



Recreation Strategy 2017-2027



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Table of contents



Introduction	1	Recreation Trends	35	
Strategy purpose	1	High level trends	35	
Scope	1	Move towards informal/active recreation	35	
Council's role	2	Open space/play trends	36	
Council's achievements	3	Informal recreation/physical activity trends	37	
Community profile	5	Sporting trends	37	
Population growth and projections	5	Demand for recreation	39	
Demographics	5	Current participation and future community demand in organised sport	39	
Engagement summary	9	Key data considerations	40	
Engagement overview	9	Gap analysis	41	
Community responses	10	General findings	45	
Club responses	14	Future direction	47	
Schools	16	Vision	47	
State Sporting Associations & other organisations	18	Guiding principles	47	
Recreation supply	21	Action plan	48	
Current Supply overview	21	Management (policy & procedures)	49	
Baw Baw Shire	22	Existing facilities and programs	50	
Warragul	23	New facilities, programs and initiatives	51	
Drouin	25	Appendices		
Trafalgar	27	Appendix A	Best Practice Management Review for Recreation Reserves	54
Longwarry	27	Appendix B	Literature Review	58
Yarragon	28	Appendix C	Community Survey & Club Survey	60
Neerim South	28	Appendix D	Outstanding Recreation Reserve Master Plan Actions	65
Darnum	29	Appendix E	Facility Prioritisation Assessment Matrix	80
Willow Grove	29			
Buln Buln	30			
Jindivick	30			
Thorpdale	31			
Labertouche	31			
Rawson	32			
Ellinbank	32			
Lardner	33			
Hallora	33			
Athlone	34			



Introduction

Strategy purpose

The purpose of the Recreation Strategy 2017-2027 is for Council to better understand the current and likely recreational needs of the community and to develop a framework for the effective provision, development and management of recreation facilities and services within Baw Baw Shire.

In understanding these needs, the Recreation Strategy considers pressures on the Shire including population growth, new recreation trends, climate change, increasing expectations and the need for prioritisation of Council funds.

The Strategy aligns with Council’s strategic objectives to foster vibrant, healthy and inclusive communities by encouraging increased sport and recreation participation for all members of the community regardless of age, gender or ability in an environmentally responsible way.

Scope

The Strategy is concerned with Council and Crown owned or managed recreation, sporting and leisure facilities. Some natural areas and private services have been considered in understanding the context of the strategy, and the complementing opportunities for recreation they provide.

This Strategy provides strategic guidance on key identified issues from the open space network and includes actions to encourage opportunities for increased participation in sport and recreation by all members of the community regardless of age, gender or ability in an environmentally responsible way.

Information contained within this Strategy is based on a recreation audit and assessment of the Shire’s open space network and recreation facilities, and is a snapshot in time only. This information is accurate as at September 2017. Any open space and/or recreation facility developments or data updates since this time may have not been taken into account.

Wide-ranging engagement was undertaken to ensure community and Council input and to help identify demand. A summary of the engagement processes undertaken is included on page 9. Key outcomes of the engagement have been included in the Engagement Summary section.

It is essential that Council is open and transparent with the community regarding what it can afford to build and maintain and what the community will be required to contribute in order to provide the desired standard of service. Innovative and pragmatic funding models have been incorporated into the Strategy to provide clear guidance on funding responsibilities.

Strategic context

The Strategy aligns with the provisions of the Planning Scheme and aligns with the Community Services Planning Framework (2013), the Baw Baw Public Open Space Strategy (2014) and the Baw Baw Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021. In relation to other planning strategies and documents, the Recreation Strategy sits below the Council Plan 2017-2021, and informs various policies (such as the Pricing Policy) and various planning documents such as master plans and specific strategies (specific sport strategies, walk and cycle strategies and playground strategies).

The Strategy includes:

- » recreation services and activities provided at Council or Crown owned or managed recreation, sporting and leisure facilities

The Strategy excludes:

- » open space primarily used for passive/contemplative use
- » bushland and conservation areas
- » cultural places and services such as libraries, cinemas and arts and cultural places
- » home-based or private recreation activities and pursuits, except where these interact with Council owned or managed facilities

Recreation

refers to organised sport and active recreation collectively

Organised sport

refers to structured competitive activity

Active recreation

refers to leisure time physical activity undertaken outside of structured, competitive sport¹

¹ Active Victoria: A strategic framework for sport and recreation in Victoria 2017-2021

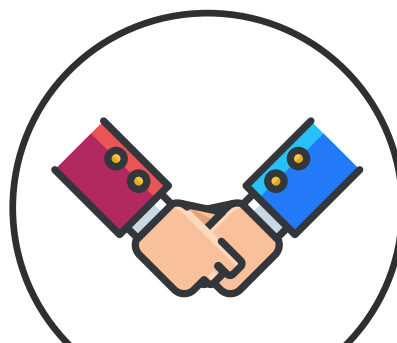
Council's role

Council's role in delivering recreation can be divided into four key areas:



1. Advocacy

- » promotion and activation of sport and recreation opportunities to maximise community participation
- » attract funding from the State Government and other sources



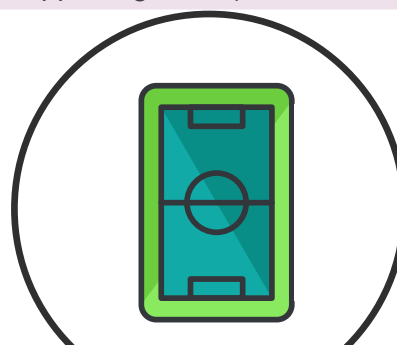
2. Partnerships

- » develop strong partnerships with state government agencies and other public/private service providers (e.g. Sport and Recreation Victoria, GippSport, State Sporting Associations, DELWP, healthy and community support agencies)



3. Strategic and statutory planning

- » local planning to meet the demand for open space and recreation
- » development of Recreation strategies
- » regulator and manager of land



4. Provision of services and infrastructure

- » provision of a range of recreation facilities within Baw Baw Shire
- » provision of general recreation opportunities
- » support committees/groups to manage and operate a wide range of facilities and activities

Council's achievements

Recreation plays a vital role in enhancing one's quality of life. Appropriately planned, developed and managed recreation facilities and spaces provide numerous opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals and the community, as well as bringing people together to develop social networks and friendships.

Council is proud of its previous achievements in recreation and open space planning and development. Since the previous Recreation Strategy (2005-2015) was developed, Council has fulfilled many of the recommendations.

Significant outcomes have included additional resources to improve service outcomes and capital expenditure on renewing, upgrading and developing new facilities; the development of a range of plans for towns and sports; attraction of millions of dollars in grant funding; the redevelopment of the Warragul Leisure Centre; improved systems and communication and better governance and management of facilities.



Additional operating and capital investment toward recreation



renewing, upgrading and developing new facilities



the development of a range of plans for towns and sports



attraction of over \$11.8m dollars in grant funding



\$14m redevelopment of Warragul Leisure Centre



Improved systems and communication



better governance and management of facilities

Civic Park, Drouin



Warragul Leisure Centre



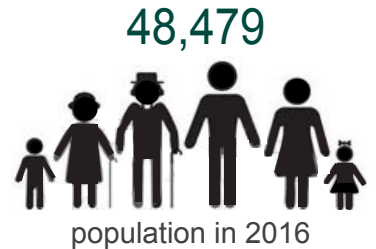


Community profile

Population growth and projections

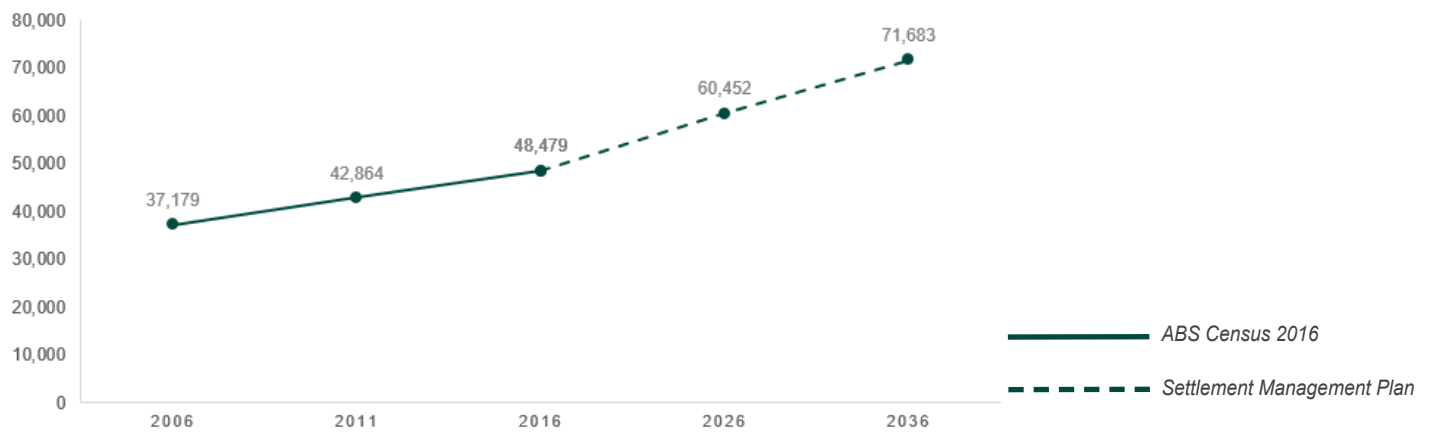
Baw Baw is a rapidly growing Shire, ranked as the third fastest growing regional area in Victoria¹. The Shire offers affordable housing and a rural lifestyle 100 kilometres east of Melbourne. The population is projected to reach over 60,000 residents by the year 2026¹, accommodating an additional 13,718 in a ten year period.

Population growth will place increased pressure on existing sport and recreation services, and create more demand for a range of opportunities. Additional demand will be concentrated in Drouin and Warragul where over 78% of the growth is expected to occur². It will be important to continue to provide the community with quality opportunities for recreation in line with this population growth.



(With the ABS Estimated Resident Population as at 30 June 2017 of 50,364)

Figure 1. Population growth and projections



Age profile and life-cycle stage

Baw Baw Shire's population pyramid³ reveals an ageing population with a high proportion of people moving into retirement age. By 2027, the largest age group will be people aged between 55-74 followed by people aged 35-54.

There are also a high proportion of children aged 0-14 who make up 19% of the population. Children have greater rates of participation in formal sports compared to adults, with the participation peaking at 5-14 years⁴. The population dip of young adults can be explained by the general trend to seek out tertiary education and employment in metropolitan areas after high school. Understanding this age profile of Baw Baw helps in providing recreation opportunities that will be most in demand now and in the future.

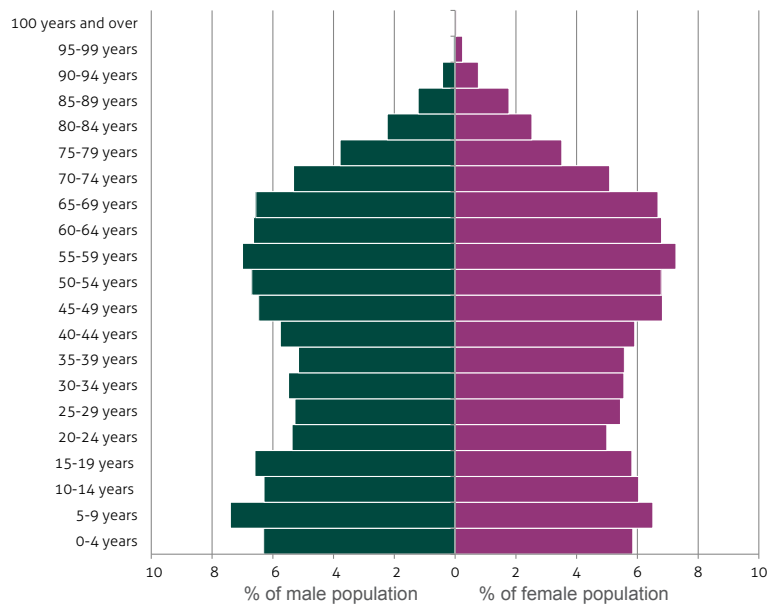


Figure 2: Population pyramid of Baw Baw Shire 2016

1 Victoria in Future 2016
2 Settlement Management Plan 2013
3 ABS Census 2016
4 Sport Participation Rates Victoria 2015

Ageing population

Baw Baw Shire has an ageing population. The median age in Baw Baw Shire is 42³, compared to 37 in Victoria and 38 in Australia. The proportion of people aged 65 years and is also higher than state and national rates at 20.2%, compared to 15.6% in Victoria and 15.7% across Australia.

The ageing population will have implications for the types of recreation activities people will be seeking to participate in and the services and facilities needed to support that demand. While the number of youth in Baw Baw is currently high, the proportion is projected to remain steady while the 65+ years category will grow.

Household income

The median weekly household income in Baw Baw is \$1,196. This is less than Victoria (\$1,419) and Australia (\$1,438) however it is slightly higher than the median household income in the Gippsland Region (\$1,058). Household income affects the amount of money people are willing or able to spend pursuing sport and recreation activities.

Transport

Approximately 93% of households have access to a car, while 3.7% of households have none, and must rely on public transport or other modes to access recreation opportunities. Access to a car (by household) is greater in Baw Baw than both Gippsland (90%) and Victoria (84%). It is noted that 78% of community survey respondents reported driving to parks and recreation spaces.

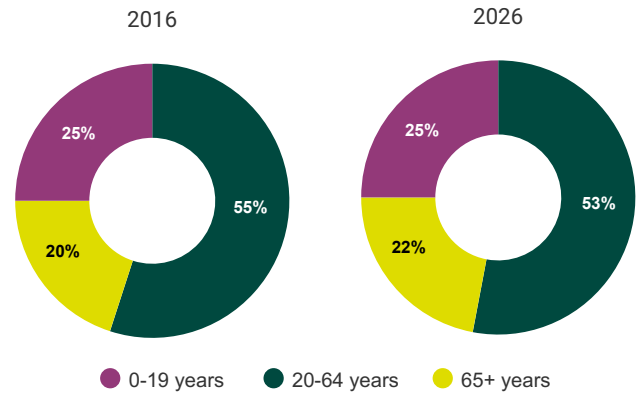


Figure 3: Changing age composition from 2016-2026

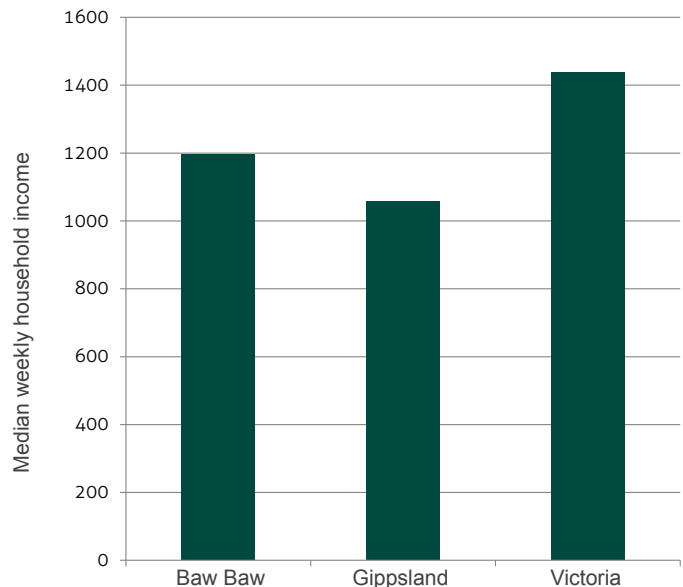


Figure 4. Median weekly household income from Census 2016



Figure 5. Households with access to a car

3 2016 Census, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Physical mobility

Physical mobility can be a barrier to participating in sport and recreation where transport, access and opportunities are not available. In the 2016 census, 5.6% of people in Baw Baw stated a need for assistance for core activities including self-care, mobility and communication because of a disability, which is similar to Gippsland (6.4%) and Victoria (5.1%).



Volunteering

In Baw Baw Shire the rate of volunteering is 24.1%, greater than both Gippsland (22.7%) and state (19.2%) averages. Most sport and recreation groups rely on volunteers to run their activities. Local clubs have reported issues maintaining a volunteer base to run their activities in line with the broader trend of declining volunteerism.



Family status and household structure

The number of single-person households is increasing in Baw Baw Shire and across Australia. According to ABS Family and Household Projections, by 2027, couples without children will outnumber couples with children. Whilst not the highest number of households, lone person households will experience the largest growth during this same period⁴. Increasing prominence of single-person households will place increased importance on recreation activities and the social interactions they provide. Household structures in Baw Baw differ from the Gippsland region - where there is a greater percentage of single person households (30.1%) and Victoria - which has a greater percentage of group households than Baw Baw (4.5%).

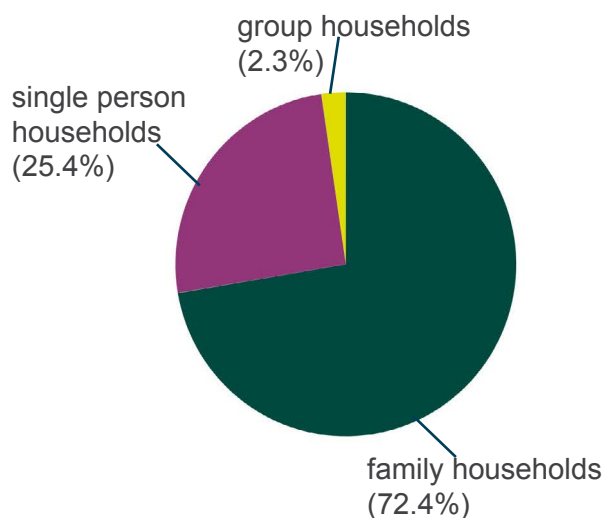


Figure 6. Household composition in Baw Baw Shire

Diversity

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people made up 1.0% of the Baw Baw Shire population in 2016 compared to 1.9% in Gippsland and 0.8% in Victoria.

Country of origin and language spoken at home

People born overseas represent 18.7% of people in Baw Baw Shire compared to 20.6% in Gippsland and 35.1% in Victoria. Country of birth can have implications for the types of sport and recreation people have been exposed to and wish to participate in. 10.5% of people in Baw Baw Shire speak a language other than English at home compared to 13.5% in Gippsland and 32.1% in Victoria.



⁴ http://stat.data.abs.gov.au/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=ABS_FAMILY_PROJ#



Civic Park, Warragul



Neerim South



Pavilion at Rawson Recreation Reserve, Rawson



Engagement summary

Engagement overview

A wide community engagement strategy was adopted during the development of the Strategy to gain an understanding of the role recreation facilities play in the social fabric of the Baw Baw community.

A range of tools and techniques were used to engage target groups and the general community, ensuring all interested people had multiple opportunities to participate during the development of the Strategy.

Engagement with the community involved:

1. time out sporting club workshop
 - Drouin (21 people attended)
2. community survey online and hard copy surveys
 - Council received 220 community surveys.
 - Council-wide results from this survey are included in the Appendix.
3. sports and community groups online surveys
 - Council received 54 club surveys
4. school visits (primary and secondary schools)
 - Neerim South Primary School (45 students)
 - Drouin Secondary College (16 students)
 - Warragul Regional College (16 students)
5. school principal online survey
 - Council received 8 school principal surveys
6. discussions/meetings with Council's advisory committees
 - Arts and Culture Advisory Committee
 - Positive Ageing Advisory Committee
 - Disability Advisory Committee
 - Healthy Baw Baw Advisory Committee
 - Information and survey distributed to all remaining advisory committees
7. interviews with other groups
 - Planned Activity Group
 - 2 formal submissions (from Central West Gippsland Primary Care Partnership and Drouin Football Club)
 - internal Council staff from various departments
 - State Sporting Associations



Figure 7. Engagement highlights from the community survey

Community survey respondents

Council received 220 community surveys. The gender, age and locality of the respondents is represented in the figures below. The majority of respondents were female and aged between 30-34, 40-44 or 65 years and older. The majority of respondents live in either Warragul or Drouin. To ensure a good representation of the Baw Baw community, a varied approach to engagement was undertaken which included community surveys, school visits, school principal surveys, club surveys, club workshop and interviews with other key groups.

Gender

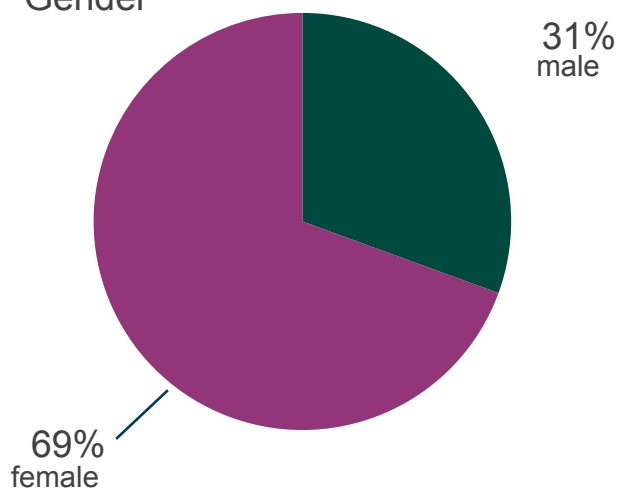


Figure 8. Gender of community survey respondents

Age

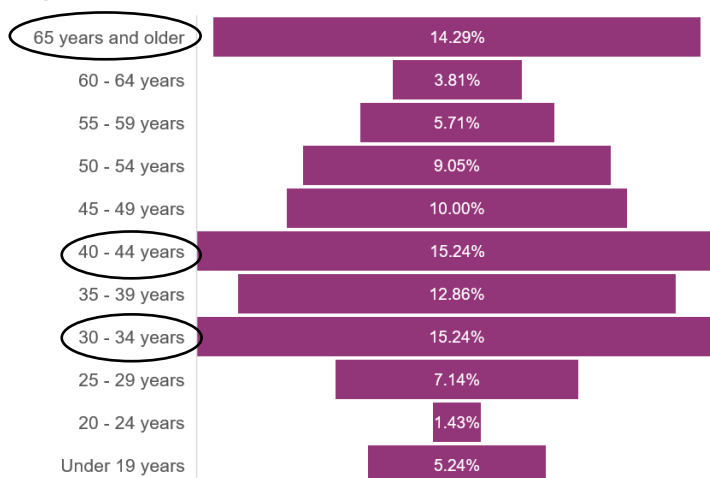


Figure 9. Age category of community survey respondents

Locality

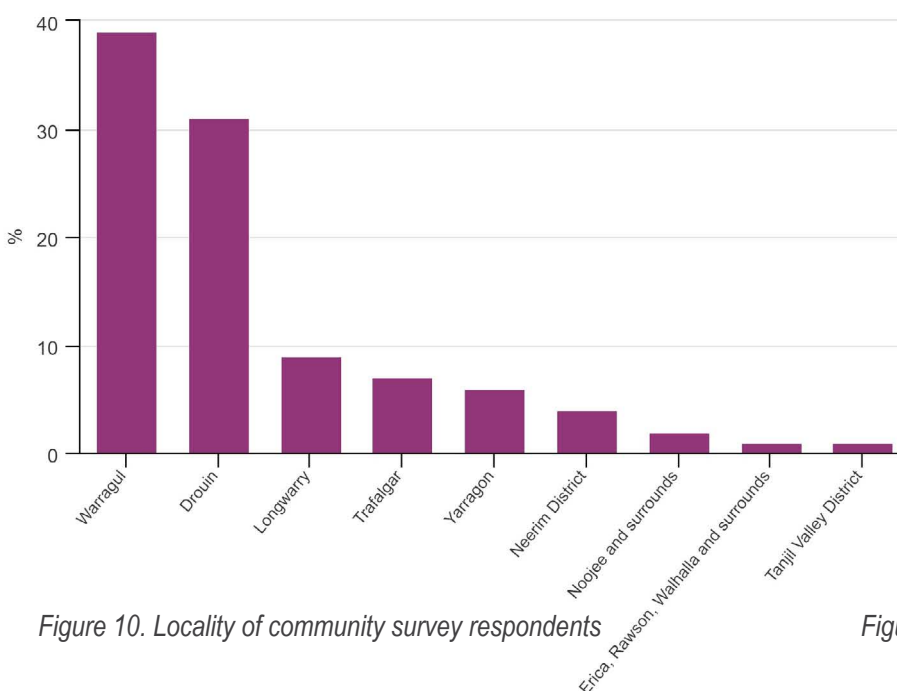


Figure 10. Locality of community survey respondents

Transport

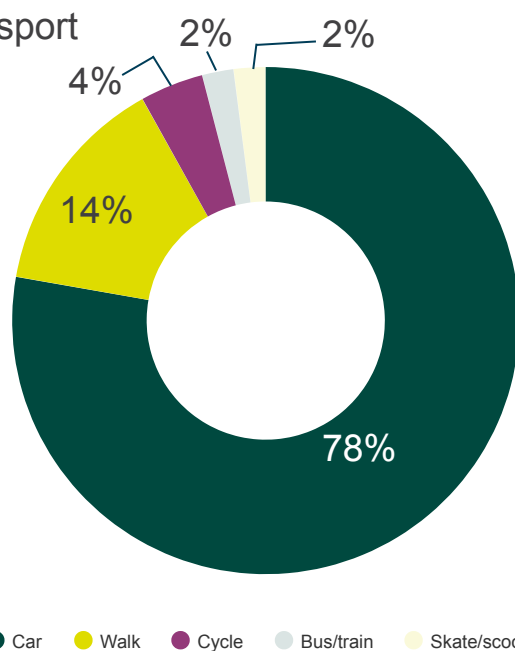


Figure 11. Mode of transport to parks and recreation spaces

Satisfaction with recreation facilities and opportunities

During the development of this Strategy, residents were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with recreation opportunities/facilities in Baw Baw Shire. Community halls/centres were rated the highest, followed by swimming pools and natural bushland parks. The community were least satisfied with low cost/free physical activities/programs, followed by activities for youth and sportsfields/courts.

While the highest and lowest rated facilities/opportunities are discussed below, it is important to note that in most categories, the number of people who reported being satisfied was greater than the number of people who were not satisfied, with the exception of Activities for youth and Low cost/free physical activities/programs.



Community halls/centres were rated highly by community survey respondents. Council has a variety of community halls and centres available for hire.



The high satisfaction rating of swimming pools reflects Council's recent investment in the redevelopment of the Warragul Leisure Centre.



The community also reported a high satisfaction with natural bushland parks. Residents have access to a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities within Baw Baw shire.



Council does not currently offer any low cost/free physical activity programming (except at aquatic/leisure centres), which is possibly why the number of people who reported they were not satisfied with this opportunity was 34%. People have requested:

- » free outdoor fitness classes
- » more low cost options to exercise

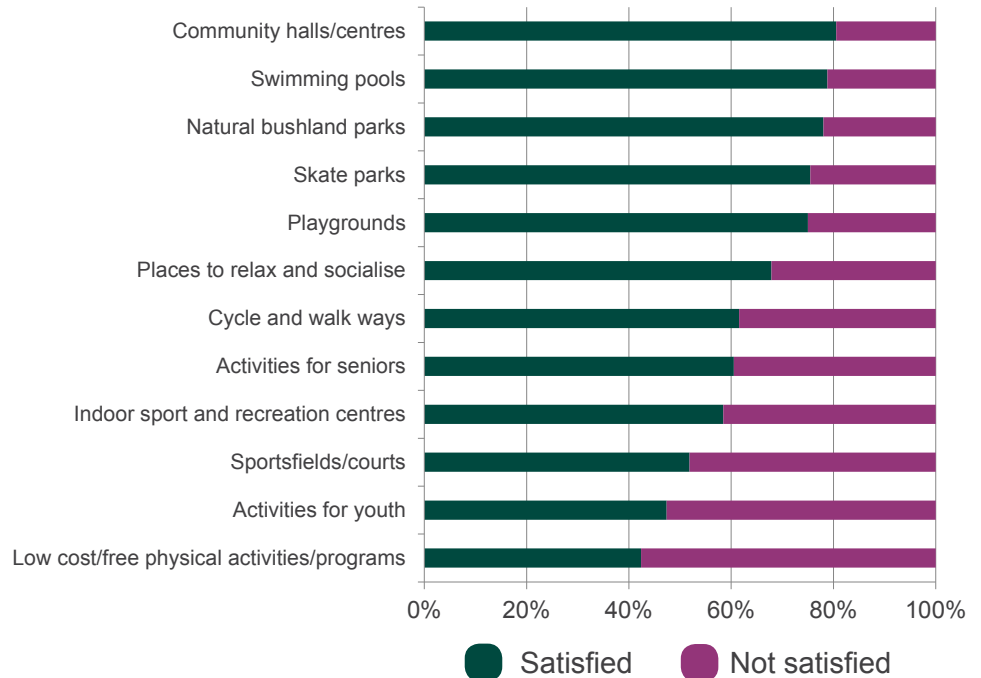


Activities for youth were also rated in the bottom three categories. Discussion with school students revealed that many students currently play sport, however, they are also seeking more opportunities for outdoor recreation (e.g. dirt biking) and water play for teenagers.



Sportsfields/courts received a low satisfaction rating, potentially related to a lack of supporting facilities (e.g. lighting, toilets, seating, parking) and varying levels of service (maintenance) at different fields.

Figure 11: Community satisfaction with community facilities



Community participation in recreation activities

Walking (for recreation) was the most popular activity (65%) amongst community survey respondents, followed by playing in the park (44%). Swimming in a pool, gardening, gym, bushwalking and cycling for recreation also feature in the most popular recreation activities in the Shire.

It should be noted that organised sport is not included in these considerations as participation rates for organised sports are presented in the Demand for Recreation section (page 39).

Table 1: Participation by activity

Activity	%
Walking for recreation	65
Playing in the park	44
Swimming (in a pool)	43
Gardening	33
Gym/group exercise	29
Bushwalking	23
Cycling for recreation	22
Running	19
Swimming	19
Fishing	16
Yoga/ pilates	15
Cycling (on road)	12
Mountain biking/BMX	12
Skateboarding/ scootering	11
Horse riding	10
Golf	9
Physical activity as transport	8
Motor sports	6
Canoe/kayaking	5
Dancing	5
Martial arts	5
Lawn bowls/croquet	4

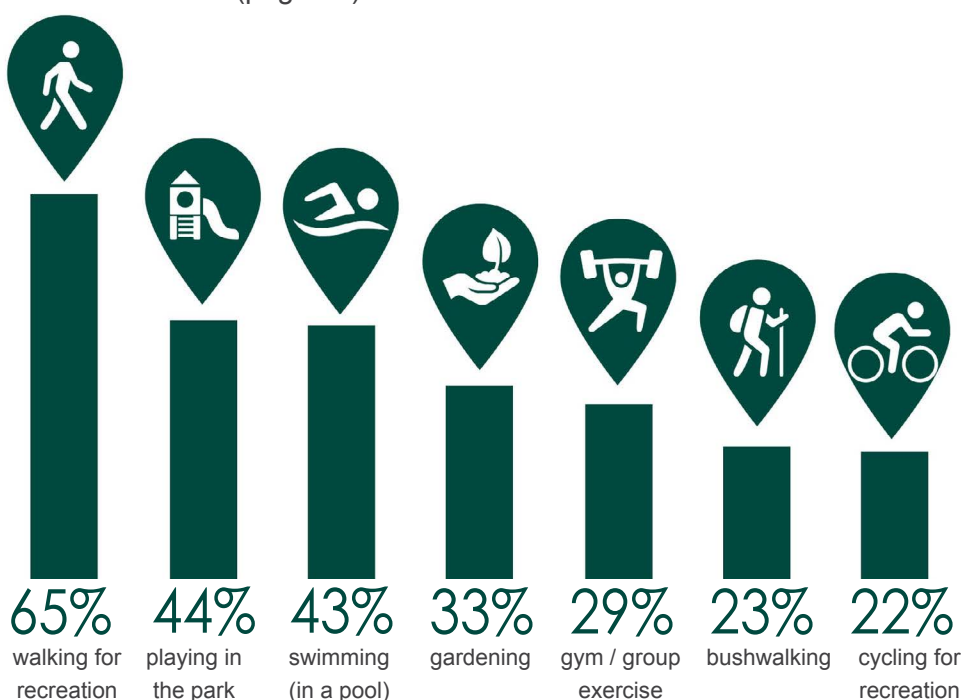
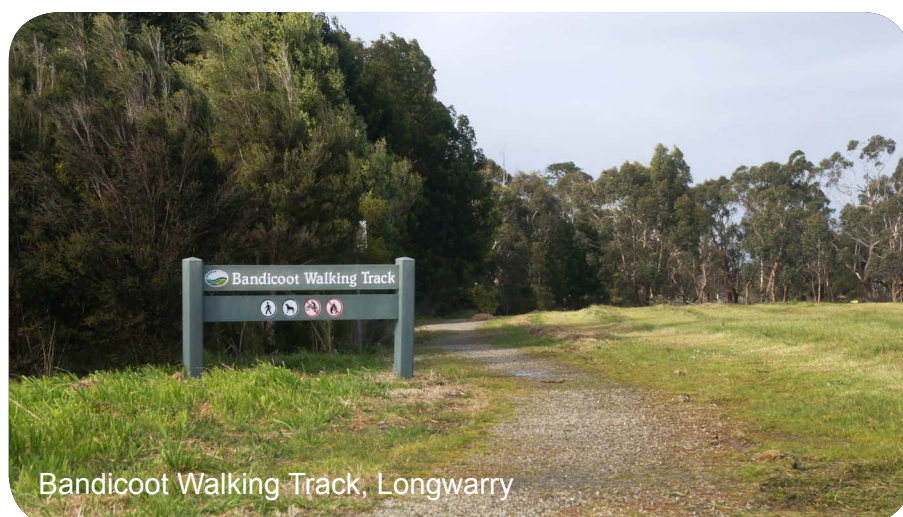


Figure 12: Top 7 recreation activities in Baw Baw Shire



Bandicoot Walking Track, Longwarry

In comparison, the following Victorian participation rates for selected activities were identified by the VicHealth Indicators Survey 2015:

Activity	%
Walking for recreation	51
Running	14
Cycling for recreation	12
Gym/group exercise	8
Swimming	5

Barriers to participation

A quick look at the greatest reported barriers to participation reveals that the quality and supporting facilities of spaces for recreation is the biggest problem for recreation in the Shire.

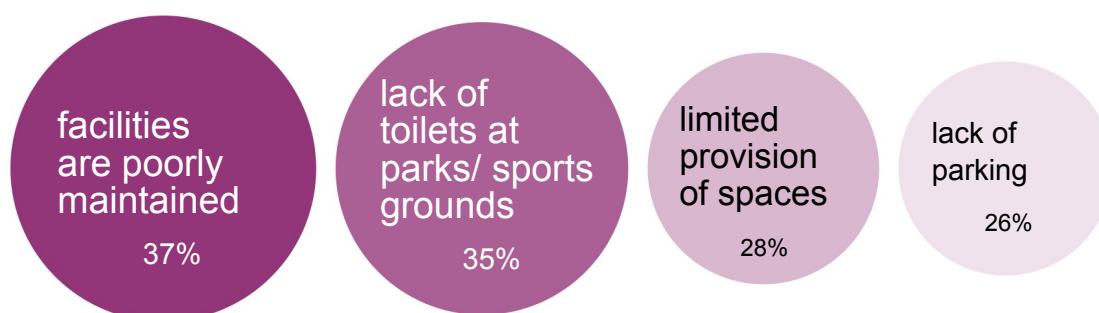


Figure 13: Barriers to participation in recreation

What are the community's priorities?

Two of the top five community priorities focus on improving the quality of existing recreation facilities. This is a great way to increase their capacity through more hard wearing playing surfaces, increased operation hours with lights for evening use or reducing barriers such as a lack of toilets. There is also high priority placed on delivering places, facilities and programs to young people. This may include upgrading playgrounds or skate parks, developing new social hang out spaces or running low-cost programs aimed at young people. Development of new and upgraded cycle and walking paths is a high priority to the community because it is easily the most popular recreation activity in the Shire (walking 65%, cycling 22%). In addition to upgrades to existing facilities, provision of more spaces to play sport is requested.



Figure 14: Community priorities for recreation

Club priorities and issues

What are the priorities of formal sport and recreation clubs?

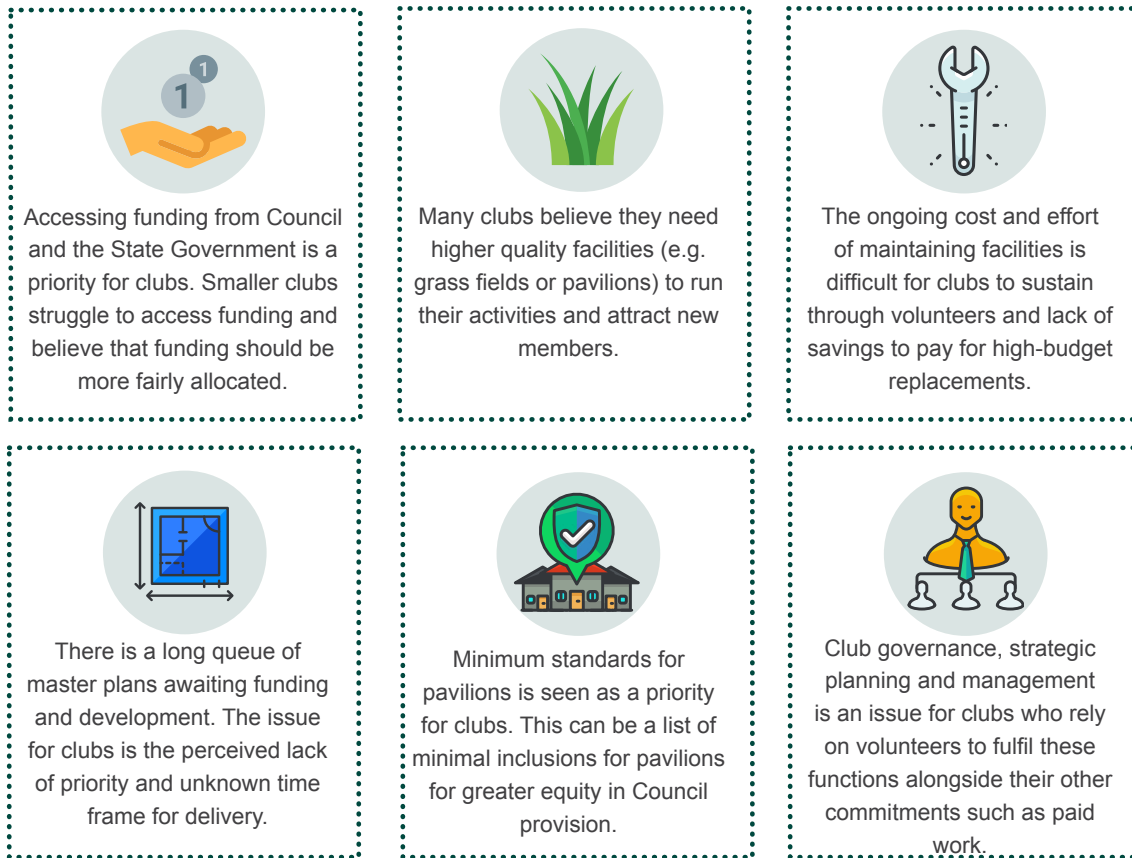


Figure 15: Club priorities for recreation

To what extent are clubs experiencing issues?

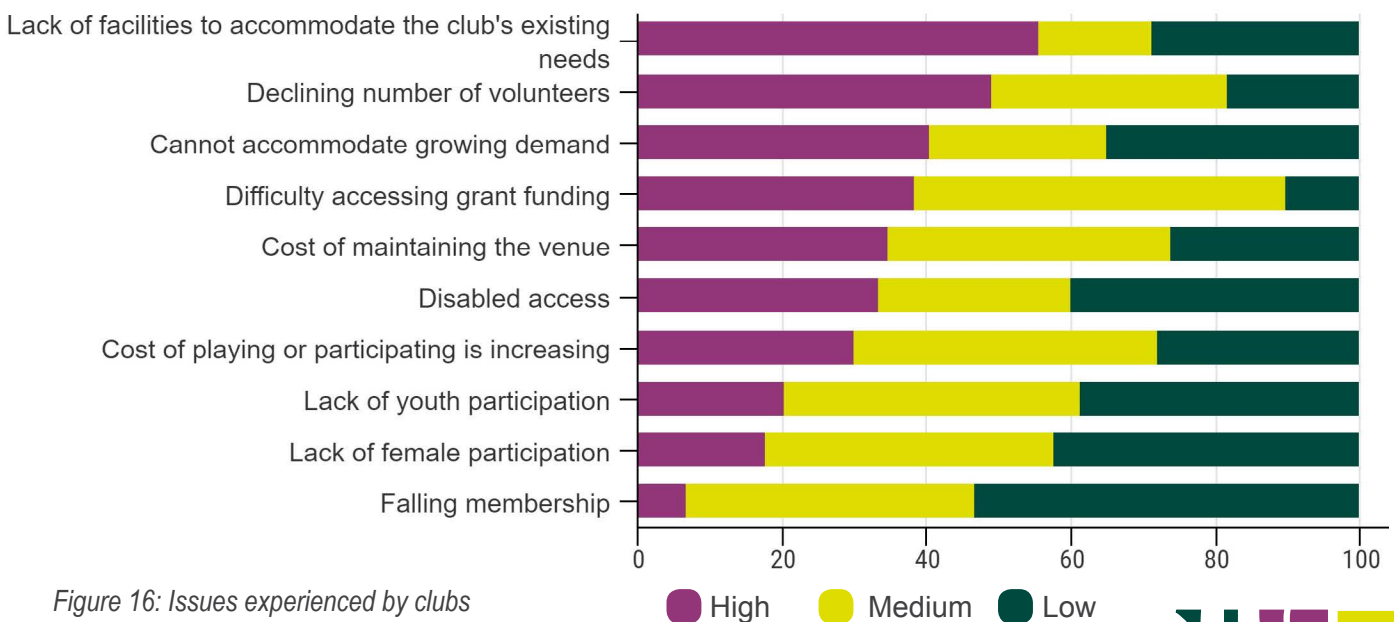


Figure 16: Issues experienced by clubs

Predicted membership growth

The majority of clubs expect their membership numbers to grow in future due to population growth in the Shire. Almost a quarter expect it to remain the same, and 5% predict a decrease in membership.

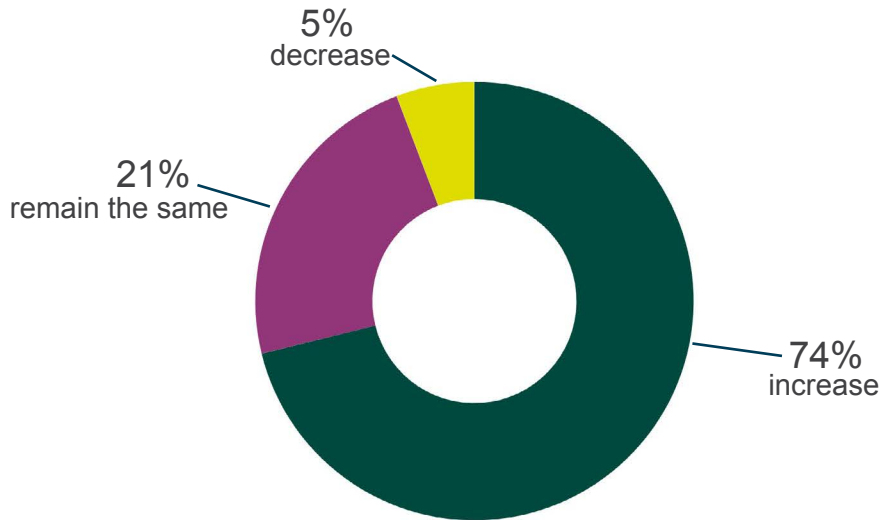
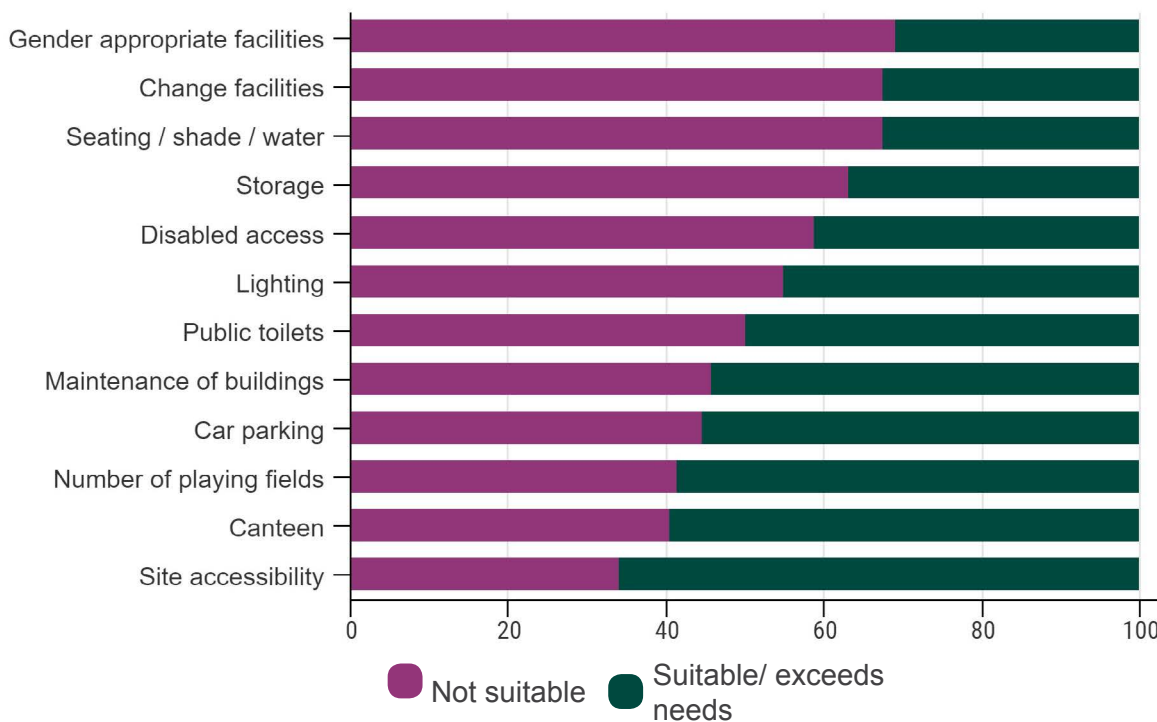


Figure 17: Club expectations for membership trends over the next 3 years

Suitability of Council facilities for club use



strengths

- » site accessibility
- » canteens
- » number of playing fields/ ovals /courts



weaknesses

- » gender appropriate facilities
- » change facilities
- » seating / shade / water

Figure 18: Suitability of Council facilities for club use



Schools engagement

In the week of the 16th to the 20th of November, a number of school visits were undertaken to one primary and two secondary schools across the

Warragul Regional College

Year 10 class

- » 10 out of 16 play formal sport
- » 50% of girls play formal sport
- » 100% of boys play formal sport
- » 4 out of 16 travel outside of Warragul to play their formal sport
- » 14 out of 16 work on the weekends
- » 50% go shopping for recreation on the weekends
- » 3 out of 16 go dirt biking on the weekends
- » going to the Warragul Leisure Centre for the pool is a popular summer activity in this class
- » learning to drive was also a common weekend activity
- » Burke Street parks are good for walking
- » desire for changerooms at the Burke Street netball courts where there are 2 toilets
- » The class liked Civic Park, Warragul because it is big and open, with nice shady spots
- » A common dislike in the current parks network is the poor quality of toilets
- » 56% use the walking tracks and approve of their quality
- » club pavilions are disliked because they are old
- » there is a desire for a synthetic track at Geoff Watt track
- » there is a perception of poor maintenance due to tall grass
- » the public transport is perceived as poor, the buses are preferred over trains however students noted they are usually empty.

Drouin Secondary School

Year 10 class

- » 13 out of 16 play formal sport
- » 100% of girls play formal sport
- » 75% of boys play formal sport
- » 25% play their sport in Drouin, others travel to Warragul, Buln Buln and Pakenham
- » students in this class play Australian Rules Football, basketball, cricket and netball (in order most to least popular)
- » the skate park is used on the weekends by both younger children and teenagers, it is old but still good
- » weekend activities include camping and shooting
- » camping areas this class travels to are usually 2-3 hours away
- » a skate park extension/upgrade is desired at Civic Park, Drouin
- » students like the McDonalds at Civic Park
- » a dirt bike track is desired for recreation
- » on the weekends, students spend time shopping at the Fountain Gate shopping centre, swimming at Warragul Leisure Centre, shooting at Sale and motor biking near Neerim
- » more shooting ranges are desired
- » water play for teenagers is desired.

Neerim South Primary School

Year 5/6 composite cohort

- » 22 out of 39 play formal sport
- » 47% of girls play formal sport
- » 64% of boys play formal sport
- » popular sports in this class are basketball, Australian football, cricket, netball and soccer
- » 4 out of 39 travel outside of Neerim South to participate in their sport
- » 41% regularly go camping with their families at places like Walhalla, Woods Point and Hawthorne Creek
- » weekend activities in this class include going to Melbourne, horse riding, staying at home, going to a farm to ride motorbikes, shopping, ride trail bikes at Buln Buln, go to Neerim South swimming pool, or swimming at Cranbourne pool (heated all year)
- » 80% regularly play computer games on the weekend
- » the skate park at Neerim South is considered to be of reasonable quality and size
- » the skate park at Civic Park (Drouin) is considered to be aged and of poor quality (cracked)
- » 56% have big backyards at home for recreation activities like motor biking
- » most think the Neerim South Recreation Reserve is of suitable quality
- » the cohort appreciates that the Neerim South Recreation Reserve is a short walk, close to shops, there is a good variety of embellishments
- » the cohort dislike that Neerim South Recreation Reserve is not tidy and there is usually broken glass and that the toilets are poorly designed.

School principal survey

Council received 7 responses to the school principal survey from the following schools:

- » Longwarry Primary School
- » Ellinbank Primary School
- » St Paul's Anglican Grammar School
- » Labertouche Primary School
- » Trafalgar High School
- » Yarragon Primary School
- » Marist-Sion College Warragul

Of the schools that are represented in this survey, 100% use sport, recreation and open space facilities within Baw Baw Shire that are separate from their school facilities.

Council facilities used by the schools include:

- » Warragul Leisure Centre (pool and courts)
- » Bellbird Park Recreation Reserve, Drouin
- » Warragul North tennis courts
- » Drouin Recreation Reserve, Warragul
- » Geoff Watt Athletics Track
- » Trafalgar Outdoor Pool
- » Dowton Park, Yarragon
- » Hallora Recreation Reserve
- » Eastern Park, Warragul
- » Western Park, Warragul
- » Logan Park, Warragul

Facilities outside of Baw Baw Shire's Council area are used by 4 of the 7 schools. Reasons cited for travelling outside Baw Baw were:

- » lack of suitable venues
- » lack of hire opportunities
- » facilities outside of Baw Baw are of greater quality (e.g. Joe Carmody Athletics Track in Newborough is used by multiple schools)
- » they are closer in proximity (e.g. Trafalgar High School use the Joe Carmody Athletics Track)
- » Gippsland Region inter-school events are held outside of Baw Baw (e.g. Gippsland Secondary Tennis Finals held at Traralgon in Latrobe City Council)

All schools reported a level of satisfaction with the quality of sport, recreation and open space facilities available to the school (5 satisfied, 2 somewhat satisfied).

Reasons cited for being only 'somewhat satisfied' were:

- » "some sport venues are great others not so"
- » lack of opening hours during the school day for the Trafalgar Outdoor Pool
- » "maintenance is not always 100%"

State Sporting Associations and other organisations

While all SSAs have provided participation numbers, not all provided significant information regarding the future of their sport in the Baw Baw Shire.

AFL Gippsland

AFL Gippsland was established to promote and grow the Australian football community in Gippsland through higher participation at all levels and by providing leadership and support to the football and wider sporting communities.

AFL Gippsland is one of 13 AFL Victoria regional commissions responsible for overseeing the governance of football in its region and covers 98 clubs with a total of approximately 12,000 registered football participants.

AFL Gippsland use the same participation data as AFL Victoria.

Badminton Victoria

There is currently a strong junior badminton program in Warragul and Drouin. Priorities for Badminton Victoria in Baw Baw Shire include increasing participation through school programs that give children exposure to badminton and shared facilities that allow for suitable playing times.

Basketball Victoria

Local and statewide growth in Basketball participation can mostly be attributed to juniors, while adult participation is steady. The Basketball Victoria Facility Master Plan 2017 identifies that the continuing population growth in the Shire requires a further 2 courts to be developed within the next 5 years. Any new courts should be multiuse basketball and netball courts. Basketball Victoria provide standards for development of facilities and it is a priority for them to be included in the planning process so that technical requirements are met.

Croquet Victoria (CV)

Drouin (with the oldest club in Gippsland – over 100 years old) and Warragul are really the only towns that could support viable clubs. Clubs that emerge in smaller towns are more transient and generally look after themselves, but would appreciate Council support when possible. CV are currently working with VicHealth to promote croquet state-wide.

Football Federation Victoria (FFV)

Football Federation Victoria have recently launched their “State Football Facilities Strategy to 2026”. The three key goals of the strategy include more pitches, increasing the carrying capacity of pitches and having venues/ pitches suitable for all levels and forms of the game.

The strategy suggests that Baw Baw Shire will require an additional 2-3 pitches by 2026 based on the current and projected participation levels between the current organic growth of 1.1% and a potential 5% growth in conjunction with predicted population growth.

It also identifies that lighting of Baw Baw pitches is a priority and suggests Warragul could be considered for the provision of an artificial pitch.

The strategy recognises that one artificial pitch will have the carrying capacity of two grass pitches.

Gymnastics Victoria (GV)

Gymnastics is growing in the area and across the state (approximately 10% each year over the last 10 years) and national wide. Bellbird Park is a new club while Warragul has been around for 15-20 years. The Bellbird facility is well placed to cater for population growth.

Baw Baw is within GV’s South East Region and they have partnered with Gippsland Sports Academy for elite development across the region.

Hockey Victoria

Hockey Victoria's participation strategy revolves around two streams: traditional hockey and social hockey. To ensure traditional hockey viability in the region, Hockey Victoria have worked with the Gippsland Bulls Hockey Club (based at Bellbird Park in Drouin) to reposition the club as the centrepiece of the participation pathway for the region. Establishment of the Gippsland Bulls Regional Development Program will ensure long term development of players, coaches and umpires locally, as well as within the broader Gippsland region. In terms of the social hockey strategy, Hockey Victoria's plans are based on offering J-Ball and Hockey Sixers (as the new social hockey formats developed in 2016) in major townships such as Warragul, Drouin and Trafalgar to engage participants locally (removing barriers of travel and affordability). Hockey Victoria intends to work with the Council and other local partners (such as schools) on identifying suitable program delivery venues with floodlights.

Little Athletics Victoria

The Warragul facility is adequate for current needs. Should the population growth continue in a similar vein to recent years down the south-east corridor, there would be an argument for additional facilities, most likely in the Drouin area.

Council assistance could be in the form of assistance with promotion of the sport on websites, social media, publications, and keeping in close contact with the committee.

Netball Victoria

Netball is currently provided under the following models across Baw Baw Shire.

District Associations:

- » Drouin and District Netball Association
- » Warragul and District Netball Association
- » Warragul Indoor Netball Association.

Football Netball Leagues:

Mid Gippsland Netball Association:

- » Thorpdale
- » Trafalgar
- » Yarragon
- » Hill End.

Gippsland League:

- » Warragul
- » Drouin.

Ellinbank & District Netball Association:

- » Ellinbank
- » Neerim South
- » Longwarry
- » Buln Buln
- » Warragul Industrials
- » Nilma Darnum.

Facilities within Baw Baw Shire that most require facility upgrades (mainly courts) are Thorpdale and Drouin. The Drouin courts in particular need to be addressed due to their location in a population centre. State Government funding of \$600,000 towards the development of compliant courts was recently announced.

Tennis Victoria

Tennis Victoria have previously worked with Council on the Tennis Strategy developed in 2005. The organisation aims to continue to have strong working relationships with Councils as tennis courts are most commonly on Council land. Tennis facilities in Baw Baw are considered to be good quality and under-utilised. The strategic aim of Tennis Victoria is to have more people playing tennis, more often. There is scope for an increase in participation in social tennis. Programs such as Book a Court (online booking software linked with pin pad access at venues) is a great opportunity for clubs to increase their accessibility to the community.

Volleyball Victoria

Volleyball Victoria has identified that Baw Baw is a gap area for them. To address this, they would like to start with school programs such as 'spike zone' and then develop others from that. If an interest is established, social leagues for over 18's could be developed.

GippSport

GippSport is one of nine Regional Sports Assemblies that formulate Regional Sport Victoria. GippSport delivers the following programs across the Gippsland region:

- » Regional Sport Program which is funded by VicHealth. This program creates more opportunities to be physically active through sport and active recreation with a focus on young people (12-17) and women and girls. The “Gippy Girls Can” campaign sits under this area
- » Supporting Victorian Sport & Recreation Program which is funded by Sport and Recreation Victoria. The major initiatives under this program focus on Sport Capacity (club support, workshops and information sessions, newsletters etc), Participation and Inclusion (programs for people with a disability) and Women in Sport
- » Deadly Sport Gippsland which is funded by Department of Health and Human Services as the ‘Sport and Health Social Marketing Strategy’, which aims to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal people living in Gippsland
- » Good Sports which is funded by the Australian Drug Foundation and aims to assist clubs manage alcohol responsibly
- » Fee for service strategic planning for sporting clubs and local government.

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)

There is opportunity for future partnerships between Council and DELWP to address common roles and issues in the realm of recreation (e.g. Leave No Trace campaign).

The following DELWP sites were identified as popular outdoor recreation sites in Baw Baw Shire:

- » Cooper’s Creek
- » Mushroom Rocks
- » Glen Nayook Reserve/Rainforest Walk
- » Mt Worth
- » Neerim East
- » Baw Baw Village
- » Thomson River
- » Walhalla
- » Blue Rock Lake.

Visit Victoria

Visit Victoria looks to align events that will drive visitation and yield with regional brand attributes. In the realm of sport and recreation, Baw Baw has potential to develop more opportunities (events) around adventure sports (such as trail running) in line with its natural brand attributes. While the potential for Baw Baw to develop more cycling events is recognised, Visit Victoria note that cycling is already a crowded market. The organisation currently contributes to other regions who have well developed cycling strategies. Baw Baw Shire must promote its unique brand attributes to drive visitation. In addition, one of the key challenges is event management capability - to establish well run events that drive visitation and yield, year on year.



Recreation supply

Current Supply overview

The Baw Baw community currently has access to a wide range of facilities and spaces, providing numerous opportunities for recreation.

active recreation	6 aquatic facilities	6 regional parks	1 municipal leisure centre	7 dog off-leash areas
	96 playgrounds	4 skate parks	3 BMX facilities	31 community halls
	145+km walking trails	4 National and State Parks	428km pathways (length)	640,643m ² pathways
organised sport	30 reserves with active sport clubs	24 ovals	22 ovals with cricket pitches	75+ pavilions
	40 cricket nets	8 soccer fields	12 bowling greens	15 indoor courts
	36 netball courts	83 tennis courts	4 equestrian venues	2 gymnastics venues
	2 shooting venues	1 athletics track	1 cycling velodrome	1 synthetic hockey field

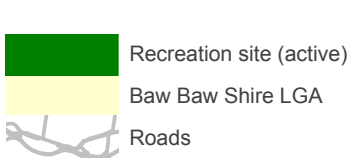
Figure 19: Current supply overview for active recreation and organised sport



Baw Baw Shire

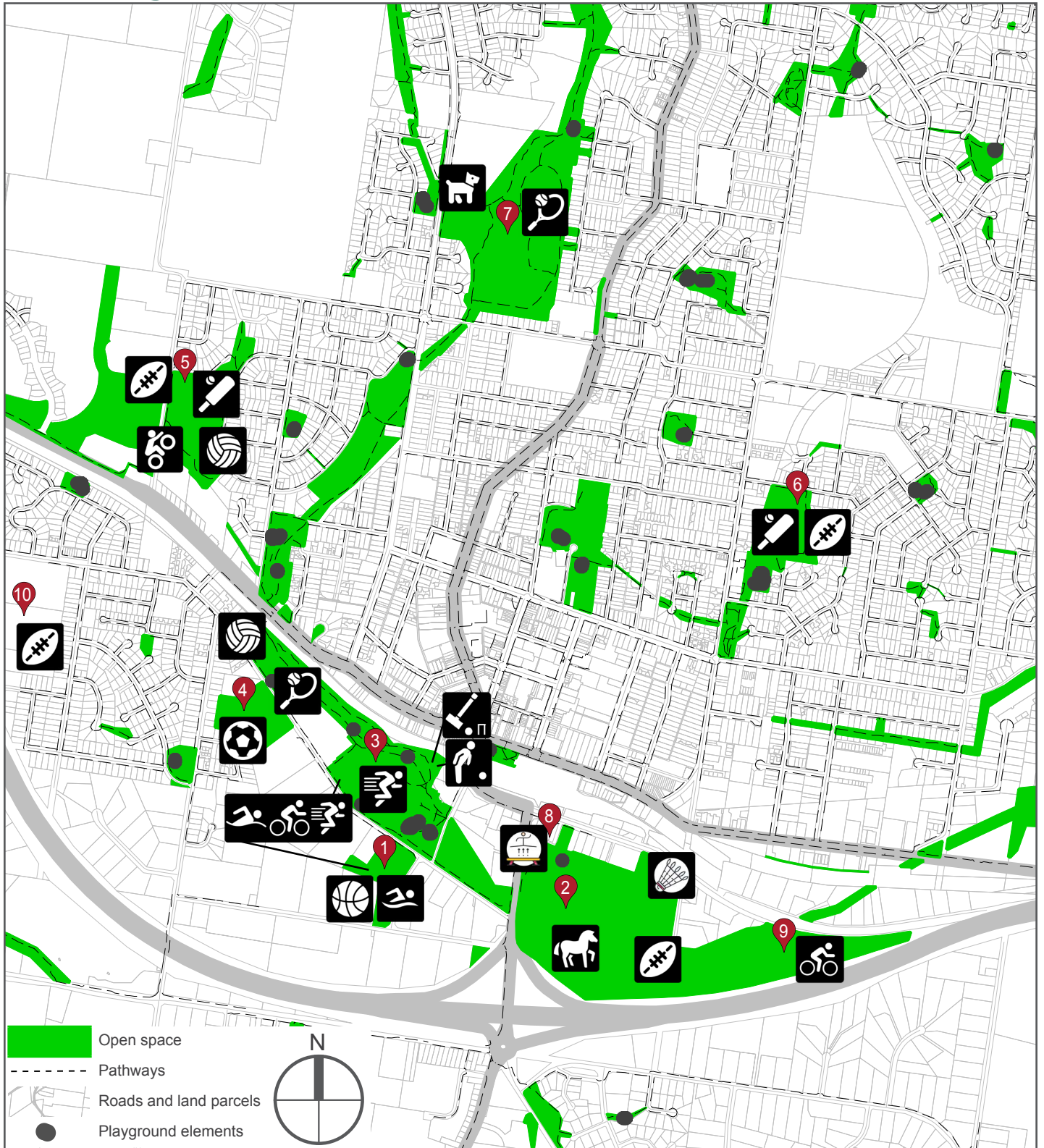
Map 1. Active recreation sites and key localities in Baw Baw Shire LGA

Population: 48,479



Warragul

Population: 15,757



1

Warragul Leisure Centre

Warragul and District Amateur Basketball Association
 Warragul Warriors (Basketball)
 Gladiators Basketball Club
 Chalkies Basketball Club
 Wild Dog Triathlon Club (pool)
 Warragul Water Warriors Swim Club
 Victorian YMCA Community Programming
 Warragul and District Indoor Netball Association
 Warragul Underwater Hockey Club

2

Logan Park

Warranor Junior Football Club
 Warragul Badminton Club
 Warragul Harness Racing Club
 Warragul and District Light Harness Club
 Warragul Greyhound Racing Club
 Riding for the Disabled Warragul
 Gippsland Harness Training Centre
 Warragul Dusties Football Club
 Warragul Football Netball Club
 Warragul AusKick
 Western Park Cricket Club
 Warragul and West Gippsland Agricultural Society*
 Warragul and District Lapidary Club*
 Warragul Poultry Club*

3

Burke Street Precinct

Warragul and District Netball Association
 Wild Dog Triathlon Club (clubhouse)
 Warragul Tennis Club
 Warragul Skate Park
 Warragul Little Athletics
 Warragul United Soccer Club
 Mix it Up Fitness
 Warragul Bowling Club
 Warragul Croquet Club
 West Gippsland Vehicle Restorers Club
 St Johns Ambulance
 CFA Training track

4

Baxter Park

Warragul United Soccer Club

5

Western Park Reserve

Warragul Football and Netball Club
 Western Park Cricket Club
 BMX Track
 Warragul Industrials Football Netball Club (inc women's team)
 Gippsland Power All Abilities Football Team

6

Eastern Park

Warragul Colts Junior Football Club (Australian Rules Football)
 Warragul Cricket Club
 Warragul Industrials Football Netball Club- women's team
 Warragul Theatre Co*
 Warragul Youth Theatre*
 Community Garden*

7

Brooker Park

Warragul North Tennis Club
 Parkrun
 Dog Off Leash Area

8

Alfred Street

Warragul Gymnastics Club

9

Warragul Velodrome

Warragul Cycling Club

10

Marist Sion College

Blues Junior Football Club



Burke St Netball Courts



Eastern Park

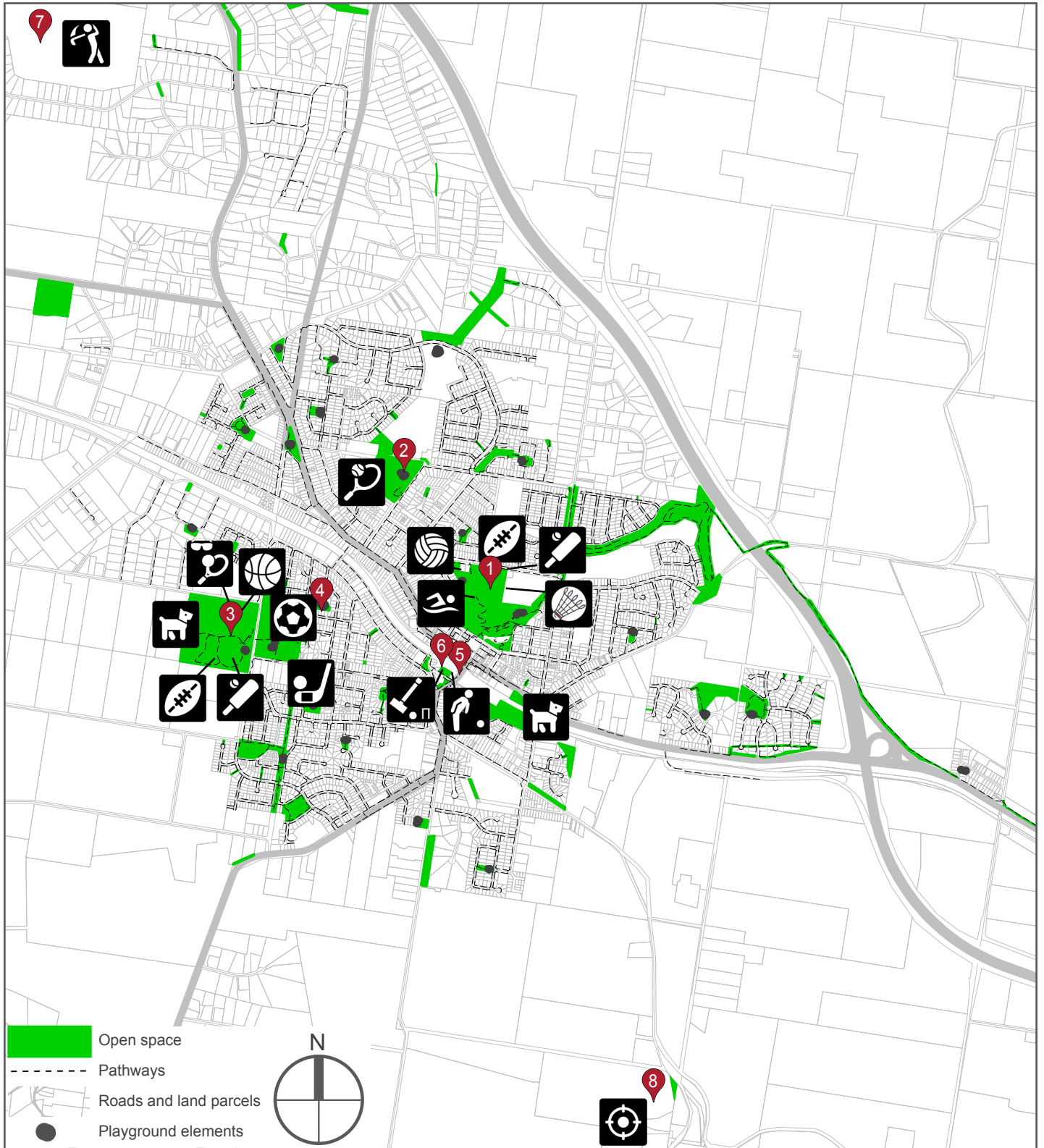


Warragul Velodrome

*Included to demonstrate the multiple uses of recreation sites

Drouin

Population: 12,349



1 Drouin Recreation Reserve and Civic Park Precinct

- Drouin Football Club*
- Drouin and District Netball Association*
- Drouin Hawks Netball Club*
- Drouin Cricket Club Inc*
- Drouin Badminton Club*
- Drouin Outdoor Pool*
- Skate Park*

2 Balmoral Park

- Drouin Tennis Club*

3 Bellbird Park Indoor Centre and Oval

- Drouin Cricket Club*
- Drouin Junior Football Club and Auskick*
- Victorian YMCA Community Programming*
- Baw Baw Squash Club*
- Warragul and District Amateur Basketball Association*
- Dog off leash area (old equestrian site)*
- Gippsland Umpires Association*
- Keenagers Table Tennis*
- All Ability Netball*
- West Gippsland Volleyball Association*
- Drouin Devils Basketball Club*

4 Bellbird Park Synthetic and grass fields

- Drouin Dragons Soccer Club*
- Drouids Hockey Club*
- Gippsland Bulls Hockey Club*
- Warriors Hockey Club*
- Gulls Hockey Club*
- Aztecs Hockey Club*
- West Gippsland Hockey Association*
- Drouin Cricket Club*

5 Princes Highway

- Drouin Bowling Club*

6 Oak Street

- Drouin Croquet Club*

7 Matthew Bennett Park

- Drouin Golf Club*
- Drouin Picnic Racing Club*
- Drouin Angling Social Club*
- Drouin Men's Shed*

8 Greenshields Road

- Warragul Drouin Pistol Club*



Trafalgar

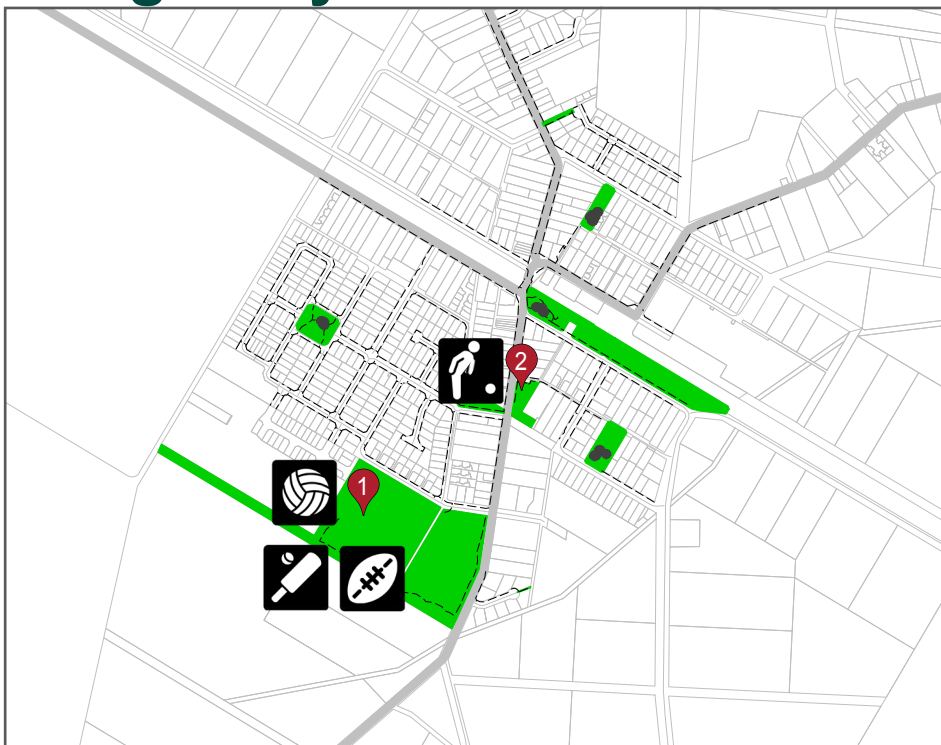
Population: 3,912




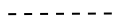


- 1** Trafalgar Recreation Reserve
 - Trafalgar Victory Football Club (soccer)*
 - Gippsland Football Club*
 - Trafalgar Football Netball Club*
 - Trafalgar Cricket Club*
 - Trafalgar Junior Football Club*
 - Trafalgar Boxing Gym*
 - Trafalgar Lions Club*
- 2** Trafalgar Skate Park
- 3** Trafalgar Swimming Pool
- 4** McGregor Park
 - Trafalgar Tennis Club*
- 5** Trafalgar Equestrian Park
 - Trafalgar Pony Club*
 - Trafalgar Polocrosse Club*
 - Trafalgar Adult Riding Club*
- 6** Trafalgar BMX
- 7** Seven Mile Road
 - Trafalgar Bowls Club*
- 8** Ashby Street
 - Trafalgar Park Bowls Club (defunct)*
 - Trafalgar Rotary*


Longwarry

Population: 2,004



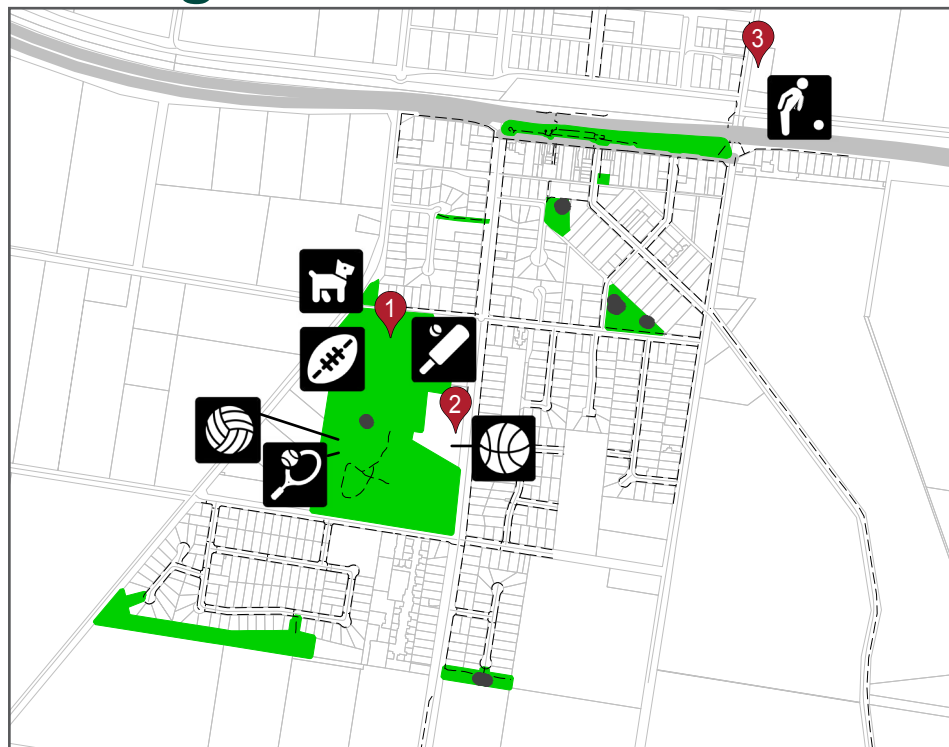
- 1** Longwarry Recreation Reserve
 - Longwarry Cricket Club*
 - Longwarry Football Club*
 - Longwarry Netball Club*
 - Longwarry Angling Club*
 - Longwarry Junior Football Club*
- 2** Longwarry Bowls
 - Warragul Sporting and Social Club*

-  Open space
-  Pathways
-  Roads and land parcels
-  Playground elements



Yarragon

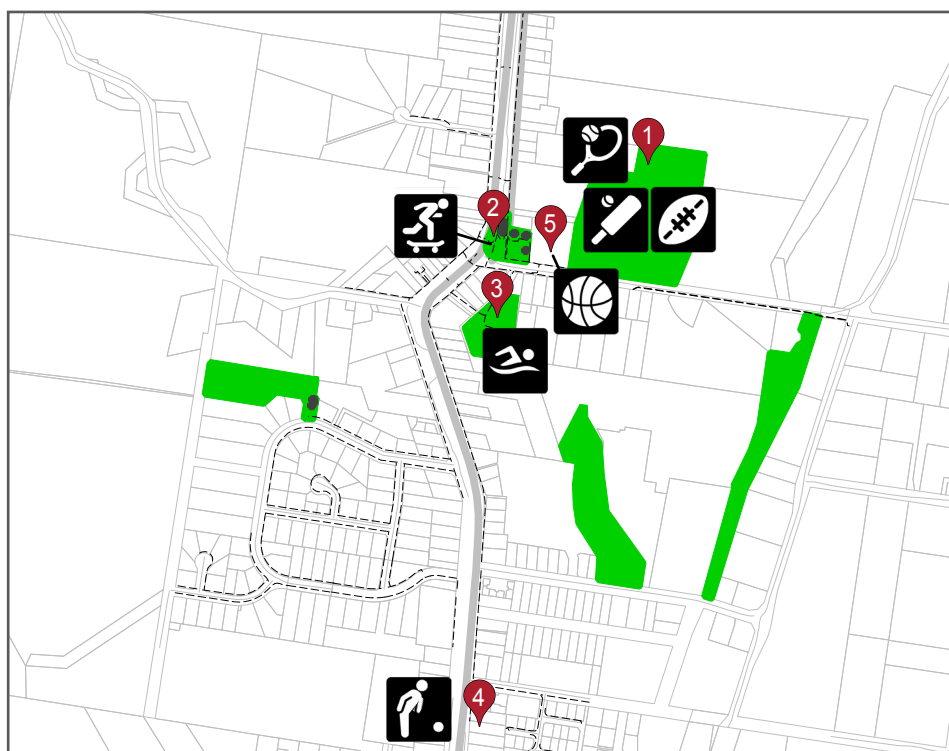
Population: 1,650



- 1** Downton Park Reserve
 - Yarragon Junior Football Club*
 - Yarragon Football Netball Club*
 - Yarragon Cricket Club*
 - Yarragon Tennis Club*
 - Yarragon Primary School*
 - Dog off leash area*
- 2** Yarragon Primary School
 - Yarragon Basketball Club*
- 3** Yarragon Bowling Club

Neerim South

Population: 1,305

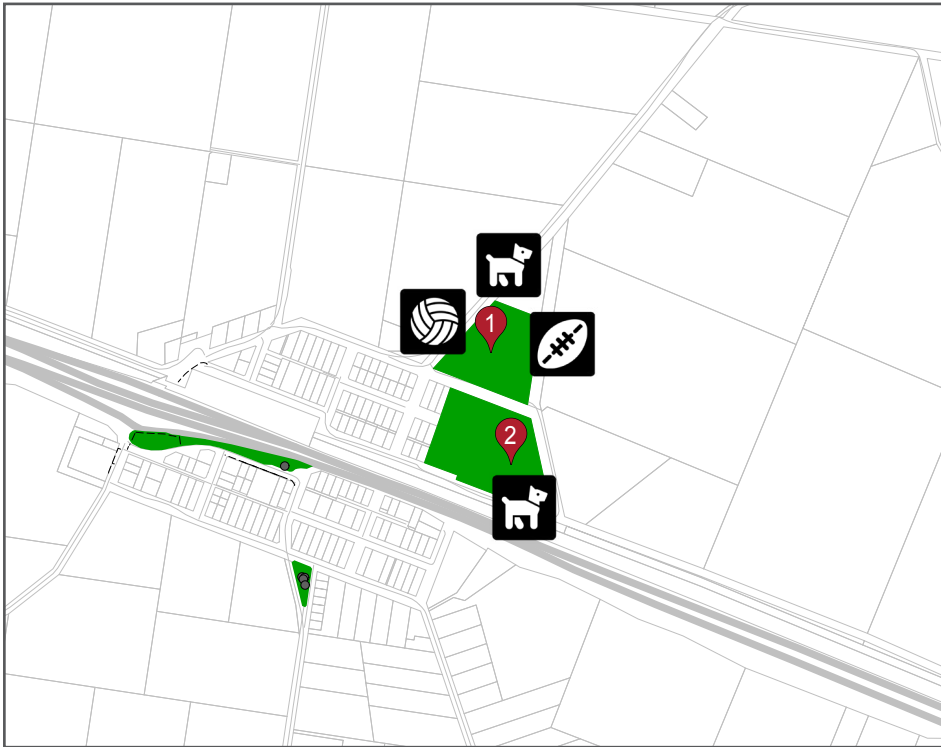


- 1** Neerim South Recreation Reserve
 - Neerim South Football Netball Club*
 - Neerim District Cricket Club*
 - Neerim District Junior Football Club*
 - Neerim South District Tennis Club*
 - Neerim South Guides/ Scouts*
 - Neerim South Primary School*
 - Neerim District Secondary College*
- 2** Neerim South Playground and Skatepark
- 3** Neerim South Swimming Pool
- 4** Neerim South Bowling Club
- 5** Neerim South Stadium
 - Neerim Wolves (Basketball)*
 - Neerim South Primary School*
 - Neerim District Secondary College*

- Open space
- Pathways
- Roads and land parcels
- Playground elements

Darnum

Population: 751



1 Darnum Recreation Reserve

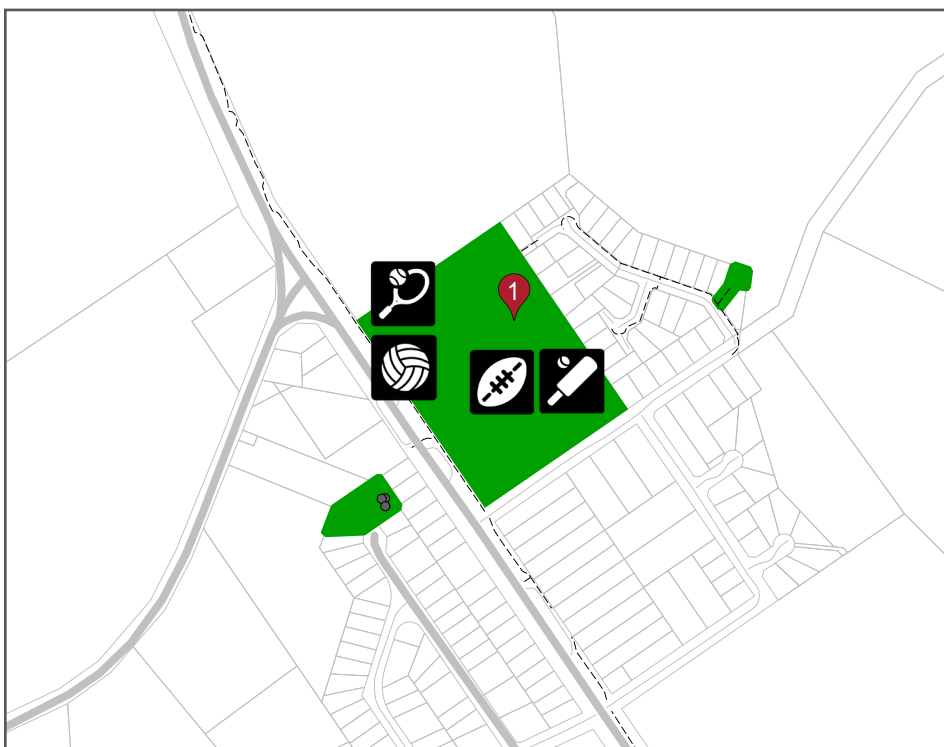
*Nilma Darnum Football Club
Nilma Darnum Netball Club
Warragul and District Kennel and
Obedience Club
Dog off leash area*

2 Darnum (old tip site)

*Baw Baw Old Engine and Auto Club
Warragul Greyhound Racing Club*

Willow Grove

Population: 590



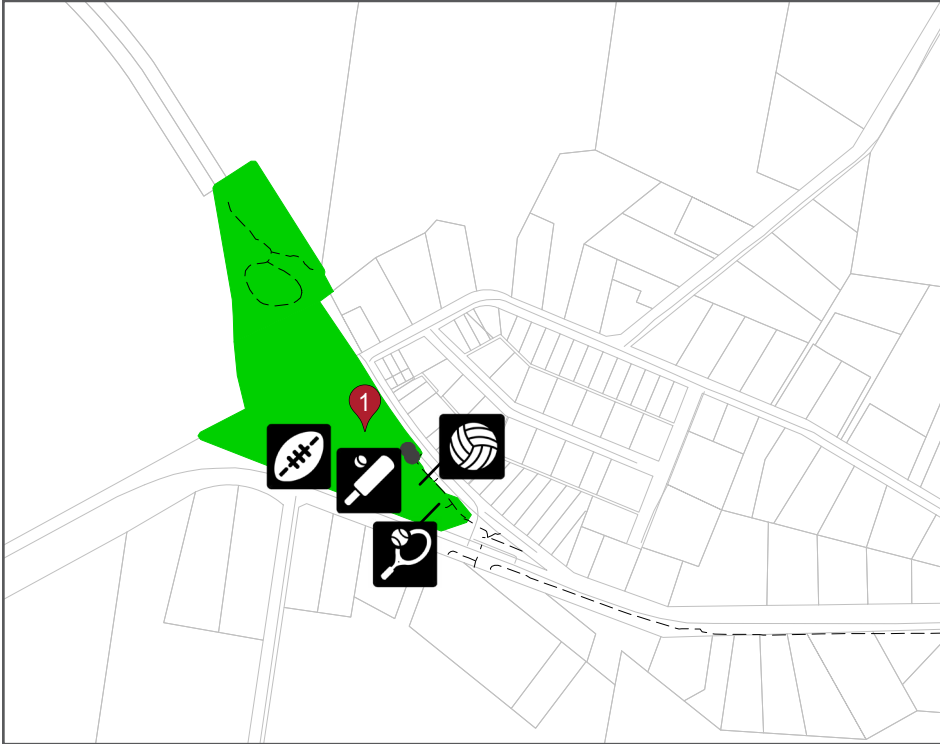
1 Willow Grove Recreation Reserve

*Hill End Grove Rovers Football Netball Club
Willow Grove Tennis Club
Willow Grove Cricket Club
Willow Grove District Lions Club
Hill End and Grove Rovers Junior Football
Club*

- Open space
- Pathways
- Roads and land parcels
- Playground element

Buln Buln

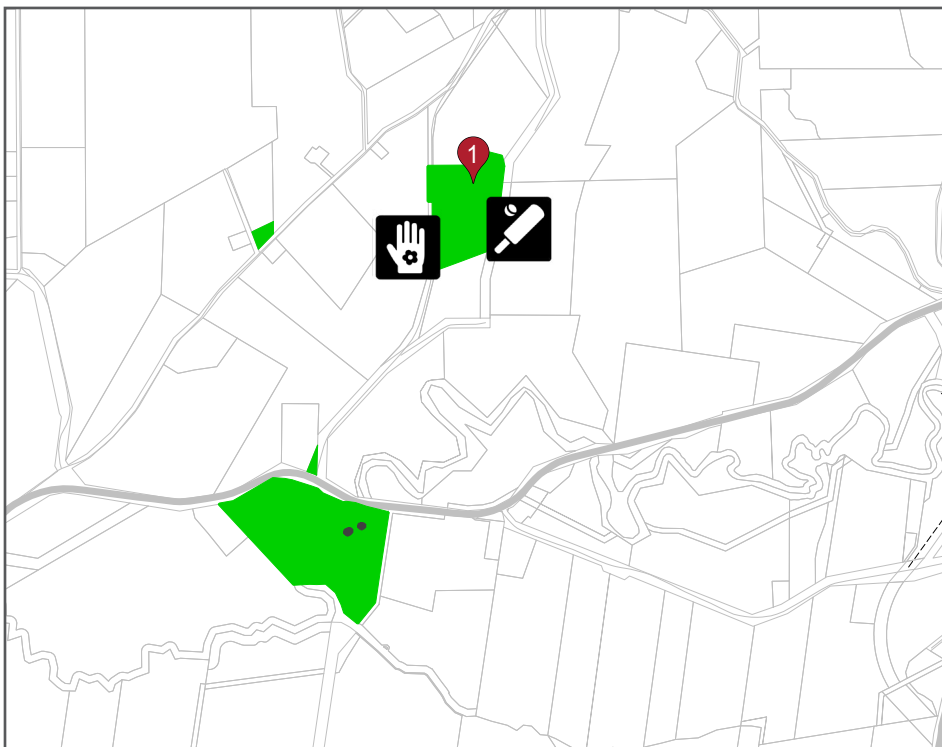
Population: 548



- 1 Buln Buln Recreation Reserve
 - Buln Buln Football and Netball Club
 - Buln Buln Tennis Club
 - Buln Buln Cricket Club
 - Buln Buln Primary School

Jindivick

Population: 491



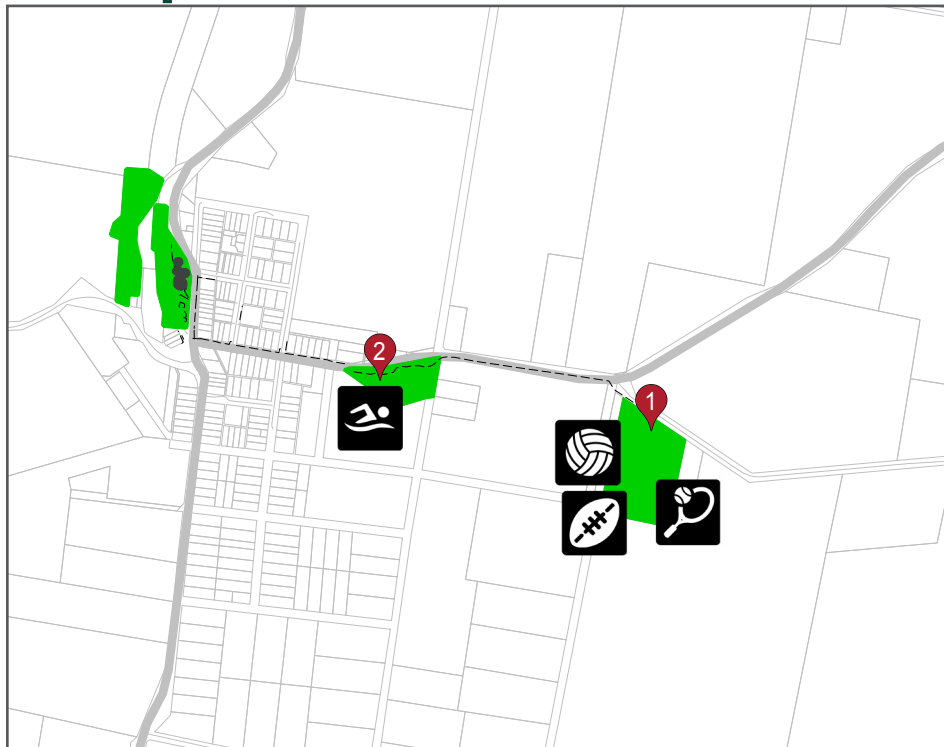
- 1 Kydd Park Reserve
 - Jindivick Cricket Club
 - Jindivick Community Garden

- Open space
- Pathways
- Roads and land parcels
- Playground elements



Thorpdale

Population: 471



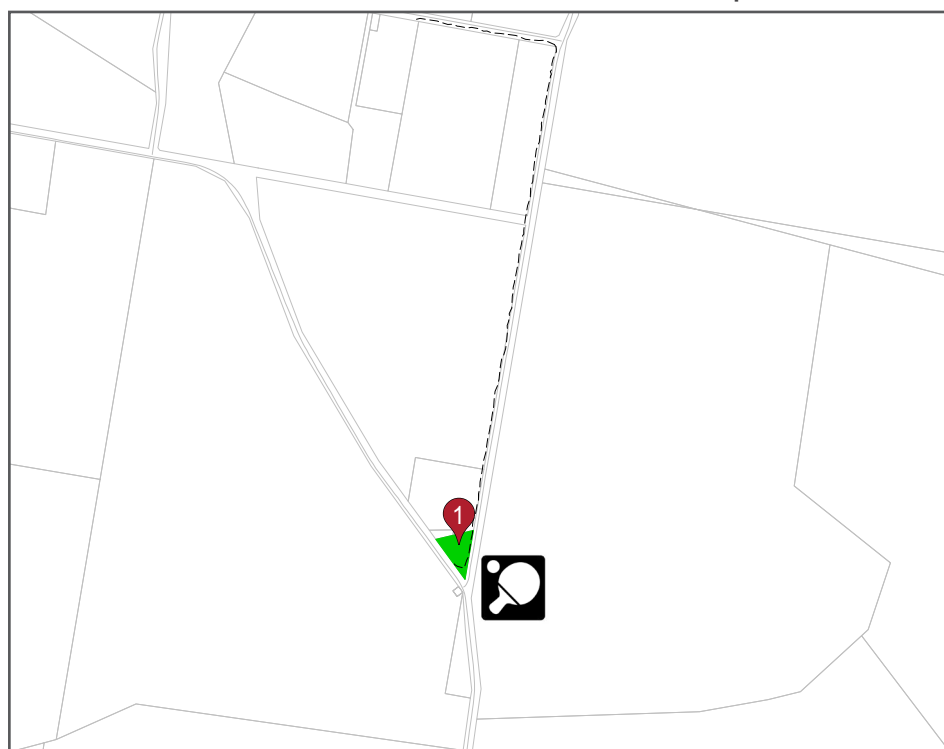
1 Thorpdale Recreation Reserve

*Thorpdale Football Netball Club
Thorpdale Cricket Club
Thorpdale Tennis Club (social)*

2 Thorpdale Swimming Pool

Labertouche

Population: 356



1 Labertouche and District Community Centre

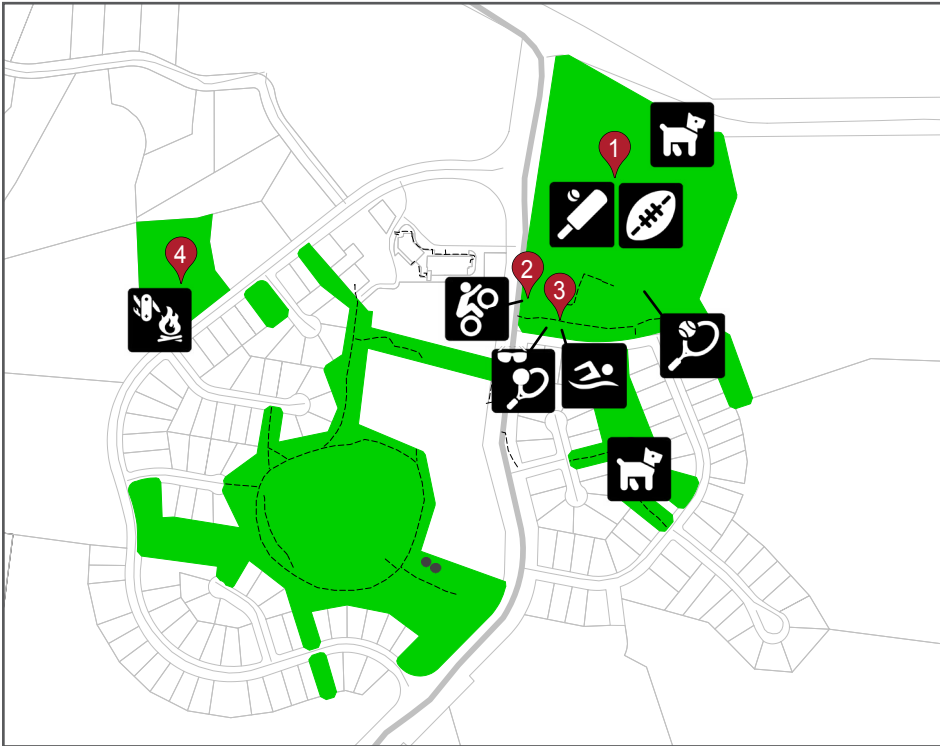
*Labertouche Badminton Club
Men's Shed*

-  Open space
-  Pathways
-  Roads and land parcels
-  Playground elements



Rawson

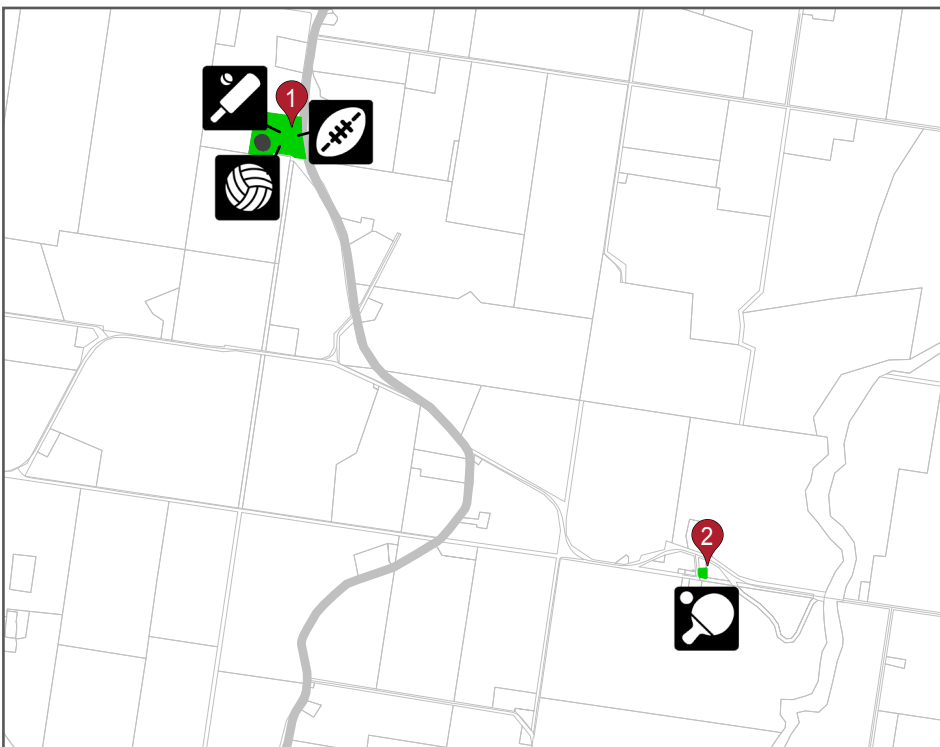
Population: 296




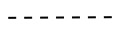


- 1 Rawson Recreation Reserve (Dunstan Pavilion)
*Rawson Cricket Club
Dog off leash area*
- 2 Rawson BMX Track
- 3 Robertson Sports Centre
*Rawson Indoor Pool
Rawson Gym*
- 4 Bells Hall
Scouts


Ellinbank

Population: 236



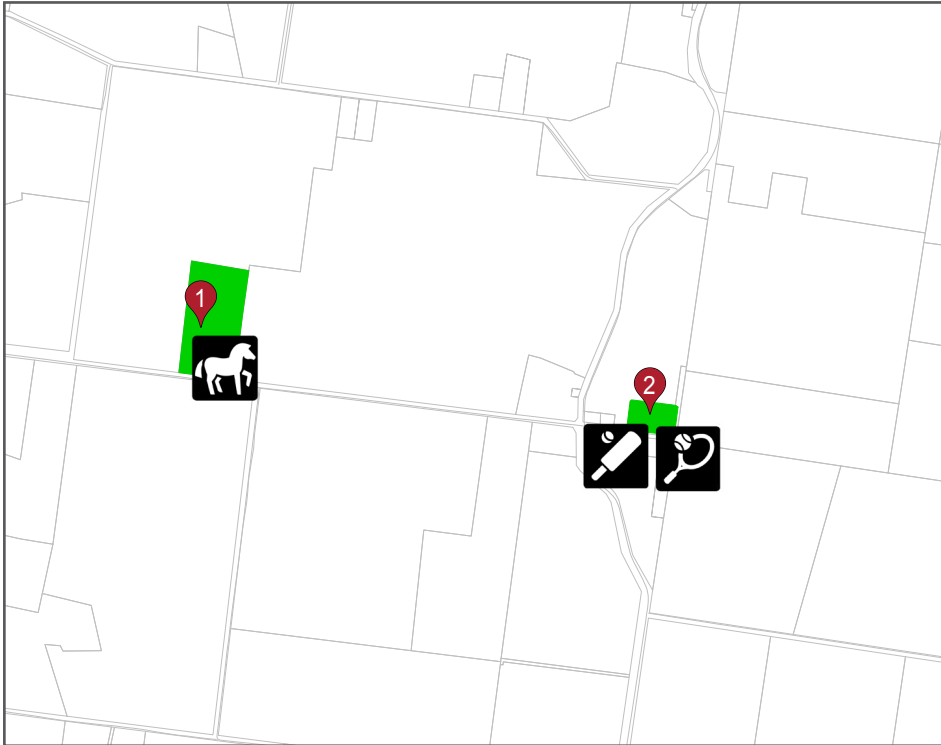
- 1 Ellinbank Recreation Reserve
*Ellinbank Cricket Club
Ellinbank Football Netball Club*
- 2 Ellinbank Badminton Hall
Ellinbank Badminton Club

-  Open space
-  Pathways
-  Roads and land parcels
-  Playground elements



Lardner

Population: 177



1 Baw Baw Equestrian Centre

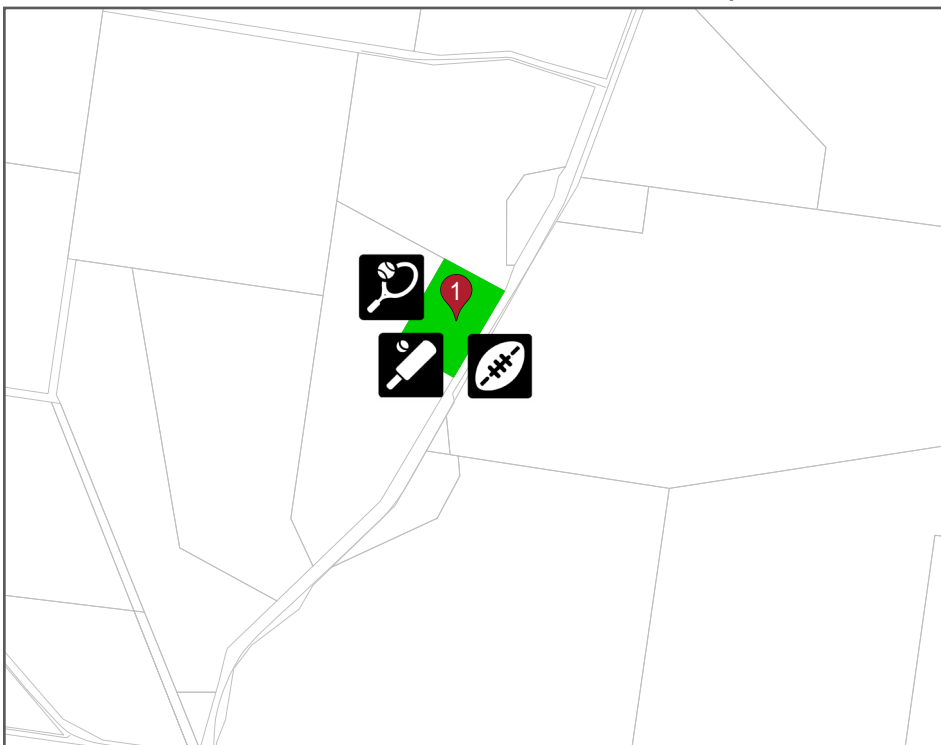
*Warragul Pony Club
Drouin Pony Club
West Gippy Adult Riding Club*

2 Lardner Recreation Reserve

*Ellinbank Cricket ground
Lardner Primary School
Tennis courts (no club)*

Hallora

Population: 126



1 Hallora Recreation Reserve

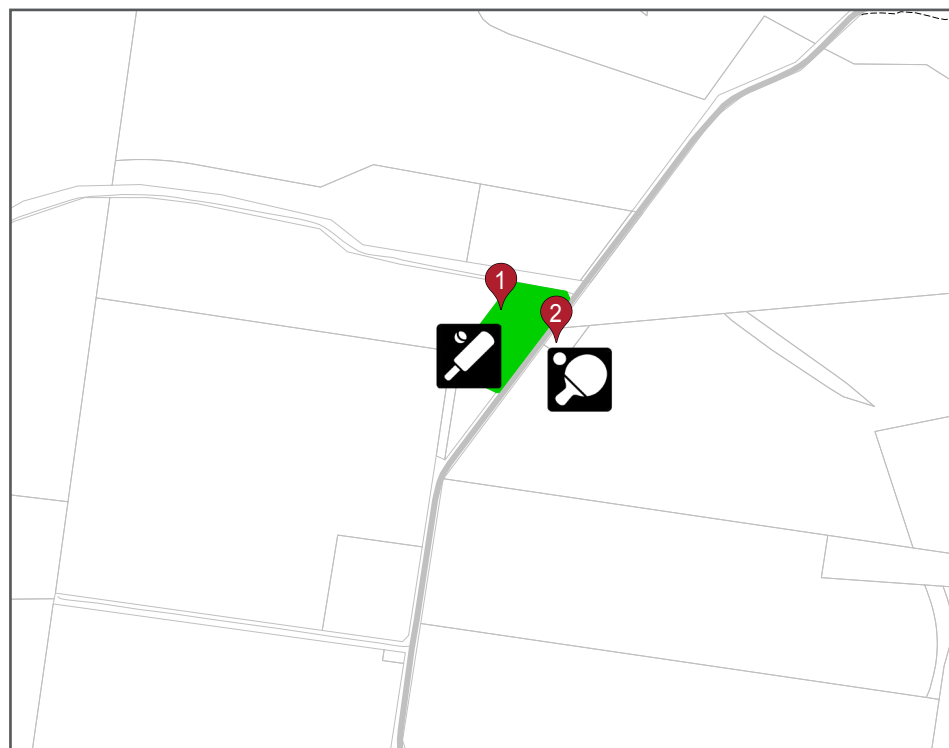
*Hallora Cricket Club
Hallora Junior Football Club
Hallora Tennis Club (social)*

-  Open space
-  Pathways
-  Roads and land parcels
-  Playground elements





Athlone

Population: 122



1 Athlone Recreation Reserve
Hallora Cricket Club

2 Athlone Hall
Athlone Badminton Club

-  Open space
-  Pathways
-  Roads and land parcels
-  Playground elements





Recreation Trends

High level trends

Participation patterns in recreation are changing at a community level. Factors such as a move toward non-organised/non-structured sport, increased use of technology, and increased time pressures have all had a significant impact on how people recreate. Understanding these trends (and their impacts) is important as Council looks to develop strategies, programs and facilities to encourage people to engage in recreation activities.

Move towards informal/active recreation

National participation rates in organised sport have been declining for a number of years as participants move toward more social (drop-in drop-out) sport and informal recreation.

With outstanding natural areas for informal recreation (lakes, dams and bushland), Baw Baw Shire is well-placed to take advantage of this emerging trend.

Two relevant planning documents that reinforce this trend (as well as others), are summarised following.

Megatrends

In 2013, CSIRO and the Australian Sports Commission published “The Future of Australian Sport - Megatrends shaping the sports sector over coming decades”.

The six identified Megatrends are summarised below:

A perfect fit:

The trend where people are increasingly participating in individual sport and fitness activities (running, aerobics, gym, etc) that more easily fit their personal lives and time constraints than the traditional organised sporting activities.

From extreme to mainstream:

Sports that offer adventure and risk elements are also on the rise, especially with younger generations. These sports are also closely linked to social media, greatly raising awareness. Sports/activities such as BMX, skateboarding and rock climbing are relevant examples.

More than sport:

The broader benefits of sport are increasingly being recognised by governments, business and communities. These benefits include achieving mental and physical health, crime prevention, and social development.

Everybody's game:

Given the country's, State and Shire's ageing population, sports of the future will need to cater for older participants. Further, the ever-increasing multicultural nature of our communities will also result in the need to provide activities that are attractive to a diverse range of cultures.

New wealth, new talent:

Relating to international sports markets, this trend is not relevant to this Strategy.

Tracksuits to business suits:

Given the enormous amounts of money involved in some sports at the elite level, many community clubs are likely to be replaced in the future by more formally structured, corporate organisations. The rising cost of participating in organised sport is also a growing barrier to participation.

Australian Government

‘Sport 2030’ notes “When the Australian Government talks about ‘sport’ and sport policy, it will now talk about a broad range of physical activities including informal, unstructured activity such as walking, riding, swimming and running as well as traditional, structured sport and new and evolving sport and physical activity offerings such as mixed martial arts, “ninja” style obstacle courses and stand-up paddle boarding.”



Victorian Government

'Active Victoria: A Strategic Framework for Sport and Recreation in Victoria 2017-2021' also identifies this trend and promotes a focus on active recreation.

This Framework identified that more Victorians participate in active recreation than in organised sport (active recreation makes up 67 per cent and sport 18 per cent of the total time that Victorians spend on physical activity). The three most common identified activities were walking, fitness and gym, and jogging or running.

Subsequently, increasing participation in active recreation offers the best opportunity for local governments to improve the health and wellbeing of their communities. It should also be noted that physical activity in outdoor green spaces is also strongly connected to a range of health and wellbeing benefits.

The Framework also identified the need for an increased focus on active recreation from all levels of government, to improve active recreation opportunities, programs and infrastructure.

Open space/play trends

Open space planning is beginning to take a new direction. While people still value their local recreation park and the green escape they provide, many contain the 'kit playground', often described as boring, lacking in creativity and too safe. There is a growing trend towards more challenging and imaginative play for all age groups at the one location.

"Challenge parks"

Challenge parks are an emerging type of park. They generally feature multiple play nodes to cater for different ages, gardens, water play areas and lagoons, large open grassy spaces, shady picnic spots with quality facilities, ponds and water features, areas of natural woodland and vegetation and kilometres of shared paths and boardwalks to explore. High tree house structures, sky walks and natural elements are introducing risk back into play, enabling children to develop an awareness of limits and boundaries.

Currently, there is no facility that offers this level of recreation experience for all ages in the LGA. However there is potential to develop this in Warragul (Civic Park) or Drouin (Civic Park). While a park of this nature may not necessarily be the direction Council wishes to take, a more challenging play node is an opportunity within the LGA.

Parkour

Parkour is an attitude and training method for movement through any environment at speed. The concept is to overcome all physical and mental obstacles in your path by using your body and mind to run, climb, jump and vault. A Parkour group exists in Warragul.

Nature play

In just one generation, there has been a dramatic shift in childhood activity from outdoors to indoors. This has been driven by factors such as computer technology, a significant reduction in the size of backyards and an increasingly risk-averse culture.

Nature play is an emerging trend particularly in urban environments, where access to nature is not as readily available as it is in the Baw Baw Shire. Residents and visitors should be encouraged to engage with their natural environment. Awareness of the benefits of children's contact with nature is also growing, and many councils are embracing the concept of developing nature play spaces within their parks and bushland reserves. More natural play elements should be developed in conjunction with traditional play spaces across the LGA.

Seniors playgrounds

Designed to aid exercise and mobility, senior playgrounds are already popular in several countries including the United States, Germany, Spain, England and India. While many contain exercise equipment, they are also known for their social benefits, often having open spaces for exercise classes and where possible, co-located with cafes and social activities so seniors feel part of the community

Informal recreation/physical activity trends

Ageing community

Baw Baw Shire is an ageing community, with a median age of 42 years (higher than the State with a median age of 37 years)¹. An ageing community requires:

- » greater emphasis on low impact physical activity
- » access to community infrastructure will require wider pathways, improved wheelchair/disabled access/parking, more lighting, shaded seats for resting along pathways and wider hallways
- » increased use of mobility scooters as a convenient method of transportation.

Impacts of technology

Technology remains one of the main contributors towards decreased physical activity and increased sedentary behaviour. However, active gaming is becoming a contemporary approach to exercise. In technology-based games, participants are engaged in physical movement by using their bodies as the controllers (while increasing their heart rate and burning calories).

Taking this a step further are initiatives such as Magical Parks, where Councils can subscribe to the provider to create virtual play experiences within nominated parks across the Shire. Similar in ways to Pokemon Go, children use their mobile devices to 'physically' interact with digital games that are incorporated into the natural landscape. As a result, participants are engaged and enjoy the benefits of being outside and physically active. These, and

other technology-based opportunities will very likely become more and more popular as the technology is adopted.

There are also increasing expectations of technology within recreation areas including WiFi access in key parks, promoting existing geocaching and by using digital tools for information and marketing on tracks and signage.

Rationalisations

Where open space parcels are undeveloped, are poorly located, are attracting regular anti-social behaviour and/or are not providing recreation opportunities desired by the nearby catchment (and are thus sitting idle), opportunities may exist to rationalise the land. Depending on the land tenure, this may include re-purposing as an alternate use, sale of the land or returning the land to the State.

Councils are becoming more cognisant of not retaining (and maintaining) open space that does not serve a community recreation function.

Sporting trends

Field and court quality

Facility providers face an increasing trend to develop and re-develop sporting fields and courts to a higher level in order to increase carrying capacity. Upgrades, such as lighting and field irrigation, allow training and competition times to be extended and increases the ability of turf playing fields to cope with the resulting wear and tear. Further, to achieve ongoing field quality, fields need 'rest periods' (of up to four weeks) where necessary maintenance can be undertaken.

Generally, the playing fields within the LGA are in appropriate condition, with some requiring irrigation and drainage upgrades to provide safe playing surfaces. However, it is important to note that a number of upgrades are proposed for ancillary facilities such as storage, spectator facilities and pavilions.

Volunteer sport organisations

The rate of volunteering in sport and recreation clubs has been declining for many years. Often, the responsibility for running clubs falls to one or two key personnel. To address this issue, there is a move toward amalgamations, with multi-sport clubs becoming more common. In other cases, organisations may become aligned to larger licensed clubs that take over some or all of the volunteers' roles as well as asset management responsibilities.

It must be noted however, that the involvement of volunteers within community sport and recreation clubs is crucial to their ongoing viability. The vast majority of such clubs would have no way of meeting the expense of paying people for the roles currently undertaken by volunteers. To put the value of volunteers into context, the labour input of Australian volunteers in sport has been estimated to be valued at AUD \$4 billion annually¹.

Lack of time

Shift work, increasing numbers in part-time and casual employment and family commitments influence participation as:

- » people do not have the time to commit to organised sport and social clubs as a regular member and/or volunteer
- » participants are seeking facilities with flexible hours.

Facility management

Councils across Australia and Victoria employ various management structures over their sport and recreation facilities.

Where resources allow, there is a growing trend towards Councils taking on more responsibility for the overall management (and maintenance) of facilities. This involves users (tenant clubs) paying higher user fees, but being able to focus more on their core function of providing the relevant sport/activity, not facility management (and maintenance).

While this trend applies mainly to larger local governments, it has been considered in the

¹ Dr Ralph Richards and Christine May, Senior Research Consultants, Clearinghouse for Sport, Australian Sports Commission (January 2018)

development of the proposed management template for Baw Baw Shire Council in Appendix A.

Gender equality

There is a current focus on the role of sport in promoting gender equality from all levels of government.

The Victorian Government's 'Inquiry into Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation- A Five Year Game Plan for Victoria' contains 9 recommendations for the sport and recreation sector, state and local governments and other partners to bring about change. This is known as the 'Change Our Game' campaign. One of the most relevant themes for this Strategy is 'Change the Environment', with the following two recommendations:

- » Deliver female friendly built environments and equitable facility usage policies
- » Build an enabling environment through education and training.

VicHealth have funded GippSport to make sport and physical activity more accessible and attractive to regional teenagers, and women through VicHealth's This Girl Can- Victoria campaign. The local campaign is called Gippy Girls Can.



Demand for recreation

Current participation and future community demand in organised sport

Table 2: Participation in organised sport in Baw Baw Shire in current and future participation modelled to 2026

Activity	Baw Baw current Participation [^] (number of participants)	Baw Baw current participation rate (% of the total population)	Baw Baw estimated participation in 2026 [^] (number of participants)	Victoria current participation (registered members of SSAs)	Victoria current participation rate (% of the total population)	Data source of Baw Baw current participation	Data source of Victoria current participation
Basketball	3,951*	8.15%	4,927	247,908	4.18%	Basketball Victoria	Basketball Victoria
Australian Rules Football	2,628	5.42%	3,277	163,899	2.77%	AFL Victoria	AFL Victoria
Netball	1,414	2.92%	1,765	113,105	1.91%	Netball Victoria	Netball Victoria
Golf	1,387	2.86%	1,730	111,532	1.88%	Golf Victoria	Golf Victoria
Cricket	1,206	2.49%	1,504	140,000	2.36%	Cricket Victoria	Cricket Victoria
Gymnastics	651	1.34%	812	60,000	1.01%	Gymnastics Victoria	Gymnastics Victoria
Tennis	625	1.29%	779	270,605	4.57%	Tennis Victoria	Tennis Victoria
Bowls	537	1.11%	670	38,821	0.66%	Bowls Victoria	Bowls Victoria
Soccer	519**	1.07%	647	68,196	1.15%	Football Federation Victoria	Football Federation Victoria
Hockey	459	0.95%	574	22,300	0.38%	Hockey Victoria	Hockey Victoria
Cycling	333	0.69%	417	7,128	0.12%	Cycling Victoria & Bicycle Network	Cycling Victoria & Bicycle Network
Equestrian	212	0.44%	264	4,800	0.08%	EQ, HRCav, PCV	Equestrian Victoria only
Badminton	166	0.34%	207	7,100	0.12%	Badminton Victoria	Badminton Victoria
Swimming	132*	0.27%	165	11,000	0.19%	Swimming Victoria	Swimming Victoria
Shooting	116	0.24%	145	36,000	0.61%	Warragul Drouin Pistol Club	Sporting Shooters Association of Australia
Little Athletics	112	0.23%	140	19,422	0.33%	Little Athletics Victoria	Little Athletics Victoria
Triathlon	66	0.14%	82	2,904	0.05%	Triathlon Victoria	Triathlon Victoria
Croquet	48	0.10%	60	2,812	0.05%	Croquet Victoria	Croquet Victoria
Total	14,506	29.92%	18,088	1,333,510	22.52%		

[^]Estimated participation in 2026 assumes that the current rates of participation will remain the same and overall participation will increase with population growth (with considerations for exceptions explained on following page).



Table 2 shows that the top sports played in Baw Baw Shire are Basketball, Australian Rules Football, Netball, Golf and Cricket, each with over 1,000 participants.

Please note in regard to Table 2:

- » * participation numbers for basketball include all registered basketball players who live within the Baw Baw Shire, with approximately 1,835 playing within Baw Baw Shire
- » ** soccer participation numbers include Gippsland FC which is a Gippsland-wide club
- » # participation numbers for swimming are only participants in club swimming and do not include significant other forms of aquatic activities such as Learn to Swim, casual swimming or programs such as aqua aerobics. It is noted that general attendances of the various Council aquatic facilities in 2016/2017 were well over 300,000 plus over 1,000 swim lesson enrolments.

Given current participation rates and the population growth projected for Baw Baw Shire, it is possible to predict future community demand so this can be catered for. Table 2 also shows the current and future participation rates based on data collected directly from the State Sporting Associations (SSAs) representing organised sport clubs in Baw Baw Shire (with the exception of shooting). 2016 Census data was used for the population of Baw Baw Shire and Victoria, and Victoria in Future population projections developed by the state government were used to calculate future participation based on current rates.



Key data considerations

The results of the analysis in Table 2 can assist in guiding the provision of sporting facilities into the future, however it is only one tool to do so. It should be noted that:

- » Data supplied by the State Sporting Associations refers to either the 2016/17 or 2017/18 season depending on availability and completeness of the data
- » the population data used is the 2016 census population data for Baw Baw Shire (48,479) and Victoria (5,926,624)
- » estimated future participation is based on the assumption that current rates of local participation will remain the same. However, FFV (soccer) has noted that there was an overall increase in participation rates in Baw Baw Shire between 2015 and 2016 of 8.2%, with a state-wide overall increase of 6.5% for the same period
- » increases in participation rates may well occur for some sports, but are very difficult to predict accurately. Subsequently, current participation rates are utilised for projections, while growth trends are considered in determining likely gaps in future provision (gap analysis).

Gap analysis

Where possible, generally accepted provision rates for facilities (e.g. one field per 2,000 residents) have been included in this analysis. It should be noted however, that these provision rates are just one planning tool in determining the current and future needs of a community. Other factors such as the unique interests of a community, increasing/declining participation rates of sports, and the way facilities are managed also influence the recommended provision of sport and recreation facilities.

Basketball

Basketball is the most popular organised sport in the Shire, and is currently undersupplied. Although there are essentially 15 courts across the Shire, only the courts at the Warragul Leisure Centre and Bellbird Park facilities are considered suitable for competition and promoted as such.

- » Warragul Leisure Centre - 2 courts
- » Bellbird Park Indoor Centre - 2 courts
- » other 11 courts are located at schools (except for Bells Hall, Rawson).

To address the future needs of basketball, Council should consider an action plan based on the findings from the Draft Baw Baw Indoor Stadium Feasibility Study (2017), which suggests an additional 2-4 courts.

AFL

AFL Victoria's "Growing the Heartland- Football Facilities Development Strategy 2017-2022" projects that Baw Baw will require an additional 4-6 ovals by the year 2031.

In addition to Western Park Oval 2 currently under construction and a second oval planned at Trafalgar Recreation Reserve, the second oval at Downton Park in Yarragon could also be utilised with a minor investment in facilities e.g lights and additional change facilities.

Whilst the Warragul and Drouin Precinct Structure Plans provide for at least six senior ovals, the timeframe is over a 30+ year period. Apportioning one third of these (2 ovals) to match the ten year period of this Recreation Strategy would mean that in addition to the 3 ovals outlined above, 5 ovals would result in the future needs of football spaces being provided for.

Given that the developer contribution is intended to provide for the surfacing, landscaping, and basic construction of facilities within the reserve, Council will need to consider the level of investment required to provide adequate support facilities (e.g pavilions) in the future. This would still be significantly less than Council having to acquire and develop other suitable land.

Netball

Overall the Shire is currently (slightly) under supplied. Netball Victoria recommends the provision of one court for every 44 players. Applying this provision rate, the current number of players require access to 33 courts. There is currently 24 dedicated courts and 12 shared netball/tennis courts across the Shire (total of 36). If participation projections are accurate, a total of 41 courts will be required by 2026. Implementation of the Baw Baw Indoor Stadium Feasibility Study may also address this under supply of netball courts.

It should be noted that while the Drouin area currently has enough netball courts /facilities, they are not compliant and can be unsafe for players (confirmed by Netball Victoria). This project has been provided \$600,000 funding, however, this could result in a lesser number of compliant courts.

Further, the Precinct Structure Plans (PSPs) for Warragul and Drouin have failed to identify the need for netball courts in either area. Especially in the case of Drouin, 6 netball courts should be included in the sporting needs of the PSP.

Cricket

Baw Baw Shire is well placed to provide the spaces for cricket. While no exact provision rate is provided by Cricket Australia or Cricket Victoria, a generally accepted provision rate for cricket ovals is 1 per 4,000 people (based on similar studies undertaken for Queensland and New South Wales local governments, notably Logan City, Moreton Bay Regional, and Tweed Shire Councils). The current rate of provision across the Shire is approximately 1 cricket oval per 2,000 people. By the year 2036, if no further cricket ovals are developed, the provision rate will be approximately 1 oval per 3,000 people.

Ongoing maintenance and upgrades (as required) of the existing facilities should be continued.

Gymnastics

Although there are no recommended provision rates for gymnastics, there is some evidence that the sport is currently under supplied, with the Warragul Gymnastics facility being at capacity. However, given the specific needs of the sport, the development of further facilities should be investigated when appropriate indoor sport and recreation centres are re-developed/constructed. The current gymnastic facilities are:

- » Warragul Gymnastics Club, Warragul
- » Bellbird Park Indoor Centre, Drouin

Tennis

Given that Tennis Victoria consider a provision rate of 1 court for every 1,500 residents as appropriate, Baw Baw Shire is currently well supplied, with the existing provision rate of approximately 1 court for 600 people.

Even with the expected population at 2036, there will be no need to develop new tennis facilities across the Shire. However, consideration should be given to rationalisation or improvement of existing facilities over this period.

Bowls

Although specific provision rates for bowls is not available, it is believed that the sport is currently oversupplied through the 12 facilities across the Shire. This is also supported by the State and National trends of decreasing participation in the sport. It is recommended that no future facilities should be considered.

Hockey

The existing synthetic facility at Bellbird Park Drouin is adequate for the current and future needs of the sport within the Shire. While a local club (not the Association) has expressed a need for an additional synthetic field, this should only be considered if a strong demand is demonstrated in the future, mainly due to the significant capital cost of such an undertaking.

Soccer

Although currently adequately provided for with 8 soccer fields, soccer is one of the fastest growing sports across Australia and Victoria.

A generally accepted provision rate for soccer fields is 1 field per 6,000 residents, meaning an additional 2 fields will be required to cater for future population growth. This is consistent with Football Federation Victoria's 'State Football Facilities Strategy to 2026' which suggests an additional 2-3 additional pitches are desirable by 2026.

Consideration will need to be given to providing adequate facilities in the future. This may not necessarily need the development of new 'greenfield' sites, but more likely the adaption of existing facilities to enable them to cater for the sport. The focus of future developments should be the main population areas, given the growing popularity of the sport in these towns, especially Warragul.

In July 2018, Council received and noted the 'Baxter Reserve Synthetic Pitch Business Case Report' which proposes converting the existing grass pitch at Baxter Park in Warragul to synthetic. At that time,

Council also supported detailed designs for the pitch to be carried out in the 2018/2019 financial year.

A synthetic field in Warragul will reduce the demand for new facilities in the short term due to the ability to improve carrying capacity and is supported by Football Federation Victoria.

Whilst the Warragul and Drouin Precinct Structure Plans provide for at least 8 rectangular fields, the timeframe is over a 30+ year period. Apportioning one third of these (2-3 fields) to match the ten year period of this Recreation Strategy would mean that the future needs of soccer spaces are provided for.

Given that the developer contribution is intended to provide for the surfacing, landscaping, and basic construction of facilities within the reserve, Council will need to consider the level of investment required to provide adequate support facilities (e.g pavilions) in the future. This would still be significantly less than Council having to acquire and develop other suitable land.

Badminton

The current indoor sporting facilities (both Council centres and schools) are believed adequate to provide badminton opportunities across the Shire.

As in the case for basketball, future needs can also be addressed through the implementation of the Baw Baw Indoor Stadium Feasibility Study (2017).

Swimming

By applying generally accepted provision rates (number of facilities per population), the Shire is currently over supplied with aquatic facilities. Emphasis should be placed on improving the existing facilities over time, not the development of new facilities. The current facilities (listed below) results in a provision rate of approximately 1 aquatic facility per 8,000 residents, well and truly below acceptable provision rates that range from 1 facility per 15,000 - 50,000 residents.

- » Warragul Leisure Centre (indoor and outdoor pools)

- » Rawson Indoor Pool (Robertson Sports Centre)
- » Drouin Outdoor Pool
- » Neerim South Outdoor Pool
- » Trafalgar Outdoor Pool
- » Thorpdale Outdoor Pool.

Shooting

The current number of facilities (two) is considered adequate for the number of participants in the sport across the Shire. The club has identified some required facility upgrades through the engagement process of the project which can be addressed as opportunities arise.

Little Athletics

Little Athletics Victoria have confirmed that the Warragul facility is currently adequate. However, it was noted that should the population growth continue in a similar vein to recent years down the south-east corridor, there may be an argument for additional facilities. These additional facilities would include ongoing upgrades to the Warragul facility (determined through liaison with the Club) and the possible establishment of a facility at Drouin.

It was also noted that local schools utilise the athletics facility at Joe Carmody athletics track in Newborough (Latrobe City Council).

Triathlon

The club currently utilises facilities at the Warragul Leisure Centre and along Burke Street. The main issue identified for the sport has been the need for improved access to lanes at the swimming pool (both number of lanes and available times), which could be achieved through negotiation with the venue manager.

Croquet

The relatively low number of participants (both current and future) in the sport are well catered for with the two existing facilities located at Drouin and Warragul. Clubhouse renovations at each facility have been identified and may be implemented as opportunities arise into the future.

Equestrian

With five equestrian facilities across the Shire, this sport (and its relative disciplines) are well provided for, now and into the future. Ongoing Council support is likely to be required, given the large areas and equipment requiring ongoing maintenance and replacement.

Cycling

Given the current number of participants in cycling across the Shire, the Warragul velodrome would seem adequate for current and future cycling needs. Further, the inclusion of criterium tracks in the future development of large recreation parks could also be considered to address the informal cycling needs of residents and visitors, and additional organised activities by cycling groups. This was suggested in the Warragul Recreation Plan Review (2014) where it was recommended to consider the feasibility of a criterium track around the proposed future wetland at Logan Park.

Rugby

There are currently no rugby teams operating within the Shire. If demand for such facilities is demonstrated in the future, emerging clubs should be encouraged to utilise existing facilities.

Volleyball

As identified by the 2017 Draft Indoor stadium Feasibility Study, the Association would like access to more courts so that they could host tournaments. This should be considered in future indoor court development, subject to the actual demand being demonstrated. In the meantime, the sport should be encouraged to access existing indoor sporting facilities.



General findings

The following is a summary of findings that have informed the development of the recommendations contained in the following Action Plan.

Meeting demand

- » There is a growing demand for recreation facilities, programs and opportunities that will require increased allocation of Council and external sources of funding - including ongoing maintenance costs
- » The quality of existing facilities will need to be upgraded (over time) to increase their capacity through improved field lighting, drainage, irrigation, synthetic surfaces, multi-use playing surfaces and additional courts/fields
- » The need for 2-4 additional indoor courts has been identified as a short to medium term priority in Council's Draft Indoor Stadium Feasibility Study
- » Development of/upgrading ancillary/supporting infrastructure such as general lighting, shade, water, storage, toilets, seating and parking will need to be addressed
- » There should be an increased focus on providing assistance to clubs in areas such as funding grants, governance and strategic planning
- » Minimum pavilion standards should be established (providing Council with an opportunity to focus on sport specific requirements and be clear about not funding larger sizes, social rooms etc). Clarity in master plan development and implementation is needed.

More inclusive recreation

- » Increasing the participation of women and girls in sport through promotion of "This Girl Can" and other female-specific State Sporting Association programs should become more of a focus
- » Affordable options for participation in sport and active recreation such as free outdoor fitness classes, low cost exercise options, tracks/trails and walking groups should be explored and promoted
- » New facilities will be designed in accordance with universal design principles to create more inclusive spaces for recreation, including catering for all genders and incorporating Environmentally Sensitive Design principles
- » Retrofit existing facilities to accommodate equitable access for females and people with a disability.

- » Given the projected social profile of Baw Baw Shire, there will need to be a focus required on youth and the aged:
 - youth initiatives to focus on spaces/ places, facilities and programs (such as better activation of skate/ BMX facilities through programming, mobile skate parks to travel to smaller communities and pop-up parks
 - the focus of older adults initiatives should be low impact and inclusive activities.

Additional focus on active recreation

There is a discrepancy between Council spending on organised sport and active recreation. Studies at the national, state and local level have shown that participation in informal, unstructured recreation is greater than participation in organised sports. Organised sports are easily measured. Council funding should reflect this in order to provide fairer provision to the community.

- » Initiatives could include - 'challenge' parks, playgrounds (nature play, access, sensory, themed, increased consultation in design stage), technology based activation of parks for youth, re-purpose unused facilities (e.g tennis) where appropriate, etc
- » The development of a Cycling Strategy and a Paths and Trails Strategy would reflect the high level of community demand demonstrated for walk/cycle paths and opportunities, better connectivity within towns and between towns, on-road cycle lanes
- » Council has recently designated 7 dog off-leash areas to address the increasing expectations of communities for this type of infrastructure.

Playground Strategy

It is recommended that Council develop a playground strategy to guide the development of playgrounds across the Shire. The need for this new Strategy has been identified through:

- » Consultation with Council staff
- » Site visits that showed many of the playgrounds within neighbourhood parks are aged, under-utilised and uninviting
- » It is not clear which playgrounds people are visiting. It is estimated that most people are accessing central parks that are close to cafes, shops and other facilities.

The proposed new Playground Strategy should:

- » explore options to rationalise playgrounds that are under-utilised and at the end of their life
- » gauge community support for creating better, but fewer, destination parks that offer a greater variety of experiences, opportunities for all abilities and for a range of age groups.

There is currently a lack of opportunities for people with disabilities with the exception of the new all abilities playground at Civic Park, Warragul. It should be noted that liberty swings are not supported as an all abilities play equipment because they are not inclusive and have too many limitations.

Council should consider greater nature-play options within their parks such as climbing trees, rocks, landscaping and sensory play (plant species with tactile surface herbs or sandpaper figs, tactile landscaping, sound responsive). It will be crucial that the playground strategy includes direct consultation with children across target age groups to gauge responses.

Rationalisation

Given the current and future over-supply of tennis courts across the Shire, the future of some facilities should be rationalised. With an approximate projected population of 72,000 by the year 2036, the Shire would need 48 courts. There are currently 83 courts, and subsequently, further investigations should be undertaken for alternative uses of many of these courts.

Facility inspections during the development of this Strategy indicated that there was duplication of pavilion structures within various recreation reserves across the Shire. As in the case with tennis courts, these duplicate facilities should be rationalised on a case by case basis, again through comprehensive stakeholder engagement.



Example of nature play



Future direction

Vision

Council Vision:

“Happy, healthy people sharing prosperity and knowledge from living sustainably and in harmony with our rural identity, thriving villages, productive and inspiring landscapes.”

Vision for recreation:

Residents of Baw Baw have access to a range of quality recreation opportunities, both organised sport and active recreation that contribute to their wellbeing, regardless of age, gender, ability or background.

Guiding principles

Below are the guiding principles that drive the future direction of providing sport and recreation opportunities across the Baw Baw Shire. When applied, these principles will ensure a strategic and consistent approach to raising participation levels in sport and recreation through the development and facilitation of appropriate facilities, services and programs.

Encourage community participation in recreation for wide benefits to health, wellbeing and social cohesion

Support a range of recreation opportunities, including through partnering with recreation service providers

Support the development of shared multi-use facilities that comply with relevant sporting design standards

Maximise opportunities for shared use of sport facilities by clubs, community groups and individuals.

Maximise opportunities for broader community use of recreation reserves by incorporating passive leisure facilities.

Where appropriate, develop multi-sport community facilities and recreation areas at the one location (i.e. precincts, rather than developing single-use or stand alone facilities)

Ensure universal design (including female friendly), ESD and CPTED principles are followed in development of new facilities and redevelopment of existing facilities

Buildings will:

- » *be developed reflecting evidence based research and with service levels defined;*
- » *be developed only after existing facilities are optimised;*
- » *be focused on local and municipal level needs;*
- » *be planned and designed for use by a number of groups.*

Minimise barriers and encourage participation in recreation for women, girls, cultures and people of all abilities

Support a hierarchy approach to provision (municipal, district and local level facilities)

Seek grants and partnerships in order to help fund facility developments



Action plan

The Recreation Strategy represents an opportunity for Council to maintain and build upon the diversity of sporting facilities and recreation parks for locals and visitors.

Implementation of the recommendations outlined in this Strategy will require strong leadership, appropriate resources from Council and a commitment to making some difficult decisions.

The dominant theme that came through the range of engagement processes and analysis is a direction to maintain and upgrade the existing network while continuing to provide for the population-related demand expected to grow in the next ten years.

In essence, the focus of the Strategy is to embrace the quality sport and recreation facilities that Council and the community has achieved - to further activate existing quality sport and recreation facilities through programming and tailored facility upgrades.

While this Strategy presents a key guiding vision for Council and the community, the overlaying issue will be the capacity to fund it. Exact individual project timing will be dependent on the availability of necessary funding (be it from local clubs, Council, State or Federal Governments).

The recommendations of this study are detailed below and are grouped into three strategic areas:

- » Management (policy and procedures)
- » Existing facilities and programs
- » New facilities, programs and initiatives.

Priorities are assigned for each action. A high recommendation should be undertaken as soon as resources allow while medium (in the next 5 years) and low priorities (in the next 5-20 years) are not as urgent.

Following the Action Plan is a summary of the outstanding recommendations of all of Council's Recreation Reserve Master Plan, which will form a major part of the actions required within the Existing Facilities and Programs.

Management (policy and procedures)

Action No.	Action	Priority
M1	Appoint an officer to take the lead role on overseeing implementation and review of the Recreation Strategy 2017-2027, especially the ongoing management of recreation reserves.	High
M2	Develop a playground strategy to address the issues of ageing and under utilised playgrounds in neighbourhood parks and lack of opportunities for people with disabilities.	High
M3	Develop a pedestrian and cycle strategy to provide safe opportunities for recreational walking and cycling across the Shire. Additional and improved walking and cycling links provide opportunities for recreation and active transport.	High
M4	Develop an Infrastructure Funding Policy which clearly outlines what type of facilities Council will and will not fund, the standard of such facilities, and how they will be delivered.	High
M5	Investigate the maximum amount of funding available through the Community Development Grants Program for minor equipment purchases.	High
M6	Review and amend the existing Community Facility Directional Signage Policy to include directional, informative and sponsorship signage within Council Reserves.	High
M7	Move toward the management review recommendations for the future management of recreation reserves across the Shire. That is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » continue with Committees of Management in rural and remote communities, but undertake regular risk analyses and provide additional assistance » Council continue undertaking the bulk of maintenance at reserves in larger town centres, with the relevant tenancy agreements in place » review the tiered system and the facilities falling into each category. 	Medium
M8	Ensure future policies and procedures reflect the trend of increased participation in informal/active recreation activities.	Ongoing
M9	Promote and direct clubs to the support services available at GippSport (such as governance and management workshops) and use of Gippsport resources e.g. management templates.	Ongoing
M10	Promote and support club participation in the Victorian Government initiative Access for All Abilities program to support and develop inclusive sport and recreation opportunities for people with a disability in Baw Baw Shire.	Ongoing
M11	Update the community directory of recreation and sporting clubs on the website to ensure they all include the location (facility or reserve) where their activities are run (to ensure they appear on Google Maps search function).	Ongoing
M12	Develop new and continue existing partnerships with relevant service providers and government departments in the delivery of sport and recreation programs.	Ongoing
M13	Work with the State and Federal Governments, State Sporting Associations, GippSport and other peak agencies to ensure adequate policies (including relevant clauses in tenancy agreements) are in place for equitable access to facilities for females, people with a disability and other underrepresented cohorts of the community.	Ongoing

Existing facilities and programs

Action No.	Action	Priority
E1	Council to continue to refine and utilise the Facility Prioritisation Assessment Matrix to prioritise all capital recreation projects (including outstanding master plan actions) on a Shire- wide level.	High
E2	Implement the outstanding recommendations of the Recreation Reserve Master Plans as per the outcomes of the prioritisation process (as above).	High
E3	Facilitate the redevelopment of the Drouin Recreation Reserve Netball courts with the acquired funding to ensure compliant courts.	High
E4	Implement Recommended Actions of the Draft Baw Baw Indoor Stadium Feasibility Study 2018.	Medium
E5	Rationalise the current level of provision of tennis courts. This should occur on a case by case basis and involve a high level of engagement with the relevant communities.	Medium
E6	Rationalise the need for existing multiple pavilions at individual sites. This should occur on a case by case basis and involve a high level of engagement with the relevant clubs and communities.	Medium
E7	Continue the development of ancillary facilities for the increased use of Western Park Ovals in Warragul where possible/appropriate.	Medium
E8	A regular risk analysis should be carried out on existing CoM to ensure that recreation reserves are being appropriately maintained (both in regard to sporting requirements and community safety) and managed. A budget allocation for an annual external inspection and safety audit would greatly assist this initiative.	Medium and ongoing
E9	Review all Recreation Reserve Master Plans every four (4) years to update outstanding recommendations and to ensure they are still relevant. Develop a visual guide to explain the process of project development from planning through to delivery (for both master plan and non-master planned projects).	Ongoing
E10	Continue to facilitate change of season meetings at each reserve that Council directly manages to provide a two way communication flow between Council and clubs. Continue to develop 'site management plans' with CoM's and user groups which can be reviewed and updated at each change of season meeting.	Ongoing
E11	Implement outstanding recommendations of the Baw Baw Skate and BMX Strategy.	Ongoing
E12	Continue to promote tracks and trails within the Shire.	Ongoing

New facilities, programs and initiatives

Action No.	Action	Priority
N1	Develop new pavilions with universal design principles employed. Such principles should address areas such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » female friendly changerooms and toilets » functional areas for the delivery of the particular sport/s to be Council's priority over social rooms/licensed areas » environmentally sustainable design » one appropriate facility for all users to only be considered. 	High
N2	Develop 7 permanent (fenced) dog off leash areas in locations identified in 9 May 2018 Council meeting minutes in response to community expectations for this type of infrastructure.	High
N3	Plan for an additional five new AFL/ cricket ovals within the Shire (including second grounds at Western Park Warragul and Trafalgar Recreation Reserve and investigate improvements for the second oval at Downton Park in Yarragon). Monitor participation and develop fields as and where required.	Medium
N4	Design six new netball courts for Drouin as part of one of the sporting reserves identified in the Drouin Precinct Structure Plan. Following the redevelopment of existing courts at Drouin Recreation Reserve, monitor netball participation as well as the development staging of the Drouin township and develop further courts as required.	Medium
N5	Subject to the outcomes of the proposed pedestrian and cycle strategy, ensure new and/or upgrades to pathways include supporting infrastructure such as seating, water bubblers, shade to improve recreation opportunities for seniors.	Medium
N6	Undertake detailed designs on the Baxter Reserve synthetic pitch and pursue funding opportunities to deliver this project to improve short term carrying capacity in Warragul. Plan for an additional 2 soccer fields within the main population areas of the Shire. Monitor participation and develop fields as required.	Medium
N7	Investigate activating parks and other places/spaces with physical activity programs, offering free/low cost activities for seniors, adults and youth. Council should partner with sport and recreation providers to facilitate the activities. This may depend on funding availability from Sport and Recreation Victoria or other sources.	Medium
N8	Support the delivery of the VicHealth Active Women and Girls for Health and Wellbeing program in Baw Baw Shire to increase female participation in sport and physical activity.	Ongoing
N9	New capital recreation projects to be prioritised as per Action E1.	Ongoing
N10	Undertake a feasibility study for the inclusion of a criterium track at Logan Park, Warragul, as proposed by the 2014 Warragul Recreation Plan Review.	As per master plan

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Appendices

- Appendix A Best Practice Management Review for Recreation Reserves
- Appendix B Literature review
- Appendix C Community Survey and Club Survey
- Appendix D Outstanding Recreation Reserve Master Plan Actions
- Appendix E Facility Prioritisation Assessment Matrix



Appendix A

Best Practice Management Review for Recreation Reserves

Benchmarking

To determine the most appropriate management structure/process for recreation reserves within Baw Baw Shire, other local governments across Australia have been reviewed in regard to how they manage such community facilities. These Council's have included:

- » Blacktown City Council (New South Wales)
- » City of Casey (Victoria)
- » Latrobe City Council (Victoria)
- » City of Greater Geelong (Victoria)
- » City of Salisbury (South Australia)
- » Darwin City Council (Northern Territory)
- » Launceston City Council (Tasmania)
- » Onkaparinga City Council (South Australia)
- » Toowoomba Regional Council (South East Queensland)
- » Upper Hunter Shire Council (New South Wales)
- » Singleton Council (New South Wales).

It must be noted that a wide range of practices are employed by local governments, with no one structure being perfect for all. Subject to the local government's population, financial and human resources, philosophical position on the provision of sport and recreation, and many other factors, Council's need to determine what suits their community best. The main types of structures in place across Australia currently include seasonal hire agreements, leases, licences (generally less formal and shorter term leases), Section 86 Committees, incorporated bodies, friend's groups, advisory groups, direct Council management and permits to use.

Recreation reserve maintenance is one of Council's core business areas. Maintenance usually includes mowing, weed removal, irrigation, aeration, field and building repairs, painting, rubbish collection, addressing acts of vandalism etc. It generally does not include the maintenance of turf wickets, in view of the highly specialised nature of turf wicket maintenance, this responsibility usually rests with the users of these facilities.

All councils are concerned with ensuring the safety of all users of Council land. Recreation reserves in particular, due to the degree and nature of use they receive, are of increasing management concern, hence the undertaking of this section of the Recreation Strategy.

Cost recovery

Among the variables included in the many structures is the cost recovery rate for the maintenance of playing fields/courts. Research has indicated that except for a small number of exceptions, these cost recovery rates usually range between 15% and 25%. In other words, when Council's employ a seasonal hire rate for playing fields/courts, they charge the tenant organisations between 15% and 25% of these costs as a seasonal hire rate. Baw Baw Shire Council has a current Pricing Policy and Strategy which aims to achieve a 20% cost recovery rate. This is consistent with the benchmarked Councils.

Further, many Council's utilise a tiered system (usually between 3-5 tiers) for the level of service different fields/courts receive, therefore providing a range in the quality of playing surfaces. This results in clubs paying a fee according to the standard it is maintained e.g a high quality playing surface will attract a higher fee than a lower quality playing surface.

Baw Baw Shire's current Pricing Policy and Strategy utilises a hierarchy (tiered) system, consistent with the benchmarked Councils. Whilst this Policy is subject to a review process, it is suggested to review the tiered system and the facilities falling into each category.

Baw Baw Shire

Council has established a number of special committees under Section 86 of the Local Government Act 1989, delegating the management of recreation reserve and hall facilities to these committees. Given the current systems in place in Baw Baw Shire, the mix of urban and rural areas, and Council's available financial and human resources, two different structures are recommended to be utilised for the management of Recreation Reserves across the Shire.

1. Committees of Management (rural and remote areas)
2. Council managed and/or maintained with Tenancy Agreements (larger town centres).

1. Committees of Management

There are currently two types of Committees of Management (CoMs) across the Shire - Section 86 CoMs and DELWP (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning) CoMs. This report only reviews the Council CoMs.

Local Government Victoria is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of the Local Government Act 1989, which is expected to be introduced into Parliament in the near future. There are likely to be changes to Section 86- special committees, although at this stage, it is unknown what the implications of this will be. Council will need to monitor the situation and consider changes as part of any review of management models in the future.

It is recommended that the existing CoMs in rural areas are retained under the current structures (with three suggested actions as listed below). These CoMs play a vital role in the maintenance and operation of their respective recreation reserves, utilising volunteer assistance in doing so. Due to the nature of the communities that these recreation reserves service, this is generally the most cost-efficient management model.

However, the following actions should also be undertaken to ensure this remains the case:

Funding

It is suggested that the upper limit of grant funding through the existing Community Development Grant Program for Minor Equipment purchases be increased from \$5,000, to at least \$10,000 and preferably, \$15,000. This would allow CoMs to purchase appropriate field maintenance equipment (such as mowers and other similar maintenance equipment). The current levels of Maintenance Allocations from Council should be retained, and continue to be reviewed annually.

Rescinding CoMs

A regular risk analysis should be carried out on existing CoM to ensure that recreation reserves are being appropriately maintained (both in regard to sporting requirements and community safety) and managed. A budget allocation for an annual external inspection and safety audit would assist with risk management, insurance claims and also prioritising works required.

The management risk analysis should consider the type and condition of the assets being managed and their use; the needs, skills and equipment available; and the risks and costs/benefits associated with different management structures. For example, if a grass playing surface is upgraded, Council will need to ensure Committees have appropriate equipment and skills to maintain the investment to an appropriate standard.

If it is deemed that a CoM is not the best management structure for a particular reserve, rescinding the committee should be considered in consultation with key stakeholders.

Council assistance

Increased training and education could be provided to CoMs, concentrating on areas of concern such as field maintenance, club governance, volunteer management or other areas as identified by the CoMs or identified by Council staff.

2. Council managed and/or maintained with Tenancy Agreements

Due to the generally relatively higher numbers of participants utilising recreation reserves in the larger town centres of Warragul, Drouin and Trafalgar, it is recommended that Council continue being responsible for the maintenance of recreation reserves in these areas.

Areas of responsibility

Tenancy agreements, along with Council's Pricing Policy and Strategy, detail maintenance responsibilities and who is responsible for certain costs such as utilities. Communication with tenant clubs should be maintained through Council facilitating at least change of season meetings at each reserve to provide a two way communication flow between Council and clubs.

Council should continue to develop 'site management plans' with CoM's and user groups which can be reviewed and updated at each change of season meeting. Site management plans should be flexible, working documents.

Please note:

As the Shire reaches it's 2036 projected population, a further review of the management of its recreation reserves should be undertaken given the subsequent increase in financial and human resources, changes of some rural and remote areas into large town centres and a possible shift in Council's philosophical position in regard to the provision of sport and recreation facilities.

Appendix B

Literature Review

Council document	Implications for the recreation strategy
Council Plan 2017-2027	<p>The Baw Baw Shire Council Plan 2017-2021 identifies Council’s vision as “Happy, healthy people sharing prosperity and knowledge from living sustainably and in harmony with our rural identity, thriving villages, productive and inspiring landscapes.”</p> <p>The first of four key objectives is “vibrant communities” which is the most relevant to the development of the recreation strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – quality community focused services, facilities and infrastructure to support a growing and ageing community – managing Baw Baw’s growth and development – a vibrant, healthy and inclusive community – thriving town centres, rural and remote communities.
Baw Baw 2050	<p>The community vision for recreation identified in Baw Baw 2050 is: “We are well served by sport, recreation, cultural and social facilities and services”. It is noted that, “the ageing population and growth in chronic diseases, particularly those caused by poor lifestyle patterns, will place stress on our health facilities and services”. Objective 3.2 is that quality arts, sport and recreation provide community access to a range of creative and recreation opportunities</p>
Public Open Space Strategy 2014	<p>The Public Open Space Strategy provides guidance as to the different parks and their functions, where they should be located and development standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » In standard density residential areas, aim to provide a local neighbourhood park within 400 metres walking distance of 95 percent of new dwellings. » district neighbourhood parks are nominated in two locations in Warragul’s future urban growth areas » for sporting reserves, aim to provide a sporting reserve within 1 kilometre walking distance of 95 percent of new dwellings » sporting reserves are nominated in the urban growth areas of Drouin and Warragul to cater to existing and future needs of the community » sporting reserves already exist in medium and small towns <p>The key principles of the Strategy are</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. provide adequate public open space in the right places 2. to use high quality land that will be suitable for intended public recreation use 3. to design and develop the public open space in a way that maximises community benefit from the place
2014 Recreation Master Plans	<p>The Recreation Master Plans review undertaken in 2014 and the Rural Recreation Reserves Master Plans (both Stage 1 in 2014 and Stage 2 in 2016) identify a large number of outstanding recommendations and their priority. These have been taken into consideration in the development of recommendations for this Strategy. The 2014 Recreation Masterplan works have been included in the Long Term Infrastructure Plan.</p>

Council document	Implications for the recreation strategy
Recreation Strategy Plan 2005-2015	The previous Recreation Strategy developed in 2005 has guided Council's approach to recreation over a ten year period. Outstanding and ongoing recommendations have been reviewed for inclusion and priority setting in this Recreation Strategy.
Draft Indoor Stadium Feasibility Study 2017	<p>Likely participation in indoor sports could increase between 2,500 to 3,000 people by 2026. Basketball and netball are high participation sports in Baw Baw and are the main sporting codes generating this demand.</p> <p>There is strong support for the development of additional indoor courts in the Warragul area. Additional courts will be needed to address the predicted future participation growth that is anticipated as a result of population growth and the development other indoor sporting codes.</p> <p>It is estimated that an additional 2 to 4 courts will be required in the short to medium term (0-10 years). This is based on predicted population and membership growth, standard of existing facilities, current occupancy levels of existing facilities and the lack of a multi-court venue greater than 2 courts.</p>
Being Healthy in Baw Baw Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021	<p>5 key areas, with the two most relevant including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving mental health (in particular, strategy 1.3 - Improve access to recreation opportunities and places for healthy connections). 3. Healthy eating and active living (in particular, strategy 3.6 - Improve access to active living programs, sport and active recreation and community infrastructure).
Community Services Planning Framework (2013)	<p>Of particular relevance to the Recreation Strategy are the following principles of the Framework:</p> <p>Access: Community services will be accessible and delivered in an equitable way to respond to the needs of local and individual communities, taking into account changing priorities, trends, circumstance and place.</p> <p>Participation: People will be empowered to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » participate fully in community life » make healthy lifestyle choices » engage in lifelong learning » access services that meet their individual needs » seek support to live independently » express their creativity and celebrate local culture. <p>Communities: Provision of services will be informed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » population and demographic profile » service triggers and criteria » community strength and capacity » flexibility of existing facilities and services » proximity to and impact on nearby services.

Appendix C

Community Survey and Club Survey

Community Survey

1. Which area in the Baw Baw local government area (LGA) do you live?

2. Do you participate in any recreation and sporting activities?

3. At which open spaces or facilities do you recreate or play sport? Please select all those that apply:

- At home
- Bushland
- Community garden
- Walk and cycle paths, tracks and trails
- Golf course
- Gym or fitness centre
- Indoor (e.g. hall, leisure centre, community centre)
- Local footpaths
- On the street
- Park
- Playground
- Private property
- School grounds
- Skate/BMX park
- Sports ground or court
- Dam/lake/river

4. How do you normally get to parks and recreation spaces within the Baw Baw Shire?

- Car
- Walk
- Cycle
- Skate/ scooter
- Bus/ train

5. How far are you willing to drive to participate in, or take your child/ren to sport?

- Training
- Home games
- Away games

6. Have you experienced any barriers to using parks and/or participating in sport within the Baw Baw Shire? Please tick all that apply

- No, I have not experienced any barriers
- They are too crowded
- They are poorly maintained

- They are unclean
- I don't feel safe there
- There is a lack of car parking
- There is a lack of toilets
- They don't cater for my mobility needs
- They don't appeal to me
- There is a limited range of sporting fields/ courts/facilities provided
- There is a lack of variety
- I can't take my dog
- I cant find information about them
- Participation in sport is too expensive
- Lack of transport
- Lack of suitable programs
- Timing does not suit
- I don't have the time

7. Are you happy with the following recreation and sporting facilities/ opportunities in the Shire? (Yes/ No / Don't know)

- Swimming pools
- Cycle and walk ways
- Sportsfields/ courts
- Playgrounds
- Skate parks
- Natural bushland parks
- Indoor sport and recreation centres
- Places to relax and socialise
- Community halls/centres
- Activities for youth
- Activities for seniors
- Low cost/free physical activities/programs

8. If you were in charge of Baw Baw Shire Council, what would be your TOP THREE parks, recreation and sports priorities that you would fund over the next 10 years?

- Improved pedestrian/cyclist connections between open spaces
- New/upgraded cycle and walking paths
- Provision of places/facilities/programs for young people
- Improved quality of sports grounds/ovals/ courts
- Improved bushland maintenance/ management/conservation
- Increased supporting facilities including car parking and amenities

- Provision of places/facilities/programs for seniors
- Improved picnicking facilities
- More sports grounds/ovals/courts
- Improved parks maintenance
- New/upgraded playgrounds
- New/upgraded horse and equestrian facilities
- Don't know/no response

9. What is your age group?

- Under 19 years
- 20 - 24 years
- 25 - 29 years
- 30 - 34 years
- 35 - 39 years
- 40 - 44 years
- 45 - 49 years
- 50 - 54 years
- 55 - 59 years
- 60 - 64 years
- 65 years and older

10. To which gender do you most identify (this question will assist us in developing gender equitable sport and recreation facilities)?

- Male
- Female

Club Survey

1. Club / organisation / group name

2. What services and programs are offered by your club / organisation / group? Please provide details below

3. Throughout which months of the year does your club / organisation / group operate?

(e.g. early March through until late September, all-year)

- Training
- Classes/ general operation
- Competition

4. Which Reserve, Facility or Venue does your club / organisation / group use?

5. How often do you use your home Reserve / Facility / Venue?

- Rarely
- Once a month
- Once a week
- Twice a week
- Three to five times a week
- More than five times a week

6. Are you a formal sporting club / organisation? If yes, please describe your current (or most recent season) player membership, and your approximate membership numbers two years ago (2014/2015), if known. Please EXCLUDE social members.

7. Are you an informal recreation club or group? If yes, please indicate your current participation numbers.

8. In the next 3 years, do you expect your membership to increase, decrease or remain the same? Why?

9. Are your current facilities provided by Baw Baw Shire Council? If yes, please indicate whether the current facilities provided to your club / organisation / group are suitable to your requirements:

- Number of playing fields / ovals / courts
- Lighting
- Public toilets
- Change facilities
- Gender appropriate facilities i.e. female change rooms

- Canteen / kiosk facilities
- Storage areas
- Site accessibility i.e. entrance roads
- Car parking
- Maintenance of buildings
- Seating / shade / water
- Disability accessibility

Options:

- Exceeds needs
- Suitable
- Not Suitable
- Not Required

10. Thinking about the majority of your members / participants, how far do they travel to participate in your club / organisation / groups activities (as listed below)?

- Regular training / practice
- Home games / fixtures i.e. competition
- Away games / fixtures i.e. competition
- Timetabled class / program

Options:

- From within the local town i.e. 10 to 20 minutes
- From adjoining towns i.e. up to 30 minutes
- From outside of Baw Baw Shire
- Unsure

11. Please describe your top 3 priorities for facility improvements (i.e. NOT maintenance) to best provide for your recreation or sporting activity (the answer under 1 being the higher priority).

12. Please indicate the extent that your club / organisation / group may be experiencing the following issues.

- Falling membership
- Lack of youth participation
- Lack of female participation
- Cannot accommodate growing demand (too many people wanting to play)
- Lack of facilities to accommodate the needs of the club (lack of fields/courts for existing members)
- Cost of maintaining the venue for your activity
- Cost of playing or participating is increasing
- Declining number of volunteers

- Disability access to facilities
- Difficulty in accessing grant funding

Options:

- High
- Medium
- Low
- NA

13. Please tick the groups below that your club / organisation currently cater for:

- Females
- Males
- People with a disability
- Seniors
- Juniors

14. Is there anything else you would like to contribute regarding the future provision of recreation needs and associated facilities within the Baw Baw Shire?

Appendix D

Outstanding Recreation Reserve Master Plan Actions

Outstanding Master Plan Action Summary

The following outstanding actions of the master plans should be assessed as outlined in Action E1.

PLEASE NOTE: All cost estimates apply to the year the relevant plan was undertaken and may need to be adjusted at the appropriate time to reflect the true cost of the project.

Plan	Site	Outstanding Actions	Master Plan Priority	Indicative Cost/Status	New Priority
Warragul Outdoor Recreation Plan	Eastern Park	Provide more seating around the ground	Low	\$2,500	
		Install more ground entry gates near coaches boxes	Low	\$5,000	
		Sub Total			\$7,500
	Burke Street Recreation Precinct	Construct new multi-use pavilion	High	\$2,816,000	
		Demolition of Burke St pavilion (building occupied by Wild Dog Tri Club)	Low	included in court costs	
		4 new netball courts	Medium	\$550,000	
		6 multi-lined courts (tennis and netball)	Low	\$1,760,000	
		Upgrade bowls clubhouse to accommodate croquet club/s	Medium	\$400,000	
		Provide sufficient car parking (sealed) to accommodate projected use	Medium	\$1,497,600	
		Upgrade walking track, when required, to meet relevant standards	Low	\$120,000	
		Upgrade Warragul Regional College sports oval surface	Low	\$20,000	
		Flood lighting sports field	High	\$150,000	
		Upgrade athletics track / build new long jump	Low	\$100,000	
		Sub Total			\$7,413,600
	Logan Park	Improve traffic management	Low	\$5,000	
		Mountain bike/ cyclocross circuit track	Low	\$160,000	
		Feasibility and design of criterium track around edge of wetland	Low	\$25,000	
		Sub Total			\$190,000
	Western Park Precinct	Monitor stability of oval for movement. Manage environmental issues and land movement accordingly	High	Ongoing as required	
		Replace floodlighting fittings at netball courts from type B to type C to reduce obtrusive light	Medium	\$12,000	
		Upgrade netball pavilion to incorporate sufficient club room, storage and meeting space and shelter for spectators	Medium	\$50,000	
		Sub Total			\$62,000
	Total Indicative Cost To Implement Warragul Outdoor Recreation Plan(excluding Logan Park wetlands)				\$7,673,100

Plan	Site	Outstanding Actions	Master Plan Priority	Indicative Cost/Status	New Priority	
Drouin Recreation Plan	Bellbird Park (Eastern Section)	Provide connectivity between Reserve and Blackwood Court and Forrest/ Boronia Streets	High	\$20,000		
		Upgrade soccer field lights to meet training standard, with the capacity to upgrade to match lights in the future	Low	\$25,000 for training standard only		
		Replace soccer clubrooms	High	\$460,000		
		Future expansion of existing car park as required to cater for growth	High	\$150,000		
		Retain multi-purpose fields in natural grass, with a long term view to install a hybrid surface and consideration of lighting	High	n/a		
		Update/ refurbish hockey pavilion to meet relevant sports standards, including social facilities	High	\$650,000		
		Undertake maintenance of vegetation	High	Within operational budget		
		Sub Total			\$1,305,000	
	Bellbird Park (Stadium)	Detailed design of Indoor Stadium Concept Plan	High	\$100,000		
		Stadium upgrade construction	High	\$2,000,000		
		Sub Total			\$2,100,000	
	Drouin Recreation Reserve	Oval surface upgrade, including drainage	High	\$435,000		
		Lighting upgrade to remaining 4 netball courts to match standard	Low	\$70,000		
		Vehicle access road to be sealed and include drainage	High	\$400,000		
		Gravel overflow car park off Victoria Street with a defined in and out	Medium	\$75,000		
		Seal and line mark car park near netball and badminton	Medium	\$145,000		
		Sub Total			\$1,125,000	
	Balmoral Park	Pavilion refurbishment	High	\$80,000		
		Sub Total			\$80,000	
	Total Indicative Cost To Implement Drouin Recreation Plan				\$4,610,000	

Plan	Site	Outstanding Actions	Master Plan Priority	Indicative Cost/Status	New Priority
Trafalgar Recreation Precinct Master Plan		Construct one minimum size senior football/ cricket oval	Low	\$935,000	
		Short term refurbishment works to existing building	Low	\$100,000	
		Undertake design and documentation of the new Multi-Use Complex: Either extend and re-furbish the existing pavilion or construct a new building.	Low	\$115,000	
		Undertake works associated with the new Multi-Use Complex to include club rooms, storage, change rooms, external access public toilets and function space.	Low	\$2,470,000	
		Shelter for second oval	Low	\$10,000	
		Construct Equestrian Precinct	High	\$550,000	
		Construct new parking (approx. 40 cars) on eastern side of pitches	High	\$250,000	
		Sealed access and parking improvements to northern side of ground	Low	\$500,000	
		Investigate sustainable water solutions	Medium	Not costed	
		Undertake construction of cricket nets	Low	\$70,000	
		Once equestrian has relocated, consider future Council depot on existing equestrian site	Low	Not costed	
		Upgrade lighting to oval to training standard	Low	\$170,000	
		Refurbish public toilets	Medium	\$20,000	
		Lighting to second oval	Low	\$150,000	
		Adventure playground	Low	\$100,000	
Total Indicative Cost To Implement Trafalgar Recreation Precinct Master Plan				\$5,440,000	

Plan	Site	Outstanding Actions	Master Plan Priority	Indicative Cost/Status	New Priority
Dowton Park Masterplan		Main pedestrian/ vehicle entrance to park- beautify front entrance with landscaping and fencing	Low	Not costed	
		Overall carpark within landscape buffer	Low	Not costed	
		Car parking (40 cars) and loading to amenities	Medium	Not costed	
		Existing clubroom and amenities building expansion/ upgrade (to include change rooms, social rooms, spectator areas, storage and amenities)	High	Floor plan complete	
		Tennis/ netball shelter (court side)	Medium	Not costed	
		New pedestrian entrance and track from Rodier Rd	Medium	Pedestrian access is available through a gap in the fence, but no formal track	
		Potential future indoor sports hall (with Yarragon Primary School)	Low	Not costed	
		Pedestrian path with occasional vehicle access- in front of clubrooms	Low	Not costed	
		Safe floodlighting of main competition grounds / courts should be considered	Medium	Netball/ tennis complete. Funding application for oval lighting submitted for 18/19	

Plan	Site	Outstanding Actions	Master Plan Priority	Indicative Cost/Status	New Priority
Rural Recreation Reserve Master Plans Stage 1	Athlone Recreation Reserve	Undertake ground maintenance	High	\$20,000	
		Consider Solar Photo Voltaic electric generator on roof	Low	\$20,000	
		Address Class 9 building issues	High	\$30,000	
		Athlone Recreation Reserve Sub Total			\$70,000
	Buln Buln Recreation Reserve	Seal path from playground to BBQ	Low	\$12,000	
		Make path to BBQ area accessible (remove bollards)	Low	\$1,000	
		Pump upgrade for oval	Low	\$30,000	
		Provide accessible parking	Low	\$72,000	
		Upgrade road crossover alignment, gradient and drainage at entry and consider moving the entrance	Medium	\$20,000	
		Attend to compliance issues re: amenities	High	\$100,000	
		New timekeepers box	Low	\$12,000	
		Repairs to wetlands (not holding water)	High	\$200,000	
		Lighting upgrade for the oval including site power	Medium	\$190,000	
		Buln Buln Recreation Reserve Sub Total			\$637,000
	Ellinbank Recreation Reserve	Install bore for water supply	Low	\$56,000	
		Netting behind football goals	Low	\$60,000	
		Oval upgrade (drainage, irrigation, grading, etc)	Low	\$441,000	
		New spectator seating in front of netball pavilion	Low	\$5,000	
		Asphalting of perimeter track (part A) - from entrance to pavilion	Low	\$466,240	
		Asphalting of perimeter track (part B)	Low	\$453,280	
		Ellinbank Recreation Reserve Sub Total			\$1,481,520
	Hallora Recreation Reserve	Upgrade goal posts/score board	Medium/low	\$15,000	
		Replace oval light poles	High	\$150,000	
		Resurface and seal road	Low	\$150,000	
		Bollard restriction to prevent truck access	Low	\$5,000	
		Showers and toilet for umpire change room	High	\$25,000	
		Separate amenities for away change rooms	Medium	\$68,000	
		Hallora Recreation Reserve Sub Total			\$413,000

Plan	Site	Outstanding Actions	Master Plan Priority	Indicative Cost/Status	New Priority	
Rural Recreation Reserve Master Plans Stage 1 (continued)	Jindivick Recreation Reserve	Make safe bank where stairs used to be and the ground has fallen away	High	\$80,000		
		New change rooms, umpire change, first aid and realign road	High	\$260,000 (design complete)		
		Realign road	Low	\$38,400		
		Oval upgrade (drainage and irrigation)	Medium	\$209,000		
		Install turf wicket	Low	\$36,000		
		Install bore for water supply	Low	\$56,000		
		Passive recreation area for nature based activities/ play	Low	Not costed		
		Additional car parking	Low	\$13,400		
		Decommission/demolish public toilets when new change rooms are built	Low	\$15,000		
		Jindivick Recreation Reserve Sub Total				\$707,800
	Jindivick Hall and Tennis	Decommission courts and lights and provide one multi- use court reoriented for tennis, basketball (half court) and four square	Medium	\$166,000		
		Passive recreation	Low	\$17,045		
		New link between hall and playground	Low	\$30,200		
		Jindivick Hall and Tennis Sub Total				\$213,245
	Neerim South Recreation Reserve	Oval upgrade (drainage, irrigation, grading and new surface)	Medium	\$480,000		
		Add rock wall on east side of entrance	Low	\$12,000		
		Address erosion issues on embankment	High	\$60,000		
		Review the need for extension of storage	Medium	Not costed		
		Attend to compliance issues in amenities, change rooms and umpire facilities	High	\$231,200		
		Neerim South Recreation Reserve Sub Total				\$783,200
	Rawson Recreation Reserve	Decommission two tennis courts and remove lights	Medium	\$60,000		
		New grass and topsoil	Medium	\$22,800		
		New access path to tennis court and way finding signage	Low	\$67,040		
		New skate park	Medium	\$80,000		
		Implement recommendations from Skate & BMX Strategy for BMX Park	Medium	\$30,000		
		Seal entrance to Bells Stadium	Low	\$35,000		
		Evaporative cooling for Bells Stadium	Low	\$25,000		
		Travelling irrigator for oval	Low	\$16,000		
		Lighting for safe helicopter landing	Low	\$20,000		
		Rawson Recreation Reserve Sub Total				\$355,840
	Total Indicative Cost To Implement Rural Recreation Reserves Master Plans Stage 1				\$4,661,605	

Plan	Site	Outstanding Actions	Master Plan Priority	Indicative Cost/Status	New Priority
Rural Recreation Reserve Master Plans Stage 2	Darnum Recreation Reserve	Demolish aged and dysfunctional public toilet facility and replace with a new, fully accessible public toilet facility in the same location	High	\$150,000	
		Upgrade existing AFL change room facilities in accordance with AFL's Preferred Facility Guidelines and Universal Design Principles. Ensure change rooms and supporting amenities (e.g. showers and toilets) are female and family friendly	High	\$200,000	
		Enhance and promote enjoyable spectator experiences via the refurbishment of the existing 'Bay 3 ¼' and timekeepers box. Consider extending the roofline to increase spectator shelter provision.	Medium	\$35,000	
		Construction of a new match day facility to accommodate netball participants and umpires. Match day facility to be an extension of the existing pavilion and provide two change room facilities (home and away teams), showers and toilets. Match day facility to also provide change rooms and supporting amenities for both netball and AFL umpires and be in accordance with peak sporting body facility standards and Universal Design Principles.	High	\$650,000	
		Provision of a new storage facility to accommodate dog obedience and Reserve maintenance equipment. Remove existing shipping container to improve the overall aesthetics of the site.	Low	\$60,000	
		Improve Reserve access and connectivity with local facilities (e.g. Darnum Primary School) via the establishment of a formalised shared pathway from Darnum Recreation Reserve to the main township.	Medium	\$130,000	
		Resurface and formalise Reserve entry roads and car park. Consider a pedestrian only zone between the pavilion and oval during match days controlled via removable bollards.	Medium	\$540,000	
		Improve Reserve frontage and road interface landscaping to enhance the overall aesthetics and appeal of the site.	Low	\$30,000	
		Replace existing aged Reserve perimeter fencing to improve the overall aesthetics of the Reserve.	Medium	\$100,000	

Plan	Site	Outstanding Actions	Master Plan Priority	Indicative Cost/Status	New Priority
Rural Recreation Reserve Master Plans Stage 2 (continued)	Darnum Recreation Reserve (continued)	Upgrade and relocate playground equipment at the end of its useful life. Seek to increase the buffer between the Reserve entrance driveway and future playground location. Ensure playground is accessible and within sight lines of AFL and netball playing fields.	Medium	\$85,000	
		Increase spectator amenity via the provision of additional around the ground seating and shelter. Extend the pavilion roofline to provide a greater sheltered spectator area in close proximity to canteen and indoor pavilion facilities.	Medium	\$70,000	
		Increase spectator seating and shelter around the netball courts (this could potentially be in the form of portable grandstand seating).	Medium	\$23,000	
		Increase informal Reserve recreation opportunities through formalisation of open space between main pavilion, dog obedience clubhouse and proposed netball and umpire change facilities into a courtyard with sheltered picnic tables and BBQ facility.	Low	\$90,000	
		Consider the erection of safety netting/fencing behind the goals at each end of the playing field to minimise the potential for spectator injury or vehicle damage.	Low	\$68,000	
		Pending future success of recent oval drainage improvements, redevelop the existing playing surface to remedy unevenness and inconsistent grass coverage. Surface redevelopment to include sub surface irrigation and drainage.	High	\$520,000	
		Consider provision of floodlighting to dog obedience training/competition exhibition space to increase Reserve capacity and dog obedience programming opportunities.	Low	Not costed	
		Upgrade sports field floodlighting in accordance with Australian Standards for AFL training activities.	High	\$160,000	
		In accordance with AFL's Preferred Facility Guidelines upgrade existing player and coach box/benches.	Low	\$25,000	
		Investigate future installation of solar panels to the main pavilion roof to provide a more sustainable and economically viable power source.	Medium	Not costed	
		Investigate the provision of additional water tank/s to assist with water storage and future irrigation of the sports field and dog obedience exhibition area.	Medium	Not costed	
		Darnum Recreation Reserve Sub Total			

Plan	Site	Outstanding Actions	Master Plan Priority	Indicative Cost/Status	New Priority
Rural Recreation Reserve Master Plans Stage 2 (continued)	Longwarry Recreation Reserve	Upgrade existing AFL/Cricket player amenities in accordance with peak sporting body preferred facility guidelines to ensure amenities are in accordance with Universal Design Principles and are female and family friendly.	High	\$180,000	
		Explore options to extend existing pavilion footprint to accommodate canteen/kitchen, male and female toilet and community meeting space upgrades. Pavilion extension to include spectator canopy to the front of the pavilion.	High	\$300,000	
		Remove the unsafe and obsolete structure located at the rear of the water tanks to improve the overall aesthetics of the site	Low	\$3,000	
		Address current Reserve entry traffic management issues through implementation of a Traffic Management Plan. Traffic Management Plan to include directional signage and clear delineation between entry/exit routes and car parking	High	Not costed	
		Resurface and formalise Reserve car parking. Car park formalisation to include hard surface lined car parking to the north of the pavilion and netball courts in addition to the area south of the pavilion (near playground).	High	\$380,000	
		Establish a formal pathway network throughout the Reserve increasing Reserve accessibility and connectivity with surrounding facilities and open space (e.g. Bandicoot Trail).	Medium	\$155,000	
		Enhance and promote enjoyable spectator experiences via the provision of additional around the ground seating and shelter.	Medium	\$35,000	
		Increase spectator seating and shelter around the netball courts (this could potentially be in the form of portable grandstand seating). Extend the pavilion roofline to provide a greater sheltered spectator area in close proximity to canteen and indoor pavilion facilities.	Medium	\$25,000	
		Installation of low vehicular barrier to northern perimeter of netball courts to minimise vehicular access and subsequent damage to court surface.	Medium	\$7,500	
		Improve site entry and community awareness of the Reserve through the installation of entry signage (in accordance with Council's Signage Guidelines).	Low	\$7,000	

Plan	Site	Outstanding Actions	Master Plan Priority	Indicative Cost/Status	New Priority
Rural Recreation Reserve Master Plans Stage 2 (continued)	Longwarry Recreation Reserve (continued)	Improve Reserve security and surveillance levels via the provision of security lighting throughout the Reserve (main car parking areas priority).	High	\$80,000	
		Upgrade existing playground equipment and fencing at the end of its useful life. Ensure playground is accessible and remains within sight lines of sports field and netball courts.	Medium	\$98,000	
		Increase informal Reserve recreation opportunities through the provision of shade/shelter and BBQ facilities in close proximity to existing playground.	Low	\$55,000	
		Subject to future demand and growth, investigate the development of a second sports field with training lights and supporting match day amenities in the open space east of the main sports field.	Medium	\$1,500,000	
		Upgrade sports field floodlighting in accordance with Australian Standards for AFL training activities.	High	\$160,000	
		Resurface Reserve playing field surface to remedy current grass coverage issues. Surface redevelopment works to include drainage and irrigation.	High	\$500,000	
		Resurface netball court #1 to rectify existing drainage issues. Ensure surface redevelopment works are in accordance with peak sporty body recommended facility standards.	High	\$35,000	
		Install court perimeter fencing around tennis/netball courts to minimise chance of spectator injury and lost game time caused through retrieving balls.	High	\$40,000	
		Replace the aged and damaged centre cricket pitch surface in accordance with Cricket Australia's Community Cricket Facility Guidelines and preferred 9mm-11mm pile height synthetic turf.	Medium	\$7,500	
		Provision of an electronic scoreboard in the south-eastern corner of the Reserve. Pending future development of a second oval, the scoreboard will be able to service both fields in this location. Explore options to utilise existing manual scoreboard facility as an additional storage area or potential umpire change room facility.	Low	\$65,000	
		Investigate future installation of solar panels to pavilion/s roof to provide a more sustainable and economically viable power source.	Low	Not costed	
		Longwarry Recreation Reserve Sub Total			

Plan	Site	Outstanding Actions	Master Plan Priority	Indicative Cost/Status	New Priority
Rural Recreation Reserve Master Plans Stage 2 (continued)	Thorpdale Recreation Reserve	Option 1: Upgrade/refurbishment and extension of existing pavilion with priority given to improved player and umpire change rooms and amenities for AFL, Cricket, Netball and Tennis participants. Pavilion upgrade to also include provision of accessible toilet facilities, storage space, kitchen/canteen and a sheltered player/spectator viewing area. Pavilion upgrade to include a multi-purpose tennis/netball change room area extension (located in the open space west of the courts and behind the existing pavilion).	High	\$700,000	
		Demolish redundant toilet block facility at rear of sports pavilion and investigate opportunities to develop a new equipment storage shed in nearby location (rear of pavilion).	Low	\$60,000	
		Enhance and promote enjoyable spectator experiences through replacement of the existing aged spectator viewing veranda on the north and east sides of the pavilion.	Medium	\$10,000	
		Investigate and construct appropriate drainage to assist with flooding issues between pavilion and netball/tennis courts.	High	\$15,000	
		Resurface and formalise Reserve entry, access road and car parking on the eastern side of the oval to improve parking efficiency and overall capacity for tenant sporting clubs, community groups and the general public.	High	\$300,000	
		Resurface and formalise Reserve car parking west of the pavilion and ensure provision of clearly marked disabled parking bays.	Medium	\$155,000	
		Replace Reserve roadside fencing (include pedestrian access bollards) to assist with the management of event access and improve the overall aesthetics of the site.	Medium	\$30,000	
		Upgrade existing playground equipment at the end of its useful life. Ensure playground is accessible and remains within sight lines of sports field and multi-purpose netball/tennis courts.	Medium	\$85,000	
		Enhance and promote enjoyable spectator experiences via the provision of additional around the ground seating and shelter.	Medium	\$35,000	
		Increase spectator seating and shelter around the netball/tennis courts (this could potentially be in the form of portable grandstand seating).	Medium	\$23,000	

Plan	Site	Outstanding Actions	Master Plan Priority	Indicative Cost/Status	New Priority
Rural Recreation Reserve Master Plans Stage 2 (continued)	Thorpdale Recreation Reserve (continued)	Investigate opportunities to formalise (seal) the shared pathway that extends between Thorpdale Recreation Reserve and the main township.	Medium	Not costed	
		Improve site entry and community awareness of the Reserve through the installation of entry signage (in accordance with Council's Signage Guidelines)	Low	\$7,000	
		Replace aged multi-purpose netball/tennis court perimeter fencing.	Medium	\$65,000	
		Resurface cracked, damaged and unsafe tennis/netball court surfaces. To assist with future court sustainability and related maintenance, consider reducing number of courts (from five to four) in alignment with Tennis Australia's recommended facility provision levels for a local level venue.	High	\$180,000	
		Replace existing aged, dysfunctional and unsafe cricket training nets with new cricket net facilities in accordance with Cricket Australia's Community Cricket Facility Guidelines.	Medium	\$60,000	
		Replace the centre cricket pitch surface in accordance with Cricket Australia's Community Cricket Facility Guidelines and preferred 9mm-11mm pile height synthetic turf.	Medium	\$7,500	
		Explore options to cover the synthetic cricket pitch during the winter season.	Low	Not costed	
		Upgrade sports field floodlighting in accordance with Australian Standards for AFL training activities	Medium	\$160,000	
		Investigate future installation of solar panels to pavilion/s roof to provide a more sustainable and economically viable power source.	Medium	Not costed	
		Secure Reserve water supply through bore repair works.	High	Not costed	
		Thorpdale Recreation Reserve Sub Total			

Plan	Site	Outstanding Actions	Master Plan Priority	Indicative Cost/Status	New Priority
Rural Recreation Reserve Master Plans Stage 2 (continued)	Willow Grove Recreation Reserve	Upgrade existing AFL/Cricket change room facilities, umpire change rooms and non compliant accessible toilet facilities in Recreation Building. Ensure change room areas and supporting amenities are in accordance with Universal Design Principles, peak sporting body preferred facility standards and are female and family friendly.	High	\$200,000	
		Upgrade aged and dysfunctional Recreation Building canteen/kitchen facility.	Medium	\$50,000	
		Investigate potential opportunities to provide a safer and more accessible entry point to timekeepers box.	High	Not costed	
		Demolish aged and dysfunctional public toilet facility and replace with a new, fully accessible public toilet facility in the same location. Ensure provision of accessible pathway linkage between Moe-Willow Grove Road and internal car park.	High	\$150,000	
		Construction of a new multi-purpose match day facility to accommodate both netball and tennis participants and umpires.	High	Funded	
		Refurbish and upgrade social area, in particular accessible toilets, kitchen and bar facilities.	Medium	\$170,000	
		Construction of a new storage shed to accommodate Recreation Reserve and Lions Club storage/work room.	Medium	\$60,000	
		Resurface and formalise Reserve entries and car parks off Moe-Willow Grove Road and Blue Rock Road. Consider the inclusion of traffic calming design features to increase pedestrian safety travelling between tennis/netball/playground areas and main sports pavilion, canteen and social area.	High	\$220,000	
		Resurface and formalise access road and 'oval sideline' car parking along northern side of the ground to improve parking efficiency and overall capacity for tenant sporting clubs, community groups and the general public.	Medium	\$180,000	
		Establish a formal pathway network throughout the Reserve ensuring connectivity with the Blue Rock Lake Trail, new housing estate and adjacent Willow Grove Primary School.	Medium	\$195,000	
Investigate future installation of solar panels to pavilion/s roof to provide a more sustainable and economically viable power source.	Medium	Not costed			

Plan	Site	Outstanding Actions	Master Plan Priority	Indicative Cost/Status	New Priority		
Rural Recreation Reserve Master Plans Stage 2 (continued)	Willow Grove Recreation Reserve (continued)	Upgrade existing playground equipment at the end of its useful life. Ensure playground is accessible and remains within sight lines of sports field and multi-purpose netball/tennis courts.	Medium	\$85,000			
		Increase informal Reserve recreation opportunities through the provision of a sheltered public picnic/ BBQ facility in open space between playground, rotunda and tennis/ netball courts.	Medium	\$47,000			
		Enhance and promote enjoyable spectator experiences via the provision of additional around the ground seating and shelter.	Medium	\$60,000			
		Subject to future demand, consider development of a community garden within the Reserve.	Low	Not costed			
		Improve site entry and community awareness of the Reserve through the installation of entry signage (in accordance with Council's Signage Guidelines).	Low	\$7,000			
		Improve Reserve frontage and road interface landscaping to enhance the overall aesthetics and appeal of the site.	Low	\$15,000			
		Provision of an electronic scoreboard in place of the existing manual scoreboard.	Medium	\$65,000			
		Provision of safety netting/fencing to north west end of the ground (cricket nets end).	Medium	\$39,000			
		Continue to monitor and upgrade netball/tennis court surfaces ensuring compliance with peak sporting body standards.	High	Not costed			
		Increase spectator seating and shelter around the netball courts (this could potentially be in the form of portable grandstand seating).	High	\$35,000			
		Resurface Reserve playing field to remedy current unevenness and drainage issues. Surface redevelopment works to include drainage and irrigation.	High	\$530,000			
		Further investigate opportunities to source water and irrigate the main sports field via a connection with the nearby Blue Rock Lake(connection point shown on Master Plan indicative only and subject to further investigation and consultation).	High	Not costed			
		Consider development of a designated player warm up area in open space behind cricket nets.	Low	Not costed			
		Willow Grove Recreation Reserve Sub Total				\$2,108,000	
		Total Indicative Cost To Implement Rural Recreation Reserves Master Plans Stage 2				\$10,569,500	

Total Outstanding Recreation Reserve Master Plan Actions:
(excluding uncosted Downton Park Master Plan outstanding actions)

\$32,954,205



Appendix E

Facility Prioritisation Assessment Matrix

Facility Prioritisation Assessment Matrix

The outstanding actions of all of Council's master plans of Recreation Reserves have been documented in Appendix D. These actions should then be assessed through the use of the below assessment matrix to determine the priority of each, on a Shire-wide level. While the original master plan priorities were determined on a site-by-site basis, the new Shire-wide priorities will guide Council in its decision making and budgeting processes in regard to the provision of sport and recreation over the next ten (10) years.

The assessment matrix is in two parts. In part A, each outstanding master plan action is allocated a score out of ten (10) based on how they meet each criteria, and this score is then multiplied by the weighting assigned to each criteria.

This assessment matrix will be reviewed annually in line with Council/ funding partner priorities, specific requirements for different asset classes and continuous improvement principles.

Assessment Matrix Part A

Criteria		Score	Weighting
Total number of people participating in sport and recreation as a result of the project	0 - 99	1-2	x2
	100 - 499	3-4	x2
	500-1,499	5-6	x2
	1,500 - 3,499	7-8	x2
	3,500 +	9-10	x2
Capital cost of the project	\$2mil +	1-2	x1
	\$500,000 - \$1,999,999	3-4	x1
	\$100,000 - \$499,999	5-6	x1
	\$25,000 - \$99,999	7-8	x1
	\$0 - \$24,999	9-10	x1
Past and current club participation, average increase/ decrease over the past three years	Decrease	0	x1
	No change	1	x1
	Increase (0-5%)	3	x1
	Increase (5-10%+)	5	x1

Part B of the assessment matrix simply allocates 1 point to the project if it satisfies the criteria.

Assessment Matrix Part B

Criteria	Y/N	Score
Is participation in the actual sport/ activity the core component of this project (e.g field/ court surface, field/ court lighting etc)?		
Has the project been identified in the relevant master plan?		
Does the project increase the site's/facility's ability to allow all genders to participate?		
Does the project increase the multi-use of the facility/site by clubs, community groups and individuals?		
Is the benefitting organisation making a financial contribution equal to or greater than 10% of the project cost?		
Is the project eligible for external funding?		
Does the project meet the relevant sporting design standards and/or universal design principles?		
Does the tenant organisation have the capacity to meet the operational requirements of the project (e.g. cleaning, administration, maintenance (if applicable), etc)?		
Does the club/s have a current tenancy agreement in place with Council?		
Does the club/s have a strategic plan?		
Does the club/s have inclusive policies and practices that encourage participation from females, people with a disability and other underrepresented cohorts of the community?		
Has the project got concept or detailed designs and costings completed?		
Does the project maximise or build on an existing facility?		
Are existing facilities optimised?		
Is the project supported by the relevant State Sporting Association?		
Are there other compliance issues that this project will address e.g OH&S, asbestos, DDA compliance, building audits etc?		

The resultant scores of both Parts A and B of the Assessment Matrix are then added together to give the project an overall score, allowing the prioritisation of all outstanding master plan actions.



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