

CELEBRATING  
**30**  
YEARS  
1989-2019

**urban** planning  
enterprise economics+tourism

# HORSHAM SPORT FACILITIES DEMAND STUDY

HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL | JANUARY 2020 | FINAL



[www.urbanenterprise.com.au](http://www.urbanenterprise.com.au)

## **AUTHORS**

Todd Ainsaar

## **Urban Enterprise**

**Planning, Economics & Tourism**

Level 1 302-304 Barkly Street, Brunswick VIC 3056

(03) 9482 3888

[www.urbanenterprise.com.au](http://www.urbanenterprise.com.au)

© Copyright, Urban Enterprise Pty Ltd, 2018

This work is copyright. Apart from any uses permitted under Copyright Act 1963, no part may be reproduced without written permission of Urban Enterprise Pty Ltd.

**FILENAME:** Horsham-Sporting-Facilities-Demand-Assessment-Draft-V2.docx

**VERSION:** 1

## **DISCLAIMER**

Neither Urban Enterprise Pty. Ltd. nor any member or employee of Urban Enterprise Pty. Ltd. takes responsibility in any way whatsoever to any person or organisation (other than that for which this report has been prepared) in respect of the information set out in this report, including any errors or omissions therein. In the course of our preparation of this report, projections have been prepared on the basis of assumptions and methodology which have been described in the report. It is possible that some of the assumptions underlying the projections may change. Nevertheless, the professional judgement of the members and employees of Urban Enterprise Pty. Ltd. have been applied in making these assumptions, such that they constitute an understandable basis for estimates and projections. Beyond this, to the extent that the assumptions do not materialise, the estimates and projections of achievable results may vary.

# CONTENTS

<b>PART A. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5.1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5.2. FACILITIES</b>	<b>17</b>
1.1. BACKGROUND	1	<b>5.3. REGIONAL FACILITY REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>38</b>
1.2. PROJECT SCOPE	1	<b>5.4. KEY FINDINGS</b>	<b>41</b>
1.3. CONCURRENT WORK	2	<b>6. AFL</b>	<b>42</b>
1.4. METHOD	2	6.1. LITERATURE REVIEW	42
1.5. CONSULTATION	2	6.2. PARTICIPATION	43
<b>2. STRATEGIC LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>3</b>	6.3. FACILITIES	44
2.1. INTRODUCTION	3	6.4. AFL KEY FINDINGS	48
2.2. NATIONAL	3	<b>7. CRICKET</b>	<b>49</b>
2.3. STATE	4	7.1. LITERATURE REVIEW	49
2.4. REGIONAL	5	7.2. PARTICIPATION	50
2.5. LOCAL	6	7.3. FACILITIES	51
2.6. KEY FINDINGS	9	7.4. CRICKET KEY FINDINGS	55
<b>3. SPORT PARTICIPATION CONTEXT</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8. FOOTBALL (SOCCER)</b>	<b>56</b>
3.1. INTRODUCTION	10	8.1. LITERATURE REVIEW	56
3.2. SPORT PARTICIPATION IN VICTORIA	10	8.2. PARTICIPATION	57
3.3. KEY FINDINGS	12	8.3. FACILITIES	57
<b>4. POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS</b>	<b>13</b>	8.4. SOCCER KEY FINDINGS	61
4.1. INTRODUCTION	13	<b>9. TENNIS</b>	<b>62</b>
4.2. POPULATION	14	9.1. LITERATURE REVIEW	62
4.3. AGE PROFILE	15	9.2. PARTICIPATION	63
<b>PART B. OUTDOOR SPORTS</b>	<b>16</b>	9.3. FACILITIES	63
<b>5. FACILITIES</b>	<b>17</b>		



9.4. TENNIS KEY FINDINGS	66	15.1. INTRODUCTION	87
<b>10. NETBALL</b>	<b>68</b>	15.2. EXISTING REPORTS	87
10.1. LITERATURE REVIEW	68	15.3. EXISTING FACILITIES	90
10.2. PARTICIPATION	69	15.4. PARTICIPATION	91
10.3. FACILITIES	69	15.5. CONSULTATION	92
10.4. NETBALL KEY FINDINGS	74	15.6. SITE LOCATION ASSESSMENT	93
<b>11. LITTLE ATHLETICS</b>	<b>75</b>	15.7. KEY FINDINGS	96
11.1. PARTICIPATION	75	<b>PART D.    SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>97</b>
11.2. FACILITIES	75	<b>16. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS</b>	<b>98</b>
11.3. LITTLE ATHLETICS KEY FINDINGS	77	16.1. INTRODUCTION	98
<b>12. RUGBY LEAGUE</b>	<b>78</b>	16.2. SUMMARY	98
12.1. PARTICIPATION	78	<b>17. RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>102</b>
12.2. FACILITIES	78	17.1. OVERVIEW	102
12.3. RUGBY KEY FINDINGS	79	17.2. RECOMMENDATIONS	102
<b>13. HOCKEY</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>106</b>
13.1. PARTICIPATION	80	APPENDIX A INDOOR SPORTS STADIUM LOCATION ASSESSMENT SCORING SYSTEM	106
13.2. FACILITIES	80		
13.3. HOCKEY KEY FINDINGS	82		
<b>14. LAWN BOWLS</b>	<b>83</b>		
14.1. INTRODUCTION	83		
14.2. LITERATURE REVIEW	83		
14.3. PARTICIPATION	83		
14.4. FACILITIES	83		
14.5. LAWN BOWLS KEY FINDINGS	85		
<b>PART C.    INDOOR SPORTS REVIEW</b>	<b>86</b>		
<b>15. INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES REVIEW</b>	<b>87</b>		



## FIGURES

<b>FIGURE 1</b> AGE-SPECIFIC PARTICIPATION RATES, 2016, VICTORIA	10
<b>FIGURE 2</b> AGE SPECIFIC PARTICIPATION RATES, 2016, VIC REGIONS	10
<b>FIGURE 3</b> PARTICIPATION RATES	11
<b>FIGURE 4</b> VIF POPULATION DATA AREA	13
<b>FIGURE 5</b> AGE STRUCTURE	15
<b>FIGURE 6</b> MAIN FACILITIES	18
<b>FIGURE 7</b> AFL FACILITIES	45
<b>FIGURE 8</b> CRICKET FACILITIES	52
<b>FIGURE 9</b> SOCCER FACILITIES	59
<b>FIGURE 10</b> TENNIS COURTS	64
<b>FIGURE 11</b> NETBALL FACILITIES	71
<b>FIGURE 12</b> HOCKEY PITCHES IN THE NORTHWEST REGION	80
<b>FIGURE 13</b> LAWN BOWLS FACILITIES	84

## TABLES

<b>TABLE 1</b> PARTICIPATION BY ACTIVITY - TOP 15 ACTIVITIES (ADULTS)	11
<b>TABLE 2</b> ORGANISE PARTICIPATION BY ACTIVITY – TOP 10 ACTIVITIES (CHILDREN)	12
<b>TABLE 3</b> HORSHAM POPULATION	14
<b>TABLE 4</b> WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE POPULATION PROJECTIONS	14

<b>TABLE 5</b> HORSHAM SPORTING FACILITIES	17
<b>TABLE 6</b> CITY OVAL	19
<b>TABLE 7</b> SUNNYSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX	21
<b>TABLE 8</b> RACECOURSE RESERVE	23
<b>TABLE 9</b> HORSHAM LAWN TENNIS (AND CROQUET)	26
<b>TABLE 10</b> HORSHAM COMMUNITY OVAL COMPLEX	28
<b>TABLE 11</b> HAVEN RECREATION RESERVE	30
<b>TABLE 12</b> DUDLEY CORNELL	32
<b>TABLE 13</b> COUGHLIN PARK	34
<b>TABLE 14</b> REGIONAL OUTDOOR SPORT REQUIREMENTS	38
<b>TABLE 15</b> AFL FIELDS	44
<b>TABLE 16</b> AFL PROVISION RATIO PROJECTION	46
<b>TABLE 17</b> PARTICIPATION IN WESTERN COUNTRY DISTRICT	50
<b>TABLE 18</b> CRICKET FIELDS	51
<b>TABLE 19</b> CRICKET PROVISION RATIO PROJECTION	53
<b>TABLE 20</b> SOCCER PITCHES	57
<b>TABLE 21</b> SOCCER PROJECTED NUMBER OF PITCHES	58
<b>TABLE 22</b> TENNIS FACILITIES HIERARCHY	62
<b>TABLE 23</b> EXISTING TENNIS FACILITIES	63
<b>TABLE 24</b> HORSHAM MEMBERSHIPS, 2015	69

<b>TABLE 25</b> EXISTING NETBALL FACILITIES	69
<b>TABLE 26</b> PROJECTED NUMBER OF NETBALL COURTS	72
<b>TABLE 27</b> POPULATION PER COURT WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE	72
<b>TABLE 28</b> INDOOR SPORTS PARTICIPATION SUMMARY	91
<b>TABLE 29</b> RESULTS OF SITE ASSESSMENT MATRIX	94
<b>TABLE 30</b> DEMAND SUMMARY	99
<b>TABLE 31</b> SITE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	107

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Urban Enterprise would like to gratefully acknowledge all those that provided input to the preparation of this study including representatives from various sporting bodies, associations and clubs.

**PART A:**  
**INTRODUCTION AND  
BACKGROUND**



# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. BACKGROUND

Urban Enterprise was engaged by Horsham Rural City Council (**Council**) to prepare a sporting facilities demand study for the Council area. Council requires an up to date and evidence based understanding of the current and future participation and demand for outdoor sporting facilities in the City.

This report will be used to inform Council's decisions on provision of sporting facilities for sports clubs and associations, and active recreational use in the municipality. The outcomes of this study will assist in informing the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Study and the Horsham CAD and Wimmera Riverfront Framework Plan.

This report specifically looks at the provision of outdoor sports in the City of Horsham. The outdoor sports included in the scope of this project include:

- AFL;
- Athletics;
- Cricket;
- Lawn Bowls;
- Netball;
- Rugby League;
- Soccer; and
- Tennis.

The following facilities are the key facilities considered as part of the scope for this project:

- City Oval;

- Coughlin Park Sports Complex;
- Dudley Cornell Complex;
- Haven Recreation Reserve;
- Horsham Community Oval Complex;
- Horsham Lawn Tennis Facility;
- Racecourse Reserve Complex (including Central Park Tennis Courts and Netball Courts); and
- Sunnyside Sports Complex.

This project also includes a peer review of the *Horsham Multi-use Indoor Sports Stadium Plan – Phase One Feasibility Study* (2016) and the *Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design* Report (2017) and update based on any new key information.

## 1.2. PROJECT SCOPE

The scope of the project is to address:

- A sports facilities demand study for Horsham Rural City Council for field and court based sports facilities only, with a focus on tennis, athletics, AFL, soccer, lawn bowls, rugby league, cricket and netball (this excludes sporting activities such as swimming, running, cycling and BMX for example).
- The geographic areas for the study is Horsham Rural City Council with reference to sports facilities in adjoining municipalities.
- Consideration of local, district and regional facilities, public and private sporting fields and courts and indoor and outdoor sporting fields and courts.
- The demand assessment having consideration of facility needs to 2033.

- A peer review of existing work related to the provision of indoor sports in the municipality.
- Reference to the State sporting facilities plans and key principles including:
  - Inclusive consideration of a broad range of stakeholders;
  - Preference for the joint provision and shared use of facilities;
  - Equity and fairness on overall resource allocation.

The scope of this project does not include specific recommendations regarding facility upgrades. The project includes an assessment of the sporting facilities context (with a focus on facilities within the town of Horsham) and assess current and future demand to make recommendations in regard to the general sporting facility needs of Horsham and set the strategic direction for sports facility provision.

### 1.3. CONCURRENT WORK

This project is being undertaken concurrently with the Horsham CAD and Wimmera River Framework Plan and the Horsham Open Space Strategy. The outcomes and recommendations of this report will be used to partially inform these projects and vice versa.

### 1.4. METHOD

- Demand:
  - **Consultation** – Determining needs through consultation with sporting associations and clubs.
  - **Participation and membership** – determining current membership and participation and trends.
  - **Provision Ratios** – The use of population provision ratios is a commonly used planning tool to assess the current or future potential need for community facilities and infrastructure within a catchment area. For example, this may include the provision of a field or court per determined

head of population. This method has been adopted for the purposes of this study.

- **Site Visits** – Site visits of key sporting facilities to assist in determining current issues and constraints with facilities.
- **Alignment to Horsham as a regional City** - Ability for current provision to meet the current and future needs of Horsham as a regional city.

### 1.5. CONSULTATION

Consultation has provided a key input to the preparation of this report. Consultation activities have included:

- **One on One / Small Group Meetings** – one on one or small group meetings with sporting associations and clubs in Horsham including representatives from the following sporting **organisations/associations** Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly, Horsham Cricket Association, Horsham Table Tennis Association, Little Athletics, AFL Wimmera Mallee, Central Wimmera Tennis Association, Basketball Victoria, Netball Victoria and from **local sporting clubs** including cricket, AFL, Lawn Bowls, Soccer and Tennis.
- **Online Survey** – An online survey of sporting clubs, which attracted 27 complete responses including from the following sports Rugby League, Football, Tennis, Netball, Cricket, Volleyball, Hockey, Lawn Bowls, Athletics and Soccer.
- **Indoor Sports Workshop** – a workshop with representatives from the Project Control Group, Council staff and Councillors relevant to the *Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design project* (William Ross Architects, 2017).
- **Council Workshop** – a workshop with relevant Council managers and staff.
- **Site Visits** – site visits to all eight sporting reserves in central Horsham with a representative from Council.

## 2. STRATEGIC LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1. INTRODUCTION

This section of the report provides a review of documents relevant to the preparation of this study.

### 2.2. NATIONAL

#### THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIAN SPORT (2013)

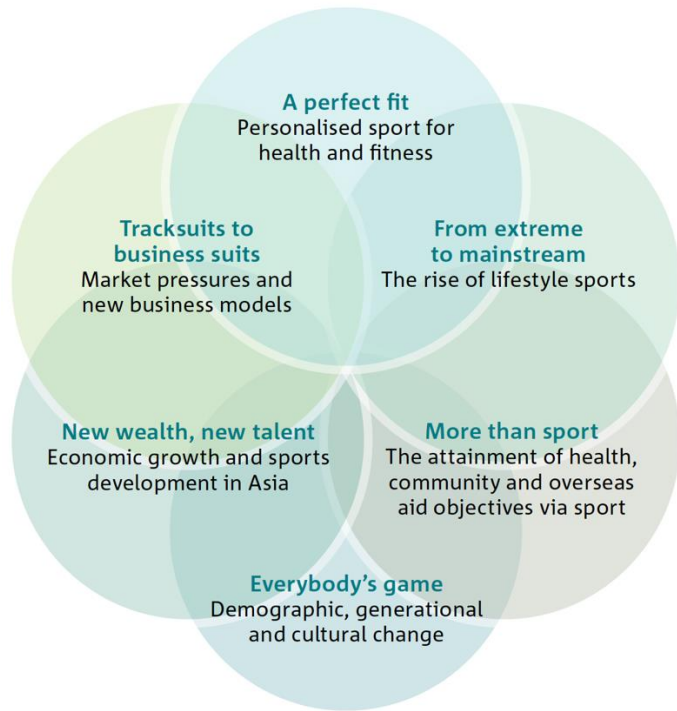
This report by CSIRO for the Australian Sports Commission identifies six megatrends likely to shape the Australian sports sector over the next 30 years. These are shown in the diagram to the right and summarised as follows:

- **A perfect fit** – People are increasingly opting to go for a run with headphones rather than commit to a regular organised sporting event. Australians are becoming more health conscious. We are increasingly playing sport to get fit, rather than getting fit to play sport.
- **From extreme to mainstream** – the rise of lifestyle, adventure and alternative sports which are particularly popular with younger generations (e.g. skateboarding, rock-climbing, mountain biking, BMX). These sports are likely to attract participants through generational change and greater awareness via online content.
- **More than Sport** – Sport can help to achieve wide ranging objectives including mental and physical health, crime prevention, social development, and international cooperation, reducing chronic illness and obesity.
- **Everybody's Game** – Australian faces an ageing population. This will change the types of sports we play and how we play them. There are indications Australians are embracing sport into their old age. Sports of the future will need to cater to

senior citizens. Sporting organisations will be challenged with capturing the interest and involvement of diverse cultures.

- **New Wealth, New Talent** – As disposable income grows in Asian countries, the populations of Asian countries are becoming more interested in sport. This may create new markets for sport television, sport tourism, sports equipment, sport services and sport events.
- **Tracksuit to Business Suits** - Sports with higher salaries may draw athletes away from those with lower salaries. Loosely organised community sports associations are likely to be replaced by organisations with corporate structures and more formal governance systems in light of market pressures. The cost of participating in sport is also rising and this is a participation barrier for many people.





Source: CSIRO, The Australian Sports Commission (2013)

## 2.3. STATE

### ACTIVE VICTORIA: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SPORT AND RECREATION IN VICTORIA 2017-2021

Relevant strategic directions to this project include:

#### 1. Meeting Demand:

- Increasing capacity of facilities and infrastructure;
  - New and existing infrastructure that ‘works harder for longer’. This includes lighting, more durable turf/synthetic/hybrid surfaces, and multi-sport spaces.
  - **High-capacity regional sport and active recreation facilities and infrastructure complementing local community facilities.**
  - Designing infrastructure in accordance with universal design principles and to be resilient to future risks.
- Create flexible and innovative participation options.
- Find new sources of investment.
- Invest in a network of international, metropolitan, regional and local infrastructure.

#### 2. Broader and more inclusive participation:

- Build inclusion into the system.
- Provide affordable participation options.
- Address racism, discrimination and harassment.
- Continue investment in female participation.
- Support increased participation of Aboriginal Victorians.
- Provide support and flexible participation options for other under-represented communities including people with disability, LGBTI people and disengaged youth.

#### 3. Additional focus on active recreation:

- Create a model that supports the structure and needs of active recreation.
  - Provide information and encouragement to support non-organised and unstructured physical activity.
  - Invest in infrastructure that enables active recreation.
- 4. Build system resilience and capacity:**
- Support volunteers and the sport and active recreation workforce.
  - Encourage good governance and diverse leadership.
  - Develop a strong evidence base and analytical capacity.
  - Address reputational risk and threats to integrity.
- 5. Connect Investment in events, high performance and infrastructure:**
- Invest in state and regional facilities that underpin Victoria's event calendar.
  - Create new trade and business opportunities through 'sport diplomacy'.
  - Strengthen linkages between events and high performance sport and grassroots sport.
  - Develop pathways to excellence.
  - Provide new and integrated support for high performance athletes across the Victorian Institute of Sport, regional academies and sports.
- 6. Work together for shared outcomes:**
- Develop agreed priorities for collaborative action.
  - Ensure complementary investment to create collective impact.

#### SPORT FACILITY PROVISION RESEARCH REPORT (2014)

Sport and Recreation Spatial prepared a research report into sport facility provision in Victoria. The report found that there were considerable differences in the provision of facilities and courts per players and per the population across Victorian LGAs.

The report found that there was a positive correlation between the provision of courts per 1,000 persons and the sport participation rate (e.g. LGAs with higher rates of participation tend to have more sport facilities per head of population and vice versa).

The benchmark for an LGA to be in the top two-thirds of LGAs with regard to provision of facilities was 100 players per facility for all LGAs, 255 players per facility for metropolitan LGAs and 77 players per facility for non-metropolitan LGAs.

## 2.4. REGIONAL

### WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE REGIONAL GROWTH PLAN (2014)

The Wimmera Southern Mallee (WSM) Regional Growth Plan provides a regional approach to land use planning across the region. The WSM includes the municipalities of Hindmarsh, Horsham, Northern Grampians, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack.

Horsham is identified as the only **Regional City** in the growth plan, supporting all Council's. Regional Cities in neighbouring regions include Bendigo, Ballarat, Warrnambool and Mildura.

The vision for the region includes:

*"The Wimmera Southern Mallee is a prosperous region which uses its natural advantages of a healthy environment, extensive spaces and **a range of urban and rural lifestyle opportunities to attract more residents, businesses and visitors.**"*

*Increased primary production remains an important focus of the region, but **a more diverse and innovative economy, including new agricultural commodities, industry, tourism, research and education means the community can adapt to changing economic and environmental conditions.**"*

Key principles to achieve this vision, which are particularly relevant to the provision of sporting facilities include:

- **Key centres** should be a focus to **manage population change and access to services;**

- The region's assets should be used to **facilitate the diversification of the economy and ensure a resilient community**;
- Planning should **support adaptation to changes in climate**;
- **Opportunities for growth should be identified to facilitate appropriate local development**;
- **Infrastructure required to support growth should be identified**.

Specific recommendations for Horsham include:

- **Support development and investment that is consistent with Horsham's status as a regional city and the largest town in Wimmera Southern Mallee**.
- **Consolidate the regional significance of the Horsham central activities district** by providing additional retail and office space over the life of this plan.

In regard to social infrastructure (including sports and community facilities), the future directions for the region as outlined in the Plan include:

- Encourage **social infrastructure that is well located and accessible** to residential development, public transport services, employment and educational opportunities.
- Support **multi-purpose, flexible and adaptable health and education infrastructure**.

## 2.5. LOCAL

### COUNCIL PLAN 2018-2022

The Council Plan sets the strategic direction of Council, linking the community's vision to long term community goals. Key goals in relation to sports and community infrastructure include:

- Goal 1: **Community and Cultural Development:**
  - Contribute to building a vibrant, diverse and resilient community;

- Develop a safe, active and healthy community, encouraging participation;
- Contribute to cultural activities that enhance the community;
- Develop the municipality as a desirable place to live, work and enjoy for people of all ages and abilities.
- Goal 2: **Sustaining the Economy:**
  - Cultivate opportunities for the municipality to prosper and pursue possibilities for new development;
  - Increase visitors to the municipality;
  - Promote Horsham as a regional city.
- Goal 3: **Asset Management:**
  - Determine infrastructure needs and expectations through consultation with developers and the community.
  - Deliver works to develop and maintain Council's physical assets for long term sustainability, amenity and safety.

### SPORT AND RECREATION STRATEGY 2013-2018 (2013)

The Sport and Recreation Strategy was prepared in 2013 by SGL, the Strategy identifies and evaluates existing sports and recreation needs and the delivery of these services.

The strategy identified a number of priority issues, including:

- The main sporting precinct in Horsham is the areas encompassing Horsham Lawn Tennis Club, City Oval, the Showgrounds, Basketball Stadium and Coughlin Park. Currently it is a disjointed precinct with limited integration. The opportunity exists to continue developing the area as a major focus of sport and recreation participation. In other words, the primary hub of activity in Horsham.
- Linear trails cater primarily for walking and cycling, two of the most popular physical activities in Australia. They are facilities with high levels of use and cater for a range of demographic groups. A key feature is that they are "free" to use.



Potential exists to expand existing trails and create linkages between trails and to open spaces or areas of cultural or historical interest.

- Open space areas are highly valued by residents, including passive recreation parks and sporting reserves. Potential exists to enhance larger parcels of open space by developing them as multi-functional areas. In particular the development of quality play spaces in major open space nodes will increase the effective use of Council resources by consolidating facilities. The outcome will be open spaces which are attractive to a wider range of demographics, especially young families. When located in high profile sites, they will benefit both residents and visitors.
- Whilst a number of sports halls exist in Horsham, except for the basketball stadium, they are single court facilities. Consequently, sports have difficulty hosting major events, due to lack of multiple courts in a single location. Many sports do not want to share their facilities, protecting "their patch". This approach has ensured that developing a cohesive long term strategy has not occurred.
- Relocation of the rail freight yards and closure of the rail line through Horsham will provide the opportunity to redevelop this strategically located parcel of public land as valuable open space.
- The aging profile of the Horsham community indicates that greater priority should be given to meeting the needs of older adults.

The Strategy recommended a series of strategies, actions and priorities for sport and recreation provision in Horsham between 2013 and 2018. These include:

- **Leadership** – Council take a stronger, more strategic leadership role in the provision of sport and recreation opportunities, particularly regarding the management and use of its sport and recreation assets.
- **Funding Priorities** - Council use the following criteria to assess the level of resources provided to sport and recreation facilities, programs or services:
  - Demonstrated community need;

- Sustained community support;
- Caters for multiuse and/or multiusers;
- A regional focus and capacity to host major events;
- Social value or benefits delivered;
- Availability of Government funding;
- Availability of local/community funding.
- **Quality Sport and Recreation Facilities** – recommended that Council:
  - Ensure its **premier facilities are developed and maintained to a standard adequate to host sports tourism events**; and
  - Continue to upgrade existing facilities to ensure they are fit for purpose.
- **Indoor Sports** – **Horsham cannot cater for events requiring multi courts, and both table tennis and squash currently occupy poor quality facilities.** It is recommended that Council:
  - **Proceed with plans to develop a multi-purpose indoor sport and recreation centre, located as close as possible to the existing Basketball Stadium, either adjacent to, or on the Showgrounds.**
  - A management body be established to manage the Basketball Stadium (when the current lease expires) and the new venue.
  - **Give priority to funding the capital and ongoing maintenance of a multipurpose, multi-user venue, over a single purpose facility.**
  - A detailed indoor sports centre strategy and feasibility study be commissioned. Consideration should be given to including:
    - At least two and up to four additional sports courts, with one being a show court with significant spectator seating.
    - Squash courts (number to be determined based on demand).
    - Table tennis hall to accommodate 10 tables.
    - Gymnastics hall.

- **Playing Fields** – adequate playing fields exist in Horsham to cater for existing demand, however, they are not appropriately equipped to ensure optimum use. Recommendations relating to playing fields includes:
  - Directly allocate and schedule use of City Oval, Dudley Cornell Oval, College Oval and Sunnyside Oval;
  - Reduce use of City Oval by restricting football training sessions;
  - Allocate equal training times to all football clubs using City Oval;
  - **Upgrade College Oval, Sunnyside Oval and Dudley Cornell Park with floodlights adequate for training and appropriate change rooms and toilets;**
  - A feasibility study be commissioned to assess the viability, sustainability and location of constructing a multipurpose synthetic turf playing field;
  - **Proceed with development of a playing field, including change rooms and floodlights, at Haven Recreation Reserve when College Oval and Sunnyside Oval have been upgraded,** all playing fields are used to their optimum level and demand for an additional field has been proven.
- **Rural Communities** - Rural communities have a reasonable expectation that they will have a level of sport and recreation access commensurate with their population. Generally speaking, the larger communities have a football/cricket oval, netball courts, tennis courts and appropriate amenities including club rooms. Smaller communities tend to have less facilities which may include hard courts and community meeting space or hall. It was recommended that:
  - Annually review the sport and recreation component of the Community Action Plan for each of its rural communities in association with each community;
  - Support the upgrading of amenities at Laharum Recreation Reserve;
  - Support the upgrading of amenities at Pimpinio Recreation Reserve.
- **Single Purpose Sports Facilities** – It was recommended that:
  - Do not provide any additional resources for tennis facilities until a strategic plan is developed which **addresses the potential demand for a major regional tennis complex and use, maintenance and redevelopment of existing courts;**
- **Support bowling clubs which plan to convert turf bowling greens to synthetic grass,** subject to a business plan being prepared;
- Continue to liaise with all sporting clubs regarding the maintenance, use and development/redevelopment of their facilities.
- **Trails** – It was recommended that Council implement recommendations relating to recreational off road trails and paths identified in the Horsham Municipal Bicycle and Shared Path Plan 2012 – 2016.
- **Specific Issues** – It was recommended that Council:
  - Offer leases of up to 5 + 5 years over recreation and sport assets to local incorporated bodies which have exclusive use of the asset and are totally responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the asset;
  - Do not provide ongoing operational funding for leased assets;
  - Offer seasonal occupancy agreements or licenses to groups using multipurpose and multiuser sport and recreation assets;
  - Allocate resources to sporting facilities based on management or business plans;
  - Demolish the outdoor swimming pool at the Horsham Aquatic Centre;
  - Develop a significant regional passive recreation park in the northern suburbs including play equipment for toddlers, primary school age children and teenagers, toilet and shade amenities, picnic/BBQ facilities and walking/cycle paths;
  - Determine the best location for the northern passive recreation park when the future of the rail yards and relocation of the Rasmussen Road Campus of Horsham 298 Primary School has been finalised, and compared with the merits of the Police Paddocks;
  - **Encourage the installation of tennis and lawn bowls floodlights to enable training and competition in the evenings, during the summer months.**

## HORSHAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (2017-2021)

The aim of the Horsham Economic Development Strategy is to strengthen, enhance and further diversify the existing economic, tourism and industrial base in Horsham, which leads to sustainable growth that improves the wealth and wellbeing of the community. Key recommendations in relation to sporting infrastructure include:

- Deliver the multi-use indoor sports facility;
- Ensure Horsham's CAD is considered the prime location for future development in retail, commercial office, entertainment and community land uses.
- Develop Horsham's calendar of festivals and events (including supporting infrastructure improvements to facilitate sports tourism).

## 2.6. KEY FINDINGS

The following key findings relate to the strategic literature review:

Relevant findings from **State** strategic literature includes:

- There is an increasingly number of people participating in non-organised sport.
- Sport provides a number of benefits including mental and physical health, crime prevention, social development, reducing chronic illness and obesity.
- New infrastructure should 'work harder for longer', including through consideration of more durable surfaces, synthetic surfaces and multi-sport venues.
- Regional venues and facilities should support and complement local level facilities
- Facilities should be designed with universal access principles.
- Invest in regional facilities that support Victoria's events calendar.

Relevant findings from **regional** strategic literature include:

- Horsham is identified as the only regional city in the Wimmera Southern Mallee. As a regional city it has a role to support a range of opportunities to attract residents, visitors and businesses.
- There is a need to diversify the economy.
- Investment that aligns to Horsham's status as a regional city should be supported.
- Encourage social infrastructure that is well located and accessible.
- Support multi-purpose, flexible and adaptable health and education infrastructure.

Relevant findings from **local** strategic literature includes:

- Ensure premier facilities are developed and maintained to a standard adequate to host sports tourism events.
- Continue to upgrade existing facilities to ensure they are fit for purpose.
- Develop multi-purpose sports facilities.
- Give priority to funding the capital and ongoing maintenance of a multi-purpose, multi-user venue over a single purpose facility.
- Adequate playing fields exist in Horsham to cater for existing demand, however, they are not appropriately equipped to ensure optimum use. It was recommended to upgrade key sporting reserves in Horsham including College Oval, Sunnyside Oval and Dudley Cornell Park.
- Ensure Horsham's CAD is considered the prime location for future development including community land uses.
- Develop Horsham's calendar of festivals and events (including supporting infrastructure improvements to facilitate sports tourism).

### 3. SPORT PARTICIPATION CONTEXT

#### 3.1. INTRODUCTION

This section of the report provides a general overview of sport participation in Victoria to provide context to the study. Specific demand information for each sport (membership and participation data) is provided for each sport in following sections.

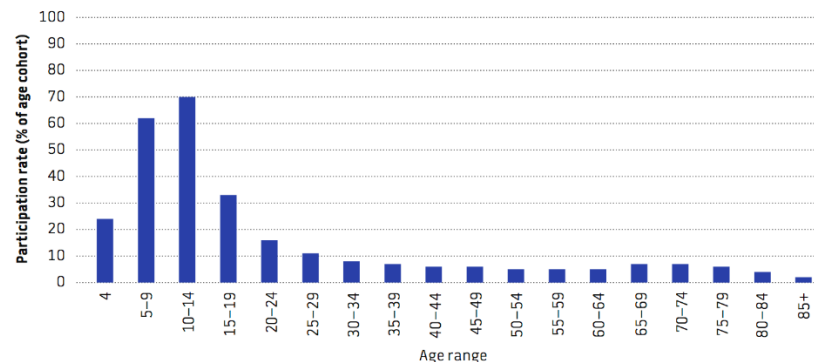
#### 3.2. SPORT PARTICIPATION IN VICTORIA

The following outlines the key findings from the VicHealth and Sport and Recreation Victoria research (2016) into organised community sport participation in Victoria across Australian Rules Football, basketball, bowls, cricket, football (soccer), golf, gymnastics, hockey, netball, sailing, swimming and tennis)<sup>1</sup>:

- Sport participation rates are highest among Victorians aged between 5 and 14 years old and drop off significant from the age of 15 (see Figure 1)
- Participation rates are higher for males than females in all age groups.
- Higher participation rates in sport were noted in regional Victoria, compared to metropolitan Melbourne (see Figure 2).
- The rate of overall participation in organised community sport increased between 2015 and 2016. This was driven by increases in male and female participation rates, with male growth much higher than female growth.
- Growth in the participation rate between 2015 and 2016 was highest in the 10–14 years and 15–19 year age groups, growing by 2.8% and 3.6% respectively.

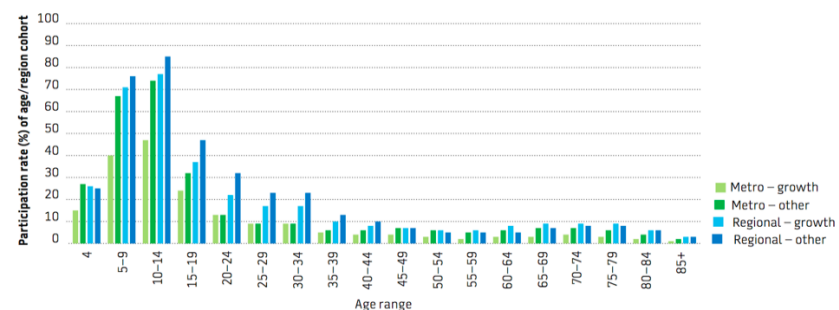
<sup>1</sup> The data includes participants registered in club competitions, junior or modified sport programs and social programs. The data excludes participants registered in school programs or school competitions.

FIGURE 1 AGE-SPECIFIC PARTICIPATION RATES, 2016, VICTORIA



Source: Sport Participation in Victoria, 2016 – Research Summary

FIGURE 2 AGE SPECIFIC PARTICIPATION RATES, 2016, VIC REGIONS



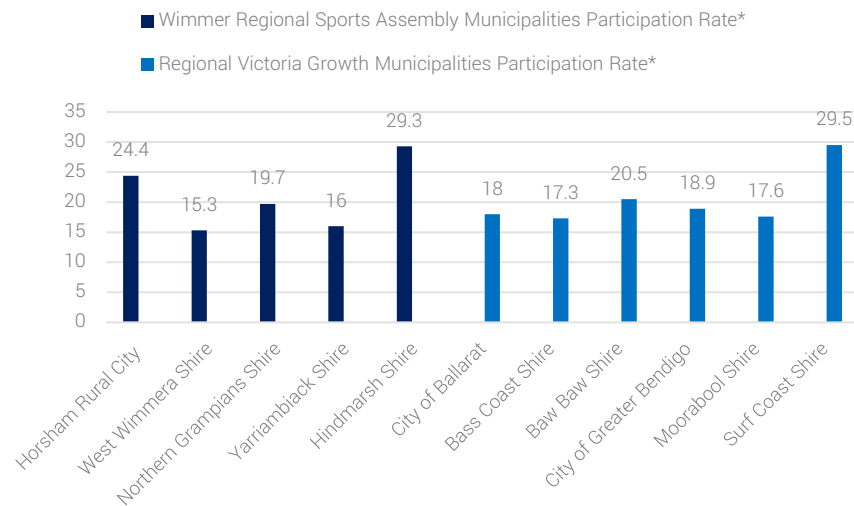
Source: Sport Participation in Victoria, 2016 – Research Summary

## PARTICIPATION BY LGA

The participation rates for municipalities within the Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly Area are shown in Figure 3, benchmarked with regional Victoria growth municipalities. The data shows that participation in Horsham is estimated at 24.4 residents per 100 residents, higher participation than the majority of regional growth municipalities (excluding Surf Coast Shire). This suggests there is a strong involvement from residents in sport, highlighting a need to cater to a willingness and appetite to be involved in sport in the City of Horsham.

The research shows that out of 80 Victoria Councils (metropolitan and regional), **Horsham was ranked number 17 in terms of highest participation.**

**FIGURE 3** PARTICIPATION RATES



Source: Sport participation in Victoria, 2016. Research summary

\*Participation Rate is player registrations per 100 residents

## ORGANISED PARTICIPATION BY ACTIVITY (ADULTS)

Table 2 highlights the top 15 most participated in sporting activities by adults in 2017/2018. Sports relevant to this study include athletics (15.5% total participation); tennis (4.6%), basketball (4.5%), Australian Rules Football (3.9%), cricket (3.0%) and netball (2.9%).

**TABLE 1** PARTICIPATION BY ACTIVITY - TOP 15 ACTIVITIES (ADULTS)

	Total	Males	Females
	Participation rate (%)		
Walking (Recreational)	45.0%	34.7%	54.9%
Fitness/Gym	35.3%	30.5%	39.9%
Athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running)	15.5%	17.7%	13.4%
Swimming	14.0%	12.8%	15.1%
Cycling	12.4%	16.8%	8.3%
Golf	5.5%	8.7%	2.5%
Yoga	5.4%	1.1%	9.5%
Bush walking	5.2%	5.1%	5.2%
Tennis	4.6%	6.0%	3.2%
Basketball	4.5%	6.4%	2.7%
Australian football	3.9%	6.4%	1.5%
Pilates	3.9%	0.9%	6.8%
Football/soccer	3.7%	5.9%	1.7%
Cricket	3.0%	5.0%	1.1%
Netball	2.9%	0.5%	5.2%

Source: AusPlay Survey Results July 2017-June 2018

### ORGANISED PARTICIPATION BY ACTIVITY (CHILDREN)

The top sporting activities participated in by children relevant to this project include Australian Rules Football (15.8%), basketball (12.4%), soccer (8.4%), netball (7.4%), tennis (7.3%), cricket (6.3%) and athletics (4.7%).

The data shows that children participate in organised sport at a higher rate than adults.

**TABLE 2** ORGANISE PARTICIPATION BY ACTIVITY – TOP 10 ACTIVITIES (CHILDREN)

	Total	Males	Females
	Participation rate (%)		
Swimming	34.1%	32.6%	35.9%
Australian football	15.8%	26.2%	3.5%
Basketball	12.4%	14.2%	10.3%
Dancing (recreational)	8.6%	2.4%	15.9%
Gymnastics	8.5%	4.5%	13.1%
Football/soccer	8.4%	13.1%	3.0%
Netball	7.4%	0.4%	15.6%
Tennis	7.3%	8.2%	6.2%
Cricket	6.3%	11.0%	0.8%
Athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running)	4.7%	4.8%	4.6%

Source: AusPlay Survey Results July 2017-June 2018

### 3.3. KEY FINDINGS

Key findings relevant to sport participation in Victoria include:

- Participation in sport in Victoria is highest for people aged between 5 and 14 years old and growth in participation was highest for people aged between 10-14 years and 15-19 years.
- People in regional Victoria participate in sport at a higher rate compared to metropolitan areas;
- Horsham was ranked number 17 out of 80 Victorian LGAs for sport participation.
- The sport participation rate for Horsham Rural City was 24.4 out of 100 residents. The participation rate was also high for Hindmarsh Shire (29.3 residents out of 100) and Northern Grampians Shire (19.7 residents out of 100) but lower for West Wimmera (15.3 residents out of 100) and Yarriambiack Shire (16 residents out of 100).
- Well participated sports in Victoria relevant to this project include Australian Rules Football, basketball, soccer, netball, tennis, cricket and athletics.



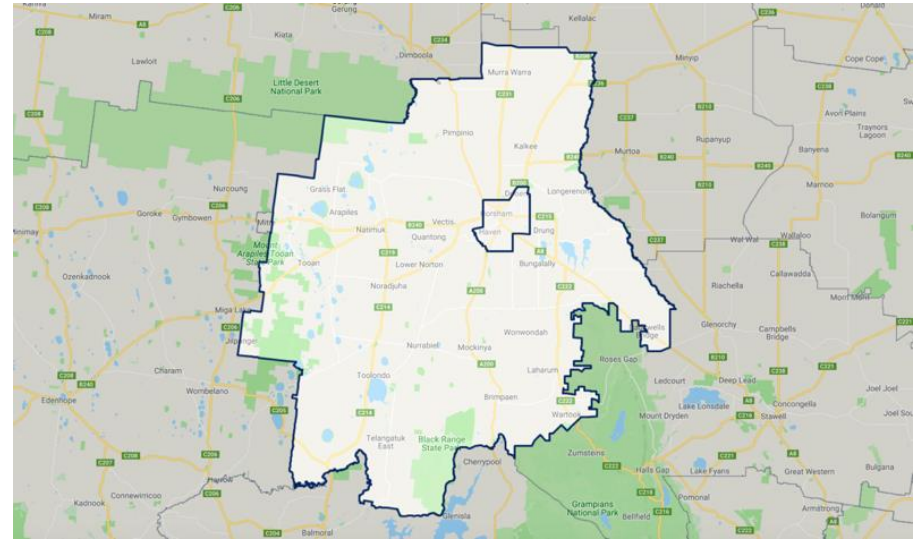
## 4. POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

### 4.1. INTRODUCTION

This section of the report provides an overview of key population and demographic statistics as they relate to the Sporting Facilities Demand Study.

Victoria in Future (VIF) provided the official publication of current and projected population growth across Victoria. Figure 4 shows the Victoria in Future Statistical Areas (VIFSA) for Horsham, including the statistical boundary of the central Horsham area, referred to as 'Horsham Town'<sup>2</sup> and the remaining rural areas, referred to as 'Horsham Rural'.

FIGURE 4 VIF POPULATION DATA AREA



Source: Remplan, Map Builder

---

<sup>2</sup> Note: 'Horsham Town' includes key sporting facilities as part of this scope, including City Oval; Coughlin Park Sports Complex; Dudley Cornell Complex; Haven Recreation Reserve; Horsham Community Oval Complex; Horsham Lawn Tennis Facility; Racecourse Reserve Complex and Sunnyside Sports Complex.

## 4.2. POPULATION

### HORSHAM RURAL CITY

The table below shows the population for Horsham Rural City, including a breakdown of 'Horsham Town' (central Horsham) and 'Horsham Rural'. The data shows that Horsham Town is projected to grow at a rate of 0.8% per annum to 2031 whilst Horsham Rural is projected to decline at a rate of -0.5% per annum to 2031.

Applying these growth rates, the population of the Horsham Town area is expected to reach 19,069 people by 2033 (+2,463 residents) and the population of the Horsham Rural area is expected to reach 3,000 residents by 2033 (-281 residents).

The increasing population of central Horsham may increase demand for new or upgraded sporting facilities in or near the town, whilst a declining population in the rural areas of Horsham is likely to reduce the need for additional facilities in rural areas.

**TABLE 3** HORSHAM POPULATION

	2016	2021	2026	2031	2033*	Growth (#)	AAGR
VIFSA							
Horsham Town	16,606	17,347	18,061	18,761	19,069	2,463	0.8%
VIFSA							
Horsham Rural	3,281	3,144	3,068	3,032	3,000	-281	-0.5%
Horsham (RC)	19,887	20,492	21,129	21,793	22,069	2,182	0.6%

Source: Victoria in Future, 2016

\*Urban Enterprise projection based on application of VIFSA growth rate

### WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE REGION

Sports facilities (particularly of regional scale) not only support populations in the City of Horsham but also support wider regional populations. This is particularly relevant given Horsham's designation as the only Regional City within the Wimmera Southern Mallee Region.

Therefore, it is also important to consider the regional population catchment. Table 4 shows the Victoria in Future population projections for each of the Wimmera Southern Mallee Local Government Areas.

The data shows that Horsham is the only Local Government area that is projected to increase in population size by 2031. This is significant as it confirms that Horsham should be the focus for regional investment into facilities that service the region and highlights the importance in investing in infrastructure that will promote liveability, population retention and growth.

**TABLE 4** WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE POPULATION PROJECTIONS

	2016	2021	2026	2031	AAGR%
Horsham (RC)	19,887	20,492	21,129	21,793	0.6%
Hindmarsh (S)	5,393	5,130	4,883	4,641	-1.0%
Northern Grampians (S)	11,420	11,119	10,931	10,820	-0.4%
West Wimmera	3,811	3,471	3,210	2,988	-1.6%
Yarriambiack	6,645	6,254	5,931	5,618	-1.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,156</b>	<b>46,466</b>	<b>46,085</b>	<b>45,860</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>

Source: Victoria in Future, 2016

### 4.3. AGE PROFILE

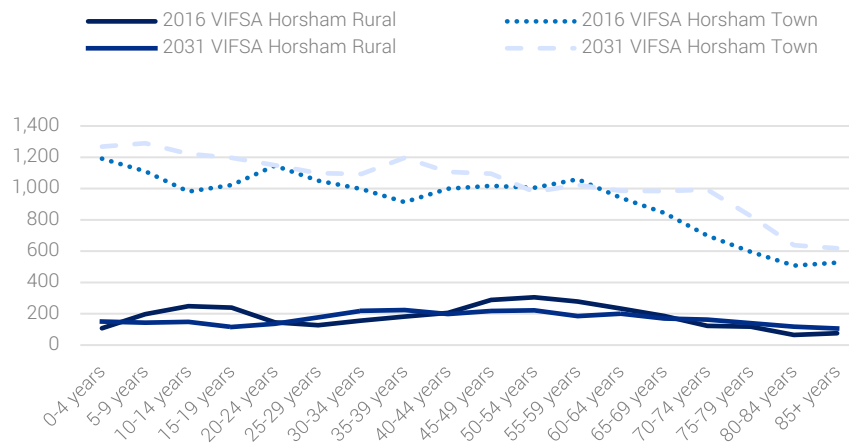
Figure 5 shows the age profile of residents in 'Horsham Town' and 'Horsham Rural' in 2016 and projected to 2031.

The data shows that the age profile is likely to change in the future. Generally, the age profile of residents in 'Horsham Town' is likely to age, with an increase in people aged over 60 years. Importantly, there is projected to be an increase in residents aged between 25 to 39 years and 5-14 years, which could typically be classified as the family market. As previous research has shown, people aged in this age bracket are more likely to be involved in sport through an organisation or venue compared to older segments of the population.

The 'Horsham Rural' population is projected to see a decline in the family market.

This changing age profile will have implications for the need and type of sporting facilities in the future.

**FIGURE 5** AGE STRUCTURE



Source: Victoria in Future, 2016

#### 4.3.1. KEY FINDINGS

Key findings relevant to the population and demographic analysis include:

- Horsham's population is expected to grow at a rate of 0.6% per annum to 2031. Population growth is expected within the central areas of Horsham, whilst the population in rural areas is expected to decline.
- Regionally, Horsham is the only municipality whose population is expected to increase, meaning there Horsham will need to be the focus of investment in facilities that service the wider region.
- There is also forecast to be growth in the family market, including children aged 5-14 years. Participation in organised sport is highest for children in this age bracket.

# PART B: OUTDOOR SPORTS

## 5. FACILITIES

### 5.1. INTRODUCTION

This section of the report provides an overview of existing facilities used for outdoor sports in the City of Horsham, with detailed consideration given to the following facilities:

- City Oval;
- Coughlin Park Sports Complex;
- Dudley Cornell Complex;
- Horsham Community Oval Complex;
- Horsham Lawn Tennis Facility;
- Racecourse Reserve Complex (including Central Park Tennis Courts and Netball Courts); and
- Sunnyside Sports Complex.
- Haven Recreation Reserve.

Site visits were undertaken to each of the above facilities with Council staff.

### 5.2. FACILITIES

Table 5 provides an overview of key outdoor sporting locations and the sports catered for across the municipality. Key facilities included as part of this project are highlighted in grey in the table. Please note, this does not include consideration of school facilities.

**TABLE 5** HORSHAM SPORTING FACILITIES

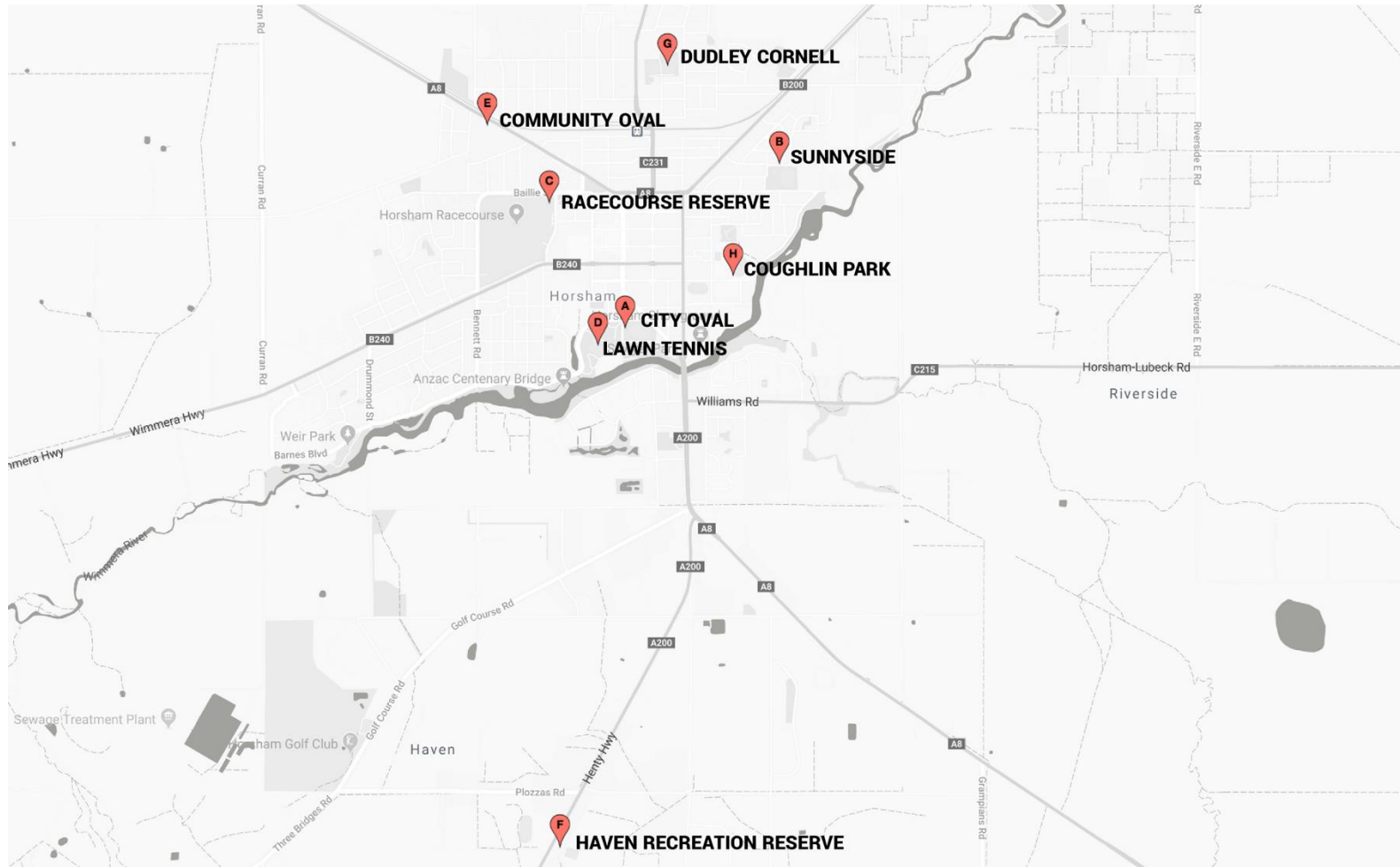
Facility Name	Sports Catered For
City Oval	AFL, Cricket, Netball
Sunnyside Sports Complex	Cricket, Tennis, Lawn Bowls, AFL
Horsham Racecourse Reserve (includes surrounding facilities)	Netball, Rugby League, Soccer, Tennis, Lawn Bowls, Croquet
Horsham Lawn Tennis and Horsham Croquet	Tennis, Croquet
Horsham Community Oval and Pavilion	AFL, Cricket, Hockey, also used for After School Care
Haven Recreation Reserve	Tennis, Football (training)
Dudley Cornell Complex	Cricket, Soccer, Little Athletics
Coughlin Park Sports Complex	Tennis, AFL, Cricket, Lawn Bowls
Laharum Recreation Reserve	AFL, Cricket, Tennis, Netball
Horsham Golf Club Bowling Association	Lawn Bowls
Horsham Velodrome	Cycling Velodrome / HPV Training
Natimuk Showground Recreation Reserve	AFL, Cricket, Netball, Tennis
Quantong Recreation Reserve	AFL, Cricket, Netball, Tennis
Kalkee Recreation Reserve	AFL, Cricket, Netball, Tennis
Taylor's Lake Recreation Reserve	AFL, Cricket, Netball, Tennis
Pimpinio Recreation Reserve	AFL, Cricket, Netball, Tennis
Clear Lake Recreation Reserve	AFL, Cricket, Tennis
Brimpaen Recreation Reserve	Tennis
Douglas Tennis Courts	Tennis
Noradjuha Recreation Reserve	Cricket, Tennis, Netball
Telangatuk Recreation Reserve	Tennis
Toolondo Recreation Reserve	Cricket, Tennis

Source: Audit prepared by Urban Enterprise, 2018

## MAIN FACILITIES LOCATIONS

The key facilities as part of the scope of this work are shown in Figure 6, with details for each facility provided on the following pages.

**FIGURE 6** MAIN FACILITIES





### 5.2.1. CITY OVAL



Source: Google Maps (please not aerial is for general illustrative purposes only and may be outdated)

**TABLE 6** CITY OVAL

<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>City Oval</b>
<b>Address</b>	123 Firebrace Street, Horsham VIC 3400
<b>Sports Catered For</b>	AFL, Cricket, Netball
<b>Clubs</b>	Horsham Demons Football and Netball Club Horsham Cricket Association Inc.
<b>Number of Courts/Fields/Rinks</b>	X1 football/cricket oval (grass field with turf wicket) X1 netball court (hard court)
<b>Main Purpose</b>	Club grounds, training and matches
<b>Land Ownership</b>	Crown Land
<b>Playing Arenas Indoor / Outdoor</b>	Outdoor
<b>Lighting</b>	Yes (150-300 Lux)

<b>Clubrooms/Pavilion</b>	X1 Grandstand X1 Clubrooms (two storey building upstairs licenced to Horsham Demons) X1 Netball Clubrooms
<b>Car Parking</b>	Yes (some onsite parking around the ground and offsite, on street parking)
<b>Other Facilities</b>	Digital Scoreboard Broadcasting Box Toilet Block Halls (Horsham Pipe Band Inc. & Horsham City Brass Band Inc) Playgrounds
<b>Other Comments</b>	Considered the premier venue in Horsham for football and cricket matches.
<b>Key Facility Issues Identified through Consultation and Site Visits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Size of the field is too small for hosting premier matches.</li> <li>• Limited area for runoff between boundary and fence.</li> <li>• Short boundary length for cricket.</li> <li>• Incorrect field orientation for cricket.</li> <li>• Pavilion is ageing and is over two levels.</li> <li>• No Universal access (no lift to second storey).</li> <li>• Horsham Demons Football/Netball Club have exclusive use over second storey of the Pavilion.</li> <li>• Insufficient number of public toilets and poorly accessible.</li> <li>• Universal access not provided to grandstand.</li> <li>• Facility is generally not open to the public.</li> <li>• Onsite parking is generally not allowed. However, access to onsite parking is provided for people with a disability.</li> <li>• Accessibility/scheduling of use of the facility for different sports i.e. Football / Cricket</li> <li>• Grandstand subject to cold southerly winds in winter (steel seating is cold).</li> <li>• Current location of pavilion is not ideal.</li> </ul>

## CITY OVAL FACILITY PHOTOS



Main clubrooms and pavilion.



Publicly accessible toilet.



Boundary and view toward grandstand (not universally accessible)



Netball court and club rooms.



### 5.2.2. SUNNYSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX



Source: Google Maps (please not aerial is for general illustrative purposes only and may be outdated)

**TABLE 7** SUNNYSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX

<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Sunnyside Sports Complex</b>
<b>Address</b>	8 Olga Avenue, Horsham VIC 3400
<b>Sports Catered For</b>	Cricket, AFL, Tennis, Lawn Bowls
<b>Clubs</b>	Homers Cricket and Tennis Club Sunnyside Bowls Club Kalkee Football and Netball Club
<b>Number of Courts/Fields/Rinks</b>	X3 tennis courts (hard courts) X1 football/cricket field X1 bowling club (X4 rinks - grass. Plans to upgrade two to synthetic surface)
<b>Main Purpose</b>	Club grounds, training and matches
<b>Land Ownership</b>	Cricket/Tennis - Horsham Rural City Council Lawn Bowls - Private
<b>Playing Arenas Indoor / Outdoor</b>	Outdoor
<b>Lighting</b>	X2 lights (cricket) No lights tennis Lawn Bowls X1 Rink lights
<b>Clubrooms/Pavilion</b>	Cricket/Tennis Club Pavilion (b. 1982) Lawn Bowls Pavilion/Club Room (b. 1960)
<b>Car Parking</b>	On and off site parking
<b>Other Facilities</b>	Storage shed Public toilet block Playground
<b>Other Comments</b>	
<b>Key Facility Issues Identified through Consultation and Site Visits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues with the quality of the turf cricket wicket.</li> <li>• Field doesn't drain well, particularly around the square.</li> <li>• Quality and size of community pavilion/clubroom.</li> <li>• Public toilets are ageing and unsafe.</li> <li>• Limited lighting (2 lights).</li> <li>• Size of field cannot accommodate A-Grade Games and should not be scheduled at Sunnyside.</li> </ul>



**SUNNYSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX**  
**FACILITY PHOTOS**



Clubroom bathroom.



Publicly accessible toilet.



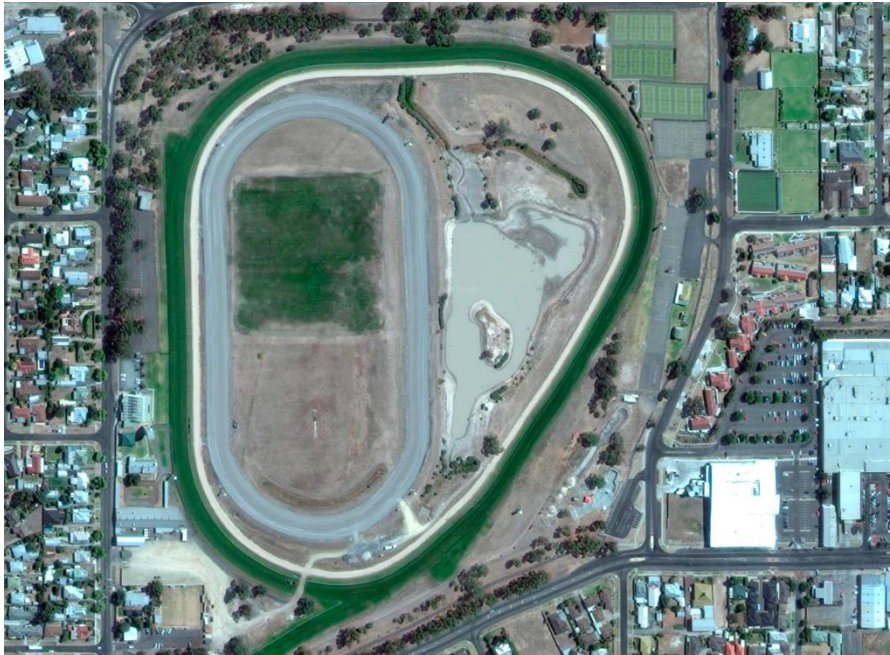
Tennis courts.



Main oval view toward goals.



### 5.2.3. HORSHAM RACECOURSE RESERVE



Source: Google Maps (please not aerial is for general illustrative purposes only and may be outdated)

**TABLE 8** RACECOURSE RESERVE

<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Horsham Racecourse Reserve (includes surrounding facilities)</b>
<b>Address</b>	Central Park, Horsham VIC 3400
<b>Sports Catered For</b>	Rugby League and Soccer (inside of track). Netball, Tennis, Lawn Bowls, Croquet (outside or around track)
<b>Clubs</b>	Central Park Tennis Club Horsham City Netball Association Horsham City Netball and Fire Brigade Association Horsham Panthers Rugby League Horsham City Bowls Club (off site on private land) Kalimna Park Croquet Club (off site) Horsham West Bowling Club
<b>Number of Courts/Fields/Rinks</b>	X12 Tennis Courts (hard courts) X2 Multipurpose Courts (Netball/Tennis) - (hard courts) X5 Netball Courts (Asphalt) X1 Rugby League Field X1 Soccer Field (not utilised) X4 Bowls Rinks (Horsham City) - 3X Grass / 1X Synthetic X1 Bowls Rink (Horsham West) - Grass X1 Croquet Court
<b>Main Purpose</b>	Club grounds, training, matches
<b>Land Ownership</b>	Crown Land managed by Council as the Committee of Management
<b>Playing Arenas Indoor / Outdoor</b>	Outdoor
<b>Lighting</b>	Rugby - no Tennis - 2 courts Netball - 2 Courts
<b>Clubrooms/Pavilion</b>	Tennis – Community Pavilion/Clubroom Netball - Clubroom Rugby – Community Pavilion/Clubrooms Tennis - Clubroom Croquet - Clubroom Bowls (Horsham City) - Clubroom

<b>Car Parking</b>	On site and off site car parking
<b>Other Facilities</b>	On racecourse land. Netball courts are part of the CFA training grounds.
<b>Other Comments</b>	Horsham Soccer Club planned to move to this facility. The move has yet to occur.
<b>Key Facility Issues Identified through Consultation and Site Visits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Size and quality of club pavilion.</li> <li>• Access issues to fields in the middle of the racecourse.</li> <li>• No lighting on fields.</li> <li>• Soccer was supposed to move to this facility, however, this site was not considered suitable by soccer due to the facility characteristics.</li> <li>• Netball courts are not compliant in regard to runoff, surface types etc. However, this is currently the largest netball facility in Horsham for netball events.</li> <li>• Not universally accessible.</li> </ul>



## HORSHAM RACECOURSE RESERVE FACILITY PHOTOS



Community Pavilion utilised for Rugby clubrooms.



Field used for Rugby (in middle of racetrack)



Asphalt Netball Courts (Source: Horsham City Netball Association)



City Netball Courts / Clubrooms and Fire Brigade Training Area



#### 5.2.4. HORSHAM LAWN TENNIS (AND CROQUET)



Source: Google Maps (please not aerial is for general illustrative purposes only and may be outdated)

**TABLE 9** HORSHAM LAWN TENNIS (AND CROQUET)

<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Horsham Lawn Tennis (local facility) and Horsham Croquet (regional role)</b>
<b>Address</b>	Horsham Botanic Gardens
<b>Sports Catered For</b>	Tennis, Croquet
<b>Clubs</b>	Horsham Lawn Tennis Club
<b>Number of Courts/Fields/Rinks</b>	X24 Courts - grass (approx. 16 courts maintained) X1 Croquet Court
<b>Main Purpose</b>	Club grounds, training, matches
<b>Land Ownership</b>	Crown Land managed by Council as the Committee of Management
<b>Playing Arenas Indoor / Outdoor</b>	Outdoor
<b>Lighting</b>	No (recent application for funding for lighting)
<b>Clubrooms/Pavilion</b>	Clubrooms
<b>Car Parking</b>	Yes on site parking
<b>Other Facilities</b>	Co-located with Horsham Croquet Club.
<b>Other Comments</b>	
<b>Key Facility Issues Identified through Consultation and Site Visits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not all courts are maintained. Courts are difficult to maintain and costly to maintain.</li> <li>• Currently no lighting.</li> <li>• No formal licence in place.</li> <li>• Pavilion has no accessible toilets.</li> <li>• Roadway between community pavilion and courts which accesses car parking and playground.</li> </ul>



# HORSHAM LAWN TENNIS AND CROQUET FACILITY PHOTOS



Tennis Courts / External Fence



Overflow Car Parking Area



Croquet Club



Access Road between Tennis Courts and Croquet Club



### 5.2.5. HORSHAM COMMUNITY OVAL COMPLEX



Source: Google Maps (please note aerial is for general illustrative purposes only and may be outdated)

**TABLE 10** HORSHAM COMMUNITY OVAL COMPLEX

<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Horsham Community Oval and Pavilion</b>
<b>Address</b>	59 Dimboola Road, Horsham VIC
<b>Sports Catered For</b>	AFL, Cricket, Hockey (training only).
<b>Clubs</b>	Jung Tigers Cricket Club Horsham Hockey Club Wimmera Umpires Association
<b>Number of Courts/Fields/Rinks</b>	X1 AFL/Cricket sized field
<b>Main Purpose</b>	Club grounds, training and matches
<b>Land Ownership</b>	Horsham Rural City Council
<b>Playing Arenas Indoor / Outdoor</b>	Outdoor
<b>Lighting</b>	Yes (150-300 Lux)
<b>Clubrooms/Pavilion</b>	Shared Club and Community Pavilion (recently located on site)
<b>Car Parking</b>	Yes on site and off site car parking
<b>Other Facilities</b>	Located adjacent to Horsham special school.
<b>Other Comments</b>	Pavilion also used for after school care.
<b>Key Facility Issues Identified through Consultation and Site Visits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor drainage at the southern end of the field.</li> <li>• Highly utilised/booked field and pavilion.</li> </ul>

# COMMUNITY OVAL COMPLEX

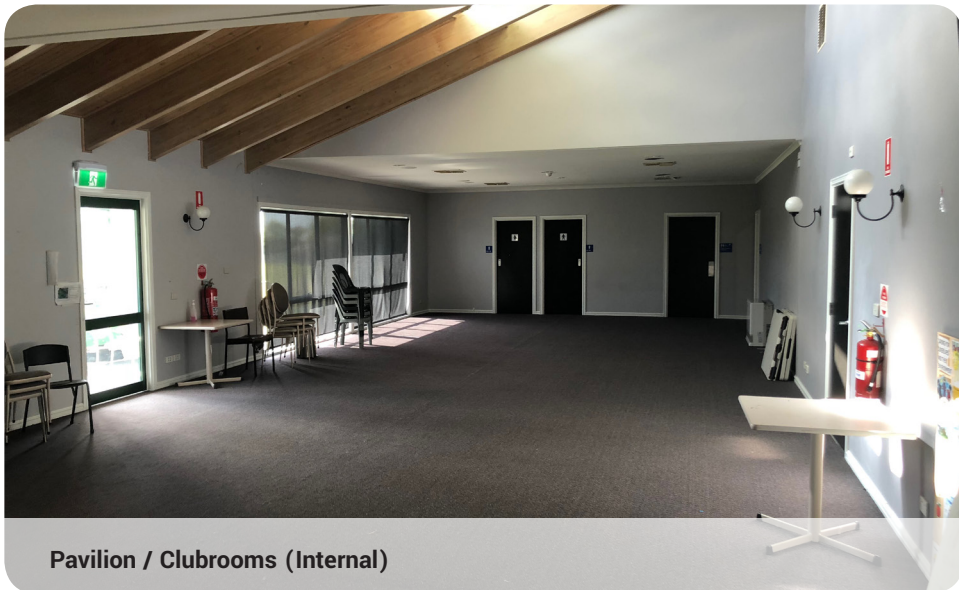
## FACILITY PHOTOS



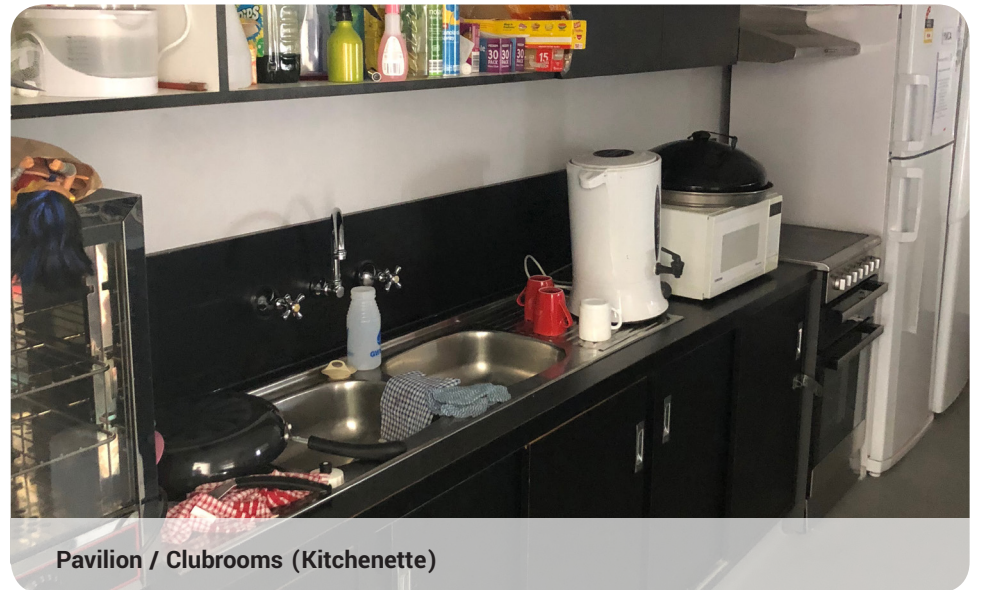
AFL Field Goals



Pavilion / Clubrooms



Pavilion / Clubrooms (Internal)



Pavilion / Clubrooms (Kitchenette)



### 5.2.6. HAVEN RECREATION RESERVE



Source: Google Maps (please not aerial is for general illustrative purposes only and may be outdated)

**TABLE 11** HAVEN RECREATION RESERVE

<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Haven Recreation Reserve</b>
<b>Address</b>	4378 Henty Highway, Haven VIC 3401
<b>Sports Catered For</b>	Tennis, Football
<b>Clubs</b>	Haven Tennis Club Football Training at Haven
<b>Number of Courts/Fields/Rinks</b>	X12 courts (8 Plexipave / 4 hard courts)
<b>Main Purpose</b>	Club grounds, training and matches
<b>Land Ownership</b>	Horsham Rural City Council
<b>Playing Arenas Indoor / Outdoor</b>	Outdoor
<b>Lighting</b>	No
<b>Clubrooms/Pavilion</b>	Tennis Pavilion
<b>Car Parking</b>	Yes on site car parking
<b>Other Facilities</b>	Located adjacent to Haven Primary School. Other uses in precinct include dog obedience school, monthly market, indoor bowls, fly fishing club, tae kwon do, playgroup.
<b>Other Comments</b>	Tennis courts have space between them for spectators including shaded areas.
<b>Key Facility Issues Identified through Consultation and Site Visits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hall is a shared use facility, which is partly used as club rooms.</li> </ul>



**HAVEN RECREATION RESERVE  
FACILITY PHOTOS**



**Tennis Courts at Haven**

### 5.2.7. DUDLEY CORNELL



Source: Google Maps (please not aerial is for general illustrative purposes only and may be outdated)

**TABLE 12** DUDLEY CORNELL

<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Dudley Cornell Complex</b>
<b>Address</b>	Dudley W Cornell Park, Horsham VIC 3400
<b>Sports Catered For</b>	Cricket, Soccer, Little Athletics
<b>Clubs</b>	Horsham Little Athletics Colts Cricket Club Horsham and District Soccer Club School Athletics Sports
<b>Number of Courts/Fields/Rinks</b>	X2 Fields (Cricket/AFL Fields - grass - used for Athletics track) Large field - turf wicket Small field - hard wicket X2 long/triple jumps

	X2 cricket nets Asphalt area for spectators.
<b>Main Purpose</b>	Club grounds, training and matches
<b>Land Ownership</b>	Horsham Rural City Council
<b>Playing Arenas Indoor / Outdoor</b>	Outdoor
<b>Lighting</b>	Yes (large field)
<b>Clubrooms/Pavilion</b>	Club pavilion
<b>Car Parking</b>	Some on site car parking.
<b>Other Facilities</b>	Located adjacent to Kalkee Road Children's & Community Hub.
<b>Other Comments</b>	Small field used by little Athletics for Javelin and Shotput and soccer.
<b>Key Facility Issues Identified through Consultation and Site Visits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Car parking capacity issues. Cars spill onto streets during games. Streets are narrow and not suited to this level of car parking.</li> <li>• Highly utilised facility. Some scheduling conflicts.</li> <li>• Irrigation issues. Limited access to water for second field.</li> <li>• No female changerooms (incorporated into draft landscape plan).</li> <li>• Light spill occurs into neighbouring properties.</li> <li>• Netball court not used.</li> <li>• Age, quality and accessibility of clubrooms/pavilion.</li> <li>• Issues with the surface, has poor drainage.</li> <li>• Can't get a full sized soccer pitch at Dudley Cornell reserve.</li> <li>• Limited visitor infrastructure.</li> <li>• Size of field to accommodate a full-size athletics running track (8 lanes) with current boundary fence.</li> <li>• No permanent soccer goals.</li> <li>• Long and triple jump pits into fence.</li> <li>• Quality of storage spaces for soccer.</li> </ul>



# DUDLEY CORNELL RECREATION RESERVE

## FACILITY PHOTOS



Pavilion



Second Oval



Cricket Nets and Long / Triple Jumps



Main Field



### 5.2.8. COUGHLIN PARK



Source: Google Maps (please not aerial is for general illustrative purposes only and may be outdated)

**TABLE 13** COUGHLIN PARK

<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Coughlin Park Sports Complex</b>
<b>Address</b>	14 Hamilton Street, Horsham VIC 3400
<b>Sports Catered For</b>	Tennis, AFL, Cricket, Lawn Bowls
<b>Clubs</b>	Horsham Saints Football Club Coughlin Park Bowls Club Horsham Saints Cricket Club St Michaels and Johns Tennis Club
<b>Number of Courts/Fields/Rinks</b>	X1 AFL/Cricket field (grass with turf wicket) X2 Bowls Rinks (grass) X6 Tennis Courts (plexipave) X3 Cricket Nets
<b>Main Purpose</b>	Club grounds, training and matches
<b>Land Ownership</b>	Privately Owned
<b>Playing Arenas Indoor / Outdoor</b>	Outdoor
<b>Lighting</b>	Yes (50-99 Lux)
<b>Clubrooms/Pavilion</b>	Newly constructed shared use pavilion
<b>Car Parking</b>	Onsite parking available.
<b>Other Facilities</b>	Located adjacent to St Brigid's College Scorers/Broadcast Box
<b>Other Comments</b>	Recently redeveloped club/community pavilion.
<b>Key Facility Issues Identified through Consultation and Site Visits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facility has recently been upgraded.</li> </ul>



**COUGHLIN PARK  
FACILITY PHOTOS**



### 5.3. REGIONAL FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

Table 14 summarises the general facility requirements for hosting regional level events for outdoor sports considered as part of this project and benchmarks these facility requirements with the current level of provision in Horsham. The analysis shows that there are currently no sporting facilities in Horsham that align to the general facility requirements for regional sporting facilities.

**TABLE 14** REGIONAL OUTDOOR SPORT REQUIREMENTS

Sport	Requirement for Regional Events Facility	Provision at Single Facility Most Aligned to Regional Facility	Facilities Aligned to Regional Requirements	Reason for non-alignment to regional level sporting facilities.
AFL <sup>3</sup>	Field Size (between 135-185m in length and between 110-155m in width) (min. 4 metres runoff, 5m preferable) Player Toilet/Showers – X2 at 25m2 (cubicle showers to improve flexibility for mixed gender use. Urinals should be replaced by an additional toilet pan or be appropriately screened) Change Rooms – X2 at 55m2 to 75m2. External Covered Viewing Area – 75m2 Kitchen Kiosk – 30m2 Office/Administration – 20m2 Public Toilets – Male / Female (15m2 each) + Disabled Toilet (5m2) Storage – 20m2+ (internal and external) Social/Community Room – 150m2 Umpires Rooms (incl. showers and toilet) – 30-40m2	City Oval 1 field	No	Short boundary too short (inadequate area for runoff + min. field width requirement – City Oval approx. 171m X 110m fence to fence). Inadequate external covered viewing area (excludes Grandstand) Club/social rooms not universally accessible. Need for compliant interchange area, umpires box, accessible toilets, all gender facilities. Community accessible spaces.
CRICKET <sup>4</sup>	Fields orientated in a north-south direction Playing field dimensions of 65-75m from centre of pitch being used. Appropriate support amenities and infrastructure.	City Oval 1 field	No	Inadequate north-south boundary length (approx. 55m from centre of pitch to rope)
SOCCER <sup>5</sup>	Field with dimensions of 105mX68m (+3m buffer zones) Appropriate support amenities and infrastructure.	Horsham Racecourse Reserve 1 field (not currently utilised)	No	Access arrangements to field (over a racecourse)

<sup>3</sup> Facility requirements sourced from AFL, Preferred Facility Guidelines for State, Regional and Local Facilities, 2012

<sup>4</sup> Facility requirements sourced from Cricket Victoria, Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2028

<sup>5</sup> Facility requirements sourced from Football Victoria, Facility Guides

				Supporting infrastructure and amenities
<b>TENNIS<sup>6</sup></b>	X16 hard courts Appropriate provision of support amenities and infrastructure.	Haven (X12 Hard Courts) & Wimmera Lawn Tennis (X24 courts, however, X16 Grass Courts maintained)	No	Lack of appropriate number / type of courts Lack of appropriate support facilities and infrastructure (i.e. clubrooms / pavilion, carparking).
<b>RUGBY<sup>7</sup></b>	Lighting – 50 Lux (training), 150 Lux (competition) Changing rooms – 45m2 X 2 Showers – 15m2 X 2 Toilets – 10m2 X 2 Referees Room – 15m2 Scorer and Timekeeper Box – 15m2 Kitchen and Kiosk – 30m2 Social/Community Room – 125m2 Admin Area – 15m2 Accessible Public Toilets – 35m2 Storage and other areas.	Horsham Racecourse Reserve 1 field	No	Lack of appropriate infrastructure and amenities (clubroom/pavilion).
<b>HOCKEY<sup>8</sup></b>	Hybrid synthetic field (capacity for some use by other sports) Lighting 250 Lux Player change rooms, team benches Viewing areas, scoreboard, parking	None (college oval used for training only)	No	No hockey pitch in Horsham.
<b>NETBALL<sup>9</sup></b>	Minimum 8 courts Recommended 300 Lux for indoor courts, (500 Lux for competition), 100 Lux for outdoor training and 200 Lux for outdoor competitions.	Horsham City Netball 7 courts (5 asphalt / 2 hard court netball/tennis)	No	Insufficient courts Do not meet compliance standards (e.g. court runoff areas, court surface, lighting). Lack of supporting infrastructure and amenity (spectator facilities, club rooms).
<b>LAWN BOWLS</b>	3-4 greens <sup>10</sup> Support amenities and infrastructure	Sunnyside Bowls Club (4 greens – 3 being used) Horsham City Bowling Club (4 greens)	No	Support Facilities Car Parking

<sup>6</sup> Facility requirements sourced from Tennis Australia, Tennis 2020 Facility Development and Management Framework for Australian Tennis, 2012

<sup>7</sup> Facility requirements sourced from NRL, Preferred Facility Guidelines for Grassroots Rugby League, 2014

<sup>8</sup> Facility requirements sourced from Hockey Victoria, Strategic Facilities Master Plan, 2015

<sup>9</sup> Facility requirements sourced from Netball Victoria Statewide Facilities Strategy 2015

<sup>10</sup> Based on facilities that have hosted regional events including Moama Bowls Club (4 greens) and Murray Downs Golf and Country Club (3 greens)



LITTLE ATHLETICS	Regional Track and Field championships generally held on 8 lane synthetic tracks, with event facilities for discuss, long and triple jump. <sup>11</sup> Support amenities and infrastructure	Dudley Cornell Reserve	No	Current oval is not larger enough to fit an 8 lane running track.
------------------	--	------------------------	----	---

## 5.4. KEY FINDINGS

The following key findings are based on assessment of existing facilities in central Horsham:

- Generally, there appears to be a good provision of outdoor sporting facilities across Horsham (this is further investigated as part of the demand assessment for each sport), however, there are extensive issues with the quality of facilities.
- Generally, there are issues with the quality of facilities to service club needs and that meet modern day design standards. This includes the quality and design standards of club rooms/pavilions and support infrastructure such as lighting and car parking.
- City Oval is considered the premier facility in Horsham for cricket and football. Although this facility is well presented and maintained, its infrastructure is ageing and is insufficient to cater to large scale events. The pavilion and grandstand are not universally accessible. Further, there are issues with the size and orientation of the field, which hinders capacity to host major events.
- There is very limited consolidation of sporting infrastructure and co-location of infrastructure that can cater to multiple sports and users.
- The Coughlin Park pavilion provides a good examples of a recent multipurpose community sporting pavilion.
- The netball courts at the racecourse reserve are asphalt and are non-compliant courts, including court runoff areas. This is the largest netball facility in Horsham.
- The middle of the racecourse reserve is utilised for rugby and is the designated area for soccer (however, soccer still remains at Dudley Cornell Reserve). There are access issues with this location having to cross the race track to access the fields. There is also very limited support infrastructure (pavilion/clubrooms with view of the fields, lighting).
- Dudley Cornell and the oval at the Community College complex are highly utilised facilities and do not have further capacity.
- There are currently no facilities that meet regional facility requirements for AFL, Cricket, Soccer, Tennis, Rugby, Hockey or Netball.

<sup>11</sup> Based on facilities that have hosted regional events including in Warrnambool and Berwick

## 6. AFL

### 6.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

The following provides a review of key literature relevant to the provision of AFL fields and facilities, including review of sporting associations key strategic plans.

#### GROWING THE HEARTLAND: FOOTBALL FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (2017-2022)

The report notes the following key findings in relation to existing football facilities across the state:

- 93% of grounds are shared with cricket;
- 55% of venues do not have female friendly umpire change facilities;
- 79% of venues do not have female friendly player change facilities;
- 61% of LGAs rated player change rooms particularly catering for women as the key football facility issue in their municipality followed by oval surface issues and training lights;
- 39% of lit grounds in country areas do not meet minimum training standards (50 lux).

LGA identified facility challenges and opportunities in Country areas include:

- 46% of country LGAs would consider synthetic football / cricket grounds;
- 56% of country LGAs indicated that accessing school grounds would help deal with the demand for football grounds.

Key influences of facility provision:

- **Two oval or multi-use sites** – Natural turf can sustain a finite number of hours before starting to deteriorate. Turf experts advise that this is around 20-25 hours

per week. Two oval (or multi oval) sites are being developed to support more viable and sustainable clubs. Two oval sites provide the ability for a club to grow and spread the usage across two grounds. A single pavilion is also able to be developed which supports two ovals.

- **Ground Surfaces and Synthetic Surface Use** – AFL Victoria is promoting the use of approved synthetic grass surfaces (in appropriate locations and settings) to assist in managing use and ground capacity, and in reducing the reliance on water and irrigation to maintain surfaces to optimum playing condition.
- **Ground lighting** – Regional facility planning has highlighted the need to meet minimum lighting standards to maximise ground use opportunities and better cater for participation growth and support more flexible game scheduling and competition structures. AFL Victoria will advocate for minimum 50 lux lighting for training and 150+ lux lighting for match conditions at strategically located community football venues across the state.
- **Facility Hierarchy** – The strategy notes the following hierarchy in relation to AFL facilities:

Facility Hierarchy level	State	Regional	Local
<b>Principle purpose of provision</b>	Primarily to service VFL clubs.	Each league (Metropolitan and Country) requires access to at least one region venue per division.	Local level programs and competitions.
<b>Core football uses</b>	VFL and TAC Cup. Community league finals. Football events and carnivals.	Talent squad training. Home and Away matches and club training.	Home and Away matches. Club training.

		Community league finals.	
<b>Description</b>	Applies to the second highest level of competition below the AFL competition (VFL and TAC cup). Generally service entire municipal catchments and beyond. Usually nominated facilities for competition finals.	Service a collection of suburbs or geographic areas within a municipality (or across municipal borders) and usually cater for more than one code or activity. Regional venues should have perimeter fencing, capacity to host competition finals and surface equality maintained to a high standard.	Designed to cater to local level competition, including junior competition within individual suburbs, townships and municipalities. Venues are usually the 'home' of one seasonal club. Facilities and playing surfaces are provided to home and away competition standard.

The strategic priorities are identified as follows:

1. Increase the quality / functionality and maximise the carrying capacity of existing facilities;
2. Plan and develop new facilities in key growth areas across the state;
3. Capitalise on opportunities to create administration centres/regional hubs, provide venue for talent pathway programs and competitions and protect landmark sites in key locations;
4. Ensure facilities are catering for the diversity of participants, particularly female participants;
5. Continue to enhance the relationship with Government (particularly local Government) in the planning and provision of facilities.

## 6.2. PARTICIPATION

Consultation provided a number of insights on AFL participation within Horsham Rural City, including:

- There are approximately 20 clubs across the Wimmera Mallee region;
- Approximately 5,000 members (including males and females);
- Over 50% of membership comes from Horsham.
- Generally, membership is sustained. However, slight drop off at 15-16 years of age (this is generally an issue around the state);
- There are approximately 800 children that participate in AusKick across the region.
- There has been growth in female participation in recent years.
- Clubs recruit from outside the region for senior levels.

## 6.3. FACILITIES

### EXISTING FACILITIES

There are 12 fields in Horsham used for AFL (training and games). Key facilities in central Horsham include City Oval, Coughlin Park and Community Oval (training only).

There are another 9 facilities in the rural areas of Horsham used for AFL.

The majority of facilities in Horsham could generally be classified as 'local' level facilities, with the potential exception of City Oval. That being said, the facilities at City Oval are not commensurate with modern day regional facilities.

**TABLE 15** AFL FIELDS

	Central Horsham	Rural Horsham	Total
Number of Fields Used for AFL	3	9	12

A map of existing and planned facilities within Horsham Rural City is shown on the following page.

### PLANNED FACILITIES

There are currently no new AFL fields planned for the City of Horsham.

**FIGURE 7** AFL FACILITIES



## AFL Facilities

Map Key	Facility
A	City Oval
B	Horsham Community Oval and Pavilion
C	Coughlin Park Sports Complex
D	Laharum Recreation Reserve
E	Natimuk Showground Recreation Reserve
F	Quantong Recreation Reserve
G	Kalkee Recreation Reserve
H	Taylors Lake Recreation Reserve
I	Pimpinio Recreation Reserve
J	Clear Lake Recreation Reserve
K	Noradjuha Recreation Reserve
L	Toolondo Recreation Reserve

Horsham Sporting Facilities Demand Study | 2019  
Horsham Rural City Council

## FACILITY PROVISION RATIOS

When planning for the provision of community infrastructure in Melbourne’s growth areas, provision ratios are often used to determine the number of fields required in the catchment. Previous research has shown that the provision rate for AFL fields can range from around 1 field to every 5,500 residents to 8,500 residents, depending on the location.

The current provision ratio (2016) of AFL fields to population in Horsham is as follows:

- Horsham Town: 1 field to every 4,152 people;
- Horsham Rural: 1 field to every 469 people;
- Horsham Rural City: 1 field to every 1,808 people.

The rate of provision of fields to rural populations is clearly very high relative to typical provision, however, this is likely to be the case given local communities are typically supported by local recreation facilities. Typical facility provision to population is therefore not an appropriate benchmark for Horsham’s rural areas.

The provision ratio for the ‘Horsham Town’ area is similar to that of benchmarking ratios.

Given the higher historic provision of AFL fields in Horsham, relative to growth areas provision, adopting a provision ratio of 1 field for every 5,000 residents for the ‘Horsham Town’ area, is therefore likely appropriate for the purposes of this analysis.

Based on this provision ratio, the expected number of AFL fields required within the Horsham Town area by 2033 is 3.8 fields, as shown in Table 16, this suggests that there may be adequate provision of AFL fields when College Community Oval is considered. However, as College Community Oval is currently only utilised for training purposes, this may suggest a potential undersupply of fields by 0.8 for matches by 2033.

**TABLE 16** AFL PROVISION RATIO PROJECTION

	Population (Horsham Town)	Required Fields (Ratio 1:5,000)
<b>Current Supply</b>		4*
<b>2016</b>	16,606	3.3
<b>2033</b>	19,069	3.8
<b>Additional Fields Required by 2033</b>		<b>-0.2 / +0.8 (match fields)</b>

\*Includes Community College Oval, which is used for training purposes only.

In areas where rural populations continue to decline, the viability of supporting clubs may also decrease. This may provide future opportunity for potential consolidation of teams and which could lead to an increased demand for facilities to be provided within the ‘Horsham Town’ area.

## CONSULTATION

Consultation in regard to AFL facilities revealed the following key findings:

- **General:**
  - Increasing costs of irrigation can be restrictive for clubs;
  - There are generally a lack of female changerooms;
  - There is a push toward the use of synthetic surfaces;
  - Horsham don’t currently have a smaller ground that caters to younger leagues (under 10s);
  - Mars stadium in Ballarat may be soaking up demand for a large scale premier AFL facility in the western region.
- **City Oval:**
  - Limited access to the oval.
  - The facilities including clubrooms, canteen require upgrading.



- The grandstand has issues with orientation, accessibility and seating materials.
- Only one netball court, which is insufficient. Require an additional court.
- Five cricket pitches on the field makes for a hard centre square.
- Facility hosted a Western Bulldogs community camp in the past. However, City Oval is limited in the events it can hold because the facilities are not up to standard.
- Parking is an issue on major event days (district grand final).
- Needs universally accessible toilets.
- **Community oval:**
  - Currently used for training only.
  - The facility has good lighting and the clubrooms are adequate.
  - Capacity issues, with limitations on availability, however the facility can have shared usage.
- **Coughlin Park:**
  - Only facility that has female change rooms.
  - New clubroom and pavilion.
- **Facility Needs:**
  - There may be need for another facility in central Horsham to cater to potential future opportunities. This could include consideration of utilisation of existing venues (not currently used for AFL) or new facilities.
  - A new regional scale facility in a central location would provide opportunity to host higher level events.
  - There is a need for facilities to cater to female players, including through provision of female friendly changerooms.
  - There is a move toward synthetic playing surfaces. There are examples of these facilities in metropolitan areas that are used for multiple sports, including soccer, hockey and athletics.

## KEY RESULTS FROM ONLINE SURVEY

There were 2 relevant responses to the online survey that related to football. Please note, one respondent includes netball results, due to being a football and netball club. The following summarises the key findings:

- **Membership Expectations** – one respondent expects membership to increase and one respondent expected membership to stay the same of the next 5 years.
- **Member Gender** – Approximately 50% of members are male and 50% female.
- **Member Age** – On average, 22% of members were aged between 0-14 years, 61% between 15-29 years, 12% between 30-44 years and 5% between 45-59 years.
- **Seasonality** – The most common months where football facilities were used included January to September.
- **Constraints to Hosting Regional Events** – constraints to hosting regional events identified include lack of sufficient facilities and size of facilities.
- **Quality of facilities** – One respondent rates facilities as ‘poor’ standard and one respondent rated facilities as ‘good’ standard.
- **Improvements** – areas where facilities could be improved identified by respondents include:
  - Female change rooms;
  - Improvements to facilities to attract regional events.
- **Facility Requirements** – both respondents expected there would be a need for expanded or additional facilities in the next 5 years.
- **Priority areas** identified by respondents include:
  - Facilities to host premier events;
  - Female change rooms;
  - Parking.



## 6.4. AFL KEY FINDINGS

### PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP

- Football is one of the largest sports in terms of participation in Horsham and across the Wimmera region.
- Membership has generally been steady in the region but there is a slight drop off in participation aged 15-16 years.

### FACILITIES

- Three facilities are currently utilised for AFL purposes in the central Horsham, including City Oval, Community Oval (training) and Coughlin Park.
- The rural areas of Horsham are well supplied in the provision of fields.
- A number of factors suggest there may be demand for an additional AFL field in central Horsham, including:
  - Existing facilities in central Horsham are highly utilised facilities, with little existing capacity for expansion of training or matches.
  - Access to City Oval is currently limited for training and matches.
  - As rural populations decline, the viability of supporting AFL teams in these areas may reduce, leading to consolidation and increased demand for facilities to be provided within central Horsham.
  - Consultation has identified the anecdotal need for an additional facility for AFL needs in the short to medium term.
  - Scheduling conflicts, particularly in accessing grounds for pre-season training.
  - Based on population provision there is likely to be demand for an additional 0.8 AFL fields by 2033.
- New AFL fields in rural areas are unlikely to be required. Facility upgrades in rural areas should be assessed and undertaken on an as needs basis. There may also be future opportunities for consolidation of facilities in rural areas to

enable the delivery and maintenance of higher quality facilities as opposed to a higher quantity of facilities.

## 7. CRICKET

### 7.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

The following provides a review of key literature relevant to the provision of AFL fields and facilities, including review of sporting associations key strategic plans.

#### VICTORIAN CRICKET INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY 2018-2028

The Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Strategy provides a detailed assessment of the Victorian cricket facility landscape and identified future venue planning and development priorities for the period 2018 to 2028.

Horsham is located within the 'Western Country' region, which comprises the municipalities of Buloke Shire, Corangamite Shire, Glenelg Shire, Hindmarsh Shire, Horsham Rural City Council, Moyne Shire, Southern Grampians Shire, Warrnambool City Council, West Wimmera Shire, Yarriambiack Shire.

#### Participation

In 2016/17 there were a total of 4,713 members/participants in 'Western Country'. Across the region there was a decline of 2 members since 2014/15.

#### Facility Provision

The report identified an average provision of cricket grounds across the state of 1:2,603 people in 2016, this was 1:3,345 in metropolitan Melbourne and 1:1,860 in country Victoria.

In Western Country the provision was 1:1,127 people.

#### Facility Challenges

The Strategy identifies a number of state-wide facility challenges, including:

- Flexible use and capacity of cricket grounds, including to accommodate non-traditional forms (i.e. T20);
- Female friendly and inclusive facility design;
- Training net design, condition and renewal;
- Programming in synthetic pitch upgrade and renewal into capital works planning;
- Widening and lengthening of synthetic pitches to meet Cricket Victoria's guidelines.
- Approach to turf or synthetic pitches;
- Increasing overlap of winter and summer sporting codes;
- Matching facilities with club needs.

Specific challenges faced by country Victoria, include:

- On an off-field facility and supporting infrastructure quality and condition;
- Travel time and facility location;
- Population and participation challenges;
- Limited regional level indoor facilities in Country Victoria;
- Higher provision of turf wickets and sustainability of turf wickets by location.

The Strategy notes that the Western Country Region is one of the more established and stable regions across the State. The region has a population penetration rate almost double that of Cricket Victoria's country region average (3.19% compared to 1.88%) and the second highest female participant base across the State, including Metro Regions (333 total).

Cricket Participation is highest in the Warrnambool District (1,149 players) and Hamilton District (811 players).

The report notes that short-medium term facility planning and development priorities (subject to local demand pressures) should be concentrated on improving the condition and carrying capacity of existing cricket venues (e.g. female friendly facilities, umpire change rooms, supporting amenities and improved pavilion condition).

The key strategic priorities for the Western Country District include:

1. Deliver and activate a regional level cricket and community centre;
2. Increase provision of inclusive facilities with a focus on female friendly design;
3. Improve condition of umpire change rooms facilities and supporting amenities;
4. Improve condition of synthetic training net practice facilities;
5. Increase support and education in playing field surface management;
6. Prioritise infrastructure development and renewal alignment with population change.

The Strategy also notes a facility hierarchy. This is summarised below:

- **First Class** – Examples include the MCG, Etihad Stadium etc. Facilities include multiple turf wickets, indoor and outdoor training, player change rooms, official's change rooms, media and administration, spectator accommodation, VIP accommodation, medical amenities, match day amenities
- **Regional Cricket and Community Centre** – Examples include Western Country (Hamilton), North East Country (Wodonga). Facilities include minimum one ground (preferably two), indoor and outdoor training, turf and synthetic training, player change rooms, official's change rooms, viewing vantage points, dedicated car parking, on - site administration, clubrooms with social area, first aid and medical, temporary event capacity, access to fitness, aquatic and education facilities
- **Premier / Regional** - 43 venues identified as being used for Premier Cricket in Melbourne and in Geelong and Frankston (Country Regions). Facilities typically include multiple turf wickets, turf and synthetic training, player change rooms,

official's change rooms, first aid and medical, clubrooms with social area, viewing vantage points, dedicated car parking, match day amenities.

- **Local Club** – Facilities typically include turf or synthetic pitch, minimum one ground (preferably two), synthetic training nets, clubrooms with social area, player change rooms, umpire change rooms, shade for spectators, dedicated car parking.
- **Satellite** – Facilities typically include turf or synthetic pitch, minimum one ground, access to toilets/water, access to shaded area.

## 7.2. PARTICIPATION

Table 17 shows cricket participation in the Western Country District by demographic characteristics. There was strong growth in female participation between 2014/15 and 2016/17, with an increase of 109 players. Other areas which had the highest growth included juniors (12-17 years / +34) and seniors (18+ years / +27).

**TABLE 17** PARTICIPATION IN WESTERN COUNTRY DISTRICT

Participation Type	2014/15	2016/17	+ / -	% +/-
<b>Total</b>	4,715	4,713	-2	0.04%
<b>Introductory (2-11 years)</b>	267	273	6	2.3%
<b>Junior (12-17 years)</b>	1,338	1,372	34	2.5%
<b>Senior (18+ years)</b>	3,093	3,066	27	-0.9%
<b>Females</b>	224	333	109	48.7%
<b>Female Participation Rate</b>	4.8%	7.1%	2.3%	48.7%
<b>% overall state participation</b>	5.56%	5.40%	-0.2%	-2.9%

Source: Cricket Victoria, Victoria Cricket Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2028

Consultation provided a number of insights on participation within Horsham Rural City, including:

- Junior cricket participation is growing. Saturday morning cricket is nearing facility capacity.
- There is growth in social cricket, including T20 matches. These short forms of the game can be played after work on non-traditional cricket days (Saturday and Sunday).
- Senior cricket participation has plateaued but generally remains steady.
- There have been some regional consolidations of teams in the past.

### 7.3. FACILITIES

#### EXISTING FACILITIES

15 cricket fields were identified in Horsham Rural City, comprising 6 in central Horsham and 9 in the rural areas of Horsham.

Cricket fields within central Horsham include City Oval (1), Sunnyside Sports Complex (1), Horsham Community Oval (1), Dudley Cornell (2) and Coughlin Park (1).

It should be noted that this audit includes the second oval at Dudley Cornell. Although technically classified as a cricket field, the oval has limited access to irrigation and due to its size is not appropriate for many matches.

The audit also excludes school facilities. However, there is a cricket wicket located at Haven Primary School and Horsham College.

All cricket facilities could generally be classified as either 'Local Club' or 'Satellite' fields based on the facility hierarchy published in the *Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2028*.

**TABLE 18** CRICKET FIELDS

	Central Horsham	Rural Horsham	Total
<b>Number of Cricket Fields</b>	6	9	15

A map of existing facilities within the Horsham Rural City is shown in the following page.

#### PLANNED FACILITIES

There are not currently no new cricket fields planned for the City of Horsham.

Although not located in Horsham Rural City Council, the proposed Western Country Regional Cricket Hub, an elite cricket training facility, will be built at Monivae College in Hamilton Victoria.

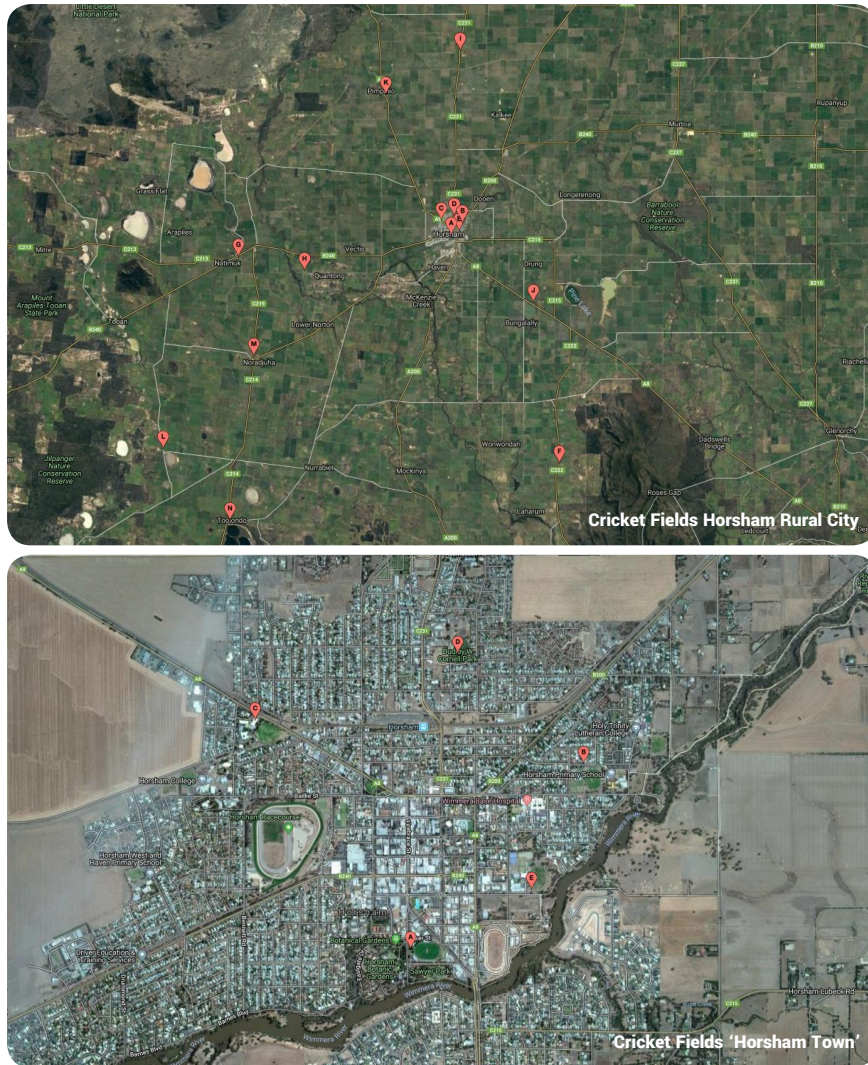
The Regional Cricket Hub will create a new indoor and outdoor cricket facility. It will feature a main pavilion with scorers' box, indoor training centre with a minimum of four pitches, sports science technology and office accommodation for Cricket Victoria representatives. New unisex change-rooms and umpire rooms, public toilets and spectator seating, will also be built. Outdoors, there will be irrigated ovals, new training nets, and 8-10 fully enclosed turf practice and hard wickets.<sup>12</sup>

The total project cost is estimated to be \$1.789 million. This facility responds to the strategic priority for Western Country for the establishment of a regional level cricket facility and community centre.

<sup>12</sup> Southern Grampians Shire



**FIGURE 8** CRICKET FACILITIES



### Cricket Fields Facilities

Map Key	Facility	No. Fields
A	City Oval	1
B	Sunnyside Sports Complex	1
C	Horsham Community Oval and Pavilion	1
D	Dudley Cornell Complex	2
E	Coughlin Park Sports Complex	1
F	Laharum Recreation Reserve	1
G	Natimuk Showground Recreation Reserve	1
H	Quantong Recreation Reserve	1
I	Kalkee Recreation Reserve	1
J	Taylor's Lake Recreation Reserve	1
K	Pimpinio Recreation Reserve	1
L	Clear Lake Recreation Reserve	1
M	Noradjuha Recreation Reserve	1
N	Toolondo Recreation Reserve	1
Total	14	15

Horsham Sporting Facilities Demand Study | 2019  
Horsham Rural City Council

## FACILITY PROVISION RATIOS

The current provision ratio (based on 2016 population figures) of cricket fields to population in Horsham is as follows:

- Horsham Town: 1 field to every 2,768 people;
- Horsham Rural: 1 field to every 365 people;
- Horsham Rural City: 1 field to every 1,326 people.

If the second field at Dudley Cornell is removed from the analysis, the provision ratio in central Horsham increases to 1: 3,321.

Previous research and planning for community infrastructure in Melbourne’s growth areas has shown that cricket fields are typically provided at a rate of between 1 field to every 4,000 to 6,000 people. As was noted in the Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Strategy, the Western Country District has a high provision of cricket fields and that the focus should be on improving existing facilities.

Like AFL fields, the provision of cricket fields is high in rural communities.

Given the historically high provision of cricket fields in the region, it is recommended a facility provision ratio of 1 field to every 3,500 residents be adopted for the purposes of this analysis.

Based on a population provision ratio analysis, the expected required number of cricket fields within central Horsham by 2033 is 6.4 fields, which suggests that there are unlikely to be any new cricket fields required in the short-medium term in central Horsham, however, that there is likely to be a growing need for additional fields in the longer term.

**TABLE 19** CRICKET PROVISION RATIO PROJECTION

	Population (Horsham Town)	Required Fields (Ratio 1:3,000)
<b>Current Supply</b>		6
<b>2016</b>	16,606	5.5
<b>2033</b>	19,069	6.4

<b>Additional Fields Required by 2033</b>	<b>0.4</b>
---	------------

## CONSULTATION

Consultation in regard to Cricket facilities in Horsham revealed the following key findings:

### General Comments:

- The Cricket Association doesn’t have a home for administration/meetings etc.

### Coughlin Park:

- Coughlin Park was formerly a hard wicket. This field has recently been converted to a turf wicket. This has led to the potential undersupply of one hard wicket in central Horsham.

### Dudley Cornell:

- Has two fields, which works well as it allows for two games to be played at once, however, the second field is undersized.
- The facility works well from a local standards view.
- Issues with access to water on the second oval, due to decision to prioritise irrigation of main oval.
- A master plan has been prepared but clarity is required in regard to the status of the master plan.

### City Oval:

- The oval has good lighting and can be used for night matches.
- Access to the facility can be an issue, particularly due to scheduling of winter and summer sports.
- The size and orientation of City Oval is an issue, particularly due to the short boundary.

- Cricket can't access the upstairs club rooms of the pavilion. There is also no disability access provided to the pavilion.
- The facility generally doesn't meet current day standards.
- The scoreboard is located in the wrong position for cricket games.
- There are currently 5 turf wickets at City Oval, three wickets are maintained to a high standard.
- Costs to utilise the facility increase each year and it can often be difficult to forward plan.

#### Sunnyside Sporting Complex:

- Issues with the drainage of the ground, particularly around the wicket, therefore there are some quality issues with the wicket. Anecdotally, this facility can host B-Grade matches but not A-Grade matches.
- Changerooms require upgrading.

#### School Facilities:

- There are wickets located at Horsham College and Haven. Horsham College has been used for under 12's cricket on Saturday mornings, however there is limited infrastructure to accommodate club matches.
- There is also a wicket at Haven Primary School. Haven is an active hub on Saturdays and could work well as a location for a cricket wicket and associated club.

#### Rural Facilities:

- Rural facilities have been utilised to assist with scheduling pressures.
- Quantong and Natimuk – watering over summer at these grounds is an issue. The cost of water can be cost prohibitive for cricket clubs. Quantong receives funding support for watering. Typically, there is only green grass around the centre square.

- There was previously a hard wicket located at Kalkee Recreation Reserve, however, this has been removed.

#### Events:

- Junior cricket week attracts between 7-8 teams to Horsham (approximately 100 cricketers). Have had issues in the recent past with accommodating cricketers due to lack of appropriate facilities, including accommodation. Anecdotally, these cricketers have stayed on site at Dudley Cornell in the past.

#### Other Facilities:

- An indoor training facility could be considered as part of a multi-use indoor facility.

#### Summary of Key Facility Needs:

- An additional 'hard' wicket field in the 'Horsham Town' area. This would assist with scheduling as well as promoting more social forms and shorter forms of the game.
- Clarity in regard to the Dudley Cornell Reserve Master Plan.
- Upgrade of turf wicket at Sunnyside Recreation Reserve.
- Clarity around the future of City Oval, particularly in regard to the orientation of the field, access to club rooms and boundary length.
- Multi-purpose indoor training facility attached to an outdoor cricket field.

#### KEY RESULTS FROM SURVEY

There was only one response to the online survey relevant to cricket in Horsham. Key findings include:

- **Membership Expectations** – membership is expected to increase;
- **Member Gender** – Approximately 89% of members are male and 11% are female.

- **Member Age** – 68% of members were reported to be between 0-14 years, followed by 9% between 15-29 years, 9% between 30-44 years, 10% between 45-59 years and 3% 60+ years.
- **Seasonality** – Facilities were reported as being utilised from September to April.
- **Quality of Facilities** – Facilities were identified as being of a poor standard.
- **Improvements** – clubrooms/changerooms were identified as needing improvement.
- **Accessibility** – some, but not all areas were identified as being universally accessible.
- **Facility requirements** – expanded or additional facilities were identified as being required.

## 7.4. CRICKET KEY FINDINGS

### PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP

- Participation has generally been steady, with growth in junior members and a plateauing of senior members. Increase in junior members is positive, with growth in young cricketers having the potential to translate to more senior members in years to come.
- Growth opportunities exist in short forms of the game/social cricket (i.e. Twenty 20 and 10 over cricket) as well as in female participation.

### FACILITIES

- There are currently 15 cricket fields in Horsham Rural City. Horsham is well supplied in the provision of cricket fields, which is consistent across the Western Country region. The rural areas of Horsham are well supplied in the provision of fields based on population, which is generally expected of smaller towns.

- There may be demand for an additional hard wicket in central Horsham based on anecdotal demand.
- Based on population provision rates, there may be demand for an additional 0.4 cricket fields in central Horsham by 2033.
- Generally, existing cricket facilities in central Horsham are at capacity. This has led to the use of Community College and Haven and rural facilities to assist with scheduling.
- As rural populations decline, the viability of supporting cricket teams in rural areas may reduce, leading to consolidation and increased demand for facilities to be provided within central Horsham.
- There are issues with existing facilities including the number of hard wickets, quality of some turf wickets, size and orientation of grounds (City Oval / second oval at Dudley Cornell), access to water, ground/wicket drainage, quality of clubrooms and facilities including female change rooms, access to facilities and scheduling conflicts between winter and summer sports.
- There may be opportunities for increased participation in shorter forms of the game, however, appropriate facilities would be required.
- There are no cricket grounds in Horsham that are appropriate for hosting regional events.
- New cricket fields in rural areas are unlikely to be required. Facility upgrades in rural areas should be assessed and undertaken on an as needs basis. There may be opportunity for consolidation of facilities in rural areas to enable the delivery and maintenance of higher quality facilities.



## 8. FOOTBALL (SOCCER)

### 8.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

#### FOOTBALL FEDERATION VICTORIA STATE FOOTBALL FACILITIES STRATEGY TO 2026

The State Football Facilities Strategy was prepared by @Leisure planners. The Strategy projects the required number of pitches by Local Government Area to 2026 based on current participation and current facilities.

Horsham was projected to not require any additional pitches by 2026 based on current provision and projected demand from FFV registered players.

Importantly, the report notes that the FFV will focus on activating football in LGAs where there are currently no pitches for football (Ararat, Hindmarsh, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack), which have been projected to each require 1 pitch by 2026.

This projection relates to grass pitches only, where as an artificial pitch will have the carrying capacity of two grass pitches.

The current limited supply of pitches in adjoining municipalities to Horsham may mean that Horsham is currently servicing a larger catchment than its own LGA through the provision of soccer pitches. This is particularly relevant for adjoining municipalities including West Wimmera, Hindmarsh, Yarriambiack and Northern Grampians.

The Strategy includes a number of overall goals, these include:

1. More Pitches:
  - Provide new venues and additional pitches
  - Target growth areas
  - Develop additional pitches at existing venues
  - Investigate infill sites and Parks Victoria land
  - Target new schools and community access to existing schools
  - Provide at least one pitch in every local government area
  - Be innovative where pitches are provided.
2. Increase the carrying capacity of pitches:
  - Provide lights on all new pitches and upgrade existing standards
  - Increase the proportion of artificial surfaces
  - Better drainage/turf quality
  - Increase intensity of management
  - Improve club and facility management
3. Venues and pitches suitable for all levels and forms of the game"
  - More and better quality regional venues
  - Provide female friendly/gender neutral and accessible facilities
  - Retrofit venues to be inclusive accessible and code compliant
  - Increase the number of competition compliant pitches

The report also notes a number of priorities by region. Horsham is not specifically mentioned in relation to priorities for the Grampians Region.

## 8.2. PARTICIPATION

The Horsham and District Soccer Club recorded 90 members in 2018. The Horsham and District Soccer Club participate in the Ballarat and District Soccer Association. Soccer is a grass roots and emerging sport in Horsham and the region.

## 8.3. FACILITIES

### EXISTING FACILITIES

There are currently no formalised or permanent rectangular soccer fields in Horsham. A grant was received by Sport and Recreation Victoria for a soccer pitch to be set up at the Racecourse Reserve. Although the Racecourse Reserve has been utilised for pre-season training, it is not used for matches.

Dudley Cornell Reserve is currently the primary venue used for soccer, with training two nights a week and games on the weekend.

As the Racecourse Reserve is currently the only venue in Horsham capable of accommodating a full-sized soccer pitch, this is considered the only pitch in Horsham.

**TABLE 20** SOCCER PITCHES

	Central Horsham	Horsham Rural	Total
<b>Number of Soccer Pitches</b>	1*	0	1

\*Horsham Racecourse (not currently utilised but only current location capable of accommodating a full sized pitch).

A map of existing and planned facilities is shown on the following page.

Other facilities/clubs in the region include"

- Stawell Soccer Club (created in 2018) and participate in the South West Victorian Football Association league which competes in Warrnambool and

Corangamite. The club utilises the middle of the athletics track at North Park in Stawell.

### PLANNED FACILITIES

There are currently no new soccer facilities planned in Horsham Rural City.

### FACILITY PROVISION RATIOS

The current provision ratio (based on 2016 population figures) of soccer pitches to population in Horsham is as follows:

- Horsham Town: 1 field to every 16,606 people;
- Horsham Rural: 0 field to every 3,281
- Horsham Rural City: 1 field to every 19,887 people.

Previous research and planning for community infrastructure in Melbourne's growth areas has shown that grass soccer pitches are typically provided at a rate of between 1 field to every 4,000 to 8,000 people (depending on the location) and around 1 synthetic field to every 12,000-15,000 people. As was previously noted, synthetic fields have the carrying capacity of two grass pitches.

Adopting a facility provision ratio of 1 pitch to every 8,000 residents would be a typically low provision rate for the provision of soccer pitches (particularly in metropolitan areas). If this rate were adopted, approximately 2 pitches would currently be required, which would be capable of accommodating population growth to 2033. However, given the historically low provision of soccer pitches in Horsham and the fact that soccer is a small and developing sport in Horsham, this provision rate is likely on the high end. It is likely that currently, 1 full sized soccer pitch would meet local demand for soccer in Horsham with opportunity to grow to 2 pitches in the longer term (alternatively one synthetic pitch would have the carrying capacity of 2 pitches).

**TABLE 21** SOCCER PROJECTED NUMBER OF PITCHES

	Population (Horsham Town)	Required Pitches (Ratio 1:8,000)
Current Supply		1
2016	16,606	2.1
2033	19,069	2.4
Additional Required Fields by 2033		1.4

**FIGURE 9** SOCCER FACILITIES



### Soccer Pitches

Map Key	Facility	No. Fields
A	Dudley Cornell Complex	1*
B	Horsham Racecourse	1**

\*Utilise a cricket/football field. Pitch is not full size.  
 \*\*Set up for a soccer pitch but currently not utilised.

Horsham Sporting Facilities Demand Study | 2019  
 Horsham Rural City Council



## CONSULTATION

- **General Comments**
  - Neither Dudley Cornell nor Racecourse Reserve are currently adequate to cater to the needs of soccer in Horsham.
- **Dudley Cornell**
  - Poor quality surface;
  - Poor surface drainage;
  - Boundaries are not compliant;
  - Not big enough for a full-sized pitch within the current boundary fence.
  - Issues in presenting the sport in a professional manner due to the quality of the facilities.
  - Don't use the second oval at Dudley Cornell as it has limited access to water due to HRCC preference to irrigate main oval.
  - Quality of the storage has been an issue in the past. Storage is not always waterproof and sometimes the equipment is mouldy;
  - Change rooms are not up to standard. Privacy issues with the male changerooms; and
  - Limited areas for supporters.
- **Racecourse Reserve**
  - Access issues to the ground;
  - No lighting (soccer is a winter sport and requires lighting for training);
  - No fencing around the field so easy to lose balls off the field.
- **Opportunities**
  - Showgrounds may provide opportunity for a regional multi-purpose facility;
  - Two full sized pitches, to allow for future growth;
  - Need a short-term solution to ease the issues and a longer-term response;

- Rugby, soccer and hockey are generally compatible sports and could be co-located at a facility, if the right infrastructure and servicing was provided;
- A new greenfield facility, with multiple playing facilities are playing areas would be welcomed.

## KEY RESULTS FROM ONLINE SURVEY

There was one respondent to the online survey relevant to soccer. The following summarises the key findings:

- **Membership Expectations** – membership is expected to stay the same in the next 5 years.
- **Member Gender** – 85% of members are male and 15% are female.
- **Member Age** – 55% of members were reported to be aged between 0-14 years, 35% between 15-29 years, 5% between 30-44 years and 5% between 45-59 years.
- **Seasonality** – Facility usage from April to September (with pre-season and clinics in Jan-March).
- **Quality of Facilities** – Facilities were identified as being of a poor standard.
- **Improvements** – facility improvements identified include:
  - Social room upgrades including tv screens for presentations;
  - Storage areas;
  - Canteen.
- **Accessibility** – Facilities were identified as not being universally accessible.
- **Facility Requirements** – same as today (i.e. one pitch) but with improved quality of facilities.
- **Priorities** identified by soccer include:
  - A training ground available in the off season;
  - Lighting and spectator access;
  - Club room improvements.

## 8.4. SOCCER KEY FINDINGS

### PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP

- Soccer is a small yet developing sport in Horsham, with 90 members in 2018. Participation is expected to grow, as the sport becomes more established in the region.

### FACILITIES

- There are currently no formalised soccer pitches in Horsham and no locations with permanent soccer goals set up. The inside of the track at Horsham Racecourse Reserve is the current location capable of accommodating a full-sized soccer pitch, however, there are issues with this facility including access to the field (need to cross the race track), universal access, spectator areas, lighting and club/community pavilions.
- Dudley Cornell Reserve is currently being utilised for soccer purposes, however, there are also issues with this facility (not large enough for a full-sized pitch, changeroom facilities, storage, spectator/visitor areas). It is apparent that currently, neither the racecourse reserve nor Dudley Cornell are fully satisfying the needs of soccer in Horsham.
- From a population provision ratio, there would be a need for 1.6 soccer pitches in Horsham by 2033.
- The characteristics, qualities and infrastructure at current facilities (Dudley Cornell and the inside of the Horsham Racecourse) are not meeting the needs of soccer and are prohibitive to the development of the sport.
- At a minimum, one full-sized soccer pitch should be provided in Horsham, which meets the facility needs of Horsham District and Soccer Club.

- There is a need to ensure soccer facilities are multipurpose so that infrastructure use is maximised by catering to a number of sports.

## 9. TENNIS

### 9.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

#### TENNIS 2020: FACILITY DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR AUSTRALIAN TENNIS

Tennis Australia release the Tennis 2020: Facility Development and Management Framework for Australian Tennis in 2008 and updated in 2012. The Plan is driven by the needs of tennis providing a community health and wellbeing service, participation programs, elite player development and tour events.

The Plan includes an overview of the tennis facility hierarchy, this is shown in Table 21 below.

**TABLE 22** TENNIS FACILITIES HIERARCHY

Facility Hierarchy	Description
<b>National Tennis Centres (20 courts +)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inter/national tournaments and events</li> <li>• High performance training environment</li> <li>• Sustainable tennis development objectives</li> <li>• Sustainable economic development objectives</li> <li>• Showcase for tennis</li> </ul>
<b>Regional Tennis Centres (16 courts +)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National/state based tournaments</li> <li>• High performance training and talent feeder focus</li> <li>• Resource for smaller centres, clubs and associations</li> <li>• Economic driver</li> <li>• Grass roots development</li> <li>• Sustainable tennis development objectives</li> <li>• Community health and wellbeing objectives</li> </ul>

<b>Large Community Tennis Centres (Sub Regional) (12 Courts +)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intra/Inter club tournaments</li> <li>• High performance training feeder and focus</li> <li>• Resource for smaller centres, clubs and associations</li> <li>• Grass roots development</li> <li>• Sustainable tennis development objectives</li> <li>• Community health and wellbeing objectives</li> </ul>
<b>District Tennis Centres (8 Courts +)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interclub</li> <li>• Tournaments</li> <li>• High Performance</li> <li>• Training Feeder</li> <li>• Grass roots development</li> <li>• Sustainable tennis development objectives</li> <li>• Sustainable community health and development objectives</li> </ul>
<b>Local Tennis Centres (4 Courts +)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interclub tournaments</li> <li>• High performance training feeder</li> <li>• Grass roots development</li> <li>• Sustainable tennis development objectives</li> <li>• Sustainable community health and development objectives</li> </ul>
<b>Public Access Centres (1 Court +)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tennis engagement opportunities</li> <li>• Health and social objectives</li> <li>• Publicly accessible venues</li> <li>• Community development objectives</li> </ul>

Source: Tennis 2020 Facility Development and Management Framework for Australian Tennis

## 9.2. PARTICIPATION

- There are 13 clubs under the Central Wimmera Tennis Association.
- There are approximately 500 children registered with approximately 300 of these playing members and approximately 225 registered seniors.
- Senior membership has been stable for 2-3 years, was previously declining, however, some organisation changes meant membership stabilised.
- There has been growth in junior members, due to the 'Hot Shots' program.
- In the recent past there hasn't been a permanent tennis coach in Horsham, however, Tennis Victoria are now funding a permanent coach.

## 9.3. FACILITIES

### EXISTING FACILITIES

16 tennis facilities (locations) were identified in Horsham Rural City, equating to 83 courts. There are 5 tennis facilities in central Horsham, equating to 49 courts. There are 8 locations in the rural areas of Horsham, comprising 34 courts. The courts in rural areas service these outlying communities.

Tennis facilities in central Horsham include Sunnyside Sports Complex, Central Park Tennis (Horsham Racecourse), Horsham Lawn Tennis, Haven Recreation Reserve and Coughlin Park Sports Complex.

The audit also excludes school facilities.

Based on existing court provision, the largest facility in Horsham is the Lawn Tennis Club, with 24 courts, however, only 16 of these courts are maintained and used. This facility could be classified as a regional tennis centre (based on its court provision of 16+ courts), however, the facility is not comparable to a regional facility. Central Park Tennis and Haven Recreation Reserve both have 12 courts. These facilities likely fall under the category of local to district level facilities.

**TABLE 23** EXISTING TENNIS FACILITIES

	Horsham Town	Horsham Rural	Total
<b>Number of Tennis Facilities</b>	5	7	12
<b>Number of Tennis Courts</b>	49	31	80

Other facilities/courts identified in the Wimmera region include:

- Anzac Park Tennis Club – Warracknabeal (Yarriambiack Shire) – 9 hard courts;
- Brim Tennis Club – Brim (Yarriambiack Shire) – 3 outdoor hard courts;
- Nhill Local Tennis Club– Nhill (Hindmarsh Shire) – 12 outdoor hard courts;
- Stawell Tennis Club (Northern Grampians Shire) – 12 outdoor synthetic courts;
- Landsborough Tennis Club (Northern Grampians Shire) – 2 outdoor hard courts;
- Ararat City Tennis Club (Ararat Rural City) – 8 outdoor synthetic courts;
- Arkona Tennis Centre, Dimboola (Hindmarsh Shire) – 12 outdoor synthetic grass courts;
- Jeparit Tennis Club (Hindmarsh Shire) – 4 outdoor hard courts;
- St Arnaud Lawn Tennis Club (Northern Grampians Shire) – 17 outdoor grass courts / 2 outdoor synthetic courts.
- Marnoo (Northern Grampians Shire) – 3 outdoor hard courts;
- Charam Tennis Club (West Wimmera) – 3 outdoor hard courts;
- Crossroads Tennis Centre (West Wimmera) – 3 outdoor hard courts.
- Harrow Tennis Club (West Wimmera) – 3 outdoor hard courts.

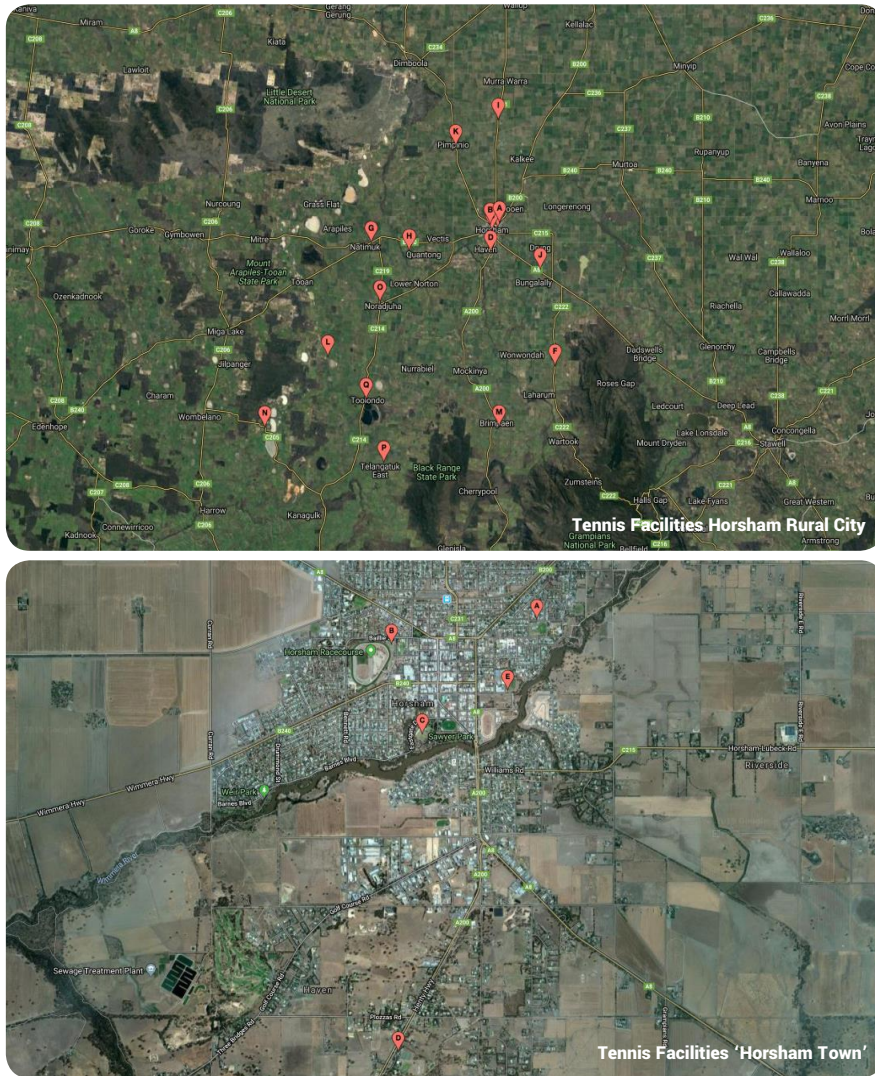
The largest facility in the region outside of Horsham is the St Arnaud Lawn Tennis Club, which has approximately 17 grass courts and 2 synthetic courts. This facility is similar to the Horsham Lawn Tennis Club.

### PLANNED FACILITIES

There are currently no new planned tennis facilities in Horsham Rural City.



**FIGURE 10** TENNIS COURTS



## Tennis Facilities

Map Key	Facility	No. Courts
A	Sunnyside Sports Complex	3
B	Central Park Tennis (Horsham Racecourse Reser ve)	12
C	Horsham Lawn Tennis	24*
D	Haven Recreation Reserve	12
E	Coughlin Park Sports Complex	6
F	Laharum Recreation Reser ve	4
G	Natimuk Showground Recreation Reser ve	6
H	Quantong Recreation Reser ve	4
I	Kalkee Recreation Reserve	2
J	Taylors Lake Recreation Reserve	6
K	Pimpinio Recreation Reser ve	3
L	Clear Lake Recreation Reserve	2
M	Brimpaen Recreation Reser ve	6
N	Douglas Tennis Courts	3
O	Noradjuha Recreation Reser ve	3
P	Telangatuk Recreation Reser ve	3
Q	Toolondo Recreation Reser ve	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>102</b>

\*Only 16 courts maintained and utilised.

Horsham Sporting Facilities Demand Study | 2019  
Horsham Rural City Council

## FACILITY PROVISION RATIOS

The current provision ratio (based on 2016 population figures) of tennis courts to population in Horsham is as follows:

- Horsham Town: 1 court to every 339 people;
- Horsham Rural: 1 court to every 106 people;
- Horsham Rural City: 1 court to every 249 people.

Previous research and planning for community infrastructure in Melbourne's growth areas has shown that tennis courts are typically provided at a range of between 1 court to every 2,500 to 4,000 people. One 24 court facility is typically provided per LGA. However, tennis court provision is generally higher in regional areas.

The current provision of courts in Horsham is significantly higher than existing benchmark ratios. If a rate of 1 court to 2,500 people were to be adopted, there would be a current theoretical significant oversupply of approximately 40 courts by 2033.

Tennis facilities are highly disbursed in Horsham. This may suggest there could be opportunity for the consolidation of tennis facilities to enable higher quality provision.

## CONSULTATION

Key points from consultation in regard to Tennis include:

- Each individual club has their own tennis facility, which generally meets the needs of each individual club.
- There are limited opportunities to bring large events to Horsham due to a lack of facilities with a critical mass of courts (i.e. 20+ courts).
- The Horsham Lawn Courts is the largest facility (total of 24 courts but only 16 courts maintained), however, this facility is generally not up to standard to host regional events, including due to the condition of the courts, lack of lighting and a road that runs between the clubrooms and courts.

- Central Park Tennis Club have two courts with lights, however, the lights are not 100 lux. Two courts under lights is insufficient to host regional events. The clubhouse is also not universally accessible. Central Park Tennis would like to deliver lighting for another two courts and shade structure on some courts and a verandah on the clubhouse. Courts 1 to 4 also require resurfacing.
- Haven is a large facility, providing 12 courts, however, none of the courts have lighting and the surface of two of the courts 'bubbles'. There are also no change rooms. The club use the hall, which has inaccessible club rooms and uncompliant toilets, no canteen or office space or storage and no facilities for larger social events. The courts are separated, allowing for spectator areas. There may also be opportunity to retrofit courts to allow for netball to utilise the courts.
- Horsham has hosted larger events in the past, however, they couldn't have all games in the one location.
- A large tennis facility could also be multipurpose and host netball events.
- Night tennis is an important consideration for ensuring ongoing participation, particularly in more social forms of the game, including week night participation.
- Tennis Victoria have an accommodation requirement of approximately 2,000 accommodation beds in the town, in order to service regional events.

## KEY RESULTS FROM ONLINE SURVEY

There were a total of 7 responses to the online survey that related to tennis. The following summarises the key findings:

- **Membership Expectations** - 38% of respondents expect membership will increase in the next 5 years, 25% expect membership will stay the same and 38% expect membership to decrease.
- **Member Gender** - Approximately 52% of members are female and 48% are male;

- **Member Age** – There was generally a reported even distribution of members across age groups including 0-14 years (34%), 15-29 years (19%), 30-44 years (18%), 45-59 years (25%) and 60+ years (5%).
- **Seasonality** – The most common months of the year where tennis facilities were utilised was from October to March.
- **Constraints to Hosting Regional Events** – constraints to hosting regional events identified by some survey respondents included a lack of appropriate quantity of courts at one facility, quality of courts and lighting.
- **Quality of facilities** – 3 respondents rated their facilities as either ‘poor’ or ‘very poor’ standard, 2 respondents rated their facilities as ‘adequate’ standard and 2 rated their facilities as either ‘good’ or ‘very good’ standard.
- **Improvements** – areas where facilities could be improved identified by respondents include:
  - No change rooms; uncompliant toilets; lack of amenities (canteen, office space);
  - Lack of areas for storage;
  - Need for new club rooms;
  - Lights;
  - Accessible facilities;
  - Resurfaced courts.
- **Accessibility** – 1 respondent listed their facilities as being universally accessible, while 6 respondents listed either ‘none’ or ‘only some’ of their facilities as being universally accessible.
- **Facility Requirements** – 4 respondents expected their facility requirements would be the same in the 5 years’ time, 2 respondents expected their facilities would require facility upgrades and one expected there to be a need for expanded facilities.
- **Priorities** identified by respondents include:
  - Facility light upgrades;

- Multi-purpose courts;
- Multi-purpose community pavilions/clubrooms;
- Improved courts;
- Car parking upgrades.

## 9.4. TENNIS KEY FINDINGS

### PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP

- Tennis membership across the region is generally strong, with recent growth in junior members through the ‘Hot Shots’ program and a stabilisation of senior members.
- There is some uncertainty from clubs in regard to membership expectations, with some clubs expecting an increase and some expecting a decline.

### FACILITIES

- There are a significant number of facilities/courts, which are highly disbursed across Horsham Rural City.
- There is very limited consolidation of facilities and no facility that is capable of hosting regional events in the one location.
- From a quantitative perspective, there appears to be a significant or even ‘over supply’ of tennis courts in Horsham based on application of a population provision ratio.
- Current facilities do not allow for the hosting of regional events and there is limited sharing and/or multipurpose venues accommodating multiple clubs and different sports (including netball).
- There may be opportunity to upgrade an existing facility to enable the hosting of regional level events or create a new regional tennis facility. New or upgraded facilities could involve the consolidation of existing facilities to improve ongoing viability and assist in ongoing maintenance costs.

- New tennis courts in rural areas are unlikely to be required. Facility upgrades in rural areas should be assessed and undertaken on an as needs basis. Opportunities for consolidation of facilities in rural areas could also be explored.



# 10. NETBALL

## 10.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

### NETBALL VICTORIA STATE WIDE FACILITIES STRATEGY VOLUME 1

The Netball Victoria Statewide Facilities Strategy was published in 2015 and provides strategic direction to the planning and development of netball facilities in Victoria.

The Strategy notes the following factors impacting demand for facilities:

- **Positive Influences:**
  - Victoria's growing population;
  - Growing popularity of men's and mixed netball;
  - The introduction of modified games and programs such as Fast5, Rock Up Netball, Net4Kids, and additional junior participation programs;
  - The growth and advancement of female sports participation;
  - The physical accessibility of facilities – whether they are located within a reasonable driving distance, located near public transport, located on or near a walking or cycling track, have ample car parking.
- **Negative Influences:**
  - Victoria's aging population;
  - Changing profile of the workforce;
  - Growing competition from other sports and activities;
  - Changing leisure preferences with more people opting to participate in informal recreation rather than structured sport; and

- Inability for Netball Victoria to capture the participant data of unaffiliated netball activities across the state.

The Strategy notes the following in terms of facility hierarchy:

- **Local:** 1-3 courts. Activities include:
  - Modified games and programs
  - Junior participation and skill development
  - Training and competition
  - Community use
  - Regional Victorian Netball League
- **Sub-Regional:** 4-7 courts. Activities include:
  - As per local facility
  - Schools championships
  - National titles
- **Regional:** 8+ courts. Activities include:
  - As per local and sub regional facility;
  - Associate championship;
  - State Titles.
- **Elite:** Minimum 2+ indoor courts. Activities include:
  - Victorian Netball League
  - Australian Netball League
  - National Netball League
  - International Tournaments

Lighting for local, sub-regional and regional courts is recommended as 300 Lux for indoor courts (500 Lux for competition) and 100 Lux for outdoor training and 200 Lux for outdoor competitions.

Indoor lighting for an elite facility is recommended as 750 Lux.

## 10.2. PARTICIPATION

Anecdotally, Netball is one of the most popular winter sports in Horsham. Table 24 outlines netball membership in Horsham according to the *Netball Victoria Statewide Facilities Strategy* (2015). There were approximately 861 members, 42% of which were junior members, 39% senior members and 18% 'NetSetGo' members (5-10 years).

**TABLE 24** HORSHAM MEMBERSHIPS, 2015

	AA	Junior	Life Members	NetSetGo	Off the Court	Senior	Total
Horsham	4	358	0	158	4	337	861

Source: Netball Victoria, Statewide Facilities Strategy Volume 1

Across the Wimmera Mallee<sup>13</sup> region, there were a total of 2,027 members. Horsham Rural City therefore accounts for 42% of membership across the region.

<sup>13</sup> Includes the Councils of Horsham Rural City, West Wimmera Shire, Northern Grampians Shire, Hindmarsh Shire and Yarriambiack Shire.

## 10.3. FACILITIES

### EXISTING FACILITIES

There were 8 netball facilities identified in Horsham Rural City, 2 of which were in central Horsham area and 6 in the rural areas of Horsham.

The two facilities in central Horsham include City Oval and the Horsham Racecourse Reserve. The Horsham Racecourse Reserve is currently the only location for larger scale netball events, with 5 individual hard courts and 2 multipurpose courts (shared with tennis). The five courts are outdoor asphalt courts and are part of the Fire Brigaded training area. These courts do not meet current day standards for surface quality or runoff areas.

There netball facilities in the rural areas of Horsham service outlying towns.

**TABLE 25** EXISTING NETBALL FACILITIES

	Horsham Town	Horsham Rural	Total
Number of Netball Facilities	2	6	8
Number of Netball Courts	8	8	16

### REGIONAL FACILITIES

Facilities in the Wimmera Regional Netball Association area (outside of Horsham), include:

- Alexandra Oval, Ararat (Ararat Rural City): 4 hard courts;
- Anzac Park, Warracknabeal (Yarriambiack Shire): 1 hard court;
- Beluah Recreation Reserve (Yarriambiack Shire): 1 hard court;
- Brim Recreation Reserve (Yarriambiack Shire): 1 hard court;

- Central Park Stawell (Northern Grampians Shire): 1 hard court;
- Davis Park, Nhill (Hindmarsh Shire): 2 hard courts;
- Dimboola Football/Netball Club (Hindmarsh Shire): 1 hard court;
- Hopetoun Recreation Reserve (Yarriambiack Shire): 2 hard courts;
- Minyip Recreation Reserve (Yarriambiack Shire): 1 hard court; and
- Murtoa Recreation Reserve (Yarriambiack Shire): 1 hard court.

The largest netball facility outside of Horsham in the Wimmera Regional Netball Association region is Alexandra Oval in Ararat, confirming Horsham's role in providing facilities that cater to regional demand for events.

### **PLANNED FACILITIES**

There were 5 new outdoor courts planned as part of the Wimmera Sports Stadium concept.

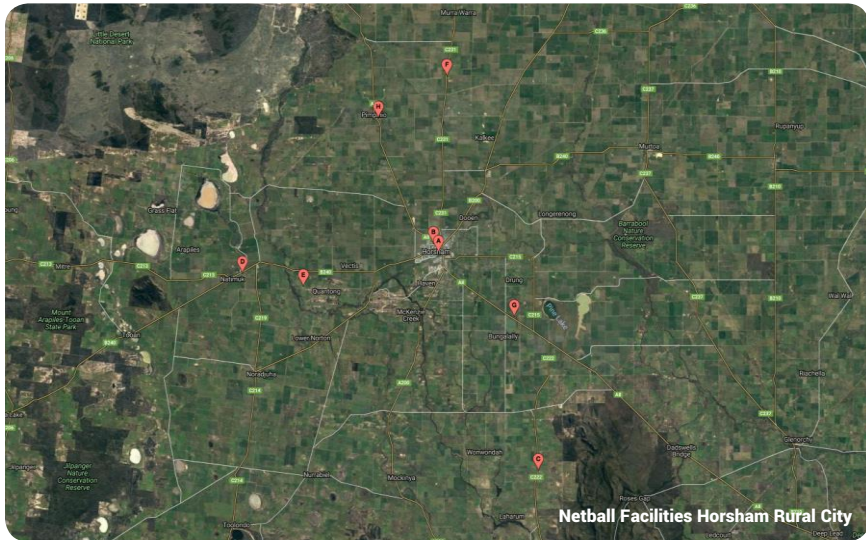
The *Netball Victoria Statewide Facilities Strategy (2015)* noted that some LGAs indicated that they were considering the development or redevelopment of new 6-8 court venues (Geelong, Horsham, Ballarat, Bendigo and Southern Grampians).<sup>14</sup>

A map of existing netball facilities is shown on the following page.

---

<sup>14</sup> Netball Victoria, Statewide Facilities Strategy Volume 1

**FIGURE 11** NETBALL FACILITIES



### Netball Facilities

Map Key	Facility	No. Courts
A	City Oval	1
B	Horsham Racecourse Reserve	7
C	Laharum Recreation Reserve	2
D	Natimuk Showground Recreation Reserve	1
E	Quantong Recreation Reserve	2
F	Kalkee Recreation Reserve	1
G	Taylor's Lake Recreation Reserve	1
H	Pimpinio Recreation Reserve	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>

Horsham Sporting Facilities Demand Study | 2019  
 Horsham Rural City Council



## FACILITY PROVISION RATIOS

The current provision ratio (based on 2016 population figures) of tennis courts to population in Horsham is as follows:

- Horsham Town: 1 court to every 2,076 people;
- Horsham Rural: 1 court to every 410 people;
- Horsham Rural City: 1 court to every 1,243 people.

Previous research and planning for community infrastructure in Melbourne's growth areas has shown that netball courts are provided at a provision rate of approximately 1 court to every 3,500 people. Given the current level of provision to population, adopting a provision rate of 1 court to every 2,500 people.

Based on this provision ratio, approximately 6.6 courts would be required in the 'Horsham Town' area to service local demand and a total of 7.6 courts by 2033. Across the municipality, there would be a requirement for 8.8 courts by 2033.

However, the *Netball Victoria, Statewide Facilities Strategy* recommends a ratio of 1 court to 60 players. **Based on this benchmark, it was determined that there was a need for 14.4 outdoor courts to be provide in the City of Horsham.**

**TABLE 26** PROJECTED NUMBER OF NETBALL COURTS

	Population (Horsham Town)	Required Courts (Ratio 1:3,500)
Current Supply		8
2016	16,606	6.6
2033	19,069	7.6
Additional Required Fields by 2033		-0.4

The Netball Victoria State Wide Facilities Strategy Volume 1 (2015) also prepared an assessment of the number of courts per population in Horsham and in the wider Wimmera Southern Mallee region. This analysis found that there was a higher number of people per court (based on a population provision rate) in Horsham and the Wimmera Southern Mallee region compared to regional Victoria, however, a lower member to court provision rate. This confirms the high level of netball participation and membership in the region and the potential need to provide courts above standard population provision rates.

**TABLE 27** POPULATION PER COURT WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE

Region	Population per indoor court	Population per outdoor court	Population per court	Netball Victoria members per court
Horsham	19,772	1,041	989	43
Wimmera Southern Mallee	6,821	809	723	31
Rural and Regional Victoria	6,499	1,405	1,155	37

Source: Netball Victoria, Statewide Facilities Strategy Volume 1

## CONSULTATION

- Netball is one of the largest winter sports in the region in terms of membership and participation.
- Generally, the facilities across the Wimmera Mallee are not up to standard.
- Netball can't host carnivals or regional events because of the lack of appropriate facilities. Issues included the number of courts, lighting, number of compliant courts, lack of associated infrastructure and support amenities. A minimum of 8-10 compliant courts (indoor and outdoor) with associated infrastructure are required to host regional competitions. A minimum of 4 compliant indoor courts are required to host certain state significant events.
- Netball Victoria as a peak sporting body is unable to attract events to the region to improve pathway, leadership and pre-elite opportunities for its members, particularly women and girls but also for the growing number of boys who are choosing to play the sport, which limits the sports attraction to those players who are interested in pursuing a full pathway locally.
- There is a need for indoor multi-purpose courts. This would enable Horsham to host carnivals, which have the potential to bring in a significant number of people to the region.
- **Racecourse Reserve (City Netball):**
  - Courts are not up to standard. They are asphalt courts and don't have the runoff required to meet standards.
  - The courts have not been upgraded for 25 years;
  - The courts are not compliant and can only be accessed when they are not required by the CFA.
  - This facility is not suitable to be used as a regional facility. It does not cater to the required pathway opportunities for netballers in the region.
- **Coughlin Park:**

- The indoor stadium has been used for netball, anecdotally these courts do not have the required runoff areas.
- The league and other clubs would like Coughlin Park to have an outdoor netball court.
- **City Oval:**
  - Only one court at this location and the facility is not up to standard.
  - There is a need for a second netball court to be provided at City Oval.

## KEY RESULTS FROM ONLINE SURVEY

There were two survey responses relevant to netball. The following summarises the key findings:

- **Membership Expectations** – one respondent expected membership to increase and one expected membership to stay the same.
- **Member Gender** – Majority of members were reported as being females, although male participation is growing.
- **Member Age** – 38% of members were reported as being aged between 0-14 years, 46% between 15-29 years, 12% between 30-44 years and 4% between 45-59 years.
- **Seasonality** – respondents indicated usage of facilities from April to October for games.
- **Constraints to Hosting Regional Events** – Number of courts (including complaint courts), associated infrastructure and amenities.
- **Quality of facilities** – one respondent rated facilities as being of a 'poor' standard and the other as being of a 'good' standard.
- **Improvements** – facility improvements identified, included:
  - Additional netball courts;
  - Female change rooms;
  - Court compliance;

- Lighting;
- Support amenities and infrastructure.
- **Accessibility** – Generally facilities were identified as not being universally accessible.
- **Priority** areas identified include:
  - Regional facility with 8 courts (mix of indoor and outdoor courts);
  - Second court (Horsham Football Netball Club).

## 10.4. NETBALL KEY FINDINGS

### PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP

- Netball is one of the largest winter sports in Horsham, with 861 members in 2015, 60% of which were either junior or ‘net set go’ members, providing confidence in the future growth of the sport as young members transition to senior membership.
- Across the region there are over 2,000 netball members. Horsham accounting for over 40% of members.

### FACILITIES

- Netball facilities in Horsham are provided to a poor standard. The Horsham Racecourse is the largest facility in terms of court provision, with 7 courts (5 of which are asphalt courts and 2 multipurpose netball/tennis courts). The 5 asphalt courts are not up to standard, with limited areas for runoff and only two courts being under lights. Fr
- Based on population provision benchmarks there would appear to be sufficient courts to meet local demand, however, the Netball Victoria Strategy shows that Netball participation in the region is higher than other regional areas and recommends a need for the provision of 14.4 courts in Horsham. In this case there would be a current undersupply of courts.

- Existing courts are disbursed and not up to quality or compliance standards.
- From a regional perspective, there are no facilities that can host larger, regional events. Further, there are no indoor courts available for premier or ‘show’ games.
- A regional facility is required with approximately 8 courts, which could be delivered as a mix of indoor and outdoor courts.
- Horsham Demons also require a second netball court, however, there is currently limited site capacity to deliver a second court on site.
- New netball courts in rural areas are unlikely to be required. Facility upgrades in rural areas should be assessed and undertaken on an as needs basis. Opportunities for consolidation of facilities in rural areas could also be explored where appropriate.

# 11. LITTLE ATHLETICS

## 11.1. PARTICIPATION

There are 134 members registered in Little Athletics in Horsham, which has increased from 100 members 5 years ago. Membership has increased partly due to increased promotion of Little Athletics in Horsham. Membership is expected to increase in the next 5 years based on stakeholder views.

Approximately 51% of members are male and 49% are females.

Schools also participate in Athletics carnivals that require athletics facilities.

## 11.2. FACILITIES

### EXISTING FACILITIES

Dudley Cornell Reserve is currently the only venue utilised for Little Athletics and school athletics events in Horsham.

The large oval is currently utilised as a grass athletics track, however, the size of the oval is restrictive as it cannot accommodate an 8 lane running track.

The reserve also includes 2 long/triple jump pits. The second field is utilised for javelin, discus and shot put.

The venue is used for local sporting events and for the open day for athletes from little athletics centres and non-little athletics members.

Other Little Athletics facilities in the Western Country region within 100km of Horsham include:

- Dimboola Little Athletics at Dimboola Memorial Secondary College (Hindmarsh Shire) – grass track;

- Stawell Little Athletics (Northern Grampians Shire) – synthetic track;
- Edenhope Little Athletics (West Wimmera) – synthetic track;
- Ararat Little Athletics (Ararat Rural City) – grass track.

Currently towns outside of Horsham are providing the equivalent or greater quality athletics facilities. Therefore, there is a mismatch between the facilities in Horsham and its designation as a regional City.

### PLANNED FACILITIES

There are currently no planned Athletics facilities in Horsham.

### FACILITY PROVISION RATIOS

Facility provision ratios are not necessarily an appropriate method for determining the need for athletics facilities with limited recognised industry benchmarks, however, in planning for facilities in Melbourne's growth areas a catchment population of 100,000-150,000 residents has been utilised to justify a regional athletics facility including lit synthetic track, events field, spectator viewing areas, pavilion and social areas. Horsham's population is unlikely to meet this trigger, which supports the need for facilities to be multi-purpose and could suggest that an athletics facility with a grass athletics track could be a considered alternative to a synthetic track, particularly if catering primarily to little athletics and school uses.

The nearest synthetic tracks to Horsham include Edenhope and Stawell. It is therefore likely than any athletics tracks in Horsham of regional scale would draw on populations from outside the municipality.



## CONSULTATION

The following provides a summary of outcomes from consultation in regard to Athletics facilities, key points include:

- **Existing Facility (Dudley Cornell Reserve):**
  - Little Athletics and schools utilise Dudley Cornell Reserve for Athletics;
  - The location is suitable;
  - Facilities are in need of attention;
  - Currently utilise grass running track. The field is too small to accommodate an 8 lane running track.
  - Car parking is an issue, a lot of cars park off site on the street;
  - A landscape plan prepared for Dudley Cornell to improve facilities for existing user of the space doesn't include provision of a running track, impacting the future of this venue (and Horsham) to support Little Athletics and school athletics competitions if it is not provided for.
  - 100 metre track is run inside the track on the field.
  - Second field is used for javelin and shot put, as it needs to be away from other events. There are no permanent areas of protection for discus or shot put.
  - The facility has electric timer gates, which can be positive as it takes out the need for the use of volunteers. Sourcing volunteers can sometimes be problematic.
- **Facility Needs and Aspirations:**
  - A synthetic athletics track in an appropriate location would be an aspirational objective for athletics in Horsham, which would better meet the needs of Little Athletics in the future and enable Horsham to host regional championships.
  - An 8 lane track would be an ideal running track.
  - Permanent high jump mat with a sliding cover.

- It would be possible for Athletics to be co-located with other sports.
- Grass tracks can be favourable if it translates to keeping costs down for members.
- It would be possible to host regional events on a grass track.
- Javelin and shotput couldn't be located near turf cricket pitches in the centre of fields.
- Larger area with all-weather protection for events.
- **Regional Competitions:**
  - Horsham does not host many regional competitions due to facilities. Warrnambool and Ballarat generally host the western country region Little Athletics events.
- **Priorities:**
  - The top three priorities include a synthetic athletics track, improved high jump facilities and improved all abilities access.

## KEY RESULTS FROM ONLINE SURVEY

There were two survey responses relevant to Little Athletics. The following summarises the key findings:

- **Membership Expectations** – membership is expected to increase in the next 5 years;
- **Member Gender** - Approximately 51% of members are male and 49% are females.
- **Member Age** – 97% of participants are aged under 14 years;
- **Seasonality** – facility usage from October to March.
- **Constraints to Hosting Regional Events** – lack of suitable facilities (including synthetic athletics track) for hosting events.
- **Quality of Facilities** – Facilities were identified as being of a 'poor' standard.
- **Improvements** – areas where facilities could be improved include:

- Both female and male change rooms;
- Upgrading support facilities and clubrooms;
- **Accessibility** – some but not all areas were identified as being universally accessible;
- **Priority** areas identified by respondents include:
  - Synthetic track;
  - Improved competition facilities;
  - Increase all abilities access;

### 11.3. LITTLE ATHLETICS KEY FINDINGS

#### PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP

- Participation in Little Athletics has been stable over a ten-year period, with a recent increase in membership (134 members). Schools also participate in Athletics days and carnivals.

#### FACILITIES

- Dudley Cornell Reserve is the only facility used for Little Athletics in Horsham. There are some existing issues with this facility for athletics use, including:
  - The size of the field is too small to accommodate an 8 lane grass running track.
  - There is no permanent infrastructure for high jump, shotput, javelin or discuss.
  - The current long and triple jump pits abut a fence.
  - A master plan that was prepared for Dudley Cornell Reserve did not include provision of a running track. If this master plan is implemented, it would impact the ability to hold athletics training and events.

- Horsham requires dedicated athletics facilities to enable the continuing operation of Little Athletics, school carnivals and competitions, to enable juniors to progress through to more senior levels in the sport and to provide greater opportunity for Horsham to host regional level events.
- A suitable venue is required capable of accommodating athletics facilities, including an 8 lane running track to service the needs of the local and regional population.
- In regard to Athletics, there is a need to ensure facilities are multipurpose so that infrastructure use is maximised by catering to a number of sports. Given Horsham's population, consideration should be given to the use of grass Athletics tracks over synthetic tracks, particularly if used primarily for little Athletics and school groups.

## 12. RUGBY LEAGUE

### 12.1. PARTICIPATION

There is one rugby league club in Horsham (the Panthers Rugby League Club). The club formed in 2014 and has one team.

The club had 28 members as of 2018. As of 5 years ago, the club had 26 members.

The club expects membership to increase over the next 5 years.

### 12.2. FACILITIES

#### EXISTING FACILITIES

The Panthers Rugby Club currently use the Horsham Racecourse Reserve as their club grounds. The field is located inside the racetrack, with the club rooms located on the outside of the track.<sup>15</sup>

The club use this facility for training, matches, club social events, clinics, administration (committee meetings, league meetings) and education (coaching and sports training courses).

#### PLANNED FACILITIES

There are no new rugby league fields planned for Horsham.

---

<sup>15</sup> Council advise that the club were discouraged from using the Racecourse Reserve (with Haven recommended), however, the club's preference was for use of The Racecourse Reserve.

#### FACILITY PROVISION RATIOS

As there is only one facility, the current provision based on 2016 population is 1 field to every 19,887 people across the City of Horsham.

In parts of Melbourne's growth areas, rugby league fields are typically planned at 1 field for every 60,000 - 75,000 people in the catchment<sup>16</sup>.

Horsham's population is unlikely to meet this trigger, which supports the need for facilities to be multi-purpose so that they can cater to a number of sports, maximising the use of infrastructure.

#### CONSULTATION

The following provides a summary of outcomes from consultation in regard to Rugby League, key points include:

- The current facility is suitable for local level sporting events;
- Membership is low but numbers are steady and expected to grow;
- Approximately 80% of members are males and 20% females;
- Majority of members are aged between 15-29 (50%), followed by 30-44 years (35%), which is an older demographic compared to other sports such as football.
- The current pavilion/club room is a constraint to hosting large scale regional or state events. This facility was rated as being of a very poor standard and unsuitable from both a size and quality perspective.

<sup>16</sup> ASR Research – Wollert and Quarry Hills PSP, 2012 / City of Casey Provision

- Facilities are generally utilised between August and December;
- Key facilities that require improvements include larger changerooms and toilets for both males and females; the canteen/kitchen space is too small; there is limited access to storage space; facilities are not universally accessible; and the field surface requires improvements.
- The club expects that expanded or new facilities are expected to be required in 5 years' time.
- Key priorities for facilities over the next 5 to 10 years include the changerooms/toilets and surface of the fields.

### 12.3. RUGBY KEY FINDINGS

#### PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP

- Rugby League is a grass roots sport with one club in Horsham, which has 28 members. Growth is expected in the next 5 years, although is coming off a low base to is expected to be limited.
- There are limited members under 15 years old.

#### FACILITIES

- Rugby League utilise the Horsham Racecourse Reserve for both training and matches. From a facility provision perspective, one facility for rugby league is adequate and there is a need for facilities to be multi-purpose to ensure infrastructure use is maximised (particularly given the provision rates are around 1 field to 60,000-75,000 residents)<sup>17</sup>. However, there are issues with the current facility including inadequacy of the clubrooms/pavilion and accessibility (including having to cross a racetrack to get to the field).

- One facility in Horsham should be maintained for Rugby League. Given only one club exists, Rugby league is a key sport that could share its facilities with other sports. This arrangement was envisaged for the existing racecourse reserve (rugby and soccer) but has yet to be implemented.
- There are existing constraints at the current facility (quality of clubrooms/toilets and amenities, access across the racetrack to access the field, and provision of local events only). Investing strategically in facilities that will meet the long term needs of the sport as well as be multi-use facilities should be the priority.

There is a need to ensure rugby facilities are multipurpose so that infrastructure use is maximised by catering to a number of sports, particularly when assessed against typical population provision ratios.

---

<sup>17</sup> Range for metropolitan Melbourne growth areas



# 13. HOCKEY

## 13.1. PARTICIPATION

There were 22,389 members of Hockey Victoria in 2016. Within the North West Regional Zone (which includes the City of Horsham), there were 2,122 registered players.

There is one Hockey Club in Horsham (Horsham Hockey Club). The club consists of 4 teams (Hurricanes (men's), Jets (women), Bombers (under 16 mixed team), and Black Hawks (under 12 mixed team)).

Survey respondents estimated that membership ranged from 75-100 members in 2018 and that membership had grown from 5 years ago (60-70 members). Approximately 50% of members are male and 50% are female.

Growth in membership has been based on the successful introduction of a under 12s program in the last few years.

Survey respondents also expect membership to increase in the next 5 years.

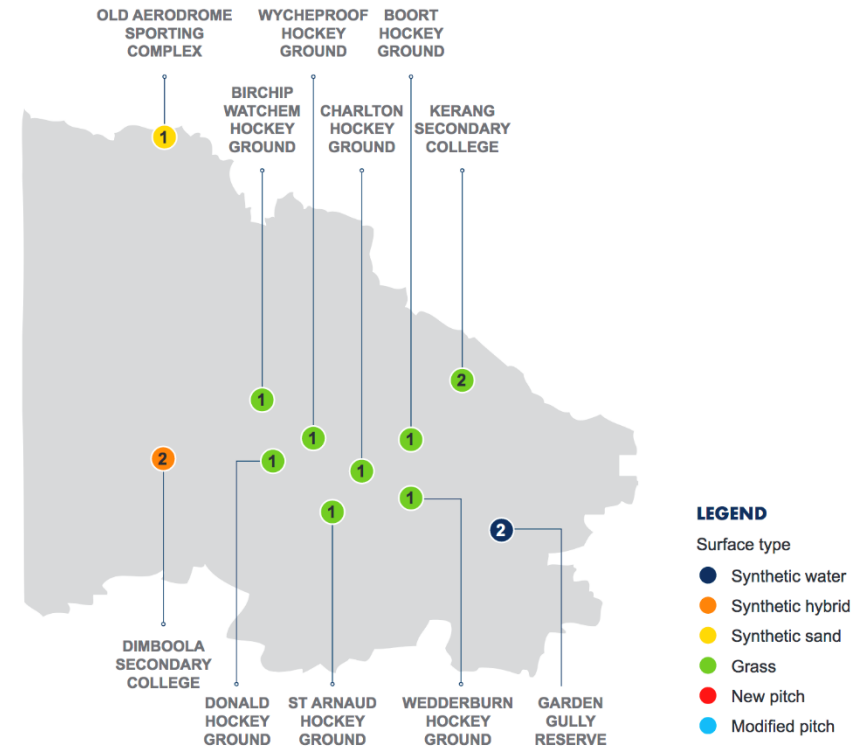
## 13.2. FACILITIES

### EXISTING FACILITIES

The Horsham Hockey Club currently utilise the Community College Oval as their club grounds. This is a grass football/cricket oval. There is no synthetic hockey field or appropriately sized grass hockey field in Horsham.

Hockey Victoria identified 14 hockey pitches in the North West region. These are shown in Figure 12.

FIGURE 12 HOCKEY PITCHES IN THE NORTHWEST REGION



Source: Hockey Victoria, Strategic Facilities Master Plan, 2014

The closest hockey facility to Horsham is the Dimboola Health and Fitness Centre (Hindmarsh Shire). This facility includes 2 full sized artificial hockey fields

with lighting. The Dimboola and Horsham Hockey Clubs host their home rounds at this centre.

Although the Horsham Hockey Club utilise the community college oval for their club grounds and training, this is not a formal hockey field and is not used for matches, is not the appropriate shape (rectangular). The Horsham Hockey Club travel to Dimboola for both their home and away matches.

The club cannot host any level of hockey sporting event in Horsham.

### PLANNED FACILITIES

There are no hockey facilities planned for Horsham.

### FACILITY PROVISION RATIOS

As there are no formalised hockey fields in Horsham which are used for matches, it is considered that there are no hockey facilities in Horsham.

Planning for facilities in Melbourne's growth areas has adopted a catchment population range of approximately 100,000 residents for a synthetic hockey field.

Horsham's population is unlikely to meet this trigger, which supports the need for facilities to be multi-purpose so that they can cater to a number of sports, maximising the use of infrastructure.

### CONSULTATION

The following provides a summary of outcomes from consultation in regard to Hockey facilities in Horsham, key points include:

- The Horsham Hockey Club does not have access to any facilities that are capable of hosting events including no access to an artificial playing surface.

- All home games are hosted in Dimboola. Home games can attract over 300 players and spectators. This is a significant number of annual visitors that Horsham misses out on every year.
- Anecdotally, the lack of facilities in Horsham has affected membership.
- Horsham would like to see a new all-weather artificial turf facility in Horsham, which is a multi-purpose shared facility.

### KEY RESULTS FROM ONLINE SURVEY

There were four responses relevant to Hockey. The following summarises the key findings:

- **Membership Expectations** – 50% of members expect membership to increase and 50% expect membership to stay the same.
- **Member Gender** – 53% of members were reported as being males and 47% were reported as being females;
- **Member Age** – 42% of members aged between 0-14 years; 33% aged between 15-29 years; 15% aged between 30-44 years; 7% aged between 45-59 years and 3% aged 60+ years.
- **Seasonality** – Facilities generally utilised between March and September.
- **Constraints to Hosting Regional Events** – Currently no facility in Horsham capable of hosting home and away games, let alone larger events. Synthetic field is required with appropriate support services and infrastructure.
- **Quality of facilities** – There were mixed views in regard to the quality of facilities ranging from 'very poor' to 'good' standard.
- **Improvements** – new synthetic fields capable of hosting home and away matches.
- **Accessibility** – Facilities (clubrooms) were identified as being universally accessible;
- **Priorities:**

- New all-weather artificial surface (X2 pitches) with suitable lighting in Horsham;
- Resolution of the college oval drainage;
- An enclosed viewing area delivered in conjunction with the all-weather artificial surface.

- There is a need for any synthetic Hockey facilities in Horsham to be multi-purpose and shared with other sports, so that infrastructure use is maximised by catering to a number of sports, particularly when assessed against typical population provision ratios.

### **13.3. HOCKEY KEY FINDINGS**

#### **PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP**

- There is one hockey club in Horsham.
- There are approximately 75-100 members of Horsham Hockey Club. Consultation shows that membership has generally increased over the previous 5 years.

#### **FACILITIES**

- The Horsham Hockey Club utilise the Community College Oval as their club grounds and for training but not matches. The pavilion is of a good standard, however, there is no appropriate playing surface in Horsham. All “home” games are played in Dimboola.
- There is a need to provide a synthetic playing field for hockey in Horsham to enable the club to play home games in Horsham and provide a good quality facility for training and the hosting of regional events. A sand based synthetic pitch would likely be a preferred surface type due to its compatibility with other sports including soccer. It also does not have ongoing watering requirements.
- The provision of two synthetic pitches would assist in scheduling and could enable the synthetic surface to be used for other sports with larger playing field requirements, such as soccer. This could form a consideration in facility planning and design.

## 14. LAWN BOWLS

### 14.1. INTRODUCTION

This section of the report provides an overview of Lawn Bowls facilities in Horsham, including facility issues and opportunities.

### 14.2. LITERATURE REVIEW

#### NATIONAL FACILITIES AND RETIREMENT/LIFESTYLE VILLAGES STRATEGY, 2017

Key relevant learnings from case studies contained in the strategy include:

- Consolidation of facilities and club mergers can provide new opportunities to grow participation, attracting events and securing additional funding for facility upgrades.
- Some clubs have repositioned themselves to offer a complete bowls experience that attracts younger age groups within a more social environment. However, this is not a single business model solution, as each region varies significantly in demographics and market dynamics.

#### BOWLS VICTORIA STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2022

Goals of the strategic plan include:

1. Promote participation – create and implement initiatives that grow participation in bowls inclusive of all;
2. Support clubs – develop strong viable clubs through employing best practice governance and supporting an engaged volunteer network;

3. Strengthen connections – Enhance our community profile through effective communication, positive media presence and commercial growth.

### 14.3. PARTICIPATION

There is limited available data on Bowls participation in Horsham, however, two of the larger clubs in Horsham (Horsham City Bowls and Sunnyside Bowls Club) have around 300 combined members.

### 14.4. FACILITIES

#### EXISTING FACILITIES

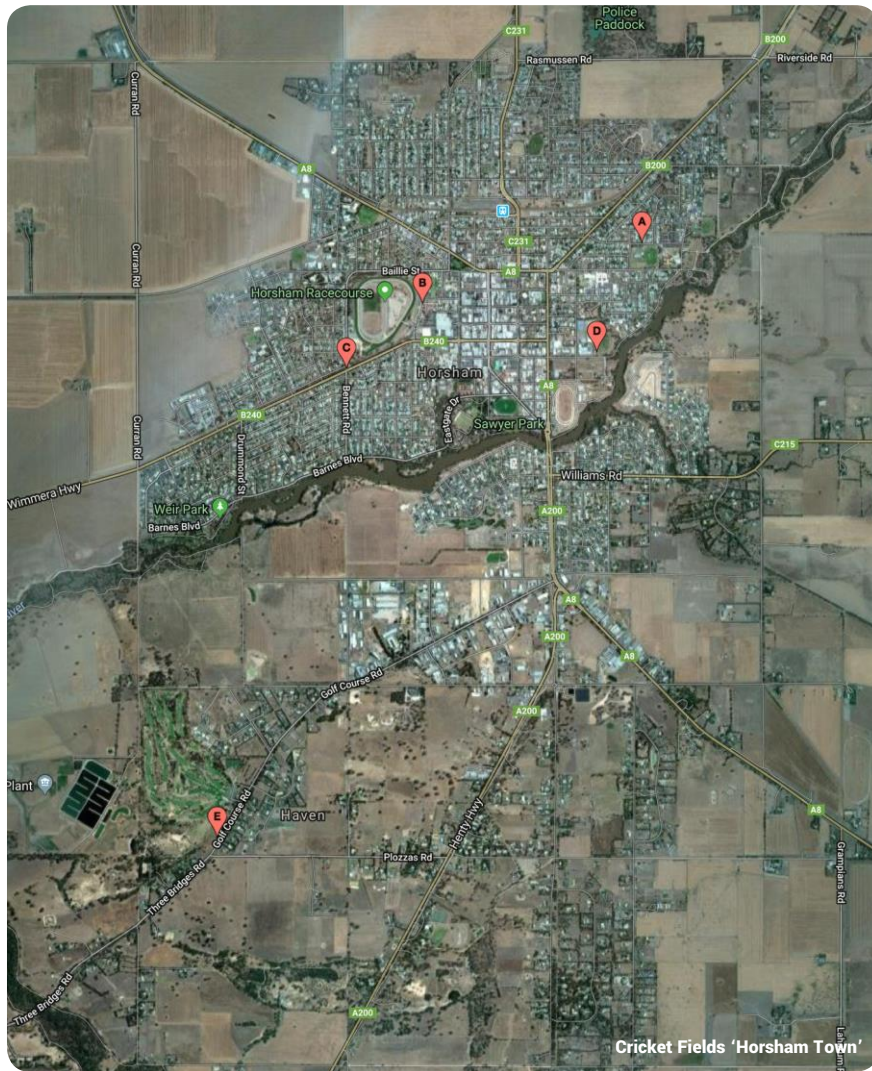
There are 5 facilities used for Lawn Bowls in Horsham. Larger clubs include Sunnyside Sports Complex, Horsham City Bowls Club and Coughlin Park Sports Complex. A map of facilities, including the number of greens is shown on the following page.

#### PLANNED FACILITIES

There are currently no new lawn bowls facilities planned for the City of Horsham.



**FIGURE 13** LAWN BOWLS FACILITIES



### Lawn Bowls Facilities

Map Key	Facility	No. Fields
A	Sunnyside Sports Complex	4
B	Horsham City Bowls Club	4
C	Horsham West Bowls Club	1
D	Coughlin Park Sports Complex	2
E	Horsham Golf Club Bowling Association	1
Total		12

Horsham Sporting Facilities Demand Study | 2019  
Horsham Rural City Council

## FACILITY PROVISION RATIOS

The current provision ratio of bowls greens (2016) to population in Horsham is as follows:

- Horsham Town: 1 green to every 1,510 people;
- Horsham Rural: 1 green to every 3,281 people; and
- Horsham Rural City: 1 green to every 1,657 people.

This is a relatively high provision of greens to population, particularly by way of comparison with planning for facilities in Melbourne's growth areas, where provision of greens is typically planned for at a rate of 1 green to every 15,000 residents.

This suggests that there may be potential for clubs to form partnerships or for a reduction of bowls greens or opportunities to consolidate clubs to improve the quality of facilities, increase participation and support ongoing viability. This was a key learning from case studies from the *National Facilities and Retirement/Lifestyle Villages Strategy (2017)*.

## CONSULTATION

The following provides a summary of outcomes from consultation in regard to Lawn Bowls facilities in Horsham, key points include:

- Members are generally ageing but membership is generally stable;
- Generally, participation in pennant lawn bowls is declining, however, social bowls participation is on the rise;
- Delivery of synthetic greens delivers significant annual cost savings to clubs through not having to water and maintain the greens. Anecdotally there is a three year payback period on converting grass to synthetic greens.
- Covered or shaded greens would be appropriate in Horsham, enabling games to be played in all weather conditions;

- There are four main bowls clubs in central Horsham that are competing against one another for members, however, Horsham West Bowls Club has a very small membership base.
- The social aspect of bowls is a very strong driver of participation;
- Generally, around four synthetic greens would be required to host pennant championships.

## 14.5. LAWN BOWLS KEY FINDINGS

### MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

- It is estimated that two of the larger bowls clubs (Horsham City and Sunnyside Bowls Club) have a combined membership base of 300 members.
- Members are generally ageing, however, there are opportunities to promote the more social forms of the game to attract younger members.

### FACILITIES

- No additional greens are required in Horsham.
- There may be opportunity for the strategic consolidation of clubs in Horsham to improve membership numbers, the quality of facilities, participation and assist in ongoing financial sustainability.
- Clubs have been progressively updating their greens to synthetic greens. Synthetic greens provide a cost saving to clubs and a consistent playing surface.
- There is potential for one club in Horsham to be upgraded to enable regional events to be held, this would generally require four synthetic greens and support amenities and infrastructure. An upgraded regional facility could also have consideration of a covered green and shaded areas so the facilities can be utilised in all-weather conditions.

**PART C:**  
**INDOOR SPORTS REVIEW**

## 15. INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES REVIEW

### 15.1. INTRODUCTION

A significant body of work has been undertaken in recent years assessing the need for Horsham to cater to the needs of indoor sports, through provision of a multi-purpose indoor facility.

Urban Enterprise was engaged to undertake a peer review of existing work relating to the provision of indoor sports. Consultation was also undertaken with key proponents of indoor sports to confirm or update any findings relevant to the provision of indoor sports facilities in Horsham.

### 15.2. EXISTING REPORTS

The following summarises the key findings and recommendations of recent reports relating to indoor sport provision.

#### HORSHAM MULTI-USE INDOOR SPORTS STADIUM PLAN – PHASE ONE: FEASIBILITY (2016)

The *Horsham Multi-Use Indoor Sports Stadium Plan-Phase One: Feasibility* was prepared by Insight Leisure Planning. The report assessed the demand for new indoor facilities, including the ability to continue to service and increase regional scale sport events, activities and uses.

In relation to demand for new indoor sporting facilities, the report noted the following key points:

- Demand for new, or additional, indoor stadia facilities in Horsham is not being driven by increases in local participation demand or requirements to address anticipated demand associated with future population growth.

- There is an **adequate number of indoor courts** currently available to **address the indoor sport needs for local standard** participation.
- **Existing facilities do not meet contemporary standards or recommended facility guidelines** in terms of playing areas and support amenities.
- **Existing facilities** (i.e. Basketball Stadium, squash courts, table tennis and gymnastics) **are all over 40 years old**.
- **New facilities will be required in order to meet the contemporary needs of the community**, including recommended facility standards and guidelines, in order to continue to service the needs and expectations of the community for the next 50+ years.
- **Current facilities are used for a variety of regional and even State level events/activities despite current limitations**; however, **it can be expected that such uses will not be supported in these venues in the longer-term** if the facilities continue to fall below contemporary standards and expectations.
- **New facilities are being planned for construction in other regional centres** (i.e. Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and Mildura) over the next five years **that will further increase competition for hosting of such activities**.
- **Demand for new facilities is being driven by requirements to provide appropriate facilities that are capable of maintaining (and enhancing) current levels of participation**, including the capacity to continue to host a range of regional and state standard events, uses or activities over the next fifty years.
- Contemporary facilities will be **required to cater for basketball, netball, volleyball, badminton, table tennis, squash and to a lesser extent gymnastics**.

## WIMMERA SPORTS STADIUM BUSINESS CASE AND CONCEPT DESIGN REPORT (2017)

William Ross Architects prepared a Business Case and Concept Design report for a multipurpose indoor sports facility at McBryde Street in Horsham.

The key findings of the report include:

- Regionally, **the closest indoor multi-use stadiums with more than 2 courts are Hamilton (130km), Ballarat (187km), Bendigo (215km), Warrnambool (228km) and Mildura (310km).**
- The **benefits** of a multi-use stadium for Horsham community include:
  - **Increased participation** in sport and recreation activities by users of all abilities;
  - **Increased number of people joining clubs** or groups operating from the centre;
  - **Compliant and safer facilities;**
  - **Equitable use of the facility** to further social inclusion;
  - **Additional regional events** locally that **can be accommodated by the larger facility;**
  - **Opportunities to cross market sports** and active recreation activities to attract new participants;
  - Establishment of a **Sports House to support sports development and enhance relationships** between various associations and organisations.
  - **Further enhancement of the sport and recreation hub at the showgrounds,** including the Agricultural Society and the Greyhound facility;
  - A potential **increase in the diversity of activities and opportunities available** at the stadium and adjoining Showgrounds land;
  - Increased **health and wellbeing** benefits;

- Opportunities to develop **social connections;**
- Create a **sense of local pride** in the development;
- **Economic benefit** and **increase in the visitor economy** from the attraction of more events / tournaments;
- Contribute to **Council's Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan.**
- The facility is proposed to attract a wide variety of different uses, including:
  - Basketball;
  - Badminton;
  - Volleyball;
  - Squash;
  - Netball;
  - Regional Sports Assembly, sports organisations, clubs and associations office space;
  - Event hire;
  - Meeting room hire;
  - Tournaments;
  - Casual usage / informal programs;
  - Special events e.g. expos, markets, concerts etc.
- The facilities proposed included:
  - **Sports Hall with 3 new indoor sports courts** designed to competition standards. Each court to be line marked for netball, basketball, volleyball, badminton.
  - Space for **X12 table tennis tables;**
  - **X6 squash courts;**
  - **X6 squash courts** and support facilities;
  - **X5 outdoor netball** courts to bring total courts compliant with Netball Victoria requirements to 8, which is the minimum number required for Association Championships and other Netball Victoria events;



- Fixed spectator seating for 400, an increase on the approximate 350 existing capacity of the existing Stadium at McBryde Street
- Space for further temporary tiered spectator seating
- Large meeting room, to also provide a small function space
- X2 Consulting Suites, available to allied sports and other services
- Additional shared office space for local sporting clubs and associations
- Additional player amenities to accommodate the multisport nature of the venue



**Wimmera Sports Stadium Proposed Site Plan**

Source: Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design, 2017

## HORSHAM INDOOR MULTI-USE STADIUM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT (COMMUNITY VIBES, 2017)

An extensive level of stakeholder and community engagement was undertaken in relation to the proposed multi-use indoor stadium project in Horsham. The project includes the key objectives of providing a recommendation of the preferred location for the stadium; and to develop concept plans for an indoor sports stadium.

To assist in delivering on these objectives, consultation was undertaken with stakeholders and the community to identify a preferred site for the indoor sports stadium. The following three options were considered as part of the consultation:

- Option A: At Horsham Showgrounds between the velodrome and the greyhound racing track;
- Option B: A new facility at Horsham Showgrounds between the river and the greyhound racing track;
- Option C: A new facility along the former railway corridor in Mill Street.

An allowance was also made for an Option D, if survey respondents weren't sure of their preferred location.

Consultation included:

- Community surveys (372 responses);
- Listening Posts (5 sessions / 48 participants);
- Written submissions (10 written submissions received);
- Site visits by key stakeholders (16 participants);
- Surveys from potential user groups of the stadium (5 responses); and
- Receipt of delegation (6 people).

Based on a summary of all consultation types the preferred location identified was the Horsham Showgrounds area currently occupied by the basketball stadium (i.e. between the Showgrounds and the velodrome).

In regard to usage, survey respondents said they would primarily use the stadium for activities such as taking part in functions / events, taking part in programs such as yoga, watching sports or using the facility for meetings. Most stated they would use the stadium several times per week or at least once per week.

### 15.3. EXISTING FACILITIES

The *Horsham Multi-Use Indoor Sports Stadium Plan-Phase One: Feasibility* includes an overview of existing indoor facilities in Horsham. These are summarised in the Table below.

Existing Facilities	Description
<b>Horsham Basketball Stadium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council owned.</li> <li>• Existing 2-court stadium, approx. 40 years old.</li> <li>• Spectator seating to ne court (approx. 150 200 people).</li> <li>• Amenities and support infrastructure are provided at a basic standard.</li> <li>• Limited run-off or circulation space around courts.</li> </ul>
<b>Holy Trinity Lutheran School</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School owned</li> <li>• multi-use court, approx. 5 years old.</li> <li>• Small climbing wall</li> <li>• Amenities and support infrastructure are provided at a basic standard</li> </ul>
<b>Horsham 298 Primary School</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School owned</li> <li>• multi-use court</li> <li>• 3/4 court at Rasmussen.</li> <li>• Amenities and support infrastructure are provided at a basic standard.</li> </ul>
<b>Horsham College Stadium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School owned</li> <li>• multi-use court</li> <li>• Amenities and support infrastructure are provided at a basic standard.</li> </ul>

<b>Horsham College – Maroske Hall</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School owned</li> <li>• / size indoor hall, approx. 40 years old.</li> <li>• Amenities and support infrastructure are provided at a basic standard.</li> </ul>
<b>St. Brigid’s College (P-12)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School owned</li> <li>• multi-use court, approx. 11 years old.</li> <li>• Amenities and support infrastructure are provided at a basic standard.</li> <li>• Spectator seating approx. 150 people.</li> </ul>
<b>Horsham Showgrounds Maydale Pavilion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural society owned.</li> <li>• Maydale pavilion is one of the original agricultural sheds.</li> <li>• Support facilities are limited to rudimentary public toilets.</li> </ul>
<b>Horsham Squash</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Privately owned 6- court venue on McPherson Street, Horsham.</li> <li>• The facility has been constructed in stages, however buildings appear at least 30-40+ years old.</li> </ul>
<b>Natimuk Gymnastics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Club owned facility in Natimuk, originally constructed in 1970.</li> <li>• The Club has recently completed a two-stage extension program to increase available space, roof height and support spaces.</li> </ul>
<b>Horsham Lanes and Games</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Privately owned multi-sport venue (i.e. including ten pin bowling, indoor tennis (3), netball (2), soccer (1) and inflatables).</li> </ul>

Source: Horsham Multi-Use Indoor Sports Stadium Plan-Phase One: Feasibility, Insight Leisure Planning, 2016

Since the preparation of the feasibility study, the Horsham Table Tennis Association has relocated from the Horsham Showgrounds Maydale Pavilion to a new property located at 11 Harriet Street, Horsham. The new premises is an ageing building, however, anecdotally it is superior to their former location at

Maydale Pavilion. Based on discussions with Horsham Table Tennis, their new venue would be utilised for training and some games, however, they would still utilise a multipurpose indoor venue for larger table tennis events.

The *Horsham Multi-Use Indoor Sports Stadium Plan-Phase One: Feasibility (2016)* noted that **none of the current facilities meet recommended standards or contemporary facility requirements for elite level use or competitions despite the fact that the basketball stadium is currently used for selected elite level events, particularly for basketball and volleyball.**

## 15.4. PARTICIPATION

The following summarises indoor sports participation based on review of previous work. This has been updated based on recent consultation.

**TABLE 28** INDOOR SPORTS PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

Sport / Activity	Membership and Trend ( <i>Horsham Multi-Use Indoor Sports Stadium Plan-Phase One: Feasibility</i> )	2018 Update
Basketball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2012- 469 members</li> <li>2013- 485 members</li> <li>2014- 515 members</li> <li>2015- 485 members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2017-440 members (295 Male, 145 Female)</li> </ul>
Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City Netball Association 2016 – 120 players registered with Netball Vic. The most members since 2002.</li> <li>District and Wimmera Netball Associations 2016 – approx. 1,000 players over 20 clubs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>861 members Horsham (358 junior, 337 senior, 158 net set go)</li> <li>Wimmera Mallee: 2,004 members (5 years ago);</li> <li>2,027 members (current)</li> <li>Netball Victoria expect membership to increase in the next 5 years.</li> </ul>
Badminton	2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>93 total</li> </ul>	NA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>57 senior</li> <li>12 ladies</li> <li>24 juniors</li> <li>Membership steady – slight increase over the last 3 years.</li> </ul>	
Volleyball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The club re-established in 2001 and in 2016 had approx. 31 teams (200-230 players).</li> <li>Participation peaked in 2013 at 253 players.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>240 members (current);</li> <li>200 members (5 years ago).</li> <li>Growth in membership due to growth in junior members.</li> <li>Membership expected to increase in the next 5 years.</li> </ul>
Table Tennis	2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>155 members total</li> <li>65 senior members;</li> <li>35 junior members;</li> <li>30 players 65+ years old;</li> <li>25 special needs players;</li> <li>70 (casual school group competitions).</li> <li>Membership increased over the previous 3 years.</li> </ul>	2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>120 members (current);</li> <li>85 members (5 years ago).</li> <li>Growth due to program awareness.</li> <li>Membership expected to stay the same in the next 5 years.</li> </ul>
Squash	2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80-100 members (approx. 64 playing members)</li> <li>Membership declined from 3-5 years ago.</li> </ul>	NA
Carpet Bowls	2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24-28 players from Horsham and 20 players from Haven.</li> <li>Membership stable for several years.</li> </ul>	NA
Rock Climbing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arapiles Climbing Guides – commercial climbing company, average class size of 12 people.</li> <li>Approx. half of business is servicing school groups.</li> </ul>	NA

<b>Gymnastics (Natimuk Gymnastics Club)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Membership is strong and stables.</li> <li>2016 – 130-140 participants, with a further 30-40 on waiting lists.</li> </ul>	NA
<b>Roller Derby</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2016 – 5 members;</li> </ul>	NA
<b>Indoor Tennis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Casual use and pay as you go competition at Horsham Lanes and Games</li> </ul>	NA
<b>Indoor Soccer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Casual use and pay as you go competition at Horsham Lanes and Games</li> </ul>	NA

Based on available information relating to participation, indoor sports which have reported growth include netball, volleyball and badminton. Membership and participation for other sports is generally steady, with some sports reporting a slight decline.

## 15.5. CONSULTATION

The following provides a summary of consultation findings related to indoor sports in Horsham and the opportunity to deliver outdoor sports in a co-located precinct. Consultation included a selection of one to one meetings with clubs and associations, a workshop with the Project Control Group, Council managers and staff and Councillors for the *Horsham Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case* project (2017) and a survey of sporting clubs and associations.

- There have been very limited improvements to Horsham’s indoor sports facilities in 40 years;
- Current provision of indoor facilities in Horsham are dispersed and generally ageing;
- Many facilities and amenities are uncompliant and are not suitable for hosting regional events;

- Horsham is not capable of attracting or hosting regional events due to current facilities provision;
- There is a need to ensure that any facilities developed are accessible to all community members, including through ensuring financially equitable access costs and membership costs;
- A regional facility would require 8 netball courts, which can be delivered as a combination of indoor and outdoor sports;
- Facilities are required to cater to all demographics, including the youngest of community members to the oldest;
- Use of any facilities would need to be designed to be maximised through appropriate programming and regular user groups;
- There is a need for organisations to maintain a level of autonomy;
- Potential to sell existing facilities if new facilities are developed;
- Need to assess traffic implications if proposing new facilities;
- There is opportunity to consider a variation of the proposed Wimmera Indoor Sports Stadium concept that could align to stakeholders and user needs;
- The original proposed closure of McBryde Street was identified as an issue by some members of the community;
- Need for strategic planning to provide evidence-based justification of site selection.

## ASPIRATIONS

As part of the workshop, the aspiration for the provision of indoor and outdoor sporting facilities for Horsham were workshoped with the group.

The following aspirations were noted for a hypothetical indoor and outdoor sports and recreation facility located near the Wimmera River and Showgrounds precinct. Please note that these have not been filtered for their practicality or appropriateness for delivery in Horsham or at specific sites, they are merely to

demonstrate some views around the potential for regional indoor and outdoor facilities.

- Delivery of 8 netball courts, which can be delivered as a combination of indoor and outdoor sports;
- 3 show courts for basketball and netball;
- A new AFL and cricket ground and pavilion;
- Synthetic pitch for soccer and hockey;
- 8 bowling greens;
- Athletics track;
- Space for other outdoor events including markets;
- Offices, amenities and universally accessible facilities;
- Residential development opportunities along the river;
- Indoor rock-climbing wall;
- Cycling;
- Large play space with area for recreation;
- Tourism uses;
- Utilise open space recreation areas to store flood waters in emergency flood situations.

## 15.6. SITE LOCATION ASSESSMENT

Williams Ross Architects completed an independent assessment of 11 potential sites for the indoor sports stadium as part of the Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design Report (2017). Sites assessed included:

- 1A: Basketball Stadium – 87 MacPherson Street;
- 1B: Velodrome – 87 McPherson Street;
- 2A: Showgrounds adjacent to McBryde Street;
- 2B: Showgrounds adjacent to the river;

- 2C: Showgrounds adjacent to McPherson Street;
- 3: Railway corridor (Mills Street);
- 4: Horsham Lanes, Jenkinson Avenue;
- 5: Horsham College – 310 Baillie Street;
- 6: Horsham Racecourse;
- 7: Sunnyside Sports Complex;
- 8: Hamilton Street

A robust site assessment matrix was used to assess the sites, including weighted criteria and scoring system. An outline of the criteria and criteria weighting is provided in Appendix A. Criteria were categorised under the categories of 'urban design and locality', 'existing assets, site conditions and capacity', 'financial and time impacts', 'strategic and legislative/political considerations'.

The scoring included:

1. Unsatisfactory, fails required standard
2. Very Poor, below standard compliance with criteria
3. Poor compliance with criteria
4. Below average, just acceptable compliance,
5. Average compliance with criteria OR Not Applicable
6. Above average compliance
7. Average to good compliance
8. Good compliance, complies with criteria with deficiencies
9. Very Good - complies with criteria with only minor deficiencies
10. Excellent, fully complies with criteria

All sites were assessed in a site assessment matrix, resulting in the following outcomes (Table 29).



The top three sites identified included the Showgrounds Precinct (adjacent to McBryde Street), the existing Basketball Stadium Site and the Showgrounds site adjacent to McPherson Street.

**TABLE 29** RESULTS OF SITE ASSESSMENT MATRIX

Site	Weighted Score (Max. possible score 55)	Rank
1A: Basketball Stadium – 87 MacPherson Street;	37.6	2
1B: Velodrome – 87 McPherson Street;	35.7	5
2A: Showgrounds adjacent to McBryde Street;	39.3	1
2B: Showgrounds adjacent to the river;	32.3	8
2C: Showgrounds adjacent to McPherson Street;	37.0	3
3: Railway corridor (Mills Street);	35.9	4
4: Horsham Lanes, Jenkinson Avenue;	35.3	6
5: Horsham College – 310 Baillie Street;	30.9	10
6: Horsham Racecourse;	31.8	9
7: Sunnyside Sports Complex;	29.3	11
8: Hamilton Street	33.7	7

Source: William Ross Architects, 2017

The criteria utilised by William Ross Architects in their site assessment matrix are robust. In addition to the existing identified criteria, there are a number of other factors that could be considered which would support sites within the central area of Horsham, including:

- **Zoning and Land Use** - whether the site is currently zoned for the proposed land use and if an indoor sporting precinct is an appropriate land use having regard to the sites context. For example, appropriate zones would include the Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ).
- **Co-Location Opportunities** – Does the site enable co-location development opportunities? In the case of a regional indoor sporting precinct this could include outdoor sports uses, recreation (trails, passive open space), events

spaces, tourism businesses (accommodation, functions/events, cafes/restaurants), allied health businesses.

- **Economic Development Outcomes** – Does the site enable economic development outcomes to be derived through development? For example, this could include hosting regional events, attracting new visitors and visitor expenditure. Sites that are closely located to the town centre generally provide strong flow on opportunities for visitor expenditure within businesses in the town centre such as cafes, restaurants, retailers and accommodation businesses.
- **City Presentation** – Is the site located in a visible location to promote the town's contemporary infrastructure to visitors, the community and potential

future residents? Sites that are well located and have good exposure to the community and visitors enable 'advertising' of the City's major assets and capability. This is an important consideration for visitors and potential future residents.

- **Accessibility** – Is the site equitably located in the municipality to provide access to all residents? This would include consideration for access times for various areas of the municipality, having regard to the current and future urban growth areas of the municipality.
- **The Primacy of the CBD** – Does the site assist or detract from strengthening the primacy of the CBD? Ensuring a strong and sustainable CBD is a key strategic planning consideration. CBD primacy typically relates to the provision of retail floorspace, however, major assets and activity nodes can assist in supporting the CBD in providing additional visitors and consumers for retailers and businesses within the CBD.

If the criteria/considerations above were to be included in a site assessment matrix, the results would give additional support to those sites that are centrally located within Horsham close proximity to the Horsham CBD (including businesses and active and passive open space), providing strong economic development outcomes and co-location opportunities.

Centrally located sites, in close proximity to the Central Business District provide a number of potential benefits, including but not limited to:

- Enabling the consolidation of regional sporting infrastructure within the central area, which can produce spin off benefits for existing businesses within the town centre;
- Provides an equitable location from an access point of view;
- Generally, provides access to existing infrastructure and services;
- Consolidates and improves the role and primacy of the CBD;
- Provides opportunity to showcase modern infrastructure to both visitors and residents (existing and potential).

## HORSHAM SHOWGROUNDS

The Horsham *CAD and Wimmera River Revitalisation* project (undertaken concurrently to this project) identified the Showgrounds and Wimmera River Precinct as providing a potential opportunity for future delivery of open space including active and passive recreation, tourism and sporting facilities. There are a number of benefits and opportunities that this location provides, including:

- The potential to co-locate regional sporting facilities.
- Co-location with the privately-owned Showgrounds land providing strategic opportunities for:
  - Creation of a major events precinct (sporting and non-sporting);
  - Potential commercial and tourism development opportunities (accommodation, food and beverage);
  - Potential for the Showgrounds to leverage off regional sports facilities, utilising shared access to infrastructure.
- Opportunity to improve the gateway entrance to Horsham, showcasing quality infrastructure.
- Enabling opportunities to link the precinct to existing and future recreation areas on and near the river.
- Proximity to the Wimmera River for irrigation.
- Opportunity to link the precinct with residential areas to the south and east of the river via a pedestrian bridge.

## 15.7. KEY FINDINGS

Based on review of existing assessments and reports related to indoor sports facilities in Horsham as well as consultation with key indoor sports stakeholders, the delivery of a multi-purpose indoor sports facility in Horsham at the McBryde Street site remains a required priority project for the City of Horsham and the region.

The criteria utilised to identify the preferred site is considered robust. Further additional support could be given to identified preferred centrally located sites within the Horsham Central Activities District due to the benefits these locations produce for existing and future businesses within the CAD, the improvements to city presentation, equitable access and co-location opportunities (businesses, recreation, tourism and events).

The facilities and sports proposed for the Wimmera Sports Stadium concept remain valid

There may be opportunity to review the indoor sports stadium concept in line with the other findings of this report and recent consultation outcomes, including:

- The *Horsham CAD and Wimmera River Revitalisation* project has identified the Showgrounds and Wimmera River Precinct as providing a potential opportunity for future delivery of open space including active and passive recreation, tourism and sporting facilities. The concept masterplan could be revisited so that it aligns with future opportunities for outdoor sports, tourism and events in the Showgrounds precinct.
- Many stakeholders identified a continued willingness to progress the development of an indoor sports facility in Horsham. There may be opportunity to progress previous concept options proposed as part of the Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design project (2017) based on stakeholder needs and support.

- Review of the needs of Horsham Table Tennis, based on their recent move to 11 Harriet Street. Based on discussions with Horsham Table Tennis, their new venue would be utilised for training and some games, however, they would still utilise a multipurpose indoor venue for larger table tennis events.

**PART D:**  
**SUMMARY AND**  
**RECOMMENDATIONS**

## 16. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### 16.1. INTRODUCTION

This section of the report provides a summary of the key outcomes of the assessment and provides recommendations to address the sporting facility needs of Horsham.

### 16.2. SUMMARY

Horsham is the only designated regional City in the Wimmera Southern Mallee Region. Its growth and development as a regional city is supported by both *Plan Melbourne (2017)* and the *Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan (2014)*. As a regional city Horsham is expected to be the principal centre for higher order goods and services, including social and community infrastructure.

Horsham is the only municipality within the Wimmera Southern Mallee region that is forecast to experience population growth<sup>18</sup>. This population growth is also expected to only occur in the central area of Horsham, supporting the need for Horsham to provide services and facilities that cater to a growing local population, whilst servicing other outlying regional and rural towns within Horsham Rural City and surrounding municipalities.

#### OUTDOOR SPORTING FACILITIES

Current sporting facilities in Horsham are disbursed and primarily designated/used for individual sports, separate to other facilities. There are limited examples of co-location of sports beyond traditional relationships (e.g.

Football/Netball clubs and Cricket). Generally, sporting facilities are ageing, not up to current day standards and are lacking in infrastructure. Although many clubs and sports have been able to 'make do' with these facilities, they are not of a quality aligned to a regional City, nor are they of a quality which provides a platform for strong sporting participation or community development.

From the perspective of quantitative supply relative to population, there is generally a sufficient number of fields/courts/pitches to meet the current needs of the local community, however, this varies depending on the sport.

There are significant issues with the quality of a number of facilities in Horsham including the quality and size of playing surfaces, run-off areas, lighting, condition of clubrooms (lack of universal access, female inclusive facilities), storage, car parking and in some cases scheduling conflicts.

There are currently no outdoor sporting precincts in Horsham that align to sporting association requirements to host regional events.

City Oval is considered Horsham's 'jewel in the crown'. It is a well-maintained facility and the playing surface is in excellent condition. It has high grade lighting for night training and matches (300 Lux). Further, current upgrades to the second storey pavilion (undertaken by the Horsham Demons Football/Netball Club) will improve the quality of their club rooms, however, there are a number of underlying issues with this facility, including:

- No universally accessible clubrooms or pavilion. The current pavilion is over two storeys and is an ageing piece of infrastructure. There is no universal

---

<sup>18</sup> Victoria in Future, 2016



access to the second level of the pavilion and there are no universally accessible bathrooms in this building.

- The size of the field is too small to host premier regional events, including the required amount of space for runoff areas;
- The field is poorly orientated for cricket matches resulting in short straight boundaries;
- There is one publicly accessible toilet on site, which is an ageing piece of infrastructure;
- There is only one netball court;
- The spectator grandstand is orientated to the south and can be subject to cold southerly winds;
- There are issues with the gravel embankment surrounding the field, including the quality of the surface and in providing universal access;
- The club pavilion is not currently accessible to all clubs and users;
- Generally, there is limited access available to the public (perception of private facility).

Facility improvements are required to City Oval to elevate its standing as a regional sporting events precinct.

Generally, short-term and reactive approaches to facility upgrades and development may solve local facility problems and assist in club operation and provision (which in many cases is urgently required), however, these fixes will not address the overarching issue of Horsham’s lack of appropriate facilities that cater to both regional demand and align to facilities typically provided in a regional City.

A strategic, overarching approach is required for the future of Horsham’s sporting facilities including the delivery of strategic infrastructure to bring Horsham’s sporting facilities in line with current expectations of social infrastructure and aligned to its designation as a regional City.

## OUTDOOR SPORTING FACILITIES DEMAND SUMMARY

Table 30 provides a snap shot summary of the demand assessment for outdoor sports. For further detail on each sport, please see each of the individual assessments in this report.

**TABLE 30** DEMAND SUMMARY

Sport	Quantitative Demand Summary	Qualitative Demand Summary	Position on Need
<b>AFL</b>	Sufficient current provision of AFL fields. Requirement for an additional 0.8 fields by 2033.	There is short term demand for an additional AFL field or use of an existing field for AFL to cater for pre-season training and future opportunities for club matches. There is a need for an appropriate venue to host regional events.	Need for appropriate regional venue. Additional field required for AFL use in the medium term to cater to future strategic opportunities as well as cater to growth to 2033. The facility should be multi-purpose.
<b>Cricket</b>	Sufficient current provision of cricket fields. Requirement for an additional 0.4 fields by 2033.	There is a need for an additional 'hard wicket' facility in Horsham.	Potential for additional 'hard wicket' cricket field for cricket use, to assist with training and promoting short forms of the game and cater to growth to 2033. The facility should be multi-purpose.
<b>Soccer</b>	Demand for approximately 2.4 pitches by 2033.	Current facilities are not of an adequate standard. Minimum one full size field is	Adequate facility and pitch required to cater for soccer, with potential to grow to 2 pitches in the long term.

		required to cater to the needs of Horsham Soccer Club.	Facility should be multi-purpose.
<b>Tennis</b>	Significant projected oversupply of tennis courts to 2033.	Adequate courts but require one venue capable of hosting regional events (16+ courts)	Need for one venue capable of hosting regional events. Opportunities to consolidate courts should be explored.
<b>Netball</b>	Netball Vic identified need for 14.4 courts.	Current facilities are not adequate. Need for suitable venue with minimum 8 compliant courts.	Need for one venue capable of hosting regional events. Need for suitable venue with minimum 8 compliant courts. Facility should be multi-purpose.
<b>Little Athletics</b>	Does not meet the 'typical' population provision trigger for Athletics facilities.	Need for suitable venue, including 8 lane athletics track, which can also accommodate regional events.	Need to address Athletics facility issues, including need for 8 lane track. Consideration should be given to 'grass' athletics tracks in the short to medium term. Facility should be multi-purpose.
<b>Rugby League</b>	Does not meet the 'typical' population provision trigger for Rugby facilities.	Current facilities are not of an adequate standard.	Adequate facility and pitch required to cater for rugby. Facility should be multi-purpose.
<b>Hockey</b>	Does not meet the 'typical' population provision trigger	There is no facility in Horsham for Hockey games. Need for a facility located in Horsham.	Hockey facility required in Horsham. Facility should be multi-purpose.

			for synthetic hockey facilities.
<b>Lawn Bowls</b>	Adequate supply of Bowls Greens.	Lawn Bowls facilities in Horsham currently competing against each other for members.	Adequate number of bowling greens with opportunity for consolidation. Potential to upgrade one venue to be capable of hosting regional events.

### INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES (REVIEW)

Review of existing reports relating to indoor sports facilities in Horsham and recent consultation with sporting associations and clubs provided a number of findings in regard to existing indoor sporting facilities.

Generally, there is an adequate number of indoor courts to support the needs for local standard provision, however, existing facilities are generally non-compliant, ageing, do not meet contemporary facility standards, do not cater to all demographics and cannot cater to regional events.

Previous work has determined that there is a pressing need to develop a multi-purpose indoor sporting facility in Horsham. A number of sites were assessed for this facility, with the McBryde street site identified as the preferred location through a robust site assessment matrix. Centrally located sites, close to existing businesses would be beneficial for an indoor sports stadium for a number of reasons, including:

- Enabling the consolidation of regional sporting infrastructure within the central area, producing spin off benefits for existing businesses within the town centre when events are hosted in town;
- Provides an equitable location from an access point of view for residents;

- Provides access to existing infrastructure and services such as accommodation, cafes and restaurants for events visitors;
- Consolidates and improves the role and primacy of the CBD;
- Provides opportunity to showcase modern infrastructure to both visitors and residents (existing and potential).

A concept masterplan and Business case was prepared for an indoor facility on McBryde Street in Horsham, adjacent to the existing basketball stadium. The need for multi-purpose indoor sports facility remains a key project for the City of Horsham and wider region.

## 17. RECOMMENDATIONS

### 17.1. OVERVIEW

The following recommendations for the provision of sporting facilities in Horsham are based on the demand assessment, consultation and assessment of existing facilities within Horsham. Whilst it is acknowledged that these recommendations will require time and funding to plan and deliver, the recommendations are designed to set Horsham on the “right path” in terms of the provision of sporting facilities and community infrastructure in the municipality. Quick fixes or reactionary approaches to facility provision have not worked in the past and if repeated will not achieve the best outcomes for current and future generations.

Further work is required to progress these recommendations, this may include the need to review/finalise existing concepts/designs, assessments of optimum sites, layout and components (including preparation of masterplans), and business cases to support funding and investment.

### 17.2. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Upgrade City Oval as Horsham’s premier regional AFL/cricket venue – Upgrade City Oval as required to enable it to host regional AFL and cricket sporting events and other non-sporting events. Upgrades required may include expansion of the size of the field to increase runoff, a new multi-purpose pavilion and clubrooms (including fully accessible and female friendly facilities) and covered spectator areas. Delivery of a second netball court would assist in club training and matches.

#### Justification for Recommendation:

- Utilisation of an existing asset and infrastructure.
- Key location adjacent to the CAD and Wimmera River precinct.
- Providing facilities that are commensurate with Horsham’s designation as a regional City.
- To attract regional level sporting events driving increased tourist visitation and expenditure and supporting the local economy.
- Delivering modern community infrastructure, which improves liveability and assists in the attraction and retention of population.
- The need to provide compliant sporting facilities.
- Support increased participation for all ages and demographics, including through provision of universally accessible and all gender facilities.
- Improvement of integration with surrounding areas, in particular Sawyer Park and Riverfront precinct.

- Opportunities for use by other sporting codes for regional events and non-sporting events.

2. **Develop a Regional Indoor Sports Precinct** – development of a regional indoor sports precinct at the McBryde Street site, providing for basketball, netball, badminton, table tennis, volleyball and squash. This project should build on the work completed as part of the *Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design Report (2017)*, including the re-examining of proposed concepts based on outcomes of consultation with key stakeholders.

**Justification for Recommendation:**

- Demand from indoor sports for an appropriate facility to host training, events and matches.
- The need to provide compliant sporting facilities.
- The need to provide additional courts to meet current and projected demand.
- Providing facilities that are commensurate with Horsham’s designation as a regional City.
- Support increased participation for all ages and demographics, including through provision of universally accessible and all gender facilities.
- To attract regional level sporting events driving increased tourist visitation and expenditure and supporting the local economy.
- Opportunity to attract non-sporting events.
- Delivering modern community infrastructure, which improves liveability and assists in the attraction and retention of population.
- The need to co-locate and share infrastructure so asset utilisation is maximised.

- Support and justification as identified through the *Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design Report (2017)*.

3. **Develop an outdoor multi-purpose sports precinct** – plan for and develop a new multi-purpose shared infrastructure outdoor sports precinct. The *Wimmera River and CAD Project* has identified the opportunity to transition the Crown land reserve at the Horsham Showgrounds precinct, currently occupied by the Horsham Greyhounds, to an active sports, passive recreation and tourism precinct, which aligns to the opportunity for a multi-purpose sports precinct. As a preliminary concept this should include provision of multipurpose sporting facilities. Key sports facilities considered for inclusion include Athletics (including 8 lane grass track and associated athletics facilities), soccer/rugby fields and a synthetic hockey pitch. Consideration should also be given to the inclusion of a shared use oval for AFL/Cricket training and matches, this could be delivered as part of a multi-purpose grass field that has the capacity to accommodate multiple sports (i.e. soccer, rugby, AFL, cricket). Consideration could also be given to the inclusion of tennis courts with the synthetic hockey facility, however this would require two hockey pitches to deliver the required amount of courts to service regional events (i.e. 16 courts) and would be subject to site capacity and appropriate shared surfaces. Any new tennis courts delivered at the Showgrounds would result in the need to consolidate existing tennis facilities in central Horsham due to the existing over supply of courts. Further work is required to deliver on this concept, including an assessment of facility and site requirements and the preparation of a masterplan and business case to support investment.

**Justification for Recommendation:**

- Demand from sports for appropriate and suitable facilities for training, matches and club facilities (little athletics, soccer, rugby and hockey).
- Demand for an additional AFL field for training, matches and catering for future growth opportunities.



- Demand from cricket for an additional 'hard wicket' facility.
  - Demand from Hockey for a venue/surface capable of hosting matches in Horsham (currently utilise Dimboola for matches) and an appropriate training surface.
  - Demand from soccer for an appropriate venue for training and matches, including a full-sized soccer pitch.
  - Demand from tennis for a venue capable of hosting regional events.
  - The need to support increased participation for all ages and demographics, including through provision of universally accessible and all gender facilities.
  - Encouraging growth and participation in grass roots sports;
  - Providing facilities that are commensurate with Horsham's designation as a regional City.
  - To attract municipal level sporting events including creating new opportunities for little athletics, soccer, rugby events (and hockey if not delivered as part of Direction 2).
  - Driving increased tourist visitation and expenditure and supporting the local economy.
  - Delivering modern community infrastructure, which improves liveability and assists in the attraction and retention of population.
  - The need to co-locate and share infrastructure so asset utilisation is maximised.
4. **Upgrade an existing tennis facility to enable hosting of regional events** - If not possible as part of facilities at the Showgrounds (Recommendation 3), an upgrade of an existing tennis facility such as Haven Tennis Courts should be explored. This could include delivering an additional 4 hard courts (to bring the total to 16 courts) and appropriate amenities and infrastructure to make it capable of hosting regional tennis events. A masterplan would need to be prepared to guide the upgrade, considering upgrades to the quantity of courts, clubrooms/pavilions, access and car parking needs.

#### Justification for Recommendation:

- There is a significant current supply/potential oversupply of tennis courts across the municipality.
  - Maximise utilisation of existing infrastructure and existing assets.
  - Opportunities exist for tennis that can be built on to enable the attraction of regional events.
  - Providing facilities that are commensurate with Horsham's designation as a regional City.
  - To attract regional level tennis sporting events.
  - Driving increased tourist visitation and expenditure and supporting the local economy.
  - Delivering modern community infrastructure, which improves liveability and assists in the attraction and retention of population.
  - There are currently 12 hard courts at Haven, which include shaded space between them for spectators, which is an important consideration for events.
5. **Upgrade an existing Bowls Club to enable hosting of regional events** – work in partnership with private Bowls clubs to upgrade an appropriate venue making it suitable to host regional events. Potential preliminary clubs for consideration include Sunnyside Bowls Club or Horsham City Bowls Club. A regional bowls facility could include four synthetic greens and required associated infrastructure and amenities including change rooms, social areas, shaded areas and car parking.

#### Justification for Recommendation:

- Although there are a significant number of bowling greens in Horsham, current facilities are inadequate to cater for regional events.
- Providing facilities that are commensurate with Horsham's designation as a regional City.

- To attract regional level Lawn Bowls events.
- Drive increased tourist visitation and expenditure and supporting the local economy.
- Delivering modern community infrastructure, which improves liveability and assists in the attraction and retention of population.
- Maximising the use of existing assets.

6. **Plan for existing sporting reserves within Horsham** - Assess the role of existing sporting reserves within Horsham once new facilities have been planned for and/or delivered. For example, if multi-purpose regional indoor and outdoor sports facility are delivered, potential future implications may include:

- The Horsham Racecourse would no longer be required for Rugby or Soccer sports.
- College Community oval would no longer be required for Hockey.
- Racecourse Reserve would no longer be required for Netball.
- Dudley Cornell would no longer be required for soccer or Little Athletics.

Further, in the short term (i.e. whilst planning is being undertaken for the long term delivery of a multi-purpose outdoor sporting precinct) facility upgrades could be considered at key reserves to improve the functionality for key sports, however, short term upgrades/facility improvements should not compromise the longer-term opportunity to deliver a multi-purpose outdoor sporting precinct.

**Justification for Recommendation:**

- Planning for key existing reserves once the provision for sports at new facilities is determined and planned for, enabling suitable planning for existing reserves.
- Enables potential exploration of re-use of some existing reserves for other sports or other opportunities, such as passive recreation or other community infrastructure needs.

- Exploration of potential opportunities for divestment.
- Allows for general local facility improvements without compromising on long term strategic directions.

7. **Rural facilities** – No additional provision of sporting facilities are recommended for Rural Areas, however, upgrades or additions to existing facilities in rural areas should be assessed on an ‘as needs’ basis, considering a range of local factors (e.g. area specific population and demographic data, membership, quality of facilities, utilisation, need etc.). Opportunities for consolidation of facilities could also be investigated if appropriate, if and when upgrades to rural facilities are proposed.

**Justification for Recommendation:**

- Generally, populations in rural areas of the City of Horsham are projected to decline, likely reducing future need for facilities.
- Opportunities for consolidation may improve the quality of facilities rather than providing many facilities of a lower quality.
- Assessment of upgrades or additions to facilities on an ‘as needs’ basis will ensure upgrades are required and justifiable.

8. **Structure Planning** – Identify additional demand for future sporting facility precincts through future greenfield structure planning, including the likely demand generated from residential growth and having regard to the existing sports facilities context.

**Justification for Recommendation:**

- Orderly planning of sporting needs for greenfield areas is undertaken during the formal structure planning process.
- New facilities in greenfield areas are strategically justifiable.

# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX A INDOOR SPORTS STADIUM LOCATION ASSESSMENT SCORING SYSTEM

The following scoring system was utilised by Williams Ross Architects in assessment of potential sites. The scoring system included:

1. Unsatisfactory, fails required standard
2. Very Poor, below standard compliance with criteria
3. Poor compliance with criteria
4. Below average, just acceptable compliance,
5. Average compliance with criteria OR Not Applicable
6. Above average compliance
7. Average to good compliance
8. Good compliance, complies with criteria with deficiencies
9. Very Good - complies with criteria with only minor deficiencies
10. Excellent, fully complies with criteria

Criteria utilised included:

### Urban Design and Locality (40% weighting)

- Compatibility of Recreation Use in the Neighbourhood
- Impact on Neighbourhood Amenity
- Accessibility - car access
- Healthy Place-making - e.g., connection to cycling and pedestrians paths, access to surrounding open space
- Proximity to potential facility users
- Proximity to support facilities - e.g. food and accommodation

- Site Capacity - for facility, on-site car parking, outdoor courts
- Site Capacity - for Expansion and Development Opportunities

### Existing Assets, Site Conditions and Capacity (30% weighting)

- Existing Facility Condition
- Existing Facility - Regulatory Compliance
- Existing Site Condition
- Existing Services Infrastructure

### Financial and Time Impacts (20%)

- Site Capital Cost to Council
- Financial (capital) Contribution of Existing Infrastructure / Facility on Project Cost
- Potential Impact on Timing of Project

### Strategic and Legislative/Political Considerations (10%)

- Horsham Multi-Use Sports Stadium Phase 1 Report
- Local Policy Compliance - e.g. Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Strategic Plan; Horsham Sport and Recreation Strategy 2013 - 2018
- State-wide Health and Well-Being Policy Compliance - e.g. Healthy by Design - Heart Foundation; Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP)
- Planning Policy Compliance
- Community Support

**TABLE 31** SITE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Siting and Location Criteria	Performance Measure / Weighting
<b>Urban Design &amp; Locality</b>	40%
Compatibility of Recreation Use in the Neighbourhood	A measure of whether the Recreation Use is compatible with the site location to a 1km radius
Impact on Neighbourhood Amenity	A measure of the impact of the future Recreation Use on local amenity (i.e., building bulk, traffic increases, weekend and evening use) (high score = low impact)
Accessibility - car access	A measure of the ease of traffic management and facilitating car / bus access onto site
Healthy Place-making - e.g., connection to cycling and pedestrians paths, access to surrounding open space	A measure of the site's connection to existing cycling and pedestrian access routes
Proximity to potential facility users	A measure of site's proximity to potential local users - i.e. schools
Proximity to support facilities - e.g. food and accommodation	A measure of site's proximity to support facilities e.g. food and accommodation (positive impact on local economy)
Site Capacity - for facility, on-site car parking, outdoor courts	A measure of the site's physical size and capacity for facility plus on-site car parking, say 4 x outdoor courts
Site Capacity - for Expansion and Development Opportunities	A measure of the future capacity of the subject site and facility for expansion and further development.
<b>Existing Assets, Site Condition and Capacity</b>	30%
Existing Facility Condition	A measure of the overall structural condition of individual building (where located on site), based on observations as well as Council documents
Existing Facility - Regulatory Compliance	A measure of how compliant the facility is with the following considerations: OH&S, DDA, Hazardous Materials, Building Regulations, Sports Court run-offs
Existing Site Condition	A measure of the risk of known site conditions e.g. site contamination, flood risk (high score = low risk)
Existing Services Infrastructure	A measure of the capacity of the site's existing services infrastructure (utilities)
<b>Financial and Time Impacts</b>	20%
Site Capital Cost to Council	A measure of the level of capital required by Council to secure the site. (high score = low cost)
Financial (capital) Contribution of Existing Infrastructure / Facility on Project Cost	A measure of the impact of existing site infrastructure and/or buildings on reducing the Project Cost (high score = high financial contribution)
Potential Impact on Timing of Project	A measure of the time it may take to secure site (i.e. purchase, re-zone) (high score = minimal impact)
<b>Strategic and Legislative/Political Considerations</b>	10%
Horsham Multi-Use Sports Stadium Phase 1 Report	A measure of the site's compliance with the Phase 1 Report
Local Policy Compliance - e.g. Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Strategic Plan; Horsham Sport and Recreation Strategy 2013 - 2018	A measure of the current facility's compliance with relevant Council Policies for the project area
State-wide Health and Well-Being Policy Compliance - e.g. Healthy by Design - Heart Foundation; Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP)	A measure of the current facility's compliance with relevant State Government Policies for the project area (e.g. SRV)
Planning Policy Compliance	A measure of the current facility's compliance with the State and Local policy directions of the Horsham Rural Planning Scheme.
Community Support	A high level measure of the potential community support for the location of a Recreation Facility on this site (high score = high community support)

Source: William Ross Architects, 2017



[www.urbanenterprise.com.au](http://www.urbanenterprise.com.au)