



# Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2015-2021

## Volume 1: Facilities Strategy Plan

September 2015

*Adopted by Council on 2 September 2015*



**Simon**Leisure



# Moorabool Shire

## Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2015-2021

### Volume 1: Facilities Strategy Plan

(September 2015)

#### About this document

This report is the Facilities Strategy Plan for the Moorabool Recreation and Leisure Strategy. It has two accompanying reports:

1. Volume 2: Moorabool Play Strategy 2015-2021
2. Volume 3: Background Report

The Moorabool Play Strategy was principally prepared by communityvibe, using some of the information and research collected during the Recreation and Leisure Strategy planning process. It supports and advocates for the incremental upgrade of existing play spaces and provision of new, all underpinned by a hierarchy of facilities and associated standards of provision.

The Background Report is a compilation of research carried out to inform the Recreation and Leisure Strategy. It was initially prepared as a discussion paper for the purposes of receiving feedback from Councillors and staff on the existing provision and management of recreation and leisure facilities, and interim directions proposed for the future delivery of recreation and leisure in Moorabool Shire. Some of the Background Report content may now be dated given its initial purpose and timeframe for collation (September – November 2014).



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# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Study Background and Purpose

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Moorabool Shire is located in the Central Highlands region of Victoria, about 80 kilometres west of Melbourne. The Shire comprises of two main towns (Bacchus Marsh and Ballan) and seven smaller townships, and a further 24 villages are distributed throughout the Shire. The Shire's population is currently in excess of 31,000 people and is projected to increase to more than 51,000 people by 2041.

Recreation and leisure contribute important physical, social, health and lifestyle benefits to Shire residents. The varied sporting and recreation facilities and open spaces available throughout the Shire creates an ongoing challenge for Council and the community to manage, fund and maintain them in an efficient, equitable and sustainable manner.

In the past few years, Moorabool Shire's population has been growing at a rapid rate, with the largest proportion of new residents residing in the eastern section of the Shire in Bacchus Marsh and surrounds. This growth pattern is expected to continue and has created an increased demand for new and expanded recreation facilities and open space in East Moorabool.

In contrast is the relatively slower population growth in the established areas of the Shire in central and west Moorabool. In these areas the existing provision of recreation and leisure facilities and open space is generally adequate to meet the needs of the current and projected population. However, some facilities are reaching the end of their functional lives, so facility renewal or replacement will be the predominant need, rather than the development of new facilities. The challenge for Council in the next 10-15 years will be to balance the competing needs of the different communities within the Shire.

The Moorabool Shire Recreation and Leisure Strategy (2015-2021) provides the guiding framework for the future planning, provision, development and management of sporting, recreation and leisure opportunities throughout the Shire. It provides an evidence-based approach for Council to respond to the needs and aspirations of the Shire community, and has established a framework and principles to inform Council decision-making, facilitate partnerships, and prioritise the allocation of Council resources towards the greatest need.

## Study Tasks and Reports

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The study was undertaken collaboratively by Simon Leisure Consulting and communityvibe, two sports and recreation planning consultancies. It incorporated a number of tasks to facilitate the preparation of the Strategy reports, including:

- Review and analysis of the Shire's community profile (2011 Census) and population projections.
- Review of the active recreation reserves and other sporting and recreation facilities.
- Review of all playgrounds and play spaces, and the subsequent updating of Council's play spaces inventory.
- Analysis of available sports participation and club membership data.
- Analysis of sports facility usage data.
- Review and assessment of existing reserve master plans.
- Review of relevant Council policies and planning reports.
- Review of other Council planning reports and strategies.
- Consideration of feedback and input from Councillors and staff from their review of the study Discussion Paper (June 2014).
- Feedback from stakeholder groups and residents following the public exhibition of the draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy report (May & June 2015).

The Moorabool Shire Recreation and Leisure Strategy (2015-2021) comprises three volumes:

1. **Volume 1: Facilities Strategy Plan**

It incorporates an overview of all research information used to inform the facilities strategy plan, and includes a series of recommendations for new and upgraded sporting and recreation facilities, and recommendations for the development of a number of new policies.

2. **Volume 2: Moorabool Play Strategy** (prepared by communityvibe)

It recommends a planning framework to guide the provision of new play spaces and the incremental upgrade of existing ones, underpinned by a recommended new hierarchy of play spaces and associated standards of provision.

3. **Volume 3: Background Report**

It is a compilation of research carried out to inform the recreation and leisure strategy planning process. The report was initially prepared as a Discussion Paper for the purposes of receiving feedback from Councillors and staff on the existing provision and management of recreation and leisure facilities, and interim directions proposed. Some of the Background Report content may now be dated given its initial purpose and timeframe for collation (September – November 2014).

## **Facilities Inventory and Assessment**

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### Sporting Facilities

The review of the provision and distribution of sporting facilities currently available in Moorabool Shire showed that:

- Tennis has the largest number of facilities of all sports within the Shire (54 courts), followed by Netball (18 courts), Cricket (15 ovals), and Football (10 ovals).
- Tennis is well represented, largely due to the extensive provision of courts in some rural villages and districts. Of the 54 courts, only 41 are suitable for competition, with the main constraint of the other 13 courts being non-compliant court run-offs and the poor condition of court surfaces. The 54 courts do not include the 12 grass courts at the Bacchus Marsh Lawn Tennis Club that are not available all year round.
- Similarly for Netball, of the 18 courts, only 11 meet competition standards.
- A majority of all compliant sporting facilities (58%) are located in Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds, and Ballan.
- Football ovals, Cricket ovals, Netball courts and Tennis courts are the most widely distributed of all sporting and recreation facilities.
- There are no dedicated, purpose-built soccer fields available within the Shire.
- There is a good diversity of outdoor sports available within the Shire. As well as the above listed sports, there are facilities for Athletics (1 grass track), Basketball (3 courts), Golf (3 courses), Baseball (1 field), Swimming (2 pools), Skate/BMX (3 facilities), Gymnastics (1 centre), and a variety of equestrian disciplines.

An assessment of the adequacy of the existing number of sporting facilities per sports code was undertaken using facility provision benchmarks based on population, by analysing club membership data, and by assessing the level of usage of facilities against acceptable loads (for sports fields) and court capacities (for indoor sports). The results of the analysis follow.

- Cricket clubs in East Moorabool have reported that a shortage of ovals exists. However, an analysis of ground usage found that a contributing factor to the perceived shortfall is an inefficient use of some ovals by clubs that block book them for a season. Not helping also is a general unwillingness of cricket associations to schedule matches at non-traditional times to better utilise grounds when they would otherwise lie idle. Notwithstanding this, the benchmark data suggests there could be a shortfall of up to five Cricket ovals in East Moorabool by 2041.

- There is a short-term need for additional Football ovals in East Moorabool. The shortage is mainly access to grounds for training to ease the load on the main ovals at Darley Park and Maddingley Park. However, the continued growth of Football participation in East Moorabool triggered by increased population growth is likely to create a shortfall of up to six Football ovals by 2041.
- The current lack of appropriate Soccer fields in East Moorabool will further compound to a shortfall of up to five fields by 2041.
- The benchmark data suggests there is currently an adequate supply of indoor sports courts in East Moorabool. However, the continued growth of Basketball and Netball participation, the lack of opportunity for 'minor' sports to access court time (e.g. Badminton, Volleyball, Futsal, Table Tennis), and the current unavailability of the court in the Darley Civic and Community Hub Stadium, has created a need for a short-term need for additional indoor courts.
- For the combined Ballan and West Moorabool region, the benchmark data suggests there may be a current shortfall of two Soccer fields and one indoor sports court, however, there is good access to these facilities at nearby venues in Ballarat and other towns just west of the Shire.

Projecting to 2041 when the population is expected to increase to more than 20,000 people in the Ballan and West Moorabool region, the benchmarking identifies that there may be a shortfall of up to four Soccer fields, two indoor sports courts and one Bowling green. Whilst the existing provision of sporting facilities is generally adequate to meet current and future needs, some facilities will require upgrades and renewals to make them fit for purpose and to better meet contemporary user expectations.

### Play Spaces

There are currently 59 play spaces throughout Moorabool Shire, which includes the BMX track at Darley and the skate parks located in Bacchus Marsh and Ballan. The play spaces are located on a combination of Council land, Crown land, education land, and private land. The review of the provision and distribution of play spaces showed that:

- There are 12 play spaces that are not available to the public at all times, being those ones located at pre-schools, schools and the Bacchus Marsh McDonalds store.
- Of the 47 publicly accessible play spaces, just over half (26) are classified as Local play spaces, 15 as District play spaces, and 3 as Regional play spaces.
- All of the Regional play spaces are located in Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds, as well as just over half of all publicly accessible play spaces (26).
- Most of the play spaces in rural areas are associated with other community facilities, such as halls, tennis courts, and recreation reserves.

An assessment of the general condition of play spaces, and their value and the play experiences possible, is summarised below.

- There are several examples of well designed District and Regional play spaces.
- From a physical development perspective, the majority of play spaces provide facilities for sliding, climbing and balancing, as well as some open space suitable for ball games. Swings and spinning apparatus are less common.
- There are very few play spaces that offer creative play in the form of sandpits, sound/ tactile opportunities, and access to loose materials and other natural play features.
- Most of the play equipment has been purchased in the last 15 years, so most of the equipment is in good condition.

- Most play spaces provide play opportunities for children of 3–8 years of age. There is restricted provision for children over 8 years of age, except in some District play spaces where there are activities, such as skate parks. There appears to be gaps in play opportunities for young children between 0-2 years of age, however, this gap is filled to some degree by commercial indoor playgrounds and/or playgroups.
- More natural shade is required in play spaces overall, and some need additional seating for children to rest on and for parents/ carers to sit and watch their children playing. Some Local play spaces lack landscape amenity and could be vastly improved with modest effort and expenditure, such as plantings and paths.

The spatial distribution of play spaces across Moorabool Shire is generally good, as most residents within the urban areas of the Shire are within five minutes walk of a play space.

## Needs Assessment

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Several drivers of demand, plus the findings from the review of existing sporting and recreation facilities, were important inputs into the Shire's facility needs assessment.

1. The population of Moorabool Shire is projected to grow to more than 51,000 people by 2041 (or an 81% increase between 2011 and 2041), however, the population growth will not be uniform across the Shire. A significant proportion of the population growth will occur in the east, with Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds projected to experience 76% of all projected growth in the Shire to 2041. The combined Ballan and Central Moorabool region is projected to experience 21% of all growth, and West Moorabool 3%.
2. Research shows that the rate of participation by people in organised physical activity and club-based activities is highest for young people and declines with age. There is significantly more growth expected to occur in the 5–39 years age cohort in Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds, compared to combined Ballan and West Moorabool region. As a result, there should be more focus by Council on the planning for new sporting facilities and the upgrade and expansion of existing facilities in East Moorabool in the next 25 years.
3. There is projected to be an overall increase in the number of older adults in the Shire to 2036 (nearly double the current number of people aged 60 years+). This will create additional demand for sporting facilities historically attractive to older people, such as swimming, tennis and lawn bowls, and may also trigger an increased demand for 'veteran' or 'masters' sporting competitions and activities in sports such as football, cricket and basketball.
4. Given Moorabool Shire's high Australian-born population, it can be reasonably expected that the traditional sports of football, cricket, golf, soccer, swimming, tennis, basketball and netball will continue to be the most popular.
5. In relation to the total participation by adults in sport throughout Australia, football, soccer, cricket and basketball experienced the largest overall increase between 2001 and 2010, whilst tennis and golf experienced a decline.
6. In relation to the total participation by children, gymnastics, swimming, football and soccer experienced the largest overall increase between 2000 and 2009, whilst netball and tennis experienced a decline.
7. Improved promotion, management and delivery of introductory sports programs, such as Goal Kick (soccer), Auskick (football), NetSetGo (netball), Hot Shots (tennis) and In2Cricket, by most State Sporting Associations is having the effect of increasing the number of primary-school aged children participating in sport.
8. Research undertaken by Council in the past 2–3 years shows that a majority of Moorabool sporting clubs experienced significant growth in the past two years, triggered by an increase in junior participation, the establishment of new senior clubs, and an increase in women's and youth girl's participation in active sport.

9. Football, netball and basketball are the most popular sports for juniors, whilst for senior players, football and netball are significantly more popular than other sports.
10. Overall, approximately 73% of all sports participants in Moorabool Shire are based in Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds, important, as only 52% of all sporting facilities (excluding tennis courts) are located in this region.
11. In Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds, the impacts during winter from the shortage of outdoor sportsgrounds include the degradation of the playing surfaces of ovals, clubs having to cap the number of junior teams, and multiple teams having to share ovals for training.
12. The indoor courts at the Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre are operating at close to full capacity (73%), but provide only a relatively small range of indoor sporting options for residents, being basketball, netball, and badminton. Similar to winter sporting codes, the lack of available courts impacts on the frequency and quality of training possible, and there is little opportunity for individuals or groups to hire a court for casual play or training. There is currently no opportunity for other minor indoor sports to grow and develop.
13. The shortage of indoor courts is compounded by the court at the Darley Civic and Community Hub Indoor Stadium not currently being available for use for indoor sports, and the high utilisation of the five indoor courts located at schools for other uses.
14. Gymnastics is continuing to increase in popularity, and an alternate venue for Acrofun Gymnastics is required to facilitate the growth of the sport.

## Key Directions and Recommendations

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A framework that incorporates a set of guiding principles and defines the role of Council will underpin the future planning, provision and management of recreation and leisure facilities in Moorabool Shire.

### Principles

The following key principles will inform the future planning, design and management of recreation and leisure facilities.

- **Increased Participation**
- **Environmentally Sensitive and Sustainable**
- **Diversity**
- **Adaptable**
- **Multiuse and Shared-Use**
- **Partnerships**
- **Accessible and Inclusive**
- **Financially Responsible**

### Council's Role

Council's role in the future provision of recreation and leisure facilities and services will have four key components

1. **Plan**  
*Facilitate the planning, development and management of recreation and leisure facilities and services to cater for identified current and future community needs*
2. **Provide**  
*Provide recreation and leisure facilities and services through direct funding, shared funding, and facilitated funding arrangements*
3. **Support**  
*Support community groups and clubs, reserve committees, management entities, and other stakeholders with the development, management and maintenance of recreation and leisure facilities*
4. **Partner**  
*Work with the community, education, private and government sectors to ensure that recreation and leisure facilities, programs and services meet community needs and optimise investment opportunities*

## Sports and Recreation Facilities

The Strategy recommends a hierarchy of sports facility provision be introduced that recognises that some sports may now and into the future require a range of facilities to support the different levels of use possible for a sport. The hierarchy will help delineate between the different standards of facility provision for each sport. A three tier hierarchy is recommended, as well as a list of facility standards for the sporting infrastructure and pavilions/ clubrooms required for each hierarchy level by sport.

### 1. **Local level**

*Local level sports facilities are generally built and maintained to a basic level. They primarily cater for junior training and competition, and in some instances may be used as overflow facilities for senior teams*

### 2. **District level**

*District level sporting facilities are designed and maintained to cater primarily for club training and competition, and are usually regarded as the “headquarter” facility for clubs and/or associations as they generally provide a pavilion or clubroom with the playing surface(s)*

### 3. **Regional level**

*Support community groups and clubs, reserve committees, management entities, and other stakeholders with the development, management and maintenance of recreation and leisure facilities*

The following key strategic directions for sports and recreation facility provision are recommended following the assessment of current and future needs of the Moorabool Shire community to 2041. In addition to these, a range of projects to upgrade and expand existing facilities has also been recommended, and is outlined in detail in Sections 6 and 8. (Please note that identification of a project below does not commit any club, reserve committee or other organisation to a responsibility for funding all or part of the proposed project, including the Moorabool Shire Council).

1. Develop master plans for all active reserves that do not presently have one.
2. Develop a new District level active sporting precinct within the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve to support football, cricket and soccer.
  - Two ovals to be dual-use football-cricket ovals.
  - One oval to be unfenced and be a multi-purpose open space, capable of also accommodating two soccer fields.
  - One dedicated, fenced and full-size soccer field (potentially with a synthetic surface).
3. Develop a second new District level football-cricket sporting reserve in a future residential estate (two ovals, both dual-use with cricket), and pending approvals this may be located within the Underbank land parcel.
4. Investigate the feasibility of developing a District level oval in partnership with Bacchus Marsh Grammar on a greenfield site between East and South Maddingley Roads (dual-use with cricket).
5. Develop a new District level soccer facility at a greenfield site (in the long-term) comprising up to three fields at a site yet to be determined, but preferably in the Darley area.
6. No new Football ovals are required in West Moorabool to service the projected population growth and increased football participation. However, Council may consider planning for a new oval(s) as part of any new broad acre residential developments in Ballan, or by expanding the current footprint of the Ballan Recreation Reserve into the property west of the reserve. In the short-term, however, the preferred strategy is to activate existing underutilised reserves in neighbouring towns.
 

This direction is also relevant for soccer in West Moorabool, although excellent provision for soccer is available at clubs located in Ballarat and other towns just west of the Shire.
7. Continue to develop the athletics and baseball facilities at Masons Lane Reserve, as the Shire's main athletics and baseball facilities.
8. Develop four new outdoor netball courts within the active sporting precinct planned for the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve, with their possible primary use to

accommodate the growth of junior netball affiliated with the Bacchus Marsh Netball Association (and which is currently provided at the Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre).

Provide up to four new tennis courts as an overlay onto the new netball courts referred to above.

9. Extend the Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre by up to two indoor courts, or alternatively investigate site options for the development a new four court stadium, each with provision for an overlay show court, to mainly service the increasing needs for basketball and indoor netball.
10. Facilitate increased future use of the court at the Darley Civic and Community Hub Indoor Stadium for basketball, netball and other indoor ball sports.
11. In conjunction with the Acrofun Gymnastics group, continue to investigate options for an alternate gymnastics venue in which the Shire's main gymnastics provider can operate and which will support future growth.
12. For the short to medium term (next 20 years), continue to use and develop the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve as the Shire's premier equestrian facility, however, in the long term consider developing the Ballan Racecourse and Recreation Reserve to assume this role if the urbanisation and growth of Bacchus Marsh begins to impact on the viability of equestrian activities.
13. Continue to support The Avenue Bowling Club, the Bacchus Marsh Bowling Club and the Ballan Bowling Club, being the Shire's existing bowling facilities, and when demand increases in West Moorabool, construct one new bowling green at the Bungaree Recreation Reserve.
14. Develop additional single netball courts at Maddingley Park, Ballan Recreation Reserve, Gordon Public Park and Dunnstown Recreation Reserve, when required.
15. Redevelop and extend the Bacchus Marsh Lawn Tennis Club clubroom (or rebuild as new) to improve its functionality, to make it accessible to people with poor mobility, and to better cater for the growing requirements of this Region level tennis complex.
16. Develop a new competition standard BMX racing circuit in the Shire, and continue to develop the Bacchus Marsh and Ballan skate parks as the Shire's main combined skate/BMX facilities.
17. Continue to advocate and work towards the development of a new indoor aquatic centre, as the long term solution to better cater for current and future aquatic needs of the Shire's community.
18. Continue to support and develop the Bacchus Marsh West Golf Course and the Ballan Golf Course, as the Shire's main public golf courses.
19. Incorporate into the future design of new open spaces and the refurbishment and upgrade of existing parks and reserves, good provision for accessible paths, good provision of seats and shade, and consideration for dog exercise opportunities.
20. Consider options for the installation of informal sporting and recreation facilities within Shire parks or urban environments.

An Action Plan to guide the future development of new/ upgraded sporting and recreation facilities has been prepared, and incorporates an estimated cost, timeframe, and assignment of responsibility for each improvement project. The immediate priority should be to consider multipurpose facilities to expedite the opportunity of meeting multiple needs.

### Play Spaces

The following vision and planning principles will underpin the *Moorabool Play Strategy 2015-2021*.

#### **Play Vision - Moorabool: creating playful communities**

**Play Planning Principles**, that Moorabool play spaces will:

- Be inviting and welcoming
- Be well designed and planned

- Encourage a diversity of experiences
- Be inclusive and accessible
- Be connected to communities and transport links
- Promote community interactions
- Respect and protect heritage, natural environment, biodiversity and cultural features
- Be well maintained.

A design matrix (or hierarchy) has been developed to provide an indication of the type of experiences, opportunities and infrastructure that should be available at Moorabool play spaces, depending upon the hierarchy in which all play spaces have been categorised (Local, District and Regional).

To assist Council to identify where to best invest in play spaces, it is recommended that priority be given to Local play spaces and Regional play spaces over District play spaces. Local play spaces are accessible to the whole community due to their location within residential neighbourhoods and they provide a range of play opportunities, which children and their parents/ carers can access independently or via active transport. These spaces provide valuable, inexpensive physical activity and socialisation opportunities in communities.

Regional play spaces, because of their size and catchment, can provide a much greater range of activities and experiences and may attract people from the entire municipality and beyond. High quality regional facilities can instil a sense of pride and unique character in communities and add to the sense of place. However, there is still a place for District play spaces within Moorabool's suite of play opportunities, especially in the larger rural townships and districts.

Moorabool Shire Council has some high quality, much loved play spaces, however, the current system of managing play spaces is primarily based on replacement of play equipment at the end of its lifespan and regular risk assessments and audits. Whilst both of these tasks are important, there is a gap in relation to the development of play value, diversity of play opportunities, inclusion and accessibility. Hence, there is still room for improvement at many play spaces within the Shire. The *Moorabool Play Strategy* has identified opportunities to:

1. Improve play value and the distribution of play spaces throughout Moorabool Shire.
2. Improve play opportunities by focussing on developing a diversity of opportunities and creating informal, spontaneous play opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.
3. Improve inclusion for people of all abilities.
4. Improve supporting infrastructure at play spaces, such as natural shade, seats and paths.
5. Improve landscaping and public art at play spaces.
6. Create better connections to cycling/ walking networks.
7. Identify appropriate resource levels to maintain and renew existing play stock.
8. Provide play opportunities for under-served age groups, such as 0-2 year olds and young people over 8 years of age.
9. Increase natural play opportunities and loose materials in play spaces.
10. Increase the number of play spaces that offer tactile/ sound/ sensory experiences.
11. Increase the number of play spaces that offer challenging activities.
12. Improve marketing practices, including web-based opportunities.
13. Improve coordination of play space development through the establishment of an internal Council working group and identification of Council champions to progress the *Moorabool Play Strategy*.

## **Recreation Services Policy and Planning**

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One of the overall objectives of Council in relation to the provision of recreation and leisure facilities and services, is to improve the health and well being of residents through increased participation in physical activity. To enable Council to effectively plan, develop and provide recreation and leisure opportunities, a range of up to date policies and strategies in this field are required to underpin Council's roles and responsibilities.

A review of the existing organisational framework for Recreation Services, and the associated policies and guidelines to underpin effective management and provision of recreation and leisure in Moorabool Shire, identified the following.

### Reserve Management Framework

There are 23 active recreation reserves located in Moorabool Shire, and currently there are several different ownership and management arrangements in place. Some reserve committees that have the delegated responsibility to manage and maintain a reserve are now experiencing difficulties in satisfactorily fulfilling their obligations under the terms of the delegation.

In relation to management of active recreation reserves, it is recommended:

1. That Council introduce a new Reserve Management Framework to manage all existing and future active recreation reserves and sporting facilities in East Moorabool, including establishing reference or advisory groups at each reserve.
2. That Council consider including the Ballan Recreation Reserve within the new Reserve Management Framework.
3. That Council continue to delegate the management of active recreation reserves and sporting facilities in West Moorabool to volunteer committees of management.
4. That Council establish a new Community Facilities Funding Policy that will firstly review then combine the Community Halls Funding Policy (2005) and the Reserve Funding Policy (2004), and which will review the method of calculating the annual reserve grant for community managed recreation reserves.

### Reserve Development Framework

Council will be required to construct new active sporting reserves in the next 15–20 years to accommodate the increased population, particularly in the East Moorabool region. The Strategy has recommended a set of planning principles and guidelines to inform sports facility planning and development, including active recreation reserves. It is recommended:

5. That Council adopt the standards and design elements incorporated within the proposed Reserve Development Framework outlined in Section 7.3 and Appendix 5.

### Capital Works Contribution Framework

During the next 15-20 years, there will be progressive upgrade of existing sporting facilities across the Shire, as well as the development of new facilities. Council requires a clear delineation and distinction between what might be the Moorabool Shire Council's responsibility to fund, what might be a club's or reserve committee's responsibility to fund. In some instances there may be shared responsibility and these are identified throughout the Framework, or there may be an opportunity to explore private funding sources, such as public-private partnerships.

Any proposed new capital works contribution framework should recognise that there has been (and continues to be) a shared responsibility between Council and the community for the development of sporting facilities in the Shire. One of the intended outcomes for any new capital works contribution

framework should be to create or enhance positive user attitudes, responsibility, and ownership for publicly owned sporting facilities, especially where users have contributed to their development.

It is recommended:

6. That the Principles of the Capital Works Contribution Framework outlined in Section 7.2 be endorsed.
7. That the guidelines for delineating between the responsibilities of Council and reserve committees/ sporting groups for funding the development, improvement and replacement of sporting infrastructure be adopted and used to inform the funding for new/ upgraded sports facilities.

#### Fees and Charges Policy

A new Fees and Charges Policy will be required to support the new Reserve Management Framework for the recreation reserves and sporting facilities located in East Moorabool (and possibly including the Ballan Recreation Reserve). Fees and charges policies for sportsgrounds and pavilions should be underpinned by a clearly defined set of principles. It is recommended:

8. That Council establish a new Fees and Charges Policy for application at East Moorabool recreation reserves, and which can be the basis by which the committees at other recreation reserves set annual user charges.
9. That Council endorse the Principles outlined in Section 7.5 to underpin any new Fees and Charges Policy.
10. That Council introduce a sportsground fee based on recovering a proportion of the operational maintenance costs (recommended between 10% - 20%), and set a levy for a pavilion fee, which is calculated from the insured value of the building (recommended between 0.5% - 0.75%).
11. That Council endorse a range of set fees for casual hire, schools use, and use by for-profit groups.
12. That Council endorse provision of a discount or concession for junior teams and female teams, as a strategy to encourage broad participation.

#### Water Management

Council currently has no secure sustainable water supply for the irrigation of Council owned and Council managed sportsgrounds. Access to irrigation water is an important factor in maintaining playing surfaces to high standards to enable them to be used to their maximum capacities.

In the west of the Shire, all active recreation reserves are primarily irrigated through ground (bore) water, under water rights agreements with Southern Rural Water. In Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds, the ovals at Darley Park, the Darley Civic and Community Hub Oval, Masons Lane Reserve and Maddingley Park all have access to irrigation from a variety of different water sources and under various agreements. Key constraints to the reliability of the water supply in the east is that the quantity and its availability can fluctuate according to changing weather patterns, to rainfall amounts, to the usage rates of other Southern Rural Water customers, and the goodwill of the owners of the privately-owned supply lines through which some of the irrigation water is supplied.

In the future, and to support the significant number of new active sportsgrounds proposed for East Moorabool, Council will need to develop a strategy for the supply of a sustainable water source for playing field irrigation. It is recommended:

13. That Council prepare a Water Management Strategy.

### Other Policies and Strategies

It is also recommended that Council also prepare the following policies to underpin the delivery of sport and recreation in the Moorabool Shire:

- Season Tenancy & Occupancy Policy and Guide.
- Use of School Land and School Facilities Policy.
- Active Participation Strategy.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

Moorabool Shire is located in the Central Highlands region of Victoria, about 80 kilometres west of Melbourne. The Shire comprises of two main towns, Bacchus Marsh (approximately 20,000 people) and Ballan (approximately 3,000 people), and seven townships ranging in size from 200 - 600 people. A further 24 villages ranging in size from 30 – 200 people are distributed throughout the Shire, plus a number of smaller dispersed settlements.

The Shire's population is currently in excess of 31,000 people, however, is projected to increase to more than 51,000 people by 2041.

### 2.1. Why a Recreation and Leisure Strategy is required

In the past few years, Moorabool Shire's population has been growing at a rapid rate, with the largest proportion of new residents residing in the eastern section of the Shire in the localities of Bacchus Marsh, Darley and Maddingley. This growth pattern is expected to continue with one impact being an increased demand for new and expanded recreation facilities and open space in East Moorabool. The estimated population of Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds was 18,000 in 2014, and is forecast to increase to 25,000 by 2021 and more than 35,000 by 2041.

In contrast is the relatively slower population growth in the established areas of the Shire in the west. The need by these communities is predominantly for the renewal or replacement of existing sporting and recreation facilities, which are reaching the end of their functional life, rather than the development of new facilities. Any planning for upgraded facilities will also need to consider the condition and functionality of existing infrastructure, and their future use. This challenge for Council to balance the competing needs of different communities within the Shire is one faced by other councils situated on the urban fringe of Melbourne. The Moorabool Shire Recreation and Leisure Strategy (2015-2021) will provide the guiding framework for the future provision, development and management of sporting and recreation opportunities across the Shire.

Council is preparing the *Moorabool 2041* planning framework, which will set the vision for the type of community Moorabool Shire will be in 2041. *Moorabool 2041* will guide the development of the Shire to allow for population growth whilst at the same time embracing strategies and actions that will enhance community connectedness, character and the sense of place so valued by Moorabool Shire residents. The Recreation and Leisure Strategy has been informed by *Moorabool 2041* and will inform the implementation of *Moorabool 2041* in coming years.

Also underpinning Moorabool Shire Council's planning and delivery of leisure facilities and services is a range of policies, procedures and guidelines, such as fees and charges, reserve funding and management arrangements, capital contributions, etc. Council has also completed a number of planning projects to inform the future provision of facilities, including reserve master plans, the *Sports Facility Needs Analysis for Bacchus Marsh and Ballan* report (2012) and the *Hike and Bike Strategy* (2014), the *Leisure Services and Facilities Review* (2014), and is currently preparing a *Community Infrastructure Plan*.

In some instances, existing policies, procedures and guidelines may now not truly reflect or be relevant to the changing environment for recreation and sport in the Shire, and previous reserve master planning may have been reactionary to local issues or constraints rather than reflecting broader Shire-wide considerations.

The recreation and leisure strategy planning process has provided Council and the many sporting, recreation and community stakeholders with an opportunity to identify, investigate and establish a strategic framework to guide the future planning, provision and development of active and passive recreation facilities throughout the Shire. It will also assist Council and stakeholders to prioritise infrastructure development for the next 10 years and beyond, and respond to gaps identified in the overall provision of sporting and recreation opportunities.

## 2.2. What is the purpose of the Strategy?

The Moorabool Shire Recreation and Leisure Strategy (2015-2021) outlines the foundation and key priorities for Council and stakeholders to provide a range of recreation and leisure participation opportunities over the next ten years.

The Strategy provides an evidence-based model to respond to the needs and aspirations of the Moorabool community, and establishes a framework and principles to inform Council decision-making, facilitate partnerships, and prioritise the allocation of Council resources towards the greatest need.

## 2.3. What is the scope of the Strategy?

The scope of the Strategy includes all recreation and leisure facilities, services, activities, open space and play spaces provided at Council owned or non-Council owned but managed recreation, sporting and leisure facilities. Active (sport) and passive recreation pursuits are also included within the study scope, as are both structured and unstructured recreational activities.

## 2.4. Key issues considered during the Strategy

There are a range of issues, constraints and opportunities that exist or are emerging within Moorabool Shire, relating to sport, recreation and open space. Some of these that the Strategy considered include:

- The changing recreation and leisure needs and aspirations of residents, particularly given the impact of both an ageing population and the increase in junior sport participation.
- The increasing participation levels in selected sports and activities, including emerging and new recreation activities, and the impact of this upon the existing suite of facilities.
- Open space provision, including the limited supply of land for accessible open space, and the increased use of public land for commercial activities by community groups and private sector.
- The need for sporting reserves to also provide for unstructured and informal recreation activities.
- The increasing cost to provide, maintain and manage sporting and recreational infrastructure.
- The increasing demand and expectation for higher quality facilities by sporting clubs and other user groups.
- The need to increase the clarity of the roles and responsibilities of Council, Reserve Committees of Management, tenant groups, residents and other reserve users for the management of reserves and other facilities.
- Balancing competing recreational needs for access to open space.
- Determining the broader community benefits of commercial arrangements for the management of Council owned sporting and recreation facilities.
- Determining appropriate tenancy arrangements and financial models for the use of Council owned and managed recreational facilities and land.
- The historical use of Council owned and managed recreational facilities and land, and whether community outcomes are still beneficial when balanced against other competing recreational needs.
- The lack of a strategic basis or framework for the planning and management of Council's passive open space, including play spaces.
- The importance of cross-Council strategy and operational co-operation and support.
- The opportunities for joint-use and development of sporting and recreation facilities with education and private providers, and public private partnerships.

### 3. RECREATION AND LEISURE STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

A framework that incorporates a set of guiding principles and defines the role of Council will underpin the future planning, provision and management of recreation and leisure facilities in Moorabool Shire.

#### 3.1. Principles

The following key principles will inform the future planning, design and management of recreation and leisure facilities.

<b>INCREASED PARTICIPATION</b>	<i>Capacity and capability of recreation and leisure facilities to increase the physical activity participation levels of residents and their health and wellbeing will influence Council's decisions to support new and upgraded facility projects.</i>
<b>DIVERSITY</b>	<i>Council will facilitate the provision of a range of recreation and leisure facilities and services across the Moorabool Shire to firstly, ensure that the community has access to a variety of different recreation and leisure opportunities, and secondly, to cater for different levels of abilities and needs.</i>
<b>MULTIUSE AND SHARED-USE</b>	<i>Council will advocate strongly for and optimise the provision of recreation and leisure facilities that are multiuse and can support shared use, where appropriate and practical. The development of single-use facilities will generally not be supported.</i>
<b>ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE</b>	<i>Recreation and leisure facilities will be accessible to and encourage people of all ages, genders, abilities and cultural backgrounds.</i>
<b>ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AND SUSTAINABLE</b>	<i>Recreation and leisure facilities will be sited, designed and managed to enhance ecological values and biodiversity outcomes, and embrace ecologically sustainable development (ESD) Principles where appropriate and practical.</i>
<b>ADAPTABLE</b>	<i>Recreation and leisure facilities will be designed and managed to meet specific user requirements whilst also being flexible to meet changing community needs and aspirations.</i>
<b>PARTNERSHIPS</b>	<i>Council will adopt a collaborative and partnership approach with the community, schools, all levels of government, government agencies, peak sporting organisations and the private sector for the planning, provision and management of recreation and leisure facilities.</i>
<b>FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE</b>	<i>Financial viability and cost effectiveness of recreation and leisure facilities will be considered in all aspects of their planning, development and management.</i>

### 3.2. Council's role in recreation and leisure provision

Moorabool Shire Council's role in the future provision of recreation and leisure facilities and services will have four key components.

<b>PLAN</b>	<i>Facilitate the planning, development and management of recreation and leisure facilities and services to cater for identified current and future community needs.</i>
<b>PROVIDE</b>	<i>Provide recreation and leisure facilities and services through direct funding, shared funding, and facilitated funding arrangements.</i>
<b>SUPPORT</b>	<i>Support community groups and clubs, reserve committees, management entities, and other stakeholders with the development, management and maintenance of recreation and leisure facilities.</i>
<b>PARTNER</b>	<i>Work with the community, education, private and government sectors to ensure that recreation and leisure facilities, programs and services meet community needs and optimise investment opportunities.</i>

### 3.3. Sports Facility Hierarchy

Historically, Moorabool Shire has not prescribed any formal distinction between different facilities built for the same sport, in terms of the quality and level of provision of the playing surfaces and supporting infrastructure, such as pavilions, car parking, floodlighting, spectator areas, etc. As the population of a local government area increases, so does the number of people playing sport. As the total number of participants in selected sports increases, invariably different grades of competition begin to emerge as the pathways for that sport begin to become separated into different standards of competition. With different standards of competition, the facility requirements and the facility standards typically change as well.

Take cricket as an example, first and second grade teams aspire to play on turf wickets, whilst synthetic hard wickets will be sufficient for lower grade senior matches and junior matches. Or tennis, where stand-alone, unlit tennis courts are suitable for recreational and social tennis, whereas multiple court facilities and floodlighting are required to support competition-based tennis.

The Recreation and Leisure Strategy is recommending that a framework for sports facility provision is introduced that recognises that some sports may now (or into the future) require a range of facilities to support these different uses. The framework (or *sports facility hierarchy*) will help delineate between the different standards of facility provision for each of the nominated sports. A three tier hierarchy for sports facilities is recommended to guide the future provision and development sporting facilities, and is consistent in terminology and broad scope with the three tiered hierarchy being proposed for play spaces.

It is important to note that the sports facility hierarchy does not generally relate to a whole recreation reserve, rather the individual sporting facilities within it. That is, a reserve could have a Regional level facility and a District and Local level facility within its boundaries. To this end, the sports facility hierarchy is not intending to replace the current 'reserve category' classification system for recreation reserves, which informs the annual reserve maintenance grants process.

### 3.3.1. Description of Levels Within the Sports Facility Hierarchy

#### Local level

Local level sports facilities primarily cater for junior training and competition, and in some instances may be used as overflow facilities for senior teams. Local level sports facilities are generally built and maintained to a basic level, and could be school facilities being used as joint-use facilities with the community.

Examples of existing sports facilities in Moorabool Shire that would be considered Local level, include the oval at Greendale Reserve, the skate park at Ballan Recreation Reserve, and the tennis courts at Beremboke Recreation Reserve.

#### District level

District level sporting facilities are designed and maintained to cater primarily for club training and competition, and are usually regarded as the “headquarter” facility for clubs and/or associations. They usually comprise of playing surfaces and a pavilion or clubroom, and can include a range of supporting infrastructure, such as floodlighting, practice facilities and formal car parking.

District level sporting facilities are typically multipurpose in nature and are generally designed and managed to cater for at least two sports, where appropriate and practical. A majority of the sporting facilities in Moorabool Shire are considered to be District level facilities, and examples include the ovals at Maddingley Park and Dunnstown Recreation Reserves, the Bacchus Marsh Bowling Club, the Masons Lane Reserve Baseball Field, the Ballan Tennis Courts, and the Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre.

#### Regional level

Regional level sporting facilities are designed and maintained to service the whole Shire, and beyond. They are typically specialist sporting facilities catering for one and sometimes two sports and are provided to a sufficient standard to enable them to host regional and State events.

Regional level sporting facilities may support a centralised sporting competition that draws teams or competition from throughout the Shire, and sometimes beyond. Moorabool Shire presently has only a handful of examples of Regional level facilities, including the Bacchus Marsh Lawn Tennis Club and the cross country course at the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve.

Appendix 1 identifies desirable standards for the provision of sporting facilities for each hierarchical level for those sports where industry standards have been established, and is followed by suggested standards for the provision of pavilions / clubrooms.

(Basketball, equestrian and swimming pool facilities are not included in the standards provision due to the wide variation in the size, form and quality of the specific facility components and spaces that can make up the composite of elements within an overall facility).

### 3.3.2. Proposed Provision of Sports Facilities by Hierarchy

There will generally be either one or two levels within the hierarchy for each sport. The main determinant influencing the number of levels is the quality and scale of facilities required to support the current and projected participant base in the activity, that is, for those sports with a large participant base, there will typically be two or maybe three levels within the hierarchy of provision to accommodate the different standards / grades of participation.

Table 1 illustrates how the provision of sports facilities in Moorabool Shire for the nominated sports may be provided in the future in accordance with the sports facility hierarchy.

(Refer Section 6 for the detailed recommendations for each sport)

Table 1 – Proposed Future Provision of Sporting Facilities in Moorabool Shire by Hierarchical Classification

Sport	Local	District	Regional
Aquatics	✓	✓	✓
Athletics	✓	✓	✓
Australian Rules Football	✓	✓	✓
Baseball	✓	✓	✓
Basketball	✓	✓	✓
Cricket	✓	✓	✓
Equestrian	✓	✓	✓
Golf	✓	✓	✓
Gymnastics	✓	✓	✓
Lawn Bowls	✓	✓	✓
Netball	✓	✓	✓
Soccer	✓	✓	✓
Tennis	✓	✓	✓

### 3.3.3. Basic Principles for the Provision of New Sports Fields

Community based sports reserves are typically utilised by a range of sporting clubs for active training and club competition. Such reserves generally include playing fields used for a wide range of team and individual competitions and often have supporting infrastructure and associated facilities, such as change rooms and spectator amenities.

For the development of new reserves the site should, where possible, accommodate the future growth and development of sports and the potential emergence of new and different sports. Provision of a single reserve (one oval) and facilities is not generally recommended. However in some cases, particularly in rural townships or to supplement an existing District level reserve, single reserves are generally all that are required.

The following Principles are provided to guide the future decision-making by Council for the provision of a new oval(s):

- The land for new reserves should be of an appropriate size, with sufficient space for a playing field(s) of senior dimensions and other open space for informal recreational use and which can also provide appropriate buffers between the defined oval boundary and adjoining

properties (8-10 hectares for a two oval or four soccer field reserve, and 4 hectares for a single oval or two soccer field reserve).

- The land should be unencumbered land.
- The land should be appropriate for its intended use in terms of quality and orientation.
- The land should be flat land (which can be cost effectively graded).
- The land should be located with access to, or making provision for a recycled or other sustainable water supply.
- The land should be linked to existing or possible future pedestrian and cycle paths.
- The land, where possible, should be located adjacent to other complementary facilities or spaces.

## 4. STRATEGIC PLANNING CONTEXT

The recreation and leisure planning study was carried out with consideration of the following policy and planning inputs.

1. Council strategies and planning reports.
2. Demographic profile of Moorabool Shire and population projections.
3. Relevant National and State sports participation trends.

### 4.1. Organisational Context

The Recreation and Leisure Strategy supports the directions of *Moorabool 2041* and the Moorabool Council Plan, as well as providing direction and context for recreation related planning reports and studies. The following image illustrates where this Strategy fits with other Council plans and policies.



## 4.2. Council Policy and Planning

The following Council strategies and policies currently guide and inform its provision of recreation and leisure facilities and services. A review of the documents was completed to identify key Council directions and strategies, and to inform the recreation and leisure strategy planning process.

- Council Plan 2013-2017.
- Small Towns Services Study: Bungaree, Dunnstown and Wallace (2014).
- Moorabool West Small Towns Residential Assessment (2014).
- Hike and Bike Strategy (2014).
- Moorabool Leisure Facilities and Services Review (2014).
- Health and Well Being Plan (2013).
- Youth Strategy (2013).
- Ballan Structure Plan (2013).
- Urban and Rural Growth Policies (2012).
- Appointment and Delegations Policy (2012).
- Gordon Structure Plan (2011).
- Recreation and Open Space Strategy (2007).
- Community Halls Funding Policy (2005).
- Reserve Funding Policy (2004).
- Reserve Master Plans (various reserves).
- Community Infrastructure Plan (currently under development).

## 4.3. Demographic Profile of Moorabool Shire

The demographic characteristics of Moorabool Shire relevant to sport, recreation and leisure planning are outlined below.

- The estimated population of the Moorabool Shire in 2011 was 28,125 people<sup>1</sup>. This is an increase of 10.4% since 2006, being a marginally lower rate of population growth than for Metropolitan Melbourne (10.9%) over the same period, but significantly higher than Regional Victoria (5.5%).
- The age profile of the Moorabool Shire is varied when compared to Metropolitan Melbourne. It has a 'younger' profile for the 0-17 year age cohort, a higher proportion of people in the mid-age cohort, and a 'younger' profile for people aged over 70 years.
- Further, Moorabool Shire has a relatively low level of cultural diversity, with 83.1% of residents being Australian-born compared to 63.3% compared to for Metropolitan Melbourne.
- Average weekly household income levels are lower in Moorabool Shire than Metropolitan Melbourne. For socio-economic disadvantage, Moorabool Shire has a SEIFA Index score of 1008.5, which ranks it 52<sup>nd</sup> in the level of disadvantage of all Victorian municipalities - placing it amongst the least disadvantaged 35% of all municipalities in the state. However, there are pockets of disadvantage in Moorabool Shire, including Bacchus Marsh, Maddingley and Ballan.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Profile id.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Moorabool Shire Council Retail Strategy, MacroPlanDimasi, 2014.  
Volume 1 Facilities Strategy Plan (September 2015).doc

- There is a slightly higher proportion of Moorabool Shire residents who live in households with children (46.0%) compared to Metropolitan Melbourne with 44.0%.

#### 4.4. Population Projections and Age Cohorts

A key to predicting the future sporting and recreational needs of a local government area is to understand the projected growth of the population, particularly the growth within different areas of a municipality and within specific age cohorts.

The population of Moorabool Shire is projected to grow to 51,730 people by 2041 (or an 81% increase between 2011 and 2041)<sup>2</sup>, however, the projected population growth will not be uniform across the Shire. A significant proportion of the population growth will occur in the east, with Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds projected to experience 76% of all projected growth in the Shire to 2041. The combined Ballan and Central Moorabool region is projected to experience 21% of all growth, and West Moorabool 3%.

Of note are the findings of the *Small Towns Services Study: Bungaree, Dunnstown and Wallace* (2014). The study concluded that if the three towns were to be connected to reticulated utility services in the future (water, gas and sewerage), an additional 5,000 people could reside in Bungaree and Wallace (West Moorabool) by 2041. The potential additional population of 5,000 people has been taken into account when assessing the adequacy of the current supply of sporting facilities in Ballan and West Moorabool.

Another important characteristic of the projected population growth between the eastern and the western areas of the Shire, is the projected growth by age cohorts. Table 2 shows that there is significantly more growth expected to occur in the age cohorts of 0-11 years and 5–39 years in Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds compared to Ballan and the Rural Balance, even allowing for any additional growth in West Moorabool that may occur as a result of the connection of additional services.<sup>3</sup>

[The age cohorts of 0-11 years and 60+ years are important, as trends of growth or decline in these cohorts are important as indicators to assess how the profile of a population might change during the forecast period, i.e. is it ageing, or is it to remain young? The age cohort of 5-39 years is important as most people who are actively involved in organised sporting activities will fall within this age cohort, so the trend of growth or decline in this age cohort can be used to predict with some confidence if the overall demand for sporting facilities is likely to increase, be stable or decrease during the forecast period.]

Table 2 – Comparison of Projected Population Growth by Age Cohort between Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds, Ballan and the Rural Balance

Location	0-11 Years		5-39 Years		60+ Years	
	2014 Population	Projected 2041	2014 Population	Projected 2041	2014 Population	Projected 2041
Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds	2,942	4,885	8,156	13,447	3,276	7,243
Ballan	461	850	1,228	2,369	708	1,680
Rural Balance	1,559	2,446	4,200	6,378	2,266	4,574

<sup>2</sup> Source: Moorabool Shire Council Retail Strategy, MacroPlanDimasi, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Forecast id. (Please note that the 2041 population projections outlined in the Retail Strategy do not provide age breakdowns, so the Forecast id projections have been used in Table 2).

## 4.5. Implications for Sports and Recreation Planning

The net projected population increase in Moorabool Shire to 2041 will result in a corresponding increase in demand for access to sporting and recreation facilities. Research shows that the rate of participation by people in 'organised physical activity'<sup>4</sup> and 'club-based activities'<sup>5</sup> is highest for young people and declines with age. Given that the rate of population growth in the Central and West Moorabool regions will be relatively low for the next 25 years, including the active age cohort of 5-39 years, it can be asserted with some confidence that if the provision of sporting facilities in Ballan and the other larger townships is adequate now, then it should remain adequate for the forecast period.

The higher growth in the younger age cohort in Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds will have significant implications for the future planning for sporting facilities, given the higher rate of participation in club-based sport by people in younger age cohorts. **This area of the Shire should have extra focus for the planning for new sporting facilities or the upgrade and expansion of existing sporting facilities in the next 25 years**, particularly Maddingley and Bacchus Marsh, which are projected to gain an additional 3,115 people and 2,423 people aged 5-39 years, respectively (Darley only an additional 490 people aged 5-39 years).

Similarly, research shows that Australian-born people have a higher rate of participation in physical activity compared to people born overseas. Moorabool Shire has a relatively high proportion of Australian-born residents so the overall level of participation in sport will be higher. A community's cultural diversity can also influence the preferred type of sports played, so again, given Moorabool Shire's high Australian-born population, **it can be reasonably expected that the traditional sports of Australian football, cricket, golf, soccer, swimming, tennis, basketball and netball will continue to be popular.**

Notwithstanding the likely need for new and upgraded sporting facilities to service expanding 'young' communities in East Moorabool, there is projected to be an overall increase in the number of older adults (nearly double the current number of people aged 60+ years). The implications of this are that **the demand for sporting facilities historically attractive to older people, such as swimming, tennis, golf and lawn bowls, may increase**, and may also trigger an increased demand for 'veteran' or 'masters' sporting competitions and activities in sports such as Australian football, cricket and basketball.

**The increased number of older adults can also trigger new demand for parks, walking paths and open space with shade and seating.** Good access to play spaces for residents will continue to be important, not only for young families but for areas in the Shire where older adults have a dominant profile, due to the increasing trend for grandparents to be a preferred carer during the day for families where both parents are working, or in the case of single parent families, the sole parent is working.

Affordability to participate in sport and recreation activities and services is similar throughout all areas of the Shire, and is considered average when based on weekly household income levels. This is an important consideration when setting user fees and charges, and for Moorabool Shire **there appears to be capacity to set fees based on a 'user pays' principle, albeit acknowledging that there are pockets of low socio-economic disadvantage in the main townships.**

<sup>4</sup> 'Organised physical activity' is activity for exercise, recreation or sport that was organised in full or in part by a fitness, leisure or indoor sports centre that requires payment for participation; a sport or recreation club or association that requires payment of membership, fees or registration; a workplace; a school; or any other type of organisation (ERASS 2010).

<sup>5</sup> 'Club-based physical activity' is any activity for exercise, recreation or sport that was organised in full or in part by a sport or recreation club or association that required payment of membership, fees or registration (ERASS 2010).

## 4.6. National and State Sports Participation Trends

For the purpose of informing this study, a review of relevant National and State sports participation trends was carried out.

### 4.6.1. General Participation Trends in Physical Activity

Factors regarded as the catalysts for change in physical activity participation include:

- Changes in the size and profile of a population.
- Increased awareness of people of the strong link between the involvement in physical activity and good health.
- Demand from people for access to a greater diversity of physical activities.
- Increased expectations of people and groups for a higher standard of facility provision, and for better quality programming and management of facilities.
- Greater reliance on locally accessible and low-cost opportunities for participation in physical activity by those people without the resources to travel or pay for more expensive pursuits.
- Increased participation in unstructured and casual sporting and recreation activities (but not seemingly at the expense of participation in sport).
- Improved promotion, management and delivery of introductory sports programs, such as Soccer's Goal Kick, Auskick, Netball's NetSetGo, Tennis's Hot Shots and In2Cricket, by most State Sporting Associations is having the effect of increasing the number of primary-school aged children participating in sport.
- Emergence of synthetic playing surfaces and improved turf maintenance practices.
- Expectations of equity and access to facilities.

### 4.6.2. Sports Participation Trends – Adults and Children

The key data sources for the following information are:

1. Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS), Australian Sports Commission (2010).
2. Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, ABS (2009).

Key trends in Club-Based Physical Activity sports participation by adults (people aged 15 years and over) are:

- In 2010, the national participation rate in 'club-based physical activity' was 25.7%, increasing from 20.5% in 2001. For Victoria, the participation rate was similar to the National rate at 25.5%.
- Regardless of gender, regular participation in club-based physical activity nationally was most common amongst those people aged 15-24 years (17.7%).
- The top ten 'club-based physical activities' in 2010, in terms of the total participation, were golf, soccer, tennis, Australian Rules football, netball, cricket, lawn bowls, basketball, touch football and martial arts.
- Australian Rules football (up 71%), soccer (56%), cricket (49%), basketball (21%), netball (13%), lawn bowls (13%) and touch football (4%) all experienced increases in the total number of participants between 2001 and 2010, whilst martial arts (-44%), tennis (-13%) and golf (-1%) all experienced a decline in total participation, despite an overall increase in the population.

Key trends in children's participation in organised sport (5 – 14 years) are:

- Of children aged 5-14 years, 63.0% participated in sport outside of school hours, which was organised by a school, club or association (up from 59.4% in 2000).
- Across all age groups, boys had a higher participation rate (69.6%) in organised sport than girls (56.3%). Both rates of participation in 2009 were up from 2000 levels (boys at 66.1% and girls at 52.3%).
- The most popular organised sport for all children in 2009 was swimming, with a participation rate of 19.0%, followed by soccer (13.0%) and Australian Rules football (9.0%).
- The 2009 rate of participation in organised sports was up from 2000 levels for gymnastics (up 84%), martial arts (48%), swimming (32%), Australian Rules football (35%), soccer (19%), rugby league (2%), cricket (1%), and basketball (0.1%) but was down for netball (-5%) and tennis (-4%).
- Swimming and netball are still the most popular sports participated in by girls, but soccer and gymnastics participation grew significantly during the period 2001 to 2009.
- Aside from swimming, soccer and Australian Rules football are the most popular sports for boys.
- Hockey, athletics and tennis continued to lose favour with children during the period 2000 to 2009.

Table 3 provides a summary of the general trend of participation in 'organised' sport by adults and children in selected sports relevant for this study.

Table 3 – Trend of Participation in Key Sports For Adults and Children (National & Victoria)

Sport	Adult Victoria (from 2007)	Children National (from 2000)
Athletics	↓	↓
Australian Rules Football	↑	↑
Basketball	↑	↔
Cricket	↑	↔
Equestrian	↔	↔
Golf	↓	↓
Lawn Bowls	↔	No data available
Netball	↑	↓
Soccer	↑	↑
Swimming	↓	↑
Tennis	↓	↓

↑ = increase

↓ = decrease

↔ = stable

## 5. RECREATION AND LEISURE FACILITY PROVISION

A review of the recreation and leisure facilities currently available throughout Moorabool Shire was completed by undertaking site inspections.

See Appendix 2 for the full inventory and audit of sporting and recreation facilities, and refer to the Play Spaces Inventory in *Volume 2: Moorabool Play Strategy (2015-2021)* for the inventory of playgrounds.

### 5.1. Provision of sporting facilities

Table 4 shows a summary of the quantity and distribution of facilities by township and planning region.

Table 4 - Sporting Facilities by Township and Planning Regions

Township / Planning Region	AFL Ovals	Athletics	Baseball	BMX / Skate	Indoor Court	Cricket	Equestrian	Golf	Lawn Bowls	Netball	Soccer	Swimming	Tennis
Bacchus Marsh	-	1	1	1	-	2	-	-	4	-	2	1	-
Darley	2	-	-	1	1	2	-	1	-	2	5	-	3
Maddingley	1	-	-	-	2	3	1	1	-	1	-	-	9
Myrniong	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Balliang	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
<b>Bacchus Marsh Region</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>
Ballan	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	6
Blackwood	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Greendale	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Gordon	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
Spargo Creek	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mount Egerton	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Beremboke	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
<b>Ballan Region</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>
Wallace	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Bungaree	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	2
Bullarook	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dunnstown	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Millbrook	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Navigators	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Yendon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Clarendon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Elaine	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
<b>West Moorabool Region</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>41</b>

Note: Ovals have been counted as cricket ovals where a pitch is installed. Conversely, where the size of an oval is too small to accommodate senior football, it has not been included as an AFL oval. Of the cricket ovals, 14 have synthetic wickets and 1 has a turf wicket.

Tennis courts shown in red have non-compliant run-offs and are not suitable for competition.

Netball courts shown in red have non-compliant run-offs and are not suitable for competition.

Of the 5 bowling greens, 4 have a synthetic playing surface.

Table 4 and Appendices 3a & 3b show that from a Shire-wide perspective:

- A majority of all sporting facilities are located within the townships of Bacchus Marsh (includes Darley and Maddingley) and Ballan.
- AFL ovals, cricket ovals, netball courts and tennis courts are the most widely distributed of all the nominated sports.
- Tennis has the largest number of courts (54) of all facilities, largely due to the extensive provision of courts throughout the smaller rural communities and districts.
- Soccer does not have a dedicated purpose-built soccer field within the Shire.
- There is a locational relationship between the provision of netball courts and AFL ovals, due to the dual-code organisational structures of the local football leagues.

### 5.1.1. Adequacy of sporting facilities

A high-level assessment of the adequacy of the number and distribution of existing sporting facilities to meet the current and future sporting needs of Shire residents was undertaken using facility provision ratios. The assessment was undertaken for the Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds region<sup>6</sup>, being the area of the Shire that accommodates the most people now and will likely in the future, and the combined regions of Ballan (Central Moorabool) and West Moorabool<sup>7</sup>.

Please note that industry-recognised provision ratios only exist for the sports referred to below, and for a full review of the benchmarking assessment, refer *Volume 3: Background Report*.

#### Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds

For the 2014 population of Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds region there were:

- enough cricket ovals and indoor sports courts,
- not enough Australian football ovals, netball courts and soccer fields, and
- a possible oversupply of tennis courts and bowling greens.

The longitudinal analysis from 2011 to 2041 shows that in 2041 there may be a shortage in Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds region of:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ▪ Australian football ovals (up to 6 ovals) | ▪ Outdoor netball courts (up to 7 courts) |
| ▪ Cricket ovals (up to 5 ovals)             | ▪ Tennis courts (up to 4 courts)          |
| ▪ Soccer fields (up to 5 fields)            | ▪ Indoor courts (up to 2 courts)          |

#### Ballan and West Moorabool

For the 2014 population of the combined Ballan and West Moorabool region there were:

- enough bowling greens,
- not enough indoor sports courts and soccer fields, and
- a possible oversupply of tennis courts, netball courts, Australian football ovals and cricket ovals.

The longitudinal analysis from 2011 to 2041 shows that in 2041<sup>8</sup> there may be a shortage in the Ballan and West Moorabool region of:

- |                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ▪ Soccer fields (up to 4 fields) | ▪ Indoor courts (up to 2 courts) |
| ▪ Bowling greens (up to 1 green) |                                  |

<sup>6</sup> Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds = the urban area of Bacchus Marsh, including the suburbs of Darley and Maddingley, as well as the towns of Myrmiong, Hopetoun Park, Balliang and Balliang East.

<sup>7</sup> Ballan (Central Moorabool) and West Moorabool = Ballan, Gordon, Mount Egerton, Morrisons, Beremboke, Greendale, Blackwood and Spargo Creek, and Wallace, Bungaree, Dunnstown, Yendon, Lal Lal, Clarendon and Elaine – and for both regions includes the districts and smaller communities adjacent to these townships.

<sup>8</sup> Estimated population for the combined region includes an additional 5,000 people that could potentially reside in Bungaree and Wallace by 2041, if the two towns were to be connected to reticulated utility services in the future (water, gas and sewage).

### 5.1.2. Usage of sporting facilities

Whilst the benchmarking process is one tool to assess the adequacy of the number of sporting facilities available, another is to analyse the participation numbers of sporting clubs and their usage profile of facilities. Research undertaken by Council in the past 2 – 3 years shows that a majority of sporting clubs have experienced significant growth in the last two years, triggered by:

- an increase in junior participation,
- the establishment of new senior clubs, and
- an increase in women's and youth girl's participation in active sport.

Table 5 shows the total number of participants in organised sporting activities in Moorabool Shire in 2013 for those activities for which participant numbers were available. The table also shows the total number of participants from Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds for comparative purposes. The key information from the table is:

- There is just less than twice as many juniors (5–18 years) participating in organised sport compared to senior players.
- However, for junior soccer participation, there are more than three times as many juniors to seniors participating, which may indicate that soccer could experience greater demand for senior teams in the future. Conversely for cricket, there are fewer junior players than seniors (excludes In2Cricket participants), so there may be a softening of demand for senior cricket in the future.
- Football, netball and basketball are the most popular sports for juniors, whilst for senior players, football and netball are significantly more popular than the other sports.
- Overall, approximately 73% of all sports participants in Moorabool Shire are based in Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds. (Important, as only 52% of all sporting facilities are located in Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds, excluding tennis courts).
- Participation in organised athletics, badminton, baseball, basketball, and gymnastics is only available in the Shire in Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds.

Table 5 – Total Participant Numbers in Organised Sport in Moorabool and in Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds (2013)

Sport	Introductory Program Participants	Estimate Junior Players	Estimate Senior Players	Total Players	Total Players Bacchus Marsh
Australian Football	300	780	420	1,500	820
Athletics	0	275	0	275	275
Badminton	0	0	10	10	10
Baseball	40	30	40	110	110
Basketball	20	360	160	540	540
Cricket	40	235	250	525	365
Gymnastics	0	120	0	120	120
Netball (indoor & outdoor)	70	390	350	810	460
Soccer	20	240	85	345	345
Pony Club	0	115	0	115	75
Tennis	40	170	260	470	350
<b>Total</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>2,715</b>	<b>1,575</b>	<b>4,820</b>	<b>3,470</b>

Another important consideration in assessing the adequacy of the number of sporting facilities is to understand their profile of use, particularly important for turf-based facilities where overuse can lead to a degraded playing surface. Table 6 shows the total hours per week that turf-based facilities are being used, and confirms that some sportsgrounds are at (or exceed) the industry-accepted capacity for sportsgrounds at 20 - 25 hours of use per week. The impact on the usage profile of selected reserves is evident where tenant clubs have multiple junior teams.

Table 6 – Estimated Hours of Use Per Week of Moorabool Sportsgrounds– Winter (2013)

Reserve Location	Club	Hours per Week
Maddingley Park	Bacchus Marsh Football Club	28
Darley Park	Darley Football Club	30
Darley Civic and Community Hub	Bacchus Marsh Soccer Club (15) Darley Football Club (11)	26
Masons Lane	Bacchus Marsh Soccer Club	28
	Bacchus Marsh Obedience Dog Club	5
	Bacchus Marsh Baseball Club	20
Ballan	Ballan Football Club	18
Gordon	Gordon Football Club	15
Wallace	Wallace Football Club	15
Bungaree	Bungaree Football Club	15
Dunnstown	Dunnstown Football Club	15

There are three key negative outcomes for football and soccer clubs located in Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds, which are directly related to the shortage of grounds:

1. Grounds degrade during winter due to overuse.
2. Clubs are required to cap the number of junior players and teams.
3. Coaches of some junior teams are only able to use half grounds (or less) for training, which is not ideal when set plays and match simulation drills are being conducted.

The mixed management approach of active recreation reserves that currently exists throughout the Shire, particularly in East Moorabool, also creates issues for some sports, as the informal approach to allocating grounds leads to some being overused, whilst others are underutilised.

The indoor courts at the Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre are operating at close to full capacity (73%), but provide only a relatively small range of indoor sporting options for residents, being basketball, netball, and badminton. Further, the lack of available courts is impacting participants, i.e. training is restricted to half-courts (or no access for training at all), and there is little opportunity for individuals or groups to hire a court for casual play or training. This situation is compounded by the fact that the court at the Darley Civic and Community Hub Indoor Stadium is not currently available for indoor ball sports (it is used for gymnastics), and the non-availability of the five school indoor courts, due to their high utilisation for school activities or by other hirers.

Acrofun Gymnastics provides gymnastics programs and services to the community from the Darley Civic and Community Hub Indoor Stadium (formerly provided by Belgravia Leisure as part of its overall contract to provide leisure services). Council is now working with Acrofun Gymnastics to determine an arrangement that will enable their continued use of the Stadium whilst also freeing-up some court time for other indoor sporting activities. In the long-term, an alternate venue for gymnastics is required that will enable equipment to be permanently set-up, which will assist Acrofun Gymnastics, and the sport in general, to continue to grow in the Shire.

The current demand for an indoor court at Ballan identified by the sports facility benchmarking is perhaps a false demand given the close location of Ballan and the small communities in West Moorabool to Ballarat’s Miner Dome and the full range of basketball activities provided by the Ballarat Basketball Association. The court at the Ballan Primary School has the capability to accommodate some local basketball training demand.

## 5.2. Provision of play spaces

There are currently 59 play spaces throughout Moorabool Shire, which includes the BMX track at Darley and the skate parks located in Bacchus Marsh and Ballan. The play spaces are located on a combination of Council land, Crown land, education land, and private land. A summary of the quantity and hierarchy of play spaces by township and planning region is shown in Table 7 (excludes the 12 play spaces located at pre-schools, schools and the Bacchus Marsh McDonalds store, as these are not freely available to the public at all times).

Table 7 – Location, Hierarchy and Distribution of Play Spaces in Moorabool Shire (2014)

Township / Planning Region	Local	District	Regional	BMX Track	Skate Park
Bacchus Marsh	2	2	-	-	1
Darley	5	4	1	1	-
Maddingley	3	2	1	-	-
Coimadai	-	-	1	-	-
Hopetoun Park	1	-	-	-	-
Myrniong	1	-	-	-	-
Balliang	1	-	-	-	-
<b>Bacchus Marsh Region</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Ballan	3	1	-	-	1
Greendale	1	1	-	-	-
Gordon	2	-	-	-	-
Mount Wallace	1	-	-	-	-
Beremboke	-	1	-	-	-
<b>Ballan Region</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Wallace	1	-	-	-	-
Bungaree	1	-	-	-	-
Spargo Creek	-	1	-	-	-
Bullarook	1	-	-	-	-
Millbrook	1	-	-	-	-
Dunnstown	-	1	-	-	-
Navigators	-	1	-	-	-
Yendon	1	-	-	-	-
Lal Lal	1	-	-	-	-
Elaine	-	1	-	-	-
<b>West Moorabool Region</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

- Local = contain opportunities for solitary, parallel and group play, generally designed for 3-7 year olds
- District = provide a wider range of play opportunities than local play spaces, typically service a number of neighbourhood areas, and are usually strategically located within larger reserves or schools
- Regional = generally large and provide a broad mix of different play opportunities and experiences for all ages and abilities, or may be larger, single purpose facilities



Greendale Reserve play space

The summary of the number, hierarchy, distribution and ownership of play spaces is:

- Over half of all publicly accessible play spaces (26) are classified as Local play spaces, with 15 classified as District level.
- There are three Regional play spaces available throughout the Shire, and all are located in East Moorabool.
- There are 12 play spaces located at pre-schools, schools and the Bacchus Marsh McDonalds store, and are not freely available to the public at all times.
- Just over half of all publicly accessible play spaces (26) are located in Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds.
- There are no BMX or skate parks in West Moorabool.
- Most of the rural play spaces are associated with other community facilities, such as halls, tennis courts, and recreation reserves.

*Volume 2: Moorabool Play Strategy* contains a complete inventory of the type, location and experiences available at the 59 existing play spaces, and proposes a new framework for the classification of play spaces into a three-tier hierarchy – Local, District and Regional. The framework also outlines planning principles and design considerations that can be used when assessing existing play spaces across the Shire and planning for new ones.

Based on this framework for the planning and provision of play spaces, the following observations are made of play spaces in the Shire:

- There are several examples of well-designed District and Regional play spaces that are very attractive, well utilised by children and their parents/ carers and provide access for all abilities, e.g. Maddingley Park Adventure Park.
- From a physical development perspective, the majority of play spaces provide facilities for sliding, climbing and balancing, as well as some open space suitable for ball games. Swings and spinning apparatus are less common.
- There are very few play spaces that offer creative play in the form of sandpits, sound/ tactile opportunities, access to loose materials (such as branches, twigs, leaves, gum nuts, stones, etc.) and natural play features (such as logs, rocks, etc.). Similarly, very few places provide a social area for children to play with others and just chat.
- Most of the play equipment has been purchased in the last 15 years or so – there are not many examples of play spaces featuring old equipment well beyond its lifespan.
- There are few components within township streetscapes that could be considered a play opportunity, or that encourage informal and spontaneous play by people of all ages and abilities.
- There appears to be gaps in play opportunities for young children between 0-2 years of age. This gap may be filled to some degree by commercial indoor playgrounds and/or playgroups.
- Many play spaces provide play opportunities for children from approximately 3 years of age to around 8 years of age. There is restricted provision for young people over 8 years of age, except in some District play spaces where there are activities, such as skate parks.
- Not many play spaces, particularly local play spaces, have paths within the play space leading to seats and play opportunities. This may not provide adequate access for people with disabilities or mobility issues.
- More natural shade is required in play spaces overall.
- Some play spaces need additional seating for children to rest on and for parents/ carers to watch their children playing.

- Some local play spaces lack landscape amenity and could be vastly improved with modest effort and expenditure, such as plantings and paths.

The spatial distribution of play spaces across Moorabool Shire is generally quite good. Spatially, it is desirable to provide at least one play space within 5 minutes walk (400m) of all residential dwellings in urban areas, which may be approximated by a circular 'catchment' of 280m radius.

Detailed analysis of spatial distribution of play spaces within each town reveals that the majority of urban residential areas are well catered for, with just a few exceptions. Some very small towns or districts, however, may not have access to play spaces.

*Volume 2: Moorabool Play Strategy* outlines a series of recommendations and key priorities for play spaces that can be read in detail in the strategy report, but which include:

1. Ensuring that play spaces are well designed and offer 'play value' to all who use the site.
2. Ensuring that all urban homes in Moorabool Shire have access to a public play space within 400m (a 5 minute walk), wherever possible.
3. Ensuring that Moorabool Shire Council makes an ongoing commitment to reducing the barriers to accessibility, wherever possible, and using Universal Design Principles to create more accessible play spaces.
4. Ensuring that play spaces meet Australian Standards and other relevant regulations and legislation.
5. Ensuring that play is considered in other non-recreational based projects.

## 6. FACILITY NEEDS ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A detailed analysis was carried out for selected sports to determine the adequacy of the current number of facilities to meet the needs of a future Shire population of in excess of 51,000 people by 2041, and with consideration for the disparity of growth between East Moorabool and West Moorabool.

The following key criteria were used during the needs analysis, and consideration was given to the implications of the proposed sports facility hierarchy (see Section 3.3.2).

1. Current facility provision in the Moorabool Shire (number/ distribution).
2. Current membership levels of clubs/ associations.
3. Broad trends in the rate of participation in sport (National/ Victoria).
4. Characteristics of the current and projected population for Moorabool Shire.

The outcomes of this analysis are a series of strategic recommendations for each sport, including new or upgraded sporting facilities to meet current and predicted future sporting needs.

### 6.1. Australian Rules Football

The demand assessment for Australian Rules Football is summarised in the table below, and is followed by a series of strategic recommendations for Moorabool Shire to 2041.

#### Demand Assessment

- Existing provision for Football ovals in Moorabool Shire is ten ovals, and they are generally evenly distributed along the length of the Western Highway within the main townships and communities. Some ovals currently designated as cricket-only ovals have capacity to also accommodate junior football.
- Benchmark data for Football ovals<sup>9</sup> identified a current undersupply of two ovals for East Moorabool, increasing to six ovals to 2041, with the optimum number of ovals for East Moorabool estimated to be nine for the projected future population of over 35,000 people. There is an adequate supply of ovals in Ballan and West Moorabool currently, and also to meet the needs for the population projected to 2041.
- The trends of participation in Football in recent years for adults (National & Victoria) and for children (National) all show an increase since 2000.
- Adult 'club-based' participation rate for Football in Victoria (2010) is 2.1%, therefore, the theoretical participation rate in Moorabool Shire now would be approximately 465<sup>10</sup> compared to the current estimated number of adult players at approximately 500 adults (includes an estimate for those 'junior' members who are aged 15+years). Projecting to 2036, the theoretical number of adults participating in Football could be up to 820 adults<sup>11</sup>. (Projections are to 2036, as data showing age breakdowns to 2041 was not available at the time the analysis was undertaken).  
(Please note, an Adult by definition in the ERASS surveying is a person aged 15 years and over, so some of the players regarded as juniors are included in this sample).
- Children's (5–14 years) overall participation rate in 'organised' Football was 8.6% in 2009<sup>12</sup>, therefore, the theoretical participation rate in Moorabool Shire now would be approximately 345<sup>13</sup> compared to the current junior membership of the football clubs of approximately 700 juniors. Projecting to 2036, the theoretical number of children participating in Football could be up to 580 children<sup>14</sup>, however, this is expected to be significantly exceeded due to the popularity of football in Moorabool.
- Increasing participation is validated by the football clubs, particularly in East Moorabool, which have experienced increased in player numbers, particularly the Darley and Bacchus Marsh Football Clubs.
- Reserve master plans completed in the past few years have identified a range of facility improvement proposals for football grounds and pavilions.

<sup>9</sup> Ovals suitable for accommodating senior football competitions, that is, minimum 135m long x 110m wide.

<sup>10</sup> Calculated by multiplying the 2010 ERASS participation rate for AFL (2.1%) by the population of Moorabool Shire aged over 15 years in 2011 (22,229).

<sup>11</sup> Calculated by multiplying the 2010 ERASS participation rate for AFL (2.1%) by the projected population of Moorabool Shire aged over 15 years in 2036 (39,108).

<sup>12</sup> Source: Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities Survey (2009) – children aged 5–14 years.

<sup>13</sup> Calculated by multiplying the 2009 children's participation rate for AFL (8.6%) by the population of Moorabool Shire aged 5-14 years in 2011 (4,039).

<sup>14</sup> Calculated by multiplying the 2009 children's participation rate for AFL (8.6%) by the estimated population of Moorabool Shire aged 5-14 years in 2036 (6,753).

## Overall Summary

There is currently an inadequate provision of Football ovals to meet current demand in East Moorabool, and this shortfall is likely to become more pronounced by the projected increased number of 5–14 years olds who will reside in East Moorabool during the forecast period, particularly in the growth corridor of west Maddingley which includes the Stonehill Estate.

There is also high projected growth in the number of people aged between 15-39 years in East Moorabool. In the short term, access to at least one additional oval is required, to relieve the current high use of Maddingley Park in winter. The oval at the Darley Civic and Community Hub currently provides some relief for the overuse of Maddingley Park and for Darley Park, however, provision of an additional oval(s) in the Maddingley area will be more convenient for the summer and winter teams based at Maddingley Park.

The two best options available in the short-term to create a locally based training venue for the Maddingley Park football teams is to upgrade the Siberia Oval and upgrade the existing oval at the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve. Council should initially investigate options to enlarge the footprint of the Siberia Oval and install floodlights, as the preferred option to provide an additional training venue for the Bacchus Marsh Football Netball Club. If the Siberia Oval is unable to be expanded to a suitable standard to accommodate senior football training, then Council should upgrade the oval at the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve. This oval also requires additional infrastructure to make it a viable football training venue and overflow match day venue. Required upgrades include the installation of sub-surface drainage and irrigation, provision of player change and amenities, and provision of direct vehicle access to the oval from the Bacchus Marsh-Balliang Road. The main disadvantage of this option is that the oval is somewhat remote from Maddingley Park and the catchment area of the Bacchus Marsh Football Netball Club.

A potential third option to consider is the development of a new oval on the vacant land south of Bacchus Marsh Grammar School, as a joint venture project with the school. In the event that the expansion of Siberia Oval is not possible, this joint-venture with the school could potentially be a more attractive ongoing option as a second training venue for the Bacchus Marsh Football Netball Club rather than using an upgraded Racecourse Oval, as it would be closer and could become part of an expanded recreation and sports precinct around Maddingley Park. Utilising the school oval as the designated alternate training venue for Maddingley Park based teams would then free up the Racecourse Oval to be incorporated into the proposed new sports field development at the racecourse (see next paragraph), which could accommodate a possible new junior-senior football club.

In the medium to long-term, it is likely that an additional junior football club will need to be formed in the East Moorabool area (specifically the West Maddingley precinct) to meet the increased demand for junior football created from the projected population growth. The junior club may then evolve into a new football club with both senior and junior teams. To facilitate this, it is recommended that additional ovals be constructed at the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve and within the proposed land release called the Underbank Land.

In time, and if demand for additional junior football teams increases, the fenced oval at Masons Lane Reserve could become a third overflow oval to relieve overuse of Darley Park and Maddingley Park. Such a use might be possible if the Bacchus Marsh Soccer Club relocates to the proposed new soccer facility at Racecourse Reserve.

In Ballan and West Moorabool, existing underutilised ovals have the capacity to absorb any increase in demand for football, particularly the ovals at Korweinguboorra Recreation Reserve and Mt Egerton Recreation Reserve, which are both approximately 15km from Ballan, the township where a majority of the population growth to 2041 will be centred. Whilst some upgrades will be required at both of these reserves to facilitate regular senior and junior football use, each oval is of sufficient size and has associated infrastructure to make them viable as 'overflow' ovals if existing ovals in West Moorabool become temporarily or permanently unavailable.

Whilst available data suggests that there is a lack of evidence (and demand) for a new oval(s) in Ballan, this shouldn't preclude Council from planning for a new oval(s) within any new residential developments in the town, which could complement the existing oval at the Ballan Recreation Reserve. The Ballan Structure Plan notes potential residential development immediately south of the railway line and the recreation reserve. It should be noted, however, it will be more economical to upgrade an existing underutilised reserve than to build a new one requiring ovals, floodlighting, a pavilion, car parking, landscaping, etc. An alternate scenario to consider is to expand the Ballan Recreation Reserve into the property west of the reserve and construct a second sportsground.

Of note is the fact that the two ovals at the Bungaree and Gordon Recreation Reserves do not have centre cricket wickets. This is important in the context of both football and cricket, as both ovals provide unique opportunities to become the designated pre-season football training and practice match venues for all football clubs based in the Shire. This arrangement has the potential to eliminate the conflict that arises between cricket and football clubs that share ovals, when the football clubs want to use ovals for pre-season training and practice matches whilst they are still being used for cricket. The respective reserve committees at Bungaree and Gordon may resist rival football clubs using their ovals, however, the overall benefits for cricket and football across the Shire need to

be emphasised during discussions, not to mention the opportunity for these reserve committees to benefit financially from any rents, canteen trade and bar trade generated by these additional football uses.

It is recommended that the ovals at Bungaree and Gordon Recreation Reserves not be converted to dual football-cricket ovals, and that they be utilised more extensively during January, February and March for football pre-season activities (refer also Section 6.5 Cricket).

AFL Goldfields is responsible for overseeing the governance of football in the Goldfields Region, which includes the Ballarat Football and Netball League (and associated junior league), the Central Highlands Football League, the Maryborough Castlemaine District Football and Netball League, the Riddell District Football and Netball League, the Ballarat Youth Girls Football League, and the Ballarat Football Umpires Association. An aspiration of the AFL Goldfields Commission is that each of the shires covered by AFL Goldfields have a 'regional' football venue. By its definition, a 'regional' venue is one capable of hosting night matches.

Currently, Moorabool Shire does not have a football oval that can accommodate senior night matches. Council and AFL Goldfields should consider Darley Park, Maddingley Park and Bungaree Recreation Reserve to potentially be upgraded to 'regional' status by upgrading the lighting to 200 lux. AFL Goldfields is planning to complete a Regional Facility Strategy to guide the future planning and development of both football and netball throughout the AFL Goldfields region. A comprehensive assessment to determine which of the above three football venues should become the designated Shire regional football facility could be referred to that planning process, and include the development of an appropriate funding model to pay for the infrastructure required to elevate a Moorabool 'District' level facility to an AFL Goldfields 'Regional' level facility.

## **Strategic Recommendations for Australian Rules Football**

### **Recommended Future New Ovals**

#### East Moorabool

1. Develop a new District level sporting precinct within the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve to support football, cricket and soccer.
  - Two ovals to be dual-use with cricket.
  - One oval to be unfenced and be a multi-purpose open space, capable of also accommodating overflow for soccer.
2. Develop a new District level football-cricket sporting reserve within the proposed new residential estate planned for the Underbank Land (two ovals, both dual-use with cricket).
3. Investigate the feasibility of developing a District level oval in partnership with Bacchus Marsh Grammar on a greenfield site between East and South Maddingley Roads (dual-use with cricket).
4. Investigate the preferred location for a Regional level football venue in the Shire, in conjunction with the BFNL and AFL Goldfields (a 'Regional' level facility as defined by AFL Goldfields).

#### West Moorabool

No new Football ovals are required in West Moorabool to service the projected population growth and football participation rates.

(However, Council may consider planning for a new oval(s) as part of any new broad acre residential developments in Ballan, or by expanding the current footprint of the Ballan Recreation Reserve into the property west of the reserve. In the short-term, however, the preferred strategy is to activate existing underutilised sportsgrounds in neighbouring towns, if 'overflow' grounds are required).

## Existing Ovals

Items included below are the projects considered to be the major directions relating to existing ovals, most of which have been sourced from adopted reserve master plans. Master plans may include additional projects of a more minor, or less strategic, nature.

Existing Ovals (Reserves)	Improvements
<b>East Moorabool</b>	
Darley Civic and Community Hub Oval	<p><i>In the short term, continue to use the oval to reduce overuse issues in winter at Darley Park, Masons Lane Reserve and Maddingley Park</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the 2009 reserve master plan.</li> <li>• Provide two player change rooms, canteen/ kitchen and public toilets.</li> <li>• Provide umpire/ referee change room(s).</li> <li>• Upgrade floodlights to 200 lux (pending AFL Goldfields planning study).</li> <li>• Provide a shelter over a section of the terraced spectator area.</li> <li>• In the medium term the oval to continue to be used as an overflow oval in winter.</li> </ul>
Darley Park Oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the 2002 reserve master plan.</li> <li>• Upgrade floodlights to 200 lux (pending AFL Goldfields planning study).</li> </ul>
Maddingley Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend (or rebuild) the existing social clubrooms to better cater for the needs of the user groups.</li> <li>• Construct an additional spectator shelter for the main oval.</li> <li>• Upgrade floodlights to 200 lux (pending AFL Goldfields planning study).</li> <li>• Investigate options to enlarge Siberia Oval.</li> <li>• Pending capability to enlarge Siberia Oval, install floodlights to training standard (50 lux).</li> </ul>
Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve Oval (not currently used for football)	<p><i>If Siberia Oval cannot be enlarged and upgraded as a senior football training venue</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install sub-surface drainage and irrigation.</li> <li>• Install floodlights to training standard (50 lux).</li> <li>• Install a player change room and amenities.</li> <li>• Create a dedicated vehicle access to the oval from Bacchus Marsh-Balliang Road.</li> </ul> <p>(The above improvements to be incorporated into the Active Sports Precinct Design study).</p>
Masons Lane Reserve Oval 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If soccer relocates to the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve, and if demand exists, consider using the oval as an overflow football training venue.</li> </ul>
<b>West Moorabool</b>	
Ballan Recreation Reserve Oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade the oval floodlighting to training standard (50 lux).</li> <li>• Install a new electronic scoreboard.</li> </ul>
Korweinguboorra Recreation Reserve Oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a reserve master plan to bring the standard of the reserve to a District level.</li> <li>• Install sub-surface drainage and irrigation.</li> <li>• Provide player and umpires change rooms.</li> </ul>
Gordon Recreation Reserve Oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a reserve master plan.</li> <li>• Investigate options to improve the level of the oval.</li> <li>• Upgrade the oval floodlighting to training standard (50 lux).</li> </ul>

Existing Ovals (Reserves)	Improvements
Mt Egerton Recreation Reserve Oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a reserve master plan.</li> <li>• If required for regular football use, replace the oval perimeter fence.</li> </ul>
Wallace Recreation Reserve Oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install sub-surface drainage and irrigation.</li> <li>• Refurbish the playing surface.</li> <li>• Upgrade the oval floodlighting to training standard (50 lux).</li> <li>• Relocate and upgrade the scoreboard.</li> </ul>
Bungaree Recreation Reserve Oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the current reserve master plan.</li> <li>• Upgrade the oval floodlighting to practice match standard (100 lux), and as a future stage, upgrade floodlights to 200 lux (pending AFL Goldfields planning study).</li> <li>• Install a new electronic scoreboard.</li> </ul>
Dunnstown Recreation Reserve Oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a reserve master plan.</li> <li>• Upgrade the oval floodlighting to training standard (50 lux).</li> </ul>

## 6.2. Athletics

The demand assessment for Athletics is summarised in the table below, and is followed by a series of strategic recommendations for Moorabool Shire to 2041.

### Demand Assessment

- Existing provision for Athletics in Moorabool Shire is one grass track in Bacchus Marsh (Masons Lane Reserve). Benchmark data for synthetic athletics tracks suggest that there would be insufficient demand and need for one for a community with a projected future population of approximately 50,000 people. There are no recognised benchmarks for seasonal grass athletics tracks.
- The trends of participation for Athletics in recent years show that Nationally, participation for adults has increased since 2001, whilst for Victoria there has been a decline. For children, (National) participation has also declined, although there was an increase in participation between 2006 and 2009. The sport has a significantly higher proportion of children actively involved compared to adults.
- Adult 'organised' participation rate for Athletics in Victoria (2010) was 0.3%, therefore, the theoretical participation rate in Moorabool Shire now would be approximately 65 people (however, no organised senior track club exists). Projecting to 2036, the theoretical number of adults participating in Athletics could be up to 120 adults. (Projections are to 2036, as data showing age breakdowns to 2041 was not available at the time the analysis was undertaken).
- Children's (5-14 years) overall participation rate in 'organised' Athletics was 3.3% in 2009, therefore, the theoretical participation rate in Moorabool Shire now would be approximately 130 compared to the current junior membership of the Bacchus Marsh Little Athletics Centre of 275 juniors. Projecting to 2036, the theoretical number of children participating in little athletics could be up to 225 children, still significantly less than the number participating now.
- The Bacchus Marsh Little Athletics Centre has experienced an increase in participant numbers in the past few years.
- The club has identified a range of improvements to their Masons Lane Reserve facilities in the reserve master plan completed in 2011.

### Overall Summary

The current arrangement of providing track and field athletics opportunities for shire residents by using a grass track is meeting the current needs of children participating in little athletics, and is likely to continue to do so throughout the forecast period to 2041. There is already a high rate of participation in little athletics in Moorabool Shire (participation exceeds the National average) and participation in Athletics is expected to continue to increase as the population continues to grow in the East Moorabool area.

It will not be viable to construct a synthetic athletics track in Moorabool Shire due to the comparatively low population now and projected into the future (the benchmark for a synthetic track is 100,000 people). Melton City Council is building a new regional athletics facility (including synthetic track) at the Bridge Road Recreation Reserve in Melton South in 2015. This facility will accommodate those children in East Moorabool who require access to a higher standard athletics facility than what can be provided at Masons Lane Reserve. Similarly, children who live in West Moorabool have reasonable access to a regional athletics facility at the Ballarat Regional Athletics Centre.

However, the ongoing upgrade of the Masons Lane Reserve athletics facility is important to ensure that the projected future demand for little athletics can be catered for more effectively within the Shire. It is recommended that the Bacchus Marsh Little Athletics Centre remain at Masons Lane Reserve, and continues to co-locate with soccer by incorporating a soccer pitch on the infield of the athletics track.

Whilst the grass athletic track and field event areas can support adult training, athletes seeking senior competition opportunities will need to continue to utilise the Ballarat centre or Melbourne-based athletics clubs (although it is expected that adult athletics will be introduced to the new Melton athletic centre after it is opened). The Shire's future population will be too low to make a senior club viable.

## Recommendations for Athletics

### Recommended Future New Athletic Tracks

No new Athletic Track developments are required in Moorabool Shire to service the projected population growth and athletics participation rates.

### Existing Athletics Track

Items included below are the projects considered to be the major directions relating to the Masons Lane Reserve athletics track, most of which have been sourced from the adopted master plan. The master plan includes additional projects of a more minor, or less strategic, nature.

Existing Facilities (Reserves)	Improvements
<p><b>East Moorabool</b></p> <p>Masons Lane Reserve athletics track</p>	<p><i>Retain as a seasonal grass track and co-locate with soccer</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install floodlights on Oval 1 and the athletics oval for use for soccer training (50 lux).</li> <li>• Upgrade the Athletics Pavilion to incorporate change rooms, a disabled toilet, and storage.</li> </ul> <p><i>East Moorabool residents will soon have close access to a regional synthetic athletics track in 2015, following the completion of the new track at Bridge Road Recreation Reserve in Melton South.</i></p>
<p><b>West Moorabool</b></p> <p>No existing facilities</p>	<p><i>Ballan and West Moorabool residents have close access to the Ballarat Regional Athletics Centre (synthetic surface).</i></p>

### 6.3. Baseball

The demand assessment for Baseball is summarised in the table below, and is followed by a series of strategic recommendations for Moorabool Shire to 2041.

#### Demand Assessment

- Existing provision for Baseball in Moorabool Shire is one senior field and a junior field located in Bacchus Marsh (Masons Lane Reserve). There are no recognised benchmarks for baseball facilities.
- From 2003/04 all Baseball Victoria participation categories, including Tee Ball, juniors, seniors, masters and women's have experienced growth<sup>15</sup>. Combined, playing numbers across the sport have increased by 58% to 9,000 since 2003/04. Of further significance is growth in the key areas of Tee Ball and junior competition - between 2003/04 and 2010/11 junior memberships grew by almost 13%, while Tee Ball participation almost tripled over the same period.
- Adult 'organised' participation rate for Baseball in Victoria (2010) was 0.1%, therefore, the theoretical participation rate in Moorabool Shire now would be approximately 25 people, compared to the current estimated adult membership of the Bacchus Marsh Baseball Club of 45 adults (includes an estimate for those 'junior' members who are aged 15+years). Projecting to 2036, the theoretical number of adults participating in Baseball could be up to 40 adults, still less than the membership today. (Projections are to 2036, as data showing age breakdowns to 2041 was not available at the time the analysis was undertaken).
- Children's (5-14 years) overall participation rate in 'organised' Baseball was 0.4% in 2009, therefore, the theoretical participation rate in Moorabool Shire now would be approximately 15, compared to the current junior membership of the Bacchus Marsh Baseball Club of 65 juniors (include Tee Ball participants). Projecting to 2036, the theoretical number of children participating in Baseball could be up to 30 children, however, this is expected to be significantly exceeded due to the popularity of baseball in Moorabool.
- The Bacchus Marsh Baseball Club has experienced significant growth in the past couple of years.
- The club has identified a range of improvements to their Masons Lane Reserve facilities in the reserve master plan completed in 2011.

#### Overall Summary

The Baseball Victoria trend of increased participation and membership growth is being reflected in the growth of the Bacchus Marsh Baseball Club, and the interest in general for baseball in the Moorabool Shire.

The current facilities at Masons Lane Reserve are adequate for the current needs of the Club, but the lack of a second field could create some challenges if the Club continues to grow. It is recommended that the Club continues to consolidate itself at the Masons Lane Reserve, and if winter player numbers increase to levels that cannot be wholly accommodated, then the Club consider participating in the summer series to provide additional playing opportunities.

<sup>15</sup> Source: *Baseball Facilities Development Plan (2012)*.

## **Recommendations for Baseball**

### **Recommended Future New Baseball Facilities**

No new Baseball facility developments are required in Moorabool Shire to service the projected population growth and baseball participation rates.

### **Existing Baseball Facilities**

Items included below are the projects considered to be the major directions relating to the Masons Lane Reserve baseball centre, most of which have been sourced from the adopted master plan. The master plan includes additional projects of a more minor, or less strategic, nature.

<b>Existing Facilities (Reserves)</b>	<b>Improvements</b>
<b>East Moorabool</b>  Masons Lane Reserve baseball centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade the Baseball Pavilion so it is fit for purpose.</li> <li>• Install additional spectator seating and shelter around the field.</li> <li>• Install an additional batting cage.</li> <li>• Identify options to increase the onsite car parking.</li> <li>• Replace the Baseball back-net.</li> </ul> <p><i>East Moorabool residents also have close access to the equivalent of a District level baseball facility (and club) at the baseball facility in McPherson Park, Melton (home of the Melton Mustangs Baseball Club and the North West Titans Baseball Club).</i></p>
<b>West Moorabool</b>  No existing facilities	<p><i>Ballan and West Moorabool residents have close access to the equivalent of a District level baseball facility (and club) at the baseball facility in Prince of Wales Reserve, Ballarat (home of the Ballarat City Brewers Baseball Club).</i></p>

## 6.4. Basketball

The demand assessment for Basketball is summarised in the table below, and is followed by a series of strategic recommendations for Moorabool Shire to 2041.

### Demand Assessment

- Existing provision of publicly accessible Basketball courts in the Moorabool Shire is contained to the two full-size courts at the Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre. However, it is proposed that restricted access to a third court at the Darley Civic and Community Hub Indoor Stadium will become available in coming months. Indoor courts located at school sites are only available for public use on a restricted or ad hoc basis. Other than the two courts located (and available for public use) at Bacchus Marsh Secondary College, single indoor courts are located at Bacchus Marsh PS, Pentland Hills PS, St Bernard's PS, Bacchus Marsh Grammar School, and Ballan PS.
- Benchmark data for indoor courts identified there is currently an adequate supply of courts for East Moorabool, but changing to a demand for an additional two courts to 2041, with the optimum number of courts for East Moorabool estimated to be four for the projected future population of over 35,000 people. For Ballan and West Moorabool, the benchmark data identified a shortfall of one court now and increasing to two courts by 2041.
- The trends for Basketball participation in recent years for adults show a relatively stable rate of participation Nationally since 2000, but increasing for adults in Victoria. For children (National) the participation rate since 2000 has been stable. The sport has a significantly higher proportion of children actively involved compared to adults.
- Adult 'organised' participation rate for Basketball in Victoria (2010) is 3.4%, therefore, the theoretical participation rate in Moorabool Shire now would be approximately 750, compared to the current estimated number of adult players in Moorabool Shire of approximately 220 adults (includes an estimate for those 'junior' members who are aged 15+ years). The lower than average participation rate is partly explained by the need for the Bacchus Marsh Basketball Association to cap men's teams in the Thursday evening competition, and the likelihood that there will be some Moorabool Shire adults participating in basketball competitions in Ballarat and Melton. Projecting to 2036, the theoretical number of adults participating in Basketball could be up to 1,300. (Projections are to 2036, as data showing age breakdowns to 2041 was not available at the time the analysis was undertaken).
- Children's overall participation rate in 'organised' Basketball was 7.4% in 2009, therefore, the theoretical participation rate in Moorabool Shire now would be approximately 300, which is identical to the current estimated number of junior players of approximately 300. Projecting to 2036, the theoretical number of children participating in Basketball is expected to increase to 500 children.
- The Bacchus Marsh Basketball Association has progressively grown its competition in the past 4-5 years and now offers pathway programs (representative basketball opportunities) as well as the domestic competition.

### Overall Summary

The generally high junior participant numbers in Moorabool Shire and emerging senior participation, combined with the projected net increase in the number of people aged between 5-39 years in East Moorabool to 2041, all strongly suggest that Basketball will continue to have sustainable numbers, particularly in the eastern region of the Shire. In the last three years, Basketball participation has increased to more than 700 participants (up 180 players from 2013), comprising 460 males and 240 females. Significant growth has occurred in Saturday junior competition (increased from 58 teams in 2013 to 76 teams in 2014) and in representative Basketball.

For a number of years the Bacchus Marsh Basketball Association has been constrained in its capacity to provide adequate court time for training and competition activities for its members at the Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre, due to the availability of only two courts, a corresponding high demand for court time by the Bacchus Marsh Netball Association, and the availability of courts being restricted to out of school hours times. Whilst a third court at the Darley Civic and Community Hub Indoor Stadium may become available for Basketball use in 2015, the expected continued use of the stadium by the Acrofun Gymnastics group and other potential new users may continue to restrict any real Basketball growth at the stadium. The fact that the stadium has only one court also challenges the viability of the use of the court for competition, as satellite venues like this invariably require an unnecessary duplication of the match-day administrative tasks for an association, and lost opportunities for second-spend by players and spectators through the commercial units of an association, such as merchandise

and the canteen (which is otherwise available at the Leisure Centre).

The Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre is currently operating at close to capacity for court use. With the East Moorabool population expected to almost double in size in the next 25 years, there will continue to be capacity issues at the centre. Potentially compounding the increasing need for indoor courts in Bacchus Marsh, is a direction in a study currently being completed by Melton City Council that supports the provision of additional indoor sports courts at the Caroline Springs Leisure Centre in the short to medium term (as a strategy to meet increasing demand), rather than providing additional courts in the Melton township precinct<sup>16</sup>. This may lead to a scenario where there might be unmet Basketball demand in Melton township (particularly in the western area of town) that needs to be absorbed or accommodated by the Bacchus Marsh Basketball Association.

Other than the two courts at Bacchus Marsh Secondary College, the existing courts at other schools in the Shire are either not available for community use, or have only limited capacity for use by external groups. With any new or expanded schools in the future, this situation is likely to be similar. Therefore, it is recommended that the Bacchus Marsh Basketball Association's overall basketball program allows for school courts to be largely used as training facilities for current clubs and any new affiliated clubs. Some of the constraints that exist now in other local government areas where school courts are incorporated into an association's complement of competition courts include:

- non-compliant court dimensions,
- disruptions to fixtures when a school may require stadiums for exams, concerts and other one-off activities,
- lost opportunities for revenue through canteens not being available,
- dispersion of an association's membership across a number of venues reduces the opportunity for an association to develop a strong culture and sense of inclusiveness amongst its membership,
- for parents with more than one child - transportation challenges when they are playing concurrently but at different venues, and
- the generally higher administration costs to manage non-centralised courts.

The proposed future indoor aquatic and leisure centre does not currently allow for any indoor highball courts in the first three stages of development. Notwithstanding this, the construction of the proposed new centre appears to be a medium to long term project for Council given funding constraints of both Council and governments.

As a result, opportunities to create additional access to indoor court time for Basketball in the short to medium term could involve the following three strategies:

1. Allocate some usage of the Darley Civic and Community Hub Indoor Stadium to Basketball.
2. Develop four new outdoor netball courts at the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve, and relocate some or all of the junior netball competition and associated activities from the Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre.
3. Extend the Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre by up to two indoor courts, with provision for an overlay show court.

The proposed extension of the Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre would not only allow for an expansion of domestic competitions (and training), but would also support Basketball pathway programs by providing more appropriate standard facilities, which might also facilitate opportunities for the Shire to host regional and State Basketball competitions, or higher league exhibition/ practice matches. Should an extension of the Leisure Centre not be possible, or not be feasible, then Council could investigate site options for the development a new four court indoor sports stadium in East Moorabool.

The Leisure Centre extension would also present an opportunity for the Darley Civic and Community Hub Indoor Stadium to be developed as the Shire's regional gymnastics facility and allow the Acrofun Gymnastics group to become the key provider of gymnastics activities and services throughout the forecast period. Conversely, freeing-up usage of the Darley Civic and Community Hub Indoor Stadium beyond the exclusive needs of gymnastics may create opportunities for 'minor' sports to call the stadium home – sports such as badminton, volleyball, table tennis and martial arts.

For West Moorabool residents, the opportunity to access Basketball activities is equally provided for in Bacchus Marsh or Ballarat. Whilst the benchmarking identifies a current and projected shortfall of indoor courts for the combined area of Ballan and West Moorabool, the critical mass of people will simply not exist in Ballan that would be required to make a financially responsible investment in the provision of a new 1-2 court community stadium. The best option for West Moorabool residents to access organised Basketball in a local setting, will be to utilise the indoor court at the Ballan Primary School for training, and to enter teams in either or both of the Ballarat Basketball Association and the Bacchus Marsh Basketball Association.

<sup>16</sup> Interview with Melton City Council Leisure and Recreation staff (2014).

## Recommendations for Basketball

### Recommended Future New Courts

#### East Moorabool

1. Extend the Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre by up to two indoor courts, with provision for an overlay show court (if agreed, review the terms and form of the current joint-use agreement between Council and the Bacchus Marsh Secondary College).
2. Alternatively, investigate site options for the development a new four court indoor sports stadium.

#### West Moorabool

No new Basketball court developments are required in West Moorabool to service the projected population growth and basketball participation rates, due to the availability of clubs and facilities in Ballarat.

### Existing Basketball Courts

In relation to the current indoor courts on education land and all future new courts (other than the courts at the Bacchus Marsh Secondary College), Council should continue to advocate for community use of these courts, including for Basketball training.

Existing Courts (Indoor Centres)	Improvements
<p><b>East Moorabool</b></p> <p>Darley Civic and Community Hub Indoor Stadium</p>	<p><i>Facilitate increased future use of the court by the Bacchus Marsh Basketball Association.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes to infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<p><b>West Moorabool</b></p> <p>No existing facilities</p>	<p><i>Ballan and West Moorabool residents have close access to the equivalent of a Regional level basketball facility (and association) at the Ballarat Minerdome in Wendouree (home of Basketball Ballarat).</i></p>

## 6.5. Cricket

The demand assessment for Cricket is summarised in the table below, and is followed by a series of strategic recommendations for Moorabool Shire to 2041.

### Demand Assessment

- Existing provision for Cricket ovals in Moorabool Shire is 15 ovals, being 14 ovals with synthetic centre wickets, and one oval with a turf centre wicket (Darley Park). Ten of the ovals are of sufficient dimensions to accommodate both cricket and senior football, with five ovals being either used for soccer (Masons Lane Reserve) or unsuitable for senior football due to their small size: Blackwood Recreation Reserve oval, Greendale Recreation Reserve oval, and Elaine Sportsground Recreation Reserve oval.
- Benchmark data for Cricket ovals identified there is currently an adequate supply of ovals for East Moorabool, but changing to a demand for an additional five ovals to 2041, with the optimum number of ovals for East Moorabool estimated to be twelve for the projected future population of over 35,000 people. There is a possible oversupply of ovals currently in Ballan and West Moorabool at eight ovals, but becomes an adequate supply to meet the needs for the population projected to 2041.
- The trends of participation for Cricket in recent years for adults (National & Victoria) show a small increase since 2000, whilst for children (National), participation has been stable during the period 2000 and 2009.
- Adult 'organised' participation rate for Cricket in Victoria (2010) is 2.6%, therefore, the theoretical participation rate in Moorabool Shire now would be approximately 575, compared to the current estimated number of adult players in Moorabool Shire of approximately 285 adults (includes an estimate for those 'junior' members who are aged 15+years). Projecting to 2036, the theoretical number of adults participating in Cricket could be up to 1,000 adults. (Projections are to 2036, as data showing age breakdowns to 2041 was not available at the time the analysis was undertaken).
- Children's (5–14 years) overall participation rate in 'organised' Cricket was 5.2% in 2009, therefore, the theoretical participation rate in Moorabool Shire now would be approximately 210, which is comparable to the current junior membership of the cricket clubs of 200 juniors. Projecting to 2036, the theoretical number of children participating in Cricket could be up to 350 children.
- Participation levels in junior cricket across Victoria continue to grow, whilst for senior cricket the numbers have remained relatively stable<sup>17</sup>. The relatively low participation rates in Cricket by adults in Moorabool Shire could be partially explained by the lack of opportunity to participate by those people living in the smaller rural townships where it is more difficult to get sufficient numbers to form a team, or adult players in West Moorabool playing for Ballarat-based clubs.

### Overall Summary

Whilst the benchmark data for cricket ovals in East Moorabool suggests an adequate supply, there is in fact existing demand for additional ovals, particularly to accommodate junior cricket. This situation of increased demand for cricket ovals will continue throughout the forecast period to 2041, as the population in this region of the Shire continues to grow.

There is evidence of growth in demand with the continued expansion of the In2Cricket program throughout East Moorabool, and this growth will be compounded by the continued emergence of women's cricket, masters cricket and T20 cricket, some of which may trigger new opportunities for people to participate in cricket.

In Ballan and West Moorabool, the benchmark data suggests a current surplus of cricket ovals to meet current needs, but by 2041 the current number of ovals is projected to be generally sufficient. The current over provision provides opportunity for any peaks in the number of cricket teams to be easily accommodated, and in some towns and districts the availability of cricket ovals for casual and informal use is important for local community development and social interaction, e.g. Greendale and Wallace. If there is a spike in bottom aged junior teams (U11s and U12s) in Ballan, the Ballan Primary School oval could be considered as a local option, pending approval from the school. However, the east-west dimension of the oval is less than 90m, so any investment in infrastructure, such as a concrete wicket and irrigation, would need to be carefully considered in the context of value for money. A more sustainable option for investment would be to make the ovals at the Korweinguboora and Mt Egerton Recreation Reserves 'fit for purpose', as these can accommodate older juniors and seniors, despite the short drive required to access them from Ballan.

<sup>17</sup> Source: Australian Cricket Census, 2009/10.

As mentioned in Section 6.1 Australian Rules Football, the two ovals at Bungaree and Gordon Recreation Reserves do not currently have centre cricket wickets. It is recommended that both reserves not be converted to dual football-cricket ovals to enable them to become designated pre-season football training and practice match venues for all football clubs throughout the Shire. This should be possible, as sufficient opportunity exists for the existing underutilised cricket ovals to absorb any new demand for cricket in West Moorabool. Underutilised ovals include those at Mt Egerton, Wallace, Spargo Creek (Korweinguboora Recreation Reserve) and Greendale.

The strategy to meet future demand in East Moorabool should be a combination of constructing new ovals and optimising the use of existing ovals by introducing more efficient reserve usage management procedures. In relation to the latter, Council and clubs should check that cricket ovals that are 'block booked' by clubs prior to the season commencing are still required at all of the times nominated, following the commencement of the season when clubs will then know exactly how many teams they have and what the corresponding ground requirements are. In addition, Council, clubs and cricket associations should continually explore the options available to utilise existing ovals at non-traditional times, particularly by junior teams and masters' teams (e.g. Sundays and Thursday evenings). These strategies will become more important in East Moorabool as demand for 'overflow' grounds increases. Options to consider in the future for providing additional access to cricket ovals include:

- Utilising the oval at the Bacchus Marsh Secondary School, which was recently upgraded by Council for use by cricket clubs and Council.
- Utilising the existing oval at the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve.
- Constructing new ovals at the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve.
- Consider developing a new oval on the vacant land immediately south of Bacchus Marsh Grammar School, as a joint venture project with the school (refer Section 6.1 Australian Rules Football).
- Constructing a new District level sporting reserve within the proposed land release called the Underbank Land.

In order to maximise the use of existing ovals, and to expand the spectator and marketing appeal for cricket, Council should investigate opportunities to develop a venue capable of hosting night cricket matches.

## **Strategic Recommendations for Cricket**

### **Recommended Future New Ovals**

#### East Moorabool

1. Develop a new District level sporting precinct within the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve to support football, cricket and soccer.
  - Two ovals dual-use with football.
  - One oval to be unfenced and be a multi-purpose open space.
2. Develop a new District level football-cricket sporting reserve within the proposed new residential estate planned for the Underbank Land (two ovals, both dual-use with football).
3. Investigate the feasibility of developing a District level oval in partnership with Bacchus Marsh Grammar on a greenfield site between East and South Maddingley Roads (dual-use with football).
4. Investigate opportunities to develop a venue capable of hosting night cricket matches.

#### West Moorabool

No new Cricket ovals are required in West Moorabool to service the projected population growth and cricket participation rates.

(If an additional oval is required in the future to accommodate bottom-age junior cricket, Council may consider a joint-venture with Ballan Primary School to upgrade the school oval. If an additional oval is required to accommodate additional senior cricket teams, Council may consider planning for a new oval(s) as part of any new broad acre residential developments in Ballan, or by expanding the current footprint of the Ballan Recreation Reserve into the property west of the reserve. However, for both needs a preferred strategy is to activate existing underutilised reserves in neighbouring towns in preference to upgrading the Ballan Primary School oval or constructing a new or expanded reserve in Ballan).

## Existing Ovals

Items included below are the projects considered to be the major directions relating to existing ovals, most of which have been sourced from adopted reserve master plans. Master plans may include additional projects of a more minor, or less strategic, nature.

Existing Ovals (Reserves)	Improvements
<b>East Moorabool</b>	
Darley Civic and Community Hub Oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the 2009 reserve master plan.</li> <li>Provide two player change rooms.</li> <li>Provide umpire change room(s).</li> <li>Provide a shelter over a portion of the terraced spectator area.</li> <li>Review the viability of the existing cricket practice nets, and construct a three net cricket practice facility.</li> </ul>
Darley Park Oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the 2002 reserve master plan.</li> <li>Install a new sub-surface irrigation system.</li> </ul>
Masons Lane Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change to Oval 1.</li> <li>Install a new sub-surface irrigation system in Oval 2.</li> </ul>
Maddingley Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend (or rebuild) the existing social clubrooms to better cater for the needs of the user groups.</li> <li>When a new oval becomes available with a synthetic centre wicket, consider installing a turf centre wicket on the main oval, subject to need and a formal feasibility assessment of the capacity of the club/ reserve committee to fund and maintain a turf wicket table.</li> </ul>
Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve Oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install sub-surface drainage and irrigation.</li> <li>Install a player change room and amenities.</li> <li>Install cricket practice nets.</li> <li>Create a dedicated vehicle access to the oval from Bacchus Marsh-Balliang Road.</li> </ul>
(The above improvements to be incorporated into the Active Sports Precinct Design study).	
<b>West Moorabool</b>	
Ballan Recreation Reserve Oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install a new electronic scoreboard.</li> </ul>
Blackwood Recreation Reserve Oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a reserve master plan.</li> <li>Upgrade the surface of the cricket practice nets.</li> </ul>
Greendale Recreation Reserve Oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a reserve master plan.</li> </ul>
Korweinguboorra Recreation Reserve Oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a reserve master plan to bring the standard of the reserve to a District level.</li> <li>Install sub-surface drainage and irrigation.</li> <li>Provide player and umpires change rooms.</li> </ul>
Mt Egerton Recreation Reserve Oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a reserve master plan.</li> <li>If required for regular cricket use, replace the oval perimeter fence and install irrigation.</li> </ul>

<b>Existing Ovals (Reserves)</b>	<b>Improvements</b>
Wallace Recreation Reserve Oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Install sub-surface drainage and irrigation.</li><li>• Refurbish the playing surface.</li><li>• Upgrade the cricket practice nets, or rebuild them in a new location.</li><li>• Relocate and upgrade the scoreboard.</li></ul>
Dunnstown Recreation Reserve Oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prepare a reserve master plan.</li><li>• Install a permanent cricket practice facility (x 2 nets) (refer task to the master plan process).</li></ul>
Elaine Recreation Reserve Oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demolish the existing cricket pavilion and replace it with a new pavilion, inclusive of change rooms, toilets, and a social room with kitchen, which could have a broader community use beyond the sporting groups.</li><li>• Install sub-surface drainage and irrigation.</li><li>• Upgrade the cricket practice nets.</li></ul>

## 6.6. Equestrian

The demand assessment for Equestrian is summarised in the table below, and is followed by a series of strategic recommendations for Moorabool Shire to 2041.

### Demand Assessment

- Existing provision for Equestrian activities in Moorabool Shire is extensive in both the number of clubs/associations and the variety of equestrian disciplines available.
- Access to Equestrian activities in the Shire is contained to the racecourse reserves in Bacchus Marsh and Ballan, and given that the two racecourse locations are relatively central within the Shire, both provide good access for a majority of Shire residents.
- There is no recognised benchmark data for Equestrian facilities given the variety of the types of facilities and disciplines, however, the ratio of provision of pony clubs within Moorabool Shire appears comparable to the rate of provision within the Barwon Region, being the Pony Clubs Victoria region in which the Bacchus Marsh and Ballan Pony Clubs are located<sup>18</sup>.
- The trends of participation for Equestrian in recent years for adults (National & Victoria) and children (National) show the percentage of population participating has been stable since 2000, which in real terms corresponds to an actual increase in the number of people participating.
- Adult 'organised' participation rate for Equestrian in Victoria (2010) is 0.4%, therefore, the theoretical participation rate in Moorabool Shire now would be approximately 85. Whilst no participation data is available from the six adult equestrian groups based at the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve, approximately 40 members are affiliated with both the Ballan Harness Club and the Ballan and District Adult Riders Club, which are located at the Ballan Racecourse and Recreation Reserve. Therefore, the current rate of participation by Adults in Equestrian activities in the Moorabool Shire is likely to be well above the average estimated rate of 85 people. Projecting to 2036, the theoretical number of adults participating in Equestrian could be up to 155 adults. (Projections are to 2036, as data showing age breakdowns to 2041 was not available at the time the analysis was undertaken). However, a significant portion of the new growth will occur in urban area of East Moorabool and is likely to comprise of a smaller proportion of people who are active participants in Equestrian activities, compared to the percentage currently.
- Children's (5–14 years) overall participation rate in Equestrian was 1.3% in 2009, therefore, the theoretical participation rate in Moorabool Shire now would be approximately 50 compared to the current estimated pony club membership of 115 riders. Projecting to 2036, the theoretical number of children participating could be up to 85, which is still well below the number currently participating.
- The total membership of Pony Clubs Victoria has declined in the past six years from approximately 7,400 members in 2008 to approximately 6,050 in 2013<sup>19</sup>. Of note is the fact that the Barwon Region has the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest membership (704 members) of the 10 regions (behind Northern Metro Region with 762 members), but has the highest membership to club ratio of all regions, at 41 members per club.

### Overall Summary

In relation to the number and distribution of Equestrian facilities in Moorabool Shire, there is good provision, particularly with pony clubs available in both in Bacchus Marsh and Ballan. The facilities and groups at the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve feature regional and State standard facilities and groups.

The rate of participation with the pony clubs in Moorabool Shire is well above State and National participation rates, and the Barwon Region is one of the strongest regions for membership levels and rider skills within the State. Notwithstanding this, it is important to note some of the key demographic characteristics of the Shire moving forward, and how these may, or may not, support continued growth in equestrian demand. For example, a majority of the population growth projected for the Shire will occur in East Moorabool, with most of this increased residential activity expected to be in the form of medium density housing (not rural residential, which is more suited to horse owners).

These demographic indicators would not generally support an increase in equestrian participation and activity although it is acknowledged that Moorabool Shire has a long tradition and history of being recognised as a popular

<sup>18</sup> Source: Club Locations Map – Pony Club Association of Victoria.

<sup>19</sup> Source: Pony Club Association of Victoria Annual Report 2012-13.

## Demand Assessment

equine area of Victoria (and well above average participation rates). This reputation is expected to continue in the short to medium term as Bacchus Marsh and Ballan have well established equestrian facilities, however, Ballan is not expected to be as significantly impacted by a reduced supply of rural property dwellings as is expected to occur in and around Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds. The viability of the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve as the key venue for Equestrian activities in the Shire may be challenged in the next 20-30 years as urban encroachment and a reduced number of horse owners in East Moorabool begins to impact the user groups based at the racecourse and the space set aside for equestrian facilities. Harness Racing Victoria has recently contacted Council to investigate the possible inclusion of a permanent high-class harness training track at the Racecourse Reserve, a proposal that was initially investigated during the 2009 master plan process.

A long-term strategy to meet the future needs of the Equestrian sector may be to focus on the Ballan Racecourse and Recreation Reserve being developed to become the new hub for the sport in Moorabool Shire. The racecourse reserve is central within the Shire and has excellent access to good commuter links, such as the Western Freeway. It is approximately 32 hectares in size and contains large areas of undeveloped, but cleared land. There is already Equestrian infrastructure and user groups on the site, with significant capacity to be expanded and upgraded.

Much of the Equestrian infrastructure at the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve is of a basic standard, but is in good condition. Council has previously confirmed its commitment to the retention of the equine facilities at the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve (refer the reserve master plan undertaken in 2009). Council is currently reviewing the 2009 master plan and its commitment to retaining the equine facilities at Bacchus Marsh has not changed. A decision to re-focus the status of the Ballan Racecourse and Recreation Reserve to become the Shire's premier equestrian facility should only occur if the viability of the Bacchus Marsh venue is eroded through urbanisation or other factors.

The master plan for Bungaree Recreation Reserve (2009) supports the establishment of Equestrian facilities to support an adult riders group and a polocrosse club. The area designated for this purpose is on vacant land north of the existing sporting precinct. The facilities identified include day yards, a sand arena, a fully enclosed arena, and a polocrosse field (150m x 60m).

Whilst the land is available and the project supported by the Bungaree Recreation Reserve committee, the proposed consolidation of Equestrian facilities at the Ballan Racecourse and Recreation Reserve should be the initial starting point for the assessment of the optimum location for the proposed polocrosse field and enclosed arena.

The facilities required to support the adult riders group are relatively minor in scale and cost, so there is merit to support a local riding group seeking to improve the quality of the facilities available to them at Bungaree. (The group identified in the master plan is the Bungaree & District Riding Club, however, a check of the peak body for riding clubs, the Horse Riding Clubs Association of Victoria, does not list them as an affiliated group, so the club may have disbanded or be in recess).

### **Strategic Recommendations for Equestrian**

1. Retention of the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve as the premier equestrian centre in the Shire.
2. Continued development of the Ballan Racecourse and Recreation Reserve, and should the Bacchus Marsh centre become unviable in the future as the premier equestrian facility, then consider the Ballan Racecourse and Recreation Reserve as an option to assume the role of the Shire's premier equestrian centre.

The key focus in the short term for existing equestrian clubs and groups should be to address any known safety issues for riders and spectators.

The adopted reserve master plan for the Ballan Racecourse and Recreation Reserve (2009) should be reviewed and updated by 2020.

## 6.7. Gymnastics

The demand assessment for Gymnastics is summarised in the table below, and is followed by a series of strategic recommendations for Moorabool Shire to 2041.

### Demand Assessment

- Existing provision for Gymnastics in Moorabool Shire is one gymnastic centre currently accommodated in the Darley Civic and Community Hub Indoor Stadium. Acrofun Gymnastics was formed in July 2014 and is now the main group providing gymnastics programming in the Shire. (Gymnastics was previously offered as a Belgravia Leisure program until September 2014, when the program ceased). The programs currently offered by Acrofun Gymnastics are Toddler Gym, Pre-School (3-5yrs), Recreation (5+yrs), Gymstar (6+yrs), State Squad, Freestyle (13-18yrs), Ican Program and Personal Training.
- There are no recognised benchmarks for gymnastics facilities.
- The trends of participation by adults in organised Gymnastics in recent years shows that Nationally there was an increase of 45% between 2001 (24,000 adults) and 2010 (35,000 adults), however, the proportion of all adults participating remained stable at 0.3% during this period. Gymnastics participation by adults in Victoria was below the Australian average in 2010 at 0.1%.
- For children, (National) participation increased from 2.6% in 2000 to 4.6% in 2009. The sport has a significantly higher proportion of children actively involved compared to adults, and girls compared to boys.
- Gymnastic Victoria membership data<sup>20</sup> shows that there has been significant growth in Gymnastics participation in Victoria in the past 10 years. Membership in Victorian clubs has grown by 78% since 2005 (22,348 members) to 39,774 members in 2014. (Membership across Australia grew by 57% for the same period).
- Adult 'organised' participation rate for Gymnastics in Victoria (2010) is 0.1%, therefore, the theoretical participation rate in Moorabool Shire now would be approximately 20 people. There is no known organised Gymnastics participation in Moorabool Shire by adults (Acrofun organises personal training for adults, however, by definition, this is not Gymnastics). Projecting to 2036, the theoretical number of adults participating in Gymnastics could be to 40 adults. (Projections are to 2036, as data showing age breakdowns to 2041 was not available at the time the analysis was undertaken).
- Children's (5-14 years) overall participation rate in 'organised' Gymnastics was 4.6% in 2009, therefore, the theoretical participation rate in Moorabool Shire now would be approximately 185, compared to the 2013 membership of Acrofun Gymnastics of 120 juniors (although there were up to 190 members in the program in 2014). Projecting to 2036, the theoretical number of children participating in Gymnastics could be to 300 children.

### Overall Summary

The sport of Gymnastics nationally has grown to encompass eight gym sports: Acrobatic Gymnastics; Cheerleading; Gymnastics for All; Rhythmic Gymnastics; Sport Aerobics; Trampoline Sports; Men's Gymnastics; and Women's Gymnastics.

In Victoria and nationally, Gymnastics has experienced sustained growth since 2000, which has led to a corresponding increase in the demand for facilities. Growth and demand appears to be influenced by a number of factors, including:

- the increased participation by children,
- the success of the relatively new disciplines, such as Sports Aerobics and Cheerleading,
- the improved facilities for high performance training, such as the State Gymnastics Centre,
- the successful pathway programs in the sport that retain gymnasts in the sport for longer,
- the promotion of participation in the sport through recent high profile events hosted in Victoria, such as the World Gymnastics Championships,
- the increasing success and profile of Australian gymnasts internationally,
- the increased number and popularity of kindagyms and other children's introductory gym programs available (many private), and
- the increased recognition in the community of the benefits of participating in gymnastics.

<sup>20</sup> Source: *Gymnastics Australia Annual Report (2014)*.

## Demand Assessment

History shows that Gymnastics has been a popular sport in Moorabool Shire, and this popularity didn't decline despite the challenges faced by the sport with the transition of the program delivery from Belgravia Leisure to Acrofun Gymnastics, in fact, the membership of the group grew from approximately 120 members in 2013, to 190 members in 2014.

The gymnastic equipment is currently permanently set up on the floor of the indoor court in the Darley Civic and Community Hub Indoor Stadium. This arrangement is currently under review by Council but in consultation with Acrofun Gymnastics.

It is not uncommon for community Gymnastics facilities to be available as set-up and pack-up facilities, particularly where Gymnastics is still a relatively new sport in a community (due to the high capital cost to establish purpose-built gymnastics centres) or where community recreation and sporting space is in high demand. The latter is now the case in Bacchus Marsh where indoor basketball and netball participation numbers have grown significantly. Whilst it is acknowledged that there is considerably more time and effort required by volunteers to set up and pack up equipment in venues where gymnastics is based in a shared facility, it is however, a means to ensure that limited community sporting space can be utilised to optimum levels. An additional consideration for the Bacchus Marsh gymnastics facility is the existing sprung floor, which is not designed to be set-up and packed-up on a regular basis.

A possible scenario for Council and the group to consider in the short to medium term (until a permanent, dedicated gymnastics facility becomes available), is for some of the equipment to remain set-up permanently in the stadium, and some a 'set-up and pack-up' component. This would enable some of the court space to become available for other indoor sporting activities. Council and the group have explored the possibility of another room adjacent to the stadium becoming an alternate gymnastic venue, however, the room's dimensions and ceiling height were found to be inadequate for the current needs of the program.

Council will need to continue to liaise with Acrofun Gymnastics to investigate options for a future, permanent location for the Shire's main Gymnastics facility. Gymnastic Victoria's recently completed 'Facility Guide & Strategy Plan' provides detailed information concerning the size and dimensions of the equipment and spaces that are required for a gymnastic centre to operate effectively as a club, and to host gymnastics competition events.

The sport has demonstrated both locally and state wide that it is likely to continue to increase in popularity. This continued natural growth of the sport combined with the projected increase in the Shire's population to 2041, clearly demonstrates that Council, Acrofun Gymnastics and other stakeholders will need to continue to work collaboratively to identify a long term solution for a permanent gymnastics centre for Moorabool Shire.

Currently, gymnasts who aspire to progress to the next level of coaching, competition and training in women's and men's gymnastics, have got reasonable access to two purpose-built gymnastics facilities: the Melton Gymnastics Academy in Melton and the Eureka Gymnastics Club in Ballarat. Both groups are based in permanent purpose-built gymnastics facilities, and both cater for all ages and abilities by offering beginner programs, recreational gymnastics, and boys and girls competitive gymnastics. Whilst the Gymnastic Victoria Facility Guide & Strategy Plan does not specifically identify Moorabool Shire or Acrofun Gymnastics as priorities for facility development, the evidence exists that gymnastics in Moorabool will continue to require appropriate facility provision.

## **Recommendations for Gymnastics**

### **Recommended Future New Gymnastics Facilities**

1. In conjunction with the Acrofun Gymnastics group, continue to investigate options for an alternate gymnastics venue in which the Shire's main gymnastics provider can operate.

(The space required to meet the current and future needs of Acrofun Gymnastics is approximately 700sqm-1,000sqm, depending on the number of apparatus and disciplines that the group require, and a ceiling height of a minimum of 7.0m. Refer to the Gymnastic Victoria Facility Guide & Strategy Plan for more specific spatial information).

## Existing Gymnastics Facilities

Existing Facilities (Reserves)	Improvements
<p><b>East Moorabool</b></p> <p>Darley Civic and Community Hub Indoor Stadium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes to infrastructure.</li> <li>• Facilitate the continued use of some of the court space for gymnastics by Acrofun Gymnastics, until a suitable alternate gymnastics venue is identified.</li> </ul> <p><i>East Moorabool residents also have close access to the equivalent of a Regional level gymnastics facility at the Melton Gymnastics Academy.</i></p>
<p><b>West Moorabool</b></p> <p>No existing facilities</p>	<p><i>Ballan and West Moorabool residents have close access to the equivalent of a Regional gymnastics facility at the Eureka Gymnastics Club (Ballarat).</i></p>

## 6.8. Lawn Bowls

The demand assessment for Lawn Bowls is summarised in the table below, and is followed by a series of strategic recommendations for Moorabool Shire to 2041.

### Demand Assessment

- Existing provision for Lawn Bowls in Moorabool Shire is five greens, with four being within 400m of each other in Bacchus Marsh, and the fifth in Ballan. The four greens in Bacchus Marsh (at two clubs) are synthetic surface greens, whilst the green in Ballan is a natural turf surface.
- Benchmark data for bowling greens identified a current surplus of bowling greens in East Moorabool, but an adequate number for the projected population of over 35,000 people to 2041. There is an adequate supply of bowling greens in Ballan and West Moorabool currently, but a likely shortfall of one green for the population projected to 2041.
- The trends of participation in Lawn Bowls in recent years for adults (National & Victoria) show a relatively stable rate of participation since 2001. There are no recordable levels of participation for children.
- Adult 'organised' participation rate for Lawn Bowls in Victoria (2010) is 1.7%, therefore, the theoretical participation rate in Moorabool Shire now would be approximately 375. No participation data is available for comparative purposes from the two large clubs in Bacchus Marsh (Ballan Bowling Club has an estimated 12 members). Projecting to 2036, the theoretical number of adults participating in Lawn Bowls could be up to 660 adults throughout the Shire. (Projections are to 2036, as data showing age breakdowns to 2041 was not available at the time the analysis was undertaken).

### Overall Summary

There is currently adequate provision of Bowling greens throughout Moorabool Shire to meet current demand. Generally, the current provision of five greens should have capacity to absorb new demand through to 2041, as four of the greens are located in East Moorabool, the area where demand will continue to be strongest due to the large population base now and into the future. Council has had little involvement with the development of the two bowling club facilities in Bacchus Marsh, as both are on freehold land owned by the respective clubs.

Of note also is the fact that the four greens in Bacchus Marsh have synthetic playing surfaces, so have extra capacity over natural turf greens to accommodate high training and competition loads all year round.

The Ballan Bowling Club has one natural turf green and significant capacity to absorb new membership and participation growth, due to its low membership. Increased demand for access to bowling greens is likely to occur in Ballan and District, as the population of Ballan is projected to increase by more 2,000 people to 2041.

The master plan for Bungaree Recreation Reserve (2009) supports the construction of a potential new green at the reserve. The master plan reports .....

*"There is currently no lawn bowls club in the Bungaree District, however, it has long been the subject of discussion.*

*There are many men and women of all ages within the district that play bowls every weekend during the summer months. Most of these participants play in Ballarat, however, we believe a significant number would join a club set up on the Bungaree Recreation Reserve.*

*Bungaree is central to many towns in the western region of the Moorabool Shire and would cater especially to senior citizens who find it hard to travel to Ballarat for their leisure pursuits. This would also allow for more casual participants in the area that would not participate if the facilities did not exist locally."*

As the report says, the central location of the Bungaree Recreation Reserve does provide the ideal opportunity for the reserve to meet any current or future need for lawn bowls in West Moorabool, particularly as the one green in Ballan will probably be needed to cater for just the emerging local need in Ballan and District. The Bungaree Recreation Reserve also has adequate land to comfortably accommodate a green, and the recently constructed multipurpose clubrooms will ensure adequate off-field facilities are available for any new bowling participants.

The emergence of barefoot and corporate bowls has successfully introduced a new opportunity for bowling clubs in Victoria to raise revenue and promote the sport to a younger market. Whilst clubs have indicated that these new initiatives have attracted some new casual bowlers to their respective venues, there is yet to be clear proof that these programs will have any significant impact on overall numbers of bowlers joining the clubs.

## **Strategic Recommendations for Lawn Bowls**

### **Recommended Future New Bowling Greens**

#### East Moorabool

No new Bowling green developments are required to service the projected population growth and bowling participation rates.

#### West Moorabool

1. Construct one new bowling green at the Bungaree Recreation Reserve.

### **Existing Bowling Greens**

<b>Existing Bowling Facilities</b>	<b>Improvements</b>
<b>East Moorabool</b>	
The Avenue Bowling Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resurface one of the greens.</li> </ul>
Bacchus Marsh Bowling Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No change.</li> </ul>
<b>West Moorabool</b>	
Ballan Bowling Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace the green (surface type to be determined).</li> <li>• Assess the viability of installing floodlights, when demand for access to bowling increases.</li> </ul>

## 6.9. Netball

The demand assessment for Netball is summarised in the table below, and is followed by a series of strategic recommendations for Moorabool Shire to 2041.

### Demand Assessment

- Existing provision of outdoor netball courts in Moorabool Shire is 18 courts, with 11 having compliant dimensions and run-offs, and seven not being compliant, therefore rendering them unsatisfactory for competition use. Eight of the 11 compliant outdoor netball courts are overlaid onto tennis courts. Indoor netball courts are also available at the Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre (2 courts) and the Darley Civic and Community Hub Indoor Stadium (1 court).
- Benchmark data for outdoor netball courts identified that there is currently an undersupply of three courts for East Moorabool, increasing to a shortage of up to seven courts by 2041, with the optimum number of courts for East Moorabool estimated to be ten for the projected future population of over 35,000 people. There is an adequate supply of netball courts in Ballan and West Moorabool currently, and also to meet the needs for the population projected to 2041.
- The current shortfall of outdoor netball courts in East Moorabool is partially offset by the availability of the two indoor courts at the Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre. Unlike many local government areas in both urban and rural areas of Victoria, Moorabool Shire does not have a regional outdoor netball association. The delivery model in the Shire for organised netball comprises of junior and senior outdoor competitions associated with the two regional football leagues that cover the Shire clubs, and junior and senior indoor competitions organised by the Bacchus Marsh Netball Association at the management group operating the Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre.
- The trends of participation for Netball in recent years for adults nationally shows a small decline, whilst for Victoria, the rate of participation has marginally increased since 2007. The participation rate for children (National) has also declined since 2000.
- The sport historically has had a higher proportion of girls actively involved compared to women, however, in the past 20 years the number of women participating has increased, largely on the back of an increasing number of country football leagues incorporating netball as a parallel sport conducted concurrently with football, and the number of indoor centres now accommodating indoor netball competitions.
- The adult 'organised' participation rate for Netball in Victoria (2010) is 3.3%, therefore, the theoretical participation rate in Moorabool Shire now would be approximately 730, compared to the current estimated number of adult players in Moorabool Shire of approximately 400 adults (includes an estimate for those 'junior' members who are aged 15+years). This data suggests that there may be a latent demand for Netball. Projecting to 2036, the theoretical number of adults participating in Netball could be up to 1,290 adults. (Projections are to 2036, as data showing age breakdowns to 2041 was not available at the time the analysis was undertaken).
- Children's (5-14 years) overall participation rate in 'organised' Netball was 8.4% in 2009, therefore, the theoretical participation rate in Moorabool Shire now would be approximately 340, which is the same as the current junior participation of 340 juniors. Projecting to 2036, the theoretical number of children participating in Netball could be up to 560 children.
- Whilst there has been a stabilisation of netball participation by the Bacchus Marsh Netball Association in the past 12 months, the Association is somewhat constrained by a lack of courts to facilitate growth in areas such as representative netball. There are currently more than 500 people participating in Association netball activities.

### Overall Summary

There are some strong indicators to suggest that Netball will continue to have sustainable numbers, including:

- the strong junior participant numbers in netball,
- the emerging growth in participation in East Moorabool triggered by high population growth, and
- the net increase in the number of females aged between 5-34 years projected for the Shire to 2036.

Behind swimming, Netball is still the highest participation physical activity by females.

The development of additional netball courts commensurate with the growing population will be necessary to meet future demand.

## Demand Assessment

In all instances where District level football reserves exist or are planned, land needs to be set aside for a minimum of one outdoor netball court. This will ensure existing and any new football clubs will have access to the necessary base infrastructure for affiliation with football netball leagues. Provision for up to two netball courts is considered the minimum requirement now for football netball clubs, and these can generally be provided as dual use netball-tennis courts. Of the recreation reserves that currently accommodate football netball clubs, the following have only one netball court:

- Maddingley Park.
- Ballan Recreation Reserve.
- Gordon Recreation Reserve.
- Dunnstown Recreation Reserve.

At Maddingley Park and Ballan Recreation Reserve, an opportunity exists to provide a second netball court as an overlay on existing tennis courts, whilst in Gordon, an option to provide a second netball court could be to provide a court(s) as an overlay onto the proposed new tennis courts at Gordon Public Park (see Section 6.11 Tennis). It is acknowledged that the preferred location for the Gordon Football Netball Club for a second netball court would be at the recreation reserve. However, if space does allow a second court to be constructed at the recreation reserve, this option might work, particularly if the second court was used predominantly for junior team training to free-up the reserve courts for training by older age teams. At the Dunnstown Recreation Reserve, it may not be possible to add a second netball court beside the existing one, so as part of a reserve master planning process a preferred location for a future second netball court could be investigated.

The following recreation reserves accommodate football netball clubs (or have potential to), but do not have a netball court:

- Darley Civic and Community Hub Oval (although an indoor netball court is available onsite).
- Korweinguboorra Recreation Reserve.
- Mt Egerton Recreation Reserve (although has capacity for two netball courts to be overlaid onto the three tennis courts).

As previously mentioned, the Bacchus Marsh Netball Association is unable to access the two indoor courts in the Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre for sufficient timeslots to accommodate all of the needs of the Association, including the aim of the Association and its members to introduce a State League team (which will further strengthen the sport pathway for netball players in Moorabool). Elite level local players have to currently travel out of the Shire for State and representative competition opportunities. This is largely due to the competition for court space that the Association has with the Bacchus Marsh Basketball Association, Belgravia Leisure (for group fitness activities), and other community uses. As proposed in Section 6.4 Basketball, the addition of up to two more indoor courts at the Leisure Centre should increase the availability of courts for netball (and basketball) activities. However, any additions to the Leisure Centre are likely to be medium to long term projects for Council due to the high cost to construct indoor court facilities and the likely long lead time for any negotiations with the school and the Education Department that will be required to vary the current joint-use agreement for community use of the Leisure Centre.

Another option for Council and the Bacchus Marsh Netball Association to consider is to transfer the junior netball competition to an outdoor venue. This would free up court time at the Leisure Centre to enable the senior competitions to expand, and to introduce other programs and services, such as netball pathway programs.

The active sports precinct proposed for the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve provides an opportunity to construct some outdoor netball courts that could be used by the Association for its junior netball competition. This option is a realistic one that could help to significantly expand the netball offer in East Moorabool in a very short timeframe and in a cost effective way, as much of the necessary off-court infrastructure to support an outdoor netball competition at the site will also be required for the field-based sporting uses also planned for the site. It is recommended that up to four netball courts be provided, with each potentially allowing for tennis court overlays to improve the flexibility and community use of the courts.

Whilst it is acknowledged that Netball is increasingly becoming an indoor sport, it is predominantly women's competitions that are 'demanding' indoor space. The historic offer for junior netball as an outdoor experience is still the 'norm' throughout Victoria, and the proposal outlined above could effectively be only medium term, until such time as the Leisure Centre is extended.

## **Recommendations for Netball**

### **Recommended Future New Netball Courts**

#### East Moorabool

1. Develop four new outdoor netball courts within the active sporting precinct planned for the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve (with possible tennis overlays).
2. Develop a second netball court at Maddingley Park (overlay on the tennis courts).
3. Extend the Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre by up to two indoor courts, with provision for an overlay show court (if agreed, review the terms and form of the current joint-use agreement between Council and the Bacchus Marsh Secondary College).

#### West Moorabool

4. Develop a second netball court at Ballan Recreation Reserve (overlay on the tennis courts).
5. Identify options to install a second netball court at Dunnstown Recreation Reserve.
6. If required, consider developing a netball court at Gordon Public Park (overlay on the proposed new tennis courts).

### **Existing Netball Courts**

Items included below are the projects considered to be the major directions relating to existing netball courts, most of which have been sourced from adopted reserve master plans. Master plans may include additional projects of a more minor, or less strategic, nature.

<b>Existing Courts (Reserves)</b>	<b>Improvements</b>
<b>East Moorabool</b>	
Darley Civic and Community Hub Oval and outdoor netball courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the 2009 reserve master plan.</li> <li>• Decommission the two netball courts (courts to be incorporated into the total footprint required for the development of a new Early Years Hub).</li> <li>• Investigate options to replace the courts at another location at the Hub (refer the opportunity to the master plan review process).</li> </ul>
Darley Park netball courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the 2002 reserve master plan.</li> <li>• Retain and upgrade the three netball courts in the northwest corner of the reserve (refer the opportunity to the master plan review process).</li> </ul>
Maddingley Park netball court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend (or rebuild) the existing social clubrooms to better cater for the needs of the user groups.</li> <li>• As per 'Future New Netball Courts' above.</li> </ul>
Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per 'Future New Netball Courts' above.</li> </ul>
<b>West Moorabool</b>	
Ballan Recreation Reserve netball court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per 'Future New Netball Courts' above.</li> <li>• Install floodlights on the dual netball-tennis courts to training standard (tennis: 250 lux).</li> </ul>
Gordon Recreation Reserve netball court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a reserve master plan.</li> <li>• Identify options to install a second netball court (refer task to the master plan process), but if not possible consider using Gordon Public Park, as noted per 'Future New Netball Courts' above.</li> </ul>

Existing Courts (Reserves)	Improvements
Bungaree Recreation Reserve netball courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the 2009 reserve master plan.</li> <li>Remove the three former netball courts now not used.</li> </ul>
Wallace Recreation Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade the netball floodlights on the dedicated netball court to training standard (100 lux).</li> <li>Install floodlights on the dual netball-tennis courts to training standard (tennis: 250 lux).</li> </ul>
Dunnstown Recreation Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a reserve master plan.</li> <li>As per 'Future New Netball Courts' above (refer task to the master plan process).</li> </ul>
Elaine Recreation Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install floodlights on the dual netball-tennis courts to training standard (tennis: 250 lux).</li> </ul>

## 6.10. Soccer

The demand assessment for Soccer is summarised in the table below, and is followed by a series of strategic recommendations for Moorabool Shire to 2041.

### Demand Assessment

- There are no existing dedicated, purpose-built soccer fields located in Moorabool Shire. Soccer is currently contained to the two ovals and the athletics track infield at Masons Lane Reserve, and the occasional use of the Darley Civic and Community Hub oval.
- Benchmark data for Soccer fields identified a current undersupply of two fields for East Moorabool, increasing to five fields to 2041, with the optimum number of soccer fields for East Moorabool estimated to be seven for the projected future population of over 35,000 people. Similarly, there is a current shortfall of two fields in the combined Ballan and West Moorabool region, increasing to four fields for the population projected to 2041.
- The trends of participation for Soccer in recent years for adults (National & Victoria) and for children (National) show a marked increase since 2000.
- In relation to children (5-14 years), the most significant increase in participation has been by girls, where the rate of participation in 2000 was 2.9% (or 37,300 girls), but rose to 6.2% in 2009 (or 82,700 girls).
- The adult 'organised' participation rate for Soccer in Victoria (2010) is 2.2%, therefore, the theoretical participation rate in Moorabool Shire now would be approximately 490, compared to the current estimated number of adult players of approximately 100 adults (includes an estimate for those 'junior' members who are aged 15+years). This data suggests that there may be a significant latent demand for adult soccer, however, this is most likely not the case due to the historic and strong association that the Shire has had with Australian Rules football. (However, the low 'take-up' of Soccer by adults is probably best explained by the lack of Soccer fields throughout the Shire, and lack of a permanent base for soccer in the Shire). Projecting to 2036, the theoretical number of adults participating in Soccer could be up to 860 adults. (Projections are to 2036, as data showing age breakdowns to 2041 was not available at the time the analysis was undertaken).
- Children's overall participation rate in 'organised' Soccer was 13.2% in 2009, therefore, the theoretical participation rate in Moorabool Shire now should be approximately 530 compared to the current estimated participation of 225 – a significant difference. Projecting to 2036, the theoretical number of children participating in Soccer could be up to 890 children.

### Overall Summary

The demand for access to soccer fields and associated programs is expected to grow significantly in Moorabool Shire, as the population growth triggers a changing social profile that will see new communities become established that won't have the historic attachment with Australian Rules football that second and third generation families born in Moorabool Shire currently have. This change in preferences is clearly evident in other peri-urban councils around Melbourne, such as Macedon Ranges Shire, Mitchell Shire and Cardinia Shire, which did not have any soccer clubs 15 years ago.

Notwithstanding this growth in demand driven by new communities, there will also be new interest amongst children and families living in the established townships and rural areas within West Moorabool, as the broad public appeal and acceptance of Soccer continues, particularly amongst young boys and girls.

There is projected to be a net increase in the number of people aged between 5-39 years to 2036, which may also drive the demand for Soccer for older teenagers and young adults as the popularity of the game continues to expand. There is no doubt that the lack of a dedicated soccer facility in Moorabool Shire has hindered the growth of the sport and that of the Bacchus Marsh Soccer Club. The Club is currently utilising the athletics track infield and two sportsgrounds at Masons Lane Reserve (the latter two which are shared with dog obedience training and cricket), and the oval at the Darley Civic and Community Hub. It is likely a second soccer club will need to form in Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds as the population increases to 35,000 by 2041.

The main opportunity to provide dedicated soccer fields in East Moorabool in the short-term is to use some of the land at the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve being set aside for a new active sports precinct to develop a new District level soccer facility (in conjunction with the planned new District level football and cricket facility – refer Sections 6.1 and 6.5). The use of a synthetic surface on a dedicated soccer field will reduce the

number of natural turf soccer fields required to be provided, as a synthetic field has the capability to supplement the training load of one or more clubs. Whether the Bacchus Marsh Soccer Club relocates to the proposed new facilities at the Racecourse Reserve or remains at Masons Lane Reserve, will be a decision for negotiation between the Council and the Club.

If the Club chooses to relocate to the proposed new dedicated soccer fields at the Racecourse Reserve, Masons Lane Reserve could become the venue for a second soccer club (if only on an interim basis), if and when the need for a second club eventuates. Alternatively, a second District level soccer facility could be planned at a site yet to be determined in East Moorabool, but could become part of any future broad acre residential estate. This Strategy has concluded that the potential new sporting reserve being considered for the Underbank Land will be required to service future football and cricket needs (refer Sections 6.1 and 6.5). With the new soccer facility planned for the Racecourse Reserve, any second District level soccer facility would be better located in Darley and surrounds.

For residents located in Ballan and West Moorabool, good access to 11 soccer clubs affiliated with Ballarat Soccer is available in Bacchus Marsh, Ballarat, Buninyong, Daylesford, and other local towns. The Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility at Morshead Park also provides Shire residents with relatively close access to premier soccer facilities. Due to the small populations of the townships in West Moorabool and combined with the close location to existing clubs, it is unlikely that a new stand-alone soccer team/ club would be sustainable in the west.

Should demand emerge in the future for locally accessible soccer training fields, it is recommended that an existing underutilised oval be considered, such as the ovals at the reserves located in Blackwood, Mt Egerton and Elaine. Or similar to the potential future need for Basketball training in Ballan (refer Section 6.4 Basketball), an alternate option for a local Soccer training opportunity in West Moorabool might be to utilise the Ballan Primary School oval as a venue for social (small-sided) soccer or as a training base for players who are members of clubs in either Ballarat or Bacchus Marsh.

## **Recommendations for Soccer**

### **Recommended Future New Soccer Fields**

#### East Moorabool

1. Develop a new District level soccer facility within the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve to support football, cricket and soccer, with the soccer facilities comprising of
  - 1-2 dedicated, fenced and full-size soccer field (potentially with a synthetic surface).
  - Two unfenced fields with a cricket oval overlay.
2. Develop a new District level soccer facility at a greenfield site (in the long-term) comprising up to three fields (at a site yet to be determined, but preferably in the Darley area).

#### West Moorabool

No new Soccer fields are required in West Moorabool to service the projected population growth and soccer participation rates, due to the availability of clubs and facilities in Bacchus Marsh, Ballarat and other towns just west of the Shire.

(However, should the demand for a locally based soccer training facility emerge in West Moorabool, Council may consider a joint-venture with Ballan Primary School to upgrade the school oval as a training field only, or plan for a new field(s) as part of any new broad acre residential developments in Ballan, although a preferred strategy is to activate existing underutilised reserves in neighbouring Shire towns).

## **Existing Sportsgrounds**

<b>Existing Fields (Reserves)</b>	<b>Improvements</b>
<b>East Moorabool</b>	
Darley Civic and Community Hub Oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the 2009 reserve master plan.</li> <li>• Provide two player change rooms.</li> <li>• Provide a referee change room(s).</li> <li>• Provide a shelter over a section of the terraced spectator area.</li> </ul>

<b>Existing Fields (Reserves)</b>	<b>Improvements</b>
Masons Lane Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install floodlights on Oval 1 and the athletics oval for use for soccer training (50 lux).</li> <li>• Upgrade the Athletics Pavilion to incorporate change rooms, a disabled toilet, and storage.</li> <li>• Install a new sub-surface irrigation system in Oval 2.</li> <li>• Increase the provision of shade/ shelters to service Ovals 1 and 2.</li> </ul>
<b>West Moorabool</b>  <b>No existing facilities</b>	<p><i>Ballan and West Moorabool residents have close access to a number of soccer facilities and clubs in Ballarat and other towns west of the Shire (including the Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility), and to the Bacchus Marsh Soccer Club.</i></p>

## 6.11. Tennis

The demand assessment for Tennis is summarised in the table below, and is followed by a series of strategic recommendations for Moorabool Shire to 2041.

### Demand Assessment

- Existing provision for Tennis in Moorabool Shire is 54 tennis courts, being a combination of courts compliant for tennis competition (41) and those that are non-compliant but which have an important role as community courts (13). All of the non-compliant courts are located in smaller rural communities and districts. The above total of 54 courts does not include the 12 grass courts located at the Bacchus Marsh Lawn Tennis Club in Maddingley Park, which are only available during the summer season, or the Morrisons tennis courts and the Mt Wallace tennis court, both of which are significantly degraded.
- Benchmark data for Tennis courts identified that there is currently an adequate supply of courts for East Moorabool, but changing to a demand for an additional four courts to 2041, with the optimum number of courts for East Moorabool estimated to be 18 courts (excludes the grass courts). There is also an adequate supply of courts in Ballan and West Moorabool currently, and also to meet the needs for the population projected to 2041.
- The trends of participation in Tennis in recent years for adults (National) and for children (National) each show a small decline since 2000, however, for participation by Victorian adults since 2007 there has been stable participation.
- The adult 'organised' participation rate for Tennis in Victoria (2010) is 3.4%, therefore, the theoretical participation rate in Moorabool Shire now should be approximately 750 people, compared to the current estimated number of adult players in Moorabool Shire of approximately 280 adults (includes an estimate for those 'junior' members who are aged 15+years). This disparity needs to be considered in the context that Tennis is an activity that is widely participated in by adults both socially and recreationally, and it is highly likely that many more adults in Moorabool Shire are active and regular tennis players at club courts, community courts and private courts who are not members of clubs. This will be the case in the small townships and remote rural communities.
- Projecting to 2036, the theoretical number of adults participating in Tennis could be up to 1,320 adults. (Projections are to 2036, as data showing age breakdowns to 2041 was not available at the time the analysis was undertaken).
- Children's overall participation rate in 'organised' Tennis was 7.9% in 2010, therefore, the theoretical participation rate in Moorabool Shire now should be approximately 315, compared to the current estimated 150 junior players. Projecting to 2036, the number of children participating in Tennis could be up to 530 children. Similar to the adult participation rate, these statistics need to be considered in the context of the high numbers of juniors enrolled in tennis coaching but who might not be club members.
- Tennis is a 'whole-of-life' activity, therefore, variables in age profiles throughout the Shire between the eastern and western areas may not have as dramatic effect on the rate of participation compared to other sports that are more aligned with 'active' age cohorts versus 'non-active' age cohorts.

### Overall Summary

The data suggests that there is a high latent demand for Tennis participation from both adults and children in Moorabool Shire. However, this can only be fully validated after a more comprehensive analysis is undertaken of the total number of people enrolled in tennis coaching programs or who regularly play tennis either socially or recreationally at community courts, as both forms are considered 'organised' Tennis participation under the definition by ERASS<sup>21</sup> for 'organised' participation in physical activity.

Whilst the number of existing tennis courts exceeds the benchmark required for both East Moorabool and West Moorabool for the current population and generally for the projected population to 2041, 32 of these courts are located in the smaller townships with a combined population of approximately 10,000 people. Tennis court provision in small townships has historically occurred due to the popularity of Tennis (and subsequent wide spread of the age of players), the capacity of the game to be enjoyed socially, the relatively low cost and small area required to construct courts, and the relatively low maintenance required to upkeep tennis courts.

Given that the highest proportion of the total population growth to 2041 will occur within East Moorabool, there

<sup>21</sup> Refer Glossary, ERASS Report, 2010.

may need to be an increase in the number of courts in this region to meet new demand, particularly in relation to the distribution of courts available for community use, such as the courts at Darley Park. As a Regional level facility, the Bacchus Marsh Lawn Tennis Club will continue to fulfil the club/ competition need of residents throughout the forecast period, and provide the basis of the sports pathway for tennis, where a local resident can participate in the sport from introductory tennis lessons through to junior and senior competitions, high-performance coaching, and then regional tournaments. Further, a Regional level tennis facility typically provides a range of tennis development services (such as accreditation courses for coaching, umpires and officials) and various club development programs for the benefit of existing tennis clubs and informal tennis groups. Local tennis enthusiasts also benefit from 'spectator opportunities' when Regional level centres host regional tennis tournaments. This strategy supports the continued development of the Bacchus Marsh Lawn Tennis Club as the Shire's Regional level tennis facility.

In the rural townships, the Council and the local communities should continue to maximise the opportunity of providing tennis courts as dual use tennis-netball courts, where possible. This not only creates savings and economies of scale when building new or upgrading existing facilities, but invariably will accelerate the provision of either a tennis facility or a netball facility where the cost of construction of both may not have been possible in the first instance. For example, should demand exist in the future for netball in Mt Egerton, then the tennis court facility at the reserve should also be used to provide a netball court(s), as an overlay on the tennis courts.

In relation to the proliferation of non-compliant tennis courts throughout the Shire, it should not be a priority of Council or the local communities to rebuild them as compliant courts whilst their primary use remains social and recreational. With the recent upgrade of the tennis courts at the Elaine Recreation Reserve in the south of the Shire, good access to compliant, competition standard courts is now possible for most Shire residents, irrespective of their place of residence.

## **Recommendations for Tennis**

### **Recommended Future New Tennis Courts**

#### East Moorabool

1. Develop four new outdoor tennis courts within the active sporting precinct planned for the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve (with possible netball overlays).

#### West Moorabool

No new Tennis courts are required in West Moorabool to service the projected population growth and tennis participation rates.

### **Existing Tennis Courts**

Items included below are the projects considered to be the major directions relating to existing tennis courts, most of which have been sourced from adopted reserve master plans. Master plans may include additional projects of a more minor, or less strategic, nature.

<b>Existing Courts / Facilities</b>	<b>Improvements</b>
<b>East Moorabool</b>	
Bacchus Marsh Tennis Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with the Bacchus Marsh Lawn Tennis Club to confirm the number and configuration of courts to meet future needs.</li> <li>Resurface the existing synthetic grass tennis courts.</li> <li>Upgrade and extend the tennis clubrooms to improve its functionality, to make it accessible, and to better cater for the growing requirements of a Region level tennis complex.</li> <li>Rationalise tennis storage into a single storage facility, and remove the timber shed.</li> </ul>
Darley Park tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the 2002 reserve master plan.</li> </ul>
Myrniong tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change.</li> </ul>
Balliang tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change.</li> </ul>

Existing Courts / Facilities	Improvements
<b>West Moorabool</b>	
Blackwood tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a reserve master plan.</li> <li>• Re-surface of the tennis courts, when tennis demand exists.</li> </ul>
Greendale tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No change.</li> </ul>
Ballan tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install floodlights on the dual tennis-netball courts to training standard (tennis: 250 lux).</li> </ul>
Gordon Public Park tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redevelop the three courts to provide two compliant courts (with a netball overlay).</li> </ul>
Mt Egerton tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a reserve master plan.</li> <li>• Resurface the courts (consider overlay of 1-2 netball courts).</li> </ul>
Beremboke tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the 2004 reserve master plan.</li> <li>• Resurface the courts, when required.</li> </ul>
Morrison's tennis courts (See comments below)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a reserve master plan.</li> <li>• No change.</li> </ul>
Wallace tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install floodlights on the dual tennis-netball courts to training standard (tennis: 250 lux).</li> </ul>
Bungaree tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No change.</li> </ul>
Bullarook tennis court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a reserve master plan.</li> <li>• Resurface the court, when required.</li> </ul>
Dunnstown tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a reserve master plan.</li> <li>• No change.</li> </ul>
Millbrook tennis court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resurface the courts, when required.</li> </ul>
Navigators tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a reserve master plan.</li> <li>• Install floodlights to training standard to the set of two tennis courts (tennis: 250 lux).</li> </ul>
Yendon tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a reserve master plan.</li> <li>• Remove the tennis court closest to the clubroom building, and reinstate to grass.</li> <li>• Resurface the two northern courts, when required.</li> </ul>
Clarendon tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resurface the courts, when required.</li> </ul>
Elaine Recreation Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install floodlights on the dual tennis-netball courts to training standard (tennis: 250 lux).</li> </ul>

The following upgrades are recommended for the former tennis facility at Mt Wallace Recreation Reserve:

- Repair the perimeter fence on the road side, or remove the fence and replace it with a low height fence of 1.2 metres to improve the landscape amenity of the playground and adjacent Hall.
- Remove the surface of the disused courts and reinstate as grass.

The tennis facility within the Morrison's Recreation Reserve is currently overgrown and in a state of general disrepair. The recently upgraded tennis courts at Elaine (approximately 10kms away) may result in the courts at Morrison's not being required in the future, however, it is not recommended to remove the facility until a master plan and associated recreational needs assessment for the town are completed.

## 6.12. Other Sporting and Recreation Facility Needs

The following sections deal with the current supply and/ or need for other sporting and recreation facilities that are either currently available within Moorabool Shire or would be expected to experience demand as the population continues to increase.

### 6.12.1. Older Adult Needs

By 2041, the number of people living in Moorabool Shire aged over 60 years will increase by more than 7,000 to just under 13,500. Priorities for this age group's needs will include facilities and activities close to home, open space with shade and seating, and off road paths and trails. In relation to active pursuits, there will likely be increased demand for swimming, tennis, golf, lawn bowls, and health & fitness activities, whilst for unstructured activities, there will likely be increased demand for walking, dog exercise and play ground visitations supervising grandchildren.

As the population ages there will also be an increased demand for activities that are not influenced by weather conditions, so indoor programmable space for social recreation, as well as low impact health and wellbeing fitness activities, will become important.

The previous sections outline a range of options to improve and expand the suite of sporting facilities available across the Shire to meet increasing demand as the population increases. Many of the recommendations are equally relevant for and apply to older adults as they do for younger people, particularly for those sports where there is an existing dominant profile of older people participating (such as lawn bowls and golf) and for those sports where older adults are becoming more prevalent participants (such as swimming and tennis).

Volume 2 of the Recreation and Leisure Strategy, the Moorabool Play Strategy, makes several references to the need for play spaces to have good provision of shade and seating, and good walking access, to accommodate carers, which includes older adults. These design features will become increasingly more important attributes for play spaces due to the increasing trend for grandparents to be a preferred carer during the day for families where both parents are working, or in the case of single parent families, the sole parent is working.

The Moorabool Hike and Bike Strategy (2014) provides strategic direction for the planning and development of the recreation and commuter hike and bike network throughout the Shire. Importantly for older adults, the Strategy advocates that priority should be given to linking the primary destinations within the overall proposed hike and bike network. These destinations include schools, larger shopping centres, major parks and reserves, major public transport routes, and significant community hubs and/facilities – all important destinations for older adults, or which have potential for Council to encourage older adults to become active when accessing them, as part of any health and wellbeing messages targeting older adults.

**It is recommended that Council incorporates into the future design of new open spaces and the refurbishment and upgrade of existing parks and reserves, good provision for accessible paths, good provision of seats and shade, and consideration for dog exercise, arts and passive leisure opportunities.**

### 6.12.2. Low Cost/ Free Active Recreation Facilities

There are individuals and pockets of communities within Moorabool that experience disadvantage in many forms. Recreation and sport helps to build communities and create a sense of community connection, and can help to bind families through shared experiences and achievements. Through participation, sport and recreation can also help to address anti-social behaviour and can support education.

The enhancement of major parks with playgrounds, with linear paths and linkages between open space areas, and with other family recreation facilities (e.g. BBQs, seats and shelters) will continue to encourage increased recreational activity - and to access these, there is no cost to residents.

People's preferences for the way they engage in physical activity are changing. Whilst traditional, club-based sport will continue to have appeal for a cross-section of the community, an increasing number of people are choosing to participate in social and non-competitive sporting and recreation activities. The key attributes of this form of physical activity include:

- Can be undertaken for little or no cost.
- Can be informal.
- Can be undertaken at times and locations that are flexible.
- Generally requires little or no equipment.
- Focus is generally on fun and social engagement.
- Improves physical fitness, health and wellbeing.

Many councils have, or are now beginning to install, infrastructure that is typically used and designed for social and non-competitive sporting and recreation uses. **It is recommended that Council consider options for the installation of informal sporting and recreation facilities within Shire parks or urban environments.** Examples include:

- Skate parks.
- Tennis practice (or hit up) walls.
- Basketball half-courts with a backboard and ring.
- Jogging paths around major reserves.
- Outdoor exercise equipment (or outdoor gyms).



Other opportunities are now emerging to support and encourage social sporting and recreation activities. Each of the activities require different infrastructure to support them, require footprints of varying areas to accommodate the main playing or active space, and require different locational characteristics or settings to be considered, i.e. some activities generate noise.

#### 1. Three on Three Basketball Pads

These are a variation to basketball half-court facilities, with the point of difference being that they have line-markings and basketball rings as per a full-court, however, the total court area is just larger than a half-court. These facilities are more flexible for use, as they can be used for games, and for individual or group practice throws. See example right (Albert Park).



## 2. Golf Practice Cages

Golf practice cages are an excellent option to install at reserves where there is conflict between sportsground users and people wishing to practice golf. The cages also provide an excellent opportunity for people of all ages to participate in golf for no charge. Golf practice cages can be installed as an addition to a cricket practice net.

See example right (Glen Eira Council).



## 3. Bouldering Walls

Bouldering represents a highly accessible activity, offering physical challenges and enjoyable recreation for a wide range of ability levels. Bouldering walls can be fixed to existing walls of buildings or other structures, or be free-standing in open space areas – see images at right and below of different settings.

Climbing walls attached to existing buildings should also allow for a clear area of at least 5m from the base of the wall for spotters, equipment, etc., whilst free-standing walls require a footprint of approximately 10m x 5m, depending on the number and configuration of the wall(s).



## 4. Outdoor Table Tennis Tables

Fixed, permanent outdoor table tennis tables are becoming increasingly popular in the public domain, particularly in plazas or urban parks.



### 6.12.3. Health & Fitness (Gymnasiums & Group/ Personal Fitness)

Participation in Health & Fitness activities is second only to Walking as the most popular physical activity undertaken by people<sup>22</sup>. In 2010, 23.5% of all Australians aged over 15 years participated regularly in some form of gymnasium workout, group fitness class, or personal fitness activity – for all Victorians aged over 15 years, it was 24.7%.

In Moorabool Shire, both Council and the private sector provide health & fitness facilities and services, which is a typical delivery model for most local governments. The following list includes all known existing health & fitness providers within Moorabool Shire, and the services offered. All providers are currently based in East Moorabool<sup>23</sup>:

Facility/ Location	Services Offered
<b>Council Provider (managed by Belgravia Leisure)</b>	
Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre Bacchus Marsh Secondary College	Gymnasium, group fitness classes, personal training, crèche
<b>Private Providers</b>	
Anytime Fitness Bacchus Marsh Village Shopping Centre	Gymnasium, 24 hour access
Invictus Fitness & Martial Arts Maddingley	Gymnasium, martial arts, Pilates, weightlifting, personal training
CrossFit Bacchus Bacchus Marsh	Gymnasium, group fitness classes, weightlifting
Royale Fitness Maddingley	Group fitness classes, personal training
Reach Fitness with Friends Darley	Gymnasium, group fitness classes, yoga
Holistic Health & Fitness Bacchus Marsh	Personal training

Access to health & fitness facilities and services is valued by Shire residents, as confirmed from community feedback received during the public exhibition of the draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy (June 2015), and in the findings from a survey of Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre users, which was conducted during the Leisure Facilities and Services Review Study in 2014. Aspects of health & fitness activities considered important by Shire residents, include the fitness outcomes, the social interaction with other participants, the feeling of safety whilst exercising indoors and with a group, the flexibility of participation, the range of class types, and the accessibility to fitness services for people of all ages and fitness levels (cited as a significant point of difference to most sporting activities).

A significant issue for Council presently is the high cost of provision of health & fitness services that are offered from the Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre (BMLC). The annual cost to Council to operate the BMLC (includes the operation of the indoor courts) has increased over the past four years from \$177,540 to \$327,161 - an increase of 84%<sup>24</sup>. Of note is that during this period, the use of the Centre almost doubled from 44,784 visits in 2010/11 to over 81,000 in 2013/14, however, this increase was solely attributable to an increase in the use of the indoor courts for basketball and netball. During the same period, the usage of the Health Club decreased from

<sup>22</sup> Source: *Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS)*, Australian Sports Commission (2010).

<sup>23</sup> Inventory undertaken by desktop review and reference to Council's *Leisure Facilities and Services Review Background Paper* (2013).

<sup>24</sup> Source: *Leisure Facilities and Services Review* (2014).

46,379 visits to 28,444 visits, which is the key reason for the net reduction in Centre income of over \$140,000 during this period.

Health & fitness users have identified the following issues with the existing facilities and services available at the BMLC, which have no doubt contributed to the downturn in patronage:

- The group fitness room is not available at all times during the day and evening, as the school has priority access to the room.
- The room is not located immediately adjacent to the reception and change rooms area.
- Equipment such as bikes and weights for group fitness classes are often not available, if classes are relocated from the group fitness room to a stadium court, and vice versa.
- It can be difficult to recruit and retain quality instructors, due to the less than adequate facilities available and strong competition from other health & fitness providers.
- The gymnasium equipment is generally inferior to the equipment available in other local private gyms.
- The small size of the gymnasium and the poor access to it, compared to other local private gyms.
- The lack of associated indoor pool facilities.

Centre users have noted that a positive significant point of difference of the BMLC to all other private health & fitness providers is that it has a crèche. However, the dilemma for Council in relation to options for capital investment into the BMLC, is that it does not own the centre, the existing poor design of the centre significantly constrains options to carry out cost-effective internal refurbishments, the poor provision for car parking, and the likely high-cost of any capital upgrades and extensions. The fact that private providers are a legitimate option for most people seeking local access to health & fitness facilities and services, further weakens the case for Council to invest heavily in the BMLC in the short-term.

The Recreation and Leisure Strategy supports the findings of the Leisure Facilities and Services Review, and that the focus for future investment in the health & fitness facilities should be on a new integrated aquatic fitness centre for Bacchus Marsh, inclusive of indoor aquatic areas, a gymnasium, health & fitness program rooms, a crèche, and other associated spaces and services. However, should that not be achievable in the short to medium term, Council should consider options for investment in the BMLC to ensure the sustainability of the current services.

The Council-endorsed plans for a new Bacchus Marsh Indoor Aquatic Centre (Mantric Architecture, 2014) show a suite of new health & fitness facilities as part of Stage 2 works, including a 540sqm gymnasium and a 220sqm program room with capability to be divided into two smaller spaces.

#### **6.12.4. Aquatics Facilities**

Existing aquatics facility provision in Moorabool Shire is restricted to the following seasonal outdoor pools:

1. Bacchus Marsh Seasonal Outdoor Pool.
2. Ballan Seasonal Outdoor Pool.

Both pools are reaching the end of their functional lives in relation to the condition of their plant and equipment, and their usefulness as contemporary aquatic fitness and recreational facilities. Despite this, both are popular and each has experienced increased patronage in the past couple of years. Neither pool is heated, and the formal shape and configuration of the pool spaces offers only limited options for programming, other than as pools for use for recreational swimming, lap swimming, and local school swimming carnivals.

Council has undertaken a planning process with residents and other stakeholders (including the Bacchus Marsh Community Consortium) for the development of a new indoor aquatic centre in

Bacchus Marsh. The Council-endorsed site for the new centre is the current location of the Bacchus Marsh Seasonal Outdoor Pool in Peppertree Park.

The Consortium prepared a report for Council in 2014, being the *Concept Proposal: Multipurpose Centre in Health, Sport and Recreation in Bacchus Marsh*. The report outlines a visionary proposal to develop an integrated aquatic, sporting and community facility on the vacant land on the corner of Tavener Street and Fischen Street, Maddingley, with a working name for the centre being the 'Kokoda Centre'. The report proposes that the facility be developed in three stages, and that the estimated total building footprint would be in excess of 10,000sqm. When ancillary services, car parking and landscaping are included, an overall site footprint of nearly 26,500sqm is required. Whilst Council currently supports the Bacchus Marsh Seasonal Outdoor Pool site as the preferred location for a new indoor aquatic centre, the concept proposed for the Kokoda Centre should also be considered as an opportunity to meet a range of health and wellbeing objectives in an integrated facility on one site.

The Leisure Facilities and Services Review (2014) supports the decision by Council to provide a new indoor aquatic centre as the long term solution to better cater for the aquatic needs of the community. Further, the study supports the retention of the Bacchus Marsh Seasonal Outdoor Pool until such time as the new indoor aquatic centre is realised, and the ongoing retention of the Ballan Seasonal Outdoor Pool, but with reduced hours of operation.

The Recreation and Leisure Strategy supports the need for an integrated aquatic fitness centre, as the means to provide a broader range and quality of aquatic, fitness and recreation program and services.

#### 6.12.5. Skate and BMX Facilities

The skate park at Rotary Park in Bacchus Marsh is the Shire's main combined skate/ BMX facility. It is in good condition and comprises of an open capsule bowl, a spine, a funbox, a stair set, ramps, hubbas, ledges and a euro gap. The original small vert-ramp has been retained and is sited next to the skate park. The skate park caters well for all ages and abilities, and is centrally located in the township with excellent access to transport and food and drink outlets. **It is recommended that a detailed assessment of the condition, quality and adequacy of the Rotary Park skate park be incorporated into the Rotary Park master plan study.**

The Ballan skate park is located at the Ballan Recreation Reserve, and is in average condition. It is a steel park comprising of ramps, a funbox, a grind rail and spine. It is suitable for beginners to intermediate skaters and has limited support facilities. A small-scale, beginner BMX track is located adjacent to the skate park.

A dedicated BMX facility is located at Darley Park, and provides an informal jumps course. The Bacchus Marsh BMX Club is presently advocating for the conversion of this facility into a small-scale BMX circuit, more suitable for BMX racers to train on.

Overall, there is good provision and distribution of skate facilities within the Shire, with the main urban areas in East Moorabool and West Moorabool each providing local access to a skate park and BMX facilities. The Bacchus Marsh Skate Park is in good condition and is an appropriate standard facility for a community the size of Bacchus Marsh both now and in the future. Similarly, the Ballan Skate Park is an appropriate size and standard for a township the size of Ballan. Other skate parks are available in Melton, West Melton and Ballarat (2), and provide other skatable options within reasonable access for Shire residents.

For a town the size of Bacchus Marsh, a dedicated dirt BMX jumps course and a combined skate/ BMX park (for trick riding) would be considered to be adequate provision of BMX facilities. However, BMX is a popular activity in Bacchus Marsh with high participation, and is well supported by an active BMX racing club. Given the projected growth of Bacchus Marsh, the recent inclusion of BMX racing as an Olympic sport, and the current high participation in BMX, **it is recommended that Council support the development of a new competition standard BMX racing circuit in the Shire.**

A possible location for a new BMX competition course is the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve, due to the size and scale of the reserve and the existing provision of infrastructure that could complement a BMX track, such as car parking, amenities and mounding. An area of approximately 100m x 150m is required for a BMX racing track facility. Such an area will accommodate the track and a storage and track maintenance building, and will ensure adequate provision is available for spectators and visiting clubs around the track when in competition event mode.

### 6.12.6. Golf

Moorabool Shire has three golf courses:

1. Bacchus Marsh West Golf Club is an 18 hole public golf course located in the northern section of the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve. It offers a wide range of playing times seven days per week.
2. Bacchus Marsh Golf Club is a semi-private 18 hole golf course located in Darley. It also offers opportunities for non-members to play.
3. Ballan Golf Club is an 18 hole public golf course located between the Werribee River and the Western Highway in the northern area of town. It is a 'short-course', with 10 of the 18 holes being par 3 only.

Formal membership of golf clubs has been decreasing over the past decade. Throughout the 2000's the decrease has been 1.14% per annum on average. There has also been a reduction in total rounds of golf played by member, non-member, social, visitor/ tourist and corporate golfers (of 2.9% per annum over the 2000's)<sup>25</sup>. Moorabool Shire forms part of the Central Highlands Region, which is one of nine regions in country Victoria established for planning golf development in the State. In 2011, the Central Highlands Region was ranked 8<sup>th</sup> of the nine regions for regular golf participants<sup>26</sup> (3,228 golf members), and also ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the ratio of regular golf participants to population (5.25%).

The current level of provision and type of provision for golf (public and private) is appropriate for Moorabool Shire now, and would appear to be in the future, based on the overall declining interest and participation in golf, and the fact that each course in the Shire has capacity to absorb additional members and casual use. In the case of the two public facilities, additional population growth may assist the ongoing viability of the two clubs based at the courses.

The Bacchus Marsh West Golf Club and the Ballan Golf Club are Crown land reserves managed by the club committees, whilst the Bacchus Marsh Golf Club is privately owned. Access to water for the irrigation of the Bacchus Marsh West Golf Course is dependent upon an existing water right with Southern Rural Water of 20ML per annum for the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve. The quantity of water, however, is not guaranteed each year (it is dependent upon rainfall volumes in the catchment) and the delivery of water is dependent upon the approval by the owner of the supply line through which the water has to travel. Council is currently investigating options for a more sustainable supply of water not only for the golf course but also for the proposed new sportsgrounds to be constructed at the Racecourse Reserve.

In summary, golf provision is currently adequate, however should this change or reduce due to the impact of operational constraints on the clubs, Council should work in partnership with the local golf clubs to ensure provision ultimately continues to meet the community's golf needs.

### 6.12.7. Hockey

There are no hockey facilities currently available in Moorabool Shire. Council officers are not aware of any current demand in the Shire for hockey, although some Moorabool residents are registered members of the Melton Hockey Club<sup>27</sup>.

<sup>25</sup> Source: National Golf Census 2011.

<sup>26</sup> Regular golf participants = golf members who played at least three rounds per year.

<sup>27</sup> Melton Hockey Club Relocation Feasibility Study (2012).

Since 2001, participation in hockey at both the National and State levels has experienced an overall decline. (In 2010, the State participation rate in hockey was 0.6% for people aged over 15 years, and 1.1% for children aged 5-14 years). Taking the 10 year average into account, Victorian participation has been on average 0.2% below the National average. Further, hockey has traditionally been a sport that is more popular in eastern Melbourne than the western suburbs, evidenced by only 17% (9) of all hockey fields in metropolitan Melbourne being located in the west.

Hockey facility provision ratios developed for Melbourne's growth area municipalities, recommend the following level of provision: 1 hockey venue per municipality; 1 synthetic hockey pitch per 100,000 residents, whilst facility provision across regional Victoria is contained to regional cities. To the east of Moorabool Shire, the Melton City Council has committed funds to the provision of a new regional synthetic hockey field at Bridges Road Recreation Reserve (Melton South), which is due to open in 2016. It will become the new 'home' facility for the Melton Hockey Club, and for hockey pathway programs in the northwest region of Melbourne.

To the west of Moorabool Shire, the Ballarat Hockey Centre located west of Lake Wendouree comprises a synthetic hockey field. It is managed by Hockey Ballarat, which comprises of seven clubs, including five from Ballarat and two from regional towns (Ararat and Maryborough).

Based on facility provision benchmarks and the relatively low participation rates for junior and senior hockey, the population of Moorabool Shire will be too low to justify the provision of a senior synthetic hockey field. Of note also is that there is good provision of hockey fields at a regional level, so whilst **it is recommended that Moorabool Shire not plan for the provision of a synthetic hockey field during the forecast period**, reasonable access to a hockey facility is available for current and future hockey enthusiasts.

#### 6.12.8. Futsal

Futsal (indoor soccer) is an emerging sport – it has grown from a participation rate nationally in 2001 of 0.8% to 1.3% in 2010. Its appeal is its relatively short game time, the fact that it is an indoor sport, and the prevailing competition format of mid-week evenings and social teams (not club). Its growth has been dependent upon the availability of indoor courts, so anecdotally it is widely agreed that the sport has had constraints to its natural growth and has a significant latent demand. The growth of soccer in the past 10-15 years has also facilitated the growth in futsal, as many soccer players consider the sport to be their 'off-season' sport of choice.

Given the sustained growth in participation and interest in soccer in Moorabool Shire, **it is recommended that all future planning for new and upgraded indoor sports courts should also allow for their use for futsal**, such as the proposed expansion of the Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre and the future use of the Darley Civic and Community Hub Stadium for additional uses to gymnastics.

### 6.13. Water Management

In the west of the Shire, a majority of the active recreation reserves are primarily irrigated through ground (bore) water, under water rights agreements with Southern Rural Water. The water authority for the region is Central Highlands Water and supplies potable water into the reserves, however, potable water is not currently used for irrigation purposes.

Some of the reserves, including Dunnstown Recreation Reserve, feature water initiatives that support some irrigation. The ground water supply though is dictated by the unpredictability of ground water supplies and as such the sustainability of such initiatives are questionable. The Ballan and Gordon Recreation Reserves desperately require additional water storage onsite, and a strategy to respond to this need is required.

Moorabool Shire Council currently irrigates the sports playing surfaces at Darley Park, the Darley Civic and Community Hub Oval, Masons Lane Reserve and Maddingley Park. This is an important factor in maintaining the surfaces to a high standard and to enabling the ovals to be used to their maximum capacities. The water to supply this irrigation comes from a number of sources:

- Southern Rural Water (untreated water delivered through the channel system).
- Western Water (potable water).
- Bore water (supplied under contract with Southern Rural Water).

However, Council's primary water supply for irrigation has been the untreated river water supplied by Southern Rural Water, which is presently an annual allocation of 78ML. The estimated annual volume of water required to irrigate the ovals at the abovementioned reserves is 40-50ML.

The main issue is that Council has no secure sustainable water supply, as the amount of water allocated to Council by Southern Rural Water changes according to the changing weather patterns, rainfall amounts, and other customer usage rates. Of further concern is that the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve has no sustainable water supply either. The access and supply of the annual allocation of 20ML by Southern Rural Water to the reserve relies solely on the goodwill of the owners of the privately-owned supply lines through which the water is supplied. A related issue is that the annual allocation is presently wholly required to irrigate the Bacchus Marsh West Golf Course, so no sustainable water supply is presently available to support the proposed upgrade of the existing sports oval at the reserve, or the new sports fields proposed for the reserve in the short-term.

In the future, and to support the significant number of new active sportsgrounds proposed for East Moorabool, Council will need to develop a strategy for the supply of a sustainable water source for playing field irrigation. Whilst the current arrangements with Southern Rural Water for the irrigation of the playing fields at Darley Park, the Darley Civic and Community Hub Oval, Masons Lane Reserve and Maddingley Park are somewhat satisfactory (albeit dependent on the prevailing weather conditions), other options are required to be developed to ensure an adequate water supply is available to irrigate the large number of new sports fields, and to irrigate the expansive passive areas within Maddingley Park. Options could include rainwater harvesting scenarios and environmentally sustainable water purification and filtering ponds in waterways, both which could be incorporated into the planning of new residential estates, such as the scheme developed recently for the Stonehill Estate in West Maddingley.

It is recommended **that Council prepare a Water Management Strategy** in consultation with the existing water supply authorities, land developers and other land managers. The strategy is needed to:

1. Investigate options to increase the irrigation water supply for the Ballan and Gordon Recreation Reserves.
2. Assess the feasibility of using potable water at active recreation reserves in West Moorabool to supplement the use of bore water, when required.
3. Investigate options to ensure an adequate and sustainable water supply is available in East Moorabool to irrigate existing sports fields, the large number of new sports fields planned, and the expansive passive areas within Maddingley Park.

## 7. POLICY DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This section provides discussion and recommendations concerning the following recreation and leisure planning, management and operational considerations:

- Sports facility design standards and guidelines.
- Capital Works contribution framework.
- Reserve development framework.
- Fees and charges.
- Turf wicket vs. synthetic cricket wickets.

### 7.1. Sports Facility Design Standards and Guidelines

It will be important that Moorabool Shire Council constructs any future new sporting facilities in accordance with the hierarchy of provision recommended in Section 3.3, and also in accordance with the standards and guidelines set down by the respective sports governing bodies. This will ensure that sporting facilities will be built 'fit for purpose', and will be provided to a standard and configuration that will ensure sustainable club use and development.

Appendix 1 identifies the desired standards for sports facility provision for seven of the nominated sports for the three levels of the sports facility hierarchy:

- Local Level.
- District Level.
- Regional Level.

There are also preferred standards for the provision of pavilions / clubrooms.

Basketball, equestrian and swimming pool facilities are not included in the standards provision due to the wide variation in the size, form and quality of the specific facility components and spaces that can make up the composite of the overall facility.

It is important to note that whilst the facility and pavilion standards outlined in Appendix 1 are the desirable level of provision to aspire to for all facilities, in many cases for existing facilities it will not be possible to attain the desired standard. This may be due to number of factors, including site constraints, the existing configuration of pavilions, and the practicality of balancing the need for alterations versus the financial cost. In general terms, the standards are intended to guide new facility development rather than be a tool to justify retrospective works and fit-out for existing facilities and pavilions.

**It is recommended:**

1. **That the three level sports facility hierarchy described in Section 3.3 be adopted as the basis for classification of sporting facilities from the same code.**
2. **That the sports facility and pavilion/ clubrooms standards and guidelines described in Appendix 1 be adopted to be used to inform the development of new sports facilities.**

### 7.2. Capital Works Contribution Framework

#### 7.2.1. Background

A common issue for many local governments when assessing requests for capital improvements to existing or new sporting facilities, is deciding what projects should be its sole responsibility to fund, what projects should be the applicant's (or sports club's) responsibility to fund, and what projects should be jointly funded.

The following *Capital Works Contribution Framework* has been developed to provide clear delineation and distinction between what might be the Moorabool Shire Council's responsibility to fund, and what might be a club's or reserve committee's responsibility to fund in relation to the base provision of sporting infrastructure at Council-owned or managed reserves and sporting facilities<sup>28</sup>. In some instances there may be shared responsibility and these are identified throughout the Framework, or there may be an opportunity to explore private funding sources. These could include capital contributions from commercial facility management companies, with the level of contribution then informing the term of the management contract period, or a sports club becoming established on a reserve that could be a public-private partnership and whose tenancy has capacity to generate capital funds for facility development.

When either the Council, a club or a reserve committee applies the *Sports Facility Design Standards and Guidelines* to the various recreation reserves and stand alone recreation and sporting facilities throughout the Shire, it may trigger a need for an upgrade of existing sporting facilities or the development of new ones. The Framework recognises that there has been (and continues to be) a shared responsibility between Council and the community for the development of sporting facilities in Moorabool Shire. The Framework also acknowledges that it may not always be possible for the Council or the community to independently fund the full cost of the development of sporting facilities to a level that both the Council and/or the community aspires.

The Framework will also assist to enhance positive user attitudes, responsibility, and ownership for publicly owned sporting facilities, especially where users have contributed funds.

### 7.2.2. Scope

The *Capital Works Contribution Framework* applies to all Shire reserves and sporting facilities located within the Moorabool Shire, including outdoor facilities, playing surfaces (ovals, courts, greens), buildings, other supporting infrastructure, such as car parks, floodlights, and perimeter fences, and to the open space areas within a recreation reserve or immediately surrounding a specific sporting facility. It applies to all Council owned and managed facilities and reserves, and all DEPI owned and managed sporting and recreation facilities that are publicly accessible.

### 7.2.3. Principles

The following Principles provide a basis or context for the development and application of the *Capital Works Contribution Framework*.

1. Council acknowledges that it has a responsibility for the provision of the 'core' infrastructure at community sporting facilities, being the components of an overall sporting facility that are required for the 'game to be played'. This includes the playing surface/area and adequate training facilities, basic change rooms and associated amenities, facilities that enable club volunteers to perform their duties to manage the club, storage, and provision of car parking appropriately located to the facility.
2. Sporting facilities will comprise of a range of infrastructure suitable and appropriate for the sport to be played at the level it has been designated within the sport's facility hierarchy (either *Regional*, *District* or *Local*), and commensurate with the standard of competition of the affiliate league or association.
3. All new sporting facilities will provide access for people with a disability, and it shall be the aim of the Council, reserve committees and sporting groups to have all facilities made accessible.
4. Reserve committees or user groups will finance any approved capital works projects that are designed to gain income considered to be over and above what would be considered to be a club's 'normal operations', such as reserve perimeter fences (for the

<sup>28</sup> It is acknowledged that there are some recreation reserves that are publicly accessible and community managed but are not Council-owned, nor is Council the delegated committee of management (in the case of DEPI reserves). It is at Council's discretion whether it will choose to incorporate such reserves within the proposed *Capital Works Contribution Framework*.

- purpose of charging a ground admittance), extensions to canteens, and the construction of and/or improvements to social club areas with exclusive use.
5. Council recognises the value of (and may provide incentives for) contributions from reserve committees, user groups and the private sector towards the capital development of sporting facilities and the maintenance of facilities.
  6. Council will enhance the long-term viability of sporting facilities, reserve committees and community sporting groups by ensuring that:
    - Committees and sporting groups do not overcapitalise on developments.
    - Committees and sporting groups are able to demonstrate a sound history of fiscal responsibility and the development of appropriate and achievable funding plans, prior to approval being granted for large capital improvement projects being undertaken by reserve committees or sporting groups.
    - Facilities are located and designed so as to strengthen the sport and the existing group's membership / participant base.
  7. Clubs undertaking minor maintenance works must comply with relevant building codes and regulations, including OH&S and risk management.
  8. Prior to commencement of any significant capital improvement project, reserve committees and/or user groups will require written support from all other regular user groups at their respective recreation reserve or leisure facility, and from Council.
  9. Floodlights will be approved (subject to Town Planning approval) where an increase in sports participation is likely to result and/or to minimise risk of injury through a club's capacity to better manage the utilisation of all areas of a playing field.

#### 7.2.4. Delineation of Responsibilities for Funding Capital Works

The tables in Appendix 4 identify infrastructure items and the group(s) with the whole or partial responsibility for the initial provision of facilities, and for their subsequent development and improvement. The capacity of Moorabool Shire Council to deliver its responsibilities will be dependent upon annual budget commitments. As such, Council will place a priority on meeting its obligations to provide the 'core' sporting infrastructure to enable a sporting group to function or operate. Generally, these obligations are listed in the table in the column, "Council" (refer Appendix 4). Council will generally commit to funding 'core' facilities before assisting with "Shared" or "Reserve Committee/ User Group" responsibilities.

For infrastructure where Council has no responsibility or only partial responsibility for its provision or funding, Council may support an application by a reserve committee or sporting group to an external grant, such as the *Community Facility Funding Program*<sup>29</sup>, in instances where there will be community benefit, where the project is supported by an endorsed plan or strategy, or where the applicant group has been able to raise a significant proportion of the required funds.

Notwithstanding the above, Council reserves its right under some circumstances to fund projects beyond shared responsibilities, where the need is justified but might be beyond the means of the tenant group, e.g. the need for additional floodlights to support training for a rapidly expanding club, or to fund the conversion of an unsustainable sports surface to a more sustainable option.

#### It is recommended:

3. That the Principles of the Capital Works Contribution Framework be endorsed.
4. That the guidelines for delineating between the responsibilities of Council and reserve committees/ sporting groups for funding the development, improvement and replacement of sporting infrastructure be adopted and used to inform the funding for new/ upgraded sports facilities.

<sup>29</sup> A funding program by Sport and Recreation Victoria, a section of the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (Vic).

### 7.3. Reserve Development Framework

Moorabool Shire may be required to construct some new active sporting reserves in the next 15 – 20 years to accommodate the increased population, particularly in the East Moorabool region. There are good examples of well planned and good functioning active reserves available today, as a result of the extensive research and planning that have occurred in the past 15 years in Melbourne's growth corridors.

In addition, the Metropolitan Planning Authority has prepared some helpful planning principles and guidelines to inform sports facility planning, including active recreation reserves. One their reports, *Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines (2009)*, identifies the following standards that should be met when planning for active open spaces:

1. Be of an appropriate size, i.e. sufficient to incorporate two football/ cricket ovals, but small enough to enable regular spacing of active open space provision across the precinct. This configuration would generally require at least 8.0Ha.
2. Be appropriate for its intended open space use in terms of quality and orientation.
3. Be located on flat land, which can be cost-effectively graded.
4. Be located with access to a sustainable water supply.
5. Be linked to pedestrian and cycle paths.

Specifically, some key design elements of a well planned and well laid out recreation reserve, include:

- There should be no more than two reserve boundaries directly abutting back fences of houses or industry, and those sides that are open should have houses or other buildings overlooking them to enhance passive surveillance.
- There should be no (or limited) reserve perimeter fencing to maximise the permeability of the reserve for local residents and to enhance the overall quality of the open space.
- There should be a minimum of 25m between the boundary of a sportsground and the perimeter boundary of the reserve.
- There should be an area set aside from the sporting hub of the reserve that provides a quality family recreation area (BBQ, picnic shelter, playground and picnic table).
- There should be good links between the reserve and the surrounding neighbourhood, and an integrated path network within the reserve that not only links the sub-precincts within the reserve, but also provides a recreational opportunity (walking/ jogging/ cycling) to encourage local residents to get active.
- There should be good provision for car parking to service the pavilion and other visitor destinations within the reserve.
- There should be well landscaped/ vegetated open space areas to provide interest and visual amenity, and car parks should be supported with shade plants.
- There should be good integration between facilities, and the opportunities to co-locate and share infrastructure between users should be maximised, such as car parking.

See Appendix 5 for sample layout plans for two different types of active reserves:

1. Two ovals and/or four soccer fields (10ha).
2. Three soccer fields, with a one oval overlay (7ha).

**It is recommended:**

5. **That Council adopt the standards and design elements incorporated within the proposed Reserve Development Framework.**

## 7.4. Reserve Management Framework

There are 23 recreation reserves located in Moorabool Shire that have spaces or facilities that accommodate sport or active recreation. Currently, there are several different reserve ownership and management arrangements in place across the Shire. (Refer Section 6 of *Volume 3: Background Report* for more information).

In recent years, some of the reserve committees that have the delegated responsibility to manage and maintain their reserves have experienced difficulties in satisfactorily fulfilling their obligations under the terms of the delegation. A review undertaken by Council in 2013 assessed the functionality and effectiveness of the then 11 Council-appointed committees, and found that seven were functioning adequately, three were not functioning, and one was semi-functional. Significantly, three of the four reserves not functioning adequately or only semi-functional are located in East Moorabool, the area of the Shire under the most pressure from growth in sports participation.

Council has maintained and managed the Darley Civic and Community Hub sportsground since its construction. It now also manages and maintains Darley Park and Masons Lane Reserve, two reserves where Council committees previously undertook the maintenance and management tasks. Council also undertakes the maintenance of the two sportsgrounds at Maddingley Park. The fifth active reserve in East Moorabool is the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve, and this is managed by a Section 86 Committee of Council.

The review referred to above found that in general the Council-appointed reserve committees in West Moorabool are performing well, although Council acknowledges that the quantum of annual grants allocated to most reserves has not kept pace with the actual cost to the committees to satisfactorily maintain them.

East Moorabool continues to expand rapidly and is attracting families who have grown up in Melbourne. This creates a challenge for the succession planning of reserve committees, and also for the capacity and capability of reserve committee members to effectively undertake the complex tasks associated with the management and maintenance of well-used sporting facilities. New residents often wont have been in situations where local neighbourhoods are responsible for the direct management and maintenance of sportsgrounds, so there is likely to be fewer people available and willing to join reserve committees. Similarly, most new residents simply will not have the necessary skills, experience and time to be able to maintain sports playing surfaces. Compounding this pressure on reserve committees is the increased usage of reserves as the population grows, and the need for reserve committees to continually have to 'raise the bar' in relation to the levels of maintenance required to ensure the standard and quality of playing surfaces can be maintained despite increased loads.

The recreation reserves in East Moorabool are experiencing increasing pressure as the number of football, cricket, soccer and netball teams continues to grow. Some sportsgrounds now experience more than double, and in some cases three times, the amount of use compared to five years ago. Despite the best efforts of volunteers, the current committee model is inefficient and ineffective, as most volunteers do not have the time or necessary resources available to meet their legally obligated responsibilities as a Section 86 Committee appointed by Council.

East Moorabool now requires a more sustainable and strategic reserve management framework to be introduced for each of the five existing active recreation reserves<sup>30</sup>, and any new active reserves constructed in the future. For West Moorabool, continue to delegate the maintenance and management of sporting and active recreation reserves to volunteer committees of management, however, Council should consider incorporating the Ballan Recreation Reserve into any new management framework proposed for East Moorabool. This is due to the size and diversity of the reserve and facilities available, and the likelihood that the projected population growth for Ballan will begin to create similar challenges for the reserve committee to those experienced by the committees that managed, or are managing, the reserves in East Moorabool.

The management framework should incorporate reserve reference or advisory groups, whose main purpose will be to ensure that there is a formal process of dialogue and information exchange between

<sup>30</sup> Darley Civic and Community Hub sportsground, Darley Park, Maddingley Park, Masons Lane Reserve and the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve.

Council and the user groups, and to assist Council and the user groups to prioritise capital upgrades and major maintenance items. The annual reserve grant would cease for the East Moorabool reserves, and Council would have the responsibility for the maintenance and care of the playing surfaces and common areas of the reserves.

Associated with the introduction a new management framework should be the introduction of a new fees and charges policy, which will guide the process for any annual levy on those user groups tenanted at the reserves to be managed by Council. The policy could also be utilised by the reserve committees managing other reserves throughout the Shire, as the basis for levying fees and charges in the future.

As well as the positive impact that a new management framework will have on the quality of the playing surfaces and other infrastructure available within the reserves, it will also ensure a more systematic and equitable approach is adopted to the allocation of sporting facilities to clubs, schools and community groups. This will ensure that facilities, such as sportsgrounds, will be able to be used to their maximal acceptable limits, and not lay idle unnecessarily at times when groups have previously required access.

Related to this is the current ad hoc and unauthorised use of some sportsgrounds and facilities by groups, including schools. Such use has the potential to compromise the ongoing quality of playing surfaces, as unauthorised use may occur during periods specially set aside for grounds to rest and recover. Alternatively, programmed maintenance, such as mowing or fertiliser application, may be scheduled for a ground, only to have a contractor arrive at a sportsground being used unexpectedly and resulting in the contractor not being able to carry out the required tasks – thereby creating inefficiencies and costly duplication of tasks.

**It is recommended:**

- 6. That Council introduce a new Reserve Management Framework to manage all existing and future active recreation reserves and sporting facilities in East Moorabool, including establishing reference or advisory groups at each reserve.**
- 7. That Council consider including the Ballan Recreation Reserve within the new Reserve Management Framework.**
- 8. That Council continue to delegate the management of active recreation reserves and sporting facilities in West Moorabool to volunteer committees of management, where appropriate.**
- 9. That Council develop/ implement a new Integrated Reserve/ Facility Management System to manage the allocation of facility usage in the future.**
- 10. That Council establish a new Community Facilities Funding Policy that will combine and review the content of the Community Halls Funding Policy (2005) and the Reserve Funding Policy (2004), and which will review the method of calculating the annual reserve grant for community managed recreation reserves.**
- 11. That Council develop a Schools Use of Reserves Policy, or guidelines that are incorporated into any new seasonal tenancy and occupancy guide/ policy.**

## 7.5. Fees and Charges Policy

A new Fees and Charges Policy will be required to support the new Reserve Management Framework for the recreation reserves and sporting facilities located in East Moorabool (and possibly including the Ballan Recreation Reserve).

Fees and charges policies for sportsgrounds and pavilions should be underpinned by a clearly defined set of principles. It is proposed that the following principles underpin a sportsground fees and charges policy for the Moorabool Shire Council, which are principles and foundations utilised in best practice policy implemented by other local governments.

- a) Council should manage and control all costs associated with the maintenance and renovation of sportsgrounds and pavilions to agreed standards for which it is responsible.
- b) Council should manage and control the setting and collection of fees and charges, and they should be reviewed annually via Council's budget process.
- c) All user groups on Council-owned or Council-managed reserves that have been transferred back to Council to maintain should be levied appropriate fees and charges.
- d) Consider providing reduced fees and charges for selected target groups that use sportsgrounds as a means to encourage participation in physical participation.
- e) Sportsgrounds have a residual benefit to the community as open space, and as a consequence, the cost of providing the resource should be shared between sports clubs and ratepayers where the general public have access to the reserve.
- f) Costs to be recovered through the proposed pricing policy should focus on a percentage contribution towards the direct costs of maintaining the sportsground resulting from usage.
- g) The cost of capital works to upgrade playing fields and pavilions should not be taken into consideration in determining sportsground fees and charges.
- h) Seasonal fees and charges levied for use of a sportsground and pavilion should be shared proportionately between tenants, if more than one seasonal user group shares a facility.
- i) User groups using better standard sportsgrounds and pavilions should contribute more than groups using basic standard grounds and facilities (links to the sports facility hierarchy described in Section 3.3), to ensure equity and access for all to facilities.
- j) Seasonal fees and charges should be consistent for the same grade and quality of sportsgrounds and pavilions across the Shire.
- k) Commercial organisations, semi-commercial clubs, or user groups generating revenue from Council-owned or Council-managed sportsgrounds and pavilions should be required to pay a negotiated rate for use of their facilities.

It is recommended that the principles outlined above be used to underpin any new fees and charges policy for Moorabool Shire Council.

### 7.5.1. Options and Scenarios

There are a number of fees and charges models (or formulas) being used by other local governments, with most incorporating a fee for the use of a sportsground, a fee for the use of an associated pavilion, and a list of separate fees for other sporting facilities, such as courts and tracks.

Some of the different models include:

- A levy based on the number of teams or players that a club has.
- A levy based on a flat rate according to the classification of a sportsground and a pavilion (the classification typically reflecting the quality of the infrastructure).
- A levy designed to recover a percentage of the maintenance costs to Council.

- A levy based on an historical fee, which is simply increased by CPI, or similar, each year.

The most common approach in Victoria is a levy based on an historical fee that is simply increased by CPI each year, followed by a fee designed to recover a percentage of the operational maintenance costs<sup>31</sup>. The method to recover a proportion of costs is considered to be the most equitable, as the fee is directly aligned with the level of service provided at a reserve, and is the most popular methodology used in the most recent fees and charges policies adopted. Councils have become more sophisticated in their capability to track operating costs, so the base information required to determine a fee is now relatively easily obtained, particularly by those councils that have engaged contractors to carry out maintenance tasks.

It is recommended that Moorabool Shire Council adopt a fees and charges policy based on recovering a proportion of operational maintenance costs. It is suggested that Council set a target of between 10% - 20% for the cost recovery of sportsground maintenance charges.

### 7.5.2. Other Considerations

In addition, Council should factor in a levy for pavilion usage, where the pavilion or clubrooms are community assets and not owned or leased by a tenant. A popular method by councils for determining an annual pavilion charge is to base it on the insured value of the asset. Again, this method is considered the most equitable for levying a charge as the higher the value of the asset, presumably the better the quality of the facility, so it should incur a higher fee.

It is suggested that an annual fee be calculated that is between 0.5% - 0.75% of the insured value of the pavilion.

Some councils incorporate discounts or concessions to encourage the development of junior sport and female sport, or the use of sportsgrounds by other target sectors of the community. Conversely, an additional fee is sometimes applicable for use of council facilities by commercial groups or other for-profit organisations.

**It is recommended:**

- 12. That Council establish a new Fees and Charges Policy for application at East Moorabool recreation reserves, and which can be the basis by which the committees at other recreation reserves set annual user charges.**
- 13. That Council endorse the Principles outlined in Section 7.5 to underpin any new Fees and Charges Policy.**
- 14. That Council introduce a sportsground fee based on recovering a proportion of the operational maintenance costs (recommended between 10% - 20%), and set a levy for a pavilion fee, which is calculated from the insured value of the building (recommended between 0.5% - 0.75%).**
- 15. That Council endorse a range of set fees for casual hire, schools use, and use by for-profit groups.**
- 16. That Council endorse provision of a discount or concession for junior teams and female teams, as a strategy to encourage broad participation.**

<sup>31</sup> Research paper conducted collaboratively by the Hume City Council and Parks and Leisure Australia (2013). Thirty-seven Victorian LGAs participated.

## 7.6. Turf Wicket vs Synthetic Cricket Wickets

Moorabool Shire currently has 15 cricket ovals, with 14 comprising a synthetic centre wicket and one a turf centre wicket. Across Victoria, a significant majority of all formal and informal junior cricket participation is conducted on synthetic wickets. Synthetic cricket wickets are widely regarded as the preferred surface for young players (16 years and under) to train and play on due to the consistent bounce and speed of the wickets. These attributes are more conducive to skill acquisition and the development of confidence in batters.

The population projections for Moorabool Shire clearly show that there will be a high proportion of young children moving into the Shire during the next 15 – 20 years, particularly in East Moorabool. This factor has been important in predicting the need for additional cricket ovals for East Moorabool through to 2041. It is important that all new ovals are constructed initially with synthetic centre wickets (and not turf wickets) in order to maximise the availability of cricket ovals for junior participation.

Turf wickets by their very nature offer only a limited opportunity for use outside of the once-per-week competition requirement. This is largely due to the extended period of time required to prepare a turf wicket for match play. Notwithstanding this, variable weather conditions can also significantly impact the availability of turf wicket ovals for play.

The direction to support synthetic wickets acknowledges that the initial use of new ovals for cricket is likely to be for junior cricket. Conversion of synthetic wickets to turf should only be supported where clubs have a long history and tradition of playing in the highest grade of the Ballarat Cricket Association or the Gisborne & District Association, and where clubs can demonstrate a capacity and capability to maintain the turf cricket wicket.

### **It is recommended:**

- 17. That Council construct all proposed new ovals to initially comprise a synthetic wicket.**
- 18. That clubs will be required to undertake a formal feasibility (to the satisfaction of Council) of their capacity to fund and maintain turf wicket tables, prior to Council approving any conversions of centre synthetic wickets to turf.**

## 8. RECREATION AND LEISURE STRATEGY PLAN

This section summarises the various actions and recommendations emanating from the *Moorabool Shire Recreation and Leisure Strategy*. The tables in Section 8.1 show the Action Plan, and includes a list of all identified capital improvement projects. Section 8.2 includes the list of other recommendations prepared during the strategy planning process, which are associated with strategic/ policy directions.

### 8.1. Strategy Action Plan

The table on the following pages incorporates the following information:

- A list of all capital improvement projects by planning area, reserve/ facility and sport.
- Identification of the reference in the study report to the proposed works.
- Estimated costs for the proposed works.
- An indicative assignment of responsibility for funding.
- An indicative prioritisation for the proposed works, where:
  - ST = Short Term (1 – 5 years).
  - MT = Medium Term (6 – 10 years).
  - LT = Long Term (10+ years).

The planning areas incorporated into the Action Plan are East Moorabool, Central Moorabool and West Moorabool.

The Action Plan does not include all improvement projects contained in reserve master plans adopted by Council. Rather it incorporates key projects that will require a major financial investment, and projects likely to facilitate an increase in physical activity participation and grow sporting clubs.

#### Important Notes:

1. *The identification of a project within the Action Plan does not commit any organisation to a responsibility for funding allocated projects, including Moorabool Shire Council, which has to balance its limited resources with other commitments and projects.*
2. *User groups and reserve committees are expected to continue to generate the majority of funding for new and upgraded facilities at their respective reserves / facilities.*
3. *Commitment to and allocation of funds to particular projects will be determined following an assessment of the capacity of an organisation to contribute funds.*
4. *Many of the new and upgraded facility projects will require specialist contractors to undertake a more detailed investigation and scoping of works to enable a more accurate costs to be provided.*
5. *Costs are based on all works being carried out by professional contractors, and don't include any allowances for design and documentation, contingency or GST.*

#### Table Legend

MSC = Moorabool Shire Council  
 BMWGC = Bacchus Marsh West Golf Club  
 ResComm = Reserve Committee\*  
 BMSEC = Bacchus Marsh Secondary College  
 BMG = Bacchus Marsh Grammar  
 DFNC = Darley Football Netball Club  
 ABC = The Avenue Bowling Club

BMSC = Bacchus Marsh Soccer Club  
 BMG = Bacchus Marsh Grammar  
 BMLAC = Bacchus Marsh Little Athletics  
 BMBC = Bacchus Marsh Baseball Club  
 BMFNC = Bacchus Marsh Football Netball Club  
 BMCC = Bacchus Marsh Cricket Club  
 BMTTC = Bacchus Marsh Tennis Club  
 BMBMXC = Bacchus Marsh BMX Club  
 BBC = Ballan Bowling Club

\* Please note a reference to the Reserve Committee may also assert that it would be fair and reasonable to also expect a contribution from one or more of the sporting clubs tenanted at the reserve.

## Capital Upgrades

Blue shade = new facilities

Item No.	Reserve / Facility Name	Facility Improvements / Additional Facilities	Report Reference	Estimated Cost	Who	Proposed Timing
<b>East Moorabool</b>						
Avenue Bowling Club						
1		Resurface one of the greens	6.8	\$ 140,000	MSC/ABC	MT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$ 140,000</b>		
Bacchus Marsh Bowling Club						
		No change	6.8			
Bacchus Marsh Golf Club						
		No change	6.12.6			
Bacchus Marsh West Golf Club						
2		Upgrade the golf clubhouse (scope to be determined, allowance only shown)	6.12.6	\$ 350,000	MSC/BMWGC	MT
3		Upgrade selected fairways (scope to be determined, allowance only shown)	6.12.6	\$ 100,000	BMWGC	ST
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$ 450,000</b>		
Bacchus Marsh Seasonal Outdoor Pool						
		Any changes will be subject to the outcomes of the Leisure Facilities and Services Review	6.12.4			
Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre						
4		Investigate the feasibility of extending and upgrading the centre to provide 2 additional courts and show court overlay (design & feasibility study)	6.4, 6.9	\$ 45,000	MSC/BMSec	ST
5		Extend the centre by up to two courts, with provision for an overlay show court	6.4, 6.9	\$ 4,250,000	MSC/BMSec	MT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$ 4,295,000</b>		
Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve						
6		Install sub-surface drainage and irrigation into the existing oval	6.1	\$ 250,000	MSC	ST
7		Install player change rooms and amenities	6.1	\$ 750,000	MSC	ST
8		Create vehicle access to the existing oval	6.1	\$ 150,000	MSC	ST
9		Continue to upgrade equestrian and poultry infrastructure	6.6	Not costed	ResComm	Ongoing
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$ 1,150,000</b>		
10	Proposed new facilities at the Racecourse Reserve to accommodate football, cricket, soccer, netball and tennis	Develop a new District level sporting precinct (planning and design allowance)	6.1, 6.9, 6.10, 6.11	\$ 75,000	MSC	ST
11		Construct three ovals (drainage, irrigation, crowned) - one field to be fenced to provide overlay for two soccer fields, and a three net cricket practice facility	6.1, 6.5, 6.10	\$ 2,000,000	MSC	MT
12		Install floodlights on one oval to training standard (50 lux)	6.10	\$ 180,000	MSC	LT
13		Construct four new netball-tennis courts (including floodlighting for two courts)	6.8, 6.11	\$ 700,000	MSC	LT
14		Construct one soccer field (drainage, irrigation, fenced)	6.10	\$ 300,000	MSC	MT
15		Install floodlights on the soccer field to training standard (50 lux)	6.10	\$ 100,000	MSC	MT
16		Construct a new shared pavilion (630sqm)	6.1, 6.9, 6.10, 6.11	\$ 1,900,000	MSC	MT
17		Car park, paths, landscaping to service new active sports precinct	6.1, 6.9, 6.10, 6.11	\$ 500,000	MSC	MT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$ 5,755,000</b>		
Balliang Tennis Courts						
		No change	6.11			
Darley Park						
18		Review the 2002 reserve master plan	6.1, 6.5, 6.9, 6.11	\$ 25,000	MSC	ST
19		Consider upgrading the main oval floodlights to 200 lux	6.1	\$ 250,000	DFNC	ST
20		Retain and upgrade the three netball courts in the northwest corner of the reserve	6.9	\$ 100,000	MSC/DFNC	HT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$ 375,000</b>		
Darley Civic and Community Hub						
21		Review the 2009 reserve master plan	6.1, 6.5, 6.9, 6.10	\$ 20,000	MSC	ST
22		Provide two player change rooms, umpire rooms, canteen, kitchen and public toilets	6.1, 6.5, 6.10	\$ 1,000,000	MSC	ST
23		Upgrade the oval floodlights to 200 lux	6.1	\$ 250,000	MSC	ST
24		Install a shelter over the terrace spectator area	6.1, 6.5, 6.10	\$ 45,000	MSC	MT
		Install a three net cricket practice facility	6.5	\$ 120,000	MSC	ST
25		Investigate options for an alternate gymnastics venue (feasibility study)	6.7	\$ 45,000	MSC/Acrofun Gymnastics	ST
26		Replace the two netball courts, pending the master plan review process and identification of a suitable location	6.9	\$ 250,000	MSC	MT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$ 1,730,000</b>		

Item No.	Reserve / Facility Name	Facility Improvements / Additional Facilities	Report Reference	Estimated Cost	Who	Proposed Timing
<b>East Moorabool (cont.)</b>						
Darley Civic and Community Hub Indoor Stadium						
		No change	6.4			
Maddingley Park						
27		Extend (or rebuild) the existing social clubrooms	6.1	\$ 850,000	MSC/BMFNC/ BMCC	MT
28		Additional spectator shelter for the main oval	6.1	\$ 35,000	MSC	ST
29		Install a turf centre wicket to the main oval, pending outcome of a feasibility assessment	6.5	\$ 45,000	BMCC	MT
30		Upgrade the main oval floodlights to 200 lux	6.1	\$ 250,000	BMFNC	MT
31		Enlarge the playing surface of Siberia Oval	6.1	\$ 150,000	MSC	ST
32		Install floodlights at Siberia Oval to training standard (50 lux)	6.1	\$ 150,000	MSC	ST
33		Resurface the existing synthetic grass tennis courts	6.11	\$ 250,000	BMTC	LT
34		Develop a second netball court (as part of the resurfacing of the bank of three synthetic courts)	6.8, 6.11	\$ 15,000	BMFNC	MT
35		Upgrade and extend the tennis clubrooms	6.11	\$ 550,000	MSC/BMTC	MT
36		Rationalise tennis storage into a single storage facility, and remove the timber shed	6.11	\$ 90,000	BMTC	MT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$ 2,385,000</b>		
Masons Lane Reserve						
37		Install floodlights on Oval 1 and the athletics oval (50 lux)	6.2, 6.10	\$ 250,000	MSC/BMSC/ BMLAC	MT
38		Upgrade the Athletics Pavilion to incorporate change rooms, a disabled toilet and storage	6.2	\$ 200,000	MSC/BMSC/ BMLAC	MT
39		Install a new sub-surface irrigation system in Oval 2	6.5	\$ 150,000	MSC	MT
40		Install two shelters to service Ovals 1 & 2	6.1	\$ 30,000	MSC	ST
		Install a new playspace and associated picnic facilities, in accordance with the reserve master plan	NA	\$ 120,000	MSC	MT
41		Upgrade the Baseball Pavilion	6.3	\$ 125,000	MSC/BMBC	ST
42		Install additional spectator seating and shelter around the baseball field	6.3	\$ 17,500	MSC	MT
43		Install an additional batting cage	6.3	\$ 20,000	BMBC	LT
44		Investigate options to increase car parking	6.3	\$ 150,000	BSC	MT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$ 1,062,500</b>		
Myrning Recreation Reserve						
		No change	6.11			
Proposed New District Level Sporting Facility (football and cricket, potentially on Underbank Land)						
45		Develop a new District level sporting precinct (planning)	6.1, 6.5	\$ 75,000	MSC	LT
46		Construct two ovals (drainage, irrigation, crowned) - dual football and cricket	6.1, 6.5	\$ 1,000,000	MSC	LT
47		Install floodlights on one oval to training standard (50 lux)	6.1, 6.5	\$ 180,000	MSC	LT
48		Construct a new pavilion (425sqm)	6.1, 6.5	\$ 1,300,000	MSC	LT
49		Car park, paths, landscaping	6.1, 6.5	\$ 300,000	MSC	LT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$ 2,855,000</b>		
Proposed New District Level Soccer Facility (site yet to be determined, but preferably Darley area)						
50		Develop a new District level sporting precinct (planning)	6.10	\$ 50,000	MSC	LT
51		Construct three fields (drainage, irrigation) - two fields with overlay for cricket	6.10	\$ 700,000	MSC	LT
52		Install floodlights on one field to training standard (50 lux)	6.10	\$ 100,000	MSC	LT
53		Construct a new pavilion (415sqm)	6.10	\$ 1,275,000	MSC	LT
54		Car park, paths, landscaping	6.10	\$ 150,000	MSC	LT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$ 2,275,000</b>		
Proposed New District Level Oval (as a joint-venture with Bacchus Marsh Grammar)						
55		Investigate feasibility (planning only) of a new oval on a greenfield site between East & South Maddingley	6.1, 6.5	\$ 25,000	MSC/BMG	
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$ 25,000</b>		
Proposed New Competition Standard BMX Track						
56		Undertake planning to scope the facility and associated infrastructure required, and to identify a suitable site	6.12.5	25,000	MSC/ BMBMXC	ST
57		Allowance for construction of a competition standard BMX racing track (indicative amount only)	6.12.5	\$ 250,000	MSC/ BMBMXC	ST
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$ 275,000</b>		
Active Recreation Facilities						
58		Allowance for installation of a range of Active Recreation Facilities (sites and scope of works to be)	6.12.2	350,000	MSC	MT-LT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$ 350,000</b>		
<b>Total for East Moorabool</b>				<b>\$ 23,122,500</b>		

Item No.	Reserve / Facility Name	Facility Improvements / Additional Facilities	Report Reference	Estimated Cost	Who	Proposed Timing
	<b>Central Moorabool</b>					
	Ballan Golf Club	No change				
	Ballan Racecourse and Recreation Reserve					
59		Continue to implement 2009 master plan directions	6.6	Not costed	ResComm	Ongoing
		<b>Sub Total</b>		\$ -		
	Ballan Recreation Reserve					
60		Upgrade floodlights to training standard (50 lux)	6.1	\$ 120,000	MSC/ResComm	ST
61		Install a new electronic scoreboard	6.1	\$ 50,000	ResComm	MT
62		Develop a second netball court as an overlay on two tennis courts	6.9, 6.11	\$ 15,000	MSC/ResComm	MT
63		Install floodlights to the dual tennis-netball courts (tennis: 250 lux)	6.9, 6.11	\$ 55,000	MSC/ResComm	MT
64		Replace the green (surface type to be determined)	6.8	\$ 35,000	BBC/ResComm	MT
65		Install floodlights over the green	6.8	\$ 150,000	BBC/ResComm	LT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		\$ 425,000		
	Ballan Seasonal Outdoor Pool					
		Any changes will be subject to the outcomes of the Leisure Facilities Review study	6.12.4			
	Beremboke Recreation Reserve					
66		Review the 2004 reserve master plan	6.11	\$ 7,500	MSC/ResComm	ST
67		Resurface the two courts-complete reconstruction of the base is required	6.11	\$ 110,000	MSC/ResComm	LT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		\$ 117,500		
	Blackwood Recreation Reserve					
68		Prepare a reserve master plan	6.5	\$ 12,500	MSC/ ResComm	ST
69		Replace the surface of the practice wickets (x 2)	6.5	\$ 7,500	BCC	ST
70		Resurface the tennis courts (x 2)	6.11	\$ 50,000	MSC/ ResComm	MT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		\$ 70,000		
	Gordon Recreation Reserve					
71		Prepare a reserve master plan	6.1	\$ 12,500	MSC/ ResComm	ST
72		Investigate options to improve the level of the oval (engineering assessment)	6.1	\$ 7,500	ResComm	ST
73		Upgrade floodlights to training standard (50 lux)	6.1	\$ 120,000	MSC/ ResComm	ST
		<b>Sub Total</b>		\$ 140,000		
	Gordon Public Park					
74		Demolish the existing three tennis courts and construct two new courts (with netball overlay)	6.9, 6.11	\$ 120,000	MSC/ ResComm	MT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		\$ 120,000		
	Greendale Recreation Reserve					
75		Prepare a reserve master plan	6.5	\$ 10,000	MSC/ ResComm	ST
		<b>Sub Total</b>		\$ 10,000		
	Korweinguboora Recreation Reserve					
76		Prepare a reserve master plan	6.1, 6.5	\$ 15,000	MSC/ ResComm	ST
77		Install sub-surface drainage and irrigation	6.1, 6.5	\$ 250,000	MSC/ ResComm	MT
78		Construct player and umpires change rooms (155sqm)	6.1, 6.5	\$ 465,000	MSC/ ResComm	MT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		\$ 730,000		
	Morrison's Recreation Reserve					
79		Prepare a reserve master plan	6.11	\$ 10,000	MSC/ ResComm	ST
		<b>Sub Total</b>		\$ 10,000		
	Mt Egerton Recreation Reserve					
80		Prepare a reserve master plan	6.1, 6.5	\$ 15,000	MSC/ResComm	ST
81		Resurface the three tennis courts-complete reconstruction of the base is required (consider overlay of 1-2 netball courts)	6.11	\$ 160,000	MSC/ResComm	LT
82		Replace the oval perimeter fence and install irrigation, if the oval is required for regular cricket use	6.5	\$ 180,000	ResComm	LT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		\$ 355,000		
	Mt Wallace Recreation Reserve					
83		Repair or replace the fence around the playground	6.11	\$ 15,000	MSC/ResComm	ST
84		Remove the courts and reinstate to grass	6.11	\$ 12,500	MSC/ResComm	ST
		<b>Sub Total</b>		\$ 27,500		
	Active Recreation Facilities					
85		Allowance for installation of a range of Active Recreation Facilities (sites and scope of works to be)	6.12.2	150,000	MSC	MT-LT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		\$ 150,000		
<b>Total for Central Moorabool</b>				<b>\$ 2,127,658</b>		

Item No.	Reserve / Facility Name	Facility Improvements / Additional Facilities	Report Reference	Estimated Cost	Who	Proposed Timing
<b>West Moorabool</b>						
Bullarook Recreation Reserve						
86		Prepare a reserve master plan	6.11	\$ 7,500	MSC/ResComm	ST
87		Resurface the court-complete reconstruction of the base is required	6.11	\$ 60,000	MSC/ResComm	LT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$ 67,500</b>		
Bungaree Recreation Reserve						
88		Review the 2009 reserve master plan	6.1, 6.9	\$ 20,000	MSC/ResComm	ST
89		Install a sub-surface drainage and irrigation to the oval	6.1	\$ 250,000	MSC/ResComm	ST
90		Upgrade oval floodlights to practice match standard (100 lux)	6.1	\$ 100,000	ResComm	MT
91		Install a new electronic scoreboard	6.1	\$ 50,000	ResComm	MT
92		Remove the three former netball courts now not used, and construct a new bowling green	6.8, 6.9	\$ 350,000	ResComm	LT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$ 770,000</b>		
Clarendon Recreation Reserve						
93		Resurface the two courts-complete reconstruction of the base is required	6.11	\$ 110,000	MSC/ResComm	LT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$ 110,000</b>		
Dunnstown Recreation Reserve						
94		Prepare a reserve master plan	6.1, 6.5, 6.9, 6.11	\$ 15,000	MSC/ResComm	ST
95		Upgrade oval floodlights to training standard (50 lux)	6.1	\$ 120,000	MSC/ResComm	ST
96		Construct a two pitch cricket practice facility	6.5	\$ 70,000	ResComm	MT
		Install a second netball court, pending need and identification of a suitable location	6.9	\$ 150,000	ResComm	LT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$ 355,000</b>		
Elaine Recreation Reserve						
97		Install sub-surface drainage and irrigation in the existing oval	6.5	\$ 200,000	MSC/ResComm	MT
98		Replace the existing cricket pavilion with a new pavilion (includes a community multipurpose room) (350sqm)	6.5	\$ 1,050,000	MSC/ResComm	MT
99		Upgrade the practice wickets (x 2) (fencing and wickets)	6.5	\$ 35,000	ResComm	ST
100		Install floodlights to the dual tennis-netball courts (tennis: 250 lux)	6.9, 6.11	\$ 55,000	ResComm	LT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$ 1,340,000</b>		
Millbrook Recreation Reserve						
101		Resurface the two courts-complete reconstruction of the base is required	6.11	\$ 110,000	MSC/ResComm	LT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$ 110,000</b>		
Navigators Recreation Reserve						
102		Prepare a reserve master plan	6.11	\$ 7,500	MSC/ResComm	ST
103		Install floodlights to practice standard to the set of two courts (250 lux)	6.11	\$ 55,000	MSC/ResComm	MT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$ 62,500</b>		
Wallace Recreation Reserve						
104		Install sub-surface drainage and irrigation to the oval	6.1, 6.5	\$ 250,000	MSC/ResComm	ST
105		Upgrade the oval playing surface (level, turf species)	6.1, 6.5	\$ 150,000	MSC/ResComm	MT
106		Upgrade oval floodlights to training standard (50 lux)	6.1, 6.5	\$ 120,000	MSC/ResComm	ST
107		Install a new electronic scoreboard	6.1, 6.5	\$ 50,000	ResComm	MT
108		Allowance for upgrade or rebuild of the cricket practice nets in a new location	6.5	\$ 60,000	ResComm	ST
109		Upgrade the dedicated netball court floodlights to training standard (50 lux)	6.9	\$ 45,000	MSC/ResComm	ST
110		Install floodlights to the dual tennis-netball courts (tennis: 250 lux)	6.9, 6.11	\$ 55,000	ResComm	MT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$ 730,000</b>		
Yendon Recreation Reserve						
111		Prepare a reserve master plan	6.11	\$ 7,500	MSC/ResComm	ST
112		Remove the court closest to the clubroom building and reinstate to grass	6.11	\$ 5,000	ResComm	ST
113		Resurface the two northern courts-complete reconstruction of the base is required	6.11	\$ 110,000	MSC/ResComm	LT
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$ 122,500</b>		
<b>Total for West Moorabool</b>				<b>\$ 3,667,500</b>		
<b>TOTAL FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS</b>				<b>\$ 27,677,658</b>		

## 8.2. Other Strategy Recommendations

### Sporting and Recreation Facility Development

1. That Council continues to advocate and work towards development of a new indoor aquatic centre in Bacchus Marsh, and in the interim continues to operate the Bacchus Marsh Seasonal Outdoor Pool (Section 6.12.4).
2. That Council continues to operate the Ballan Seasonal Outdoor Pool (Section 6.12.4).
3. That Council supports the development of a new competition standard BMX racing circuit in the Shire (Section 6.12.5).
4. That Council not directly supports the development of any new golf courses in the Shire, but continues to work collaboratively with the management groups of the three existing clubs to improve their sustainability and offerings to residents and visitors (Section 6.12.6).
5. That Council not plan for the provision of a synthetic hockey field during the forecast period (Section 6.12.7).
6. That Council supports the development of futsal by advocating for indoor court time to be made available for the sport (Section 6.12.8).
7. That Council construct all proposed new ovals to initially comprise a synthetic cricket wicket (Section 7.6).

### Council Policy and Guidelines

8. That Council adopt a three level sports facility hierarchy as the basis for classification of sporting facilities from the same code (Section 3.3).
9. That Council adopt the sports facility and pavilion/ clubrooms standards and guidelines as the basis to inform upgraded and new sports facility development (Sections 3.3 & 7.1 and Appendix 1).
10. That Council prepare a new Capital Works Contributions Policy to inform the funding of the development, improvement and replacement of sporting infrastructure, based on the principles and guidelines proposed for the capital works contribution framework (Section 7.2 and Appendix 4).
11. That Council adopt the standards and design elements incorporated within the proposed Reserve Development Framework (Section 7.3).
12. That Council develop a new Reserve Management Framework Policy (Section 7.4).
13. That Council prepare a new Community Facilities Funding Policy that will combine and review the Community Halls Funding Policy (2005) and the Reserve Funding Policy (2004), and which will review the method of calculating the annual reserve grant for community managed recreation reserves (Section 7.4).
14. That Council prepare a new Fees and Charges Policy (Section 7.5).
15. That Council also prepare the following policies to underpin the delivery of sport and recreation in the Moorabool Shire:
  - Season Tenancy & Occupancy Policy and Guide.
  - Use of School Land and School Facilities Policy.
  - Active Participation Strategy.

## Appendix 1

### Sports Facility Hierarchy – Desired Standards of Provision

The following information identifies the suggested desirable standards for the provision of sporting facilities for each hierarchical level for key sports, and is followed by suggested standards for the provision of pavilions/clubrooms. Note, that whilst the suggested standards should be the desirable level of provision for Council, clubs and reserve committees to aspire to, site constraints and other factors may inhibit the capacity of these standards being fully realised.

The playing field dimensions and athletics field event dimensions referred to in the tables have been sourced from the publication, *Sport Dimensions for Playing Areas (Ministry of Sport & Recreation, WA)*.

The guidelines and recommendations for floor area allowances for the specific spaces within pavilions / clubrooms have been identified from a number of sources, including the publication, *Whittlesea City Council Sports Pavilion Strategy (Stratcorp Consulting)*, workshops with sports clubs and associations facilitated by Richard Simon (Simon Leisure Consulting) during previous studies, and from floor plans developed for various pavilion design projects undertaken previously by Simon Leisure Consulting. For Australian Rules football requirements, information has been sourced from *AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines, Coffey (2012)*.

Note, that references to the provision of flood lighting in the tables are based on the Australian Standard 2560 Series, and that recommendations for flood lighting to accommodate club competition, match practice and training for the field sports of Australian football and soccer are made in the context of Moorabool Shire clubs and associations being assessed at the “Amateur” level<sup>32</sup>.

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<sup>32</sup> Source: Page 11, Australian Standard 2560.2.3).

## Playing Surfaces and Other Infrastructure

### Australian Football and Cricket - Desired Standards of Provision

<b>Facility Component</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Regional (AFL only)</b>
<b>Playing Surface</b>			
<b>No. of Ovals</b>	1 oval	1 oval, but at new reserve developments a minimum of 2 ovals	1 fenced oval, and adjacent warm-up area
<b>Size (playing area)</b> All football ovals to have a minimum clearance of 4.0m between the boundary line and the closest fixed object Cricket to have minimum 5.0m clearance between the boundary line and the closest fixed object (Senior Grades only)	Football: Minimum 100m x 65m  Cricket: Minimum 40m radius	Football: Preferred playing surface 165m x 135m Minimum 155m x 110m Cricket: Minimum 50m radius for synthetic wickets Preferred 60m radius for turf grounds to allow for the varying distances between the pitch and boundary due to rotating pitches on turf tables	Football: Preferred playing surface 165m x 135m
<b>Drainage</b>	Basic drainage system at 8m herring bone configuration, or similar	Comprehensive drainage system at 4m herring bone configuration, or similar	Comprehensive drainage system at 4m herring bone configuration, or similar
<b>Irrigation</b>		Automated sub surface irrigation system	Automated sub surface irrigation system
<b>Maintenance</b>	Mowing only	Mowing, with annual fertilising, aerating and top dressing	Mowing, with fertilising (min 3 per yr), aerating (min 6 per yr), weed management (as reqd) and top dressing (as reqd)
<b>Boundary Lines</b>	Allowance for 3m run-off	Allowance for 4m run-off	Allowance for 5m run-off
<b>Infrastructure</b>			
<b>Interchange Bench</b>	Temporary shelter / seats	4.8m long x 1.2m wide (accommodate up to 8 people) Temporary shelter / seats for the second field	4.8m long x 1.2m wide (accommodate up to 8 people)
<b>Goal &amp; Behind Posts</b>	Goal Posts: 8m out of ground Behind Posts: 5m out of ground.	Goal Posts: 8m out of ground Behind Posts: 5m out of ground	Goal Posts: 10m out of ground Behind Posts: 6.5m out of ground
<b>Interchange Bench</b> (interchange steward, emergency umpire, match official)		1.8m long x 1.2m wide (accommodate up to 3 people)	1.8m long x 1.2m wide (accommodate up to 3 people)
<b>Spectator Area</b>		Some fixed seating around the ground (can include park furniture)	Some fixed seating around the ground, preferably around the oval perimeter fence
<b>Spectator Shelter/ Grandstand</b>		No standard, but suggested shade / shelter for spectators of 50m <sup>2</sup> and can be the pavilion verandah	No standard, but suggested dedicated shade / shelter for spectators of 75m <sup>2</sup>

<b>Facility Component</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Regional (AFL only)</b>
<b>Flood Lighting</b> (Australian football only)		Flood lights to provide full oval coverage to match training standard  Lighting to level 50 lux and comply to Australian Standard 2560.2.3-Football (All Codes)	Flood lights to provide full oval coverage to night match standard (excludes AFL club)  Lighting to level 150 lux and comply to Australian Standard 2560.2.3-Football (All Codes)
<b>Car Parking</b> Disabled parking to be provided	No standard, but on-street parking should be available as a minimum	No standard, but suggested off-street parking for minimum 150 cars, with additional on or off-street parking for 100 cars	No standard, but suggested off-street parking for minimum 250 cars, with additional on or off-street parking for 150 cars
<b>Scoreboard</b>		Fixed and permanent	Fixed and permanent, with encouragement for electronic scoreboard installations

<b>Facility Component</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>District</b>
<b>Cricket Only</b>		
<b>Turf Wicket</b>		Only on ovals where it is supported by the association, and a formal feasibility assessment of the capacity of the club/ reserve committee to fund and maintain a turf wicket table has been carried out  Minimum four pitches on a centre wicket table
<b>Synthetic Wicket</b>	Length: 28.0m (stump-to-stump is 20.12m, but additional flared ends reduces wear caused by bowler run-ups and wicketkeeper) Width: 2.74m	Length: 28.0m (stump-to-stump is 20.12m, but additional flared ends reduces wear caused by bowler run-ups and wicketkeeper) Width: 2.74m
<b>Synthetic Practice Nets</b>		Two nets where there will be a local recreation benefit

## Athletics - Desired Standards of Provision

<b>Facility Component</b>	<b>District</b>
<b>Playing Areas</b>	
<b>Track Surface</b>	Temporary or permanent grass track overlaid onto an oval 400m circumference with minimum 6 lanes
<b>Long / Triple Jump Facility</b>	Permanent runway(s) of minimum width of 1.22m and minimum length of 40m, with a sand landing pit at each end of area not less than 2.75m wide x 3m long
<b>High Jump Facility</b>	Temporary or permanent high jump area
<b>Pole Vault Facility</b>	
<b>Combined Discus &amp; Hammer Facility</b>	Permanent discus circle of 2.5m diameter and hammer circle of 2.135m diameter Where a dedicated field events area is possible, install a permanent combined throwing cage Where field events area is used for other sports/events a temporary throwing cage can be provided
<b>Javelin Facility</b>	Where a dedicated field events area is possible, install a permanent javelin runway of maximum length of 36.5m and minimum length of 30m Where field events area is used for other sports/events a temporary runway is used
<b>Shot Put Facility</b>	Permanent shot put circle(s) (2.135m) and temporary landing sector(s)
<b>Steeplechase Water Jump</b>	
<b>Infrastructure</b>	
<b>Spectator Area</b>	Some fixed seating around the track (can include park furniture)
<b>Spectator Shelter</b>	Some permanent shade / shelter for spectators, or provision of temporary shelter on competition days
<b>Flood Lighting</b>	
<b>Track / Reserve Fencing</b>	Perimeter fence around track area to prevent unauthorised vehicle access No reserve fencing
<b>Car Parking</b> Disabled parking provided at each level	On-street and / or off-street parking for a minimum 40 cars
<b>Electronic Timing Equipment</b>	

Lawn Bowls - Desired Standards of Provision

<b>Facility Component</b>	<b>District</b>
<b>Playing Surface</b>	
<b>No. of Greens</b>	1 – 2 greens
<b>Surface</b>	Natural turf or synthetic turf with playing surface dimensions of between 37-40m x 37-40m
<b>Irrigation</b>	Automated irrigation system (required for natural turf and synthetic surfaces)
<b>Drainage</b>	Comprehensive drainage system for natural turf at 4m herring bone configuration, or similar
<b>Infrastructure</b>	
<b>Player Shelter Area</b>	Permanent shade structures with seating around the greens (minimum 1 shelter for every 3 rinks)
<b>Flood Lighting</b>	Club decision on provision Lighting to level 100 lux for training and competition with pole heights minimum 12m and to comply to AS 2560.2.8 - Bowling Greens
<b>Green Fencing</b>	NA
<b>Car Parking</b> Disabled parking to be provided	On-street and off-street parking for minimum 25 cars per green, and some on-street for overflow
<b>Scoring Stands</b>	One set for each rink

Netball (Outdoor) - Desired Standards of Provision

<b>Facility Component</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Regional</b>
<b>Playing Surface</b>			
<b>No. of Courts</b>	1 - 2 courts (can be line-marked for other sports)	1 - 4 courts (can be line-marked for other sports)	Minimum of 8 courts (dedicated netball courts)
<b>Playing Surface</b>	Asphalt	Hard surface (options asphalt, synpave or plexipave)  Courts to have a minimum clearance of 3.05m between the sideline and the closest fixed object	Hard surface (options asphalt, synpave or plexipave)  Courts to have a minimum clearance of 3.05m between the sideline and the closest fixed object
<b>Infrastructure</b>			
<b>Spectator Area</b>		Some fixed seating around the court environs for spectators (can include park furniture)	Dedicated fixed seating around the show court  Some fixed seating around the other court environs for spectators
<b>Flood Lighting</b>		Competition standard on minimum 1 court  Lighting to level 100-200 lux with pole heights from 8m to 12m and to comply to Australian Standard 2560.2.4-Outdoor Netball	Competition standard on minimum 4 courts  Lighting to level 200 lux with pole heights from 8m to 12m and to comply to Australian Standard 2560.2.4-Outdoor Netball
<b>Court Fencing</b>	Council to assess on a case by case basis, however, as a basic Principle courts located within reserves will not have perimeter fencing, except where it might be necessary to enhance player and spectator safety		
<b>Reserve Fencing</b>		As above	As above
<b>Player Shelter</b>		2 shelters for each court	2 shelters for each court
<b>Car Parking</b> Disabled parking to be provided	On-street parking	On-street and / or off-street parking for minimum 25 cars	Off-street parking for minimum 40 cars, and some on-street for overflow

### Soccer - Desired Standards of Provision

<b>Sports Facility</b>	<b>District</b>
<b>Playing Surface</b>	
<b>No. of Fields</b>	Minimum 2 fields (for all new facility developments only)
<b>Drainage</b>	Comprehensive drainage system at 4m herring bone configuration each field
<b>Irrigation</b>	Automated sub surface irrigation system
<b>Maintenance</b>	Mowing, with annual fertilising, aerating and top dressing
<b>Infrastructure</b>	
<b>Player Shelter</b>	Two fixed shelters (each with 6 seat capacity) on the main field Temporary shelter / seats for the second field
<b>Spectator Area</b>	Some fixed seating around the fields (can include park furniture)
<b>Spectator Shelter</b>	Permanent or non-permanent shade / shelter for spectators
<b>Flood Lighting</b>	Minimum one field to have floodlights which provide full field coverage to match practice and training standard Lighting to level 100 lux and comply to Australian Standard 2560.2.3-Football (All Codes)
<b>Field Fencing</b>	Pipe and rail fencing for main field only, with other field(s) unfenced (Council reserves only)
<b>Reserve Fencing</b>	Council to assess on a case by case basis, however, as a basic Principle reserve fencing should only be considered where senior competition is played, or there is a safety issue
<b>Car Parking</b> Disabled parking to be provided	Off-street parking for minimum 30 cars, with additional on or off-street parking for 35 cars
<b>Scoreboard</b>	Fixed and permanent on main field

## Tennis - Desired Standards of Provision

<b>Sports Facility</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Regional</b>
<b>Playing Surface</b>			
<b>No. of Courts</b>	1 – 2 courts	Minimum 4 courts	Minimum 12 courts
<b>Playing Surface</b>	Hard court (typically multi-use courts with line-marking for tennis and netball)	Synthetic grass or hard court surface  Minimum 2 courts to be dedicated tennis courts (avoid grass and porous surfaces)	Approved surface(s) by Tennis Australia
<b>Infrastructure</b>			
<b>Flood Lighting</b>		Competition standard  Minimum 2 courts lit to comply to Australian Standard 2560.2.1-Tennis, being 350 lux and poles at 8.0m	Competition standard  Minimum 8 courts lit to comply to Australian Standard 2560.2.1-Tennis, being up to 1,000 lux and poles at 8.0m
<b>Facility Fencing</b>	Each court is fenced (for new and upgraded fencing use 3.5m black PVC coated chain-mesh fencing)		
<b>Car Parking</b> Dedicated disabled parking provided at District and Regional levels	On-street parking	On-street and / or off-street parking for minimum 25 cars	Off-street parking for minimum 40 cars

## Pavilions / Clubrooms

The following tables provide recommended sizes for specific components of pavilions and clubrooms that would be suitable for the nominated sports for this study. The recommended sizes consider relevant building code requirements and existing industry standards. Spatial allowances for ancillary areas, such as pedestrian circulation, service areas, foyers, etc., would be additional to the areas identified in the tables.

*Note, that recommendations are subject to compliance with current Building Code of Australia (BCA) requirements and that current BCA standards prevail.*

Two total areas have been provided for each pavilion and clubroom type, the first being the floor area that includes those spaces considered to be 'core' requirements for users and which should reasonably be expected to be provided by Council when the building is first constructed. The second floor area total is an allowance which should be set aside during the planning phase for a reserve to enable the user group(s) to expand the building in the future to accommodate additional areas for which the user groups are responsible for providing, i.e. social and bar areas.

Due to the inherent differences in pavilions and clubrooms for different sports, five tables have been prepared to guide provision for the following sports:

1. Football / Cricket Pavilion.
2. Netball Rooms.
3. Soccer Pavilion.
4. Tennis / Lawn Bowls Clubroom.

*Note, that pavilion allowances for the field sports have been based on two change rooms per building. Where there are two or more playing surfaces, Council should provide up to four change rooms.*

## Australian Football and Cricket Pavilion - Desired Standards of Provision

Facility Component	Building Code Requirements	Suggested Size	Suggested Size	Comments & Assumptions (e.g. number of people)
		District	Regional (AFL only)	
<b>Change Rooms</b>	Not specific	90m <sup>2</sup> Home: 45m <sup>2</sup> Away: 45m <sup>2</sup>	110m <sup>2</sup> Home: 55m <sup>2</sup> Away: 55m <sup>2</sup>	Allows for 2 change rooms (1 home and 1 away) and up to 25 players changing at one time.
<b>Showers &amp; Toilets</b>	For each 10 participants: 2 pans, 1 basin and 1 shower	50m <sup>2</sup> Home: 25m <sup>2</sup> Away: 25m <sup>2</sup>	50m <sup>2</sup> Home: 25m <sup>2</sup> Away: 25m <sup>2</sup>	For each change room allow for 25 persons: 4 pans and 4 showers. (Contemporary user needs now require showers to be cubed and there be no provision for urinals to improve flexibility for mixed gender use and for privacy reasons).
<b>Strapping/ Massage (Trainers) Rooms</b>		20m <sup>2</sup> Home: 10m <sup>2</sup> Away: 10m <sup>2</sup>	30m <sup>2</sup> Home: 15m <sup>2</sup> Away: 15m <sup>2</sup>	Ideally directly connected to the respective change rooms
<b>Umpires Room</b> (includes showers and toilets)	1 pan, 1 basin and 1 shower	20m <sup>2</sup>	30m <sup>2</sup>	Shower space should also incorporate a space for changing (as is commonly provided at caravan parks) to facilitate mixed gender use in umpire's rooms.
<b>Doctor's Room</b>	Not specific	10m <sup>2</sup>	10m <sup>2</sup>	
<b>Fitness Gym</b>	Not specific	25m <sup>2</sup>	30m <sup>2</sup>	Recommended spatial allowance appears too small for contemporary cardio equipment
<b>Public Toilets</b> (includes disabled)	Male: 1 pan per 250 people, 1 basin per 150 people. Female: 1 pan per 75 people, 1 basin per 150 people.	25m <sup>2</sup> Male: 10m <sup>2</sup> Female: 10m <sup>2</sup> Disabled: 5m <sup>2</sup>	35m <sup>2</sup> Male: 15m <sup>2</sup> Female: 15m <sup>2</sup> Disabled: 5m <sup>2</sup>	Specific area required will depend on an assessment of the average crowd and peak crowds. Allowance here is based on an average District football crowd of 1,000 and for Regional crowd of 2,500.
<b>Canteen</b>	Not specific	25m <sup>2</sup>	25m <sup>2</sup>	Canteen facilities can be shared between user groups.
<b>Office/ Admin</b>	Not specific	15m <sup>2</sup>	20m <sup>2</sup>	This space could be doubled-up as the Timekeepers/ Scorers space on match days.
<b>Storage</b>	Not specific	20m <sup>2</sup>	20m <sup>2</sup>	Amount of storage will depend on the number of teams sharing the pavilion from the same club. One internally-accessed store and one externally-accessed store should be provided.
<b>Time Keeping/Scorers</b>	Not specific	5m <sup>2</sup>	10m <sup>2</sup>	Room/ space will need a clear view to the playing field.
<b>Utility/Cleaners Room</b>	Not specific	5m <sup>2</sup>	5m <sup>2</sup>	Separate cleaners and utility space for items, such as hot water units & meters, cleaning equipment, and bin store.
<b>Total</b>		<b>310m<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>375m<sup>2</sup></b>	

Future Club Areas  
(Social District: 100m<sup>2</sup>; bar/fridge: 25m<sup>2</sup>)  
(Social Regional: 150m<sup>2</sup>; bar/fridge: 35m<sup>2</sup>)

125m<sup>2</sup>      185m<sup>2</sup>

**Total Pavilion Footprint**  
(excludes any provision for spectator shelters (e.g. verandah))

**435m<sup>2</sup>      560m<sup>2</sup>**

### Netball Rooms - Desired Standards of Provision

Facility Component	Building Code Requirements	Suggested Size	Comments & Assumptions (e.g. number of people)
		District	
<b>Change Rooms</b>	Not specific	40m <sup>2</sup> Home: 20m <sup>2</sup> Away: 20m <sup>2</sup>	Allows for 2 change rooms (1 home and 1 away) and up to 10 players changing at one time.
<b>Showers &amp; Toilets</b>	For each 10 participants: 2 pan, 1 basin and 1 shower	30m <sup>2</sup> Home: 15m <sup>2</sup> Away: 15m <sup>2</sup>	For each change room allow for 10 persons: 2 pans, 1 basin 1 shower.
<b>Umpires Room</b>		Nil	Not considered necessary as umpires typically arrive and leave in their uniforms. If required, can use player change and amenities.
<b>Public Toilets</b>		Nil	Incorporated into other buildings on the reserve
<b>Canteen</b>	Not specific	15m <sup>2</sup>	Incorporated into other buildings on the reserve
<b>Storage</b>	Not specific	20m <sup>2</sup>	One internally-accessed store and one externally-accessed store should be provided.
<b>Total</b>		<b>105m<sup>2</sup></b>	

Future Club Areas 0m<sup>2</sup>

**Total Netball Rooms Footprint 105m<sup>2</sup>**

### Soccer Pavilion - Desired Standards of Provision

Facility Component	Building Code Requirements	Suggested Size	Comments & Assumptions (e.g. number of people)
		District	
<b>Change Rooms</b>	Not specific	120m <sup>2</sup> Home: 2 x 30m <sup>2</sup> Away: 2 x 30m <sup>2</sup>	Allows for 4 change rooms and up to 14 players changing at one time.
<b>Showers &amp; Toilets</b>	For each 10 participants: 2 pans, 1 basin and 1 shower	36m <sup>2</sup> Home: 18m <sup>2</sup> Away: 18m <sup>2</sup>	For each change room allow for 14 persons: 2 pans, 1 basin and 2 showers.
<b>Referees Room</b> (includes showers and toilets)	1 pan, 1 basin and 1 shower	15m <sup>2</sup>	Shower space should also incorporate a space for changing (as is commonly provided at caravan parks) to facilitate mixed gender use in umpire's rooms.
<b>First Aid Room</b>		10m <sup>2</sup>	
<b>Public Toilets</b> (includes disabled)	Male: 1 pan per 250 people, 1 basin per 150 people. Female: 1 pan per 75 people, 1 basin per 150 people.	35m <sup>2</sup> Male: 15m <sup>2</sup> Female: 15m <sup>2</sup> Disabled: 5m <sup>2</sup>	Specific area required will depend on an assessment of the average crowd and peak crowds. Allowance here is based on an average soccer crowd of 100.
<b>Canteen</b>	Not specific	20m <sup>2</sup>	
<b>Storage</b>	Not specific	20m <sup>2</sup>	Amount of storage will depend on the number of teams sharing the pavilion from the same club. One internally-accessed store and one externally-accessed store should be provided.
<b>Utility/Cleaners Room</b>	Not specific	5m <sup>2</sup>	Separate cleaners and utility space for items, such as hot water units & meters, cleaning equipment, and bin store.
<b>Total</b>		<b>261m<sup>2</sup></b>	

Future Club Areas 155m<sup>2</sup>  
(social: 140m<sup>2</sup>; bar/fridge: 15m<sup>2</sup>)

**Total Pavilion Footprint 416m<sup>2</sup>**

## Tennis / Lawn Bowls Clubroom - Desired Standards of Provision

Facility Component	Building Code Requirements	Suggested Size		Comments & Assumptions (e.g. number of people)
		District	Regional (tennis only)	
<b>Change Rooms</b>	Not specific	20m2 Male: 10m2 Female: 10m2	30m2 Male: 10m2 Female: 10m2	Allows for separate change rooms for male and female players. Space will increase proportional to the number of courts / greens.
<b>Showers &amp; Toilets</b>	For each 10 participants: 2 pans, 1 basin and 1 shower	16m2 Male: 8m2 Female: 8m2	36m2 Male: 18m2 Female: 18m2	District: Single cubicked shower, 1 toilet and 1 basin for each change room. Regional: Two cubicked showers, 2 toilets and 2 basins for each change room
<b>Internal Disabled Toilet</b> (Includes a shower, and doubles as a family change room)	Minimum 1 to be provided	8m2	8m2	
<b>First Aid Room</b>		8m2	10m2	
<b>Lounge Area</b>	Not specific	80m2	100m2	Will depend upon the total number of courts / greens, which will influence anticipated membership numbers.
<b>Office / Administration</b>	Not specific	0m2	16m2	For club coach, tournament control, etc.
<b>Kitchen / Servery</b>	Not specific	20m2	25m2	Kitchen and bar areas can be combined
<b>Storage</b>	Not specific	15m2	15m2	Will be dependent upon the number of courts / greens the facility will service. One internally-accessed store and one externally-accessed store should be provided.
<b>Utility/Cleaners Room</b>	Not specific	5m2	10m2	Separate cleaners and utility space for items, such as hot water units & meters, cleaning equipment, and bin store.
<b>External Covered Viewing Area</b>	Not specific	30m2	40m2	Will depend on an assessment of the average crowd and peak crowds and number of courts / greens at the facility.
<b>Total</b>		<b>202m2</b>	<b>290m2</b>	

Future Club Areas	0m2	0m2
<b>Total Pavilion Footprint</b>	<b>202m2</b>	<b>290m2</b>

## **Appendix 2**

### **Inventory of Sporting and Recreation Facilities Available Within Moorabool Shire**

Reserve / Facility Name and Location	Ownership and Management	Sporting and Recreation Facilities Available (and associated infrastructure)	Classification Local District Regional	Sporting User Group(s)	Utilisation	Functionality Constraints Opportunities
<b>East Moorabool Region</b>						
<b>Bacchus Marsh Golf Club</b> Links Rd, Darley	Private Bacchus Marsh Golf Club Inc	18 hole golf course	District	Bacchus Marsh Golf Club	Not Known	Course is privately owned and managed, so no requirement for Council involvement.
<b>Darley Park</b> Grey St, Darley	DEPI Council Section 86 CoM	Oval (160m x 145m) (turf wicket, floodlit) 3 cricket practice nets Pavilion Covered viewing terrace 3 asphalt tennis courts with 2 netball courts overlaid (floodlit) Player shelter Homing pigeon clubrooms 3 asphalt netball courts (non-compliant run-offs) BMX track Play space Darley Native Gardens	District  District  NA Local  District Regional	Darley Football Netball Club (415 members) Auskick (220) Darley Cricket Club (120)  Bacchus Marsh Pigeon Club (5)  Bacchus Marsh BMX Club	Winter: 30hrs/wk Summer: 20hrs/wk	Oval was in excellent condition at the time of inspection, but degrades in winter due to overuse.  Courts and shelter in very good condition.  Pigeon clubrooms are in poor condition and should be replaced. Demolish the netball courts and use space for another purpose. BMX club has aspirations to construct a new BMX racing track at Bacchus Marsh Racecourse & Recreation Reserve, and to upgrade the Darley Park track for training and community use. Reserve master plan was completed in 2002, and should be reviewed to ensure the facilities and spaces are continuing to meet the needs of user groups and local residents.
<b>Darley Civic and Community Hub</b> Halletts Way, Darley	Council Council	Oval (155m x 125m) (synthetic wicket, floodlit) 2 cricket practice nets 2 asphalt netball courts (non-compliant run-offs) Play space	District  Local  Local	Darley Football Netball Club (415 members) Bacchus Marsh Soccer Club (275) Darley Cricket Club (120) Nil	Winter: 26hrs/wk Summer: 34hrs/wk	Oval was in excellent condition at the time of inspection, but degrades in winter due to overuse. Ground should continue to be managed as an overflow ground in the medium term, rather than becoming a headquarter venue for a club. Formal change room facilities are required. Netball courts are not full-size and will be removed in 2015 as part of the development of the new Early Years Hub building. Reserve master plan was completed in 2009 and should be reviewed following the major redevelopment of the precinct has in the past 2-3 years.
<b>Darley Civic and Community Hub Indoor Stadium</b> Halletts Way, Darley	Council Belgravia Leisure	1 indoor sports court (used mainly for recreational gymnastics between 2010-2014)	Local	Acrofun Gymnastics (130 participants)	Approx 30% of capacity	Facility is in very good condition. Permanent set-up for recreational gymnastics restricts the use of the stadium for other indoor sports, such as basketball. Investigate opportunities to introduce other sports into the stadium by re-allocating space and time for use by the Acrofun Gymnastics group.

Reserve / Facility Name and Location	Ownership and Management	Sporting and Recreation Facilities Available (and associated infrastructure)	Classification Local District Regional	Sporting User Group(s)	Utilisation	Functionality Constraints Opportunities
<b>Avenue Bowling Club</b> Crook St, Bacchus Marsh	Private Avenue Bowling Club	2 synthetic greens (both floodlit) Clubhouse	District	Avenue Bowling Club	Not Known	Facility is privately owned and managed, so the Council has only limited involvement with the Club.
<b>Bacchus Marsh Bowling Club</b> Lord St, Maddingley	Private Bacchus Marsh Bowling Club	2 synthetic greens (one floodlit) Clubhouse	District	Bacchus Marsh Bowling Club	Not Known	Facility is privately owned and managed, so the Council has only limited involvement with the Club. One green will need to be replaced in the next couple of years.
<b>Masons Lane Reserve</b> Masons Ln, Bacchus Marsh	Council Council Section 86 CoM	Oval 1 (130m x 110m) (synthetic wicket, limited floodlights) 3 cricket practice nets Eastern Pavilion Oval 2 (100m x 90m approx.)  Grass athletics track Clubrooms Baseball field and training net Pavilion	District  Local  District  District	Bacchus Marsh Cricket Club (185 members) Bacchus Marsh Soccer Club (275) Bacchus Marsh Goal Kick (50)  Bacchus Marsh Cricket Club Bacchus Marsh Soccer Club Bacchus Marsh Dog Obedience (140) Bacchus Marsh Little Athletics (275)  Bacchus Marsh Baseball Club (70) Teeball (40)	Winter: Oval - 28hrs/wk Baseball – 20hrs/wk Dog – 5hrs/wk  Summer: Oval - 20hrs/wk Aths – 30hrs/wk	Both ovals were in good condition at the time of inspection. Upgrade the floodlighting for Oval 1 to training standard. The athletics track infield is now being used for soccer in winter (may require the permanent relocation of the shot put area). Baseball outfield does not conform with minimum dimensions for highest level of men's competition (require 122m from home plate to centre outfield fence). Reserve master plan was completed in 2011. Continue to implement proposed upgrade projects.
<b>Bacchus Marsh Seasonal Outdoor Pool</b> , Grant St, Maddingley	Council Belgravia Leisure	30m x 6 lane outdoor pool Toddlers pool Amenity building	Local	Nil	9,800 visitations (2013)	Pool and associated infrastructure are reaching the end of their functional lives. Council is undertaking a planning process for the redevelopment of the site into a new indoor aquatic centre.
<b>Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre</b> , Bacchus Marsh SC Off Labilliere St, Maddingley	DoE & ECD Belgravia Leisure	2 indoor sports courts Fitness gymnasium Circuit training area Crèche	District	Bacchus Marsh Basketball Association (520 members) Bacchus Marsh Netball Association (500)	Approx 73% of capacity	Courts are in good condition but in high demand for basketball and netball. Fitness gymnasium is too small for current and likely future demand. Centre is not an accessible facility and the various spaces associated with the health club and crèche are disjointed. Car parking is restricted. Investigate the feasibility of redeveloping and expanding the centre into a larger (4 courts), more efficient and better quality indoor sport and leisure centre.
<b>Maddingley Park</b> Grant & Station Sts, Bacchus Marsh	Council/ DEPI Council	Main Oval (177m x 130m) (synthetic wicket, floodlit) 5 cricket practice nets	District	Bacchus Marsh Football Netball Club (390 members) Bacchus Marsh Cricket Club (145)	Winter: 28hrs/wk Summer: 30hrs/wk	Oval was in excellent condition at the time of inspection, but degrades in winter due to overuse. Oval lacks any significant sheltered spectator areas, and the clubroom is in good condition

Reserve / Facility Name and Location	Ownership and Management	Sporting and Recreation Facilities Available (and associated infrastructure)	Classification Local District Regional	Sporting User Group(s)	Utilisation	Functionality Constraints Opportunities
	Section 86 CoM	Clubroom Separate amenities building Siberia Oval (120m x 95m) (synthetic wicket) 7 synthetic surface tennis courts (floodlit), 12 grass courts and 2 plexipave tennis courts overlaid with 1 netball court (floodlit) Tennis clubhouse Play space (Adventure Playground) Play space (other)	Local  Regional  Regional Local	In2Cricket (75)  Bacchus Marsh Lawn Tennis Club (275)		but needs to be redeveloped (or built new) to better meet future needs and contemporary standards. Surface of Siberia Oval was good at the time of inspection, but its size restricts its use for senior sport. Tennis courts are in good condition. Clubhouse is not functional and is not accessible, and needs to be redeveloped in keeping with the use and status of the club. Reserve master plan review was completed in 2009. Continue to implement proposed upgrade projects.
<b>Bacchus Marsh Racecourse &amp; Recreation Reserve</b> Bacchus Marsh-Balliang Rd, Maddingley	DEPI  Council Section 86 CoM	Harness training track Campdraft arena  Sand arena Equestrian cross country course Various pavilions and sheds  1 Oval (155m 125m) (synthetic wicket) 18 hole golf course Clubhouse	District Regional  District Regional NA Local District	Bacchus Marsh Harness Racing Club Bacchus Marsh Campdrafters Barrel Racing Club Sporting Horse Australia Bull Riders Association Southern Cross Rodeo Association Bacchus Marsh Pony Club (75)  Bacchus Marsh and Melton Poultry Club Footscray Poultry Club Overflow oval  Bacchus Marsh West Golf Club (132)	Not Known	The facilities and infrastructure throughout the reserve are generally of a basic standard but in good condition. The significant issue for the reserve (particularly the golf course and the oval) is the lack of a sustainable water supply to assist with maintaining the turf areas to a higher standard. Reserve has a significant focus on equestrian activities, however, is large enough to accommodate other sports. The reserve master plan was completed in 2009, and had a focus to determine the feasibility of accommodating a permanent training for Harness Racing Victoria. HRV has recently contacted Council to again consider inclusion of a permanent elite standard training facility at the Racecourse Reserve. It would be timely to prepare a new master plan that considers the increasing the number of community sporting facilities and the environmental sustainability of the reserve (water security).
<b>Myrniong Recreation Reserve</b> Hardy St, Myrniong	DEPI  DEPI CoM	1 Oval (90m x 65m approx.) 1 cricket practice net 2 asphalt tennis courts (non-compliant run-offs) Play space	Local  Local  Local	Local community social and recreational use	Not Known	The facilities are in average condition but are only serving a local catchment and use for non-competitive and informal sport. Reserve master plan was completed in 2007, and could be reviewed to ensure current directions are still current to meet local needs.
<b>Balliang Recreation Reserve and Hall</b> Bacchus Marsh-Balliang Rd, Balliang	DEPI  DEPI CoM	2 asphalt tennis courts Hall Play space	Local  Local	Local community social and recreational use	Not Known	The tennis courts are in average condition. The reserve services the needs of a small rural population.

**Audit of Sporting Facilities Available at Schools (East Moorabool)**

School Name and Location	Sporting and Recreation Facilities Available	Sporting User Group(s) (where applicable)	Comments
<b>Darley Primary School</b> Darley	Outdoor basketball-netball court Synthetic soccer field Synthetic multi-use area	Nil Nil Nil	All facilities are not senior sized
<b>Pentland Primary School</b> Darley	Indoor stadium (1 multipurpose court) Outdoor basketball-netball court Synthetic soccer field Synthetic athletics track	Nil Nil Nil Nil	Indoor stadium is close to capacity All facilities are not senior sized
<b>Bacchus Marsh Primary School</b> Bacchus Marsh	Indoor stadium (1 multipurpose court) Outdoor basketball-netball court Synthetic sports field Synthetic multi-use area	Nil Nil Nil Nil	All facilities are not full dimensioned and are not available for community use
<b>St Bernard's Parish Primary School</b> Bacchus Marsh	Indoor stadium (1 multipurpose court) Outdoor basketball-netball court Sports oval (natural turf)	Nil Nil Nil	All facilities are not senior sized and are not available for community use
<b>Bacchus Marsh Secondary College</b> Maddingley	Indoor stadium (2 multipurpose courts)  Outdoor basketball-netball court Sports oval (natural turf)	Bacchus Marsh Basketball Association Bacchus Marsh Netball Association Centre-based sporting competitions Nil Nil, but will soon be available to local cricket clubs for match day use	All facilities are senior sized, and have external groups utilising them Council has a service agreement with the School to operate the indoor stadium (currently managed on behalf of Council by Belgravia Leisure) Council is installing a centre wicket in the sports oval to enable it to be used by cricket clubs
<b>Bacchus Marsh Grammar</b> Maddingley	Indoor stadium (1 multipurpose court) Two outdoor basketball-netball courts Synthetic soccer field Synthetic athletics track	Nil Nil Nil Nil	Indoor stadium is senior sized but is not available for community use The outdoor courts and synthetic sports facilities are not senior sized School has expressed in interest in the past for joint venture sports facility development with the Council
<b>Coimadai Primary School</b> Coimadai	Outdoor basketball-netball court Sports oval (natural turf)	Nil Nil	All facilities are not senior sized
<b>Balliang East Primary School</b> Balliang East	Outdoor basketball-netball court Sports oval (natural turf)	Nil Nil	Court is senior sized
<b>Myrning Primary School</b> Myrning	Outdoor basketball-netball court Synthetic sports field Synthetic athletics track	Nil Nil Nil	All facilities are not senior sized

Reserve / Facility Name and Location	Ownership and Management	Sporting and Recreation Facilities Available (and associated infrastructure)	Classification Local District Regional	Sporting User Group(s)	Utilisation	Functionality Constraints Opportunities
<b>Central Moorabool Region</b>						
<b>Blackwood Recreation Reserve</b> Recreation Reserve Rd, Blackwood	DEPI DEPI CoM	1 Oval (120m x 110m) (synthetic wicket) 2 cricket practice nets Pavilion Grandstand (Mick Healy Pavilion) 2 asphalt tennis courts (non-compliant run-offs)	District  Local Local	Blackwood Cricket Club  Local community social and recreational use	Not Known	The facilities at the reserve are generally in very condition - the pavilion is new and the oval is well maintained. The practice wickets are only fair condition. It would improve the amenity of the reserve if the number of buildings could be rationalised.  Tennis courts are in poor condition and the run-offs do not comply with the standards for competition.  The reserve does not have a master plan. The whole reserve (oval and tennis court area) will benefit from a master plan being prepared, however, it would be a low priority project.
<b>Greendale Reserve</b> Ballan-Greendale Rd Greenwood	Council Council Section 86 CoM	1 Oval (95m x 70m approx.) (synthetic wicket) 2 asphalt tennis courts (compliant run-offs) with overlaid basketball court Play space	Local Local District	Local community social and recreational use	Not Known	Oval and the tennis courts are in good condition. Reserve predominantly serves a local catchment for use for non-competitive and informal sport, and tourists passing by. A township open space plan was completed in 1995, which is now out of date. The reserve would benefit from a master plan being prepared to ensure the current layout and facilities are meeting local needs, however, it would be a low priority project.
<b>Korweinguboora Recreation Reserve</b> Ballan-Daylesford Rd, Spargo Creek	DEPI DEPI CoM	1 Oval (155m x 125m) (synthetic wicket) Public Hall (former school classroom and was relocated to the reserve in 1994) Play space	Local  District	Local community social and recreational use. Overflow ground for cricket and football. (Used by the Ballarat Cricket Association and was used in 2014 by the Springbank FNC in 2014)	Not Known	Oval surface was in good condition at the time of inspection, however, has no sub-surface irrigation or drainage. Reserve predominantly serves a local catchment for use for non-competitive and informal sport, however, in the past couple of years has been used regularly for cricket and occasionally for senior football.  It would be timely to prepare a master plan for the reserve, as the increasing demand for active sporting ovals will likely require this reserve to be used more regularly. It is not currently 'fit for purpose' as a District level reserve, so the master plan could focus on this to enable more regular use in the future.
<b>Gordon Recreation Reserve</b> Old Melbourne Rd, Gordon	DEPI DEPI CoM	Oval (150m x 120m) (floodlit) Pavilion 1 asphalt netball court (floodlit) Player shelter	District  Local	Gordon Football Netball Club (190 members)	Winter: 15hrs/wk Summer: no use	Oval was in excellent condition at the time of inspection, but slopes from west to east. Pavilion is not large, but in good condition. Netball court is fully compliant, and is in good condition. Reserve does not have a master plan. A master plan could investigate options to improve the evenness of the oval playing surface, the potential expansion of the pavilion, and the introduction of other recreation facilities and spaces.

Reserve / Facility Name and Location	Ownership and Management	Sporting and Recreation Facilities Available (and associated infrastructure)	Classification Local District Regional	Sporting User Group(s)	Utilisation	Functionality Constraints Opportunities
<b>Gordon Public Park</b> Main St, Gordon	DEPI DEPI CoM	3 asphalt tennis courts (non-compliant run-offs) Clubhouse Play space	District  Local	Local community social and recreational use	Not Known	Tennis courts are in poor condition and the run-offs do not comply with the standards for competition. Reserve does not have a master plan. A master plan process could explore the rationalisation of the number of courts from 3 to 2 compliant courts, and inclusion of other recreational facilities to improve the park as a community meeting place.
<b>Ballan Recreation Reserve</b> Cowie St, Ballan	DEPI DEPI CoM	Oval (162m x 110m) (synthetic wicket, floodlit) 3 cricket practice nets Main pavilion Small clubroom building  6 hard court tennis courts (2 floodlit) overlaid with 1 netball court (floodlit) 1 grass bowling green Clubrooms Skate park  Play space	District  District District Local Local	Ballan Football Netball Club (190 members) Ballan Cricket Club (70)  Ballan Karate Club  Ballan Tennis Club (60)  Ballan Bowls Club (12)	Winter: 18hrs/wk Summer: 15hrs/wk	Oval upgrade works to re-shape the oval and to install sub-surface drainage were undertaken in 2014. Main pavilion consolidates the change and social areas for all user groups into one building. The condition of some of the spaces is average to poor, and requires upgrade. The former netball clubroom (now store) should be removed, as well as the small clubroom south of the main pavilion when it reaches the end of its functional life. The tennis and netball courts are in good condition.  The bowling green and clubhouse are in good condition.  The skate park is a metal and concrete structure in average condition, and offers only basic equipment. Reserve master plan was completed in 2013. Continue to implement proposed upgrade projects.
<b>Ballan Golf Course</b> Blow Crt, Ballan	DEPI Ballan Golf Club	18 hole golf course	District	Ballan Golf Club	Not Known	
<b>Ballan Seasonal Outdoor Pool</b> Mill Park St, Ballan	DEPI Belgravia Leisure	25m x 6 lane outdoor pool Toddlers pool Amenity building	Local	Nil	3,500 visitations (2013)	Pool and associated infrastructure are reaching the end of their functional lives. An investigation and feasibility assessment is required to determine a long-term future strategy for the facility and the site.
<b>Ballan Racecourse and Recreation Reserve</b> Racecourse Rd, Ballan	DEPI DEPI CoM	Harness training track Gallops track Various buildings and sheds	District	Ballan Pony Club (40 members) Ballan Harness Club (20) Ballan and District Adult Riders Club (20) Ballan and District Vintage Machinery & Vehicle Club (100)	Not Known	Potential for this site to accommodate some of the equestrian activities currently based at the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse & Recreation Reserve, to free up land at that reserve to accommodate additional active sporting fields. Reserve master plan was completed in 2009. Continue to implement proposed upgrade projects, but review the master plan if the opportunity arises to relocate some of the equestrian activities currently based at Bacchus Marsh.

Reserve / Facility Name and Location	Ownership and Management	Sporting and Recreation Facilities Available (and associated infrastructure)	Classification Local District Regional	Sporting User Group(s)	Utilisation	Functionality Constraints Opportunities
<b>Mt Egerton Recreation Reserve</b> Reserve Road East, Mt Egerton	DEPI DEPI CoM	Oval (160m x 110m) (synthetic wicket, floodlit) Main pavilion Small spectator shelter building 3 asphalt tennis courts	District  Local	Little evidence of any of the sporting areas having been used for an extended period. Local community social and recreational use	Not Known	Oval was in excellent condition at the time of inspection, although the perimeter fence needs replacing. Main pavilion appears structurally sound.  Whilst the tennis courts have compliant run-offs, they are in poor condition - the surface is uneven and cracking. The reserve was a popular recreational area up until 10-20 years ago, however, the sporting areas appear to attract little use today. Reserve master plan was completed in 2006, and should be reviewed only when new demand exists for use of the recreational spaces – currently be a low priority for Council.
<b>Mt Wallace Hall &amp; Recreation Reserve</b> Mt Wallace Hall Ln, Mt Wallace	DEPI DEPI CoM	Hall Play space	Local	Local community social and recreational use	Not Known	There are only remnants of the former two tennis courts: one is now the site of the play space, and the second is not playable. The perimeter fence needs to be repaired or replaced with a new low-height fence (preferred, as it will add to the amenity of the reserve) The reserve services the needs of a small rural population and passing tourists. Reserve does not have a master plan. One should be developed to ensure the facilities and spaces are continuing to meet the needs of residents, however, would be a low priority for Council.
<b>Morrison's Recreation Reserve</b> Parkinson Rd, Morrison's	DEPI DEPI CoM	2 asphalt tennis courts (dis-used) Clubroom building (dis-used)	Local		Nil	The tennis courts and associated buildings have not been maintained or used for a number of years. They are not usable in their current form. The reserve is not being used, and whilst it does not have a master plan one should only be developed if the residents identify an alternate use(s) for the reserve.
<b>Beremboke Recreation Reserve</b> Blacks Ln, Beremboke	DEPI DEPI CoM	2 asphalt tennis courts (non-compliant run-offs) Play space	Local  Local	Local community social and recreational use	Not Known	The tennis courts are in average condition and are not compliant. The reserve services the needs of a small rural population. Reserve master plan was completed in 2004, and should be reviewed to ensure current directions are still current to meet local needs.

**Audit of Sporting Facilities Available at Schools (Central Moorabool)**

School Name and Location	Sporting and Recreation Facilities Available	Sporting User Group(s) (where applicable)	Comments
<b>Ballan Primary School</b> Ballan	Two outdoor basketball-netball courts Sports oval (natural turf) Indoor stadium (1 multipurpose court)	Nil Nil Nil	Courts are senior sized Sports oval is undersized for senior football, cricket and soccer Stadium dimensions are not fully compliant, but are adequate for training Council has a service agreement with the School for community use of the stadium, and it is close to capacity
<b>St Brigid's Primary School</b> Ballan	Outdoor synthetic surface multipurpose court Sports oval (natural turf)	Nil Nil	Courts are senior sized Oval is a kick-about space only
<b>Gordon Primary School</b> Gordon	Sports oval (natural turf)	Nil	Sports oval is undersized for senior football, cricket and soccer
<b>St Patrick's Primary School</b> Gordon	Synthetic multipurpose court Sports oval (natural turf)	Nil Nil	Court is not senior sized Oval is a kick-about space only
<b>Mt Egerton Primary School</b> Mt Egerton	Outdoor basketball-netball court Sports oval (natural turf)	Nil Nil	Court is senior sized Sports oval is undersized for senior football, cricket and soccer

Reserve / Facility Name and Location	Ownership and Management	Sporting and Recreation Facilities Available (and associated infrastructure)	Classification Local District Regional	Sporting User Group(s)	Utilisation	Functionality Constraints Opportunities
<b>West Moorabool Region</b>						
<b>Bullarook Recreation Reserve</b> Powells Rd, Bullengarook	DEPI  DEPI CoM	1 asphalt tennis court Small meeting room Play space	Local  Local	Local community social and recreational use	Not Known	The tennis court is in average condition. The reserve services the needs of a small rural population and passing tourists. Reserve does not have a master plan. One should be developed to ensure the facilities are continuing to meet the needs of residents, however, would be a low priority for Council.
<b>Wallace Recreation Reserve</b> (AJ Yates Reserve) Erin Crt, Wallace	Council  Council Section 86 CoM	Oval (180m x 130m) (synthetic wicket, floodlit) 1 cricket practice net Main pavilion (JP Duggan Pavilion)  2 asphalt tennis courts overlaid with 1 netball court (half floodlit) 1 plexipave netball court (floodlit) Shelter Netball clubrooms Play space	District  Local  Local  Local	Springbank Football Netball Club (190 members) Overflow ground for cricket. (Used by the Ballarat Cricket Association, and by the Ballan Cricket Club in 2014)  Tennis courts used by the Gordon Tennis Club and by locals for social participation	Winter: 15hrs/wk Summer: 8hrs/wk	Oval was in average condition at the time of inspection. Pavilion is large and in good condition.  The tennis and netball courts are in good condition. Reserve master plan was completed in 2013. Continue to implement proposed upgrade projects.
<b>Bungaree Recreation Reserve</b> Bungaree-Creswick Rd, Bungaree	DEPI  DEPI CoM	Oval (170m x 130m) (floodlit) Pavilion and sheltered spectator areas (Danny Frawley Pavilion) 2 asphalt tennis courts overlaid with 1 netball court (floodlit) 3 asphalt netball courts (2 with non-compliant run-offs) Play space	District  Local  Local  Local	Bungaree Football Netball Club (190 members)  Social participation in tennis	Winter: 15hrs/wk Summer: no use	Oval was in excellent condition at the time of inspection, however, the drainage is poor and irrigation is required. Floodlights need upgrading. Pavilion/ grandstand is new and is in excellent condition. Tennis-netball courts are new and are in excellent condition. Reserve master plan was completed in 2009 and should be reviewed following the major redevelopment that has occurred in the past 1-2 years. Consider provision of a new bowling green in the area of the old netball courts.
<b>Dunnstown Recreation Reserve</b> Old Melbourne Rd, Dunnstown	Council  Council Section 86 CoM	Oval (165m x 125m) (synthetic wicket, floodlit) Pavilion 2 synpave tennis courts overlaid with 1 netball court Netball clubhouse Play space	District  Local  District	Dunnstown Football Netball Club (190 members) Dunnstown Cricket Club (30) Dunnstown Tennis Club (30)	Winter: 15hrs/wk Summer: 18hrs/wk	Oval was in good condition at the time of inspection. The pavilion is large and is in good condition.  The tennis and netball courts are in good condition, as is the clubhouse building. Reserve does not have a master plan. One should be developed to ensure the facilities are continuing to meet the needs of users and residents. Consider installing floodlights for the tennis-netball courts.

Reserve / Facility Name and Location	Ownership and Management	Sporting and Recreation Facilities Available (and associated infrastructure)	Classification Local District Regional	Sporting User Group(s)	Utilisation	Functionality Constraints Opportunities
<b>Millbrook Reserve</b> Old Melbourne Rd, Millbrook	Council  CoM	2 asphalt tennis courts (non-compliant run-offs) Basketball half court Concrete wicket Play space	Local  Local	Local community social and recreational use	Not Known	The tennis courts are unplayable at present due to weed infestation. The reserve was a former primary school, and services the needs of a small rural population. Reserve does not have a master plan. One should be developed to ensure all facilities and spaces are continuing to meet the needs of users and residents.
<b>Navigators Community Centre Recreation Reserve</b> Old Melbourne Rd, Dunnstown	Council  Council Section 86 CoM	3 synpave tennis courts Small clubroom Community centre building Play space	Local  Local	Local community social and recreational use	Not Known	Tennis courts and associated infrastructure are in good condition. Reserve does not have a master plan. One should be developed to ensure all facilities and spaces are continuing to meet the needs of users and residents. Consider installing floodlights for the tennis courts.
<b>Yendon Recreation Reserve</b> Old Melbourne Rd, Dunnstown	DEPI  DEPI CoM	4 asphalt tennis courts (2 courts with non-compliant run-offs) Small clubroom Play space	Local  Local	Local community social and recreational use	Not Known	All tennis courts and the associated building are in fair to poor condition. The building has had its northern room demolished, and the rectification works are still proceeding. The southwestern court is damaged, and has insufficient run-offs – it should be demolished and the area returned to grass. The southeastern court appears to be the main court used, however, it does not have compliant run-offs. The pad for the two northern courts is of sufficient size to provide compliant courts, however, these courts do not appear to be used for tennis and have been converted into a multipurpose recreational area. Reserve does not have a master plan. One should be developed to ensure the facilities and spaces are continuing to meet the needs of users and residents, and to critically assess the need for four tennis courts.
<b>Clarendon Recreation Reserve</b> Midland Hwy, Clarendon	DEPI  DEPI CoM	2 asphalt tennis courts (non-compliant run-offs) Play space	Local  Local	Local community social and recreational use	Not Known	The two tennis courts do not have compliant run-offs. The courts are set within a larger reserve that appears to be used for livestock grazing.

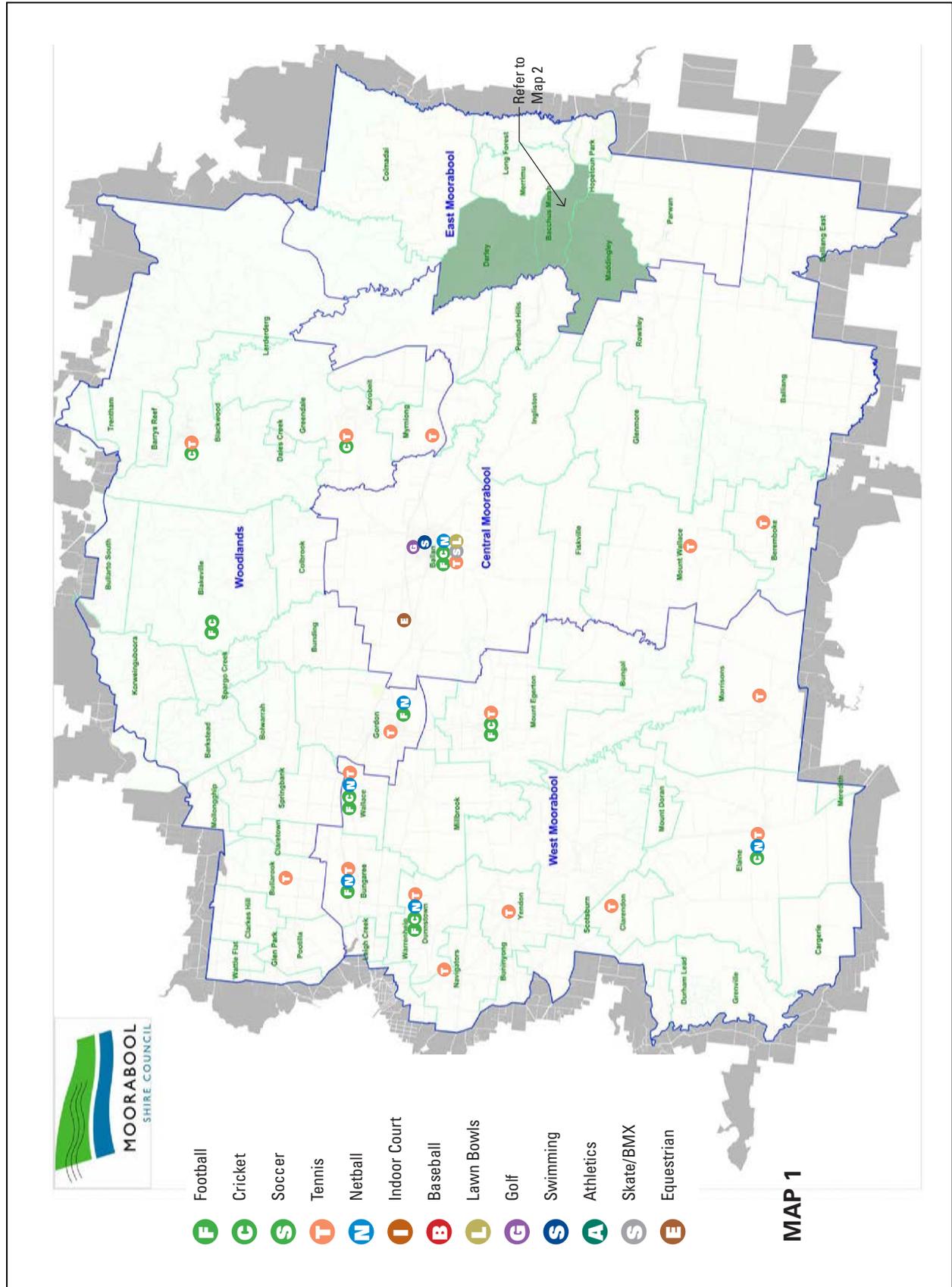
Reserve / Facility Name and Location	Ownership and Management	Sporting and Recreation Facilities Available (and associated infrastructure)	Classification Local District Regional	Sporting User Group(s)	Utilisation	Functionality Constraints Opportunities
<b>Elaine Sportsground Recreation Reserve</b> Midland Hwy, Elaine	Council  Council Section 86 CoM	Oval (135m x 100m approx.) (synthetic wicket) 2 practice wickets Pavilion  2 asphalt tennis courts overlaid with 1 netball court Tennis clubrooms Play space	District  Local  District	Elaine Cricket Club (45 members) Auskick  Elaine Tennis Club (20)	Not Known	Oval is in very good condition, whilst the sports pavilion is in average to poor condition.  The two tennis courts and overlaid netball court were rebuilt in 2013, and are fully compliant. The clubrooms are in good condition.  Reserve master plan was completed in 2013. Continue to implement proposed upgrade projects, and consider constructing a path between the reserve and the township to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety.

#### Audit of Sporting Facilities Available at Schools (West Moorabool)

School Name and Location	Sporting and Recreation Facilities Available	Sporting User Group(s) (where applicable)	Comments
<b>St Marys Primary School</b> Clarkes Hill	Outdoor tennis-netball court	Nil	Court is senior sized
<b>St Michaels Parish Primary School</b> Springbank	Outdoor netball court Outdoor tennis court	Nil Nil	Court is senior sized Court is not playable presently, but is senior sized
<b>St Brendan's Primary School</b> Dunnstown	Outdoor multipurpose court Sports oval (natural turf)	Nil Nil	Court is senior sized Oval is a kick-about space only
<b>Warrenheip Primary School</b> Warrenheip	Outdoor multipurpose court Sports oval (natural turf)	Nil Nil	Court is not senior sized Oval is a kick-about space only
<b>Lal Lal Primary School</b> Lal Lal	Outdoor tennis-netball court Sports oval (natural turf)	Nil Nil	Court is senior sized Sports oval is undersized for senior football, cricket and soccer

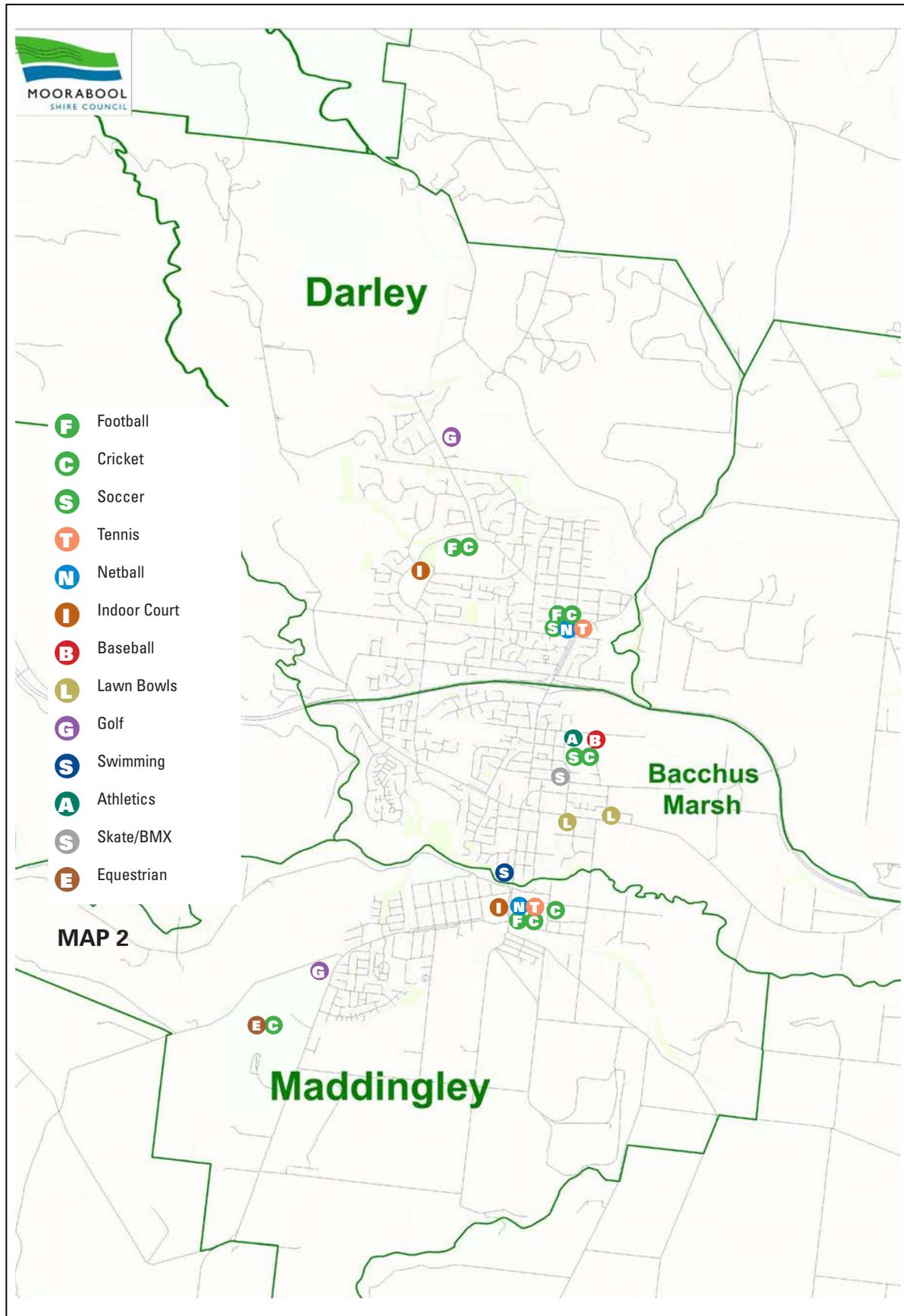
# Appendix 3a

## Distribution of Recreation and Leisure Facilities Throughout the Shire (Map 1)



## Appendix 3b

### Distribution of Recreation and Leisure Facilities in Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds (Map 2)



## Appendix 4

### Capital Works Contribution Framework

#### Responsibilities for the development, improvement and replacement of recreation and sporting facilities

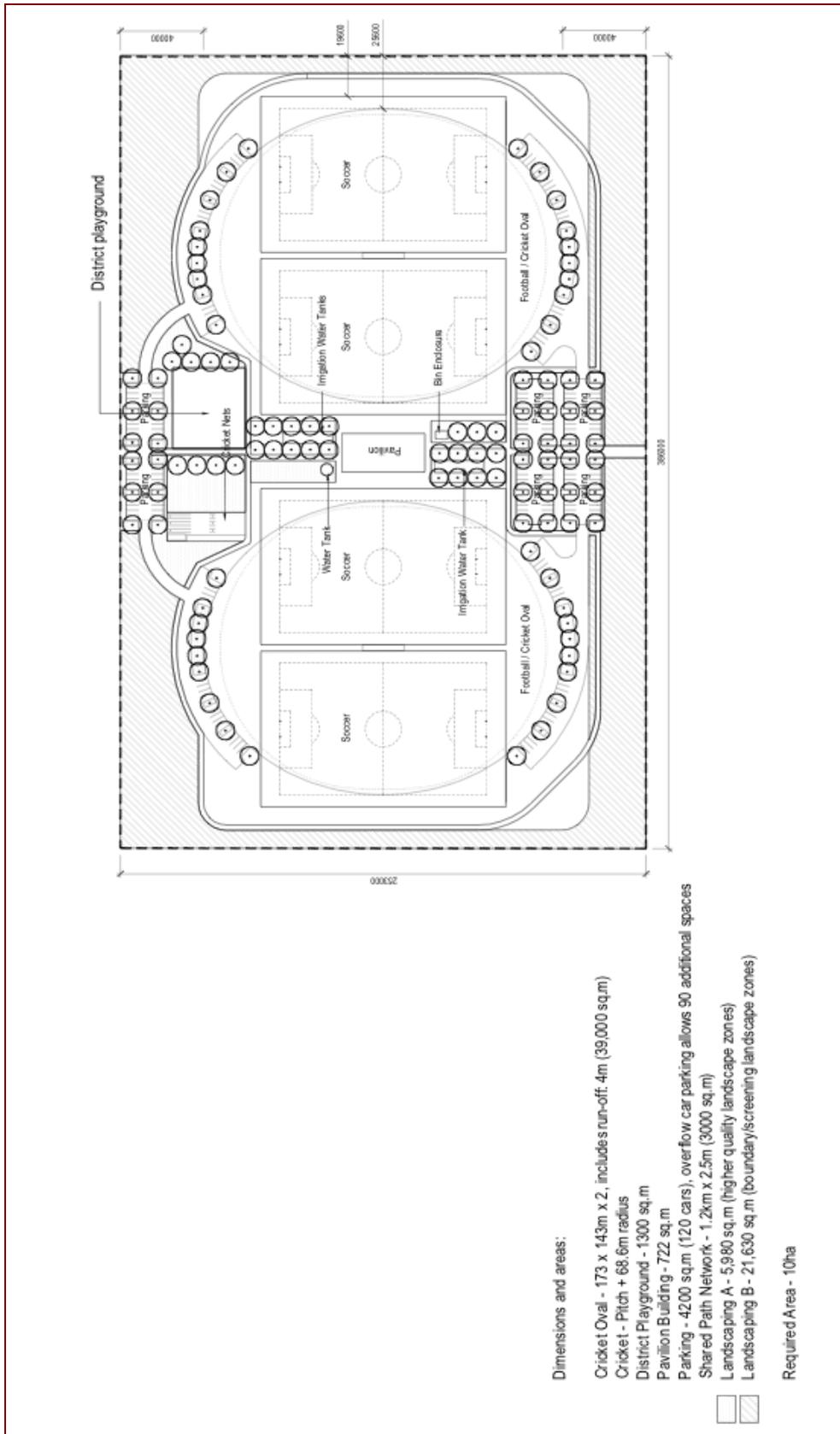
Infrastructure Component	Responsibility		
	Council (100% of costs)	Reserve Committee/ User Group (100% of costs)	Shared
<b>Pavilion and Surrounds</b> (Refer Facility Standards in Appendix 1)			
Player change rooms, toilets, showers	✓ Basic provision		✓ Extensions
Social Rooms and Bars	✓ Space allowed for in the design and the building footprint	✓ Construction, extensions and fit-out	✓ Extensions (Council may contribute where general community use is a specific outcome)
Canteen	✓ Basic provision	✓ Equipment / extensions	
Meeting Room	✓ Basic provision	✓ Fit-out / extensions	✓ Extensions (Council may contribute where general community use is a specific outcome)
Office	✓ Space allowed for in the building footprint design	✓ Construction, extensions and fit-out	
Umpires/ Referees change rooms (provision for males/females)	✓ Basic provision	✓ Extensions	
Player Shelters		✓ Supply and installation	
Storage	✓ Basic provision	✓ Extensions	
Time Keeping/ Scorers Area	✓ Basic provision	✓ Extensions	
Spectator Areas	✓ Provided in the form of pavilion verandahs In Regional facilities covered seating		✓ Other shade and shelters (committees/ clubs 25%)
Public Toilets	✓		
Reserve Fencing	✓ In circumstances where personal safety is a consideration, e.g. adjacent to roads, water bodies	✓ Repair and maintenance on non-Council owned reserves	✓ Repair and maintenance on non-Council owned reserves where personal safety is a consideration, e.g. adjacent to roads, water
Scoreboard		✓ Supply and installation	
Off-street car parking	✓ For District and Regional only		✓ Beyond basic provision, where approved by Council e.g. sealing (Sports group 25%)

Infrastructure Component	Responsibility		
	Council (100% of costs)	Reserve Committee/ User Group (100% of costs)	Shared
<b>Playing Area</b>			
Sports ovals and rectangular fields (includes irrigation and drainage infrastructure)	✓	✓ Improvements to surface and sub-surface infrastructure beyond hierarchy level	
All sports goal infrastructure	✓ At new ovals/ fields/ courts	✓ Renewal / replacement	
Outdoor netball courts (as part of new football netball club sites)	✓ District: First court Regional: First 4 courts	✓ District: additional courts beyond 2 courts Regional: additional courts beyond 4 courts	✓ District: 2nd court (committee/ club minimum 50%)
Tennis courts	✓ District: First 4 courts Regional: First 6 courts	✓ District: all courts beyond 6 Regional: all courts beyond 10	✓ District: courts 5 & 6 Regional: courts 7 – 10 (committee/ club minimum 50%)
Centre cricket pitch	✓ Installation of concrete slab and synthetic surfaces at new reserves  Renewal of concrete slabs	✓ Replacement and maintenance of synthetic surface  Turf wicket installation and maintenance	
Cricket practice nets	✓ First 2 practice wickets at new reserves, including concrete slab, synthetic surfaces and netting  Renewal of concrete slabs	✓ Additional practice wickets  Replacement and maintenance of synthetic surface  Turf wicket installation and maintenance	
Athletic Tracks (grass)		✓ Line-marking	
Athletic Field Event Facilities		✓ Replacement and maintenance	✓ Initial installation (committee/ club minimum 25%)
Lawn Bowls Green		✓ Additional greens beyond 2	✓ 1st green (committee/ club minimum 25%) 2nd green (committee/ club minimum 75%)

Infrastructure Component	Responsibility		
	Council (100% of costs)	Reserve Committee/ User Group (100% of costs)	Shared
<p>Floodlighting</p> <p>All Floodlighting to comply to Australian Standard 2560 Series</p>	<p><b>For District level facilities, all upgrades for floodlighting from training standard to competition standard will be 100% responsibility for reserve committees and sports groups to fund</b></p>		
		<p><u>Athletics</u> Training and competition standard</p>	
	<p><u>Football</u> Main oval at new reserves, floodlights to training standard (50 lux)</p>	<p><u>Football</u> Upgrades to competition standard</p>	<p><u>Football</u> Floodlights for 2<sup>nd</sup> oval to training standard (Club minimum 15%)</p>
		<p><u>Baseball</u> Upgrades to competition standard</p>	<p><u>Baseball</u> Main field to training standard (Club minimum 15%)</p>
		<p>Additional fields to training and/or competition standard</p>	
		<p><u>Cricket</u> Installation of floodlights on practice nets</p>	
		<p><u>Lawn Bowls</u> 1<sup>st</sup> green to pennant competition standard (Club 100%) 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> greens to training or competition standard</p>	<p><u>Lawn Bowls</u> 1<sup>st</sup> green to training (social competition) standard (Club minimum 30%)</p>
	<p><u>Netball</u> 1<sup>st</sup> court at new reserves, floodlights to training standard</p>	<p><u>Netball</u> 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> courts to competition standard</p>	<p><u>Netball</u> Upgrades to existing floodlights and 2<sup>nd</sup> court at new reserves to training standard (Club minimum 15%)</p>
	<p><u>Soccer</u> Main field at new reserves, floodlights to training standard</p>	<p><u>Soccer</u> Upgrades to competition standard</p>	<p><u>Soccer</u> Floodlights for 2<sup>nd</sup> field to training standard (Club minimum 15%)</p>
	<p><u>Tennis</u> District: First 2 courts at new reserves to competition standard</p>	<p><u>Tennis</u> District: Additional courts beyond 4 to competition standard</p>	<p><u>Tennis</u> District: Courts 3 &amp; 4 to competition standard (Club minimum 25%)</p>
	<p>Regional: First 4 courts to competition standard</p>	<p>Regional: Additional courts beyond 6 to competition standard</p>	<p>Regional: Courts 5 &amp; 6 to competition standard (Club minimum 75%)</p>

# Appendix 5

## Sample Layout Plan for a 10Ha Active Recreation Reserve



## Sample Layout Plan for a 7Ha Active Recreation Reserve

