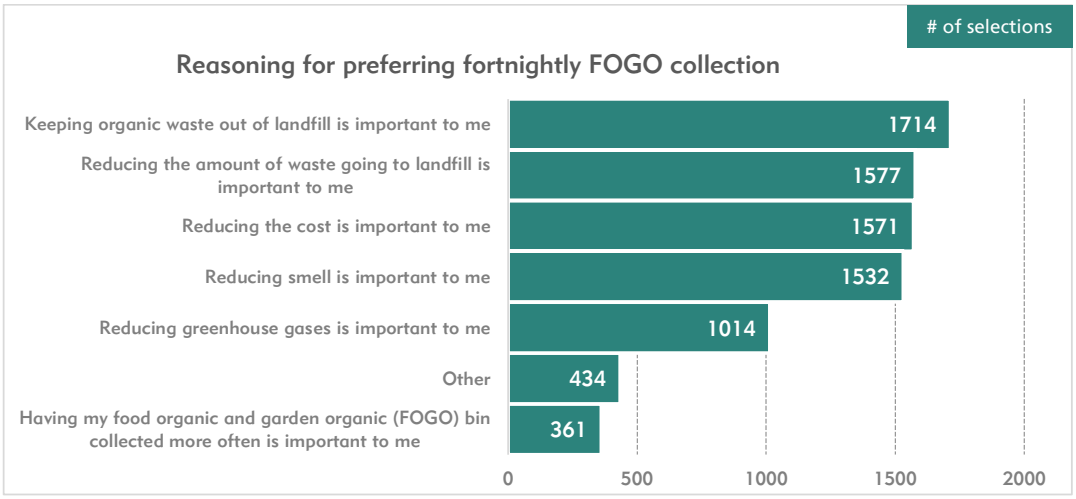
This preference was further explored by asking respondents to identify their reason for collection frequency. Respondents could choose from a list of options and pick as many as were relevant. This allowed a quantitative measure to be identified based on the number of times each selection was identified. Those who preferred fortnightly FOGO collection indicated the following were most important to them:

- Keeping organic waste out of landfill (1714 selections)
- Reducing waste going to landfill (1577 selections)
- Reducing costs (1571 selections)
- Reducing smells (1532 selections)



Graph 12: Reasoning for preferring fortnightly FOGO collection

The small spread between these top priorities suggests residents see environmental and practical benefits as equally important. While "reducing smells" may appear inconsistent with a less frequent (fortnightly) collection, this may reflect perceptions that FOGO reduces overall odour by diverting food waste from the garbage bin, rather than a desire for more frequent pickups. It also potentially suggests a degree of confidence in managing odours at home through compostable liners, storage practices, and education.

Of those who chose fortnightly FOGO over weekly FOGO and indicated *Other* in their response, the major reasons provided for this choice was that they were already composting at home or had no need for a FOGO bin (79 mentions), or were resistant to the idea of changing collection frequency (31 mentions) or did not want to use FOGO for concerns with odours, hygiene and pests (21 mentions).

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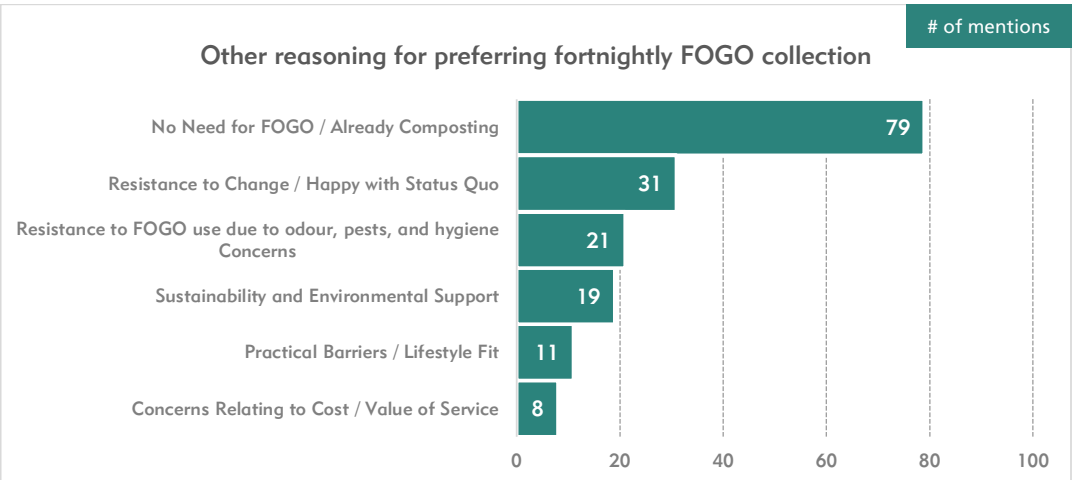
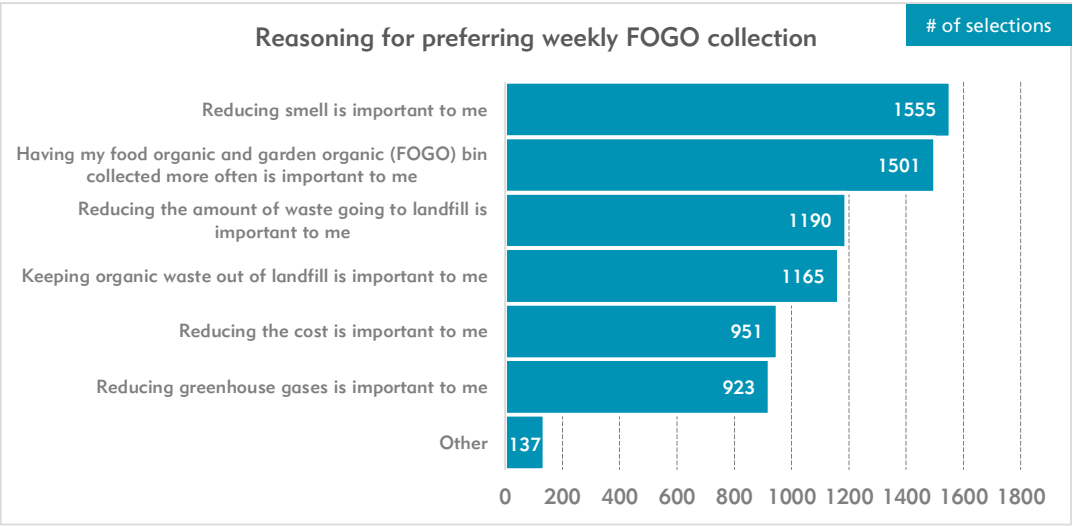


Graph 13: Other reasoning for preferring fortnightly FOGO collection

Overall, the rationale behind those residents who prefer a fortnightly FOGO collection, highlights that residents see the benefits of this frequency as both an environmental and cost-effective solution that meets their needs.



Graph 14: Reasoning for preferring weekly FOGO collection

Those who preferred weekly FOGO collection (38% of respondents) indicated the following were most important to them:

- Reducing smells (1555 selections)
- Having my FOGO bin collected more often (1501 selections)
- Reducing waste going to landfill (1190 selections)
- Keeping organic waste out of landfill (1165 selections)
- Reducing costs (951 selections)
- Reducing greenhouse gases (923 selections)

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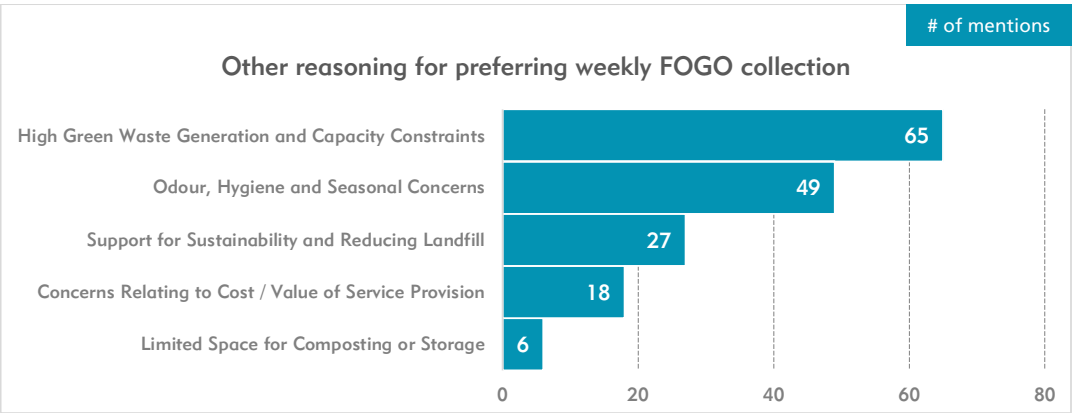
This segment of the community seems to place a higher importance on convenience, hygiene, and household management than those who preferred a fortnightly FOGO collection, highlighting a greater desire for regular removal of food organics to avoid odour and green bin overflow. Environmental reasons are also important for those preferring weekly FOGO collection, and reducing costs, while secondary was still an important factor, suggesting that some residents perceive weekly FOGO as offering better overall value or efficiency.



Graph 15: Other reasoning for preferring weekly FOGO collection

Of those who chose weekly FOGO over fortnightly, and indicated *Other* in their response, the major reasons provided were that they generated a significant amount of green waste (65 mentions), or had hygiene, odour or pest concerns (49 mentions).

In contrast to those in the community who preferred a fortnightly FOGO collection, weekly collection supporters appear more concerned about practical household factors, particularly odour and bin capacity, though both groups are aligned with broader environmental goals. This suggests a that with either collection frequency, Council may need to adopt a flexible service model which allows for offering larger FOGO bins or education on food waste management to ensure all household types can confidently participate in FOGO while supporting the City's sustainability objectives.

Overall, community feedback on FOGO collection demonstrates a commitment to sustainability, with environmental consideration, such as reducing landfill and greenhouse emissions being important to community regardless of their collection frequency preference, indicating broad understanding of FOGO's environmental value. While a majority of residents have indicated a preference for a fortnightly FOGO service, the findings show strong alignment with Council's broader aim to maximise diversion from landfill and improve environmental outcomes. Differences in preference may largely reflect household circumstances and confidence in their ability to manage food waste. Those favouring fortnightly collection appear comfortable with how they are currently dealing with food and organic waste and associated cost considerations and suggesting that these residents need greater confidence that a weekly FOGO service would deliver any practical benefit without adding complexity or cost. Feedback from focus groups suggests that the more informed the community are, the more likely they are to recognise the benefits of weekly FOGO. This is reinforced by the much higher preference for Option 2 in the focus groups (noting that is a non-representative sample

due to a small number of participants). However, the fact that only 5.2% of survey respondents downloaded the available information regarding the benefits of weekly FOGO/fortnightly garbage suggests that community preferences may be largely uninformed of these benefits.

It seems that while the Whitehorse community are motivated by environmental benefits they are largely unaware of any cost benefits of increasing diversion rates. This suggests that should Council consider a move to weekly FOGO, a targeted education campaign may be necessary to further emphasise the both the environmental and cost impact of weekly FOGO, as well as implementing flexible options for bin sizes and potential exemptions for those not requiring FOGO.

3.1.4. Focus Group Feedback on Garbage and FOGO Collection

Two focus groups were held for general community members (one of which was supported by translators who spoke Mandarin) to further explore the transition to four bins and were attended by 25 participants. These focus groups provided an opportunity for community members to receive more detailed information regarding the reasoning behind the transition, as well as unpacking the two options put forward by Whitehorse City Council for collection frequency of garbage and FOGO bins and the requirement for the new glass bin. The sessions provided an opportunity for attendees to ask Council's Waste team any technical questions or questions relating to their specific circumstances, as well as providing feedback to the following questions.

What do you like and/ or dislike about Option 1 (Weekly garbage/Fortnightly FOGO)?

Participants who preferred Option 1 noted that this would allow them to maintain their existing routines regarding waste collection and was particularly helpful for elderly residents who may find it difficult to change long established habits, or people living in smaller or single-person households who generated less organic waste. What participants didn't like about Option 1 was largely centred on capacity and seasonality, with households with large gardens reporting challenges with high volumes of FOGO, especially in spring/summer, leading to odour issues and the red bin filling up even with weekly collection. Several participants expressed surprise regarding 40% of current garbage bin contents being made up of FOGO sating that this was higher than expected. It was suggested that offering a larger 240L FOGO bin would help some people better manage garden waste.

What do you like and/ or dislike about Option 2 (Fortnightly garbage/Weekly FOGO)?

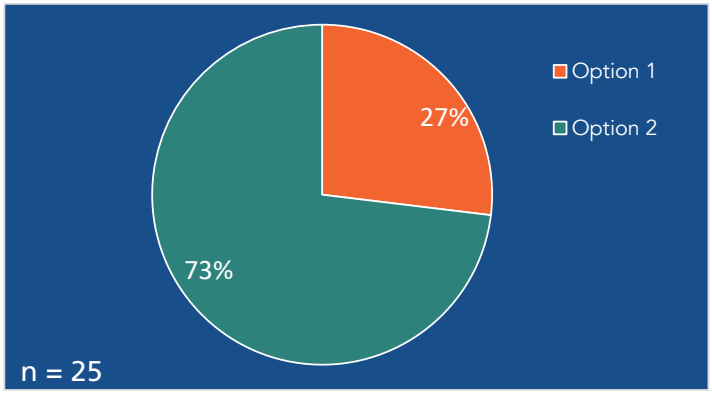
Participants supported Option 2 for its environmental benefits and long-term cost benefit. It was suggested that the community would be able to adapt to a change of service provision, especially younger households, if flexibility was offered regarding bin sizes and fee exemptions and if this was supported by more education regarding the benefits of making a change to fortnightly garbage and weekly FOGO. Participant concerns centred on capacity and flexibility, noting the 80L garbage bin may not suit all family sizes, ages, or habits, and households with disposable nappies/young children preferred a larger bin at no additional cost. The suggestion of fortnightly garbage

collection raised concerns with odour management, with some participants asking what measures Council proposes to address smells. Several people were comfortable if the change reduced Council fees, but many still wanted greater flexibility in bin sizes (e.g., ability to upsize garbage to 140L or adjust FOGO capacity) to match household needs.

Of the two options, which do you prefer? Why did you select this option?

Seven participants preferred Option 1, mainly because it requires minimal change and suits smaller/solo households with low FOGO generation, stating that they typically fill the FOGO bin fortnightly and find a 120L garbage bin adequate. Nineteen participants preferred Option 2, driven by environmental concerns/benefits (less landfill and emissions) and the potential to reduce waste costs/save money, noting it encourages more mindful consumption. They also highlighted the need for community education, bin-size flexibility—including the option to increase the red bin at no additional cost—and consideration for households with disposable nappies to keep the system practical and equitable.

Attendees' preference for Option 1 or Option 2



Graph 16: Focus Group attendee preference for Option 1 or Option 2

Is there anything else about the proposed changes to your kerbside waste collection that you would like Council to know?

To support the success of Option 2, participants highlighted the need for clear and ongoing education on how and why to use FOGO correctly, supported by simple visual guides regarding what can be placed in each bin which can be attached to bins and consistent messaging through schools, social media, and community channels. Flexibility in bin sizing was seen as essential, particularly for households with disposable nappies or limited space in MUDs, with requests for options to increase garbage bin capacity or downsize FOGO bins. Participants also suggested Council explore practical supports such as accessible or subsidised nappy-washing services and national campaigns encouraging reduced food waste and responsible purchasing. Improved transparency around where waste goes and financial incentives to encourage correct sorting were also viewed as key to building trust and participation.

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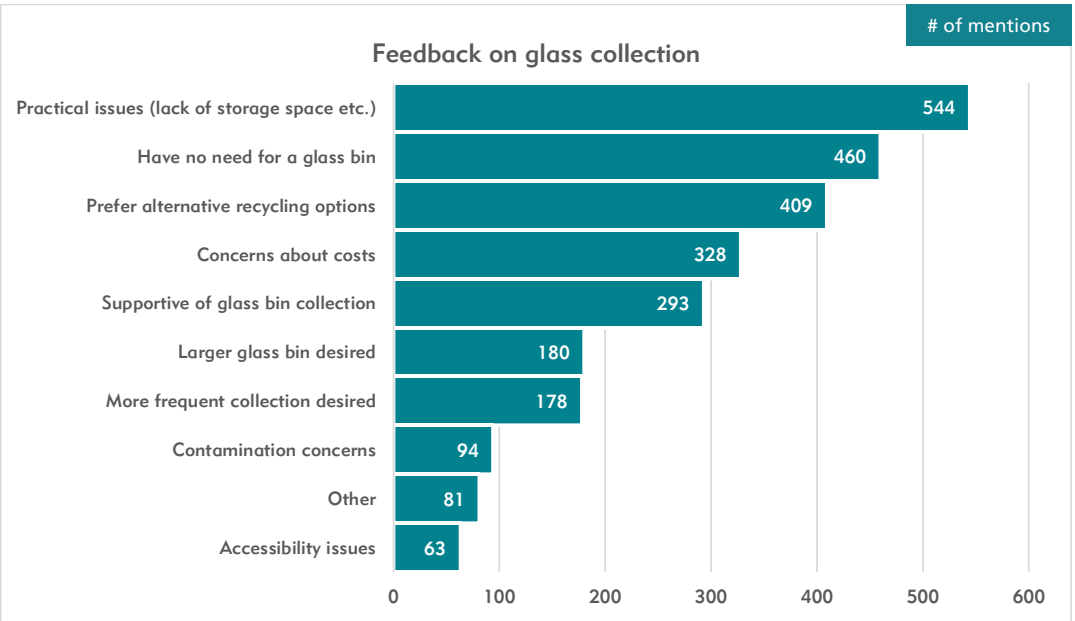
3.1.5. SUDs Survey Responses: Glass

Feedback relating to the proposed 80L glass recycling bin collected every 4 weeks

Of the total number of survey respondents, 5147 indicated that they were living in single unit dwellings or in complexes with four or less households on the one site. Of these, respondents, 1851 provided feedback in relation to the proposed four-weekly, 80L glass collection service. Feedback was provided via the survey as open text comments. Respondents often made reference to multiple topics within their responses. These have quantified as 'number of mentions' in the data represented below.



Graph 17: SUDs feedback on glass collection

This data relates to Single Unit Dwellings (SUDs). Refer to section 3.2.4 for data relating to Multi Unit Dwellings (MUDs).

Quantitative Theme	Summary
Supportive of glass bin collection	Comments were supportive of collection frequency or the need for a glass bin.
Practical issues (lack of storage space etc.)	Concerns about lack of bin storage, having to manage too many bins, and logistics for apartments/units. etc
Concerns about costs	Concerns re costs being passed on to ratepayers, that an additional service would be too expensive etc.
Prefer alternative recycling options	Suggestions that Collection Deposit Schemes (CDS) should be prioritise or a preference for using CDS or other glass recycling systems.
More frequent collection desired	Calls for weekly, fortnightly collections instead of the proposed 4-weeksly service.
Contamination concerns	Concerns regarding contamination of glass recycling from sharing bins or other wastes.
Accessibility / equity	Concerns about elderly, disabled, or disadvantaged households struggling with the system.

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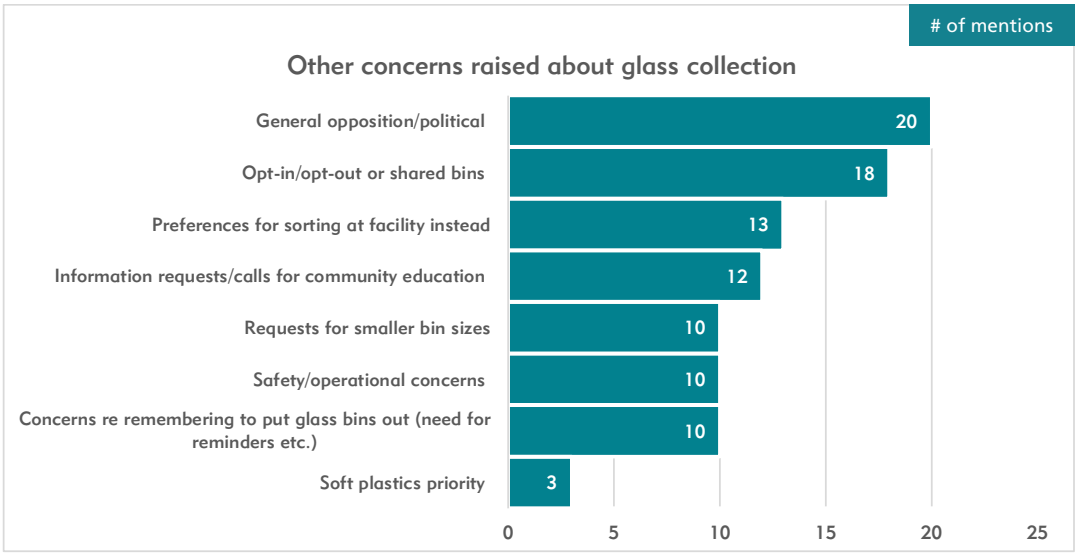
Have no need for a glass bin	Comments relating to not requiring a glass collection service due to low levels of glass waste
Larger glass bin desired	Comments suggesting that an 80L glass bin would not be sufficient to manage glass waste.
Other	General comments, opposition to government decision-making, calls for shared models and more community education etc.

Of greatest concern to those who provided feedback were the logistical implications of having to manage four bins (544 mentions), with many identifying that they lacked either the storage space or nature strip spaces to keep four bins. This was particularly the case for respondents living on properties with multiple dwellings. A significant number of respondents identified that they did not have a need for a glass bin (460 mentions), as they did not generate a significant amount of glass waste. This was further supported by comments relating to respondents' use of the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) or other alternative glass recycling options, including calls for communal drop off locations, which were raised 409 times. Concerns about additional costs associated with the new glass bin (328 mentions) were also a significant source of respondent concern. Other areas of respondents' feedback were a desire for larger glass bins (180 mentions) or more frequent collections (178 mentions) and concerns around accessibility issues (63 mentions), including concerns that managing four bins for elderly residents or those living with disabilities may be unmanageable.

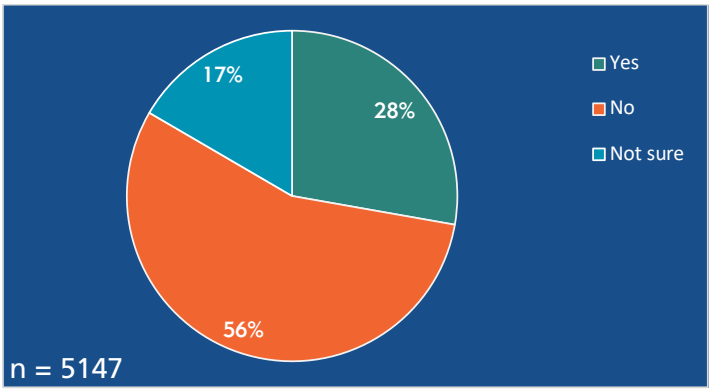


Graph 18: Other concerns from SUDs community on glass collection

Other areas of concerns to those who provided feedback were comments relating to general opposition or anti-government sentiment (20 mentions), a desire to be able to opt out of glass collection (18 mentions), a preference to continue to use the mixed recycling bin for glass and for this to be sorted at a facility (13 mentions) and calls for greater community education and information regarding glass recycling and a desire for smaller glass recycling bin options. Other respondents expressed concern about having to remember to put out the glass bin once a month and called on Council to establish a reminder system.

Not all respondent feedback was negative however, with some respondents providing supportive feedback (293 mentions). This included comments regarding the importance of glass recycling as well as support for the size and frequency of the proposed glass collection service.

SUDs respondents who would consider sharing a glass bin with their neighbour if they do not have enough room for an individual bin



Graph 19: SUDs respondents who would consider sharing a glass bin with their neighbour if they do not have enough room for an individual bin

When asked whether respondents would consider sharing a glass bin with a neighbour if they did not have room for an individual bin, a majority of respondents (56%) indicated that they would not be willing to share, while on 28% indicated that they would be willing to share. A further 17% indicate that they were unsure about sharing a glass bin.

Overall, it seems that there is significant community resistance to the introduction of a glass bin, with many respondents citing concerns re the logistics of strong and managing an additional bin. Low levels of glass waste, concerns about increasing costs of adding an additional service and a preference for alternate means of glass recycling were all strong sentiments within respondent feedback.

However, some respondents were positive about the initiative, suggesting that if a flexible approach was implemented and supported by greater community education and practical supports, such as shared models of larger/smaller bins where necessary, the introduction of the new glass bin may be manageable for many Whitehorse residents.

3.1.6. Focus Group Feedback on Glass Collection

While attendees at the general community focus groups were not specifically asked questions regarding the introduction of the proposed glass bin, the issue of glass collection was of particular interest to attendees. Many focus group participants questioned the need for a kerbside glass collection, suggesting that there were preferable ways to deal with glass recycling rather than introducing an additional bin. These included community drop-off points, or more Container Collection Scheme locations. Some suggested less frequent collection could be more efficient as they had little need for a glass recycling service.

Some attendees, particularly in those who lived in townhouses or MUDs, wanted an opt out glass collection service citing lack of space, difficulty with moving bins, or low glass waste generation and additional costs as their primary concerns. Overall, participant sentiment at the general community focus groups regarding the introduction of a glass bin was negative. Whilst participants were supportive of the need to recycle glass, most did not agree that the introduction of a new bin was the most efficient mechanism.

3.2. MULTI-UNIT DWELLINGS (MUDS)

3.2.1. Summary

Residents living in Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs), i.e. properties with more than four households on a site such as units or apartments, expressed both strong environmental values and a range of practical concerns in response to the proposed kerbside waste service changes.

Survey data indicated mixed views on sharing FOGO bins, with many residents preferring individual bins for reasons of equity, hygiene, and accountability for good waste behaviours. Practical constraints such as limited storage and kerbside space were common, while those supportive of shared arrangements viewed them as a practical necessity in response to a lack of storage or nature strip space. Focus group participants echoed these concerns, noting that shared bins could be challenging where waste volumes or behaviours differ between households, and that success of any shared bin arrangement would depend on effective management and cooperation among neighbours.

Attitudes toward shared glass bins were more positive overall. Many respondents viewed sharing as a practical solution reporting low glass waste volumes and restricted storage space, though community concerns regarding contamination, misuse, and who would be responsible for maintaining shared bins were commonly expressed.

Focus group discussions also highlighted strong support for Option 2 (weekly FOGO, fortnightly garbage), which participants viewed as more sustainable and cost-effective. However, residents emphasised the need for clear communication about service changes, cost implications, and the rationale for introducing a separate glass bin.

Overall, MUD residents supported the environmental intent of the proposed system but stressed the importance of flexibility, transparent information, and service models that reflect the realities of high-density living.

Key Takeaways

- 47% of respondents living in MUDs were against the idea of sharing FOGO bins, citing the desire for their own bins, practical concerns re sharing bins for those living in smaller MUDs (as opposed to high-rise apartments), and bin capacity concerns for those with high amounts of green waste as the most common reasons for not wanting to share.
- 31% agreed with the idea of sharing a FOGO bin with neighbours with limited storage or nature strip space as the greatest driver.

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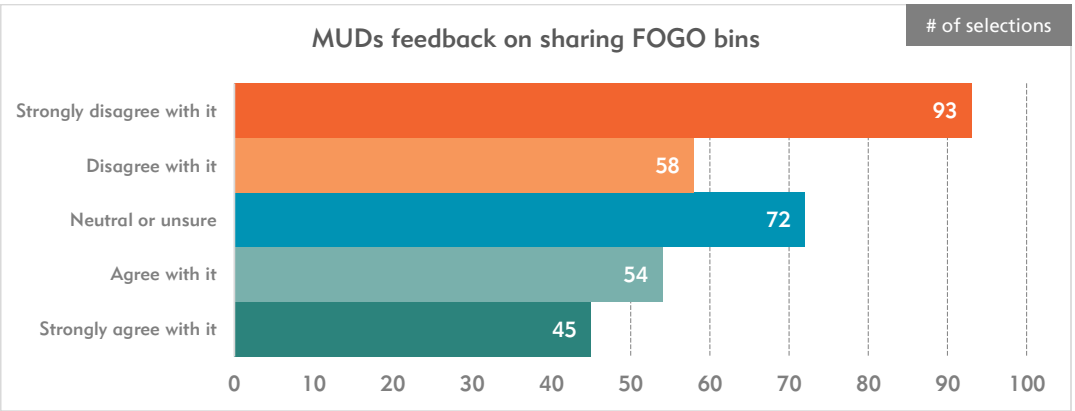
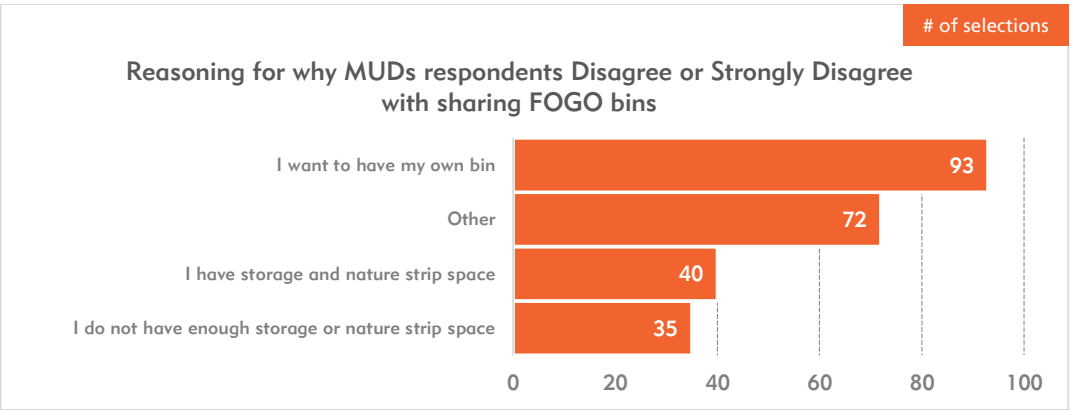
- 84 respondents provided feedback on the proposed shared glass bin collection frequency with 27% of comments including concerns that four weeks was too infrequent, 23% of comments expressed concerns regarding sharing a glass bin with neighbours. 23% of comments were supportive of sharing glass bins.
- 71% of respondents who lived in MUDs indicated that they were either supportive or neutral when asked whether they would share a glass bin with neighbours, with not having enough glass waste and not having enough storage space as the major reasons
- Confusion exists around the need and practicality of glass collection and its cost implications suggesting more community education and communication may be required.



Graph 20: How strongly MUDs respondents agree or disagree with sharing FOGO bins

Respondents living in MUDs were asked their opinion of potentially sharing FOGO bins. Of the 322 respondents, 47% (151) were against the idea of sharing (with 29% strongly disagreeing and 18% disagreeing) whilst 31% (99) were in agreeance (17% agreeing and 14% strongly agreeing). A further 22% (72) were neutral or unsure.



Graph 21: Reasoning for why MUDs respondents disagree or strongly disagree with sharing FOGO bins

For those who were against the idea of sharing a FOGO bin with neighbours, the most often cited reason was that that they wanted their own bin (93 mentions), followed by

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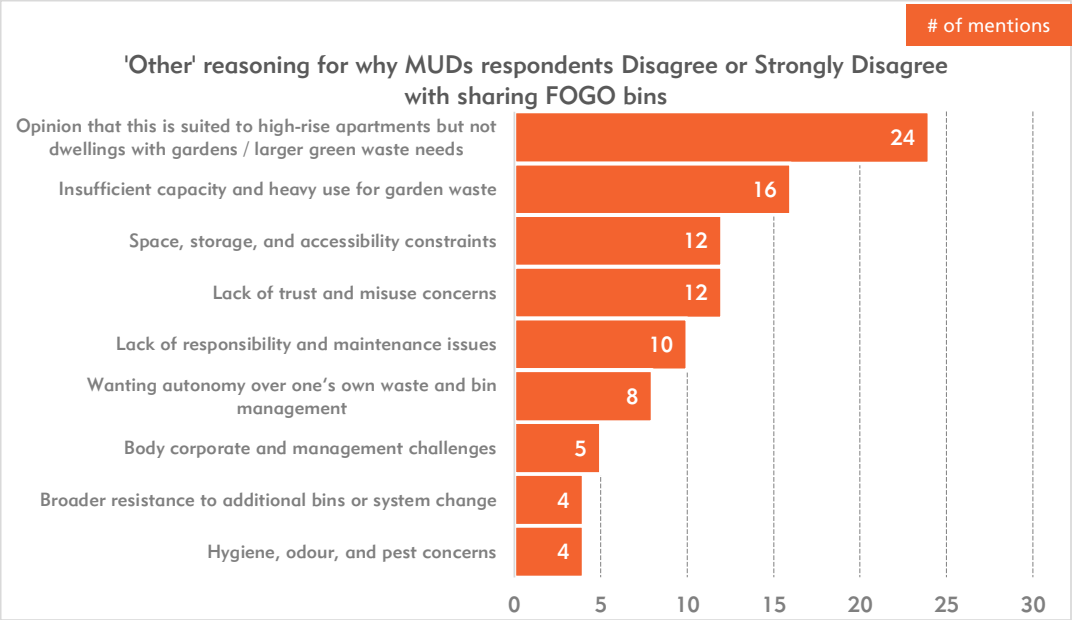
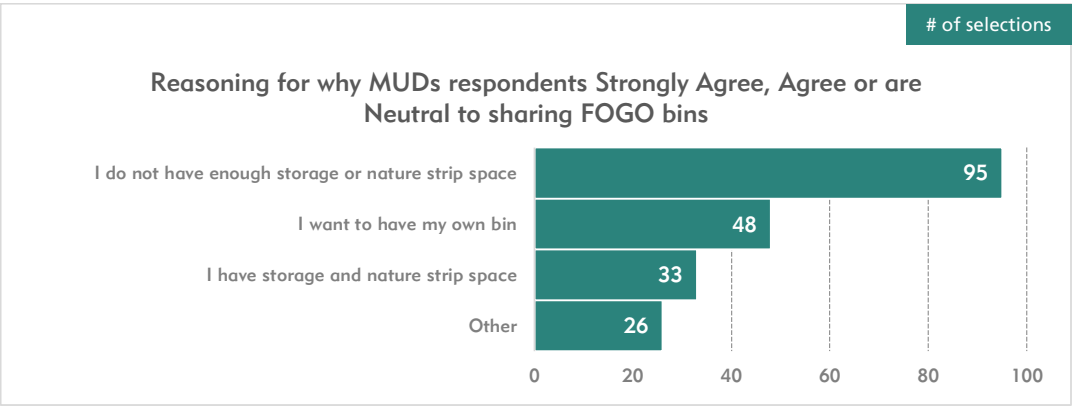
Other (72 mentions) and having storage and nature strip space (40 mentions and not having storage or nature strip space (35 mentions).



Graph 22: Other reasoning for why MUDs respondents disagree or strongly disagree with sharing FOGO bins

Of those who indicated *Other*, the main reasons were concerns re amount of green waste for some MUDs (other than high-rise apartments) (24 mentions), not having enough green waste (16 mentions) and storage and accessibility constraints (12 mentions), as well as lack of trust and issue concerns (12 mentions), and a lack of responsibility and maintenance issues (8 mentions).

These results indicate that those who are opposed to sharing are driven by a desire for individual control and ownership with many simply wanting their own bin, citing concerns about fairness, cleanliness, and accountability. Additionally, there are practical concerns such as limited storage space and inadequate nature strip access or space. Others expressed trust and maintenance concerns, indicating concerns that shared systems could lead to misuse, waste contamination, or disputes with neighbours.



Graph 23: Reasoning for why MUDs respondents agree, strongly agree or are neutral to sharing FOGO bins

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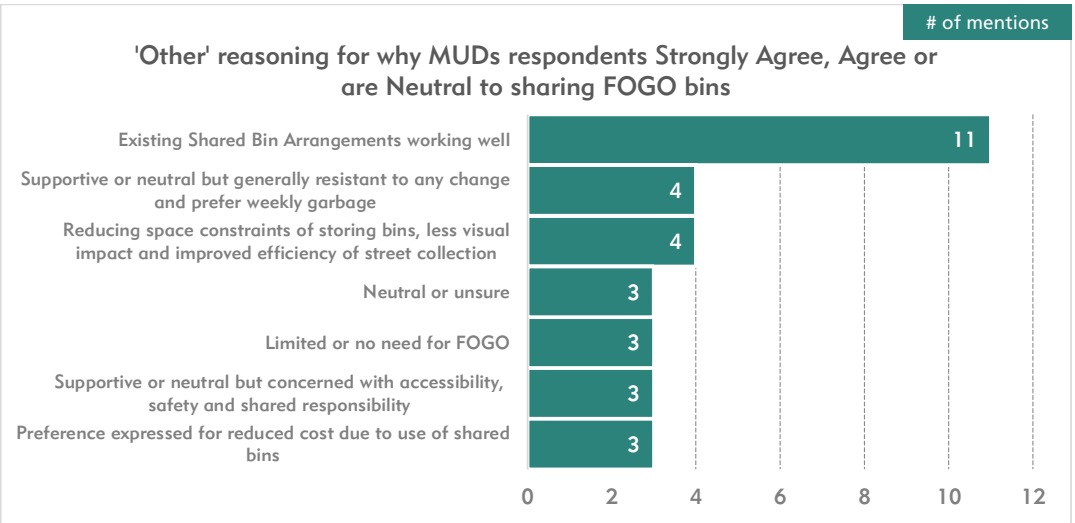

Graph 24: Other reasoning for why MUDs respondents agree, strongly agree, or are neutral to sharing FOGO bins

For those that were supportive or neutral in their response to sharing FOGO bins, the main driver was a lack of storage space (95 mentions), followed by a desire to have their own bin (48 mentions) and having adequate storage or nature strip space. Of those who indicated Other in their response, the main reason was that they already had shared bin arrangements in place, and these were working well (11 mentions).

Responses from MUD residents reveal mixed attitudes toward sharing FOGO bins, with a majority not supportive of the idea. This suggests that if Council were to pursue this option, it may require site specific and flexible approaches to adapt to the variety of built form and infrastructure needs across the various MUD typologies, including a need for implementation planning to enable requests for MUDs to have their own FOGO bin (especially in those MUDs that have existing individual bin configurations) if they have sufficient storage space or if there is not a shared cost arrangement. However, nature strip space may become a concern if all dwellings in the unit had their own FOGO bin.

3.2.2. Focus Group Feedback (MUDs) – Garbage & FOGO

A focus group for people living in MUDs was attended by 15 community members. This focus group provided an opportunity for participants to receive more detailed information regarding the reasoning behind the transition, as well as unpacking the two options put forward by Whitehorse City Council for collection frequency of garbage and FOGO bins and the requirement for the new glass bin. Specifically, it provided an opportunity to explain the proposed shared bin arrangements for those living in MUDs and to seek feedback. The session also provided an opportunity for attendees to ask Council's Waste team any technical questions or questions relating to their specific circumstances. Participant responses are detailed below.

MUDs: Option Preference

What do you like and/ or dislike about Option 1 (Weekly garbage/Fortnightly FOGO)?

Feedback from participants indicated that they considered Option 1 to be less hygienic and not practical to manage food and organic waste. Participants identified that Option

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1 was less sustainable and did not deliver on the environmental and cost-saving goals of Council. Additionally, participants identified that it did not prompt a change in community waste behaviours which was necessary to meet their environmental and cost-saving aspirations.

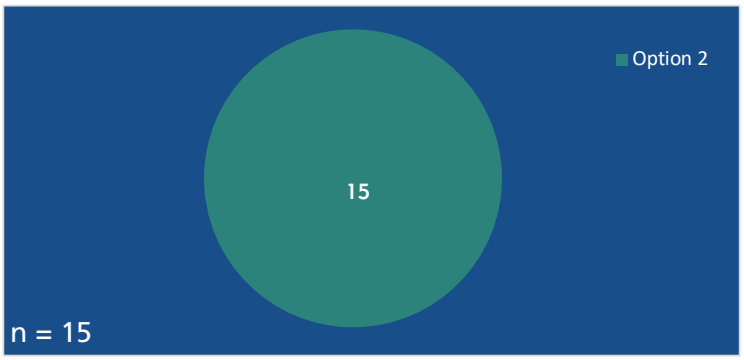
What do you like and/ or dislike about Option 2 (Fortnightly garbage/ Weekly FOGO)?

Participants identified that Option 2 was better for the environment as more organic waste would be kept out of landfill. They also perceived that there were cost benefits by reducing the amount of waste that went to landfill. Some participants questioned whether Option 2 would have cost impacts for those residents without gardens and/or who generate less organic waste. Others expressed uncertainty about bin sizes and flexibility of service provision, identifying that they may need smaller bins. Many felt 80L FOGO bins would be sufficient and preferred a 120L garbage bin.

Of the two options, which do you prefer? Why did you select this option?

Option 2 was the unanimous preference for participants who attended the focus group with many stating that hearing more about the reasoning behind fortnightly garbage and understanding the environmental and cost benefits had been instrumental in changing their preference between Option 1 and Option 2.

Attendees' preference for Option 1 or Option 2



Graph 25: MUDs Focus Group Attendee preference for Option 1 or 2

MUDs: Feedback on Shared Bin approach

Participants understood the rationale for sharing bins and potential space and cost savings, particularly for small complexes, and saw benefit in building relationships with neighbours through sharing bins. However, the majority identified practical challenges with the idea of shared bins e.g., who would store the shared bin and be responsible for taking it to the kerbside, lack of shared space to store a bin, and gaining access to a bin if it was not stored in a shared space. Participants also raised concerns regarding potential inequity if the parties sharing the bins did not require the same waste collection service or produced differing amounts of waste. Lastly, participants raised concerns that sharing bins could lead to animosity between neighbours, increased contamination if parties did not apply the same diligence to sorting their waste and an overall lack of accountability leading to "people putting the wrong things in the wrong bins."

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Is there anything else about the proposed changes to your kerbside waste collection that you would like Council to know?

Many participants in the focus group emphasised the limited amount of space within MUDs, noting that four bins would be difficult to store without sacrificing garage or car space. Several suggested that smaller bin sizes, ideally 80 litres, should be available across all types of waste to make storage more manageable and to suit their waste requirements.

Participants also expressed confusion about the introduction of a fourth (glass) bin, and question why both kerbside glass collection and drop-off hubs were needed, and whether introducing a new system for glass recycling would duplicate existing recycling efforts and just introduce an additional cost to residents.

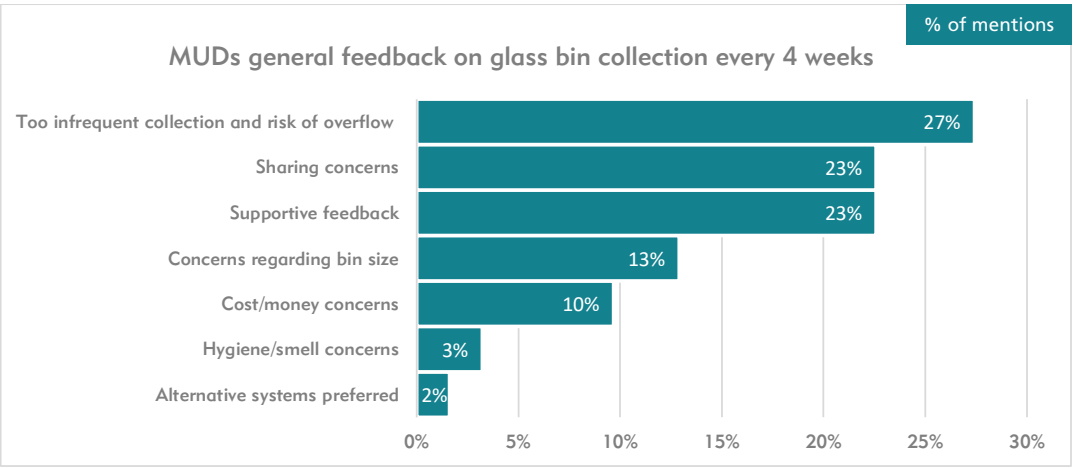
A number of participants called for greater transparency around costs, expressing a desire for information on how the proposed options would affect their rates, particularly for households that do not generate garden waste. Some residents living in shared developments or retirement villages raised concerns about being charged the same amount for a potentially reduced service.

Participants also expressed broader concerns about their lack of trust in recycling systems, asking whether recyclable materials are genuinely processed and how Council ensures accountability across waste streams. A few suggested that Whitehorse should look to European models for simpler, more effective waste systems, while others asked practical questions such as whether glass should be collected with lids on, how food waste should be bagged, and who would manage shared bin logistics.

3.2.3. MUDs Survey Responses: Glass

Feedback relating to the glass recycling bin proposed to be collected every 4 weeks

Residents living in MUDs were asked whether they had feedback on the proposed 4-weekly glass collection service, with 84 respondents providing feedback.



Graph 26: MUDs general feedback on glass bin collection every four weeks

Of these 27% of respondents were concerned that four weeks was too infrequent risking overflow of glass waste. 23% of respondents indicated they had concerns

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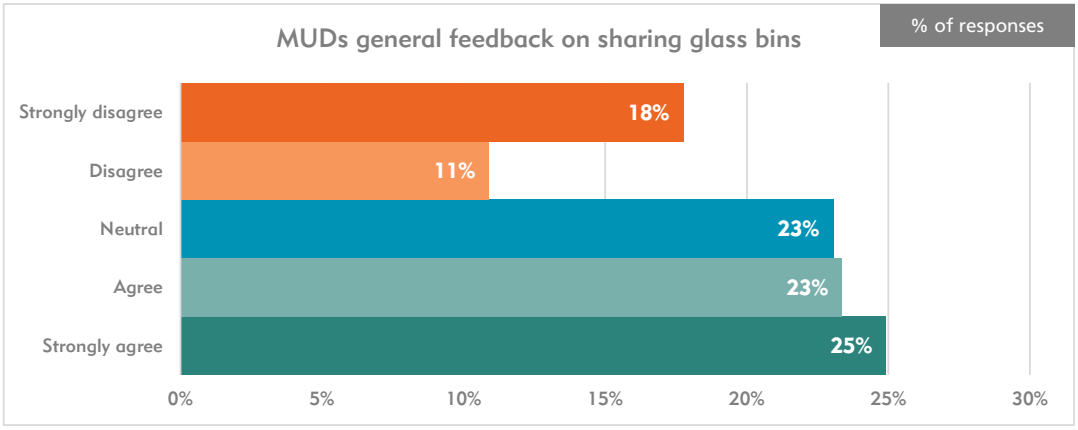
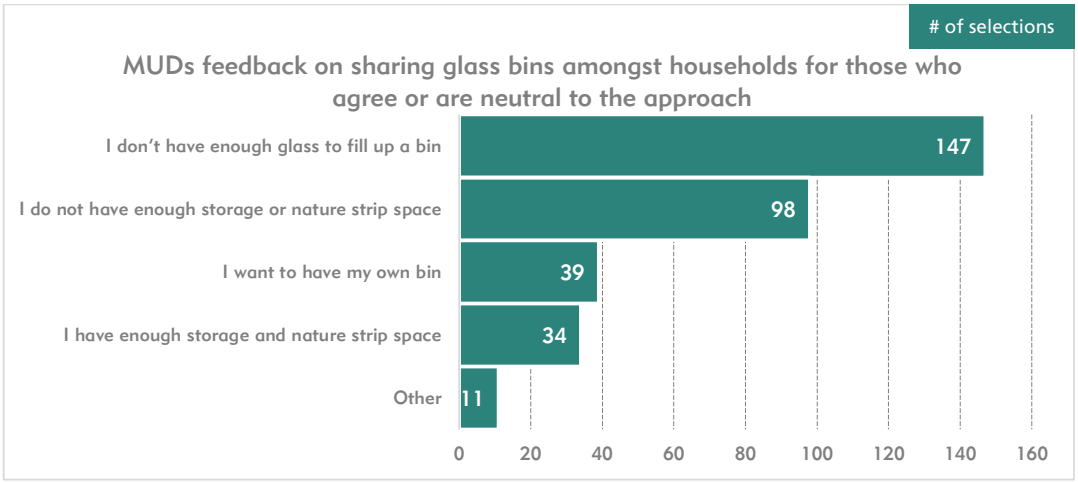
regarding sharing glass bins with neighbours. A further 13% indicated they thought an 80l glass bin was either too big or too small, and 10% had concerns regarding additional costs of the glass collection service. However, 23% of respondents providing general feedback indicated that they were supportive of sharing glass bins.

Feedback relating to shared glass bins



Graph 27: MUDs general feedback on sharing glass bins

When asked directly whether they were supportive of sharing a glass bin, 48% of respondents who lived in MUDs indicated that they were supportive (25% Strongly Agree, 23% Agree), 23% were neutral and 29% were not in favour (18% Strongly Disagree, 11% Disagree).



Graph 28: MUDs feedback on sharing glass bins amongst households for those who agree or are neutral to the approach

Of those who were supportive or neutral to the proposal to share glass bins, the main drivers for their decision were that they did not produce enough glass waste to fill up their own bin (147 selections) and they didn't have enough storage or nature strip space (98 selections). 13 of the respondents who said they agreed with shared glass bins and 26 who were neutral or unsure, also selected the option that they want to have their own bin.

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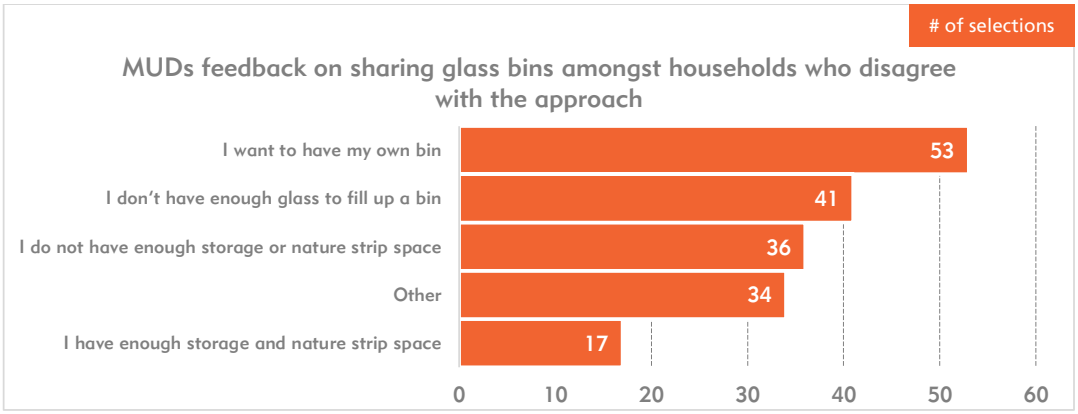
Although supportive of sharing glass bins, the majority of *Other* feedback included concerns regarding misuse by other residents, overflow or logistics such as where to store shared bins and who would be responsible for managing them.



Graph 29: MUDs feedback on sharing glass bins amongst households for those who disagree with the approach

Of those who disagree with the proposal to share glass bins, the main reason was a desire to have their own bin (29%), followed by not having enough glass to fill a bin (23%), not having enough storage or nature strip space (20%) and Other (19%). For those who chose *Other*, feedback related to concerns of misuse by other residents, logistics of who would manage the service and safety concerns regarding interactions with neighbours. Other less frequent feedback included hygiene concerns, overflow issues or increased costs associated with body corporate fees for managing the bin service.

Overall, MUD residents expressed mixed views on the proposed four-weekly glass collection service. While some were concerned about infrequent collection and potential overflow, many supported shared glass bins as a response to limited storage space and low glass waste volumes. Even among those respondents who were supportive, concerns remained about misuse, management of shared arrangements, maintenance, and accountability

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3.3. HOUSEHOLDS WITH DISPOSABLE NAPPIES

3.3.1. Summary

Households with disposable nappies face distinct waste management challenges which may be exacerbating by moving to fortnightly garbage, including concerns regarding hygiene, odour, and volume of waste. Survey results show 92% could not manage fortnightly garbage, with none indicating they could cope without extra support. Most requested larger or additional bins at no extra cost, highlighting bin capacity and not household behaviour as the key barrier to any change in garbage collection frequency.

While 69% preferred fortnightly FOGO, this likely reflects a desire to retain weekly garbage rather than opposition to more frequent FOGO. Environmental and cost factors also influenced preferences, though hygiene remained the dominant concern.

Focus group feedback mirrored these findings, with participants split evenly between Option 1 (weekly garbage/fortnightly FOGO) and Option 2 (fortnightly garbage/weekly FOGO). Option 2 was viewed positively only if larger or flexible bins were provided.

Key Takeaways

- 92% of respondents from households with disposable nappies indicated that they cannot manage fortnightly garbage, noting hygiene and odour management as their key concerns.
- To manage fortnightly garbage, households with disposable nappies would require larger or additional bins at no additional cost, as bin capacity is the main constraint.
- Larger or additional garbage bins for high-waste households were widely supported.
- Households with disposable nappies identified confusion remains about FOGO and glass bin use.
- Cost sensitivity is high in households with disposable nappies, suggesting additional or larger bins should not incur extra charges.

3.3.2. Survey Responses

Option Preference

Of the total survey respondents of 5497, 877 identified that they were living in a household with disposable nappies. When asked whether they could manage fortnightly garbage if FOGO was collected weekly, a significant majority of respondents (92%) indicated that they would not be able to, with a further 8% indicating that they were unsure. None of the respondents who identified as living with disposable nappies indicated that they could manage with fortnightly garbage if FOGO was collected weekly. This suggests that for this cohort, current garbage volumes, combined with hygiene considerations, make fortnightly collection unworkable.

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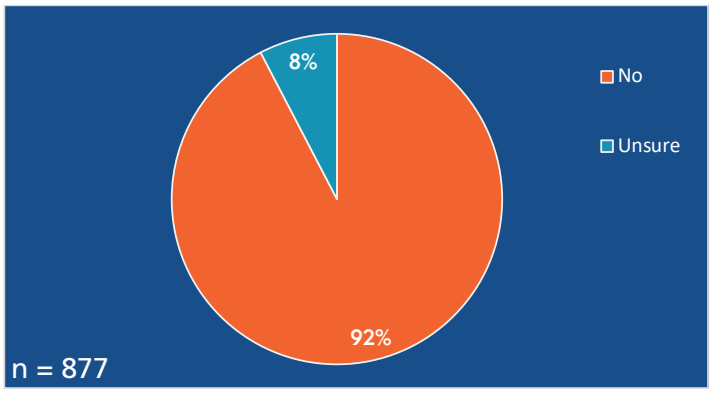
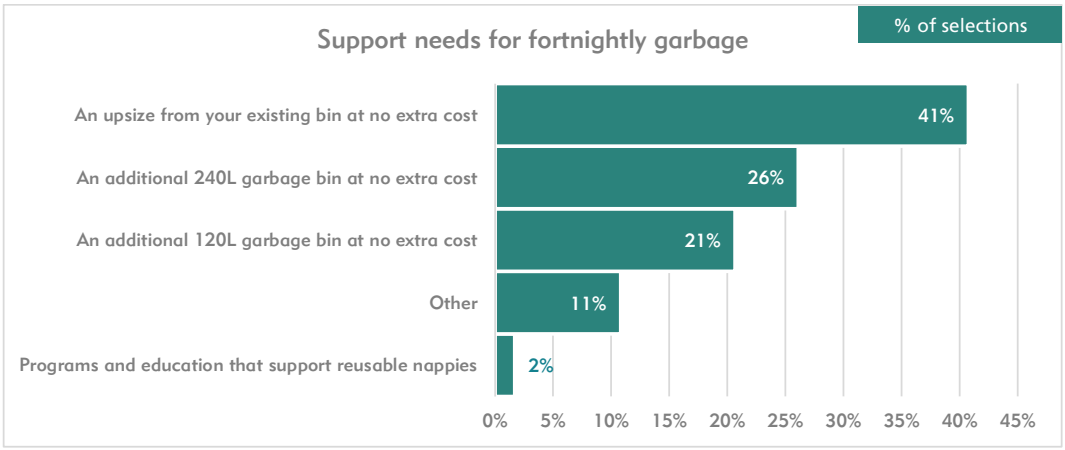
Respondents who could manage fortnightly garbage collection if FOGO was weekly



Graph 30: Households with disposable nappies respondents who could manage fortnightly garbage collection if FOGO was weekly

Respondents living with disposable nappies were then asked what support might be needed to help them manage fortnightly garbage, with 415 indicating that they would require a larger bin at no extra cost. A further 26% indicated that they would require a 240-litre garbage bin to manage fortnightly garbage and another 21% indicated that they would need an additional 120-litre garbage bin. 11% of respondents chose *Other* from the list of supports.



Graph 31: Households with disposable nappies support needs for fortnightly garbage

These results suggest that the issue is less about awareness or willingness to separate waste, and more about the physical limitations of current bin capacity relative to the amount of household waste they are generating.

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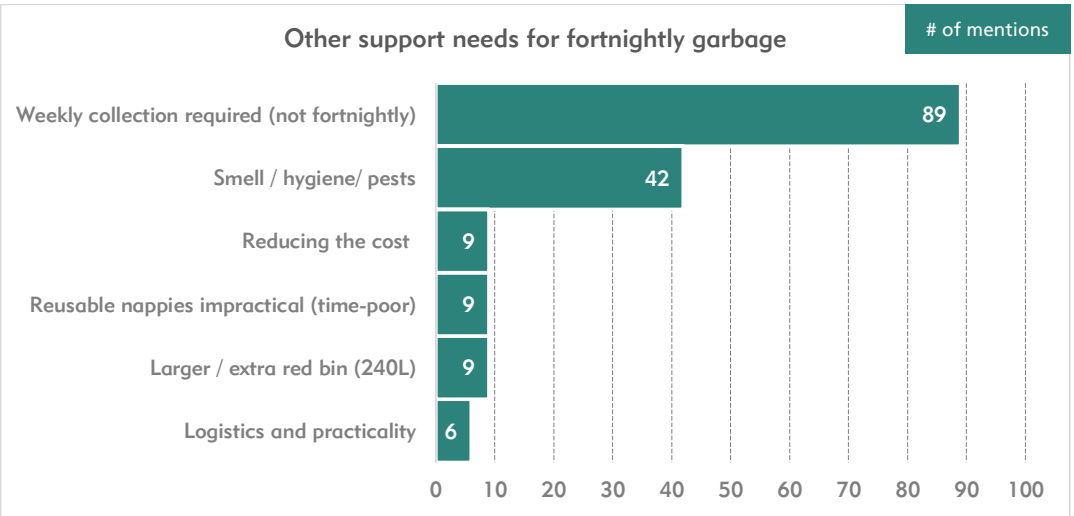
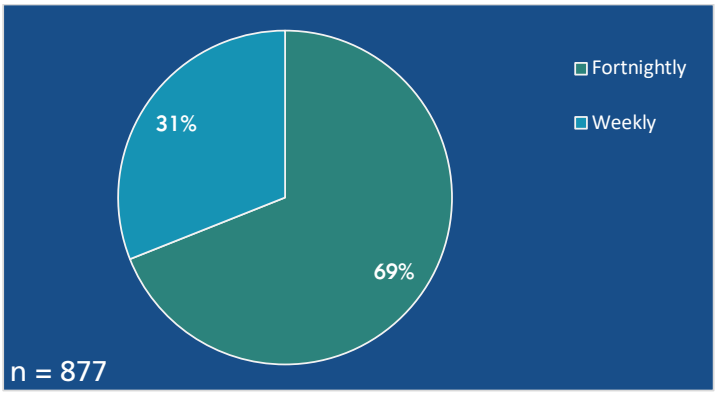


Graph 32: Other support needs for Households with disposable nappies for fortnightly garbage

Of those who chose *Other*, the highest-ranking reason was that they required weekly garbage collection (89 mentions), followed by smell, hygiene and pest concerns (42 mentions). Other reasons were reducing costs, the impractical nature of reuseable nappies and that they would require a larger or additional garbage bin (all with 9 mentions). These comments indicate that for many households with disposable nappies, waste which is related to health, comfort, and sanitation is viewed as incompatible with extended garbage storage times. This is likely to be particularly true during warmer months.

These results highlight that households living with disposable nappies represent a distinct cohort with specific and significant challenges in their ability to manage any reduction in garbage collection frequency.

Preference for FOGO collection frequency



Graph 33: Households with disposable nappies preference for FOGO collection frequency

When asked their preference for FOGO collection frequency, 69% of respondents living in a household with disposable nappies indicated they would prefer fortnightly FOGO and 31% indicated a preference for weekly FOGO.

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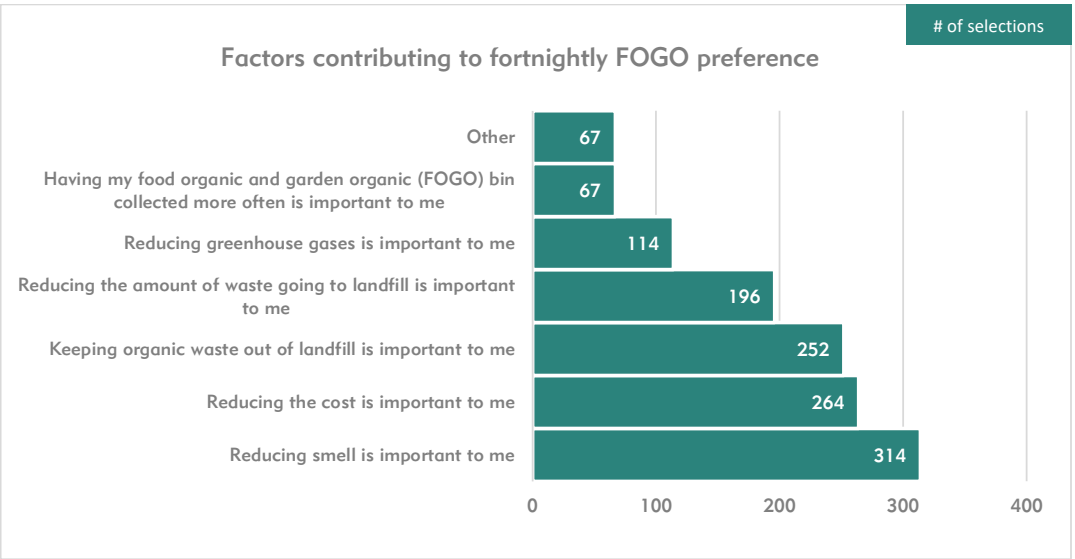
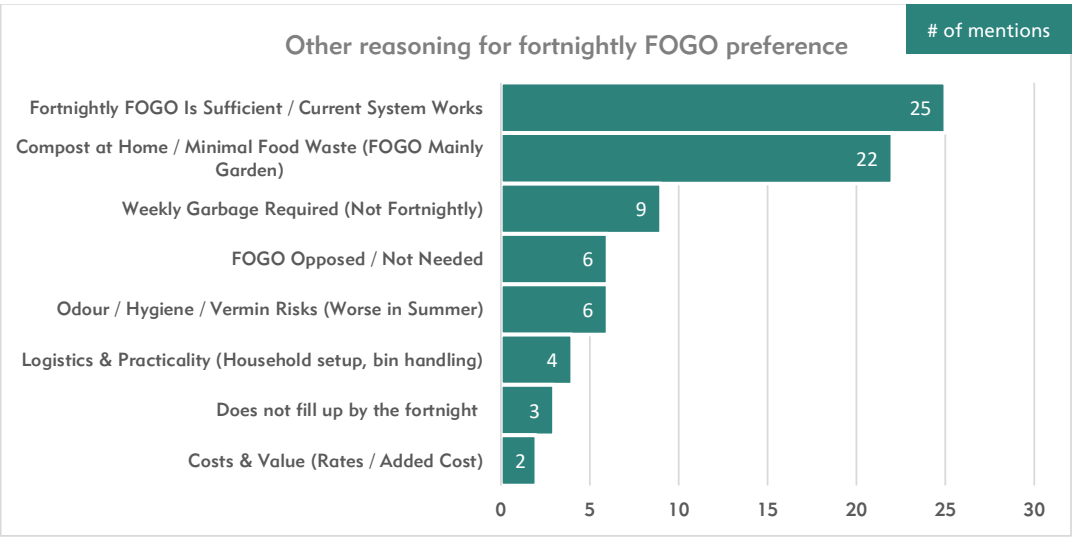
Factors which were important to those preferring fortnightly FOGO included:

- Reducing smells was important (314 mentions)
- Reducing costs (264 mentions)
- Keeping organic waste out of landfill (196 mentions)
- Reducing the amount of waste going to landfill (114 mentions)



Graph 34: Households with disposable nappies reasoning for fortnightly FOGO collection preference

While some of these results seem contradictory e.g. a desire to reduce smells resulting a preference for fortnightly FOGO, the real driver may be respondents' preference for weekly garbage (in order to reduce the smell of disposable nappies) and therefore a preference for fortnightly FOGO as this implies weekly garbage collection. This is backed up by the fact that cost, environmental and sustainability factors also score highly for these participants, even though they have chosen fortnightly FOGO which may lead to poorer sustainability and more costly outcomes.



Graph 35: Households with disposable nappies other reasoning for preference of fortnightly FOGO collection

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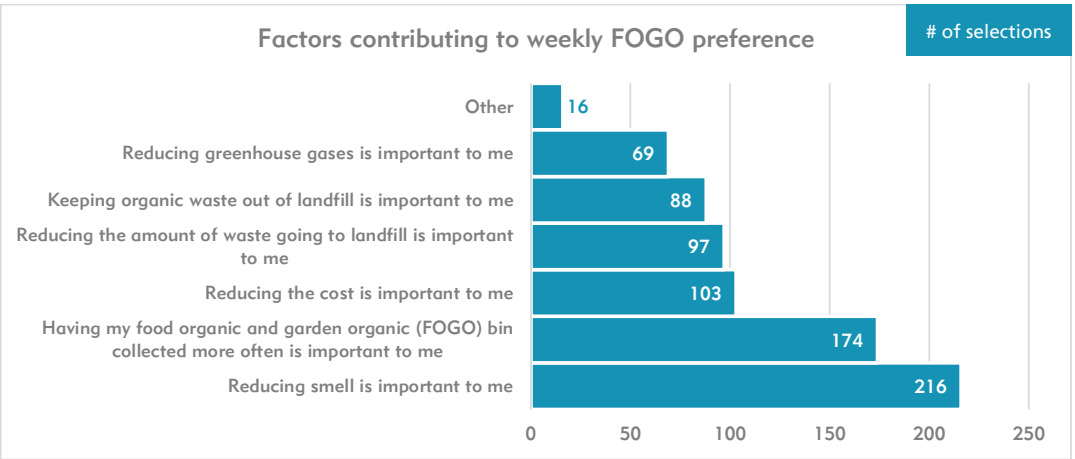
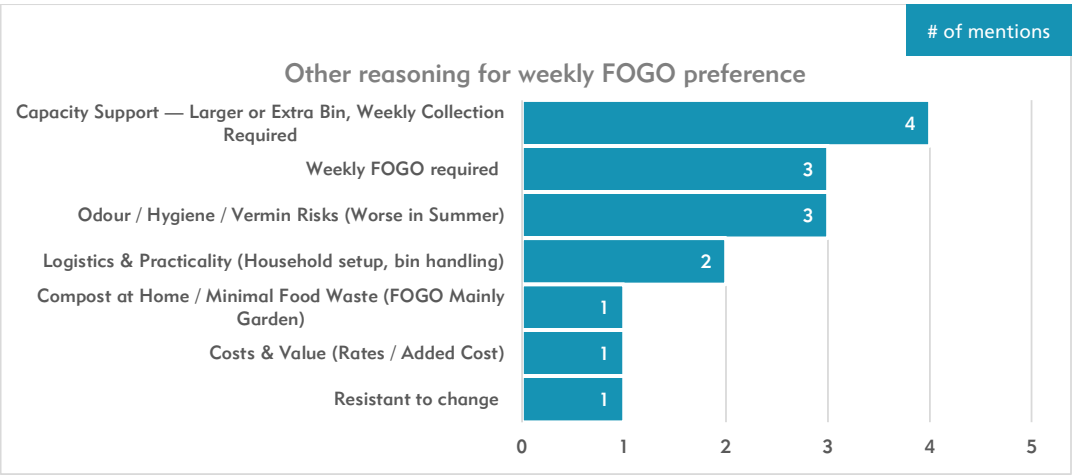
Of those participants who preferred fortnightly FOGO and chose *Other*, the main factors which influenced their choice included that they felt the current system is working (25 mentions) and that they compost at home or have minimal food waste (22 mentions).

Factors which were important to those preferring weekly FOGO included:

- Reducing smells was important (216 mentions)
- Having their FOGO collected more often (174 mentions)
- Reducing costs (103 mentions)
- Reducing the amount of waste going to landfill (97 mentions)
- Keeping organic waste out of landfill (88 mentions)
- Reducing greenhouse gases (69 mentions)



Graph 36: Households with disposable nappies reasoning for weekly FOGO collection preference



Graph 37: Households with disposable nappies other reasoning for weekly FOGO collection preference

These results suggest that those who prefer weekly FOGO are motivated by more direct and immediate benefits, such as reduced smells, more frequent collection, and better landfill diversion outcomes. Those who prefer weekly FOGO and chose *Other*, listed their need for greater FOGO bin capacity, a desire for weekly collection and odour/hygiene and pest concerns as the main reasons behind their preference.

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3.3.3. Focus Group Feedback

A focus group for households with disposable nappies was attended by 18 community members. This focus group provided an opportunity for participants to receive more detailed information regarding the reasoning behind the transition, as well as unpacking the two options put forward by Whitehorse City Council for collection frequency of garbage and FOGO bins and the requirement for the new glass bin. Specifically, it provided an opportunity to hear from those living in households with disposable nappies in order to gain insight into how best to support them to manage their waste needs. The session also provided an opportunity for attendees to ask Council's Waste team any technical questions or questions relating to their specific circumstances. Participant responses are detailed below.

What do you like and/ or dislike about Option 1 (Weekly garbage/Fortnightly FOGO)?

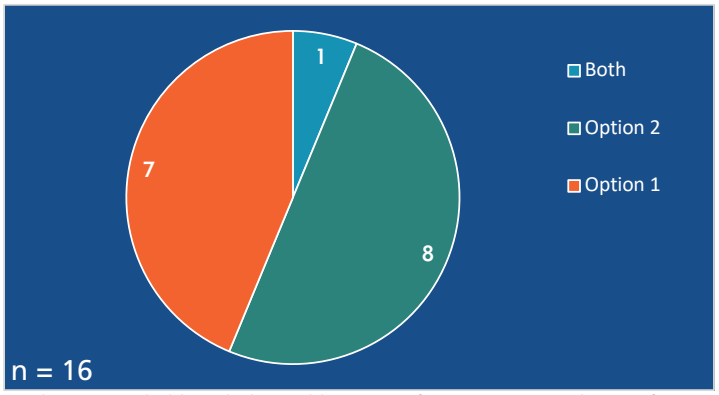
Participants identified that they liked that Option 1 did not require them to change existing waste management routines and could better accommodate their high-nappy waste needs and associated odour management. Additionally, it was perceived as a simpler and more convenient for families with young children who are typically time poor. Some participants identified that they were generally opposed to the four-bin system as they were composting at home and did not require a FOGO bin or had storage issues which would be compounded by additional bins. Whilst not directly applicable to either option, this is nevertheless important feedback

What do you like and/ or dislike about Option 2 (Fortnightly garbage/ Weekly FOGO)?

Participants recognised the environmental and cost benefits of Option 2 and were philosophically aligned to reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfill and supporting sustainability outcomes. Participants also noted that Option 2 was a fair option if Council was going to provide additional or larger bins at no extra cost. However, there were lingering concerns regarding hygiene and odour associated with Option 2. Additionally, participants expressed concerns about a perceived lack of flexibility with Option 2 noting that a single bin size did not suit all households.

Of the two options, which do you prefer? Why did you select this option?

Attendees' preference for Option 1 or Option 2



Graph 38: Households with disposable nappies focus group attendees preference for FOGO collection frequency

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Households with disposable nappies preference for option 1 or 2

When asked to nominate their preferred option, 50% of participants indicated a preference for Option 2, citing improved environmental and cost benefits, but only if it came with additional or larger bins at no extra cost to households. 44% of participants chose Option 1 citing practical concerns re dealing with the volume of nappy waste and its associated odours as their main reasons for this choice.

Is there anything else about the proposed changes to your kerbside waste collection that you would like Council to know?

Participants raised a number of other issues and suggestions for Council to consider including:

- A suggestion that Council provide bin options based on the number of children or disposable nappies generated per household
- Participants suggested that Council explore or subsidise nappy cleaning services, as existing providers are limited and often booked out.
- Participants identified that confusion remains around the purpose and frequency of glass bin collections and suggested that clearer communication is needed.
- Several participants noted that it was likely that a reduction in waste and increase in diversion rates would be a result of both behavioural change (requiring community education) and service change (e.g. bin size and frequency of collection).

3.4. HOUSEHOLDS WITH MEDICAL NEEDS AND/OR DISABILITIES

3.4.1. Summary

Households with medical needs and/or disabilities expressed concerns about any reduction to garbage collection frequency, potentially due to their high waste generation. Of 368 survey respondents, 93% indicated they could not manage with fortnightly garbage, even if FOGO was collected weekly. This potentially reflects the high volume of non-organic, hygiene-related waste such as medical consumables and packaging that cannot be diverted into FOGO.

While two-thirds (66%) preferred fortnightly FOGO, this group also stressed the importance of environmental and cost-related outcomes, such as reducing landfill waste and service costs. Those preferring weekly FOGO (34%) prioritised odour reduction and improved environmental outcomes.

Focus group participants echoed these themes, favouring Option 1 (weekly garbage/fortnightly FOGO) as the most practical and manageable arrangement. Option 2 (fortnightly garbage/weekly FOGO) was seen as environmentally beneficial but more difficult to implement without substantial education, larger bins, and a phased transition supported by user-friendly communications, education and monitoring.

Key Takeaways

- There was a strong consensus that fortnightly garbage collection is unworkable for households with medical or disability needs without additional support.
- Odour, hygiene, and medical waste volumes are seen as key barriers to less frequent garbage collection.
- Cost transparency and visual communication are critical in building understanding and trust for this cohort.
- Households with medical needs and/or disabilities value practical support measures such as larger bins, bin liners, deodorisers, and accessible bin designs.
- Education and phased implementation were seen as critical for acceptance of any new model.

3.4.2. Survey Responses

Option Preference

Of the total survey respondents of 5497, 368 identified that they were living in a household with medical needs and/or disabilities. When asked whether they could manage fortnightly garbage if FOGO was collected weekly, an overwhelming majority of respondents (93%) indicated that they would not be able to, with a further 7% indicating that they were unsure. None of the respondents who identified as living in a household with medical needs and/or disabilities indicated that they could manage with fortnightly garbage if FOGO was collected weekly. This suggests that for this cohort fortnightly garbage collection would be unworkable.

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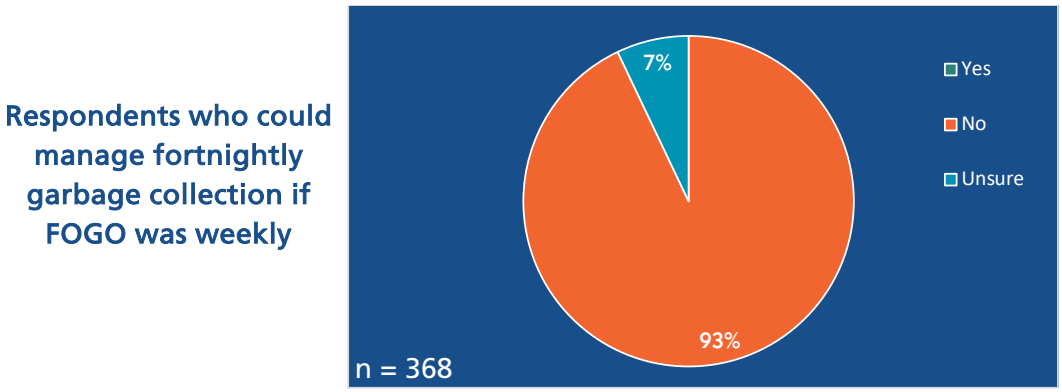
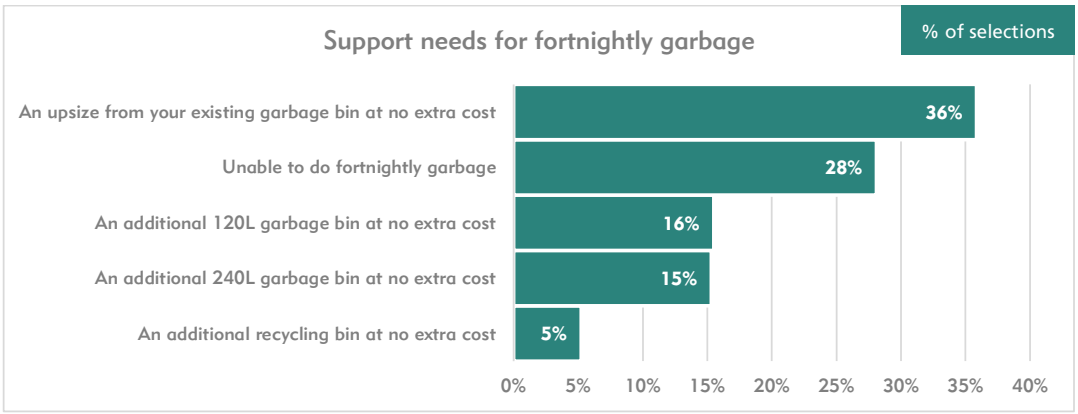


Graph 39: Households with Medical Needs respondents who could manage fortnightly garbage collection if FOGO was weekly

Respondents living in a household with medical needs and/or disabilities were then asked what support might be needed to help them manage fortnightly garbage, with 36% indicating that they would require a larger bin at no extra cost. A further 28% indicated they would not be able to manage fortnightly garbage. 16% indicated that they would need an additional 120-litre garbage bin and 15% require an additional 240-litre garbage bin to manage fortnightly garbage. 5% of respondents identified they would require an additional recycling bin.



Graph 40: Households with Medical Needs support needed for fortnightly garbage

When asked their preference for FOGO collection frequency, 66% of respondents living in a household with medical needs and/or disabilities indicated they would prefer fortnightly FOGO and 34% indicated a preference for weekly FOGO.

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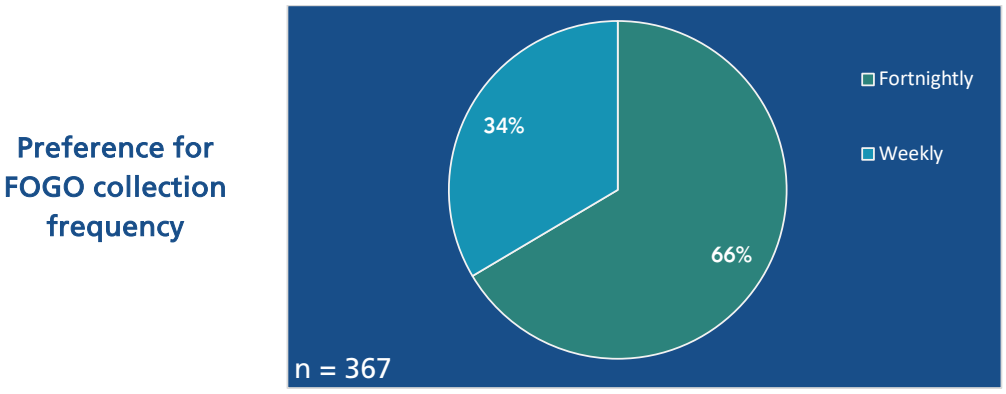
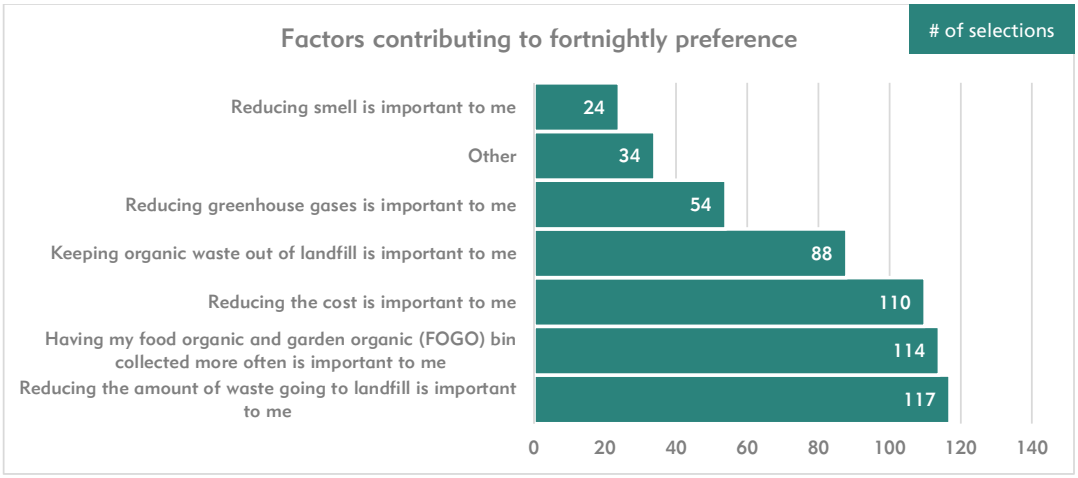


Graph 41: Households with Medical Needs preference for FOGO collection frequency

Factors which were important to those preferring fortnightly FOGO included:

- Reducing the amount of waste going to landfill (117 mentions)
- Having my FOGO bin collected more frequently (114 mentions)
- Reducing costs (110 mentions)
- Keeping organic waste out of landfill (88 mentions)
- Reducing greenhouse gases (54 mentions)
- Other (34 mentions)
- Reducing smells (24 mentions)



Graph 42: Households with Medical Needs factors contributing to fortnightly FOGO collection preference

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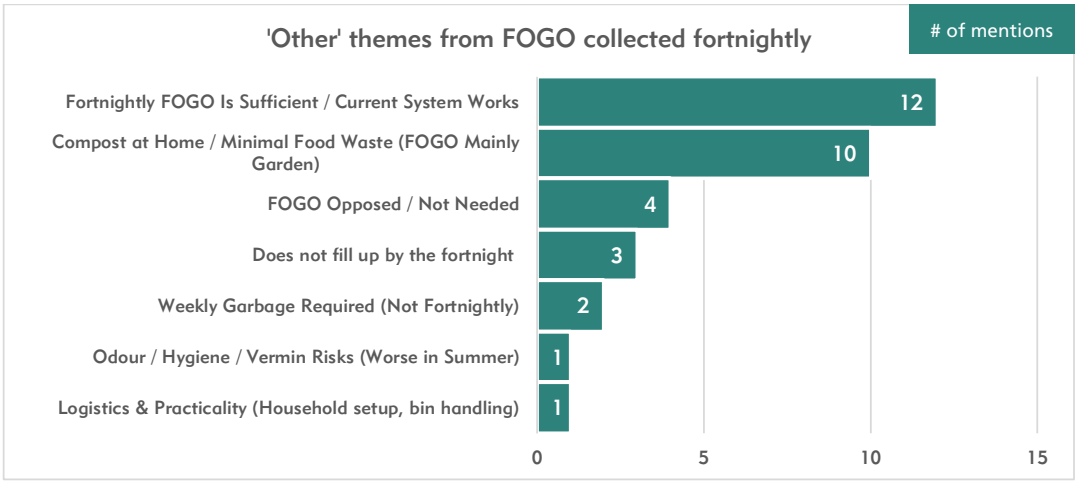
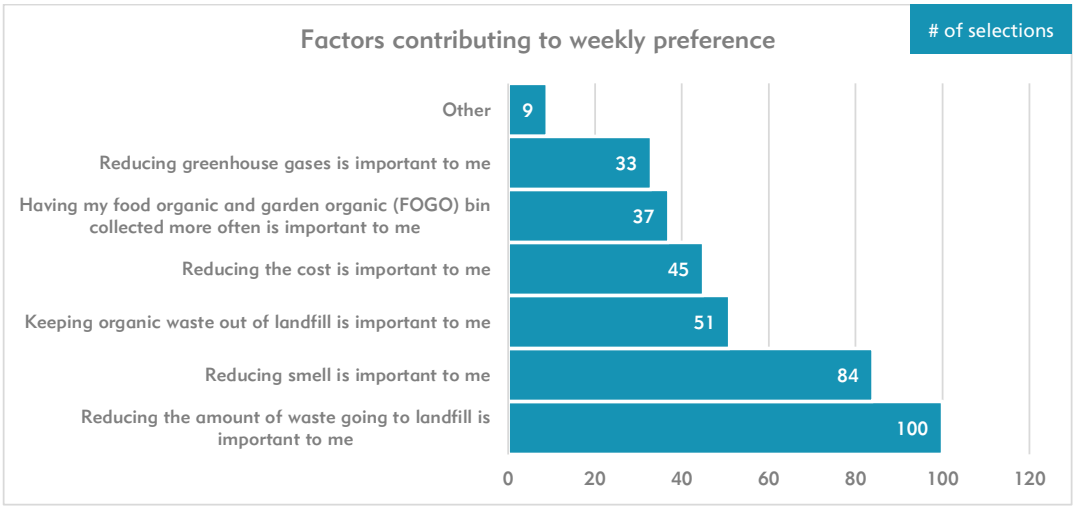
Of those that selected Other, the main reasons were that the current fortnightly FOGO collection was sufficient (12 mentions) or that they were already treating organic waste at home via composting etc. and did not need more frequent FOGO collection.



Graph 43: Households with Medical Needs other reasoning for fortnightly FOGO collection preference

These results suggest that for households living with medical needs and/or disabilities, it is most important that they have more regular garbage collection, likely due to the amount of non-organic, hygiene-related waste (e.g. medical consumables, incontinence products, dressings, packaging) that cannot go into FOGO. If Council were to move to fortnightly garbage collection, offering households with medical needs or disabilities a weekly garbage service should be considered. However, there are also important environmental and economic drivers at play for this cohort, with a desire to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and reducing costs important considerations.



Graph 44: Households with Medical Needs factors contributing to weekly FOGO collection preference

For those households living with medical needs and/or disabilities who preferred weekly FOGO, important factors included:

- Reducing the amount of waste going to landfill (100 mentions)

- Reducing smells was important (84 mentions)
- Keeping organic waste out of landfill (51 mentions)
- Reducing costs (45 mentions)
- Having my FOGO bin collected more frequently (37 mentions)
- Reducing greenhouse gases (33 mentions)

This suggest that these respondents recognise the improved environmental outcomes associated with weekly FOGO as well as a desire to manage smells related to organic waste.

3.4.3. Focus Group Feedback

A focus group for households living with medical needs and/or disabilities was attended by 6 community members. This focus group provided an opportunity for participants to receive more detailed information regarding the reasoning behind the transition, as well as unpacking the two options put forward by Whitehorse City Council for collection frequency of garbage and FOGO bins and the requirement for the new glass bin. Specifically, it provided an opportunity to hear from those living in households with medical needs and/or disabilities in order to gain insight into how best to support them to manage their waste needs. The session also provided an opportunity for attendees to ask Council's Waste team any technical questions or questions relating to their specific circumstances. Participant responses are detailed below.

What do you like and/ or dislike about Option 1 (Weekly garbage/Fortnightly FOGO)?

Participants identified that Option 1 did not require them to change existing waste management routines and could better accommodate their high waste needs. Additionally, it was perceived as a simpler and more convenient for households living with medical needs and/or disabilities. Some participants identified concerns regarding managing odours associated with medical and animal waste, particularly in the warmer months.

What do you like and/ or dislike about Option 2 (Fortnightly garbage/ Weekly FOGO)?

Participants recognised the environmental benefits of Option 2 if it was managed well. Participants also appreciated the idea of larger garbage bins for bigger or special-needs households. However, participants noted that their current garbage bins filled quickly and feared that fortnightly garbage would not meet their waste needs. Concerns were expressed about hygiene and odour associated with pet waste associated with the longer garbage storage times of Option 2. It was noted that if Option 2 was implemented there would need to be significant community education and communication to ensure compliance and active participation.

Of the two options, which do you prefer? Why did you select this option?

When asked their preference between the two options, four participants indicated a preference for Option 1 (weekly garbage/fortnightly FOGO) and 2 preferred Option 2 (fortnightly garbage/weekly FOGO). The main reasons for this preference was a desire not to

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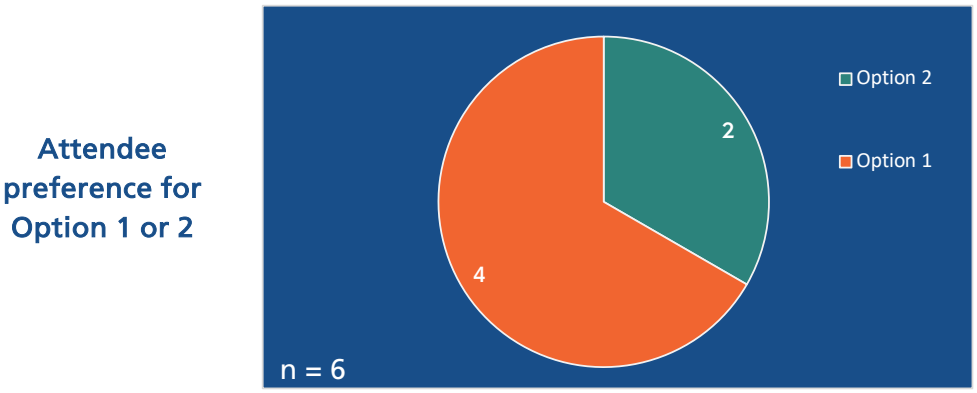
change current service and that Option 1 was deemed more realistic and manageable, with interest in Option 2 if it could be implemented properly and their waste needs met.



Graph 45: Households with Medical Needs focus group attendee preference for Option 1 or 2

Is there anything else about the proposed changes to your kerbside waste collection that you would like Council to know?

Participants raised a number of other issues and suggestions for Council to consider including:

- A strong preference for a phased rollout and a 12-month data collection period to assess the efficacy of any changes to the current service.
- Provision of larger garbage bins for households with disposable nappies, pets, or medical waste.
- Participants asked questions about availability of FOGO liners, medical exemptions, and shared bin arrangements in multi-unit dwellings.
- A request for clear information about costs and savings of Option 2, preferably visually communicated to support those who had difficulty reading.
- A range of suggestions for bin improvements, including providing taller bins which were easier to manage and deodoriser products.
- A desire for more communications regarding rules and ways to enforce them, particularly around contamination and breaches of waste management protocols.

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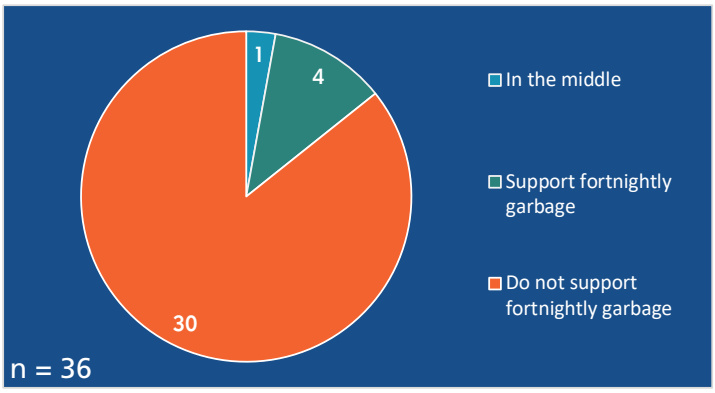
3.5. CHILDRENS REFERENCE GROUP

3.5.1. Focus Group Feedback

Of the two options, which do you prefer? Why did you select this option?

Most students (30 out of 36) did not support fortnightly garbage collection due to concerns about odour and challenges for larger families, though some felt larger bins could help. It should be noted that participants were not asked whether they could manage fortnightly garbage collection if they were provided with larger bins, so assumed these results reflect current bin sizes.

Attendee support for fortnightly garbage



Graph 46: Children's reference group attendee support for fortnightly garbage

Is there anything else about the proposed changes to your kerbside waste collection that you would like Council to know?

Students suggested a range of ideas to support the community in switching to a 4-bin system and changing FOGO/garbage frequency, including widespread advertising campaigns across TV, social media, and print to show where rubbish goes and why the change is sustainable. They also proposed practical measures such as larger or flexible bin sizes, clearer labels and posters, education in schools, council communications, and additional support like compost days, collection timetables, and safe bin designs.

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3.6. SPORTING GROUPS, BUSINESSES & COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

3.6.1. Summary

Survey results from business, community organisation, sports club, and school representatives suggest that this segment has mixed response to the introduction of a four-bin service in Whitehorse. While 26% expressed no concerns, the majority identified challenges such as lack of space for additional bins or a limited need for certain bins, particularly glass. Option 1 (weekly garbage/fortnightly FOGO) was preferred by 65% of respondents, largely driven by convenience and operational needs related to regular waste collection. In contrast, 26% supported Option 2 (fortnightly garbage/weekly FOGO), motivated primarily by environmental outcomes such as reducing waste to landfill and greenhouse gases.

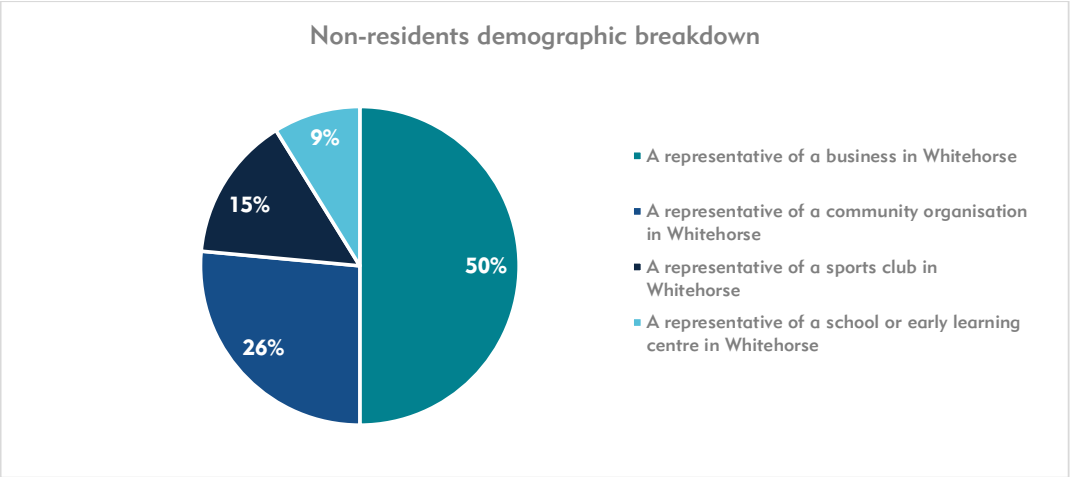
Overall, the results suggest that while there is a strong environmental awareness among some business and organisational respondents, most are more concerned with practicality and space constraints.

Key Takeaways

- 26% of respondents had no concerns with the introduction of four bins however, most noted spatial limitations or lack of need for certain bins (especially glass).
- Space, bin size, and collection frequency are the most important factors influencing the perspectives of local businesses and organisations when it comes to waste service preferences.

3.6.2. Survey Responses

There were 34 respondents who identified that they were representatives of a business (50%), community organisation (26%), sports club (15%) or school/early learning centre (9%) in Whitehorse.



Graph 47: Demographic breakdown of non-resident survey respondents

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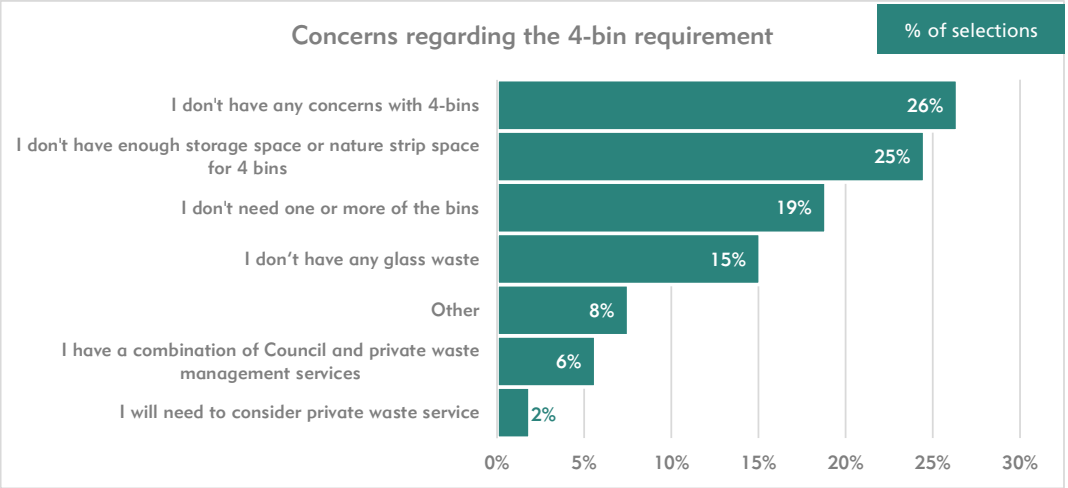
Respondents who were representatives of a business, community organisation, sports club or school/early learning centre were asked whether they have any concerns regarding the introduction of a four-bin service. 26% indicated that they had no concerns, while 25% indicated that they did not have enough storage or nature strip space for four bins. A further 19% indicated that they dd not need one or more of the proposed bins, with 15% identifying that they did not have glass waste.

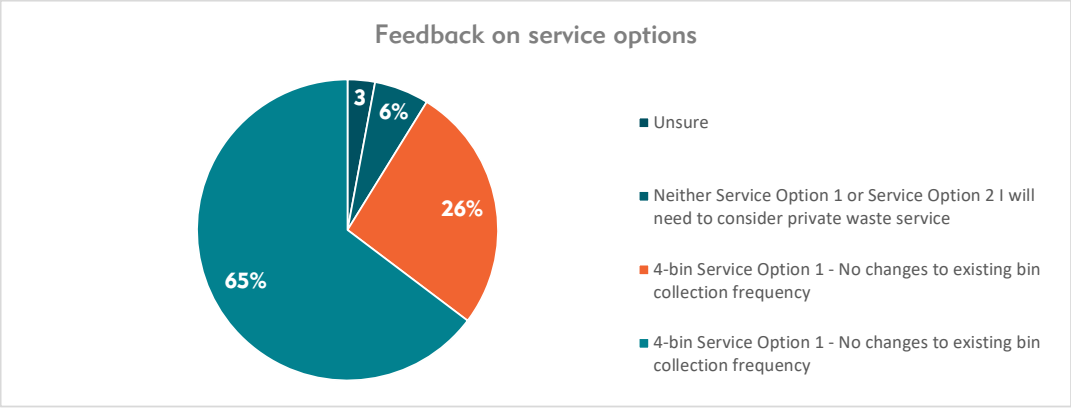


Graph 48: General feedback from non-resident survey respondents regarding the 4-bin requirement

These results indicate that while a quarter of respondents expressed no concerns, a majority either had spatial constraints or lack the need for certain bins (particularly glass).

Option Preference

When asked their preference between the two service options, 65% indicated that their preference was for Option 1, with no change to frequency of garbage or FOGO collection. Option 2 was supported by 26% of respondents with a further 6% preferring neither option and indicating that they would look to a non-Council waste collection service. 3% of respondents were unsure about which option they preferred.



Graph 49: Feedback from non-resident survey respondents on options

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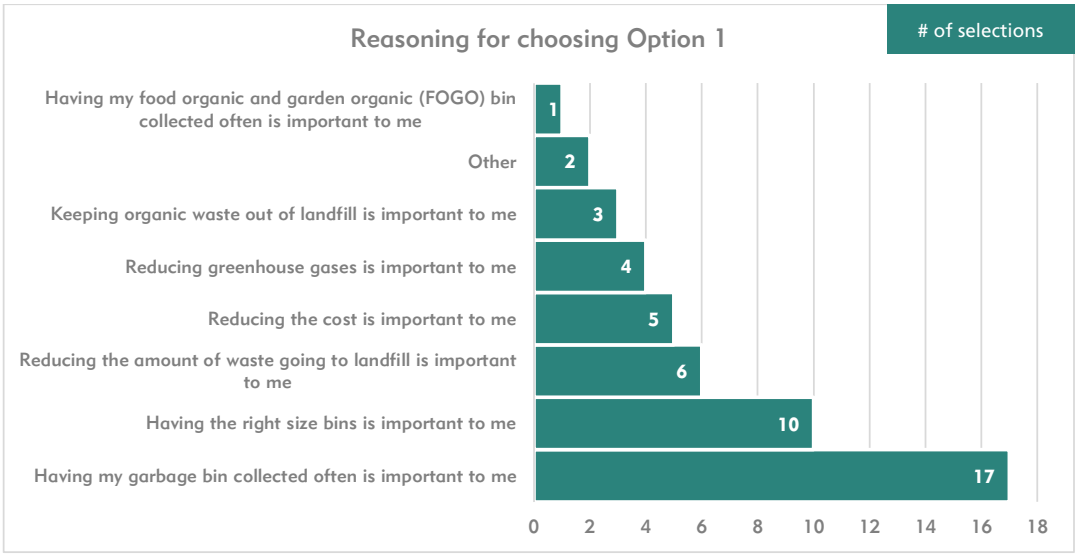
Of those respondents that chose Option 1 (weekly garbage/fortnightly FOGO), important factors included:

- Having my garbage bin collected more often (17 mentions)
- Having the right bin size (10 mentions)
- Reducing the amount of waste going to landfill (6 mentions)
- Reducing costs (5 mentions)
- Reducing greenhouse gases (4 mentions)

This suggest that for this cohort, regular garbage and correct bin sizes are the most important to them, although many are motivated by environmental and cost outcomes.



Graph 50: Reasoning from non-resident survey respondents as to why Option 1 is preferred

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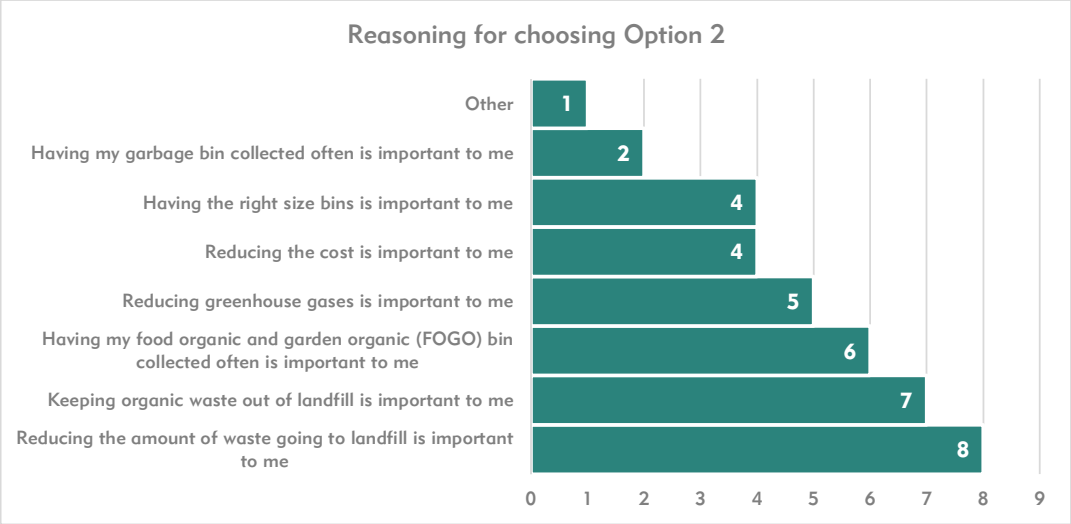
Of those respondents that chose Option 2 (fortnightly garbage/weekly FOGO), important factors included:

- Reducing the amount of waste going to landfill (8 mentions)
- Keeping organic waste out of landfill (7 mentions)
- Having my FOGO bin collected more often (6 mentions)
- Reducing greenhouse gases (4 mentions)
- Reducing costs (4 mentions)
- Having the right bin size (4 mentions)

This suggest that this cohort is mainly motivated by environmental outcomes which align to Council's broader sustainability goals.



Graph 51: Reasoning from non-resident survey respondents as to why Option 2 is preferred

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3.7. EDUCATION AND SUPPORT NEEDS

Of the 5497 respondents to the community survey, 2417 provided feedback relating to the question *What other support or education do you need in the lead up to the bin changes?* These responses have been split into two groups – those who identified education and support needs and those who used this question to provide more general feedback to the proposed transition to four-bins or the collection frequencies put forward by Council.

Comments relating to Education & Support Needs have been themed according to frequency of mentions as follows.

Most Frequently Mentioned / Strongest Sentiment

The majority of respondents emphasised the following.

- **Clear, practical information on "what goes where."** (single most consistent education need)

  Residents repeatedly asked for simple, consistent guidance on what can and can't go in each bin. This is particularly the case for FOGO and glass. Many indicated confusion or a lack of confidence in understanding what materials are recyclable, what materials can be combined in the one bin (rules relating to labels/lids and the need to clean items), and what is considered as "glass waste."

- **Tools to track collection schedules**.
  Many respondents were anxious about remembering which bin goes out each week, particularly the new glass bin. The most commonly suggested supports included fridge magnets, printed calendars, and digital reminders (SMS/app/email).

- **Accessible education materials provided through multiple channels.**
  Respondents requested education resources that are widely distributed to ensure all segments of the community were receiving information regarding better waste management practices. It was suggested that information and resources should be distributed via schools, shopping centres, libraries, social media, and letterbox drops and not just online. Community requested consistent and ongoing reminders to reinforce behaviour change rather than one-off campaigns.

Frequently Mentioned / Targeted Gaps

- **Culturally and linguistically diverse communication.**
  Multiple respondents, particularly in areas with high CALD populations, highlighted the need for translated materials (especially Chinese) and visual material that communicate key messages, regardless of language.

- **Transparency about waste treatment practices.**
  Respondents expressed a lack of understanding of what become sf waste after it has been collected and scepticism that recyclables are genuinely recycled. Some community members requested visible proof of the recycling treatment process, including updates, videos, or reports showing where materials go.

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- **Visual guides**.
  Respondents request a range of visual guides such as bin stickers, posters, or colour-coded "cheat sheets" which serve as reminders for family members about which items can go in which bins and are seen as a low-cost/high-impact measure.

Less Mentioned but Still Valuable

- **Support for special household circumstances.**
  Respondents from families with disposable nappies, medical needs, or who deal with considerable pet waste requested guidance or tailored advice re their waste management challenges and any exemptions or available support. While this group represents a smaller number of requests, these households may face the most significant challenges in adapting to any change in garbage collection frequency.
- **Education about how kerbside glass collection fits with the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS).**
  Some respondents were confused about the overlap between CDS and the proposed glass recycling bin and which they should be using. Clarifying this relationship will prevent frustration and cross-contamination.
- **Interactive engagement and feedback channels.**
  Some respondents wanted two-way updates — surveys, trials, opportunities to give feedback as the program rolls out.

General Feedback

Comments made that related to the four-bin transition more broadly have been themed as follows.

- **Concerns re lack of storage space/logistic issues.** Many respondents took the opportunity to express concerns regarding limited room to store another bin (especially for those living in townhouses, units), nature-strip clutter, issues with bins being blocked by parked cars, and overall aesthetics of having more bins on their property and in the street.
- **Concerns re frequency/size of bins.** Many expressed concerns that smaller bins and/or less frequent garbage/FOGO pickups will cause smells, maggots, attract pests (especially in summer), and won't suit larger households.
- **Shared bins for MUDs.** Respondents raised issues relating to responsibility for shared bins, increase risk of contamination, issues around cleanliness and hygiene, and greater chances of disputes amongst neighbours if sharing became an issue. Some raised concerns about language and communication barriers in some complexes.
- **Public safety & practicality of glass bins.** Respondents mentioned concerns re increased glass breakages in glass-only bins and questions about whether sorting recyclables in a depot or providing street-level glass collection stations or CDS would be safer or more efficient.
- **Financial impact & cost equity.** Many respondents raised concerns re additional cost of glass bins and the potential for rate/fee increases, many thought they would be paying for a service they did not need (due to low levels of glass waste), issues of perceived inequity for residents of MUDs who would need to pay for shared

services, and uncertainty about whether savings from other changes would actually flow back to ratepayers.

- **Scepticism about recycling process and alternative models.** Some respondents expressed concerns that separated materials were not actually being recycled or a preference for expanding CDS or alternative models (e.g., international approaches to addressing glass waste) over the introduction of a new bin. Some expressed concern that decisions re changes to services had already been made and consultation is tokenistic.
- **Public behavioural concerns.** Some respondents were worried that a reduction in frequency of garbage collection would lead to misuse of public bins and illegal dumping of garbage.

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4 CONCLUSION

The Whitehorse community has shown strong engagement with Council's efforts to consult and a genuine willingness to participate in the transition to a four-bin kerbside waste and recycling system. The findings in this report, drawn from more than 6,700 participants highlight broad alignment with Council's environmental objectives but demonstrate that the community's capacity to adapt will depend on clear communication, flexible service design, and support, including targeted support to community segments most impacted by any proposed changes.

While there is widespread understanding of the environmental rationale for waste reform, residents are divided on the practicalities of Option 1 (weekly garbage/fortnightly FOGO) and Option 2 (fortnightly garbage/weekly FOGO). Over half of respondents indicated that fortnightly garbage collection would be difficult to manage, mainly due to odour, hygiene, and bin capacity issues. However, most of these households said they could adapt with larger or additional bins—suggesting that a majority could manage fortnightly garbage if properly supported. Cohorts such as households with disposable nappies or medical needs face more significant barriers, reinforcing the need for tailored exemptions or larger bins at no extra cost.

FOGO was generally well understood and supported, with residents recognising its role in reducing landfill and emissions. However, preferences for collection frequency were split between those valuing the environmental benefits and those driven by more practical household needs, often aligned with a desire for weekly garbage collection. Focus group results indicate that once residents understand the environmental and cost benefits of weekly FOGO, support for this option increases significantly.

The proposed introduction of a glass bin remains the most contentious aspect of the transition. Many residents questioned its necessity, citing low glass waste volumes, lack of storage space, and additional costs. Nevertheless, some saw potential if supported by flexible collection models, shared systems for MUDs, and complementary community education.

Across all cohorts, education and communication emerged as critical success factors. Residents consistently requested clear, multilingual, and visually driven guidance on correct bin use, collection schedules, and how waste is processed after collection.

Overall, the community's feedback highlights potential for change, provided that Council delivers a transparent, flexible, and inclusive transition program. By coupling education and support with flexible implementation where possible, particularly around bin sizing, shared bin systems, and exemptions, Whitehorse can achieve its waste-diversion and sustainability goals while maintaining community confidence.

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5 APPENDIX



Vermont Shopping Centre Pop Up 12/09

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5.1. DETAILS OF FOCUS GROUPS & POP- UPS

FOCUS GROUPS

FAMILIES WITH NAPPIES
Vermont South Library
2nd Sept 2025
18 Participants

HOUSEHOLDS WITH MEDICAL NEEDS OR DISABILITIES
Box Hill Community Arts 9th Sept 2025
8 Participants

MUDS
Box Hill Town Hall
17th Sept 2025
15 Participants

GENERAL (CALD AUDIENCE)
Nunawading Civic Centre
23rd Sept 2025
13 Participants

GENERAL
Nunawading Community Hub
24rd Sept 2025
12 Participants

CHILDRENS REFERENECE GROUP
COUNCIL FACILITATED
3rd Sept 2025
36 Participants

Q & As (ONLINE)

ONLINE Q & A (1)
14th Sept 2025
13 Participants

ONLINE Q & A (2)
14th Sept 2025
5 Participants

POP UPS

BOX HILL CENTRAL
29th August 2025
50 Participants

BURWOOD BRICKWORKS
5th Sept 2025
30 Participants

BUNNINGS NUNAWADING
Nunawading Community Hub
6th Sept 2025
150 Participants

VERMONT SHOPPING CENTRE
Nunawading Community Hub
12th Sept 2025
80 Participants

MOON FESTIVAL – BOX HILL
13th Sept 2025
320 Participants

WHITEHORSE FARMERS MARKET
14th Sept 2025
135 Participants

BUNNINGS BOX HILL
20th Sept 2025
50 Participants

BLACKBURN SQUARE
25th Sept 2025
80 Participants

GLOBAL ISMAIL CIVIC DAY
COUNCIL FACILITATED
14th Sept 2025
150 Participants

VERMONT SOUTH COMMUNITY MARKET
COUNCIL FACILITATED
19th Sept 2025
50 Participants

POSITIVE AGEING FORUM
COUNCIL FACILITATED
21 Aug 2025
27 Participants

ELGAR
COUNCIL FACILITATED (PRESENTATION)
26th August 2025
12 Participants

65

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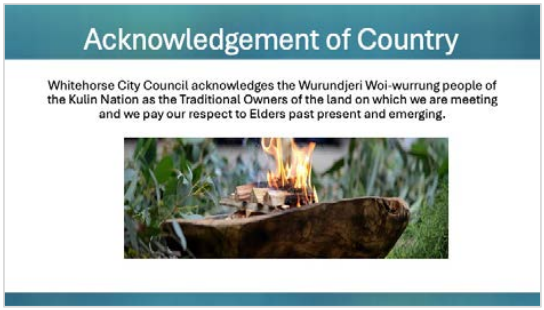
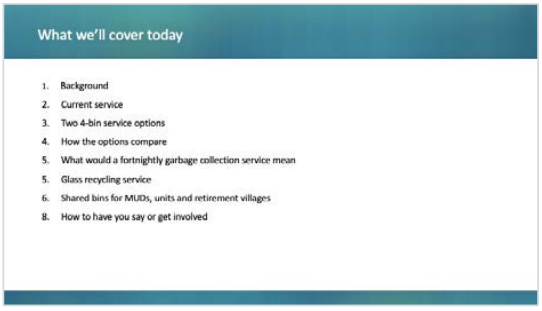
5.2. FOCUS GROUP + INFORMATION SESSION COLLATERAL

5.2.1. Focus Group + Information Session Collateral



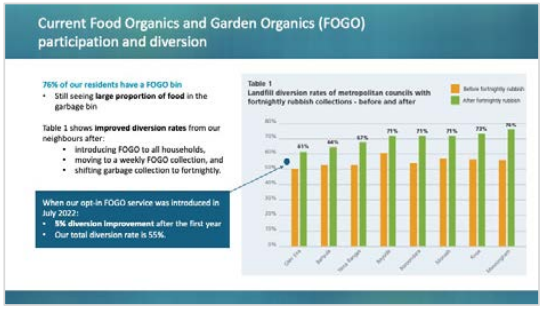


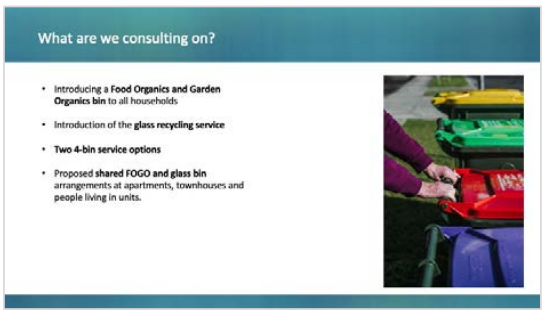




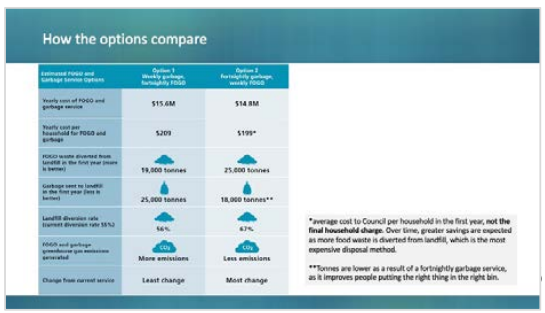












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What would a fortnightly garbage collection service mean?

What we know right now

- **Almost 40% of what goes in our garbage bins is food.** Once food scraps are in the FOGO bin, many households should have room in their garbage bin.
- **48% of our households are one person homes or couples with no kids.** For smaller households, an 80-litre bin would be big enough.

Other councils who have switched to collecting garbage every two weeks found that 80-litre bins weren't big enough, so **we want to hear from you what support you might need** with a fortnightly garbage service.

Supporting fortnightly garbage

We know that households have different needs and preferences depending on who and how many people live there. These include households with:

- children in nappies or those with incontinence,
- people with some medical conditions that might generate more waste than average .
- large households,

To ensure we meet the needs of our community, **certain households will be entitled to get additional or larger bins** (up to a cap) at no extra cost, however additional fees may apply.

Glass recycling service

The State Government's Proposed Household Waste and Recycling Service Standards (2024) includes a mandatory glass bin service for all Victorian households by 1 July 2027.

Why?

- Separating glass from other recycling **improves the quality** of recyclables.
- Pieces of broken glass can stick to other materials, such as paper, cardboard and plastics, which **reduces the ability for glass** to be recycled into high value products.

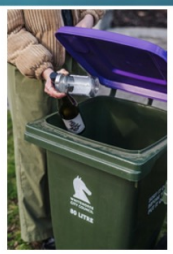
For a single unit dwelling, we are proposing **an 80-litre bin, collected once every 4-weeks.**



Glass advocacy to the State Government

Cost impacts and considerations

- We understand introducing a glass bin will cost more.
- With 34 other councils, we've asked the Minister of Environment to reconsider the glass bin and service, suggesting cheaper and more sustainable options.
- We'll keep advocating, but we plan to meet the legal requirements, with 18 months to implement the service.



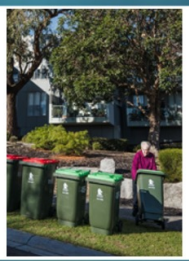
Shared bins for townhouses, apartments and retirement villages

Shared bins to help with 4-bins storage and space

We understand that not all households will have space for 4-bins. That's why we are trialling different shared bin arrangements at units, townhouses and apartments across our community.

We are proposing a shared glass and food organics and garden organics (FOGO) bin arrangement model for when there are 4 or more households on a property.

The number of shared bins your property will receive is determined by the number of households in your apartment development – outlined in the following slide.



Shared bins for townhouses, apartments and retirement villages

Our plan is:

- Every site with **4 or more households on a site** will get the **minimum shared bins** they need
- If you **need more** bins, you can **ask for them** (within the bins terms and conditions)
- If you already have your own FOGO bin, you can keep using it
- For any site that has **less than 4 households, individual bins will be distributed.**

All households that have Council bin services will be charged the Kerbside Waste Service Charge for the minimum service of all 4-bins. Additional or larger bins are charged for an additional fee.



Proposed shared bins for townhouses, apartments and retirement villages

Option 1
Weekly garbage, fortnightly FOGO



Dwellings	FOGO	Glass
4-10 households	2 x 140L FOGO bin will be delivered to your development.	1 x 120L glass recycling bin will be delivered to your development.
11-20 households	1 x 140L FOGO bin will be delivered for every 5 dwellings in your development.	3 x 120L glass recycling bins will be delivered to your development.
20+ households	1 x 140L FOGO bin will be delivered for every 5 dwellings in your development.	1 x 120L glass bin will be delivered for every 10 dwellings in your development.

Garbage bin collected weekly. FOGO and Recycling bins collected fortnightly, Glass every 4-weeks.

Option 2
Fortnightly garbage, weekly FOGO



Dwellings	FOGO	Glass
4-10 households	1 x 140L FOGO bin will be delivered to your development.	1 x 120L glass recycling bin will be delivered to your development.
11-20 households	1 x 140L FOGO bin will be delivered for every 10 dwellings in your development.	3 x 120L glass recycling bins will be delivered to your development.
20+ households	1 x 140L FOGO bin will be delivered for every 10 dwellings in your development.	1 x 120L glass bin will be delivered for every 10 dwellings in your development.

FOGO bin collected weekly. Garbage and Recycling bins collected fortnightly, Glass every 4-weeks.

How to provide in depth feedback

Focus Groups

Sign up for an involved workshop to unpack the 4-bin service options and how it could impact you and receive a $50 gift card to thank you for your time.

Residents in townhouses, apartments and units
Wednesday 17 September, 6pm – 7pm
Box Hill Town Hall, Box Hill Town Hall, 1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill

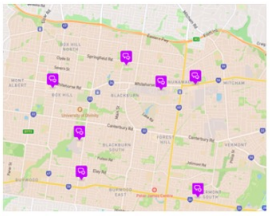
All residents – English and Mandarin speaking (interpreter available)
Tuesday 23 September, 9:30am – 11:00am
Nunawading Community Hub, 96-106 Springvale Road, Nunawading

All residents
Wednesday 24 September, 9.30am – 11.00am
Whitehorse Civic Centre – Willis Room, 379-399 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading

Come say hi!

Pop-ups

Date	Location
19 September	Vermont South Community Twilight Market
20 September	Bunnings Box Hill
25 September	Blackburn Square Shopping Centre



How to provide feedback

Have your say via our survey at **yoursay.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/4bins** by 30 September 2025.

Other ways to have your say

Email: wasteteam@whitehorse.vic.gov.au to provide your feedback or request a call from officers

Collect a hardcopy survey from the Customer Service desk at the Nunawading Civic Centre or Box Hill Town Hall

Further ways to have your say, both in-person and online are listed at yoursay.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/4bins

Translation information

If you need an interpreter, call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 to speak to an interpreter. Ask them to phone Whitehorse City Council on 9262 6333.

OR

- National Relay Service (NRS)
  TTY: 133 677 (ask for 1300 787 624)
- Speak and Listen (speech-to-speech relay):
  1300 555 727 (ask for 1300 787 624)
- Translator Interpretation Service
  131 450 (ask for 1300 787 624)

Win!
Have your say by 30 September and go in the chance to win 1 of 10 $50 vouchers

FAQs

When will my bins change?

1 July 2027

All Victorian Councils are required to have a 4-bin waste and recycling service for all households by 1 July 2027. Whitehorse is working towards the legislated expectations within the timeframe

Why do we need a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) bin?

The average Whitehorse garbage bin contains approximately 40% of food waste, a valuable resource sent to landfill.

When organic waste is sent to landfill it rots and produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

A FOGO service means food and garden waste will instead be taken to Bio Gro's composting facility in Dandenong South. There the waste will be recycled into quality mulch and compost for gardens and farms across Victoria, helping plants and your food grow

What if I don't have space for a fourth bin?

We are aware that all households are different. Part of this community consultation is to find out what works best for the Whitehorse community and the best options for introducing the glass bin.

Why do we need a glass recycling bin?

The Victorian Government requires all Councils to move to a 4-bin kerbside waste and recycling service, including the introduction of a dedicated glass bin.

When glass is placed in the yellow lid bin, it creates problems, as glass often breaks into small pieces and mixes in with other recyclable materials such as plastic and paper, making them harder to recycle.

From 1 July 2027, the glass bin will be mandatory for all councils and from this date glass will become a contaminant in the kerbside recycling bin. Therefore, you will no longer be able to put your glass into the recycling bin.

Will this change impact renters?

Yes. All renters within Whitehorse will have access to the 4-bin service. However, only property owners and managing agents will be able to manage any requests regarding bins.

Tenants wishing to order or swap bins must contact the owner or managing agent and ask them to submit a request on their behalf. Tenants may only report damaged or missing or stolen bins.

Will this change impact my rates?

Yes. The changes to our waste and recycling services will be reflected through the Kerbside Service Waste Charge.

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5.2.2. Questions asked across all focus groups

What do you like about Option 1	What don't you like about Option 1

What do you like about Option 2	What don't you like about Option 2

Of the two options, which do you prefer? Why did you select this option?

Is there anything else about the proposed changes to your kerbside waste collection that you would like Council to know?

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5.3. FOCUS GROUP NOTES; HOUSEHOLDS LIVING WITH DISPOSABLE NAPPIES

5.3.1. Waste Collection: Preferred Option 1

Pros: • No food waste in the weekly
Cons: • Living among 23 townhouses in a row (23 bins) is a lot • Do not have space for 4 bins • We do not fill up 4 bins • We fill the green bin less once a month • We compost ourselves and do not use the green bin
Overall comments: • Default of 120L (red bin) preferred • Extra cost of glass bin that we do not use

5.3.2. Waste Collection: Preferred Option 2

Pros: • Environmental aspect • Cheaper option • Will require the garbage bin size to match fortnight
Cons: • Time consuming washing nappies • Washing 12/14 nappies every two days
Overall comments: • Council to consider number of kids and how many disposable nappies this creates, offering bins to cater for the size of kids. • There is cleaning services provided for nappies however always sold out or not nearby, this is a service council could provide • Should have the choice to have your bin size tailored as there is a lack of space in MUDS. • Requires larger red bin • Cost of nappies per child is roughly $2000- 3000

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5.3.3. Questions/ Comments Raised:

Participants raised the following questions and comments during the focus group:
• Is there an extra cost to red bins? - yes • How do they get that 10%? We have two kids I reckon we have 50% • With green bins, we do compost in our gardening, can we opt out? • Are you considering increasing red bins 140 or 240 Litres? • Another factored in cost is we buy disposable bags, for green bins? - they're free at council. • When change bin there's a whole education campaign, right now people not understand they can put food in FOGO bins, most people doing understand that, How much is bins changing, how much is behaviour changing? • Is there an option for a smaller green bin? - There is a 140 L? (No) Can not fill top green bin? • Intuitively makes sense less waste going to landfill can save you money? • Are you trialling behaviour to drive nappies and other waste in red bins? What now goes in red bin? • Is the purple in only for glass? • In summer does it still not smell? • Did cloth but need 20 nappies, getting dictation is hard work • Why separation of normal recycling and glass? • Are there options for small bins, put purple bins out annually?



10.5 – ATTACHMENT 1. Kerbside Transition Community Engagement Report

5.4. FOCUS GROUP NOTES; CHILDRENS REFERENCE FOCUS GROUP

5.4.1. Why change to 4 bins?

Students came up with several reasons about why we might be moving to 4 bins, including:
• We all should separate food scraps • Glass recycling makes it safer for workers separating glass. • It's easier – it helps people with lots of rubbish and helps people remember when to put the rubbish out.

Also discussed was the current make up of Whitehorse garbage bins, current and proposed collection frequencies of garbage and food organics and garden organics (FOGO) bins, and the 4-bin system required by the state government.

5.4.2. Do you support fortnightly garbage?

Four (4) students supported fortnightly garbage, two (2) students were in the middle, and thirty (30) students did not support fortnightly garbage. Students that were in the middle noted that a bigger rubbish bin would be needed. Students who were not in support highlight that big families would struggle and that there could be more issues with smell if garbage is collected fortnightly.

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5.4.3. What could help our community make the switch?

Students worked in groups to brainstorm actions and ideas to support their families and community switch to a 4-bin system successfully and potentially switch the frequency of garbage and FOGO collections. Ideas generated by groups are listed below:

Ideas generated by groups are listed below:	
• A TV ad • Ad for where rubbish goes • Advertise how this change would help and give evidence on how what they're doing isn't sustainable • Advertisements x2 • Be taught at school how to recycle • Bigger bins x3 • Bigger red bins x6 • Bin truck lane on the road • Day for compost • Decisions on each family if they want a specific size of bin (beneficial for each family) • Flyers/brochures • Glass bins if tipped over are kind of dangerous • Government/local officials informing houses • If it's weekly, it's making landfill fill up more quickly • Instagram posts to inform us • Less bins but the bins are bigger in size • Letters in mailboxes • Maybe in the newspaper • Maybe put news in all the mailboxes	• More information about the processes • More protection on bins (glass) • More room for bins • News x2 • Notices on community pages • Pages in Whitehorse News • Posters about what goes in each bin x3 • Posters on the bin • Put stickers/labels on the bins about what goes in and have ads, signs and posters around • Social media x4 • Sponsor bins (more money) • Take away old bins when they give out new bins • Timetable for bins • TV • Upsizing of the bin • We could have less bins • We could let people decide if they want another bin or not • Whitehorse Council magnet of what to put in bins • You could make the red bin bigger • You have to think more about what you're putting in the bin.

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5.5. FOCUS GROUP NOTES; HOUSEHOLDS WITH MEDICAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES

5.5.1. Waste Collection: Preferred Option 1

Pros: • The convenience (no change)
Cons: • Smell in summer

5.5.2. Waste Collection: Preferred Option 2

Pros: • Need larger bin
Cons: • Red bin always full even with weekly • Smell is concerning → Animal waste
Overall comments: • Preference for this option but option 1 realistic • Need to spend a lot of money to educate people on this option to save money in long run. • Make bins taller • Is there a de-odouriser product WCC can give out? • Have plenty of packaging I can't recycle • Get medical deliveries monthly - open them weekly, many bandages require additional bins.

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5.5.3. Questions/ Comments Raised:

Participants raised the following questions and comments during the focus group:

- Speak about cost $ and make it visual
- Batteries - I understand not to put them in the bin, can cost a lot in damage and a safety risk.
- Need more repercussion if we get things wrong
- Current Green bin is opt in - Make a transition period so people have time to be educated = less resistance to change, come back to community after change
- Council should trial a third option
- Collect data for 12 months on FOGO as an option
- Currently parents want to cancel FOGO = cost of rates increased
- Need to provide info on direct cost savings to us
- "My Children motivate me to recycle"
- IS waste contamination and waste contamination with ceramics the same thing?
- The Small FOGO donates is the 5%
- Bigger households to receive larger red bin
- Time frame of larger bins for families with nappies
- Pets also require large bins
- What is the impact of number of bins with population growth?
- I live in 20 units I don't want to share
- I compost most FOGO
- Are liners to continue being provided for FOGO?
- Does the medical exemption apply now?
- What if lid bins aren't shut?



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5.6. FOCUS GROUP NOTES; MUDS (MULTI UNIT DWELLINGS)

5.6.1. MUDS collateral

Additional questions asked of the MUDS Focus Group.



Dwellings	FOGO	Glass
4-10 households	2 x 140L FOGO bin will be delivered to your development.	1 x 120L glass recycling bin will be delivered to your development.
11-20 households	1 x 140L FOGO bin will be delivered for every 5 dwellings in your development.	3 x 120L glass recycling bins will be delivered to your development.
20+ households	1 x 140L FOGO bin will be delivered for every 5 dwellings in your development.	1 x 120L glass bin will be delivered for every 10 dwellings in your development.

What do you like about Option 1	What don't you like about Option 1



Dwellings	FOGO	Glass
4-10 households	1 x 140L FOGO bin will be delivered to your development.	1 x 120L glass recycling bin will be delivered to your development.
11-20 households	1 x 140L FOGO bin will be delivered for every 10 dwellings in your development.	3 x 120L glass recycling bins will be delivered to your development.
20+ households	1 x 140L FOGO bin will be delivered for every 10 dwellings in your development.	1 x 120L glass bin will be delivered for every 10 dwellings in your development.

What do you like about Option 2	What don't you like about Option 2

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5.6.2. Waste Collection: Option 1

Pros: • Shared bin would work
Cons: • 140L is too large for FOGO – would like 80L • Shared bin no access to other bins
Overall comments/ questions: • Will it be shared bins for everyone? How is that decision made?

5.6.3. Waste Collection: Option 2

Pros: • If you have FOGO it should be weekly. • Cheaper • Weekly collection of FOGO
Overall comments: • Is there an option for 4 or more units to opt out of sharing glass? • For 11-20 households instead of 3x glass can you get 2?

5.6.4. What is your feedback for the shared bin approach?

Pros: • Saves space, take turns at taking the bins out.
Cons: • Could cause conflict between neighbours • Retirement village – not happy being charged the same but less service. • People putting wrong things in the bin.

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5.6.5. What is your preferred option and why?

Option 2: (15 voted option 2, none voted option)

- No per village is better
- Makes the most sense from practicality & cost
- Green bins fill up faster so more frequent pick up preferred.
- Good health
- Food waste degrades and is unhygienic. The bins are too big 80L is big enough
- Environmental cost and health factors
- Don't want organic waste hanging around, not in favour
- Cost
- Weekly FOGO costs less, more sustainable, less waste to landfill, ideally 120L sized garbage bin.
- Regular FOGO pick up, less cost.

5.6.6. Questions/ Comments Raised:

Questions and comments raised throughout the session:

- Why does WCC have 5% vs other council have more diversion rates?
- How does cost differ for us from option 1 and 2? Option 2 causes an additional cost for us as a house without a garden
- Is there an option for smaller bins? (have an issue with space)
- Is FOGO one size? Is their size options?
- FOGO and recycling bin too big, have limited space. Do not want anything over 80Litres. A lot of empty space in bins. – We live in 2 units who all have bins.
- Live in 3 units, currently no proper spot for bins, could share glass need to work with other houses.
- Is there a cost difference for sharing?
- Currently bins in garage – no space for our car if put 4 bins in.
- We should be looking at the European model for reference, having 4 bins is too messy.
- The 4 bins were not consulted on during the election.

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- More information about the I want a glass bin, don't have a car don't want to carry around to a drop off hub, don't mind sharing.
- Do you leave lids on glass?
- Food waste directly in a bin, or in a bag in the bin?
- Feel confused – VIC govt already have drop off hubs to recycle waste, and are now proposing 4 bins, why both options?
- Do scouts still collect glass?
- I use bin liners to reduce mould growth in the bins.
- Does the glass bin cause more breakage? I assume with card it cushions the glass?
- Australia has recycling issues, we're putting in all this effort and nothings being done.
- Is there another option to the purple bin?

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5.7. FOCUS GROUP NOTES; GENERAL COMMUNITY (CALD)

5.7.1. Waste Collection: Option 1

Pros: • Better for elderly, helps their routine, hard to change 40 – 50 years of behaviour. Suggest small green bins for kitchen bench better for elderly.
Cons: • Have large garden. • In spring/ summer a lot of FOGO waste.

5.7.2. Waste Collection: Option 2

Pros: • Option 2 is a better choice, does WCC have data on what is a % of single property = FOGO used a lot. • Prefer this, it's better for the environment easier to educate young people harder to educate older. – We need more education. • Weekly collection of FOGO • Don't mind – if it reduces council fee.
Cons: • If garbage is collected every 2 weeks, it gets smelly. What does council have for smell?
Overall comments: • I would like a larger bin with no additional cost. – I have kids • Can depend on family size, 80L may not suit all age, habit etc.

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5.7.3. Which is your preferred option and why?

Option 1: • I prefer option 1, I don't have more FOGO • I don't have much waste as I live alone.
Option 2: • Environmental and environmental concern • Reduce waste cost + Better for the environment • Save money economy wise and environmental • Prefer this but increase size of red bin no cost.

5.7.4. Questions/ Comments Raised:

Questions and comments raised throughout the session:
• Townhouse resident – Do not need FOGO or glass bin. • Cost of council rates? • Is there an opt out of glass? • What bin does animal waste go? • Any plans for glass, treat as plastics to have 10 cents?



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5.8. FOCUS GROUP NOTES; GENERAL COMMUNITY

5.8.1. Waste Collection: Option 1

Pros:

- Nothing changes

Cons:

- 40% FOGO is on average much higher than I thought
- Is there an option for 240L? Garden will fill FOGO quickly

5.8.2. Waste Collection: Option 2

Pros:

- Reduce emissions should be priority
- "You can deal with any change"
- I have a bokashi bin and use FOGO, but I don't feel other households will reduce red bin use if switch to red every two weeks.

Cons:

- Option 2 concern is no option to increase garbage. Is there an option to push option 2 and provide larger garbage?
- Fortnightly red collection is difficult for a nappies household.
- I have a 240L, if we go with option 2, I would like to go down to a 140L bin.
- I would not need a 240L FOGO every week.

Overall comments:

- There is a need for national campaign for buying food we don't eat
- Option to increase red reduce FOGO size?
- 41% is food you eat, that's a lot!!
- Does 140L and 240L FOGO cost different?
- Is there a separate bin charge?

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5.8.3. Which is your preferred option and why?

Option 1:

- No difference for my household, therefore minimal change
- Single person household – only fill FOGO each fortnight
- 120 L appropriate for my household

Option 2:

- FOGO collection
- Environmental cost
- Lower overall cost
- Less going to landfill
- I don't have many things to go into red bin
- I hope it will encourage people to not buy what they won't use
- 41% being food waste is wrong
- I produce more green waste than red bin waste
- I currently have 240L green bin would want to retain this size
- Don't need weekly garbage so fortnightly is better for us
- They don't need weekly FOGO either
- Cost savings even if minimal
- Forcing people to discard their food organics in the green bin
- Educating people
- Cost
- Emissions
- Bins size for nappies if required etc

5.8.4. Shared bins

10 participants agree shard bins are a good ideas and 1 person believed hared bins were not a good idea.

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5.8.5. Questions/ Comments Raised:

Questions and comments raised throughout the session:
• Do most apartment have a private waste collection? • Live in a SUD, I prefer option 2. Has there been any consideration for glass being collected less frequently? Could there be a collection point? • If we go with glass, is there an option to change glass frequency? • Don't understand why we need glass recycling, France, many European countries etc have drop off points. • We've changed behaviour before e.g smoking. Drop off centres won't work – mothers, people who drink need to communicate drop off points. We are able to change behaviour. • Everybody in different & behaviour, most people like simple and easy and low cost. • What are different types of glass? • Will glass be mandatory? For each household • Will glass be allowed to go in the yellow bin? • Other councils introduced weekly FOGO, did they consult? Why is WCC behind? • How do we get 80% diversion rate? • I have 240L recycling. Recently our contractor changed. The bins are breaking, the truck driver said they are not designed for your bins. • Is there a downsize option to recycling? • Possibility of shared glass in MUDs? With agreement with neighbours • I live in 6 units near the hospital. Everyone puts their bins in their private garden. We can't share because of this. Some neighbours are older – do not want to push another bin. Live near a busy road, and public throws things in, do not like to keep bins out. Do not want glass can we opt out? • Often contamination happens during life events - moving, end of lease etc. Big clean out. Any options to solve this? • Aware costs increase in future, I see cost difference between option 1 & 2 is marginal. • When this change happens does everyone change bin size? • Is there an option for worm farm in future to reduce • There needs to be more education on how and why to change

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- Shire Bass Coast tells you where to put coffee cups with imagery on the bins. Make it simpler – images on bins
- Is terapack taken by CDS?
- If there's a financial drive to do the right thing, this works!
- A lot of people are cynical if recycling is even recycled, people aren't sure where it goes.
- Where does it go FOGO and garbage?

5.8.6. Questions/ Comments Raised continued:

- Where does it go FOGO and garbage?
- Business are bad with taking our garbage etc
- As a younger person (mid 20s – 30s) I'm guilty of not sorting rubbish, usually put most things in the garbage. Need more activations for young people so we're educated. It's easier for young people to change now.
- What comms does bodycorp have for shared bins?
- We need more education of correct bin use. I use bins correctly but I struggle. I am attending the session at the WCC library. I want to bring all my rubbish that confuses me.
- Is FOGO compulsory?



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DISCUSSION, OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS

As part of the community engagement, feedback was sought on two options for changes to the kerbside bin services, Option 1 and Option 2. A further option considered which is to provide a phase change. A summary of the options is provided in the table below:

Table 1: Service Provision Options

Option	Description
Option 1 - Current service, add mandatory FOGO and glass by 1 July 2027	Garbage: Weekly service (80L bin) FOGO: Fortnightly service (240L/140L bin) Recycling: Fortnightly service (240L bin) Glass: 4-week service (80L bin)
Option 2 - Fortnightly garbage, weekly FOGO, add mandatory FOGO and glass by 1 July 2027	Garbage: Fortnightly service (80L/120L bin) with options for nappies and medical needs FOGO: Weekly service (240L/140L bin) Recycling: Fortnightly service (240L bin) Glass: 4-week service (80L bin)
Further Option Phase 1 - Current service, add mandatory FOGO and glass (Option 1) by 1 July 2027 Phase 2 - Fortnightly garbage, weekly FOGO (Option 2) by 1 July 2029 or other date to be confirmed.	Phase 1 Garbage: Weekly service (80L bin) FOGO: Fortnightly service (240L/140L bin) Recycling: Fortnightly service (240L bin) Glass: 4-week service (80L bin) Phase 2 Garbage: Fortnightly service (80L/120L bin) FOGO: Weekly service (240L/140L bin)

The cost comparisons based on approximate modelling for Option 1 and Option 2 are provided in Table 2, 3, 4 and 5 below, with approximate amounts.

A further option could be considered, which is to implement Option 1 and later implement Option 2. The timing could be determined subject to further review and could be from 1 July 2029, which is 2 years later than the first change.

Table 2: Outputs for modelling options

Outputs	**Option 1** Current service, add mandatory FOGO and glass	**Option 2** Fortnightly garbage, weekly FOGO, add mandatory FOGO and glass
Implementation costs Year 1 ($ million) – reference Table 3	$6.92 M	$7.46 M
Service costs Year 1 ($ million) – reference Table 4	$20.7 M	$19.9 M

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Service costs Year 10 2036/37 ($ million) – reference Table 5	$32.6 M	$31.2 M
Landfill diversion rate – higher is better	56%	67%
Greenhouse gas emissions reduction (tCO2-e pa) compared to current state	-2,763	-12,672

Table 3: Implementation costs Year 1

Outputs	Option 1 Current service, add mandatory FOGO and glass	Option 2 Fortnightly garbage, weekly FOGO, add mandatory FOGO and glass
Glass Implementation costs* ($ million)	$4.1 M	$4.1 M
FOGO Implementation costs* ($ million)	$2 M	$2 M
Garbage bin – Subsidies** (households with nappies and medical needs)	NA	$471,000
Project Resourcing (customer service, waste admin, project officers)	$375,000	$455,000
Education (includes printing, education flyers, promotion material to all residents and Australia Posts costs)	$440,000	$440,000
TOTAL (ex GST) ($ million)	**$6.92 M**	**$7.46 M**

*The costs are based on shared bins for MUDs.
**The costs are based on an approximate number of subsidy requests

Table 4: Service costs Year 1

Outputs	Option 1 Current service, add mandatory FOGO and glass	Option 2 Fortnightly garbage, weekly FOGO, add mandatory FOGO and glass
Glass ($, million**) –** Collection and processing	$1.1 M	$1.1 M
FOGO ($, million) **-** Collection and processing	$5.1 M	$7.8 M
Garbage ($, million)**-** Collection and processing	$11 M	$7.3 M
Recycling ($, million)**-** Collection and processing	$3.6 M	$3.5 M

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TOTAL (ex GST) ($ million)	**$20.7 M**	**$19.9 M**

Table 5: Estimated Service costs in Year 10 (2036/2037)

Outputs	Option 1 Current service, add mandatory FOGO and glass	Option 2 Fortnightly garbage, weekly FOGO, add mandatory FOGO and glass
Glass ($, million) – Collection and processing	$1.7 M	$1.7 M
FOGO ($, million) **-** Collection and processing	$8.1 M	$12.6 M
Garbage ($, million)**-** Collection and processing	$17.8 M	$11.8 M
Recycling ($, million)**-** Collection and processing	$4.9 M	$5 M
TOTAL (ex GST) ($ million)	**$32.6 M**	**$31.2 M**

These savings are ongoing.

Discussion on Glass Recycling Service

The feedback for the glass bin recycling service included:

- Of the survey respondents who were living in single unit dwellings or in complexes with four or less households on the one site, 36% provided feedback relating to the proposal to implement an 80-litre glass bin collected every four weeks, should glass bins become mandatory as of 1 July 2027.
- The logistical implications of having to manage four bins were of the greatest concern. A large number of respondents identified that they did not have a need for a glass bin. This was further supported by comments relating to the respondent's use of the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) or other alternative glass recycling options.
- 71% of respondents who lived in MUDs indicated that they were either supportive or neutral when asked whether they would share a glass bin with neighbours, with not having enough glass waste and not having enough storage space as the major reasons.

If the glass bin is to be mandatory, the impacts will be the same across all options, and include:

- The number of new bins that are required for the mandatory service will be around 55,000, which will be 80-litre bins for SUDs and shared 120-litre for MUDs, collected every 4-weeks. Part of considerations for providing this service frequency is convenience for users. A 4-weekly cycle is considered something that can be managed by residents. Missed bin requests due to people forgetting to put their bin out could be minimised. and presents an easier way for Council to inform and educate the community about when to present bins and keep bin weights safe and manageable. It is likely that glass

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generation may fluctuate for some households in the summer months and the 4-weekly service will ensure that households have enough capacity..

- The approach to MUDs will be the same as above for FOGO bins but based on a different ratio based on volume of material.

Discussion on Shared FOGO (MUDs)

The feedback for shared FOGO bins at MUDs included:

- 47% of respondents living in MUDs were against the idea of sharing FOGO bins, citing a desire for their own bins, practical concerns re sharing bins for those living in smaller MUDs (as opposed to high-rise apartments), and bin capacity concerns for those with high amounts of green waste as the most common reasons for not wanting to share.
- 31% agreed with the idea of sharing a FOGO bin with neighbours, with limited storage or nature strip space as the greatest driver of this preference.

The planned approach to MUDs is that any site that has more than 4 households gets the minimum shared bins they need based on a ratio model. If they need more bins, they can apply. For any site that has less than 4 households, individual bins will be distributed.

Discussion on Option 1

Option 1 includes keeping the collection service as is, making the FOGO service mandatory for all households and introducing the glass service by 1 July 2027.

The feedback for Option 1 included:

- 56% of respondents felt they could not manage fortnightly garbage collection with their current bin size (preference for Option 1), primarily due to odour, hygiene and bin capacity concerns. Of those households who indicated they could not manage fortnightly garbage collection, 25% were living in single person households, with a partner and with no dependents.
- 62% of respondents indicated that they prefer fortnightly FOGO, citing that keeping organic waste out of landfill, reducing waste going to landfill, reducing costs and smells were important to them. However, these reasons would be more likely to be associated with Option 2.

Option 1 is the most expensive option in the long term, with more waste going to landfill. The State Government annually increases the landfill levy to encourage diverting waste from landfill and drive positive circular economy outcomes. More waste to landfill results in more greenhouse gas emissions. If waste is sent to an alternate waste processing facility, emissions are more favourable than landfill with disposal costs higher than the recycling options.

Option 1 would result in a minimal increase in the amount of waste diverted from landfill. One of the barriers to more food waste being put in the FOGO bin is that the bin is only collected fortnightly. As experienced in other councils, changing the collection cycle results in more food waste being recycled.

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The impacts on FOGO bins for Option 1 include:

- The number of new bins and kitchen caddy starter packs that are required for the mandatory service will be around 10,000, which will all be 140-litre bins as the feedback shows that it is households that don't have a need for 'garden waste' are the ones that do not have a FOGO bin and the 140-litre bin will be suitable for the food waste at these properties.

Discussion on Option 2

Option 2 includes:

- Garbage: Fortnightly collection (mix of 80L and 120L bins) with options for nappies and medical needs.
- FOGO: Weekly collection (mix of 140L and 240L bins).
- Recycling: Fortnightly collection (240L bins).
- Glass: Four-weekly collection (mix of 80L and 120L bins).

The feedback for Option 2 included:

- 35% of survey respondents indicated that they could manage with fortnightly garbage collection (Option 2).
- 67% of the 56% of households who identified they could not manage fortnightly garbage collection with their current bin size indicated they could adapt to fortnightly garbage if provided with larger or additional bins at no extra cost.
- Of the 65% of respondents who felt unable to manage fortnightly garbage (56% of total respondents) or were unsure (9% of total respondents), 48% indicated that they could manage with a larger or additional garbage bin.
- Therefore, the total of residents who could manage fortnightly garage, if provided with an additional or larger bin is 66%.
- Feedback from community cohorts highlighted that households with nappies and those with medical needs or disabilities are least able to manage fortnightly garbage, requiring larger bins.

Option 2 is the lowest cost option with the greatest environmental outcomes. Landfilling and future advanced waste processing is the highest cost disposal. Turning food waste into compost is around 40% cheaper than sending it to landfill. A saving of over $800,000 is projected in year 1 from diverting food waste away from landfill compared to Option 1.

Option 2 is consistent with neighbouring councils that have transitioned to a weekly FOGO and fortnightly garbage service. When FOGO bins are collected weekly and garbage fortnightly, more waste is kept out of landfill. Councils such as Boroondara, Monash, Knox, and Manningham reduced the amount of waste going to landfill by an average of 19% in the first year after making this change. In contrast, when the opt-in FOGO service was introduced in Whitehorse in July 2022 (keeping a fortnightly collection), there was a 5% improvement in diverting waste from landfill in the first year. The current diversion rate at Whitehorse is 55%. The table below shows the diversion rates for metropolitan councils with fortnightly rubbish collections before and after changing the frequency of collection:

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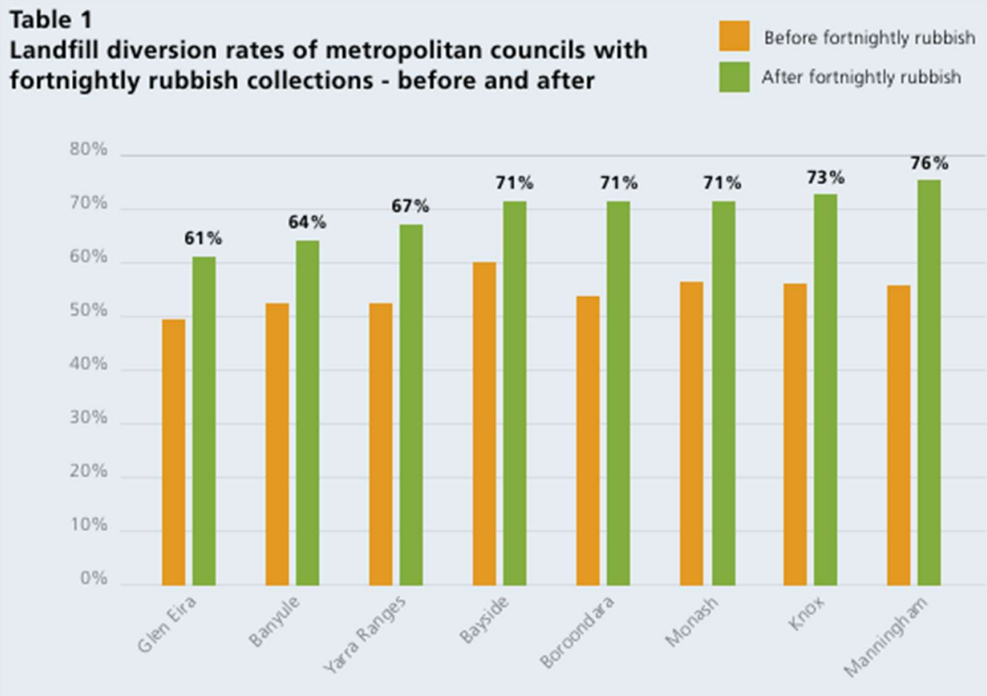

Except for Maroondah, all Eastern Region Group Councils, and neighbouring Councils of Boroondara and Monash, have a weekly FOGO and fortnightly garbage collection service.

The current kerbside services provided by our neighbouring councils are shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Summary of kerbside service neighbouring councils

	Garbage	FOGO	Recycling	Glass
Whitehorse	Weekly Standard 80-litre bin	Fortnightly opt-in 140-litre or 240-litre bin	Fortnightly Standard 240-litre bin	None
Boroondara	Fortnightly Standard 80-litre bin	Weekly mandatory Standard 120-litre bin	Weekly Standard 240-litre	None
Knox	Fortnightly Standard 80-litre bin	Weekly can opt-out Standard 240-litre bin	Fortnightly Standard 240-litre bin	None
Manningham	Fortnightly Standard 80-lire bin	Weekly mandatory Standard 240-litre bin	Fortnightly Standard 240-litre	None
Maroondah	Weekly	Fortnightly mandatory	Fortnightly	None

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	Standard 80-litre bin	Standard 240-litre bin	Standard 240-litre bin	
Monash	Fortnightly Standard 120-litre bin	Weekly mandatory Standard 240-litre bin	Fortnightly Standard 240-litre bin	None

The councils that have transitioned to a weekly FOGO and fortnightly garbage collection service, provided insights including:

- During the initial 4–8 weeks after transitioning to fortnightly garbage collection, councils experienced a temporary increase in complaints and confusion about collection schedules, which stabilised after two months.
- A short-term rise in dumped rubbish and public bin waste was observed but returned to normal within six months. Contamination in FOGO bins rose only slightly (around 1%) and remained well below contractual penalty thresholds, with no significant change in total waste volumes.
- All councils found that introducing FOGO and changing garbage frequency at the same time improved acceptance of the new system.

To support residents, councils implemented some additional measures including: collecting both garbage and FOGO weekly for the first month, providing additional education and introducing a targeted bin Inspection and education program to assist households with overfull bins. In Whitehorse we have a well-established bin inspection program and contract that can be increased if required.

The impacts on garbage bins for Option 2 include:

- Based on recent audits, almost 40% of residents with 80L garbage bins presented their bin for collection half full or less.
- 48% of dwellings are couples without children or living alone.
- 47.4% of Whitehorse residents are group households, couples with children, one parent families. This option will impact particularly households with specific capacity constraints with a fortnightly garbage collection service. This includes families with nappies or residents with medical needs that generate more waste. During consultation, these households said they would need a bigger garbage bin without any extra cost to manage a fortnightly collection. To ensure those households have the right sized bin come 1 July 2027, additional resources are required to manage the requests to expand Councils current bin exemption program.

The impacts on FOGO bins for Option 2 include:

- The number of new bins and kitchen caddy starter packs that are required for the mandatory service will be around 10,000, which will all be 140-litre bins. We propose no change to the 240L bin.
- With the FOGO collection changing weekly, some households may want to consider reducing the size of their FOGO bin. It is recommended that a 6 month freeze on changing the FOGO bin size would be in place to allow resources to prioritise and manage other changes, with garbage bins and glass bins.

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Further Option

As an alternative option from those presented in the community consultation, a phased approach could be:

- Phase 1 - Current service, add mandatory FOGO and glass (Option 1) by 1 July 2027
- Phase 2 - Fortnightly garbage, weekly FOGO (Option 2) by 1 July 2029 or other date to be confirmed.

This change will require behaviour to adjust over time, with some households adapting more quickly than others to the four-bin system. It means Council can work on education and behaviour change in the lead up to the garbage bin being collected fortnightly.

This further option would be more expensive than just implementing Option 2. Phase 2 would include the costs of Option 2, with the additions to undertake further education and behaviour change program, with new collection calendars etc., and additional project officers and customer service officers to support the change. This could add more than $1M to the cost compared to implementing Option 2 from 1 July 2027.

10.5 – ATTACHMENT 3. Waste Strategy Five-Year Action Plan 2025-2028

Appendix

5-Year Action Plan (2025-2028)

Priority outcome 1: Minimising our Waste to landfill		**Timeframe** Year				
Actions		1	2	3	4	**Further details**
1.	Promote and support national, regional and State-wide waste reduction programs that benefit the local community	*	*	*	*	• Promote product stewardship schemes for difficult to recycle items (i.e. soft plastics) • Promote Clean Up Australia Day (CUAD), National Recycling Week, Sustainability Victoria waste and recycling campaigns
2.	Work with our partners to increase resource recovery and promote circular economy initiatives	*	*	*	*	• Develop action plan with hard waste contractor to increase hard waste resource recovery rate • Develop action plan to increase recycling opportunities at the Whitehorse Recycling and Waste Centre (WRWC) • Identify new, and improve existing contract arrangements with businesses, charities and not-for-profit organisations to trial and support circular economy and resource recovery initiatives • If the Kerbside Service Standards do not address soft plastics, undertake a review of drop off sites in Whitehorse to determine if Council should consider providing a drop off site.
3.	Continue to promote Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service	*	*			• Engage Owners Corporations, apartments, households and businesses to take up the service • Deliver targeted education campaigns, including culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) residents

4.	Implement the Victorian Government four-bin household waste and recycling system	*	*	*		• Undertake community engagement to help inform Council's approach to the four-bin household waste and recycling system • Introduce a FOGO and glass recycling service to all households by 1 July 2027 • Implement the standardisation all the bin lid colours • Promote the standardisation of acceptable items in all waste streams
5.	Support the community, schools and businesses to avoid, reduce and recycle food waste	*	*	*	*	• Deliver food waste avoidance education campaigns and workshops • Support food waste recycling options
6.	Support schools, community groups and businesses to compost on site and provide education on the environmental benefits	*	*	*		• Review two-year compost subsidy trial and implement the best home composting offering • Provide online resources and deliver workshops, which are accessible to all, including the CALD community • Participate in feasibility studies for businesses to carry out onsite composting • Investigate composting grants

10.5 – ATTACHMENT 3. Waste Strategy Five-Year Action Plan 2025-2028

Priority outcome 2: Getting the maximum from our waste		Timeframe				
		Year				
Actions		1	2	3	4	**Further details**
7.	Review and improve our network of public litter bins and develop material to support their best use	*	*	*	*	• Review our public litter bins with the introduction of the container deposit scheme • Where there is a demonstrated benefit, install smart bins • Continue roll out of signage to support key education messages to include our CALD community
8.	Review our bin inspection, education and rewards program to improve resource recovery and reduce contamination	*	*	*	*	• Regularly review reports and data to inform community education and engagement • Deliver behaviour change and education through Council's bin inspection program • Reward the community for recycling right
9.	Review internal waste and recycling initiatives at Council-run or supported facilities to improve resource recovery and reduce contamination	*	*	*	*	• Provide advice and materials to support new resource recovery and recycling initiatives • Provide facilities with education and bin signage • Trial resource recovery initiatives
10.	Partner with and support community-led litter and waste initiatives	*	*	*	*	• Identify new, and improve existing partnerships to deliver and promote community litter and clean up events and activities
11.	Reward our community and profile community champions who are working on circular economy initiatives and commitments	*	*	*	*	• Promote community groups, residents and businesses who are 'Sustainable Champions' or working on circular economy initiatives

12.	Educate our community and support local businesses to transition to a circular economy	*	*	*	*	• Explore programs and funding opportunities • Support businesses to trial circular economy programs • Deliver circular economy education workshops

10.5 – ATTACHMENT 3. Waste Strategy Five-Year Action Plan 2025-2028

Priority outcome 3: Leading our community in supporting best waste management		Timeframe				
		Year				
Actions		1	2	3	4	**Further details**
13.	Work with internal stakeholders to increase Council's purchasing of recycled content and support circular economy thinking	*	*			• Support training and capacity building workshops • Review and input into Council's strategies and polices to embed more ambitious targets and standards • Develop circular economy specifications and resources • Support collaboration and sharing of circularity • Investigate further means of tracking, measuring and reporting recycled content purchasing
14.	Support Council staff to minimise waste and recycle right in staff induction and on-going work practices	*	*	*	*	• Engage staff through corporate induction process • Develop a waste and recycling learning and development module • Deliver education programs and support
15.	Advocate to all levels of government for better waste, circular economy and resource recovery outcomes for the community	*	*	*	*	• Provide input into policy development, product stewardship schemes and advocate for reaching key targets that deliver the best outcomes for the community (i.e. soft plastics packaging)
16.	Support Council and the community to reduce and comply with the ban of unnecessary single-use plastics at all Council facilities and events, and community events	*	*	*		• Deliver community education and resources to plan a plastic free event • Work with Council's Festivals and Events staff to find solutions to reduce waste at Council events

10.5 – ATTACHMENT 3. Waste Strategy Five-Year Action Plan 2025-2028

Priority outcome 4: Using new technology and innovation to improve the way we do things		Timeframe				
		Year				
Actions		1	2	3	4	**Further details**
17.	Work with partners to explore the different advanced waste technologies to inform decisions and secure alternatives for waste that goes to landfill	*	*	*		• Continue as a shareholder of South East Metropolitan Advanced Waste Processing Pty Ltd
18.	Work with partners to explore innovative technologies that enhance safety and reduce Occupational Health and Safety risks in kerbside collection and transport	*	*	*	*	• AI systems to detect and reduce hazardous material entering the kerbside and hard waste collection services

Priority outcome 5: Responding promptly to modern waste challenges		Timeframe				
		Year				
Actions		1	2	3	4	**Further details**
19.	Review our guidelines to encourage best practice waste management within multi-unit developments	*	*	*	*	• Review and incorporate waste provisions including new services in new Local Law • Include increased waste provisions in local planning scheme amendments • Ensure guidance is easy to access for developers, community members and industry stakeholders
20.	Increase waste and recycling education programs and forums for our planners and stakeholders for better waste outcomes in multi-unit developments	*	*	*	*	• Deliver waste education and training sessions for Council planners
21.	Investigate options for improved services to medium to high-density developments and targeted commercial areas	*	*	*		• Improve Waste Management Plans to deliver positive outcomes for residents • Work with Owners Corporations to support alternative resource recovery initiatives • Where FOGO services cannot be accommodated research and provide alternative options • Trial programs to streamline number of bins in laneways and commercial areas
22.	Focus on prevention and overall reduction of dumped rubbish and further target those illegally dumping	*	*	*	*	• Distribute educational information on correct disposal of hard waste items • Carry out social research on how to target dumping behaviours

10.5 – ATTACHMENT 3. Waste Strategy Five-Year Action Plan 2025-2028

						• Use research findings to inform delivery of CALD education campaigns targeting dumping behaviours • Continue to install surveillance where required to enforce and prosecute on dumping
23.	Regularly review and improve our waste and recycling communications materials and methods to ensure they suit the needs of our changing community	*	*	*	*	• Continue to update communications materials to reflect community demographics and need • Provide education materials in other languages to make the information accessible • Develop communications materials for the transition to a four-bin service