

# Appendix 3 - State of Play of Netball in Hobsons Bay

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## Introduction

This report reviews the current and future demand for netball facilities in Hobsons Bay.

## Netball in Hobsons Bay

Netball continues to be one of Australia's most popular participation sports, with approximately 4% of the population participating in netball in 2009 (ERASS 2012). Netball participation in Australia increased by 12% between 2001 and 2009, with a 15% increase in club based netball participants.

In Victoria, the popularity of netball has remained relatively stable, with an increase in junior players and a decline in senior players over the past ten years. Netball Victoria (NV) recorded 106,000 registered players in 2010, with many more participating in social competitions. NV research indicates that between 4% and 6% of residents in existing and new growth areas will seek to regularly participate in netball at some stage. In Hobsons Bay, NV recorded an increase of registered participants of 10% from 2011 to 2012.

There are a total of nine netball clubs operating within the City of Hobsons Bay. All of these clubs compete at the Altona Sports Centre (ASC) in the Altona Netball Association. These Clubs conduct their training at various venues including Bryan Martyn Oval, Railway Avenue, Williamstown High School and the ASC.

Netball programs and services being offered by these clubs and facilities include senior, junior and mixed competitions, coaching, junior development programs (NetSetGo), elite squads and social netball.

1,661 netball players living in Hobsons Bay were registered with NV in 2012. Clubs based in the municipality recorded a total of approximately 2,262 players participating in the local competition. It can be assumed that approximately 600 (26%) of players currently participating in the local competition live outside the City of Hobsons Bay. There are 18 registered netballers from Hobsons Bay participating in the Wyndham Netball Association.

Based on the current population (89,000), the penetration rate for netball in Hobsons Bay is 1.8%, which is equivalent to the state's average for registered players. NV is aiming for a 4% penetration rate in existing and growth areas, with 2.4% of these players being registered.

There are an unknown number of players participating in social competitions in and around Hobsons Bay as these players are not required to register with NV.

## Netball Venues

Map 1 highlights the provision of netball courts in Hobsons Bay.

Only three netball venues across the municipality are located on Council land. These include Bryan Martyn Oval, Railway Avenue and Armstrong Reserve (public). The primary competition venue, the ASC, is located on Crown land and is independently managed. Other venues used for netball (social or training) include Westgate Indoor (privately managed) and a minimal number of school courts.

There are 68 individual netball courts located in Hobsons Bay. Seventeen of these courts are currently being managed by Council or commercial operators, with the remaining 51 located on school land.

Of the 68 netball courts in Hobsons Bay 22 are indoor multipurpose courts (located in stadiums and schools) and 46 are outdoor courts (community and school courts). Only 5 (10%) of the 46 outdoor courts are currently floodlit and suitable for winter club training purposes.

A total of six courts are netball only courts (all outdoors). The remaining courts are all multipurpose and being shared by other sports including basketball, volleyball, soccer and badminton.

Netball clubs have expressed concern over the cost of hiring courts for training at indoor stadiums (Altona Sports Centre and Westgate Indoor) and believe this model is not feasible.

The netball facilities at Bryan Martyn Oval and Railway Avenue are club based venues used for netball training only.

NV has prioritised the importance for Council's, venue managers and competition organisers to understand the performance of existing netball facilities. It is recommended that a full condition and compliance audit of all netball venues, similar to that delivered for tennis facilities, be undertaken.

## Outdoor Netball Courts

The Newport Power Junior Football and Netball Club service over 200 junior players. The club operates from a single unlit netball court at Bryan Martyn Oval and hire school venues to meet their training requirements.

An additional shared multipurpose court with floodlighting is scheduled to be constructed at Bryan Martyn Oval in 2014/15. The clubs growth would also benefit from the provision of floodlighting on the existing court. There is no scope to provide additional netball courts at Bryan Martyn Oval.

There is no further demand for additional outdoor netball courts in Hobsons Bay.

There is an ample supply of school based courts (indoor and outdoor) across the municipality that are currently not being well utilised by community netball clubs. Rather than develop new outdoor netball courts for club training it is recommended that Council in the first instance investigate potential after hours use of school courts and consider future opportunities to jointly fund projects with schools that benefits local sport.

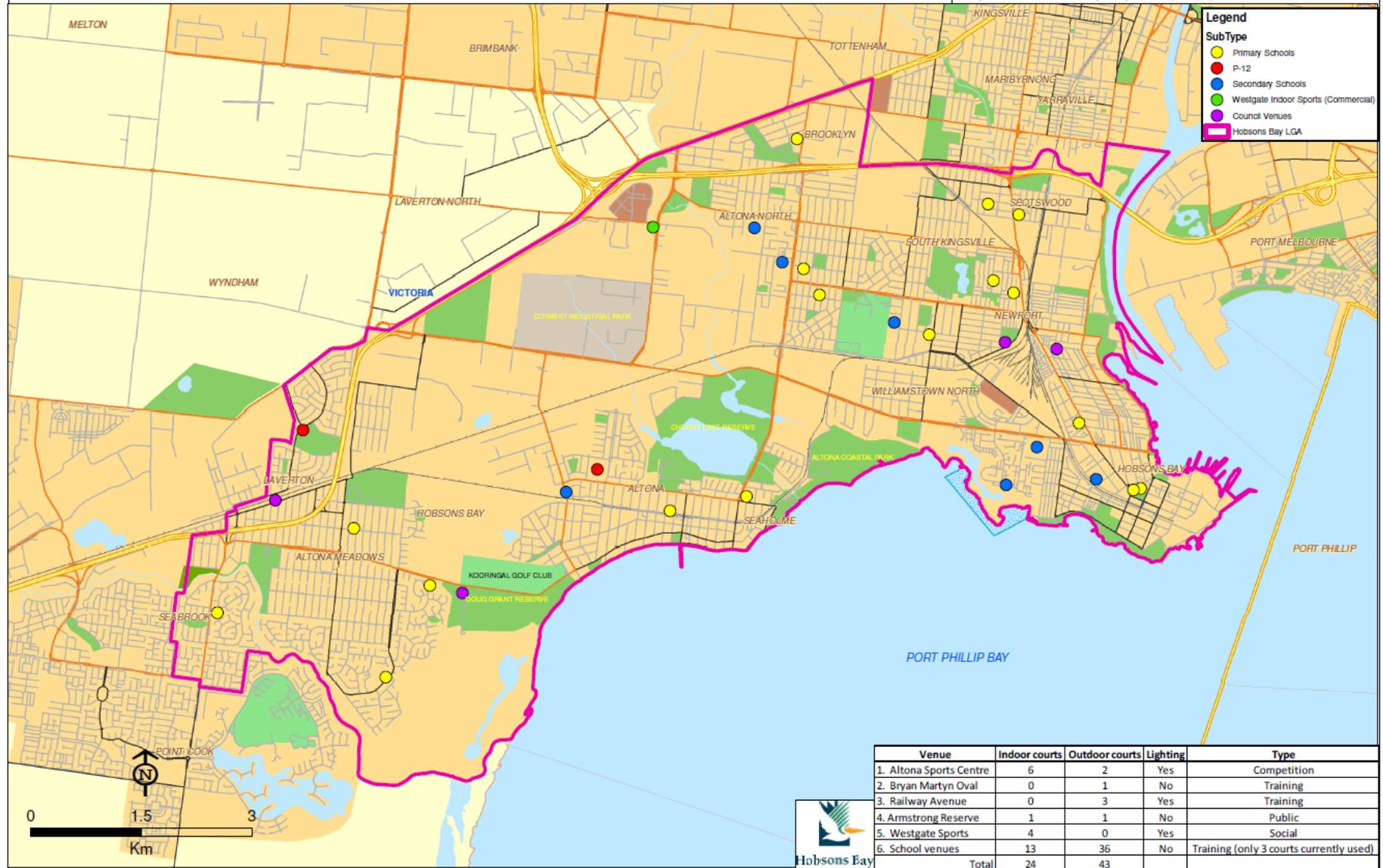
# Netball Facilities in Hobsons Bay

## Map 1

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CREDIT: Spatial data provided by the ABS, Netball Victoria  
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Venue	Indoor courts	Outdoor courts	Lighting	Type
1. Altona Sports Centre	6	2	Yes	Competition
2. Bryan Martyn Oval	0	1	No	Training
3. Railway Avenue	0	3	Yes	Training
4. Armstrong Reserve	1	1	No	Public
5. Westgate Sports	4	0	Yes	Social
6. School venues	13	36	No	Training (only 3 courts currently used)
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>43</b>		



## Altona Sports Centre

The ASC expanded to a six indoor and two outdoor court venue for basketball and netball in 2008. The ASC currently has 284 community netball teams plus 18 elite teams participating weekly. Netball has approximately 50% usage of the Centre which meets NV minimum access requirements for multi use. The outdoor courts used for juniors competition and netball participation constrained by a lack of space available at the centre.

Wyndham City has commenced the redevelopment of the Werribee Sports and Fitness Centre which will transform the centre into a regional level venue for netball and other indoor sports. Once complete (in 2015) the centre will host regional and state sporting events and be fully equipped to cater for the sporting needs of the region.

The redevelopment includes expansion from 6 to 12 indoor courts, including a show court with seating for up to 1500 spectators, and four outdoor netball courts and amenities. With its regional catchment the Centre is likely to attract netball players from the City of Hobsons Bay, potentially relieving some of the current pressure on the ASC.

Other major indoor stadiums being used for netball such as the Whitten Oval and Saltwater Reserve in Point Cook will also attract players from within Hobsons Bay and should be considered in any future planning undertaken by Council for additional indoor courts.

Although indoor courts in Hobsons Bay are at capacity during peak times and venues are unable to cater for any increased demand, there is a significant supply of school based indoor courts that could potentially provide opportunities for increased community use.

## Recommendations

It is recommended that an additional shared multipurpose court with floodlighting be constructed at Bryan Martyn Oval in 2014/15. This project has been identified for funding in the draft 10 Year Capital Works Program.

It is recommended that floodlighting be provided for the existing netball court at Bryan Martyn Oval. This project has been identified as a priority for funding from the hard courts program in the draft 10 Year Capital Works Program.

It is recommended that review of the Altona Sports Centre Feasibility Study 2005 be undertaken by Council following the completion of the new indoor and outdoor courts being constructed at the Werribee Sports and Fitness Centre, prior to making any future commitments to expand the Altona Sports Centre.

It is recommended that a full condition and compliance audit of all netball venues be undertaken.