

# SPORTS FACILITY NEEDS ANALYSIS

Hobsons Bay is an active community that offers a range of formal and casual sporting opportunities for its residents. The city also offers generous open space and natural assets that encourage residents to engage in sport and recreation activities to improve their health and wellbeing.

More than 10,000 local Hobsons Bay residents of all ages participate in a diverse range of sporting activities on a weekly basis at local sporting clubs and venues. Additionally, more than 10,000 residents from neighbouring municipalities (particularly Wyndham and Maribyrnong) also visit Hobsons Bay facilities to participate in regular sporting activities.

To respond to such a high level of participation in sport in our city, the Sports Facility Needs Analysis has been developed to determine the future planning and development of Council's sporting infrastructure, and identify priorities for the effective and sustainable delivery of sport facilities across the city.

## Informing the analysis

The Sports Facility Needs Analysis has been informed by a sports participation assessment of 29 individual sports, an audit of existing sports facilities, analysis of 68 local online club survey responses, demand assessments, feedback from regional and State Sporting Association (SSA) stakeholders, desktop research and feedback from the community during the public exhibition period of the draft report.



# Goals

The analysis informs future facility improvements, upgrades and renewals of Council owned and managed sporting infrastructure to best support clubs and venue operators in meeting the community's needs.

The focus of the Sports Facility Needs Analysis is to understand the needs of Hobsons Bay's existing sporting clubs and organisations to provide information on their future demand and growth areas.

# Principles

Planning and development principles have been used to guide the interpretation, consideration and preparation of strategic directions and will underpin future sports facility development priorities in Hobsons Bay.

The principles align with the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision priority for 'a visionary, vibrant, accountable urban planning for community spaces that cater for shared activities and services'.

1. Maximise use of existing facilities
2. Participation and access
3. Facility sustainability

The following sports have had detailed participation analysis conducted to inform the Sports Facility Needs Analysis.

Australian Rules Football	Lawn Bowls
Athletics and Little Athletics	Lifesaving
Badminton	Netball
Baseball	Rugby League
Basketball	Rugby Union
Calisthenics	Soccer
Combat Sports	Softball
Cricket	Squash
Croquet	Swimming
Cycling/BMX	Table Tennis
Golf	Tennis
Gymnastics	Touch Football
Hockey	Triathlon
Lacrosse	Volleyball

## Sports with forecasted growth

Formalised sport is an integral part of the local community and has a strong future focus across the inner western region of Melbourne. The analysis has identified that a number of sports are experiencing growth and diversification of their participation.

Netball, Basketball, Tennis, Football (Soccer), Cricket and Australian Rules Football have identified high growth rates, current waiting lists and restrictive competition formats as key indicators of the need for additional or improved infrastructure to support the future demands of their sports.

This expressed demand is also compounded by the emergence of new sports and the sustained participation in other key local sports including Hockey, Baseball, Badminton, Lacrosse, Rugby League, Rugby Union and Touch Football, which are all popular in Hobsons Bay. In addition, more than 56% of online club survey respondents indicated that demand for their sport 'was strong' and projected an increase in demand within the next five years.

To ensure an evidence based approach to the future planning and development of sports facilities, audits of all sporting infrastructure have been undertaken. The audit process included a mix of physical onsite audits, club meetings and desktop analysis. Online club surveys indicated that approximately half of the respondent clubs believe 'capacity is being exceeded' now, with a further 20% indicating that 'their club/facility is approaching capacity'.

## Priorities

The analysis has been developed to highlight short, medium and long-term priorities for identified sports played in Hobsons Bay.

Priorities have been identified from detailed data analysis, facility audits and online club survey responses. Priorities are provided to assist Council and the local sporting community in their budgeting process, investment attraction activities and future decision making. Priorities reflect key infrastructure directions and projects by sport and are not designed to provide individual recommendations for each and every sporting club venue.

In the context of the Sports Facility Needs Analysis, the following timeframes have been used to define short, medium and long-term priorities.

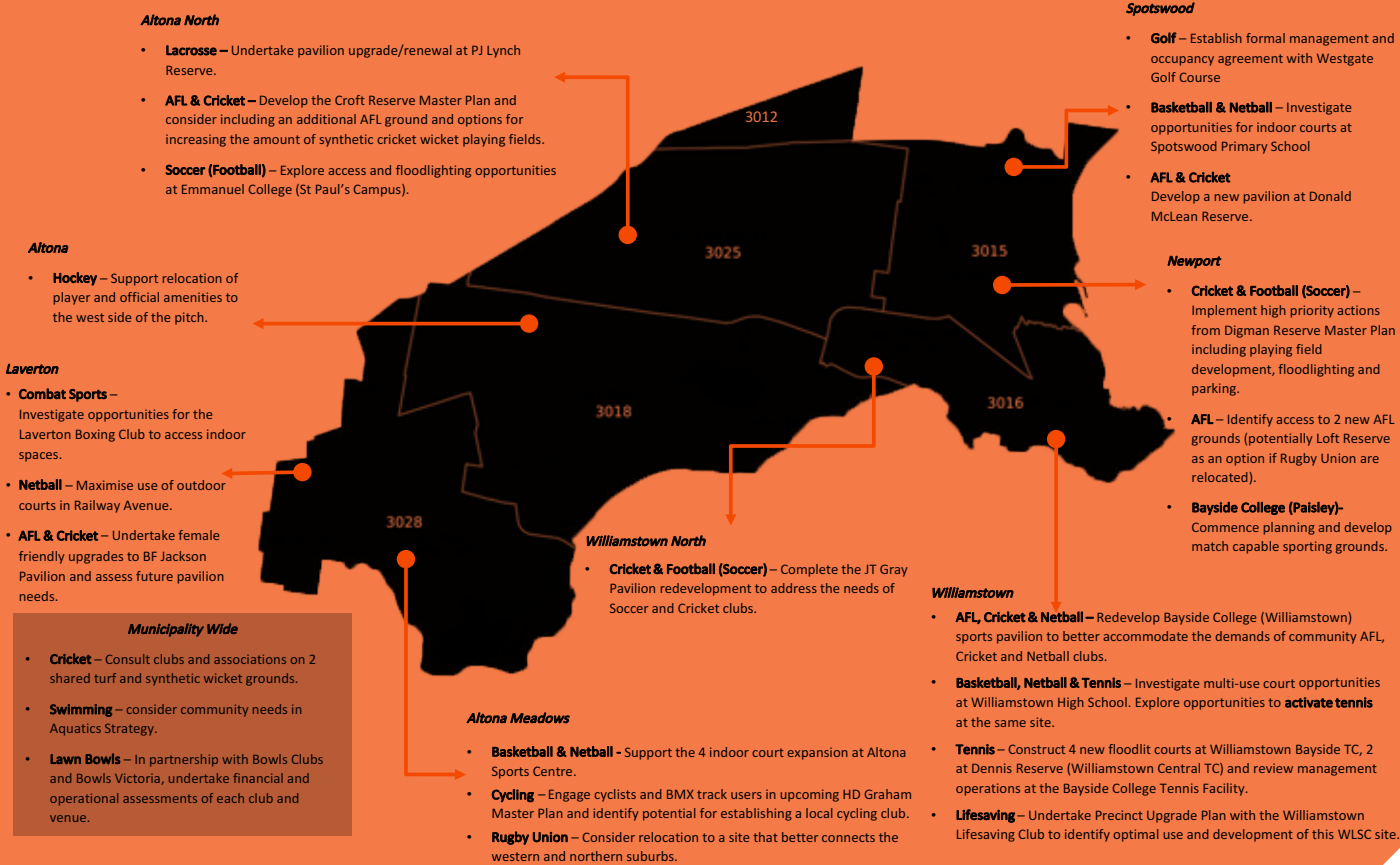
**Short-term: within 2 years**

**Medium-term: within 3–5 years**

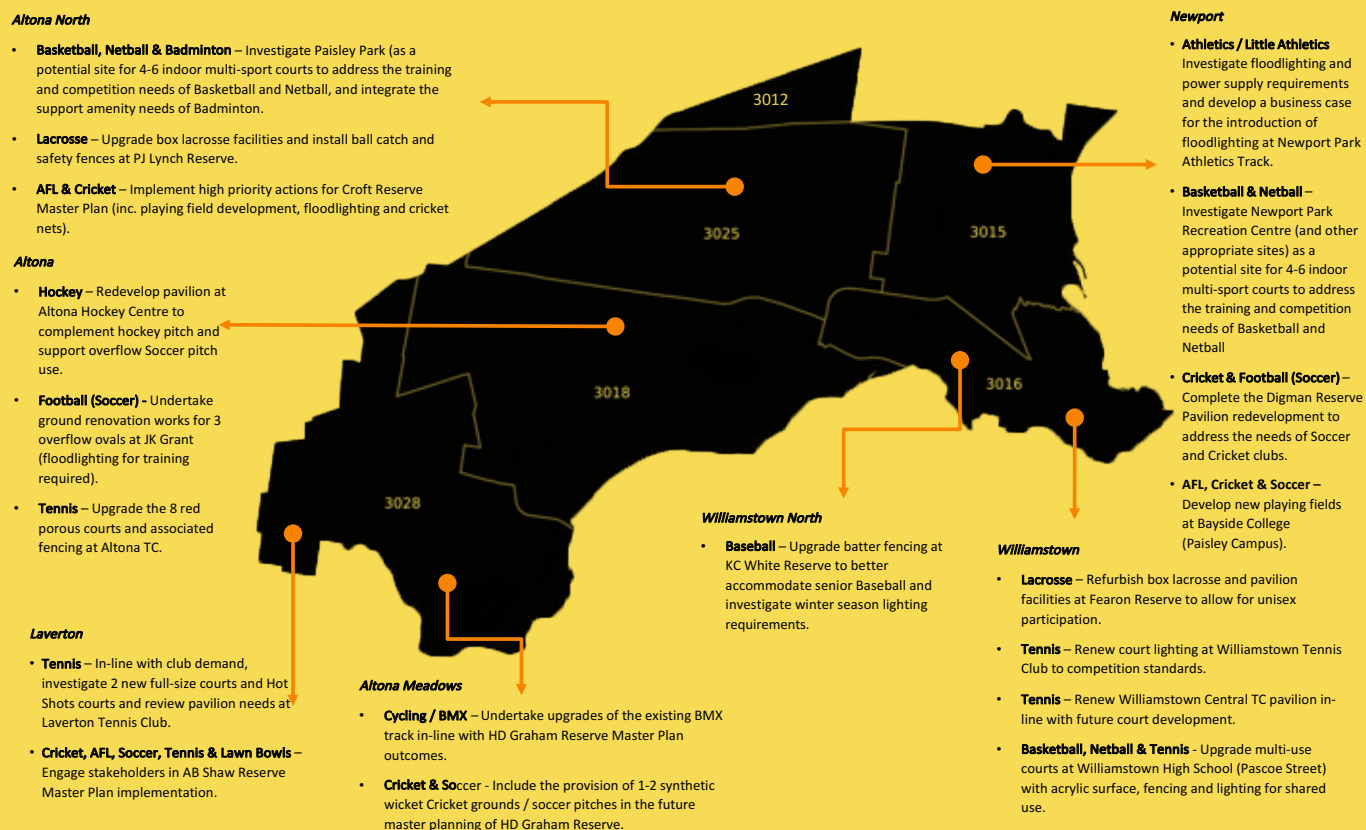
**Long-term: within 6–10 years**

The following provides a summary of the short, medium and long-term development priorities for Hobsons Bay's sporting facilities and related infrastructure.

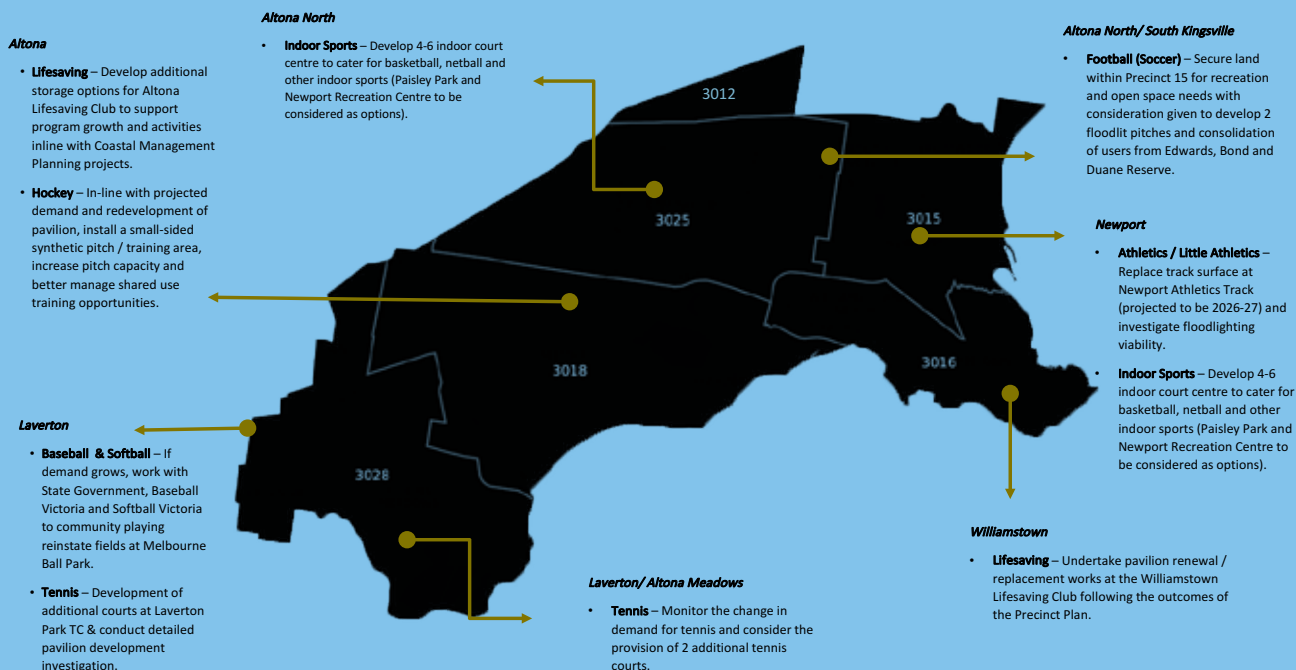
# Short-term priority highlights



# Medium-term priority highlights



# Long-term priority highlights



More detailed information on the short, medium and long term priorities can be found in the full analysis.

## Facilities not listed as a priority in the analysis

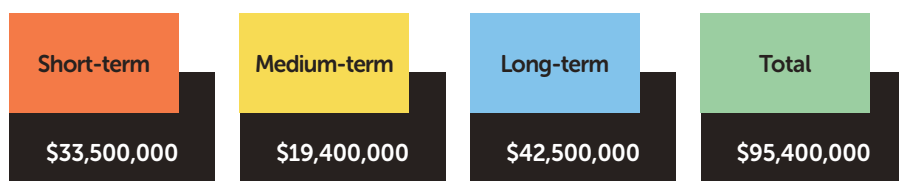
Priorities identified within the analysis are not the only sporting infrastructure projects that will be undertaken by Council over the next ten years. The priorities within the analysis, along with others identified separately in Council's Sports Ground Floodlighting Renewal Program, Sports Ground Renewal Program, Sports Pavilion (minor) Renewal Program and Cricket Practise Net Renewal Program, will inform future Council budgets.

## Costs

Costs associated with short, medium and long-term priorities have also been estimated to provide a guide as to the scale and funding required in order to support their implementation. Costs remain a guide only and detailed estimates will need to be obtained at the time of implementation.

These estimates are not part of Council's long term financial plan at this stage. Council needs to develop a funding strategy to implement identified priorities.

The following provides a breakdown of costs for each of the short, medium and long-term priorities incorporating all estimated budget allocations.



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