



# Demand analysis summary by sport

## AFL

AFL supplied Baw Baw specific information for the 2019 season (2020 season significantly impacted by COVID-19). This included 3,321 players, with a participation penetration rate of 11.97% for the 5-39-year-old age group.

AFL assumptions have been applied which include 25 participants per team, and 7 teams per oval, resulting in a ratio of 175 players per oval.

Both .id and VIF 2019 data were reviewed, with the same outcome.

The data reveals that the Shire-wide picture as outlined in the 'Growing the Heartland 2017-2022' document, significantly mis-represents the needs within the Drouin and Warragul townships.

From 16 ovals suitable for competition football, only two of these are located in Drouin and four in Warragul.

The demand shown below is for an additional six ovals in Drouin and five in Warragul by 2041. In order to accommodate these facilities within the available sites, a synthetic oval is proposed at both the Weebar (Drouin) and Dollarburn (Warragul) Sporting Reserves.

AFL/ Cricket Australia endorsed synthetic fields can offer the equivalent usage of three natural turf fields.

The draft concept masterplans show a synthetic oval (equivalent to 3 ovals) and turf oval at Weebar, and a further oval at McGlone sporting reserve, bringing the total proposed ovals in Drouin to 5. The assumption made for Drouin is that the remaining gap could be filled by developing a second oval at the Longwarry Recreation Reserve (as per Rural Recreation Reserve Masterplans Stage 2 below).

In Warragul, the draft concept masterplans show a synthetic oval (equivalent to 3 ovals) and turf oval at Dollarburn, and a further oval at Spring Creek Reserve under option one. This would result in five ovals in Warragul. If the Spring Creek oval was not able to be delivered, it is proposed that Council invests in lighting for the oval at Marist Sion (which is already home to a community club) from 2036 onwards. Council investment would be subject to consultation and agreement with the school for ongoing community use.

AFL Demand Summary based on .id Data									
Year	Baw Baw			Drouin			Warragul		
	Current ovals	Required Ovals	Gap	Current ovals	Required Ovals	Gap	Current ovals	Required Ovals	Gap
2021	16	16	0	2	5	-3	4	5	-1
2026	16	18	-2	2	5	-3	4	6	-2
2031	16	20	-4	2	6	-4	4	7	-3
2036	16	22	-6	2	7	-5	4	8	-4
2041	16	25	-9	2	8	-6	4	9	-5



**LEGEND**

- RESERVE BOUNDARY
- VEHICULAR ENTRY / EXIT POINTS
- PROPOSED EXIT POINTS
- EXISTING SPORTS LIGHTING
- EXISTING SITE FEATURE TO BE DEMOLISHED
- EXISTING COACHES BOX/ PLAYER BENCH
- EXISTING SPORTS SHELTER
- EXISTING SAFETY NETTING
- EXISTING PATHWAY
- PROPOSED ASPHALT ROAD PAVING
- PROPOSED SPECTATOR SEATING/ SHELTER
- PROPOSED SPORTS FENCING
- PROPOSED VEICHULAR BARRIER
- PROPOSED NEW BUILDING/ EXTENSION
- PROPOSED EXTENSION TO UNDERCOVER OUTDOOR SPECTATOR AREA
- PROPOSED GRAVEL ROAD

**DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FACILITIES**

- 1 Upgrade existing AFL/Cricket player amenities in accordance with peak sporting body preferred facility guidelines.
- 1a 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.
- 2 Removal of the obsolete structure located at the rear of the water tanks.
- 3 Address current reserve entry traffic management issues through implementation of a traffic management plan.
- 4 Resurface and formalise reserve car parking.
- 5 Establish a formal pathway network throughout the reserve.

**ACCESSIBILITY**

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- 4 Resurface and formalise reserve car parking.
- 5 Establish a formal pathway network throughout the reserve.

**COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND SOCIAL AMENITY**

- 6 Increase spectator amenity via the provision of additional around the ground seating and shelter.
- 7 Increase spectator seating and shelter provision around the netball courts.
- 8 Installation of low vehicular barrier to northern perimeter of netball courts.
- 9 Provision of reserve entry signage in accordance with Council's Signage Guidelines.
- 10 Provision of increased security lighting throughout the reserve (near main car parking areas).
- 11 Upgrade existing playground equipment and fencing at the end of its useful life.
- 12 Provision of shade/shelter and BBQ facilities in close proximity to existing playground.

**SPORTS FIELD PROVISION AND SUITABILITY**

- 1a 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.
- 14 Upgrade sports field floodlighting in accordance with Australian Standards for AFL training activities.
- 15 Resurface reserve playing field to remedy current grass coverage issues.
- 16 Resurface netball court #1 to rectify existing drainage issues.
- 17 Installation of netball/ tennis court perimeter fencing.
- 18 Replace the aged and damaged synthetic surface on the centre cricket pitch.
- 19 Provision of an electronic scoreboard.

**ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DESIGN**

- 20 Investigate future installation of solar panels to pavilion roof.



# Marist oval, Warragul



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## Cricket

With cricket, a generally accepted provision ratio of 1 oval per 3,000 population has been applied.

Whilst this does show oval shortages of four ovals in Drouin and one in Warragul by 2041, the AFL demand for ovals is greater and is therefore expected to adequately provide for cricket.

The only consideration for cricket is turf or synthetic wickets. Whilst turf is preferred for higher levels of competition (beyond open age community club level e.g. premier/ regional), these come at a cost in both turf management practices (time and money) and ability to maximise use of the oval for both cricket and football.

Currently, the installation, preparation and maintenance of all turf wicket benches are the responsibility of cricket clubs, including the costs to water the wicket. Turf wickets are currently located at Bellbird Park in Drouin and a dual pitch arrangement at both Western Park oval 2 and Eastern Park in Warragul. Outside the PSP areas, Hallora Recreation Reserve also has a turf wicket.

At this stage, the proposal is for each of the PSP sporting ovals to only contain synthetic wickets.

If Council desired further turf wicket benches at any of the ovals designated for the PSP sporting reserves, it should consider taking on the maintenance of this to reduce the burden on volunteers and ensure that ground usage is maximised for both football and cricket.

Where turf pitches are provided, the Cricket Australia Facilities Guidelines also prescribe turf training nets. This increases the required turf management practices and associated need for equipment and storage on site.

## Cycling

Whilst the majority of cycling facilities are catered for with the Baw Baw Cycling Feasibility Study Report 2020 identifying Logan Park as the Cycling Centre of Excellence, there is still a need for a local level facility in Drouin.

The proposed infrastructure at Logan Park in Warragul includes a criterium circuit, BMX track, cyclo-cross course and pump track to be co-located with the velodrome.

The recommendation is to include a pump track at one of the PSP sites in Drouin. A pump track serves to introduce participants to the sport of BMX. It is a loop or series of small loop circuits which have smaller jumps or rollers that are designed for riders to push and pull their bike in a “pumping” manoeuvre through the bumps without pedalling.

## Football (soccer)

The ratio applied for football (soccer) is 1 pitch per 6,000 residents. This is consistent with the Baw Baw Shire Recreation Strategy 2017-2027 and also within the recommended range from the Guidelines for Western Australian Community Infrastructure 2020.

The current pitches represent compliant sized pitches with access to lighting and changerooms/ amenities.

With lighting, the grass fields (multi-use cricket and soccer) at Bellbird Park could be counted as a pitch as change rooms and amenities will be provided as part of the proposed pavilion. Given this is included in a masterplan, the deficit for Drouin would be reduced to 2.

Further, the proposed Catholic education precinct in Drouin has included a synthetic soccer/ hockey field. Further investigations should be made to determine whether this synthetic would be suitable for competition sport and if so, consider partnering with them to provide lights and change/ amenities to enable community use.

In Warragul, the new synthetic facility has been counted as two pitches based on Football Victoria's understanding that a well-lit synthetic pitch has a pitch equivalence of 2:1. Logan Park has been included but Geoff Watt Track excluded due to no lighting or changerooms/ amenities. Whilst the lighting is included in a masterplan and could be easily achieved, the change rooms would require further consideration and therefore this site has been excluded.

A sport specific focus for soccer has been applied across both towns. Given the need for ovals, particularly in Drouin, and the potential conflict of these winter sports being played together and competing for space, these have taken preference over soccer pitches at the Weebar and McGlone Road sites.

The draft concept for the Lillico Road site in Warragul proposes four soccer pitches to accommodate demand across both towns and was based on the fact that Warragul is home to a synthetic pitch and was originally described in the PSP document as containing the most pitches (3).

This larger site will foster development pathways and provide opportunities for events.

It would be recommended that development of Lillico be staged, with the first stage including two pitches, the road/ carparking and pavilion development and a second stage triggered by demand for a further two pitches.

## .id forecasts- Football (soccer)

### Demand- Baw Baw

Year	Population	1 pitch: 6,000	Current pitches	Deficit
2021	55,278	9	7	-2
2026	62,164	10	7	-3
2031	69,259	12	7	-5
2036	76,809	13	7	-6
2041	84,766	14	7	-7

### Demand- Drouin

Year	Population	1 pitch: 6,000	Current pitches	Deficit
2021	15,103	3	2	-1
2026	17,930	3	2	-1
2031	20,810	3	2	-1
2036	23,960	4	2	-2
2041	27,023	5	2	-3

### Demand- Warragul

Year	Population	1 pitch: 6,000	Current pitches	Deficit
2021	18,561	3	3	0
2026	21,342	4	3	-1
2031	24,171	4	3	-1
2036	27,191	5	3	-2
2041	30,727	5	3	-2



## Hockey

The industry benchmark regarding hockey facility provision is 1 synthetic pitch for every 300 registered players.

As can be seen from the table below, an additional pitch will be required by 2031.

As discussed for football (soccer), the Catholic education precinct in Drouin has proposed a synthetic soccer/ hockey field. In the first instance, further investigations should be made to determine whether this synthetic would be suitable for competition sport and if so, consider partnering with them to provide lights and change/ amenities to enable community use.

If it is not suitable and to cater for longer term growth, a hockey pitch has been included in both Draft concepts for Spring Creek Sporting Reserve.

### Baw Baw participation rate of 0.95%

Year	BBSC population (.id)	Participants	Ratio 1 pitch: 300 players	Current pitches	Deficit
2021	55,278	525	1.75	1	-0.75
2026	62,164	591	1.97	1	-0.97
2031	69,259	658	2.19	1	-1.19
2036	76,809	730	2.43	1	-1.43
2041	84,766	805	2.68	1	-1.68

## Netball

The Netball Victoria State-wide Facilities Strategy 2016-2026 recommends that rural and regional areas apply the ratio of 1 court: 60 players, which is successfully applied to the Country Football Netball Program.

Baw Baw's participation rate of 3% of the population has been applied to population forecasts to then determine the number of required courts (detailed below).

A further 6 courts will be required in Drouin, which is consistent with the Baw Baw Shire Recreation Strategy 2017-2027. These have been proposed at the Weebar Road site.

To acknowledge the operation of football/ netball competitions, two netball courts have also been provided where ovals are proposed at McGlone and Dollarburn sporting reserves.

These courts along with the expansion of the Warragul Leisure Centre stadium (funded) will address demand for netball courts in both Drouin and Warragul.

Option two at Spring Creek proposes netball/ tennis facilities which would replace those proposed in the Warragul Outdoor Recreation Plan Review 2019 for the Burke Street Precinct. These courts are required due to poor construction of the existing courts, proximity to Hazel Creek (which will continue to cause pavement movement) and inadequate parking.

.id forecasts	Total Population		
	Baw Baw	Drouin	Warragul
2021	55,278	15,103	18,561
2026	62,164	17,930	21,342
2031	69,259	20,810	24,171
2036	76,809	23,960	27,191
2041	84,766	27,023	30,727

Participation forecast- based on 3% of population (.id)			
Year	Baw Baw	Drouin	Warragul
2021	1658	453	557
2026	1865	538	640
2031	2078	624	725
2036	2304	719	816
2041	2543	811	922

**Courts Required,  
1 court: 60 players**

Year	BBSC courts needed	Current # Courts	Surplus / Deficit	Drouin courts needed	Current # Courts	Surplus / Deficit	Warragul courts needed	Current # Courts	Surplus / Deficit
2021	28	40	12	8	8	0	9	14	5
2026	31	40	9	9	8	-1	11	14	3
2031	35	40	5	10	8	-2	12	14	2
2036	38	40	2	12	8	-4	14	14	0
2041	42	40	-2	14	8	-6	15	14	-1