



Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan 2018

Volume 4 – Stakeholder Consultation Report

March 2018



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About this document

This report is the Stakeholder Consultation Report for the East Gippsland Shire's **Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan 2018**. It is one of four accompanying reports:

Volume 1 – Sporting Facilities Provision Framework (2018)

Volume 2 – Sporting Facilities Condition Report (2017)

Volume 3 – Sports Grounds Assessment Report (2016)

The **Sporting Facilities Provision Framework (2018)** contains all information and research assessed and considered during the planning study, and outlines a new vision for the future provision of sport and active recreation in Bairnsdale. The report includes key directions for the most popular sports in Bairnsdale, and recommendations to improve sporting facilities at the major recreation reserves and at other key sporting facilities within the town.

The **Sporting Facilities Condition Report (2017)** provides a general assessment of the condition of 11 sporting facilities located in Bairnsdale, and makes recommendations for refurbishment and redevelopment. The facility assessment was undertaken with the aim of confirming the condition of selected sports buildings, identifying functional and compliance issues, and assessing preliminary opportunities for redevelopment.

The **Sports Grounds Assessment Report (2016)** is a compilation of a detailed assessment of the condition of 10 sports grounds located in Bairnsdale. The investigation determined if the grounds were coping with their current levels of use, and what improvements are required to accommodate current usage levels, and any additional works required to further optimise capacity in the future.

*The preparation of the Bairnsdale Sporting
Facilities Plan was supported by the
Victorian Government*



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1. INTRODUCTION

The Stakeholder Consultation Report is a record of all meetings and workshops conducted with stakeholder groups during the Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan study. This includes the first round of engagement conducted with all stakeholders during period 28 November to 2 December 2016, a sports club survey, a resident survey, and subsequent meetings with selected groups to further investigate options and scenarios, receive feedback on concept plans, and to collaboratively develop proposed future directions.

The report also includes copies of discussion papers and reports prepared during the study. The purpose of these reports was to scope specific issues and opportunities identified during the study, to investigate options and scenarios, and to make a recommendation to the East Gippsland Shire Council for how the issue/ opportunity might be advanced in the future. Invariably, these issues-focused reports have ultimately underpinned a formal direction(s) or recommendation(s) contained in the Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan.

The information and feedback collected from stakeholders during the engagement processes were a significant to the development of the Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan.

1.1. Summary of all Meetings/ Workshops

Throughout the duration of the Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan study, in excess of 75 meetings, workshops and briefings were conducted with sporting clubs and associations, other community groups, East Gippsland Shire Councillors and staff, the Project Control Group, government Agencies, other groups and organisations, and Bairnsdale residents.

The following table is a chronological listing of all consultative processes conducted.

Date	Meeting Type	Stakeholder Group
28 November 2016	Internal Working Group	East Gippsland Shire Council (EGSC) Simon Leisure Consulting (SLC)
	Meeting	Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV)
	Project Control Group	Dept Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) SRV GippSport EGSC SLC
	Meeting	Howitt Park Management Committee
	Netball Workshop	Wy Yung Football Netball Club Bairnsdale Football Netball Club Lucknow Senior & Junior Football Netball Club Bairnsdale Netball Association East Gippsland Football Netball League Netball Victoria
	AFL Workshop	Wy Yung Football Netball Club Bairnsdale Football Netball Club Lucknow Senior & Junior Football Netball Club East Gippsland Football Netball League AFL Victoria
29 November 2016	Meeting	Bairnsdale Secondary College
	Meeting	Nagle College
	Meeting	East Gippsland Specialist School
	Meeting	East Gippsland Biathlon Club

Date	Meeting Type	Stakeholder Group
	Meeting	Bairnsdale & District Model Aero Club
	Soccer/Futsal Workshop	East Gippsland United Football Club Bairnsdale Soccer Club
	Meeting	Lucknow Recreation Reserve Committee of Management
	Cricket Workshop	Lucknow Cricket Club Cricket Victoria
30 November 2016	Meeting	Bairnsdale Primary School
	Meeting	Tim Bull, Member for Gippsland East
	Meeting	East Gippsland Management Authority
	Tennis Workshop	Bairnsdale Tennis Club Howitt Park Tennis Club
	Meeting	West Bairnsdale Oval Advisory Committee Bairnsdale Senior Citizens
	Meeting	Bairnsdale City Oval Committee of Management
	Equestrian Workshop	Bairnsdale Adult Equestrian Club Bairnsdale & District Dressage Club Bairnsdale Pony Club Bairnsdale Racing Club Riding for the Disabled Bairnsdale Group Granite Rock Adult Riding Group East Gippsland Performance & Quarter Horse Ass'n East Gippsland Stock Horse Society Cobblers Creek Pony Club Nicholson Riding Club Horse Riding Association of Victoria Pony Club Victoria Equestrian Victoria
1 December 2016	Meeting	Bairnsdale Field Archers
	Meeting	Bairnsdale Clay Target Club
	Meeting	Dragons Abreast Gippsland Waratahs
	Meeting	East Gippsland Motor Sports Club
	Meeting	Bairnsdale Golf Club
	Meeting	East Gippsland Gymnastic Club Gymnastics Victoria
	Meeting	Riviera Triathlon Club
	Hockey Workshop	Bairnsdale Hockey Club Nagle Hockey Club Swan Reach Hockey Club Orbost Hockey Club East Gippsland Hockey Association Hockey Victoria
	Meeting	Wy Yung Rec Reserve Committee of Management
	Indoor Sports Workshop	EGSC Bairnsdale & District Amateur Basketball Ass'n Bairnsdale Volleyball Association Bairnsdale Soccer Club (Futsal) East Gippsland Badminton Association Bairnsdale Amateur Boxing Club Bairnsdale Squash & Racquetball Association Bairnsdale & District Table Tennis Association

Date	Meeting Type	Stakeholder Group
2 December 2016	Meeting	Wellington Shire Council
	Meeting	GippSport
22 February 2017	Meeting	Bairnsdale Netball Association
14 March 2017	Meeting	SRV
	Councillor Briefing	Councillors (absent: Cr Rettino)
	Meeting	Wy Yung Rec Reserve Committee of Management
15 March 2017	Meeting	Bairnsdale & District Amateur Basketball Ass'n
	Meeting	Bairnsdale Aquatic & Recreation Centre Representatives
17 March 2017	Meeting	Bairnsdale Secondary College
27 March 2017	Meeting	Internal Working Group Project Control Group
15 May 2017	Meeting	Wy Yung Rec Reserve Committee of Management
	Meeting	East Gippsland United Football Club Bairnsdale Soccer Club
31 May 2017	Meeting	East Gippsland United Football Club
1 June 2017	Meeting	East Gippsland United Football Club Bairnsdale Soccer Club
7 June 2017	Meeting	Wy Yung Rec Reserve Committee of Management
13 June 2017	Meeting	Bairnsdale Senior Citizens
14 June 2017	Meeting	Bairnsdale Secondary College
	Meeting	East Gippsland Football Netball League AFL Gippsland
	Meeting	East Gippsland Gymnastics Club
	Meeting	Lucknow Rec Reserve Committee of Management
	Meeting	Bairnsdale Netball Association Bairnsdale Hockey Club
26 June 2017	Meeting	West Bairnsdale Oval Advisory Committee
	Meeting	Bairnsdale Netball Association
	Meeting	Bairnsdale Hockey Club
	Meeting	Lucknow Rec Reserve Committee of Management
	Meeting	Wy Yung Rec Reserve Committee of Management
27 June 2017	Councillor Briefing	Councillors (absent: Cr Pelz & Cr Roberts)
30 June 2017	Meeting	East Gippsland United Football Club
24 July 2017	Meeting	East Gippsland Gymnastics Club
18 August 2017	Meeting	Bairnsdale Soccer Club
9 October 2017	Meeting	East Gippsland Gymnastics Club
	Meeting	Project Control Group
	Meeting	East Gippsland United Football Club
	Meeting	Lucknow Rec Reserve Committee of Management
24 October 2017	Councillor Briefing	Councillors
27 October 2017	Meeting	East Gippsland United Football Club
4 December 2017	Meeting	Wy Yung Rec Reserve Committee of Management
5 December 2017	Meeting	Bairnsdale Netball Association
	Meeting	East Gippsland United Football Club

Date	Meeting Type	Stakeholder Group
11 December 2017	Meeting	Bairnsdale Hockey Club East Gippsland Hockey Association
13 December 2017	Meeting	Project Control Group
	Meeting	Bairnsdale City Oval Committee of Management
12 February 2018	Meeting	Westdale Kindergarten
14 February 2018	Meeting	Bairnsdale City Oval Committee of Management
23 March 2018	Meeting	East Gippsland Gymnastics Club

2. ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES MEETINGS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

This section is a compilation and record of the outcomes of meetings and workshops conducted with stakeholder groups during the period 28 November to 2 December 2016.

The main purpose of the stakeholder meetings was to enable the consultant team to build on the information observed and collected during its review of sporting facilities undertaken in November, and to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the current supply, provision and delivery of sport opportunities in the Bairnsdale area. The meetings also provided an opportunity for sporting groups and other stakeholders to input into the future planning for Bairnsdale sporting facilities.

A focus, or theme, of most of the meetings was to confirm the current usage of sporting facilities, the adequacy of facilities to meet the current and likely future needs of user groups, and opportunities for new or upgraded facilities to respond to identified needs or shortfalls. All meetings were facilitated by Simon Leisure Consulting staff with assistance Council's Community Facilities Planner.

The groups and stakeholders consulted were:

1. East Gippsland Shire Council staff
2. Committees managing recreation reserves located in Bairnsdale
3. Sports clubs and associations using facilities in the Bairnsdale area
4. Government agencies and representatives
5. Other groups and organisations that either utilise sporting facilities in the Bairnsdale area, or that have some other involvement with the planning, provision or use of sporting facilities.

In all, 32 meetings were conducted for this consultative process, and more than 130 people engaged. A summary of the key findings from the meetings is provided on the following pages, and is followed by a full record of the information discussed and collected at each meeting.

It is important to note that the information reported in the following pages is a record of meeting content and information provided by stakeholders, as was current during the period of the meetings. The information has not been interpreted or analysed by the project team.

2.1. Summary of Stakeholder Meetings

The key issues and opportunities for Bairnsdale sporting facilities identified and discussed during the meetings have been collated under the following headings:

1. Sporting facilities – usage, issues and opportunities
2. Sport Workshops outcomes:
 - Netball
 - Australian Rules Football (AFL)
 - Soccer
 - Cricket
 - Tennis
 - Equestrian
 - Hockey
 - Indoor Sports
3. Reserve Committees

4. Schools
5. Other information

Sporting facilities – usage, issues and opportunities

Most sports grounds are in good condition and are coping with current loads, with the exception of the main oval at Bairnsdale City Oval. The Bairnsdale City Oval Committee of Management identified the possible increased use of Peppercorn Park as a football training venue as a strategy to reduce the load on the main oval.

Many reserves have pavilions and other supporting infrastructure that are not fit for purpose, with the common constraints identified being the poor provision of change rooms for netballers and for players using sports grounds, the constrained layout of some pavilion amenity areas (at two reserves opposing teams have to share the same shower areas), and the lack of storage.

The lack of floodlighting at some facilities restricts the opportunity for training and competition, thereby constraining participation and player development.

Many reserves have multiple tenants, and where single-use tenants exist they are receptive to sharing and co-locating with another group(s).

The Lucknow Recreation Reserve Committee of Management identified the opportunity to relocate the turf centre wicket from Oval 2 to Oval 1 once the pavilion servicing Oval 1 is redeveloped, and put a synthetic centre wicket on Oval 2.

The East Gippsland Gymnastics Club has been based in a hired facility for the past eight years, but due to significant increases in participant numbers the facility is now too small to accommodate the Club. As a result, more than 100 children are presently unable to access programs. The gymnastics stakeholders identified other constraints with the facility, including the lack of change rooms and an office area, restrictions in access from the landlord, lack of storage, no effective heating and cooling systems, and the less than adequate floor area constrains the functionality and effectiveness of the equipment set-up and configuration.

Sport Workshops Outcomes

Netball

Netball is strong in the region, evidenced by the Bairnsdale Netball Association (BNA) experiencing increased participants during the past five years, and Football Netball East Gippsland comprising of six netball sections.

The relationship between the BNA and the football netball clubs is good, as the competitions don't clash - they complement each other.

The key facility issues identified for netball are:

- Bairnsdale Netball Association: the poor condition of the surface of all netball courts and the inadequate pavilion
- Wy Yung FNC: lack of player change rooms
- Lucknow FNC: the poor condition of the court and lack of player change rooms for opposition teams.

Australian Rules Football (AFL)

The participant numbers in senior and junior football are relatively stable, however, numbers fall away in the U16 age group. Auskick is strong in East Gippsland, with 7 Auskick centres.

Female football is delivered on a regional basis, not by clubs, due to insufficient numbers of players presently.

There is an issue with umpire recruitment and retention presently in East Gippsland.

Stakeholders noted that in their views no additional football clubs or grounds are required in the short to medium term.

The key facility issues identified for football are:

- Bairnsdale City Oval: the condition of the playing surface of the main oval deteriorates due to overuse, and the change rooms require upgrading
- Wy Yung Recreation Reserve: floodlights for the main oval need to be upgraded and the poor provision and quality of the player change rooms
- Lucknow Recreation Reserve: the poor provision and quality of the player change rooms and canteen.

Soccer

There are two soccer clubs in Bairnsdale, and both work very well together: the East Gippsland United Football Club (outdoor soccer) and the Bairnsdale Soccer Club (futsal group). The number of players in both clubs is increasing, including the number of female participants.

Both clubs have introduced capping due to the lack of available facilities to accommodate all teams (including access to existing facilities).

The key facility issues identified for soccer are:

- General shortage of available rectangular fields and indoor courts to meet demand
- EGUFC is split between two venues in winter – Howitt Park (juniors) and West Bairnsdale Oval (seniors) – and the Club has no home clubrooms
- BSC use the indoor stadium at Nagle College and the fixture is often impacted during the season when the College require use of it. The BSC has no clubrooms
- West Bairnsdale Oval has poor floodlights for training, can accommodate only one pitch which constrains match scheduling, and the change rooms are not fit purpose.

Cricket

Participation has generally been stable in junior and senior cricket for the past few seasons, although there is evidence of some growth in the past two years. Gippsland has a reputation for being strong in female cricket, and like football is delivered on a regional basis, and not by clubs due to insufficient numbers of players presently.

Cricket has very few players aged 18–20 years, and is now being challenged to retain teenage boys, as football academies are being established in major towns to develop young footballers during the summer months.

East Gippsland has many turf wickets and the preference is to continue with turf but capacity issues in clubs to source curators is making it difficult to continue to prepare good quality turf pitches.

Tennis

Many smaller clubs have experienced financial pressure due to the introduction of a new means by which Tennis Victoria calculates clubs' annual affiliation fees, which has contributed to declining capacities. The Bairnsdale District Tennis Association no longer conducts a Saturday pennant competition.

Bairnsdale Tennis Club (BTC) has now assumed regional tennis centre status in the East Gippsland Shire. Howitt Park Tennis Club (HPTC) has been a social tennis club only for the past 12 years.

The key facility issues identified for tennis are:

- The courts at the BTC are at the end of their lifespan, and the floodlighting infrastructure is 30 years old and maintenance costs are beginning to rise
- The BTC is located on Crown land, therefore, under Council's current policy receives no direct financial support Council. This also means that grants available via Tennis Victoria and the State Government are not accessible by the Club, as councils are normally the means by which funds are appropriated by these two entities. This situation continues to place significant financial constraints on the Club.

Equestrian

There are more than 10 different equestrian disciplines available within the East Gippsland Shire, and an equivalent number of different equestrian clubs and groups.

There is no established regional equestrian facility within the Shire, and the stakeholders identified that the lack of equestrian facilities has held back the growth of equestrian in the region. There have been a couple of investigations undertaken jointly by the equestrian sector and Council in the past 10 years to identify a suitable location for a shared-use equestrian facility, however, none of the site options were found to be suitable for development.

The Bairnsdale Racecourse currently accommodates 4 – 5 groups in different areas throughout the course, and the racecourse has been used as an event space in the past. However, it is the view of equestrian stakeholders that the racecourse is not a long-term solution as an integrated equestrian facility or events venue due to the thoroughbred racing activities needing to have priority (training and race days).

The equestrian stakeholders agree that a regional solution is required, particularly as good facilities are necessary to attract good instructors. It was suggested that an area of land of approximately 50 acres is required, which is capable of accommodating multiple arenas and a competition standard cross country course to enable the training needs of the various clubs to be accommodated and regional events staged.

Hockey

Hockey in East Gippsland has a strong history and reputation. Participation numbers now vary between age groups, with good numbers up to U13, but then reducing for the U15 to U18 age groups – senior participation is stable.

There is a winter home and away competition conducted between the four East Gippsland Shire clubs and the three clubs based in Wellington Shire. The summer competition at WORLD is a team based competition mainly participated in by Shire residents and is more of a social competition.

The main challenge and constraint for the sports growth and development in the East Gippsland region has been the lack of a synthetic hockey pitch. Wellington Shire is well advanced in planning and funding for the construction a new synthetic hockey pitch in the next 12 months at Sale.

The key facility issues for the four Shire clubs are similar:

- Lack of access to a synthetic pitch
- General poor quality of the of grass fields being used for training and matches
- Lack of available off-field facilities, such as change rooms, clubrooms, shade/ shelter and floodlighting.

A common issue for all clubs is the loss of players to Melbourne to attend university and to seek work, although the clubs are starting to build numbers through come n try sessions in primary schools but this may take a few years.

Indoor Sports

There is a general shortage of compliant indoor courts to accommodate the needs of many indoor court sports established in the East Gippsland Shire, with the exception of table tennis, squash and racquetball, which are well catered for in the Bairnsdale Squash & Table Tennis Centre at the Lucknow Recreation Reserve. The sports with inadequate access to courts include basketball, volleyball, badminton, indoor soccer (futsal), and netball.

The three courts at the BARC are predominantly used for basketball, volleyball and mixed netball, however, the BARC management has indicated that the courts are at capacity and are unable to accommodate additional demand, particularly for basketball. Three clubs/associations currently use the two indoor courts available at the Nagle College, but are constrained by either the number of courts or access arrangements.

Reserve Committees

There are five Council-owned or controlled reserves currently being managed on Council's behalf by Committees of Management (CoM). All CoMs indicated that they are generally coping with the roles and responsibilities assigned to them, which largely entails the payment of utilities charges, allocating the use of facilities to user groups and casual hirers, and liaising with Council on facility improvements.

Most committees are levying annual fees to user groups that are sufficient to cover the operational costs of the reserve only (utilities and minor maintenance), and have little reserves set aside for capital improvements.

Council is responsible for major maintenance of reserve infrastructure and mows all sports fields and surrounds at each reserve, except Wy Yung Recreation Reserve where the CoM have negotiated to mow the sports fields themselves.

In relation to the impacts from flooding at the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve, the CoM indicated that all clubs have expressed the view that they would prefer to remain at the reserve, rather than relocate to another site.

Schools

There are ongoing conversations with the Department of Education regarding the community's current and future use of the Bairnsdale Secondary School land. The school learning areas are currently undergoing a staged redevelopment and it is likely that the northern area of the land parcel will be surplus to education needs.

Bairnsdale Secondary College supports the use of its school facilities by external groups and the community, and noted that it supports in-principle the retention and future development of the WORLD facilities, including the netball area and the hockey fields.

Nagle College supports the use of school facilities by external groups and the community, including the two indoor courts and one of the school ovals. The School indicated that it would be open to consider a joint venture development for new sporting facilities on vacant land at the school.

The Bairnsdale Primary School supports the use of school facilities by external groups and the community, including the school oval and the netball court.

The East Gippsland Specialist School currently has only restricted outdoor and indoor recreation space within its grounds, so is reliant on the usage of external sporting facilities, such as the BARC. The School is aiming to expand its physical education program, so is

willing to explore any options for new and upgraded sporting facilities in Bairnsdale that might be able to accommodate regular use by the School.

Other Information

Bairnsdale's population is projected to increase, predominantly as a result of new residential subdivisions proposed to the north and to the east of the existing residential areas of Eastwood and Lucknow.

Sport and Recreation Victoria as a potential key funding source for sporting facility development projects has a policy focus towards projects that will increase people's participation in sport, recreation and leisure, and projects and initiatives that will increase female participation in sport, and the participation of other groups under-represented in participation data.

Outside of the mainstream sports previously reported above, the following sporting groups indicated that they do not have a regular/ permanent base for training and/or competition:

- East Gippsland Biathlon Club
- East Gippsland Motor Sports Club.

The following sporting groups currently have access to a training and/or competition base, however, identified issues or constraints with existing facilities:

- East Gippsland Gymnastics Club
- Bairnsdale and District Model Aero Club
- Bairnsdale Field Archers
- Bairnsdale Clay Target Club
- Dragons Abreast Gippsland Waratahs
- Riviera Triathlon Club

The Wellington Shire Council has developed a number of new sporting facilities in the past five years, and is currently well advanced in the planning for new or upgraded facilities for tennis, hockey and gymnastics, which are likely to have a usage catchment that extends into the East Gippsland Shire.

GippSport delivers a range of community sporting activities and services throughout Gippsland, with a current focus to increase the sport and recreation opportunities for girls and women, and for people from CALD communities. To do so, it requires access to various sporting facilities, and as such, GippSport advocates that all sporting and recreation facilities should have management arrangements that ensure they are available and accessible to use by all of the community during daytime and evening.

2.2. Full Record of Meetings

The following pages incorporate the full record of information discussed and collected at each stakeholder meeting. The order of the meeting write-ups is:

1. East Gippsland Shire Council Staff Meeting
2. Reserve Committee Meetings
3. Sports Workshops
4. Sports Club and Association Meetings
5. Agency Meetings
6. Other Meetings

East Gippsland Shire Council Staff Meeting

Group	Findings
East Gippsland Shire Staff (Meeting date: 28 November 2016)	<u>Future Growth</u> Shannon Waters, west of Bairnsdale, is a new residential subdivision with 800 lots. On the Great Alpine Road, just beyond Lucknow Recreation Reserve there is a residential subdivision of 600 lots. This development has a sports oval included in the structure plan. There is also a residential subdivision planned to the east of East Bairnsdale, and longer-term growth (20 years) north of Bairnsdale. Surrounding towns are also experiencing growth, such as Paynesville, Bruthen and Twin Rivers, and this growth should also to be considered. <u>Sports Facility Ownership and Management</u> Succession planning for Reserve Committees of Management is vital. Council mows all sports fields and surrounds at all reserves, except Wy Yung Recreation Reserve where the CoM negotiated to mow the sports fields themselves. Current agreements have Council responsible for all major infrastructure at reserves, with CoMs responsible for general maintenance and repair. The facilities at most reserves are ageing. Annual allocations to CoMs from Council are sufficient for general maintenance but do not cover the costs for maintenance and renewal works to ageing buildings and associated infrastructure. It is likely that many of the reserve user groups would not fully understand the management arrangements that are in place. Suggested that Council should consider whether the management of all or some reserves should be transferred to Council. <u>Sports Grounds and Pavilions</u> Sports grounds are all generally in good condition despite a lot of use. Council has completed recent work to improve the surfaces due to the high use. There is weed infestation in most sports grounds, as most do not have sub-service drainage or irrigation systems. Council is aware of inadequate change room facilities at Lucknow Recreation Reserve and West Bairnsdale Oval. Others below standard include Howitt Park, Wy Yung Recreation Reserve, Lucknow cricket pavilion, and the WORLD pavilion.

Group	Findings
	<u>Netball Courts</u> An issue is the scattered nature of the assets, as they all need off-court facilities so duplication of like facilities and services can become costly. There needs to be a strategic approach to resolving netball needs, that provides good direction to CoMs. <u>Bairnsdale Sport & Recreation Precinct Master Plan</u> This master plan was a high-level concept plan prepared in 2013. It was driven by the needs of hockey and soccer and the proposals for these sports in the master plan will need testing. There are ongoing conversations with the Department of Education regarding the community's use of the Bairnsdale Secondary School land. The school learning areas are currently undergoing a staged redevelopment and it is likely that the northern area of the land parcel will be surplus to education needs. BARC is seeking a \$3M grant from Government to upgrade the wet areas and associated spaces in the centre (<i>was successful</i>). A second stage development advocates for an increased number of indoor courts and associated facilities to better meet demand for basketball and other indoor sports. <u>Other Capital Projects</u> Other projects currently funded include the upgrade of the irrigation system at Bairnsdale City Oval, new public toilets at Lucknow Recreation Reserve, and new public toilets at Tulaba Park in Eastwood. <u>Tulaba Park</u> A concept plan has previously been prepared for this greenfield site, and shows an oval, playground, and public toilets. This project is on hold pending the completion of the Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan. <u>Indigenous</u> BARC works closely with indigenous groups to facilitate sport for indigenous people. Aim is to integrate indigenous community into the existing clubs. <u>Groups without a home</u> The following groups do not have a permanent solution for a home base: • Outdoor Soccer: split across two venues • Gymnastics: in a leased facility, which is not meeting the needs • Walking groups for adults: need access to toilets along the river • Equestrian: The future for equestrian has not been able to be satisfactorily resolved in the past. Council has been working with the various clubs and groups for many years, and during this time a couple of sites have been identified, however both sites were tip sites and proved to be unsuitable. The key issue is finding a site big enough to accommodate all the disciplines. A potential option could be Council land on Johnsons Road, south of the racecourse • There is also a general lack of meeting places for many groups <u>Flooding</u> Wy Yung Recreation Reserve floods regularly. It is unlikely that funding applications to government for a pavilion renewal project would be successful. It is becoming increasingly more difficult for Council to finance cleanup efforts, as the high insurance premium makes it impractical to claim damages for most flooding events.

Group	Findings
	A future option for the reserve should active sport be relocated might be to use it for the dog obedience group, although it was acknowledged that they need access to buildings as well. <u>Traffic Management</u> Bairnsdale City Oval has a problem with entry into the reserve. On match days the traffic builds up in the local street. The CoM and Council are currently assessing the merits of changing the main reserve access to the west side, where car parking and traffic management can be integrated with Sale Yards car parking. Users of Howitt Park experience difficulties getting back onto the Highway. Also, the southern part of the park (sporting areas) is used as a cut through for some motorists accessing the northern direction on the Highway. <u>Transport</u> Lack of public transport is a constraint to participation in sporting activities.

Reserve Committee Meetings

Group	Findings
Howitt Park Management Committee (Meeting date: 28 November 2016)	Howitt Park is Crown land. Council has the delegated management responsibility for the site, but has appointed a Management Committee (MC) to manage the Reserve on its behalf. The MC comprises of a representative from each user group, plus 2-3 community representatives. They have bi-monthly meetings, and items for discussion between meetings is done via email. It is the view of the MC that the management model is working well. All queries regarding the use of Howitt Park initially come to the MC, and then the Committee contacts the Council. The MC and the Council have a good relationship. The number of user groups has increased over the past 5-10 years, however the tasks associated with the management of the Reserve are still within the capacity of the MC. <u>Reserve Use</u> • Bairnsdale Little Athletics: Wednesday, Friday and Sunday during summer • East Gippsland United Football Club: nightly for training in both summer and winter • Bairnsdale Rowing Club: daily • Dragons Abreast Gippsland: Wednesday and Sunday all year • Riviera Triathlon Club: Monday and Sunday • Riviera Running Club: daily • Howitt Park Tennis Club (social group only): Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday Other uses: Carols by Candlelight, regional athletic carnivals, rowing camps, and school sports days. The Howitt Park Bowls Club is located at the Reserve, however operate under a separate lease to the Crown and are not part of the Management Committee. Each sport carries out day-to-day works related to the facilities that they use.

Group	Findings
	Little Athletics committee marks the ground for their use. <u>Issues</u> The Reserve is an old tip site and there are still some subsidence issues. Most user groups identified some issues with the facilities at Howitt Park: • East Gippsland United Football Club: the poor quality of the pavilion – has inadequate change rooms. The soccer club requires increased access to the sports grounds and needs a main pitch, however, the existing surface is not up to the standard required. The soccer club received a grant to install the floodlights. • Bairnsdale Rowing Club: the boat launching place on the Mitchell River is only just adequate - a proper pontoon is required, which would enable the Club to increase the number of regattas held. The 'Head of the Mitchell' has been held for past 5 years and is a popular event. The feedback from visiting clubs and schools is that they would like to see improved facilities. • Dragons Abreast Gippsland has aspirations to host a regatta in the future. • Riviera Running Club & Riviera Triathlon Club would like to conduct a professional athletics meeting at the Reserve, however the existing surface is not up to standard. • The occasional flooding experienced at the Reserve does not adversely affect the grounds and facilities, and do not significantly interrupt the sports users. There is a traffic issue for Reserve users accessing the Highway. The MC advocates that road under the bridge needs to be retained, especially for the boat trailers to access the river boat launch. Whilst occasionally used as a 'rat run', the road was an important internal road. <u>Howitt Park Master Plan 2015</u> The Master Plan is still relevant for the development of the Reserve. The Plan recommends that the pavilion needs upgrading and that increased storage is required.
Lucknow Recreation Reserve Committee of Management (Meeting date: 29 November 2016)	The Reserve is Council owned, but Council has appointed a Committee of Management (CoM) to manage the Reserve on its behalf. The CoM comprises of a representative from each user group, plus 2-3 community representatives. A separate committee manages the Bairnsdale Squash & Table Tennis Centre (built in 2009). The Committee pays a small rental to the Reserve CoM. The CoM pays all utilities' charges and carry out general maintenance and upgrades across the Reserve. Council mows the ovals but the CoM mows around the clubrooms. All tenant clubs are responsible for their own facilities, and the Lucknow FNC manages the social rooms. Tenants pay a small annual rent to the CoM, which is based on historical agreements and was established to cover utilities' charges. At this stage, the CoM is of the view that it is not going to put pressure on the Clubs by levelling higher fees to fund things that might not benefit them. The CoM holds meetings on an as needs basis. <u>Reserve Use</u>

Group	Findings
	• Lucknow FNC (Football): Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday during winter • Lucknow FNC (Netball): Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday during winter • Lucknow CC: Monday - Saturday during summer • Squash & Table Tennis Centre: daily • Dog Obedience Club: Monday, Thursday, Saturday all year Other uses: inter-schools sports, Relay for Life (10 years), Dog Obedience – three times a year they have an agility competition and they also hold two obedience trials, Squash & Table Tennis Centre hosts the 'Keenagers' Program and an annual tournament in November that attracts players from all parts of Victoria, Gippsland Power uses the oval for pre-season training, annual Hot Rod Show, and Bingo once a week. <u>Issues/ Opportunities</u> • Lucknow FNC (Football): change rooms are in poor condition and need to be replaced. Main oval is narrow. • Lucknow FNC (Netball): netball court needs resurfacing as it is cracked and becomes slippery when wet. Netball change rooms were initially designed to accommodate two teams, however, Lucknow has taken both rooms, so additional change is required. • Lucknow CC: option to relocate the turf centre wicket to Oval 1 once the pavilion is redeveloped and put a synthetic pitch on Oval 2. Redevelop Oval 2 pavilion as a change facility only. Some female teams play on Oval 2 as well. • Squash & Table Tennis Centre: lack of storage is an issue at the Centre and the meeting room does not work in the middle of the foyer. Squash and racquetball are working towards putting in a mezzanine level to better accommodate spectators (was on the original plans). There is an ongoing maintenance issue with the toilets overflowing on high use days. • Dog Obedience Club: two toilets are inadequate for the number of members, need exterior lighting, need shade sails, on-field drainage is required as there is water ponding, the gravel road as a main entry is not sustainable and there is a lack of car parking that results in overflow onto the Oval 2 area. Competition days can attract 800 entries for dog agility. The current location of the Club is perfect for its current and future needs. Reserve public toilets are in poor condition and should be replaced or upgraded. <u>Opportunities Identified</u> It would be good to have improved roadside and reserve signage. Bairnsdale Badminton Club is looking for a new home with up to eight courts and could share with Bairnsdale Soccer Club (futsal) if a new building was developed next to the Squash & Table Tennis Centre. <u>Lucknow Recreation Reserve Master Plan 2016</u> The Master Plan has recommended various projects that respond to the above-mentioned issues.

Group	Findings
West Bairnsdale Oval Advisory Committee (Meeting date: 30 November 2016)	The Reserve is Council owned, but Council has appointed an Advisory Committee (AC) to manage the Reserve on its behalf. The AC comprises of a representative from each user group, plus 2-3 community representatives. The AC meets 3-4 times per year and is functioning well. Council mows the Reserve, which previously hosted football and cricket clubs. The main tenants are now the East Gippsland United Football Club and Bairnsdale Senior Citizens Group. <u>Reserve Use</u> • East Gippsland United Football Club: daily • Bairnsdale Senior Citizens Group: meets each day except Tuesdays, and operates all year except for four weeks around Christmas. The Group currently has 44 members, and typically about 20 people attend each session. Members are from all areas of Bairnsdale. • Other uses: Swifts Creek FC for training 1 -2 nights per week as many of its members live in Bairnsdale, the Bairnsdale Hockey Club – mainly the squad group as people come from outside Bairnsdale and it means they can train later using the floodlights, the Bairnsdale and District Model Aero Club for meetings, a Yoga Group, and schools for sport carnivals. The AC has received a request from the Bairnsdale Cycling Club to perhaps use the perimeter as a criterium course. <u>Issue/ Opportunities</u> • Condition of the sports field is poor (uneven, holds water). • Floodlights need upgrading to training standard. • The change rooms are small and the amenities non-compliant (condition, layout, and both teams share the same amenities). There are no female change rooms. • The size of the clubroom meets the Senior Citizens Groups' needs, however, the condition of the room needs improving. The Group would like disabled parking bays. • The Reserve perimeter fence is required for soccer game days. • All groups are open to opportunities to share the Reserve and facilities.
Bairnsdale City Oval Committee of Management (Meeting date: 30 November 2016)	The Reserve is Council owned, but Council has appointed a Committee of Management (CoM) to manage the Reserve on its behalf. The CoM comprises of a representative from each user group, there are no community representatives. The CoM meet irregularly, mainly when there is a need (generally quarterly). The CoM allocates usage of facilities to each group and sets fees according to usage. The fees are set to mainly cover utilities' charges and to repay a loan to the Council. Council mows the ovals and surrounds, and does major building maintenance. The CoM believes that the Committee is functioning well. <u>Reserve Use</u> • Bairnsdale Football Netball Club, West Bairnsdale Cricket Club, Bairnsdale Fire Brigade, Bairnsdale Boxing Club, East Gippsland Umpires Association, and the Bairnsdale Cricket Association (for meetings).

Group	Findings
	- Other users: Football Netball East Gippsland, Gippsland Power, GippSport (office only), and AFL East Gippsland (office only). The East Gippsland Football Netball Finals are all held at the ground. This puts pressure on the ground, especially in the lead up to the cricket season. The League pays for the use of the ground and takes all revenue from the finals. <u>Facilities</u> The floodlights, netball facilities and social rooms have recently been upgraded – they were recommendations from the Bairnsdale City Oval Master Plan (2006). <u>Issues/ Opportunities</u> - Main Oval: the usage of the main oval is currently at capacity. In winter, three games are played on Saturdays and juniors play on Sundays. The oval has sub surface drainage, and the sub-surface irrigation was installed in 1990. It works well, however, the cost of irrigation is very high. The CoM is submitting grants to fund a stormwater harvesting project using the run-off from the Saleyards roof. A solution may be to reduce the load of the oval. - Change rooms: poor condition and need upgrading. - Netball: There is no shelter for the officials in the middle of the court. There are 6 netball games played on Saturdays. - Second oval (Peppercorn Park): CoM would like to install floodlights and use for junior football. Boxing training groups would also use second oval if floodlit. - Fire Training Track: old tip site so the track cracks regularly. Used by the Brigade Monday and Wednesday evenings for training, and the group hosts a meeting annually. - Perimeter fence: needs upgrading. - Access to ground: would like to permanently change the access to the eastern side, and ideally, the entry would be two lanes wide. Parking can be outside the ground on main days and pedestrians enter the east gate.
Wy Yung Recreation Reserve Committee of Management (Meeting date: 1 December 2016)	The Reserve is Council owned, but Council has appointed a Committee of Management (CoM) to manage the Reserve on its behalf. The CoM comprises of a representative from each user group, there are no community representatives. The CoM meet only when there is a need (generally quarterly). The CoM mows both ovals and receives an operational grant from Council to contribute towards costs. Council is responsible for mowing the surrounds and for major building maintenance. The CoM believes it is functioning well. <u>Reserve Use</u> - Wy Yung Football Netball Club, Wy Yung Junior Football Club, Auskick, Wy Yung Cricket Club, and the Bairnsdale Angling Club. - Other users: Gippsland Grammar School, the Lucknow Football Netball Club occasionally, Human Powered Vehicles, Premier cricket games during Country Week, and the Bairnsdale Fire Brigade and the SES hold one-off events. 2nd oval was formerly used for soccer. <u>Bairnsdale Angling Club</u>

Group	Findings
	Club has a membership of 60, with approximately 40 being families. The membership is fairly stable. The Club has been at the Reserve for 15 years. The clubrooms are a base, as most of the Club's activities are on the Gippsland Lakes and rivers, etc. The clubrooms are used once a month on a Friday night for social activities, and once a month on Sundays to have a fish weigh in. <u>Issues/ Opportunities</u> • Angling Club: the clubrooms are suitable. • Football: main project is to have floodlights installed on the 2nd oval to take the load off the main oval. • Netball: would like another court and dedicated change rooms – the netballers currently change in the public toilet. The court is in good condition and services six netball teams. The netballers need to train elsewhere some nights, such as Bairnsdale City Oval. The Club has a good netball junior and development program, and currently have to turn away some netballers due to not enough court space. • Cricket: practice nets are 12 months old, and can be removed if there is a flood. • Public toilet: in good condition, open at all the times - CoM cleans them. • Pavilion: amenities area is inadequate for the number and layout of pans and showers, and the fact that the two clubs have to share showers. <u>Flooding Impacts</u> Floods regularly affect the clubs, mainly due to damage to the ovals during inundation. During the flood in 2016 the clubs were off the ovals for 3 weeks, and in 2012 they were off for 8 weeks. When the clubs are off the ovals it has a big financial impact on the clubs due to lost revenue from canteen and bar sales, and the requirement to pay rent to train at other reserves. They also lose players who become frustrated by the interruptions. When the clubs have to train elsewhere, training nights have to move to Mondays and Wednesdays to work in with existing tenants at the alternate grounds, and some players become unavailable to train as a result. <u>Solutions to Mitigate Flood Impacts</u> Some permanent solutions were proposed to mitigate impacts from floods: • Construct a levee bank around the reserve. • Relocate the pavilion to near the road, so it would be out of the path of the major flow of water. The CoM expressed the view that all clubs would ideally want to stay at the reserve due to their historical connections with it. If they were to relocate they would not want to go too far out of town, and the CoM indicated that if an alternative venue were able to offer equal or better to what they have at Wy Yung Recreation Reserve, the CoM and clubs would consider a possible move. The CoM has prepared a preliminary floor plan showing how the pavilion could be expanded to incorporate netball change rooms and storage on the lower level.

Sporting Club and Association Workshops

Group	Findings
Netball Workshop (Meeting date: 28 November 2016)	<u>Overview of Netball in the Region</u> Netball Victoria (NV) completed audits of netball facilities in the Bairnsdale area in 2015, and the redevelopment of the Bairnsdale Netball Association centre was identified as requiring upgrade. Over the next 12 months, NV has a focus to develop associations by improving the delivery of programs, seminars, etc. in regions. The relationship between the Bairnsdale Netball Association (BNA) and the football netball clubs is good, as the competitions don't clash - they complement each other. Most netballers play Thursday night in BNA teams and then on Saturday with a football netball club. Netball is strong in the region - the Gippsland League has 6 netball sections. NV expressed concern that netballers not commence competition netball too early by starting in football netball leagues, as there is an emphasis on winning, whilst the BNA competition is more focused on player development. Payment of players and umpires is becoming a big issue. The BNA is losing umpires, players and coaches to football netball leagues, which can offer more money. Football netball leagues are now paying affiliation fees to Netball Victoria, to contribute resources to player and umpire development, and to growing the game. It was considered that other sports are not unduly impacting netball numbers, in fact that there are more boys wanting to play netball and more males wanting to umpire and coach. <u>Facility Issues</u> Bairnsdale Netball Association: resurfacing of the courts, and additional courts required. The clubroom is not fit for purpose, and car parking is an issue on competition evenings. Wy Yung FNC: there are no dedicated change rooms for players. Historically, the netballers are using the two toilets in the pavilion, which have little room for changing. For 2016, the public toilets were modified to provide some changing capabilities, however, are still inadequate. The court floodlights are good. Lucknow FNC: the condition of the court is poor, clubrooms relatively new. The court floodlights are good. Bairnsdale FNC: good facilities, the change rooms were recently installed. There is inadequate shelter when it rains. A key issue for netball presently is that Council will not invest funds into the WORLD Centre due to it being located on Education land. <u>BARC</u> The BNA would be interested in court hire if the BARC was extended, however would need to consider court hire costs. It was their view that basketball seems to take over courts quickly as soon as courts become available. <u>Organised v Non-Organised Netball</u> NV conducted 'rock-up netball' at BARC on Monday mornings early in 2016 – the first 4 weeks were skills sessions, then women were encouraged to simply to turn up and play – there wasn't much traction in Bairnsdale. 'Nettacise' – fitness based around some netball movements. These type of programs need to have a 'champion' to run them.

Group	Findings
AFL Workshop (Meeting date: 28 November 2016)	<u>General Health of Football in the Bairnsdale Area</u> The senior section of the Football Netball East Gippsland (FNEG) comprises of U16, U18, Reserves and Seniors, the junior section has strong numbers in U10, U12 and U14, however, numbers fall away in the U16s. AFL Gippsland is running a junior program aimed at maintaining the U16 age group. There is a large base of players coming through the juniors now and the aim is to maintain these numbers into the U16's. Auskick is strong in East Gippsland, with 7 Auskick Centres. Auskick centres have links to football clubs. Two centres are connected to primary schools, with Bairnsdale PS being the biggest centre (130). It started as an indigenous centre, however it is now open to all. Wy Yung Auskick is the 2nd largest centre (80). Attendees agreed that there is no requirement for any additional football clubs or grounds, although there may be a future spike in the junior age groups. AFL 9's has not developed. Would need to be a summer competition but competing against cricket and netball. <u>Football Pathway</u> There is a good football pathway evident in East Gippsland that then progresses to the Gippsland Power. There are still some players who resist the pathway program, and choose to remain at their origin club. The FNEG clubs are still concerned that some of their younger players look across to the Bairnsdale FNC and think that looks more attractive so can be a challenge to retain some players. Bairnsdale FNC doesn't have a Reserves team – if not selected, players drop back to their aligned club. <u>Impact of Other Sports</u> Soccer is having an impact on numbers, although many young boys are playing multiple sports. <u>Women's Football</u> Youth girls (U13's to U17's) competition started four years ago, there are now, 12 teams and 22 teams projected for next year across Gippsland. There are 55 girls in the Gippsland Power Academy, and the Power will be replicating their boys program to be introduced into the girl's program. Clubs are probably underprepared for female football in the Region, eg. none have female friendly change rooms. Bairnsdale FNC does not have a Youth girls team, however, plans to have one for the 2017 season. All South Gippsland area clubs have a Youth girls' team. <u>Umpires</u> There is an issue with umpire recruitment and retention. East Gippsland FNL developed the association and had good numbers of umpires, however numbers have fallen away recently due to internal management issues. Due to the lack of numbers the Clubs supply many umpires. The umpires currently train at Bairnsdale City Oval. <u>Facilities</u> Bairnsdale City Oval: poor surface due to overuse. Bairnsdale FNC is not presently able to host an AFL pre-season game due to the poor condition of City Oval. The change rooms require upgrading. The oval has a lot of use: Bairnsdale FNC has 3 teams, a Youth girls team, Gippsland Power

Group	Findings
	satellite group, Junior club has 3 teams, Umpires train there, Junior Academy (100 boys in Feb/March), interleague squads, FNEG Finals matches, and cricket uses. Increased use needs to be made of the back oval. Wy Yung Recreation Reserve: floodlights need to be upgraded for training and for potential use for night games. (Three FNEG clubs currently play 3-4 night games - Lakes Entrance, Paynesville, Lucknow). The player and umpire amenities at Wy Yung RR need upgrading. Lucknow Recreation Reserve: poor change rooms and amenities, poor canteen and kitchen - all need replacement or renewal. Scoreboard is inadequate, netball teams have no change rooms, and the court surface is poor. There are no floodlights on the second oval, so it is not used during winter. The Committee of Management is negotiating with the Lucknow Cricket Club to relocate the turf wicket on the second oval to the main oval. <u>Other Groups that Could Utilise the Football Facilities</u> Bairnsdale City Oval: Current tenants/ uses include GippSport, the Bairnsdale FNC, boxing club, circus, fishing/ caravan field days (back oval), and the Bairnsdale Fire Brigade. Fire Training Track is used regularly. Lucknow Recreation Reserve: the Squash Club and Racquetball Club could use the social rooms. Wy Yung Recreation Reserve: the fishing club and fitness classes currently use the social rooms. Gippsland Grammar and the Bairnsdale Cricket Association use the ovals, and the general public use the Reserve to gain access to the Mitchell River. <u>Council Relationship/ Role</u> Frustration with Council due to lack of commitment on issues. Wy Yung FNC: frustrated that the Club is often ready to progress on a project however, is often met with a 'road block' by Council. General perception was that East Gippsland Shire generally lacks organisation, so can't access the grants from external agencies, including the AFL. All clubs never know who to approach at Council for various issues, and they believe that there has never been a real driver in Council to seek and apply for grant funding.
Soccer Workshop (Meeting date: 29 November 2016)	<u>General Health of Soccer in the Bairnsdale Area</u> There are two soccer clubs in Bairnsdale, and both work very well together: the East Gippsland United Football Club and the Bairnsdale Soccer Club (futsal group). In summer, the East Gippsland United Football Club (EGUFC) has more than 550 players, up from 200 players in 2012/13. Many players come from outside Bairnsdale for the summer competition. The 550 players is capacity, evidenced by some players having to be turned away in 2016/17. In winter, the number of players reduces to approximately 100, and a majority are from the Bairnsdale area. Winter is also when the futsal competition is offered by the Bairnsdale Soccer Club (BSC), and comprises of 260 players. Numbers for female players in both indoor and outdoor are booming, and reaching a level where there will be more girls-only teams. <u>Competition Structure</u>

Group	Findings
	The EGUFC summer competition is intra-club, and comprises of men's and women's teams, boy's and girl's teams, and mixed gender teams. The venue is Howitt Park over four nights a week. The EGUFC winter competition is affiliated with the Latrobe Valley Soccer League. The Club is restricted to seven teams under the conditions of the League (only one team per age group), which results in some players unable to be accommodated. The EGUFC's winter competition venues are split across Howitt Park (junior teams) and West Bairnsdale Oval (senior and women's teams). The BSC is an intra-club competition, however the Club does send teams to rep tournaments. All competitions are conducted at Nagle College during Terms 2 & 3. It has been based at Nagle College for the past 20 years, after it outgrew the court allocation at BARC (basketball dominates the BARC's court usage). The Club requires use of indoor courts in Terms 1 & 4 (summer), as there is demand for year round futsal. <u>Facility Issues</u> In winter, the EGUFC is split between two venues, with no connection between the junior and senior teams. This makes the transition from U/16 to seniors challenging. West Bairnsdale Oval only has one pitch, which restricts the scheduling of matches and training (inadequate floodlights). Howitt Park has one main (senior) pitch and flooding at Howitt Park creates some cancellations. The EGUFC has no dedicated clubrooms – no place to call home. For the BSC, the use of Nagle College is often impacted for 2 – 3 weeks during the season when the College uses it. Usage is also at maximum capacity with the evening timetable of 5.30pm – 9.30pm three nights per week, and sometimes Friday nights. The BSC is totally reliant on the School for the venue, and has no clubrooms. Both could share a clubroom. <u>Pathway</u> Talented boys and girls in outdoor soccer go straight to Melbourne to participate in pathway programs. The EGUFC has established ties with some Melbourne clubs. The BSC is the only junior club within 200km radius. The Club is looking at establishing junior girls only competition, as there is a 60% dropout as they go up, as they are playing against boys. A girls-only competition should address this dropout rate. The BSC has the quality of staff to build up the players. The development of girls is generally constrained by facilities. <u>Future</u> There is currently a large proportion of players aged 5-12 years, and a concern is that the demand for soccer will not be able to be accommodated as this age cohort ages. The EGUFC estimates it requires access to 4 – 5 fields to meet future demand. It also suggests that a new local soccer competition could be established in East Gippsland and incorporate smaller townships, with the EGUFC being the major club, and the one that provides rep teams to compete in the Latrobe Valley Soccer League. With the right facilities the East Gippsland region could host tournaments. Futsal had a pre-season tournament in 2014, and the Club would like to do that more often. <u>Council Relationship/ Role</u>

Group	Findings
	Clubs would like Council to advocate more for soccer, as facility provision and availability has now become a critical issue. Need to see Council moving ahead and achieving some real things for sport.
Cricket Workshop (Meeting date: 29 November 2016)	<u>General Health of Cricket in the Region</u> Participation has generally been stable in junior and senior cricket for the past few seasons, although there is evidence of growth in the past two years. Programs established by Cricket Victoria (CV) to improve participation have been successful. Participation at In2Cricket centres (4-10 year olds) is slightly down across Victoria over the past couple of seasons. A couple of new In2Cricket centres have opened in Gippsland in the past two seasons, and CV would like to set one up in Bairnsdale in the 2017/18 season. Very few players aged 18–20 years, as many young players move to Melbourne for University and work. Lucknow Cricket Club has consistently had 4 senior teams and 3 junior sides. <u>Pathway</u> Bairnsdale Cricket Association has U/14 and U/15 Country League sides. These compete in the annual Gippsland Country Cricket tournament, which rotates around the Region and comes to Bairnsdale approximately every 12 years. The Gippsland Pride team comprises the best players from seven Gippsland associations. <u>Women and Girls</u> Girls cricket is on the increase in the Region. Gippsland has a reputation for being strong in girl's cricket, and has historically fielded a girl's team in each age level, however, female cricket competition has not worked this season, and CV has indicated it needs a re-think. There are only a handful of players at each club, so the low critical mass of female cricketers across Gippsland creates constraints to foster female cricket at a township level. <u>Challenges</u> The Region is still very much a footy / cricket dominant area, however, cricket is now struggling to compete with football academies that are being established in major towns to develop young footballers during the summer months. Clubs are having trouble getting curators and the task of pitch preparation is often left to the players. East Gippsland has many turf wickets and the preference is to continue with turf but capacity issues does make it difficult.
Tennis Workshop (Meeting date: 30 November 2016)	<u>General Health of Tennis in the Bairnsdale Area</u> Smaller clubs have experienced financial pressure due to the introduction of the new means by which the annual Tennis Victoria club affiliation fee is calculated, where the fee is now based on the number of courts per club, not the number of members. Bairnsdale Tennis Club (BTC) has now assumed regional tennis centre status, and is seeing players from smaller clubs now join e.g. from Lakes Entrance, Paynesville. Howitt Park Tennis Club (HPTC) has been a social tennis only for the past 12 years.

Group	Findings
	The Bairnsdale District Tennis Association no longer conducts a Saturday pennant competition. <u>Bairnsdale Tennis Club</u> The Club has 18 synthetic clay courts. Its membership does fluctuate. BTC offers intra-club competitions on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights, a corporate competition on Friday nights, junior competition on Saturday morning, and Ladies competitions on Wednesday and Thursday during the day. BTC has a team in the Traralgon competition, which includes teams from across Gippsland. The junior tennis program has a full time coach and assistant, and he has access to a certain number of courts. The BTC has a public court hire arrangement in place. <u>Howitt Park Tennis Club</u> HPTC offers social matches for members on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Membership recruitment is largely through word of mouth. Membership has increased a little over the past couple of years. HPTC does not have a coach. The Clubs complement one another. <u>Issues/ Opportunities</u> Corporate tennis on Friday nights is limited due to some courts being unlit. On other nights there are enough courts floodlit to meet demand, however, the BTC believes that if the bottom bank of four courts were floodlit, they could grow the competition. Hot Shots is very popular, and possibly two courts could be converted to dedicated Hot Shots courts. The courts are at the end of their lifespan. The middle bank is being replaced in January 2017 at a cost of \$110,000. The Club is financing the upgrade through a combination of bank loan, sinking fund and fundraising. The show court is closed due to being too slippery, and the first bank of four courts is also very slippery. The floodlighting infrastructure is 30 years old and maintenance costs are beginning to rise. The clubhouse (a converted shearing shed) is in good condition, however, the number of toilets and change rooms are not adequate for junior competition days and tournaments. The BTC is located on Crown land, therefore, under Council's current policy receives no financial support, which also means that grants available via Tennis Victoria and the State Government are not accessible by the Club. The BTC conducts a Silver Level Tournament each year, which is important for fundraising. A point of difference of the BTC's tournament when compared to other clubs is that the BTC provide catering for all the teams and players (up to 130). The HPTC facilities are basic, but adequate for the members' needs, with the biggest constraint being the lack of a hot water service. <u>Other Uses</u> Evonne Goolagong Cawley Foundation uses the facility annually to host a 'Come and Try' day. Schools use the facility to conduct an annual competition that attracts 80 students from schools throughout East Gippsland, and the winners' progress to the next level of a regional competition.
Equestrian Workshop (Meeting date: 30 November 2016)	<u>General Health of Equestrian in the East Gippsland Shire</u>

Group	Findings
	The sport is being held back by the lack of facilities. Ten years ago, a group was formed to work with Council to identify options for equestrian facility development. Since 2004, three sites have been identified, however, due to various constraints were not able to be progressed. Since then momentum has declined and there has been a drop-off in interest. The work done in 2004 scoping facility requirements for equestrian are still relevant. The lack of equestrian facilities has held back the growth of equestrian in the region. <u>Use of the Bairnsdale Racecourse</u> The use of the racecourse as an event space is difficult as all the planning for an event can be undone if a race day is transferred to the track on or around a planned equestrian event. The Bairnsdale Pony Club is permitted to operate during the use of the racetrack for training, but not during race days. The Bairnsdale Racing Club has been better recently at liaising with the equestrian groups based at the racecourse. There are a lot of restrictions regarding setting up and using arenas, ie. can't use arenas during racehorse training, no electricity is permitted at racetrack, catering is difficult, available water is not suitable for humans or horses to drink, and can't construct permanent buildings within the racetrack in-field as it would restrict views of the racetrack. The racecourse is not a long-term solution as an integrated equestrian facility. As well as the issues relating to access, the surface of the in-field is predominantly wet (is there to drain the racetrack) so is unsuitable, and investigations have identified that it would be too costly to bring it up to standard. <u>Ideal Scenario</u> Require a minimum of 50 acres to develop an equestrian centre with a cross-country course, and the capability to accommodate and co-locate a range of equestrian disciplines. The closest cross-country course is at Toolumbark. A regional solution needs to be found for the equestrian industry, particularly as good facilities are required to attract good instructors. If the facilities were improved then the sport would grow. A good standard facility with multiple arenas would be able to accommodate the training needs of the various clubs and regional events. <u>Specific Equestrian Club Needs</u> • East Gippsland Performance & Quarter Horse Association: have been based at the racecourse for 8 years. Everything that is there has been achieved through sponsorship and member input. The arena is not big enough for them although the Club is happy there. Issues with the site include access to power and restriction of access until after 10am each day due to horse training. • Bairnsdale Pony Club: the Club uses a section of land in the southwest corner of the racecourse precinct, and shares the site with the East Gippsland Australian Stock Horse Branch (campdrafting) and the Riding for the Disabled. • Difficult not having a sand arena, however, the campdrafters need the turf surface. Irrigating the area is a very difficult, a subsurface watering system is required. • The Pony Club area hosts a number of major events, and generally the size and layout is adequate, including car and float parking. The Pony Club would like the public car park to be more multi use,

Group	Findings
	as if it could be leveled it would be able to be used as a dressage arena, and it would benefit the campdrafters also. • The campdrafters run two events each year, and the facilities are adequate, however, the number of cattle holding pens is restrictive. • Riding for the Disabled (RDA): activities are held once a fortnight at the racecourse during the school term and attract approximately 20 riders, however, is weather dependent. A covered arena would be great for the RDA. Currently, there is not a disabled toilet or shower, and no accessible path to the current public toilets. • Bairnsdale Team Penning Association: don't have a base, training days are held at private properties. Require an arena and cattle pens. • Adult Riders Club: compatible disciplines are pony club, show jumping. <u>General</u> Horse Riding Clubs Association of Victoria has over 5,500 members in the State. Presently, Bairnsdale is unable to support an event due to a lack of an appropriate venue – lost opportunity for the town as an event would bring many riders and families into the town. Lack of toilets is an issue across all facilities. The existing toilets in the in-field of the racetrack are set too low and are therefore no good in the wet weather. There is only one male pan and two female pans. When hosting equestrian events, the clubs need to hire toilets as people camp. The clubs struggle financially so need assistance eg. a sand arena costs approximately \$50,000. Ongoing upkeep of facilities – most participants are women, therefore access to and use of specialist maintenance equipment is challenging. Also, poor facilities and equipment makes it difficult for the volunteers to set-up for training and event days. <u>Other Equestrian Facilities Available Locally</u> • Karangi Park • Brackenbush Indoor Equestrian Centre (70m x 25m) at Lakes Entrance. Privately owned but available for groups to hire. Suggested that Council could provide grants to equestrian groups to access this facility. • Ashmore Equestrian Centre in Lindenow South also has a private indoor arena.
Hockey Workshop (Meeting date: 1 December 2016)	<u>General Health of Hockey</u> Numbers vary between age groups. Good numbers up to U13 then reduce for the U15 to U18 age groups. Junior program is quite successful. Hockey in East Gippsland has a strong history and reputation, and does well at Country Championships. Winter – play season on Saturday as home and away. Summer – there is a competition at WORLD. It is a team based competition (not club) on a Wednesday night. Some people play the summer season and not the winter season. The summer competition is more of a social competition. <u>Junior Programs</u>

Group	Findings
	Hockey Victoria conducts a road show then most clubs build on this by offering a hockey introduction program in schools. The breakdown in schools is after the introduction program most schools do not continue with hockey in their core sport program due to safety and unqualified staff. Hockey is challenged from competition by other sports, ie. soccer, netball, and the long distances to access a synthetic pitch. Also, girls play with boys due to lack of numbers, and this appears to impact retention of girls. <u>Club Facilities</u> Nagle HC uses two grass fields at Nagle College, and has access to the oval clubroom building. Swan Reach HC uses the football oval when the Swan Reach FNC is playing away, and the football clubrooms. Bonus is access to floodlights. Bairnsdale HC uses the grass fields at WORLD, and has access to the adjacent clubroom building. The Club has access to three fields and whilst they can get muddy, the fields are generally regarded as the best fields in the East Gippsland Hockey Association. Orbost HC has two dedicated hockey fields at Bower St Reserve, but no floodlights. The surface is poor although the drainage was improved in 2016. Club has access to a spartan clubroom building, a former school shelter shed. <u>Issues</u> Lack of quality facilities significantly challenges the sport – synthetic fields, off-field facilities, shade/ shelter and lack of floodlights. The closest synthetic pitch is in Churchill, whilst the closest dedicated hockey facility with supporting buildings is in Drouin. Nagle HC: the drainage is poor on the grass fields so becomes very wet, no floodlights, and the clubroom is in poor condition and inadequate. Swan Reach: the quality of the surface can be very poor due to the football club use, and the Club has had to move a few games to Howitt Park in the past. Bairnsdale HC: key issue is no floodlights, and as a result there is no scheduled training for seniors. Clubrooms are constantly vandalized, and the building has inadequate change rooms, canteen and storage, and no hot water. Orbost HC: toilets are in separate block away from the clubroom building, and there are no showers. A common issue for all clubs is the loss of players to Melbourne to attend university, although starting to build numbers back up through primary schools but this may take a few years. If a synthetic pitch with floodlights was available, all four clubs could be based there, and there would be overall improvement due to the ability to train regularly. The clubs are somewhat concerned at what the Sale hockey clubs will do once they have a synthetic pitch in Sale - they could join the Latrobe Valley Hockey Association, which would leave the four East Gippsland club on their own.

Sports Club and Association Meetings

Group	Findings
East Gippsland Biathlon Club (Meeting date: 29 November 2016)	The Club was formed in 2015 and currently has 40 members, of which 10-15 are active members. Main period of participation is summer, and they do roller skiing at the BARC on the hard surfaces around the car park. Would like a smooth track to train on away from traffic that is approximately the size of a football oval. The Club has identified the area within Howitt Park North as being ideal, or a section of the rail trail if it was sealed. The Club runs a weekly biathlon race on Wednesday nights, which attracts up to 12 children. The shooting discipline uses a laser rifle, which is not a firearm and can be set up anywhere. A 50m range is the norm. Currently, the only dedicated range is at Mt Hotham. The Club is looking for a permanent base to train, and has been looking at the Buchan sporting shooters range and they seem welcoming. The Bairnsdale Pistol Club is based at the Aerodrome, however they are not receptive to the EG Biathlon Club joining with them at this time. The Bairnsdale Kart Club track would provide a good surface for roller skiing, and perhaps a permanent shooting target could be set up on the go kart track site.
Bairnsdale and District Model Aero Club (Meeting date: 29 November 2016)	The Club is currently based on a site approximately 11km south of Bairnsdale on Bengworden Road. The sports peak body, the Victorian Model Aero Association, owns the 100 acre site. The Club has fenced off their requirements (about 20%) and lease back the balance of the property to previous owner for agistment. The Club has 40 members but members of the State Association use the site widely. Flying mainly occurs on Wednesday and Sunday mornings. The Club has a couple of annual events each year attracting 50 – 60 competitors. There are clubs in Sale and in the Latrobe Valley. Facilities available include storage sheds, clubrooms, and a sealed runway. The Club has access to bore water to irrigate the surrounds and there are solar panels that provide onsite access to power to charge electrics. Two major needs of the Club are a ride on mower and to seal the access road. The Club is receptive to co-locating with other club(s), and has had the Model Car Club approach them in past about co-locating.
Bairnsdale Field Archers (Meeting date: 1 December 2016)	The Bairnsdale Field Archers has a membership of 70, and its main activity is field and target shooting. It is a year round sport. The Club is affiliated with the Bow Hunters Association. Shoot each Wednesday evening, and also have a monthly club shoot on the last Sunday of each month. Other Sundays the group travels to interclub events, championships, etc. <u>Facilities</u> The Club has access rights to 50 acres of DELWP land in Sarsfield. On the property are 3 ranges, a small shed used for indoor archery (18m, which accommodates 6-7 shooters), and a small clubroom, which has three toilets and a shower.

Group	Findings
	The facility can accommodate approximately 150 shooters at one time, however, it cannot hold a national shoot as there are not enough targets. Field archery ideally needs a bushy, rough site of approximately 150 acres. Some of the facility constraints include no wheelchair access, and all power is sourced from a generator. <u>Aspirations</u> Continued development of the current site – ideally need a larger indoor facility closer to the site entrance, say (56m x 36m shed), which would enable the Club to host Australian Field Archers indoor championships. Club supports sharing any new built facility. Currently, the Club shares the site with DELWP, 4 wheel drive club (driver training), and Federation Training.
Bairnsdale Clay Target Club (Meeting date: 1 December 2016)	The Bairnsdale Clay Target Club has a membership of 80, comprising of 35-50 regular shooters and 8-10 women. The Club has focus on two of the four disciplines of clay target shooting: Down the Line and Skeet. The Club is affiliated with the Clay Target Association. Expensive sport, as rifles are costly. Concentrating on juniors and generally recruit through word of mouth. GippSport run talent ID at the club and Nagle College regularly use the facility. There are approximately five other clubs in Gippsland. The Club holds event days, including one big event annually (March) that attracts people from all over Australia. <u>Facilities</u> The Club rents land off the Council near the Aerodrome. The facility was originally built in 1977, and comprises of a clubroom and storage for targets. The facility can shoot 10 at a time. The facilities are not really adequate. Ideally, the Club would like to extend their lease area, as it requires another acre for a second skeet range, and once installed would reduce waiting times and enable the Club to hold larger competitions.
Dragons Abreast Gippsland Waratahs (Meeting date: 1 December 2016)	The Dragons Abreast Gippsland Waratahs is based at Howitt Park, and use one of the sheds for the storage of their four boats. The Group was established in January 2012, when it held its first come and try day, and whilst its membership is predominately women it does have some male members as well. The Group has members in Sale and is the only dragon boat group in Gippsland. The Group trains on the Mitchell River mid-week during twilight, and has formal training on Saturdays in Sale (on Lake Guthrie), and on Sundays in Bairnsdale. Require either 12 or 22 to fill a boat for training. Dragons Abreast Australia (DAA) is the peak body, and to compete in DAA competitions, groups must have at least seven cancer survivors. The Group uses the Howitt Park clubrooms for meetings, and now that the Group's storage needs have been resolved, the Group has no immediate local issues. The Group's biggest concern is Sale as there is nowhere to store their boat. As a result, the boat is required to be transported to Sale and returned to Bairnsdale each training session. The Group would like to get schools involved.

Group	Findings
East Gippsland Motor Sports Club (Meeting date: 1 December 2016)	The East Gippsland Motor Sports Club was formed in late 2016 and currently has 49 members. The type of racing is time trials, not head-to-head car racing. The Club is affiliated with the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport (CAMS). <u>History</u> The Club members currently race at Sale at the RAAF base, which is the base for the Royal Australian Airforce Motor Sports Club. They set up a circuit for racing 4-5 times per year. This venue is likely to close soon, due to it being the main Air Force training ground for the RAAF in Australia. With racing at Sale likely to cease and the Sandown Park track closing soon, this would leave Philip Island and Winton as the only secure motor racing circuits in Victoria. Morwell has a hill climb circuit. <u>Aspirations</u> The Council has advised the Club that there may be a block of land available near the Aerodrome of between 50-70 acres, near the Target Clay Shooters Club facility. If this land were available, then the Club would require funding support to build the track and support facilities. CAMS could assist with the design of the track. Track would need to be a minimum of 2km in length, and could be unsealed initially but with a longer term goal to have it sealed. Estimated cost for all infrastructures for a bitumen track is \$3M. A dirt circuit would cost much less. <u>Needs/ Opportunities</u> Club believes that a motor sport circuit is required in Gippsland, as there are many motor sport competitors, and other circuits are closing down. Club also believes that there is a need to conduct driver education for young people. Would provide education to students with the involvement of the police. There is currently a driver education program at Kyneton that utilises a space at the Equestrian Centre. The Kyneton facility is a dirt track and hosts driver education each Saturday Once the track was sealed it could host other activities, including other motor sports events. Typically, a Gippsland meet attracts 100 cars at Morwell and Sale, with 4-5 people attending for every car entered. Events held in Bairnsdale would result in many competitors and supporters staying overnight (or longer) in Bairnsdale. Club advised that it is currently assessing options with Council about a site at the Aerodrome. <u>Other Motor Sports Clubs</u> • Bairnsdale Motor Sports Club: used to operate the drag strip, however, they are not active anymore - did not get their lease renewed by Council. • Bairnsdale Speedway Association: based at Granite Rock. • Bairnsdale Kart Club: based at a facility at the Aerodrome. • Bairnsdale & District Motorcycle Club: based at a facility at the Aerodrome. • Bairnsdale Four Wheel Drive Club: no base, but meet on the second Thursday of each month at the Bairnsdale Sporting & Convention Centre in Lucknow.

Group	Findings
Bairnsdale Golf Club (Meeting date: 1 December 2016)	The Bairnsdale Golf Club is privately owned by the Club, however, is open for anyone from the public to join and play. The course is a highly regarded country course, and also includes two bowling greens. The Club has 650 members, including approximately 80 lawn bowlers. The membership is ageing and the Committee is working to encourage new members, ie. in 2015 there was free membership offered to new members for the first year, in 2016 the first three months was half price for new members, and the Club conducts a 'Try Golf' on Sunday mornings - would like 'Try Golf' to evolve into a nine hole competition every Sunday morning. <u>Turn over</u> Club employs three full time staff on the course, one full time supervisor, and two part-time staff in the office. It collects \$60,000 in green fees annually. <u>Opportunities</u> The Club has several ideas it wants to investigate: • To have greater involvement with Tourism Gippsland to market the Golf Club to people outside the Shire. • To form a partnership with a club(s) in Melbourne ('buddy' club system). • To develop excess land at the back of course for accommodation and to expand the clubhouse. The land would need to be rezoned. • Club is open to add other sport(s) to the Club. <u>Events Confirmed</u> April 2017: Art exhibition for 3 days Oct 2017: Victorian Seniors Championship Oct 2017: Victorian Veterans Championships
East Gippsland Gymnastics Club (Meeting date: 1 December 2016)	The East Gippsland Gymnastics Club has been based at its current venue (Seventh Day Adventist site) for eight years – it hires the space from the Church). Prior to the current site, the Club has had two other 'homes', including the BARC where it had a 'set down-pack up' arrangement to use the stadium. There has been gymnastics in the Bairnsdale area for approximately 30 years. The Club is part of Gymnastics Victoria's South East Region, clubs are based in Maffra, Morwell, Leongatha, Traralgon, and Warragul. Maffra is the only club that complies with minimum standards to be a competition centre. <u>Facility Issues</u> There are a range of constraints with the current facility: • No changing rooms - the gymnasts currently use the public foyer area and/or the toilets as change rooms, however, this is not ideal as the toilets are shared with all other facility and church user groups. Change rooms are required as many gymnasts come straight from school and need to change. • Toilet access is across the gymnastic floor area and this can be dangerous during classes. • The office is an open-plan area located in the main hall, so there is little security for valuable items or privacy for office staff. • Lack of storage - some equipment has to be stored at homes. • No phone, Internet access or drinking water is available.

Group	Findings
	• No heating and cooling of the gym hall are available. The configuration of some of the equipment is compromised due to the space available and the height of the building, eg. the Vault run-up is approximately 20m short and the landing area is constrained, no capacity to have a foam landing pit. <u>Club Constraints</u> Junior program is currently full due to constraints with the size of the gym facility - there are 120 children on a waiting list. If there was a better facility then could host more events. Could also offer summer camps. Can't do that now due to equipment, facilities etc. The location of the gym hall out of town is not considered a significant constraint, as children will generally always rely on parents having to drive them. Issue with getting quality coaches because the Club cannot offer a lot of hours. If there were expanded facility and programs then the Club could offer coaches more hours, which would be more appealing to coaches, especially ones that would need to relocate to Bairnsdale. Just started squad level training and aiming to travel further with this group. The squad needs to compete as a team of six, so need more gymnasts at the lower levels to have more skilled gymnasts at the higher levels. <u>Options Identified by the Club</u> Looked for alternative site recently when Church indicated that they needed the building back. Nothing suitable was available in the Region. Pressure for a new venue was released when the Church decided they didn't require the building anymore. <u>Additional Programs</u> Liaising with the East Gippsland Specialist School about a program for them. Assessing feasibility of establishing a sporting schools program.
Riviera Triathlon Club (Meeting date: 1 December 2016)	The Riviera Triathlon Club is based at Howitt Park. The Club contributed to the expansion of the storage shed 3 years ago to accommodate its equipment. The Club uses the running track at Howitt Park for running training, and some members use the Mitchell River for swimming training (as a preferred option over the Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool). The Club holds senior events in the Lakes Region and events in Marlo and Paynesville, and a small weekly event at the BARC for kids during summer. It is a closed circuit around the wetland. This event has been going for 15 years and attracts about 60 participants – it is an important for the Club's exposure and growth. <u>Facility Needs</u> Key needs are: • a better quality running track (preferably a synthetic athletics track at Howitt Park) • a safe (preferably off-road) cycling facility. Lots of athletes go to Sale for running training on the synthetic surface. There is a lack of space and facilities at Howitt Park. There are up to 15 user groups, which leads to a lack of availability of the clubrooms for meetings. The Club has requested the use of meeting space at the BARC.

Group	Findings
	The Club is open to sharing.
Bairnsdale Basketball Association (Meeting date: 15 March 2017)	The Association has a total of 65 teams (460 players). Of the 460 players, 210 are female; 250 male, 240 are junior (208 male; 32 female), 71 are indigenous. The lower number of junior girls is due to the high popularity of netball in Bairnsdale. Numbers have increased over the past 2-3 years. Some players move to Lakes Entrance where there is more emphasis on squads and player development. The competition is team based with players coming from all over East Gippsland. There are two seasons per year, each of 15-16 weeks. Summer season is conducted during Terms 4 & 1, and winter season during Terms 2 & 3. The Association uses the BARC 40 weeks of the year for 12 hours per week at a cost of \$56,000 per year. All three courts are booked on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights from 5pm – 9pm. Seniors play on Monday and Wednesday nights and juniors play on Tuesday nights. The Association has difficulty recruiting and retaining referees. <u>Facility Issues</u> The change rooms allocated the Association do not have showers, which is an issue for representative basketballers. The Association expressed concern that the courts are not swept and maintained regularly - injuries are occurring due the to the dirty court surface. The Association take it upon themselves to sweep the courts prior to games. The dividing nets between the courts are inadequate and dangerous when different sports are being played on adjacent courts eg. futsal.

Agency Meetings

Group	Findings
SRV (Meeting date: 28 November 2016)	Key areas of interest for SRV in relation to funding programs and outcomes include: 1. Projects that will increase people's participation in sport, recreation and leisure 2. Projects and initiatives that will increase females' participation in sport, but want to look beyond the infrastructure requests to see how governance changes and decisions around coaching and training programs will create sustainable cultural change in clubs with a traditional male-dominated history 3. Projects need to incorporate Universal Design principles (accessible and inviting for all) Projects that are successful in receiving SRV grants are typically ones that emanate from a comprehensive and collaborative planning process involving all stakeholders, and where possible show multi-use facilities incorporating spaces for community, health and other allied sectors. The East Gippsland Shire has been poorly represented by applications for sporting and recreation facility grants in the past few years.
East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (Meeting date: 30 November 2016)	The East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (EGCMA) is the responsible agency for waterways and flood management in the area of Gippsland in which Bairnsdale is located. EGCMA reinforced the conditions imposed on the proposal submitted by the Wy Yung Committee of Management for the redevelopment of the existing pavilion at the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve. The conditions require that the floor level of any habitable space be set at a minimum of 300mm above the 1 in 100 year flood level of the Mitchell River floodplain. EGCMA confirmed that the proposal for the redevelopment and expansion of the pavilion can occur, but it will need to conform with the conditions outlined in the letter dated 20 August 2015. He acknowledged the resilience of the people associated with the Committee of Management and the tenant clubs who have had to deal with several incidences of inundation of the playing fields and buildings at the Reserve in the past 10 – 15 years. EGCMA indicated that a new fixed or floating boat launching ramp at Howitt Park would be possible, however, any design will need to be reviewed and assessed by the Authority.
State Member (Meeting date: 30 November 2016)	The State Member believes that the quality and condition of sporting facilities can directly influence participation decline or increase at sporting clubs. He believes that there has been membership growth in soccer, hockey and netball, and supports the development of sustainable facilities for these sports to accommodate current and future demand. He supports the redevelopment of the sporting facilities associated with WORLD at the Bairnsdale Secondary College site. The State Member suggests an upgrade of Peppercorn Park might enable this area to become a viable option for pre-season training by the Bairnsdale FNC and the football pathway programs also currently using City Oval in summer. The State Member would like Council to explore the possibility of it having greater involvement at the Bairnsdale Tennis Club site

Group	Findings
	(perhaps assuming ownership), and also believes that Council needs to review its ongoing involvement at all DELWP owned land on which community sporting and recreational facilities are based. He outlined a current planning/ design constraint with a proposal to expand the Bairnsdale Bowls Club car park – the use of a narrow strip of land within the Bairnsdale Outdoor Swimming Pool grounds to enlarge the adjacent car park will significantly increase the capacity of the car park and create efficiencies by the inclusion of this small section of land. It wasn't clear if the whole land parcel bound by Pearson, Grant, Turnbull and Ligar Streets was Crown land, or a combination of Crown land, private land and Council owned land.

Other Meetings

Group	Findings
Bairnsdale Secondary College (Meeting date: 29 November 2016)	The Bairnsdale Secondary College site is approximately 50Ha in size. The School supports the use of school facilities by external groups and the community, and the use of land surplus to the School's core needs. Whilst there have previously been some disagreements between the School and external user groups, including Council, concerning access to facilities and land, the working relationship now between all parties is cooperative. The School's master plan identifies a number of sporting and recreational facilities for renewal/ replacement/ upgrade, including the outdoor basketball courts, the multipurpose open space area along the Victoria Street boundary (informal soccer area), and the provision of a combined kiosk-change room facility to service the John Butler Oval. The School supports in-principle the retention and future development of the WORLD facilities, including the netball area and the hockey fields, and any consideration for a synthetic surface hockey field within the School's grounds. It agrees that more sustainable tenancy and management arrangements are required for the community's use of the WORLD facilities, and for any proposals to increase the level of use that might result from any redevelopment and expansion of the facilities. The School also supports in-principle the concept of the development of a community recreational and arts Hub in the area of the grounds along Wallace Street, which incorporates the Commonwealth building, Boucher Hall, the Music Centre, the disused tennis courts and the WORLD sporting facilities.
Nagle College (Meeting date: 29 November 2016)	Nagle College supports the use of school facilities by external groups and the community, and currently permits the following facilities to be utilised: • 2 indoor courts in Terms 2 & 3 only (Bairnsdale Soccer Club, East Gippsland Badminton Association, Taekwondo) • 1 turf wicket oval, plus associated pavilion (St Marys Nagle Cricket Club, Nagle Hockey Club). The School maintains the stadium floor and the oval surface, whilst the clubs are responsible for maintaining the pavilion. The School supports the current use of the facilities at the current levels. Despite requests, the Bairnsdale Soccer Club has not been

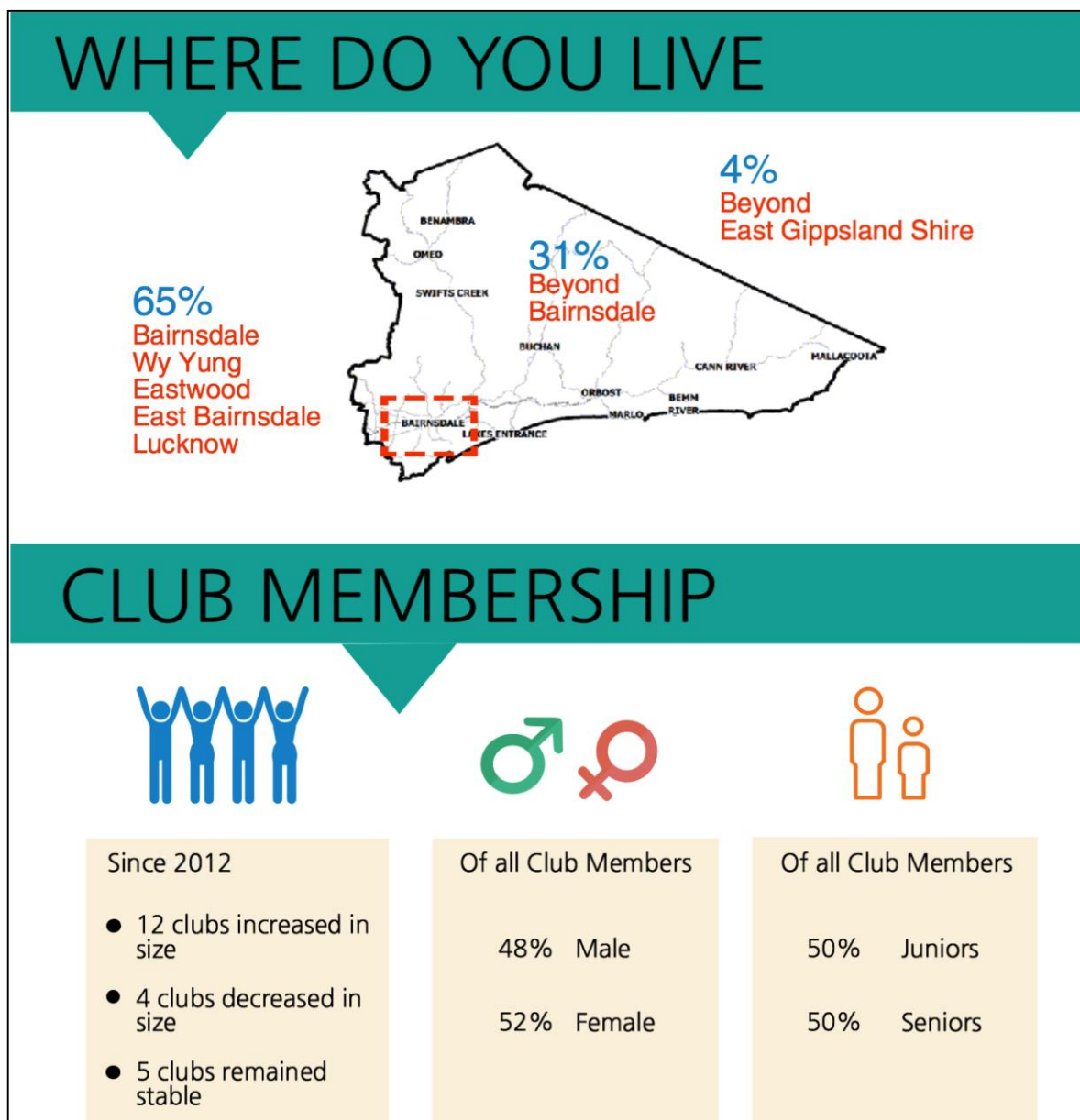
Group	Findings
	granted access to the stadium in Terms 1 & 4 due to the School needing to use it. The School has not identified a need for dedicated hockey or athletics facilities on the school land. However, the School might consider a joint venture project with another organisation for the development of the vacant land adjacent to the School's entrance – the School's contribution would be the land, no capital.
East Gippsland Specialist School (Meeting date: 29 November 2016)	The School currently has 120 students, and caters for children with autism, with a physical disability and with a mild intellectual disability. Students generally come from families with low socio-economic backgrounds. In 2017, the School will be introducing a physical education program, however, has only restricted outdoor and indoor recreation space within its grounds so is reliant on usage of the BARC. Currently, the School uses 1 court and the swimming pool on Fridays, however, would like to increase its access and usage of facilities. Facilities that would be suitable for use by the School need to be secure (to ensure students can be contained) and need to have access to storage. The availability of transport and staff significantly influence when groups can be taken off-site.
Bairnsdale Primary School (Meeting date: 30 November 2016)	The School supports the use of school facilities by external groups and the community, and currently permits the following facilities to be utilised: • school oval (Meerlieu Cricket Club U13 teams for training on Sundays and matches on Fridays, and the Meerlieu CC In2Cricket program on Sundays) • netball court (netball training on Wednesday evenings). The School also has a basketball court and a multipurpose indoor space that are not currently being used by external sporting groups. The School utilises the following sporting facilities for its own sports programs: • BARC – swimming lessons in Term 4 • Howitt Park – district and divisional championships in a variety of sports • AJ Freeman Reserve (Paynesville) – its own sport days (basketball, netball, soccer, football and t-ball).
Wellington Shire Council Meeting (Meeting date: 2 December 2016)	The Gippsland Regional Sports Complex (GRSC) is the most recent regional facility completed by the Shire (2011), and comprises of four indoor courts, 12 outdoor netball courts, meeting rooms, conference facilities and a café. The facility can accommodate basketball, netball, volleyball, table tennis, floorball, and indoor soccer. The key tenants at the Centre are the Sale Amateur Basketball Association and the Sale Netball Association, whilst the centre management conducts mixed netball and futsal competitions. Council allocates the usage for the indoor and outdoor courts, and will also allocate the usage of the proposed new hockey field and athletics track. There are three other indoor stadiums at schools and committees of management manage these independently.

Group	Findings
	The hockey field is a stage 2 project adjacent to the GRSC at a cost of \$3M – with funding from a benefactor (\$1M), Federal Govt (\$600K), State Govt (\$650K), 3 hockey clubs (\$50K), and Council (\$700). The three hockey clubs are Sale, Maffra and Wellington Hockey Clubs. Stage 3 of the GRSC is for the installation of a synthetic athletics track (little athletics and senior athletics). Council has an ongoing annual commitment \$450,000 towards the development and upgrade of sporting facilities. Council directly manages all recreation reserves located in Sale. The Sale Tennis Club at Stephenson Park is to be redeveloped shortly to bring all courts and lighting up to compliant standards. The indoor stadium at the Cameron Sporting Complex in Maffra is currently being assessed in a feasibility study for its redevelopment into a combined two-court stadium and gymnastic centre complex. The gymnastic program has increased from 250 participants in 2013 to 600 participants in 2016. The combined population of Sale and Maffra is approximately 20,000.
GippSport Meeting (Meeting date: 2 December 2016)	GippSport has a focus to increase the sport and recreation opportunities for girls and women, and people from CALD communities, as part of its commitment from SRV funding, and to increase the participation of people through modified (social) sport as part of its commitment from VicHealth funding. GippSport has a role in providing professional development program for community sporting committees in the areas of Club Development, Grants and Governance. GippSport has facilitated a range of introductory programs in partnership with local sporting groups, e.g. 'Rock-up Netball' at WORLD, All Abilities Netball, AFL 9s and Fast4 Tennis. Each has had mixed results in East Gippsland Shire in relation to successfully engaging the community and creating sustained participation by participants. GippSport is of the view that the model of management at WORLD needs to change to ensure a more efficient decision-making making and management framework is in place that can trigger increased use of the facilities – suggested that the Bairnsdale Netball Association should become the committee of management. GippSport is of the view that the indoor courts at the BARC need to become available for community use – their current exclusive use by the school significantly reduces programming options and community activation by external groups such as GippSport.

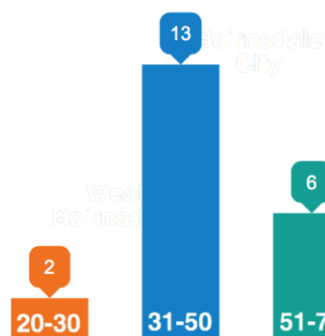
3. SPORTS CLUB SURVEY

A questionnaire was distributed in to all known sporting clubs and associations in November 2016. In all, 21 completed surveys were received from an estimated 72 distributed.

The key results from the survey are shown in the following two infographics.



COMMITTEES



13 Club Committees have an average of 31-50 years

52%
of
Committee
members are
female

YOUR CONCERNS

FACILITY ISSUES



changerooms
sport surface
upkeep
pavilions
car parking
storage space

CLUB CONCERNS



attracting new members
increasing female
participation
increasing junior
participation
ageing committees

PERFORMANCE OF COUNCIL OR CoM



Okay
risk management
maintaining common
areas

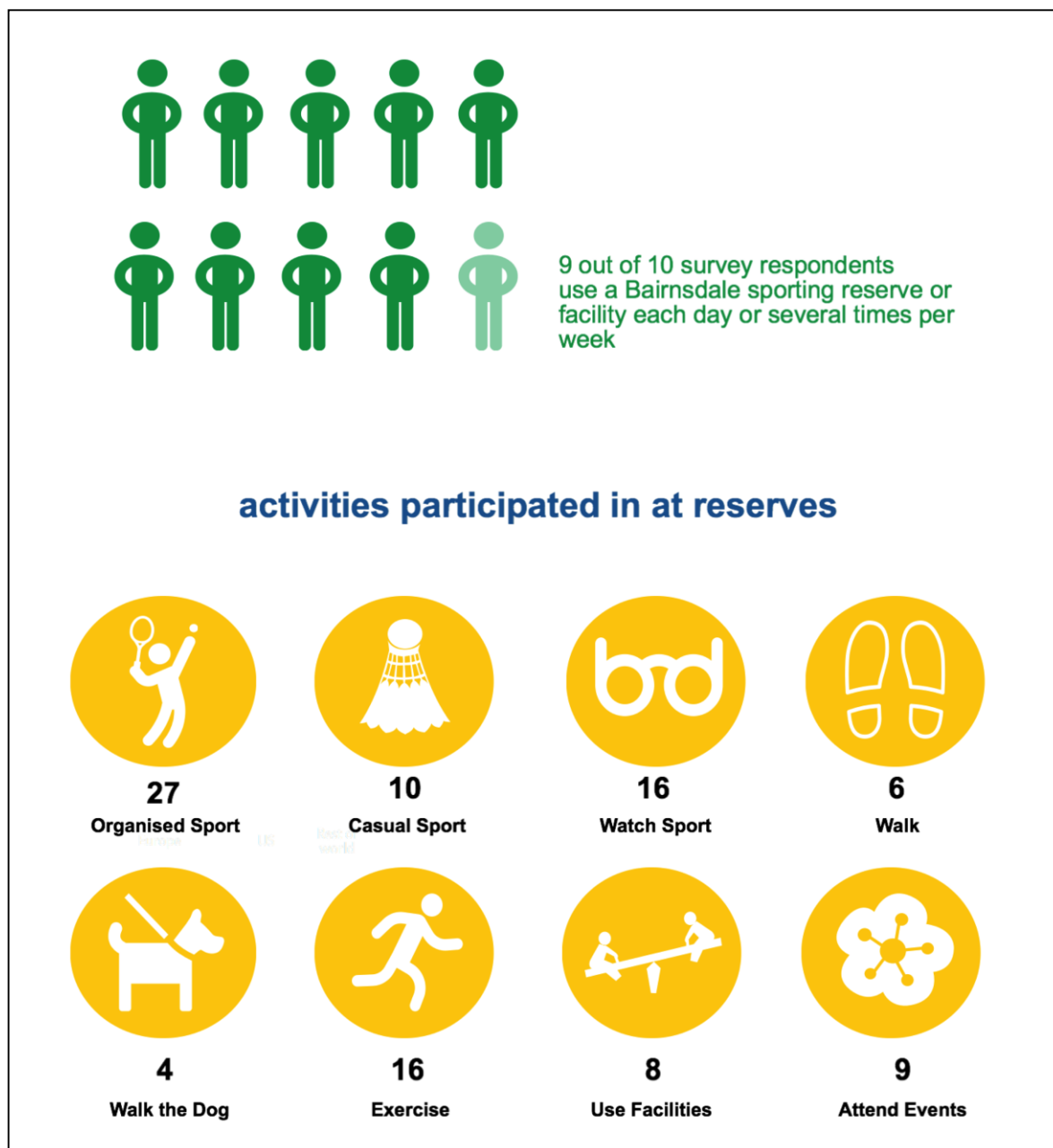
Needs Improvement
communication

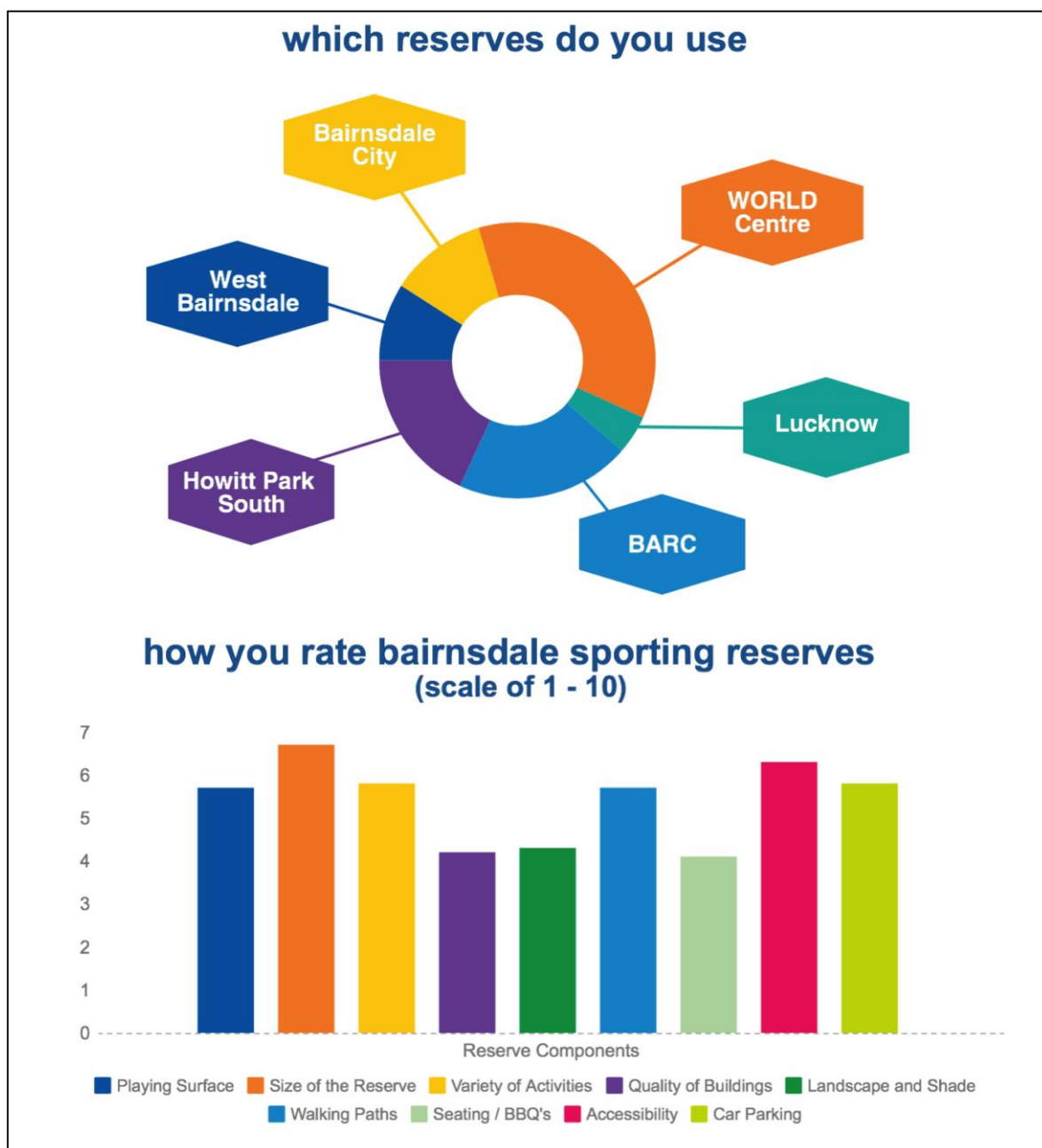
Poor
sport surface upkeep
pavilion maintenance
improvement of facilities

4. RESIDENT SURVEY

A resident survey was available for all community members to complete during the period 7 November 2016 to 9 January 2017. The survey was an online survey administered via Council's website. Forty-six (46) surveys were completed.

The key results from the survey are shown in the following two infographics.





5. REPORTS AND DISCUSSION PAPERS

This section includes the following discussion papers and reports prepared during the study:

1. Discussion Paper - Flooding at Wy Yung Recreation Reserve
2. Wy Yung Recreation Reserve Flood Cost Modelling Report
3. Position Paper - Proposed Future Use of Selected Bairnsdale Sports Reserves
4. Discussion Paper – Gymnastics Facility Options

Discussion Paper: Flooding at Wy Yung Recreation Reserve

Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan

February 2017

This discussion paper has been prepared by the independent consultant Richard Simon. It is not the adopted position of Council and is provided to initiate discussion between key representatives of the users at the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve.

Preamble

In October 2016, the East Gippsland Shire Council engaged Simon Leisure Consulting to prepare the Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan. The main aim of the Plan is to actively encourage and support increased participation in sport in East Gippsland Shire by identifying the optimum suite of sporting facilities both now and into the future.

During a meeting held on 1 December 2016 with representatives from the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve Committee of Management (CoM), the issue of flooding was discussed, including the viability of continuing to use the Reserve for sporting activities. It was agreed that it would be helpful if a short report could be developed containing:

1. Additional background information on the frequency and impact of inundation of the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve.
2. Commentary on what the potential constraints and benefits might be if the tenant clubs were to remain at the Reserve, or were to relocate.

This Paper responds to these two discussion points, but does not provide any opinion or give any preference as to whether the Reserve should or should not continue be used as a headquarter facility for the current sporting clubs or any other sporting club in the future.

Reserve Facilities and Tenant Groups

The Wy Yung Recreation Reserve is a Council-owned reserve managed by a CoM appointed by Council. The Reserve comprises of:

- Two sports fields
- One asphalt netball court
- Cricket practice nets (3 lanes)
- One sports pavilion
- One public toilet block
- Scoreboard/ store
- Bairnsdale Angling Club clubrooms

The tenant clubs at the Reserve are:

- Wy Yung Football Netball Club
- Wy Yung Junior Football Club
- Wy Yung Cricket Club
- Bairnsdale Angling Club

History of Flooding

[Much of the information contained in this section has been sourced from the publication, East Gippsland Shire Flood Emergency Plan Version 1.1 (2013) and from the Statutory Planning team from the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority]

Floods are a regular occurrence on the Mitchell River flats, with minor flood events occurring every year or so, but sometimes as often as three or four times in the one year. During these minor events, a large part of the low-lying area is inundated with floodwater either from the Mitchell River or the Backwater.

The Wy Yung Recreation Reserve is located within the river flats of the Mitchell River, just downstream of Lind Bridge. Consequently, areas of the Reserve are inundated during most flood events. Figures 1 – 3 show the impact of flooding on the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve and surrounding land during minor, moderate and major flooding.

Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan

February 2017

[illegible]

Discussion Paper: Flooding at Wy Yung Recreation Reserve

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Major flooding (>6.5m) usually results from heavy rain across the whole catchment of the Mitchell River. Major flooding has occurred in the Mitchell River Catchment in 1893, 1936, 1952, 1974, 1978, 1985, 1990, 1991, 1998, 2007, 2011, 2012 and 2016. The flooding events in 1893, 1936, 1990, 1998 and 2007 were considered very significant events.

Presently, there are no flood mitigation systems in Bairnsdale.

In relation to the direct impact of flooding on the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve, the most recent flood events have been:

- **August 2011** (6.7m) when the flood waters reached a height just below the floor level of the sports pavilion and the main oval and part of Oval 2 were inundated
- **June 2012** (7.3m) when the sports pavilion was inundated (see Figure 4)
- **July 2016** (6.8m) when the main oval and part of Oval 2 were inundated



Figure 4: Wy Yung Recreation Reserve Sports Pavilion (June 2012)

Impact of flood events on the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve

Depending on the severity of the flood event, the tangible (or quantifiable) impacts on the Reserve and the user groups from inundation can include:

1. Damage to infrastructure, such as fencing, buildings, roads and other hard-stand surfaces.
2. Extensive rubbish, vegetation and silt deposited across the Reserve and ovals after the floodwaters subside.
3. Loss of use of the Reserve by the tenant sporting clubs for training and matches, with the loss of match use compounded by financial losses to the clubs. The losses are twofold: lost revenue from gate, bar and canteen sales; and the cost of hiring/ using alternate facilities for game day and training.
4. Increased workload on volunteer club members to prepare the Reserve and infrastructure for inundation, to make-good the Reserve and infrastructure following inundation, and the additional time required to organise relocated matches and training.
5. Cost to Council, the tenant clubs and other groups to repair, clean and reinstate the Reserve and impacted infrastructure. This is further exacerbated by the lack of certainty around the continuation of recovery grants for '*non essential*' infrastructure. Sporting facilities are categorised as '*non essential*'.

It is currently difficult to measure the impact that flooding has on volunteers, players, members and supporters. Future flooding is predicted to be more frequent and more severe, which has the potential to compound the impact to the social capital at Wy Yung Recreation Reserve.

Discussion Paper: Flooding at Wy Yung Recreation Reserve

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Further to the above impacts are the planning constraints being imposed on any future capital improvement at the Reserve. As the Reserve is within the Mitchell River floodplain, there are specific conditions imposed by the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (EGCMA)¹:

1. Any new or redeveloped pavilion building *must be constructed with flood resistant materials up to the Nominal Flood Protection Level² (NFPL) of 6.96m AHD.*
2. Any electrical outlets *must be installed at a height no lower than the NFPL of 6.96m AHD.*
3. Any high value and/or hazardous materials *must be stored at a height no lower than the NFPL of 6.96m AHD.*

Condition 1 effectively means that the new floor level of any proposed new or redeveloped building must be set at a minimum height equivalent to what would be the floor level of a second storey on the existing sports pavilion (see Figure 5 below). The AHD height of the floor level of the existing pavilion is approximately 3.5m AHD. The implications from this condition are primarily that:

- it triggers an increased building cost for a new or redeveloped pavilion.
- it would likely create a range of functional issues and constraints for players, members and spectators using the pavilion, that is, all users will be required to negotiate stairs and ramps, or use a lift, to access all facilities, such as change rooms, the function room, kitchen and canteen.

Depending on the location of any future proposed development, a flood study may also need to be undertaken to ensure that the proposed works do not adversely impact flood behaviour.

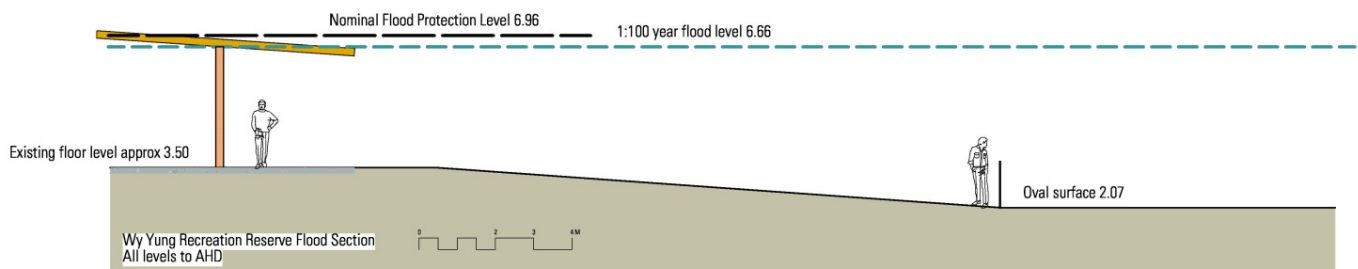


Figure 5: Section showing flood level based on existing clubroom/pavilion site

¹ Source: Letter from the EGCMA to Rex Candy, dated 20 August 2015.

² The Nominal Flood Protection Level (NFPL) is a height calculated from the sum of the nominated one in one hundred year flood level plus the freeboard value. At this location, the one in one hundred year flood level is set at 6.66m AHD. The freeboard refers to the height above a defined flood level that will compensate for effects such as wave action. At this location, freeboard is set at 0.3m. Therefore, the NFPL at Wy Yung Recreation is 6.96m AHD.

Discussion Paper: Flooding at Wy Yung Recreation Reserve

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Remain or Relocate?

There are many varied and complex factors that need to be considered when assessing whether there is justification for the tenant sporting clubs to remain at the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve in the long-term or whether they should relocate to an alternate site.

This section provides a comparison of the constraints and benefits of both options - no recommendation or preference for either scenario is given. The following assumption was considered when preparing the analysis of both options:

- The current sports pavilion is not compliant with, nor meets the minimum standards for several functional, building and regulatory codes. Examples include: there is no accessible toilet in the pavilion; the home and away players share amenities; the number and configuration of toilets and showers is inadequate and do not meet unisex standards; there are no dedicated umpire change facilities; there are no '*fit for purpose*' netball change facilities; and the social room has no male toilets.

The comparative analysis does not consider the Bairnsdale Angling Club at this stage, as insufficient information is known about their clubroom and profile of use of the Reserve.

To Remain

The following **constraints** may be relevant for tenant clubs who remain at the Reserve:

- The clubs continue to lose the use of some or all of the facilities for training and matches during future flood events. In the past 40 years, there have been 17 flood events classified as minor, moderate or major, which is the equivalent of one flood event every 2.4 years.
- The cost to fund and/or coordinate the repair, cleaning and reinstatement of the Reserve and associated infrastructure following inundation, will increasingly become the responsibility of

the clubs and/or the CoM, where the total cost to undertake these works may not trigger a claim from Council's insurance.

- Club and Reserve CoM will continue to have to commit volunteer time during the lead up to flood events to prepare the Reserve and infrastructure, to *make good* following inundation, as well as organise any requirements for the temporary relocation of training and matches.
- Any major upgrade or rebuild of the pavilion will enact the conditions of the EGCMA. This will significantly increase the cost of any pavilion capital improvements and the new height of the pavilion may create several functional and operational constraints for players and visitors.
- With the increased cost of any capital improvements for a pavilion, may come the risk in securing funding support from Council or other potential funding partners, such as Sport and Recreation Victoria.
- Without a major upgrade, many aspects of the pavilion will continue to not be '*fit for purpose*' for use within the sport pavilion.
- The site implications and disruptions to club activities from flood events may diminish the appeal for current and prospective players, families and supporters to be members of the clubs.

The following **benefits** may be likely for tenant clubs who remain at the Reserve:

- The history and tradition of the clubs being based at the Reserve will continue, including significant historical links with the past, such as Cameron White's development as an international cricketer.
- The status quo is maintained in relation to the players, members and supporters current involvement with the clubs.
- May avoid any potential conflicts and/or divisions from within the Reserve that relocation might spark.
- The many hours of work invested by volunteers from both clubs to fund and develop the Reserve and its associated infrastructure will not be lost.

Discussion Paper: Flooding at Wy Yung Recreation Reserve

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- It could be a 'least cost' option to provide improved facilities for both clubs in the future when compared to the capital cost required to construct a new sports reserve or re-purpose an existing reserve.
- The main oval has a reputation for being one of the best cricket fields in the region. By staying, the Wy Yung Cricket Club will continue to benefit from having access to it.
- minimum standards, an accessible toilet(s) and appropriate umpire facilities.
- Council and other potential funding partners, such as Sport and Recreation Victoria, are likely to be more favourable to committing capital funding towards sporting facilities at a reserve off the floodplain, as it will significantly improve the long-term return on investment.
- New facilities may appeal to new recruits.

To Relocate

The following **constraints** may be relevant for the tenant clubs who relocate to a new reserve:

- Loss of tradition for the current players, volunteers, families and supporters, which may impact the overall atmosphere, appeal and attractiveness of being involved with the clubs.
- The upfront financial outlay.
- The overall provision of facilities and opportunities for the clubs may be less than what they currently have at the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve, for example direct access to only one oval and shared access to a second oval.
- The connection between the name of the current location and the current user clubs may be lost if the clubs relocate to a site out of Wy Yung for example, **Wy Yung** Football Netball Club and **Wy Yung** Cricket Club at **Wy Yung** Recreation Reserve. A new location outside of Wy Yung may result in ill sentiment amongst current players, members and supporters.

The following **benefits** may be relevant for the tenant clubs who relocate to a new reserve:

- The players, volunteers and supporters will have certainty in relation to the availability of their facilities all year round for training and matches.
- The ability to use funds and people's time for other purposes, rather than preparing for, and then repairing and reinstating facilities.
- The clubs will have access to a sports pavilion that will be totally '*fit for purpose*', including change rooms and amenities that meet

What happens next?

- Wy Yung Recreation Reserve CoM discusses this information and includes any omitted discussion points
- A meeting, to be confirmed during week beginning 6 March, to discuss this matter between CoM and Council Representatives. Future steps and actions to be determined at this meeting.

For further information or to clarify any points, please contact either:

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To remain or to relocate: Wy Yung Recreation Reserve – Flood Cost Modelling Report – September 2017

prepared for Suzie Healy Community Facilities Planner by Wayne Burton Sustainability Project Planner

Abstract

This report investigated the potential cost implications of flooding on the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve. Changes to the way that these assets are being protected from risk means that there is increasing exposure to East Gippsland Shire Council (EGSC) and the community to these types of assets. Changes include the availability of grants to cover these costs and the limiting role of community groups in absorbing costs through their efforts. If flood frequency increases, then the cost will increasingly shift onto the insurance policies of the local council to rehabilitate and restore sites such as Wy Yung Recreation Reserve. Under this assumption, the modelling shows that the cost to the EGSC quickly becomes prohibitive with implications for lost opportunity cost. These are costs not borne by assets located outside the floodplain.

Discussion

Existing options to limit costs associated with floods at the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve have masked liability for the EGSC. Changes to disaster funding mean that it is unlikely that cost recovery through the sporting clubs will be sustainable. Under these circumstances flood insurance will become increasingly important to manage liability.

The modelling outlined further on in this report shows, that even under existing major flood frequency, that there is an inherent cost for the EGSC of approximately \$230,000 over a 40-year period. That is about \$5750 per annum.

As the variable of insurance costs or flood frequency increases, so too does the liability for the EGSC.

When all options are considered with regards to the management of this site, it is evident from the models that the current location of these facilities bares an inherent risk and cost to the EGSC and the associated community clubs that use these facilities. These risks and costs are strictly limited by the location of the facility on the Mitchell River Floodplain.

Relocation of facilities reduces lost opportunity cost for stakeholders in this reserve.

Opportunity cost increased across the scenarios. By the time we have Nil insurance, \$3M worth of asset liability and a major flood once every three years, then the cost has ballooned to \$75,000 per annum. This scenario is cost prohibitive.

The Wy Yung Recreation Reserve represents an asset class that is unique. It is located on the floodplain and is at risk from flooding. Its location comes at a cost to the community. This cost will increase as government policy, insurance costs and climate change impact on these assets.

Flood Cost Modelling

Community facilities located at the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve are also located on the floodplain for the Mitchell River. Historically the site experiences frequent flooding. The cost impacts to the East Gippsland Shire Council (EGSC) and the community associated with this site are therefore higher than for other sites.

Traditionally the costs associated with these flood events have been masked due to two factors:

- Liabilities are being absorbed by the community through the sporting clubs in terms of lost revenue, accrued costs and volunteer time.
- Costs are being covered through state and federal government grants to help rehabilitate sites post flooding.

This fact is a major consideration and risk, EGSC has never made an insurance claim for damage incurred as part of a natural disaster event (as per conversation with Kate Nelson-Director Community and Strategic Development, EGSC).

Limiting liability to damages incurred during such events is a critical consideration for council. Both the state and federal government have indicated that they will not cover costs for natural disasters unless it is critical infrastructure. That means this site will no longer qualify for disaster funds in the future. It also means that how the insurance industry responds to future flood events will have a direct bearing on future liabilities experienced by both the community and the EGSC directly.

This report models some of the cost implications for this site under three scenarios.

1. Existing facilities using historical flood patterns to predict future flood event frequency
2. Existing facilities using an increased flooding frequency scenario under climate change impacts
3. Upgraded facility with nil insurance with risk analysis from both historical and climate change flood scenarios

To enable this, we will be using the Climate Adaptation decision support Tool for Local Governments (CATLoG), developed by Macquarie University for the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) (Trück, S et al 2013).

It is important to note that the scenarios included in this report are just a selection of many possible scenarios that could be modelled for the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve.

Method

The three scenarios modelled are based on the following core assumptions:

1. Liability for EGSC will be limited in the future through insurance, not through emergency grants
2. Premiums and excess are likely to change over time due to the insurance industry pricing in increased climate risk

3. Costs have been calculated to include the cost incurred by the sporting clubs. These are a minimum of \$41200 for each major flood event. This figure does not include insurance premiums or excess (full cost and model assumptions are shown in Appendix One)
4. Modelling period is 40 years
5. Discount Rate* is 4%
6. Economic Growth Rate** is 2%
7. All dollar figures are presented in net present value dollars

(*Discount Rate is used to determine the current value of future assets and risk).

(** Economic Growth Rate is the pace at which economic growth increases or decreases during a given time period).

Scenario 1 – Existing facilities using historical flood patterns to predict future flood event frequency

This scenario is based on analysis of the historical frequency of major flood events that have impacted the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve. That frequency was calculated as being 1 every 5 years since 1970.

It has been assumed that liability for the community and the EGSC is limited by insurance. The cost of insurance will increase due to increased use of insurance as the means to limit flood related costs.

It is also modelled on the existing infrastructure provision – no upgrades have occurred.

Base Case Scenario – this is the present scenario where liability may be limited by cost absorption by sporting clubs and EGSC. Maximum cost is limited by Council's existing insurance policy and a \$50,000 excess.

Liability Ltd \$70K – cost absorption is no longer viable. Liability is covered by insurance, that is a \$50,000 excess plus a \$20,000 premium for the whole of site policy. The site is treated separately by the insurance industry due to changes in climate policy and risk management, with frequent flood events.

Liability Ltd \$100K - cost absorption is no longer viable. Liability is covered by insurance, that is a \$100,000 excess plus a \$20,000 premium for the whole of site. The site is treated separately by the insurance industry due to changes in climate policy and risk management, with frequent flood events.

Scenario 2 – existing facilities using an increased flooding frequency scenario under climate change impacts

This scenario assumes that the flood frequency will increase with major floods now occurring on average once every three years.

Other assumptions as per Scenario 1 above.

Scenario 3 - upgraded facility with nil insurance with risk analysis from both historical and climate change flood scenarios

This scenario tests the costs to the EGSC and the community when historical flood analysis and climate change assumptions are compared. Nil insurance is available so liability is limited to full cost replacement of the facility that is assumed to be \$3 million (whereby the pavilion and change rooms have been upgraded). This model does not include insurance. This model tests two options:

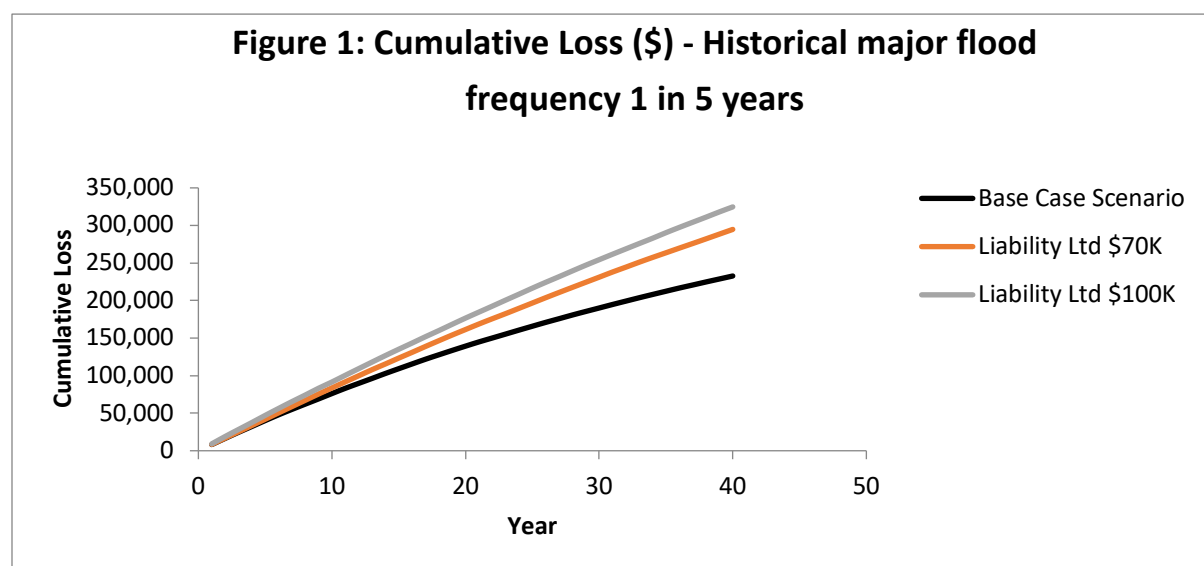
- Base Case Scenario is a major flood 1 in 5 years
- Flood Frequency is climate change affected with a major flood now occurring 1 in every 3 years

Results

Results for Scenario 1 are shown as Figure 1. It shows the total cumulative loss over the 40-year modelled period with a major flood occurring once every five years.

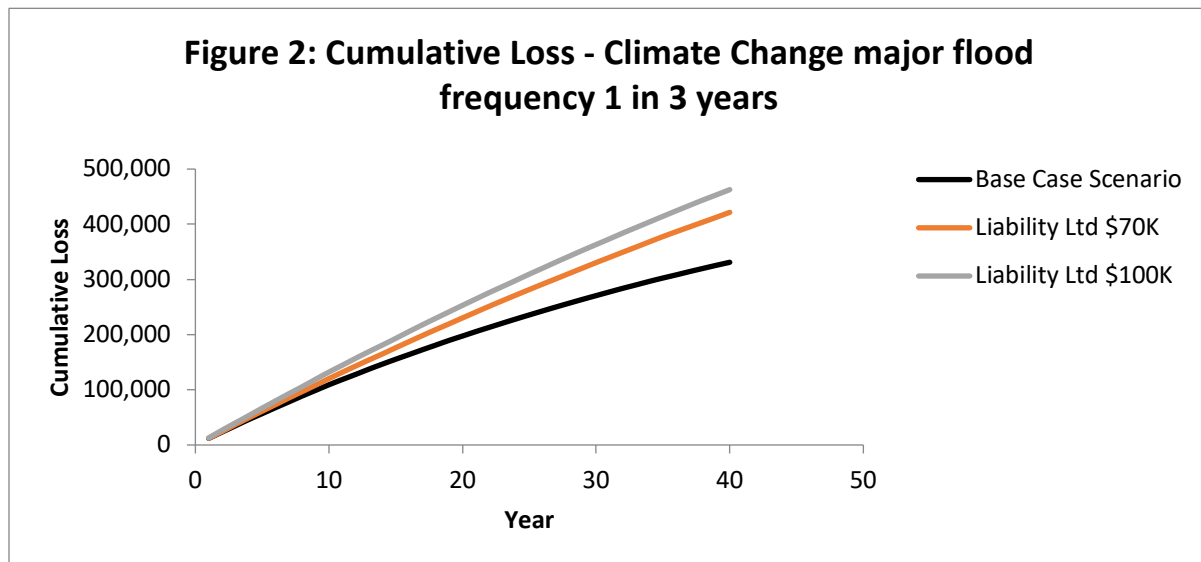
Please note that as the cost of insurance has increased, so too has the total cumulative cost from flooding at the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve. Where maximum liability is limited to \$50,000 under the Base Case Scenario, total flood costs at the site are approximately \$230,000, where liability is limited through insurance to \$100,000, then total costs increase to \$325,000.

As insurance is used more to manage liability, then costs to insure the site increase.



Results for Scenario 2 are shown in Figure 2. It shows the total cumulative loss over the 40-year modelled period with a major flood occurring once every 3 years.

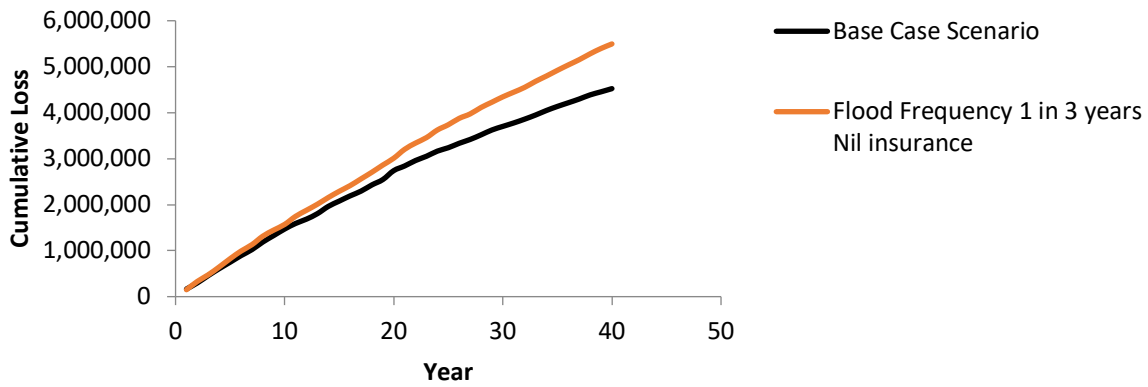
Please note that as the frequency of the major flood events have increased, so too has the total cumulative cost from flooding at the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve. Where maximum liability is limited to \$50,000 under the Base Case Scenario, total flood costs at the site are approximately \$331,000. Where liability is limited through insurance to \$70,000, then total costs increase to \$421,000. Where liability is limited through insurance to \$100,000, then total costs increase to \$462,000.



Results for Scenario 3 in Figures 3. It shows the total cumulative loss over the 40-year modelled period with a major flood occurring once every 5 years (Base Case Scenario) and once every 3 years. Liability is assumed to be \$3,000,000 as flood insurance is not available at this site but the assets at the site have been renewed as per compliance and need requires.

Please note that as the frequency of the major flood events increases, so too has the total cumulative cost from flooding at the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve. There is approximately a difference of \$1,000,000 in total loss over 40 years for the EGSC based on the change in flood frequency from 1:5 years to 1:3 years. Under this scenario it is not feasible to invest in this location as the cost of flooding makes maintaining the site both risk and cost prohibitive. This investment should not proceed under these assumptions.

Figure 3: Cumulative Loss - nil insurance available with liability limited to \$3,000,000



Reference

Trück, S, Mathew, S, Henderson-Sellers, A, Taplin, R, Keighley, & Chin, W 2013, *Handbook CATLoG: Climate adaptation decision support tool for local governments. Prioritising climate change adaptation investments for local government with particular focus on extreme events*, National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, Gold Coast, 38 pp.

Appendix One

Modelling costs and assumptions

Costs	Volunteer time prepare	6 hours x 30 people x \$30/hr	\$5,400
	Volunteer time clean up	12 hours x 30 people x \$30/hr	\$10,800
	Hire facility	6 weeks x \$500	\$3,000
	Lost Gate Takings	3 home games x \$3000	\$9,000
	Bar/Canteen	3 home games x \$3000	\$9,000
	Council Time	2 staff x 2 days x \$1000 / day /staff member	\$4,000
	Totals		\$41,200
Insurance	Premium	\$20K per annum - assumes non grouped premiums for at risk assets	\$20,000
	Capped Liability \$50K Insurance Excess		\$50,000
	Capped Liability \$100K Insurance Excess		\$100,000
	\$3M liability- No insurance		\$3,000,000

Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan

Position Paper - Proposed Future Use of Selected Bairnsdale Sports Reserves

Introduction

In October 2016, the East Gippsland Shire Council engaged Simon Leisure Consulting to prepare a Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan. The main aim of the Plan is to actively encourage and support increased participation in sport in East Gippsland Shire by identifying the optimum suite of sporting facilities required both now and into the future.

One of the project objectives for the Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan is

“To match activity, users and facilities in a fit for purpose approach which may include consolidation, multi-use, sharing, re-purposing and / or re-location”.

This Position Paper considers broadly this objective in the context of the current and potential future use of the following sports reserves located in Bairnsdale:

- Wy Yung Recreation Reserve
- Howitt Park
- West Bairnsdale Oval
- WORLD

The purpose of the Position Paper is to seek Council's in principle support for the proposed future use of the West Bairnsdale Oval and the WORLD sporting precinct to enable the master planning for these two sites to proceed with some certainty for the duration of the Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan study period.

The Position Paper proposes that the sporting groups currently based at the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve be relocated to West Bairnsdale Oval, as part of a broader strategy to improve their long-term sustainability. The four sporting clubs are currently impacted on a regular basis by flooding inundation of the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve, and there are planning constraints governing what form any pavilion development project at the reserve can take, due to the reserve being situated within the Mitchell River floodplain. The existing pavilion is not fit for purpose and does not meet several building compliance standards. A briefing to councillors was provided on 27 June 2017 outlining the history of inundation of the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve and the resultant impacts and implications for the tenant clubs and for Council when the reserve floods.

The Position Paper also supports new/ redeveloped facilities for the Bairnsdale Netball Association and the Bairnsdale Hockey Club at the WORLD sporting precinct where they are currently based. It also recommends that new facilities be provided at WORLD to accommodate the Bairnsdale Soccer Club (futsal/ indoor soccer) and the East Gippsland United Football Club (outdoor soccer). Both clubs are currently utilising at least two locations for training and matches, which is impacting the growth of all forms of soccer. The capacity of each club to benefit from operational efficiencies that become available when all of a club's facilities and activities are based at the same location is also inhibited by current arrangements. Neither soccer club currently have a home or clubroom facility.

At each of the sites, there are opportunities to plan for the co-location of the clubs allocated to each site, and for them to share facilities and associated supporting infrastructure. When consulted, the four Wy Yung clubs (the Wy Yung Football Netball Club, the Wy Yung Junior Football Club, the Wy Yung Cricket Club, and the Wy Yung Angling Club) and the East Gippsland United Football Club (EGUFC) all expressed a preference to be based at West Bairnsdale Oval.

On the balance of the strengths and weaknesses of the concept layout plans prepared for each site, and the degree to which the respective needs of clubs can be accommodated, it is recommended:

1. That the sporting groups currently tenanted at the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve be relocated to West Bairnsdale Oval.
2. That the WORLD sporting precinct accommodate upgraded and new sporting facilities for the Bairnsdale Netball Association, the Bairnsdale Hockey Club, the Bairnsdale Soccer Club, and the East Gippsland United Football Club.
3. That further investigation is carried out into options for the future use of Wy Yung Recreation Reserve and for the sports fields located at Howitt Park.

The reasons are summarised below for recommending that the Wy Yung clubs be based at West Bairnsdale Oval and not the EGUFC.

- The square shape of the available land at the WORLD sporting precinct enables a more efficient sports facility layout plan to be achieved for the rectangular shaped playing fields and courts for soccer, hockey and netball, compared to combining an oval shaped field with rectangular shaped playing fields and courts. This will have the benefit of cost savings and a more efficient use of the available land.
- The West Bairnsdale Oval currently has an oval that can be incorporated easily into a new layout for the oval based sports of the Wy Yung clubs. This reduces the extent of change to the overall layout of the reserve and will enable some trees planted around the oval perimeter to be retained. The cost to construct a new oval at West Bairnsdale Oval will be less than the construction of a new oval at WORLD, where the land slopes to the south and cut and fill will be required to create a level playing surface.
- The single oval layout plan for West Bairnsdale Oval allows for more off-street car parking to be achieved than the configuration for multiple soccer pitches. The oval layout plan will reduce the impact of car parking in surrounding streets on match days.
- A high chain-mesh fence already exists around the perimeter of West Bairnsdale Oval. The Wy Yung Football Netball Club requires a fence for the purpose of being able to charge an admittance fee on match days. To erect a similar fence at WORLD, if the Wy Yung Football Netball Club were based there, would not only be costly but more importantly would significantly alter the amenity of the WORLD sporting precinct and the vistas across it. Whilst the EGUFC also aspires to have a fence around its main soccer pitch, the size of a soccer pitch is considerably smaller than a senior AFL oval.
- The recommended allocation of clubs will allow for the construction of new and upgraded facilities for all sporting groups with no significant interruption to the operation and scheduled activities of any club, that is, the soccer pitches can be constructed at WORLD on vacant land, and when the EGUFC vacates the West Bairnsdale Oval it can begin to be transformed into an AFL/ cricket/ netball venue whilst the Wy Yung clubs remain at Wy Yung Recreation Reserve. The works to upgrade the hockey fields and construct new netball courts can also occur without significant interruption to those clubs' operations.
- The co-location of soccer and hockey has the following synergies:

- there would be scope for the site to host large soccer tournaments by using some of the hockey fields as temporary soccer pitches.
- In the long-term if a synthetic hockey pitch became viable and was located within the WORLD sporting precinct, then the synthetic field could become a shared use facility by the EGUFC.
- There is capacity to expand the number of soccer pitches or hockey fields to the south at WORLD, so the growth of these sports can be future-proofed.

The above points are expanded on further in this paper.

Background

The ownership of the four sports reserves considered in the Position Paper is noted below.

Reserve	Ownership
Wy Yung Recreation Reserve	Council
Howitt Park	Crown/ Council
West Bairnsdale Oval	Crown/ Council
WORLD	Department of Education

The user groups currently based at the four sports reserves are noted below.

Reserve	User Groups
Wy Yung Recreation Reserve	Wy Yung Football Netball Club Wy Yung Junior Football Club Wy Yung Cricket Club Wy Yung Angling Club
Howitt Park (sports field users only)	East Gippsland United Football Club Bairnsdale Little Athletics Centre
West Bairnsdale Oval	East Gippsland United Football Club Bairnsdale Senior Citizens (pavilion users only)
WORLD	Bairnsdale Netball Association Bairnsdale Hockey Club

The Bairnsdale Soccer Club (indoor soccer) currently uses courts at Nagle College, the BARC and Lucknow Primary School.

The sporting needs assessment carried out during the Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan concluded the following:

1. That there are sufficient numbers of football ovals to meet current and projected future demand.
2. That there are sufficient numbers of cricket ovals to meet current and projected future demand.
3. That there is demand for an additional soccer pitch (currently there are two pitches), and that up to two pitches should be dedicated soccer, ie. not multipurpose and available all year round.
4. That up to two additional netball courts should be provided at WORLD (for a total of eight courts).
5. That there is currently insufficient demand for a synthetic hockey pitch, however, three grass hockey fields should continue to be available with floodlighting required to be installed on at least one pitch.

No specific demand analysis was undertaken for athletics, however, there has been strong historic participation in little athletics in Bairnsdale, and there are currently 300 children actively involved with the Bairnsdale Little Athletics Centre.

Therefore, the key outcome of the sporting needs assessment in relation to facilities for the above mentioned sports, is that any changed use of reserves should consider how an additional soccer pitch can be provided, and also an eight netball court facility for the Bairnsdale Netball Association.

Another requirement of the Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan study (as identified in the project brief) is to determine long-term solutions for those sporting facilities and clubs that are regularly impacted from inundation caused by the flooding of the Mitchell River. The study research concluded that the impact on sport from the inundation of Howitt Park is minimal, however, the impact on sport from the inundation of the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve is significant, mainly due to the frequency of inundation and the extended periods of closure of some parts of the reserve following flood events (refer to *Discussion Paper – Flood Impacts on Wy Yung Recreation Reserve, January 2017*).

The key impacts from inundation at the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve are:

- Damage to infrastructure
- Extensive rubbish, vegetation and silt deposited across the reserve and ovals
- Loss of use of the reserve by the tenant sporting clubs for training and matches
- Lost revenue when forced to cease use of the reserve, and the added costs to the clubs to hire other reserves for training and matches
- Increased workload on volunteers in the lead up to flooding and then during the clean-up period
- Cost to the tenant clubs and other groups to repair, clean and make good the reserve
- Other potential 'hidden' impacts, such as volunteer fatigue and the perception of Wy Yung clubs being less desirable to join due to the disruptions caused from inundation

Another impact from the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve being located on the Mitchell River floodplain is the planning constraints now being imposed on any proposed capital improvements at the reserve. The most significant constraint is that the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority has determined that any expansion or rebuild of the sports pavilion, if built on the pavilion's current footprint, must be built with the floor level at a height no lower than the Nominal Flood Protection Level of 6.96m, which is roughly equivalent to the height of where the level of a second storey would be on the existing pavilion. A new pavilion built at such height would incur additional costs compared to a pavilion constructed at ground level, and would also result in a range of functional issues and constraints for players, members and spectators having to access an elevated pavilion. It should also be noted that an elevated pavilion would only resolve or mitigate some impacts from inundation of the reserve.

Therefore, the study consultant team in collaboration with the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve Management Committee identified and investigated a number of options for the potential permanent relocation of the four user groups from the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve. The sites investigated were:

1. Tulaba Park (Eastwood)
2. West Bairnsdale Oval
3. WORLD sporting precinct

The investigation into the feasibility of each site to accommodate the four user groups with facilities either equal to or superior to the current provision of facilities at the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve, concluded that the available land at Tulaba Park was too small, but that West Bairnsdale Oval and the WORLD sporting precinct could accommodate the required sporting facilities and associated infrastructure. At its meeting on 31 July 2017, the Wy Yung

Reserve Management Committee unanimously agreed that West Bairnsdale Oval is their preferred relocation option.

Parallel with the above process of working with the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve Management Committee to explore options for relocation, the consultant team also assessed options for a sustainable solution for the provision of soccer facilities in Bairnsdale generally, but for the East Gippsland United Football Club (EGUFC) specifically. At present, the EGUFC utilises the two sports fields at Howitt Park and the oval at West Bairnsdale Oval for its winter soccer program, and the western field only at Howitt Park for its summer program.

The use of two different venues in winter is challenging the club, particularly in relation to the lost opportunity to promote the pathway between the juniors and the seniors, as the juniors train and play at Howitt Park, whilst the men's and women's senior teams only play and train at West Bairnsdale Oval. Another constraint identified by the club and related to the club currently being divided between two reserves, is that the club does not have a 'home' base that it can promote as the club's headquarters (including social rooms, meeting rooms, and storage). Notwithstanding this, the EGUFC is currently utilising spaces in the West Bairnsdale Oval pavilion and in other buildings at the reserve for these purposes (although they are not fit for purpose), and has invested resources into the oval playing surface to improve it as a soccer facility.

The study consultant team identified West Bairnsdale Oval and the WORLD sports precinct as the only options with capacity to become a home base for soccer. Howitt Park was discounted as an option, as only two senior soccer pitches can be accommodated, which will not meet current and future needs as the club continues to grow, plus the western sports field is subject to inundation. In addition, there are constraints with the capability to expand the Howitt Park pavilion to a size that would not only meet the needs of the EGUFC, but also continue to accommodate the needs of the other user groups at Howitt Park.

The Bairnsdale Soccer Club (futsal) and the EGUFC work together closely to cross-promote participation opportunities with their respective clubs, as their offerings are complementary, ie. the EGUFC conducts a Bairnsdale-based Shire-wide small-sided competition in summer, and then during winter many of these participants join the Bairnsdale Soccer Club (BSC) to participate in it's indoor soccer competition. As well as the small-sided summer soccer competition, the EGUFC also has soccer teams that compete in traditional winter soccer competitions organised by the Latrobe Valley Soccer League, however, many players who participate in the club's summer competition chose not to play in the outdoor winter competition, preferring to participate in the indoor futsal competition organised by the BSC.

The BSC currently uses indoor courts at Nagle College, the BARC and Lucknow Primary School, and has no home base. The club has also identified that demand exists within the community for a summer futsal competition, and has explored the option with the Bairnsdale Netball Association of some shared use of the netball courts located at WORLD. For this reason, and given the close location of the BARC to the WORLD sporting precinct, the BCA has also been considered as another sporting club to be based at WORLD.

Concept layout plans were prepared for both West Bairnsdale Oval and the WORLD sports precinct showing how a minimum of three senior size soccer pitches and associated infrastructure (car parking and a pavilion) could fit onto both sites. The investigation of the feasibility of West Bairnsdale Oval and the WORLD to accommodate the necessary facilities to become a home for the EGUFC, concluded that both sites are viable, although it is noted that the EGUFC has expressed a preference for the West Bairnsdale Oval site to be redeveloped to become its home base. Summer futsal can be accommodated at the WORLD sports precinct by making four of the proposed new eight netball courts dual-use netball/ futsal.

Assessment of the Merit of Both Sites for Sport

See Appendix 1 for the draft concept layout plans prepared for West Bairnsdale Oval and the WORLD sports precinct to accommodate the football, cricket and netball needs for the Wy Yung sporting clubs.

See Appendix 2 for the draft concept layout plans prepared for West Bairnsdale Oval and the WORLD sports precinct to accommodate the soccer needs for the East Gippsland United Football Club (EGUFC).

Each of the concept plans prepared for the WORLD sports precinct also show how the respective facilities required by the Bairnsdale Netball Association and the Bairnsdale Hockey Club can be integrated with the football, cricket and soccer facilities. Both concept plans advocate for a joint-use pavilion to be shared by all user groups, which is consistent with a key study objective to maximise multi-use and shared use facilities.

West Bairnsdale Oval Concept Layout Plans

The concept layout plan showing **football, cricket and netball** has the following strengths:

1. The reserve currently has an oval that can be incorporated into the new layout, which reduces the level of change to the overall layout of the reserve. The benefits from reduced overall changes in the layout of the reserve include the opportunity to retain some of the existing oval perimeter trees and the likelihood of reduced earthworks to construct a new oval. This will result in cost savings and reduce the impact from any changes to the amenity of the reserve within the surrounding neighbourhood.
2. Parking for approximately 400 cars off-street will be possible, which will reduce the impact of car parking in surrounding streets on match days.
3. The perimeter fence required by the Wy Yung Football Netball Club for the purpose of being able to charge an admittance fee to matches already exists.
4. The reserve has a history of accommodating football and cricket: the West Bairnsdale Hawks Football Club (disbanded in 2002); the West Bairnsdale Hawks Junior Football Club (disbanded in 2010); and, the West Bairnsdale Cricket Club, which relocated to Bairnsdale City Oval in 2005.
5. The four Wy Yung groups can continue to co-locate together similar to their current situation at the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve, a stated preference for all parties.
6. A second oval for cricket and Auskick can be accommodated in close proximity to the main oval across McKean Street, following the planned decommissioning and removal of education buildings that will become excess to the Bairnsdale Secondary College's needs.
7. There will be no interruption to the operation and scheduled activities of all of the Wy Yung clubs, as they will be able to continue to use the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve until West Bairnsdale Oval is developed.
8. The Wy Yung Recreation Reserve Management Committee and the four user groups support the layout plan.

The concept plan showing **football, cricket and netball** has the following weakness:

1. The second oval is not in the same reserve and will require most users of the oval to cross McKean Street to access the off-street car parking and main pavilion in the West Bairnsdale Oval reserve.

The concept plan showing **soccer** has the following strengths:

1. The EGUFC currently has a presence at the reserve.
2. The EGUFC has invested resources into improving the surface of the oval and other infrastructure.
3. There is capacity to increase the number of senior pitches by one to meet any future demand.
4. All of the EGUFC's winter and summer competition needs can be accommodated within the reserve.
5. The perimeter fence will be an added bonus for the EGUFC, as it aspires to charge an admittance fee to senior soccer matches in winter.
6. The layout plan is supported by the EGUFC.

The concept plan showing **soccer** has the following weaknesses:

1. The reserve will have a single use only.
2. There is less opportunity to retain trees compared to the football/ cricket oval layout.
3. Whilst there is capacity to significantly increase the number of off-street car parks in the current layout, if a fourth pitch is required the volume of off-street car parking may need to reduce.
4. The site is land-locked which will restrict future growth beyond what facilities are capable of being accommodated within the reserve.

WORLD Sports Precinct Concept Layout Plans

The concept plan showing **football, cricket, hockey, netball and futsal** has the following strengths:

1. It maximises the integration of sports clubs and facilities: up to six groups would be co-locating within the precinct, and there would be shared use of the netball courts, the cricket oval/ hockey fields, and the pavilion.
2. Brings a high-profile tenant to WORLD (the Wy Yung Football Netball Club).
3. The four Wy Yung groups can continue to co-locate together similar to their current situation at the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve, a preference for all parties.
4. A second oval incorporating two hockey fields as well as catering for cricket and Auskick can be accommodated in close proximity to the main oval, and within the same reserve.
5. There is significant opportunity to accommodate overflow car parking off-street for football matches and other events that are likely to draw high numbers of spectators.
6. There will be no interruption to the operation and scheduled activities of all of the Wy Yung clubs, as they will be able to continue to use the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve until the WORLD sporting precinct is developed.

The concept plan showing **football, cricket, hockey, netball and futsal** has the following weaknesses:

1. The shape of the oval does not integrate well with the square shape of the site generally (wasted space in the northwest corner), or with the rectangular hockey fields specifically.
2. There is a risk that the large number of user groups co-locating at the site could result in conflicts of use of some of the infrastructure, eg. the pavilion and car parks.
3. The perimeter fence required by the Wy Yung Football Netball Club around the oval and surrounding areas for the purpose of being able to charge an admittance fee to matches will detract from the openness of the WORLD sporting precinct.
4. The proposal will require significant earthworks (cut and fill) to construct the oval due to the size of a football oval and the fall of the land from north to south, which will result in increased costs.

5. The construction of the oval will require hockey to be relocated to an alternate venue during the construction works.
6. The WORLD is not the preferred site of the Wy Yung clubs.

The concept plan showing **soccer** has the following strengths:

1. The concept plan shows new soccer pitches along the northern edge of the site and hockey pitches to the south. If the location of the soccer pitches and the hockey fields are swapped, the construction of the soccer pitches could occur with little or no interruption to the continued use of the hockey fields by the Bairnsdale Hockey Club. (This layout option can be further investigated during design development).
2. Similarly, the construction of the proposed new soccer pitches at WORLD will mean there will be no interruption to the operation and scheduled activities of the EGUFC, as the club can continue to use Howitt Park and West Bairnsdale Oval. (Following completion of the new soccer pitches, the EGUFC will then vacate West Bairnsdale Oval for the re-purposing of the reserve for the Wy Yung groups, which will also experience no interruption to seasonal operations during the construction period).
3. There is capacity to expand the number of soccer pitches or hockey fields on the site to the south, so the growth of these sports can be future-proofed at WORLD.
4. Having all fields of play rectangular shaped enables optimum layouts to be explored in relation to land use.
5. The scale of earthworks (cut and fill) to construct the soccer pitches will be significantly less than what would be required for a football oval, which will result in savings.
6. With the soccer pitches and hockey fields being largely the same dimensions, there is scope for the site to host large soccer tournaments by using some of the hockey fields as temporary soccer pitches.
7. All of the EGUFC's winter and summer competition needs can be accommodated within the reserve.
8. In the long-term if a synthetic hockey pitch became viable and was located within the WORLD sporting precinct, then the synthetic field could become a shared use facility by the EGUFC.

The concept plan showing **soccer** has the following weaknesses:

1. The westerly aspect for spectators viewing soccer from the pavilion (looking into the sun in the late afternoon). (Other options for the location for the pavilion to mitigate this issue can be investigated during design development).
2. The WORLD is not the preferred site of the EGUFC.

Recommended Allocations

On the balance of the strengths and weaknesses of the concept layout plans prepared for each site, and the degree to which the respective needs of clubs can be accommodated, it is recommended:

1. That the sporting groups currently tenanted at the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve (the Wy Yung Football Netball Club, the Wy Yung Junior Football Club, the Wy Yung Cricket Club, and the Wy Yung Angling Club) be relocated to West Bairnsdale Oval.
2. That the WORLD sporting precinct accommodate upgraded and new sporting facilities for the Bairnsdale Netball Association, the Bairnsdale Hockey Club, the Bairnsdale Soccer Club, and the East Gippsland United Football Club.

Providing in principle support for the above allocations prior to the finalisation of the Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan will provide the opportunity to the project team to fine-tune the reserve layout plans and the pavilion concept plans with direct input from the proposed tenant clubs. This will ensure that well-advanced designs for the reserves and pavilions will be possible from the study, with the benefit that projects will be 'shovel ready' at the conclusion of this body of work rather than requiring further investigations or re-work.

Another advantage from early agreement from Council for the future uses of the West Bairnsdale Oval and the WORLD sports precinct is that future discussions between Council and the Department of Education can progress with certainty regarding possible future management arrangements for the use of the WORLD land for sporting purposes (refer to the Memorandum to the Executive Group dated 14 August 2017 on the future management arrangements at the WORLD Centre).

Future Use of Wy Yung Recreation Reserve and Howitt Park

The Position Paper supports the relocation of the Wy Yung sporting groups from the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve, and also supports the relocation of soccer activities from Howitt Park. The consultant team has considered options for the future use of both sites pending the proposed relocations.

[It should be noted that any future use of the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve will need to consider the likelihood of continued regular inundation of the reserve, and the fact that the existing pavilion can be redeveloped internally, but its current footprint cannot be expanded without the pavilion being elevated above the Nominal Flood Protection Level of 6.96m]

Options considered for the Wy Yung Recreation Reserve include:

- New location for the Bairnsdale & District Dog Obedience Club (from Lucknow Recreation Reserve).
- Use of one or both of the ovals as overflow sports grounds, when required.
- Active and passive recreation pursuits.
- Against the land for stock grazing.

Options considered for the western field at Howitt Park:

- Expand the athletics use/ facilities at the reserve to include some of this area.
- Increase the use of the reserve for rowing regattas by utilising the west sports field for temporary boat storage and/or other event needs.
- Use the sports field as an overflow sports grounds, when required.
- Active and passive recreation pursuits.

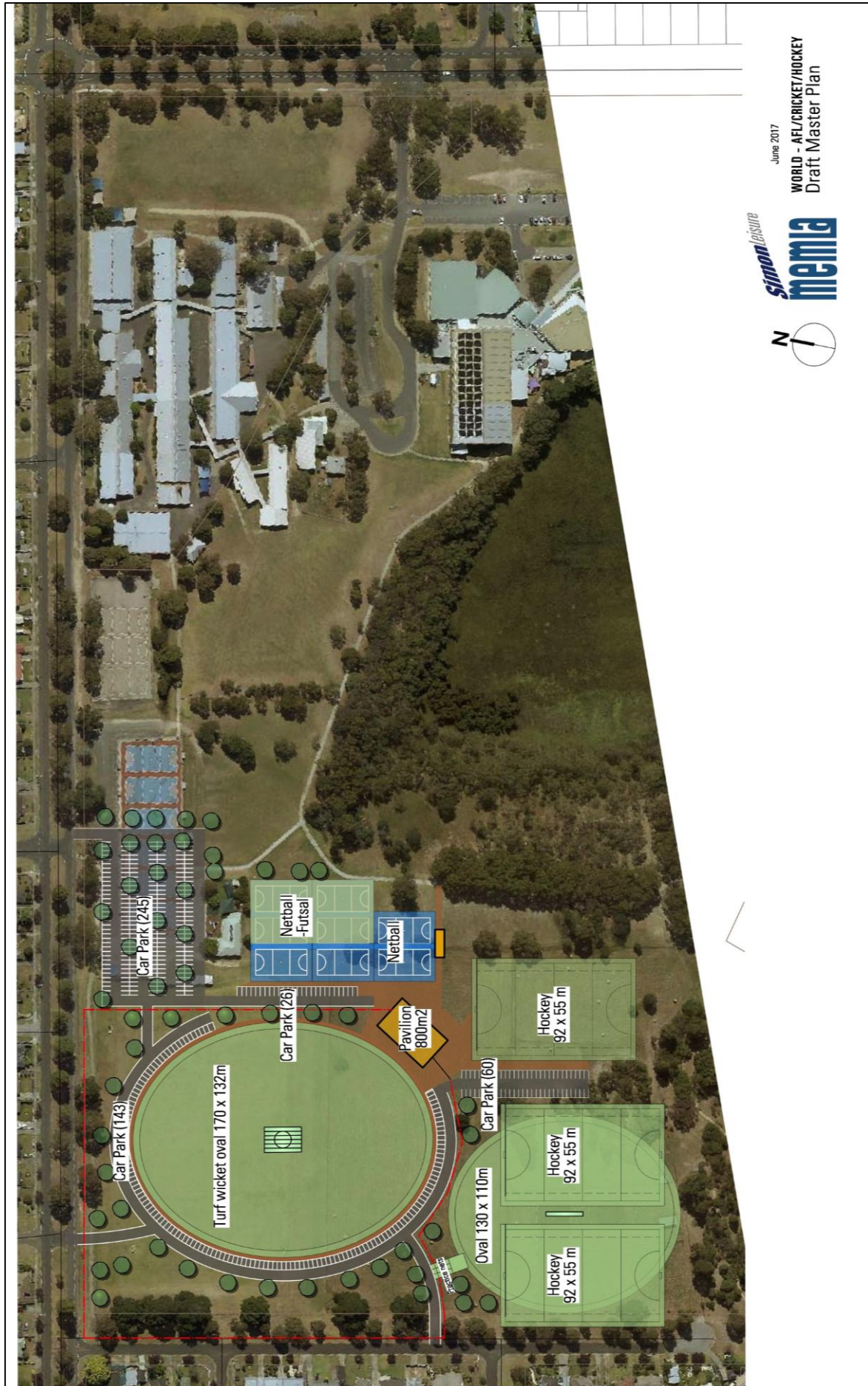


Richard Simon
Director, Simon Leisure Consulting

APPENDIX 1

Concept layout plans for West Bairnsdale Oval and the WORLD sports precinct to accommodate the football, cricket and netball needs for the Wy Yung sporting groups





APPENDIX 2

Concept layout plans for West Bairnsdale Oval and the WORLD sports precinct to accommodate the soccer needs for the East Gippsland United Football Club





5.4. Discussion Paper - Gymnastics Facility Options

The consultant team undertook a preliminary assessment of options for the provision of a new gymnastics centre for Bairnsdale, including:

1. Extension of the BARC
2. Extension of the Bairnsdale Squash & Table Tennis Centre (as a new building integrated with the Centre)
3. Extension of the Bairnsdale Squash & Table Tennis Centre (as a new shed integrated with the Centre)

Providing a new gymnastics centre as part of an expanded BARC may provide the following benefits and efficiencies:

- Integration with the primary aquatics and leisure facility in the Shire.
- Opportunities for gymnastics to be directly exposed/ marketed to potential new members enrolled in centre activities, such as basketball and learn-to-swim.
- Located adjacent to Bairnsdale Secondary College and West Bairnsdale Primary School, with the advantage that many gymnastics members might only be a short walk from their place of education.
- Located adjacent to the main bus interchange that services most Bairnsdale schools, therefore gymnastics members enrolled at other schools could benefit from convenient after-school transport to access the centre.
- It would build-on the attraction of the BARC as a 'one-stop' location for parents with children enrolled in a variety of different activities, such as gymnastics, basketball, learn-to-swim, fitness gym, etc.
- There would be the potential for the gymnastics centre to utilise the management services at the BARC for some of its operations.

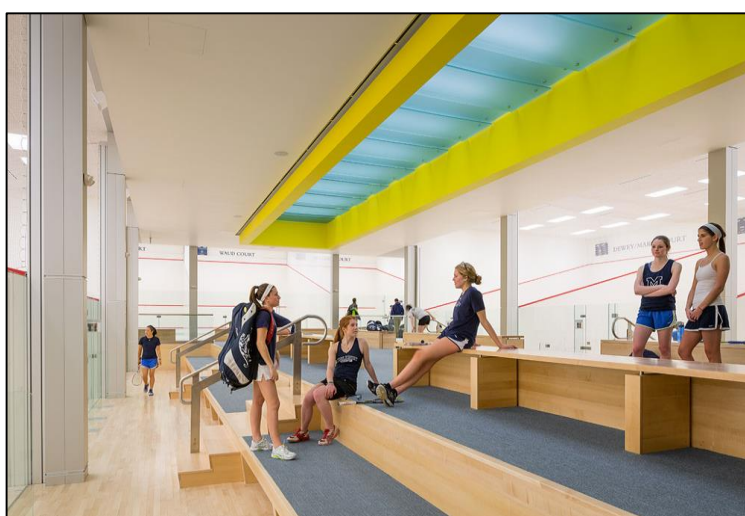
Notwithstanding these potential benefits for an integrated facility with the BARC, the Lucknow Recreation Reserve was also identified as a suitable location for gymnastics in East Gippsland. The key considerations for determining this as the preferred alternative site include:

- Lucknow Recreation Reserve is situated close to Eastwood, a suburb with a high proportion of young families (a key target group for gymnastics), and is adjacent to a future growth area likely to also attract young families.
- A gymnastics centre at the BARC would need to be located at the rear of the pool hall and stadium, so its relationship to the foyer/ kiosk area would be distant, thereby minimising any benefits of utilising the entrance foyer, and adjacent kiosk and change rooms.
- The Bairnsdale Gymnastics Club has determined that it wants to retain full management responsibility of the space, equipment and programs of the Club, so any potential efficiencies or economies of scale possible from utilising the BARC management team would not be applicable.
- The BARC is on land owned by the Department of Education, and short-term access to the BARC site will likely be unattainable given pending secondary school developments and Council discussions concerning future management arrangements of the WORLD sporting precinct. The Bairnsdale Gymnastics Club is concerned that its tenancy could be associated with restrictions and special conditions that might impact the operations of the Club and its access to the centre.
- The Club is of the view that a direct partnership with Council (as landowner of the Lucknow Recreation Reserve) will be more advantageous in the long term.

With Lucknow Recreation Reserve as the preferred site for a new gymnastic centre, the consultant team prepared concept plans to show how a new gymnastics centre could be integrated with the Bairnsdale Squash & Table Tennis Centre.

This design development process also investigated options to resolve or mitigate issues with the current design and layout of the Bairnsdale Squash & Table Tennis Centre that had been identified by user groups, including:

- The small size of the available male and female change rooms.
- The less than adequate layout and size of the kitchen and meeting room/ function space.
- The inadequate storage for the table tennis association.
- The need for a more efficient solution to the provision of scorer's and spectator viewing areas in the squash hall. (See picture below showing tiered seating between two rows of squash courts).

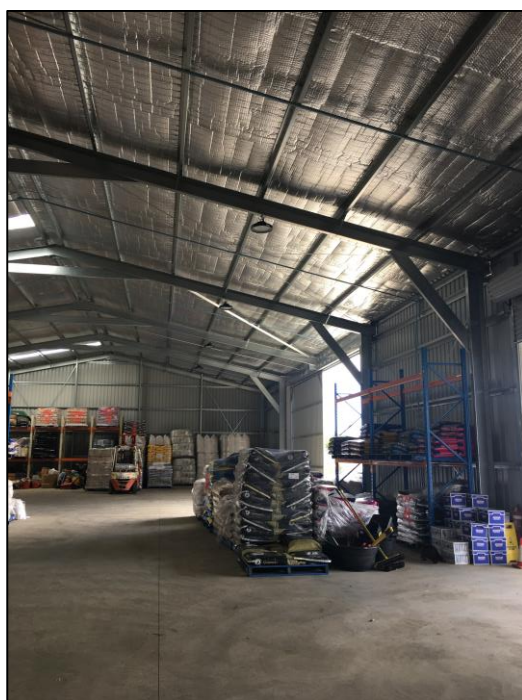


One concept floor plan prepared by the consultant team allows for a new gymnastics centre to be built as an extension to the east of the table tennis hall of the Bairnsdale Squash & Table Tennis Centre. Earlier concept plans showed how the provision of amenities and storage in the Centre could be improved, however, these plans relied on the use of two squash courts to provide the additional floor area required to expand and relocate changing rooms, the kitchen, and the meeting room.

Subsequent conversations with key stakeholders confirmed that the existing six courts are required to be retained. Improvements to the current design and layout of the Bairnsdale Squash & Table Tennis Centre will need to be re-assessed in the future as a separate project to the gymnastic centre addition.

The estimated cost of the new gymnastic centre constructed as a traditional building would be in the vicinity of \$4.2M, based on a floor area of 1,400sqm and a building rate of \$3,000 per metre. Whilst stakeholders agreed that the spatial allowance for the gym hall is likely in excess of needs, the capital cost is still an amount that would challenge the project.

An alternate option considered for the external structure for the gymnastics centre is to utilise a shed. There are many examples of gymnastics centres being accommodated in sheds and/or re-used factory buildings (ie. Cheltenham, Albury and Warrnambool). Representatives of the East Gippsland Gymnastics Club and the project team inspected a shed of approximate dimensions of 18 metres (wide) x 48 metres (long) and 7.5 metres (high) (see photos over the page).



It was generally agreed that such a structure could work as a 'bolt-on' to the Bairnsdale Squash & Table Tennis Centre, and will likely cost significantly less than a traditional construction. (The shed pictured was installed in 2017 and cost approximately \$110,000, with an additional \$100,000 for the concrete slab floor¹. Services connections and fit-out are excluded from the above estimates).

A couple of considerations when further investigating the feasibility of using a shed as the solution for a new gymnastics centre are:

1. There will need to be a physical separation between the Bairnsdale Squash & Table Tennis Centre and any new shed structure to comply with fire rating conditions for the two structures. The separation will need to be a minimum 6 metres but could be more depending on the final scale and scope of the extension. Both structures should be able to be joined with a non-combustible covered way, but may require a dispensation from the Building Commission at permit stage.

¹ Source: Director, Wide Span Sheds, Bairnsdale.

2. The need to provide additional car parking at Lucknow Recreation Reserve to service the high throughput of a gymnastic centre with over 500 gymnasts. The Lucknow Recreation Reserve Master Plan (see *Volume 1 Sporting Facilities Provision Framework*) shows additional car parking provided along the Great Alpine Road. This proposed car park can be connected to the gymnastic centre via a new path link behind the table tennis centre. This access as an alternate to the existing entrance into the Bairnsdale Squash & Table Tennis Centre, will have the advantage of allowing gymnastics patrons to access the gymnastics centre on football match days without having to enter the reserve via the main entrance.