



Hobsons Bay
CITY COUNCIL

Sport and Recreation Strategy

Discussion Paper
June 2014

Acknowledgements

June 2014

This discussion paper was compiled by the Hobsons Bay Recreation and Community Facilities Department. For further information contact the Hobsons Bay City Council on 9932 1000 www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

The Council acknowledges the people of Yalukit Wilum of the Boon Wurrung Country that makes up the Greater Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of these municipal lands.

The Council acknowledges the legal responsibility to comply with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 and the Equal Opportunity Act 2010. The Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is designed to protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens. The Charter gives legal protection to 20 fundamental human rights under four key values that include freedom, respect, equality and dignity.

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1. Executive Summary

Hobsons Bay City Council is a major provider and manager of infrastructure and services that support sport and recreation opportunities in the local community. The Sport and Recreation Strategy 2014 (SRS) is a plan that guides the development and delivery of these facilities, services and programs based on current research and innovation in the field, current local, state and federal policy and, most importantly, feedback and input from the community that highlights local needs and ideas for sport and recreation.

The Council's capital investment in sport and recreation infrastructure over the next four years is projected to be over \$19 million based on the draft Capital Works Program. The top three funded activities in this program include walking and cycling (28%), soccer (20%) and play spaces, open spaces and foreshore areas (14%).

A review of the capacity of Council's existing infrastructure to meet current and projected levels of participation has been completed (Section 5). The top three funded activities in the draft 10 Year Capital Works Program are all considered high priorities for investment based on demand and usage.

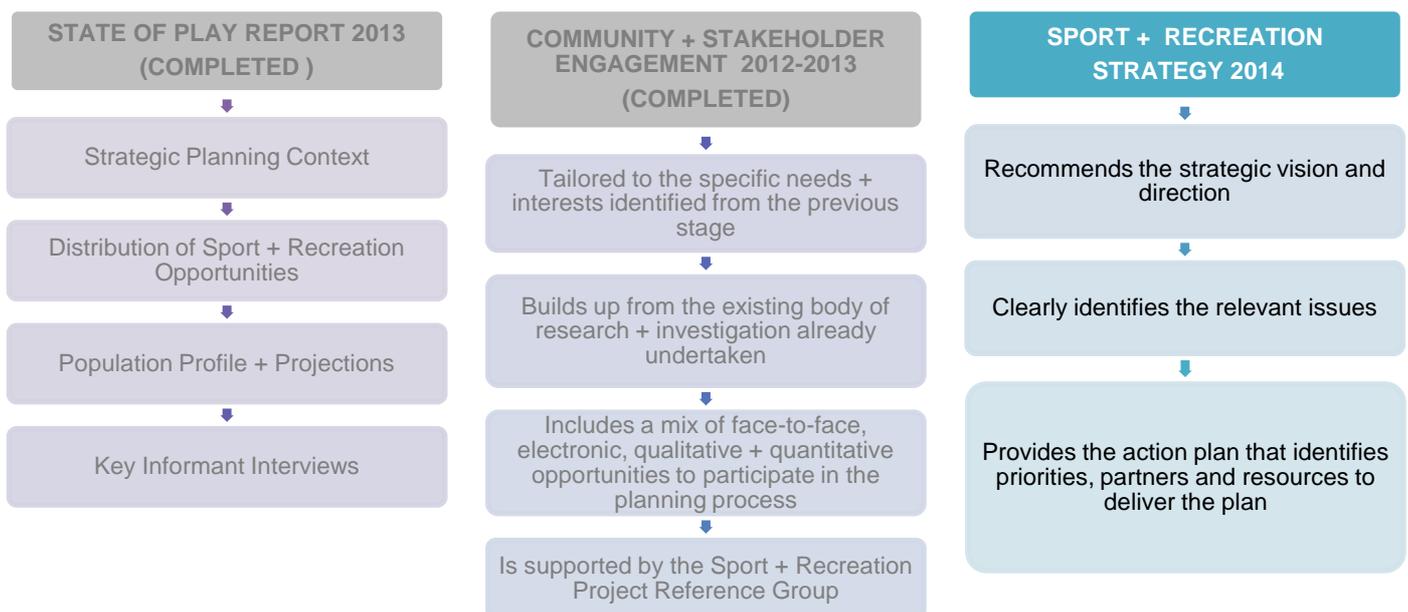
The SRS provides principles, goals and strategies for the Council to continue leading, facilitating, advocating for, and partnering with others in the delivery of quality infrastructure and services and programs that maintain and encourage further levels of participation. These have been presented in the Strategic Action Plan (Section 8) as a framework to guide the future provision of sport and recreation infrastructure and services.

2. Introduction

The Sport and Recreation Strategy 2014 (SRS) aims to guide the planning, development and delivery of sport and recreation infrastructure, services and programs for the Hobsons Bay community.

Figure 1 indicates the actions undertaken as part of the SRS development, including the compilation of the “Sport and Recreation State of Play Report 2013” and the undertaking of the community and stakeholder engagement. This discussion paper provides a summary of these two pieces of work and identifies the principles, goals and strategies that have been developed to address the issues raised via the report and consultation.

Figure 1: Development of the Sport and Recreation Strategy



The “Sport and Recreation State of Play Report 2013” (SOP 2013) (Appendix 8) is a comprehensive document that provides the research and analysis of current policy and demographics. At the time the report was prepared, a draft strategy and draft action plan were also developed and these have been updated through this paper to reflect the review of Community Health and Wellbeing Plan, the draft Community Services Infrastructure Plan (CSIP), the draft 10 Year Capital Works Program and other Council strategies and policies. Appendix 7 (Preface to the State of Play Report) summarises these updates. Further research and analysis into the State of Play of Tennis (Appendix 2) and Netball (Appendix 3) in Hobsons Bay has been undertaken and incorporated into this paper.

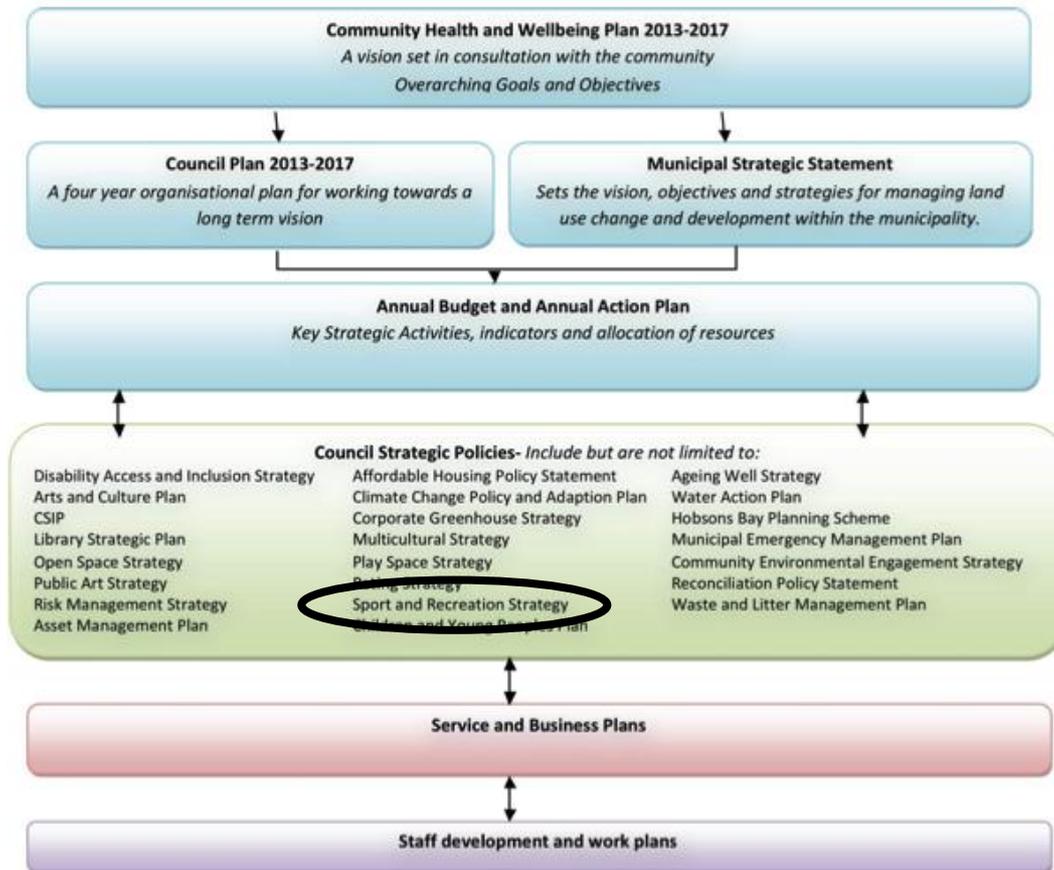
In undertaking the development of the SRS, it is recognised that the local community holds a wealth of knowledge and expertise as well as passion about their sport and recreation pursuits.

In recognising the value of this input a range of consultation and engagement activities were undertaken specifically around sport and recreation issues. These included:

- 37 interviews with key stakeholder organisations and individuals;
- Four structured workshops with staff and community group representatives;
- 5,000 household surveys distributed (653 responses); and
- Online surveys for sporting clubs, schools and community groups.

Figure 2 indicates where the SRS links with other key Council strategic documents.

Figure 2: Relationships between existing plans and the Sport and Recreation Strategy



It is evident these strategies directly inform Council on the current and future infrastructure issues and needs which impact a broad range of service provision within Hobsons Bay. It is proposed that representatives from the Strategy and Advocacy and Infrastructure and City Services Directorates will work together to ensure all these plans are aligned with each other and with the capital works program and Council's long term financial plan. It is proposed that this work will be completed towards the middle of 2015.

In the interim there are a range of policy issues that require Council's guidance.

To set the context for a discussion of these emerging policy issues the intent of this paper is to outline the key approach and findings of the SRS. This discussion paper covers:

- Why a sport and recreation strategy?
- A profile of sport and recreation in Hobsons Bay.
- An overview of the strategic context for the sport and recreation strategy.
- Key issues and opportunities.
- An overview of priorities for investment in sport and recreation infrastructure.
- An overview of the draft Capital Works Program and alignment with priorities.
- A Strategic Action Plan to guide the delivery of the sport and recreation strategy including the underpinning principles, goals and strategies.

3. Background

3.1 Why a Sport and Recreation Strategy?

The development of the SRS was based on research and innovation in the field, local, state and federal policy and stakeholder and community consultation that highlighted issues, opportunities and ideas for sport and recreation in Hobsons Bay.

The SRS describes the infrastructure, environment, services and programs that enable people to participate in and benefit from sport and recreation. It also describes the Council's key roles and opportunities in enabling higher levels of participation now and into the future.

For the purpose of the strategy, sport and recreation can be summarily defined as a spectrum of activities that broadly;

- Involves physical activity as the principal component;
- Is generally undertaken in the public or civic realm; and
- Is undertaken outside of work.

The strategy takes a holistic approach encompassing individuals, their families and the whole community. It recognises the interplay that exists between people of all ages and backgrounds, and the community in which they live, work, learn and play.

The SRS provides principles, goals and strategies for the Council to continue leading, facilitating, advocating for, and partnering with others in the delivery of quality infrastructure, services and programs that maintain and encourage further levels of participation.

Sport and recreation spaces and opportunities play a major role in building a vibrant, healthy and sustainable community. The SRS ensures this work is maintained and delivered to meet the needs of the community now and into the future.

The SRS seeks to provide a clear framework that connects the efforts of government, community organisations, the private sector, volunteers and local residents so that we can benefit from and sustain a truly vibrant, active and healthy City.

Most significantly, the strategy aims to ensure that the Council's decision-making and resourcing commitments are best placed to meet the recreation needs of the whole Hobsons Bay community. The SRS provides guidance to long-term actions and positions Council for external funding and partnerships at all levels.

3.2 A Profile of Sport and Recreation in Hobsons Bay

Sport and recreation is often recognised as structured activity that is delivered by a range of providers and clubs. Equally important are the opportunities for people in Hobsons Bay to participate in unstructured sport and recreation such as cycling, walking, skate/BMX/scooter riding, exercise for fitness, play and water activities. Outdoor spaces and facilities in parks and along the foreshore are the primary settings for these activities and contribute to the opportunity for social connectedness for many members of the community.

The community consultation process for the development of the Hobsons Bay Community Health and Wellbeing Plan asked respondents what they would like to see Council focus on

during the period 2013-2017. The top three items which have a direct link to the SRS included advocating for improved public transport, maintaining and improving parks, open space and street trees and maintaining and improving community infrastructure, roads, footpaths and bike paths.

Places to go

Hobsons Bay covers an area of over 64km² with more than 1500 hectares of open space across the City. Open space provides the essential non-built space within the urban environment; including parks and reserves, the foreshore, sports fields, bushland reserves, pedestrian and cycling routes, rail reserves and streetscapes. Open space in an urban or natural setting play crucial roles in providing areas for recreation, incidental physical activity and social connection.

The Hobsons Bay Open Space Strategy addresses the need for development and management of specific spaces across the municipality. The SRS strategy will support this work.

Clubs and Volunteers

Community champions and their supporters build and sustain sport and recreation through formal sport and recreation clubs and activity. The voluntary work undertaken in sport and recreation clubs is integral to the development of a sustainable sport and recreation sector.

When we think about the impact and benefit of sport and recreation community organisations, its impact is more than what happens 'on the field'. They underpin a number of positive community wellbeing and social outcomes such as:

- A place to be with others who share similar interests;
- A space to feel sense of belonging and to learn from others;
- Local skills and experience to coach, support and administer sport and recreation activity;
- Human and financial resources that contribute directly to sport and recreation opportunities and facilities; and
- History and identity that is embedded within the culture of our community.

There are an estimated 362 sport and recreation clubs in the City of Hobsons Bay. They represent 44% of all community organisations within the City¹ including:

- 165 sporting clubs providing 29 different kinds of sports activities;
- 61 recreation clubs (not including sport) that specifically cater for children and young people;
- 39 recreation clubs (not including sport) that specifically cater for older adults; and
- 47 recreation clubs (not including sport) that specifically cater for people from culturally diverse backgrounds.

Community Satisfaction

Without question, the foreshore is highly prized by community members. It makes an important contribution to the lifestyle of the City and its identity. In regard to sport and recreation, the foreshore makes a profound contribution to the high levels of walking and cycling activity undertaken.

¹ www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Community/CommunityDirectory- accessed 6-5-2011

Our community also recognises and values the role of key sport and recreation destinations across the City such as Bayfit Leisure Centre, Altona Coastal Park, Cherry Lake Reserve and Williamstown Botanic Gardens.

The SRS has an explicit focus upon sport and recreation destinations and infrastructure. It will be required to meet the challenges of a highly competitive resourcing climate and expectations from our community in order to support and sustain participation for all.

Participation Profile

The SRS included a survey of 5,000 residents (653 responses were received), which identified a higher local participation average than that of national participation levels.

The survey analysis indicated that 77% of all respondents participated in sport and recreation at least 3 times per week. This is significantly higher than Victoria and National average rates of participation.²

This is a positive result, however survey results may be skewed based on location of responses or people with an interest in physical activity responding (e.g. an over representation of residents from Williamstown where waterfront walking facilities are easily accessible).

Participation in sport and recreation activity is high across all areas of Hobsons Bay with South Kingsville and Williamstown North appearing to have the highest frequency of participation.

Not surprisingly walking is the standout recreation activity for all people, with 84% of respondents walking for recreation at least once per week. This is on top of over 62% of all respondents walking their dog at least once per week.

Riding a bike also has high participation levels with over 42% of all respondents cycling at least once per week.

70% of respondents identified the link between physical health and physical activity and highlight this as the primary reason for why they participate in sport and recreation.

4. Strategic Context

This section of the discussion paper provides an overview of the global, national, state and local strategic context for the SRS.

The social model of health recognises that health, as defined by the World Health Organisation is a “*state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease*” (WHO, 2008).

Our health and wellbeing is therefore determined by much more than genes and lifestyle decisions. It is determined by the circumstances in which we are born, grow, live, work and age and these circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources.

Local government is well placed to influence the social determinants of health. The social determinants of health approach recognises that wellbeing begins with environments that are supportive, equitable and inclusive and include elements such as accessible transport,

² Hobsons Bay Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan Household Survey, March 2012

education, employment, housing, environmental sustainability, food security, inclusive communities, gender equity, safety, access to health care, and access to community spaces.

This global influence is further supported by the federal and state government through a range of programs and initiatives such as the *Healthy Parks Healthy People* initiative which emphasises the link between the health of people and open spaces. In addition The *Schools as Community Facilities Policy Framework and Guidelines* developed by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development provides a framework for the increased use of sharing important school based infrastructure with the broader community. These two initiatives are just examples of state government programs that influence and encourage increased participation in physical activity.

The SRS identifies that the state and federal government and respective departments are important partners in the planning, development and operations of various community sport and recreation infrastructure, programs and services within Hobsons Bay.

Local Influences

Hobsons Bay City Council is committed to valuing the wellbeing of our people and our place, now and into the future. This includes building a safe, clean, accessible and connected municipality, which values diversity, protects its heritage and environment, fosters a strong sense of community and provides opportunities to achieve the best possible health and wellbeing.

Local government has a key role to play in sport and recreation. Being the arm of government closest to the community it has a localised understanding of needs and opportunities. In order to support this work the Council has a range of strategic plans that directly influence the support, provision and development of sport and recreation opportunities across the City.

Hobsons Bay is unique to the Western Metropolitan Region. It has over 20 kilometres of beaches and foreshore areas; it is home to significant coastal wetlands, five creek systems, remnant native grasslands, and important flora and fauna habitats, making up 24 per cent of the municipality's land area. It contains the historic seaport of Williamstown, one of the oldest settlements in Victoria, a range of historic buildings as well as recently developed residential areas.

Our community loves Hobsons Bay for its proximity to the CBD, the beach, its parks and green spaces, its vibrant atmosphere and sense of community, its character housing and above all its people, which makes the area almost the ideal place to live.

Key facts about Hobsons Bay:

- Population: 87,350 with population forecast to increase by 17% (14,864) by 2031.
- 30% of residents are born overseas, speaking over 100 different languages.
- 17% of residents have a disability.
- Hobsons Bay is the 9th most disadvantaged municipality in Metropolitan Melbourne with a Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)³ of 997.8. The average score for Australia is 1000. Further pockets of disadvantage are within the neighbourhoods of Laverton, Altona North, and Altona Meadows).

³ The Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) are produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and is based on factors such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, jobs in relatively unskilled occupations and variables that reflect disadvantage.

- Inequities within population groups especially women, newly arrived communities, people with a disability, older people, young people and children.
- An increasing ageing population and associated chronic health conditions.
- Limited access to transport especially affecting young people, people with a disability and older people.
- Environmentally rich surroundings with sustainability a key concern.
- 57% of Hobsons Bay residents did not engage in enough physical activity to reap health benefits. This is similar to the Western Metropolitan Region (WMR) rate but lower than the Victorian average (60%).
- Walking or cycling for transport, especially for short trips, provides an opportunity for incidental exercise. Fewer people in Hobsons Bay participated in this type of incidental exercise (56%) when compared to the WMR (58%) and the average for Victoria (62%).

5. Key Issues and Opportunities

The following tables capture the key issues and opportunities as identified throughout the research and consultation undertaken for the development of the SRS.

Volunteers and Support to Clubs (People and Clubs)

Item	Identified Key Issues and Opportunities
Capacity of Sports Clubs	Clubs are continually struggling to attract volunteer administrators and other key contributors to ensure sport or other activity can operate safely, effectively and provide an enjoyable experience. Expectations and demand from participants for quality service delivery has increased and meeting this level of delivery is falling to fewer volunteers. The capacity of clubs to recruit, train and retain volunteers is (broadly) diminishing. To ensure sustainability, the Council needs to provide support to clubs and advocate for more support from the sport's peak bodies.
Support from Council required	Defining and communicating the Council's role in supporting and developing club capacity is important. It has been identified that key components of the role are: providing assistance to improve rates of volunteerism, increasing training for key club roles, and providing information to assist club governance and capacity to deliver of quality services.
Club development forums	Over 80% of sporting clubs surveyed in 2012 by Council staff reported that they would benefit from club development forums. Topics that would be of most interest to clubs included risk management, volunteer management, fundraising and business planning. These are not issues that are unique to sporting clubs and apply more broadly to community organisations. Building community capacity using the initiatives described above is not an exclusive Council domain and there is a need to identify and build partnerships with other agencies to support this development (e.g. Active After School Communities, DEECD, State Sporting Associations, nearby local government authorities etc.).

Inclusiveness

Item	Identified Key Issues and Opportunities
Physical access	Physical geographical barriers (such as highways and rail lines), individual mobility, public transport availability and continuously accessible paths of travel are all factors that impact on participation. A range of initiatives are required across Council to improve physical access.
Specific populations	People from CALD communities, older adults, young people and people with higher relative disadvantage find it more difficult to access sport and recreation in Hobsons Bay. Improved health and physical, mental and social well being outcomes can be achieved through specific initiatives and the promotion of the environments, clubs and facilities that actively and positively engage people from these cohorts. There should be a focus on developing partnerships both internally and externally to identify and address the needs of specific populations.
Meeting and surpassing Australian Standards	Infrastructure development has focused on ensuring Australian Standards for disability access is incorporated and a continuous accessible path of travel is consistently delivered. The aim of the Council should be to implement the AS1428.2 Enhanced and Additional Requirements where applicable.
Integration of groups	At present a number of facilities are used by single purpose groups and where possible opportunities to provide spaces and facilities that encourage maximisation and integration (rather than separation) of use should be taken up through redevelopment or replacement projects.
Diversity of use	Many current facilities are ageing and were developed for a specific purpose or sport. As a result these facilities do not encourage or invite diversity of use. These facilities require development to be more inclusive of more of the population and to cater for increased use and changing demands.
Ageing population	There will be an increase in the number of people over 50 years old in Hobsons Bay over the next decade. A diverse range of sport and recreation opportunities will be sought by the 'baby boomer' generation that are likely to present challenges to the traditional provision for this age group.
Children and young people's participation	Approximately one quarter of the population is aged between 5 and 24 years and this cohort is the most likely to have the highest levels of participation. The provision of local facilities within close proximity to home and easily accessible independently by younger children will enhance participation.

Communication

Item	Identified Key Issues and Opportunities
Increasing knowledge of clubs	The turnover of volunteer club administrators contributes to clubs generally not being well informed on what funding might be available, the supports they may be able to access through the Council or other partners and how they might go about proposing a project to improve facilities they use or services they provide. Not all volunteer club administrators have previous exposure to the complex Council budgeting process. Steps could be taken to simplify this process and provide tailored information to improve their understanding of the capital works program, projects that are planned and other Council operations.
Promotion of activities and	There are gaps in the provision of information and promotion of activities and facilities. There is an opportunity to improve communication on what

spaces	exists, the major funding provided to build facilities and what is proposed in the future. This has both a local resident and tourism benefit.
Opportunity to develop new partnerships	Given limited resources there should be a focus on developing partnerships that optimally leverage Council resources. The Council should proactively develop partnerships that can provide additional support to projects, improving quality or quantity of works and programs able to be undertaken. Partnership opportunities identified in the development of the SRS include clubs contributing financially towards capital works and the establishment of a sport and recreation reference group to provide feedback on local sport and recreation issues and opportunities.

Infrastructure

Item	Identified Key Issues and Opportunities
Ageing Infrastructure	Much of the infrastructure that exists, particularly at sporting facilities, is ageing. Facilities have increasing and diverse demands for use. The population increases in nearby growth municipalities is creating added demand for use of Hobsons Bay facilities. A diversity of use for both male and female participants is a concern with a lack of change space to accommodate gender needs.
Accessibility	Linked to the age of infrastructure, the physical access to buildings remains an ongoing issue. Developing continuously accessible paths of travel is important and is not in place at a range of well used venues.
Prioritising Capital Works	The competing need for new facilities, replacement and major refurbishment of existing facilities impacts on Council's capacity to meet community expectations.
Cycling and Walking Infrastructure	Connecting cycling and walking trails, including on and off road trails is a high priority to create a better bicycle network. Developing the connecting trails will involve resolving complex land ownership and design issues. Local loops and journeys that connect community destinations such as parks, reserves, schools and retail areas will encourage active transport within communities.
Flexible and Multipurpose Design	Includes both the integration of multiple sporting clubs and codes; and also the integration between traditional sports and passive recreation. Spaces that offer greater flexibility and operate as more than single purpose settings would enable greater and more diverse use. The challenge is to not just maintain, develop and replace existing infrastructure with more of the same, but to continually look for innovation through design, integration, materials and types of experiences. Implicit to this issue is that facility, program and service provision is not a static model, but is of an evolving standard that is influenced by innovation, expectations and the need to generate continued efficiencies.
Capacity of infrastructure	With growing participation in some sports (e.g. soccer) there is a need to consider refurbishment of sports grounds, synthetic surfaces and lighting to ensure optimal use of infrastructure without overuse. Further information is available in the following reference documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthetic Sports Surfaces Feasibility Study 2013 (Appendix 6) • State of Play of Tennis in Hobsons Bay 2014 (Appendix 2) • State of Play of Netball in Hobsons Bay 2014 (Appendix 3) The demand for use of boat ramps and the protection of environmental values along the foreshore is also a highly important issue that requires further planning to identify needs and priorities.
Drought proofing for	The recent ten year drought has forced the Council to reconsider what facilities it provides for sport, what playing surface type is provided at facilities such as

sport	<p>sportsgrounds and tennis courts, the amount of water for irrigation required at facilities and what sources of water are available. Further information is available in the following reference documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Water Management Plan 2014-19. • Synthetic Sports Surfaces Feasibility Study 2013.
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Participation

Item	Identified Key Issues and Opportunities
Promotion and program development	<p>There is a need for a co-ordination and facilitation role to promote more passive recreation such as walking groups and recreational cycling. Existing walking groups are ad hoc and dependent upon the community champions to initiate and resource them. Communities that arguably could benefit most from these activities, such as areas with higher levels of disadvantage may need some proactive initiatives to establish and support walking and cycling activities. Clear guidelines are required regarding the Council's capacity to support the development of groups or programs such as these, given the ultimate aim is to create locally sustainable programs that meet identified needs.</p>
Ensuring affordability	<p>There are differing levels of advantage across the municipality which may deter participation. A fee structure for the use of facilities and services that allows the opportunity for all to be involved is important in contributing to the increase in participation levels.</p>
Meeting need with relevant programs and facilities	<p>Participation in sport and recreation is changing toward shorter, modified versions for a range of skill and fitness levels (e.g. social tennis, small sided soccer games, 20-20 cricket etc.). There is a need for the Council to support diversity of choice by addressing with clubs and providers the under utilisation of facilities, catering for new needs that are not currently recognised, and the pressures on other sports given their relevant programs</p>
Providing quality facilities and experiences	<p>The quality of programs and infrastructure contributes to ensuring that people have positive experiences when participating in sport and recreation. Continuing interest and participation is often based on initial experiences. The continued focus on a proactive facility maintenance schedule is a high priority for the Council.</p>
Catering for emerging and new sports and physical activities	<p>There are a number of new and growing land and water based sports and activities (e.g. kite surfing) that require policy, management and partnership initiatives from the Council.</p>

6. Priorities for Investment

This section of the discussion paper reviews the capacity of Council's infrastructure to meet current and projected levels of participation in sport and recreation and identifies priorities for future investment.

Figure 3 provides a summary of the state of play of sport and recreation in Hobsons Bay according to participation and the capacity of Council's infrastructure to meet current and future demands.

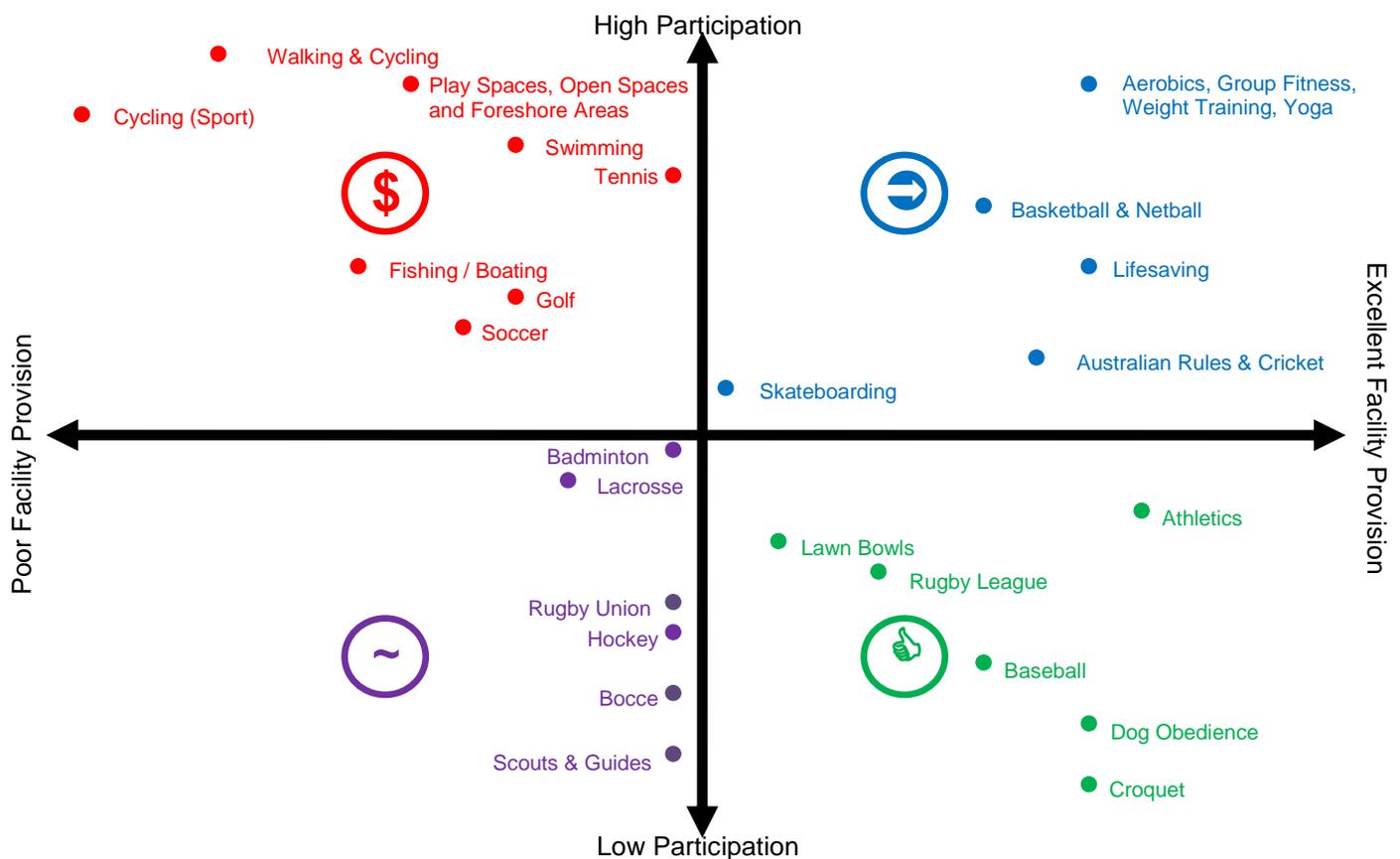


Figure 3: State of Play 2014 - Sport and Recreation in Hobsons Bay

-  Activities in the 'red' space are high priorities for ongoing investment. Participation in these activities is high and increased investment is required.
-  Activities in the 'blue' space are priorities for 'targeted' investment. Council's infrastructure is generally meeting participation demands but ongoing investment is required.
-  Investment in the 'purple' space relates to existing asset renewal. Participation in these activities is moderate to low. Where Council's existing infrastructure is not meeting requirements it is generally due to a site specific issue rather than a need for additional facilities. Investment in new or upgraded facilities should be subject to further investigation and planning to determine need and viability.
-  Activities in the 'green' space are lower priorities for additional investment. Council's existing infrastructure is generally of a good quality and is sufficient to meet current and projected participation demands. Within this space there may be some capacity to share facilities.

The following table captures the key issues regarding the capacity of Council's infrastructure to meet current and projected levels of participation.

Activity	State of Play	Comments
Walking & Cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking and cycling have the highest participation rate of all physical activities. • Major connection gaps exist in the trail network, specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Maddox Road to Market Street, Laverton Creek Trail, Skeleton Creek Trail, Federation Trail and Bay Trail. • Developing connecting trails will require resolving complex land ownership and design issues. • There is high demand and high expectations to deliver improvements. • There is some conflict of use between shared trails and dog off lead areas. • There is an opportunity to improve end of trip facilities and way finding signage. 	<p>Reference Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Hobsons Bay Bicycle Plan • Kororoit Creek Trail Discussion Paper 2013 <p>The Council continues to work with other local government authorities in the development of the Western Metropolitan Strategic Trails Plan.</p> <p>The Council continues to work with other partners such as Mobil and Melbourne Water to resolve site specific issues.</p>
Play Spaces, Open Spaces and Foreshore Areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's play spaces, open spaces and foreshore areas are highly valued and utilised assets. • Used as a setting for formal and informal participation in physical activity. • There is a growing asset renewal gap and improved connectivity and access to spaces is a priority. 	<p>Reference Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play Space Strategy 2013 • Appendix 4 – Parks and Reserves Master Plans <p>The Open Space Strategy (currently under development) will provide guidance for the future provision, management and maintenance of public open space.</p>
Aerobics, Group Fitness, Weight Training & Yoga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerobics, group fitness, weight training and yoga fall within the top 10 physical activities in Hobsons Bay. • Group exercise training in public open space is growing in popularity. • There is competing use needs at the Williamstown foreshore between personal trainers and visitors/residents. • Council leases the management of Bayfit Leisure Centre which was redeveloped in 2008. Bayfit has approximately 2900 members and there is some demand to increase the size of the gym. • Council leases the management of Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre and Newport Recreation Centre (i.e. South Pacific Health Club) and both 	<p>It is a priority to undertake further planning of these facilities.</p>

Activity	State of Play	Comments
	<p>agreements are due for review within 6 years. Both facilities are ageing.</p>	
Swimming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swimming has the 7th highest participation rate of all physical activities. Bayfit Leisure Centre is the most popular destination for swimmers with over 60,000 casual swim visits per annum. The pool is close to capacity at peak times. There is demand to improve the accessibility and size of the change room facilities. Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre has pool infrastructure which will reach the end of its life cycle in 10 years. The pool is close to capacity with swimming lessons at peak times. 	<p>A major redevelopment at Wyndham Leisure and Events Centre is underway. The impact this has on the demand for facilities in Hobsons Bay should be closely monitored.</p> <p>A replacement of the pool plant room and repairs to the pool shell is scheduled to occur in 2014 at the Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre.</p> <p>Reference Document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre Facility Review 2013
Cycling (Sport)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a growing demand for cycle sport facilities i.e. track, road, BMX and Mountain Bike. There is one BMX track in Hobsons Bay and no other formal cycle sport facilities. The BMX track does not have supporting infrastructure for club based or competitive use. Local roads are heavily used for training and events. 	<p>Cycling Victoria is preparing a state facilities plan. The Council is providing local input into the development of this plan.</p>
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tennis has the 8th highest participation rate of all physical activities. There is a shortage of club based and publicly accessible tennis courts in the east, particularly around Williamstown, Williamstown North and Newport. The western part of the municipality is considered to have a stable supply of club based and publicly accessible tennis facilities. 	<p>Reference Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State of Play of Tennis in Hobsons Bay 2014 (Appendix 2) Tennis Development Strategy 2004
Fishing / Boating / Lifesaving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing / boating has the 11th highest participation rate of all physical activities. There is high and growing seasonal demand to access launching facilities. Hobsons Bay has 2 of 3 western region boat ramps and cater for a large regional catchment. Launching facilities are in a good condition but there is limited scope for further development. Some scope to improve capacity by operational and traffic flow changes. There is a strong local participation in 	<p>It is a priority to undertake further planning to determine the future management and usage options for boat ramps in Hobsons Bay to maximise capacity of these facilities.</p> <p>The Central Coastal Board and State Government are preparing regional Coastal Plans including a Recreational Boating Facilities Framework. The Council is providing local input into the development of these plans.</p>

Activity	State of Play	Comments
	lifesaving and access to excellent facilities.	
Golf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Altona Lakes Golf Course is ageing and the irrigation system needs replacement. Council leases the management of the Altona Lakes Golf Course. There is a small pro-shop which will be upgraded by the lessee. The Westgate Golf Club operates on land owned by 5 different owners and does not have a single occupancy agreement. 	Reference Documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 5 – Sport and Recreation Master Plans
Soccer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soccer has the highest local participation rate of all traditional club based sports. Female and junior participation is high and growing. Most soccer pitches suffer from overuse by the end of the winter season. Additional floodlighting is required at many venues. Most pavilions require upgrades and improvements to cater for both genders. 	Reference Documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthetics Sports Surfaces Feasibility Study 2013 Appendix 5 – Sport and Recreation Master Plans
Basketball & Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball has the 9th highest participation rate of all physical activities. Netball has the 10th highest participation rate. The Altona Netball Association and Altona Basketball Association competitions both operate from the Altona Sports Centre (ASC). The ASC underwent a 2 indoor court extension in 2009. The facilities are in an excellent condition. The ASC is operating at near capacity for netball and basketball. There are two outdoor netball venues provided by Council used solely for training. There is an untapped potential supply of netball courts at school sites (41 courts). Up to 20% of basketball and netball participants reside outside of Hobsons Bay. 	Reference Documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State of Play of Netball in Hobsons Bay 2014 (Appendix 3) Altona Sports Centre Feasibility Study 2005 <p>Major facility developments planned in Wyndham are likely to satisfy future demand for indoor basketball and netball courts. This should be closely monitored.</p>
Australian Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation is high and local opportunities to play regardless of age or ability good. There is a shortage of football ovals in the east, particularly around Williamstown, Williamstown North and 	Reference Documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 5 – Sport and Recreation Master Plans <p>AFL Victoria has submitted a proposal for the redevelopment of</p>

Activity	State of Play	Comments
	Newport. The eastern part of the municipality is considered to have a stable supply of facilities.	Croft Reserve. The development of a Master Plan is scheduled for 2015/16.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local participation is high and opportunities to play regardless of age or ability good. Some demand for toilet access and shelter at smaller venues. The condition of grounds is an issue at the start of the season due to sharing with football clubs. 	<p>Reference Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 5 – Sport and Recreation Master Plans <p>The development of a Master Plan for Digman Reserve is scheduled for 2017/18.</p>
Skateboarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong local participation. Skate Development Officer conducts clinics and events on-site. High quality facilities with some demand for additional features / spaces. Newport Skate Park at capacity and Spotswood Skate Ramp has reached end of life cycle. 	<p>Reference Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play Space Strategy 2013
Lacrosse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very strong local participation for a minor sport. Overuse of Fearon Reserve with 3 clubs utilising 1 pitch / pavilion. Clubs also sharing Greenwich reserve on match days. Develop opportunities for more equitable access to facilities at specific reserves. Underutilisation of Paisley Park (Lynch Reserve) with 1 club utilising 4 pitches. 	<p>Reference Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 5 – Sport and Recreation Master Plans <p>The lease agreement for Fearon Reserve is due to expire in October 2014. The occupancy arrangements require priority review to ensure consistency with future policy directions. Access to venues for lacrosse needs to be reviewed in partnership with local clubs and Lacrosse Victoria to better manage existing overuse of grounds.</p> <p>The development of a Master Plan for Digman Reserve is scheduled for 2017/18. There is no winter tenant at Digman Reserve and it is considered a suitable site and location for a lacrosse club.</p>
Badminton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong participation for a minor sport. The Western Suburbs Badminton Association (WSBA) manages Altona Badminton Centre (ABC). ABC is reported to be operating at capacity. 	<p>Reference Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Altona Badminton Centre Feasibility Study 2006. <p>The WSBA has submitted a proposal to extend the ABC. A review of the feasibility study which is almost 10 years old should be undertaken.</p>

Activity	State of Play	Comments
Rugby Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is strong participation in the western suburbs for a minor sport. • Club has access to excellent facilities, however requires access to an additional pitch. 	<p>There is no winter tenant at Comben Reserve and it is considered a suitable site and location for rugby. Access to two rugby pitches can be provided.</p> <p>Reference Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comben Reserve Master Plan 2010
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation is moderate for a minor sport. • Facilities generally meet capacity requirements. There are some compliance issues with existing facilities. 	<p>Reference Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altona Central Sports Precinct Plan 2011.
Scouts & Guides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation is low and there has been some recent consolidation of facilities. • Provision meets demand, however there are some compliance issues with existing facilities. 	<p>The Laverton Scouts are seeking access to a new facility following a fire which destroyed their premises on Railway Avenue. The Guides no longer occupy the hall on Civic Parade and sub-lease the building to other user groups.</p>
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent facilities provided at Newport Park. Recent investment in track replacement and pavilion extension \$1.8 million. • Newport Park is considered to be a regional athletics venue. Regional venues are well provided for in the west. Venues located nearby in Hoppers Crossing and Moonee Ponds. • Senior club utilisation could be improved at Newport Park. Participation in juniors is strong across Hobsons Bay. • The grass track and pavilion in Altona is in a poor condition. Altona is considered to be a local venue. 	<p>Reference Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 5 – Sport and Recreation Master Plans <p>The need for a local athletics venue in Altona requires further investigation.</p>
Rugby League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is strong participation in the western suburbs for a minor sport. Club has access to excellent facilities. • There are some traffic management issues at Loft Reserve. 	<p>There is no winter tenant at Comben Reserve and it is considered a suitable site and location for rugby.</p> <p>Reference Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comben Reserve Master Plan 2010
Baseball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation is moderate for a minor sport. • Facilities generally meet capacity requirements. There are some compliance issues with existing facilities. 	<p>There is opportunity for local baseball clubs to access the State Baseball and Softball Centre in Laverton.</p>

Activity	State of Play	Comments
Lawn Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation is low and there has been some recent consolidation of facilities. Provision meets demand, however there are some compliance issues with existing facilities. 	The Williamstown Ladies Bowls Club (WLBC) merged with the Williamstown Bowls Club in 2012. The WLBC site at Dennis Reserve is now vacant.
Dog Obedience, Croquet & Bocce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation low and clubs have access to excellent facilities. 	Bocce club has sought some minor improvements with existing facilities.

7. Capital Works Program

This section of the discussion paper provides an overview of the proposed investment in sport and recreation infrastructure in the draft 10 Year Capital Works Program and how this aligns with priorities for investment (Section 6).

The draft 10 Year Capital Works Program has recently been aligned with the SRS and other master plans and strategies. Appendix 4 and 5 contain a summary of these documents.

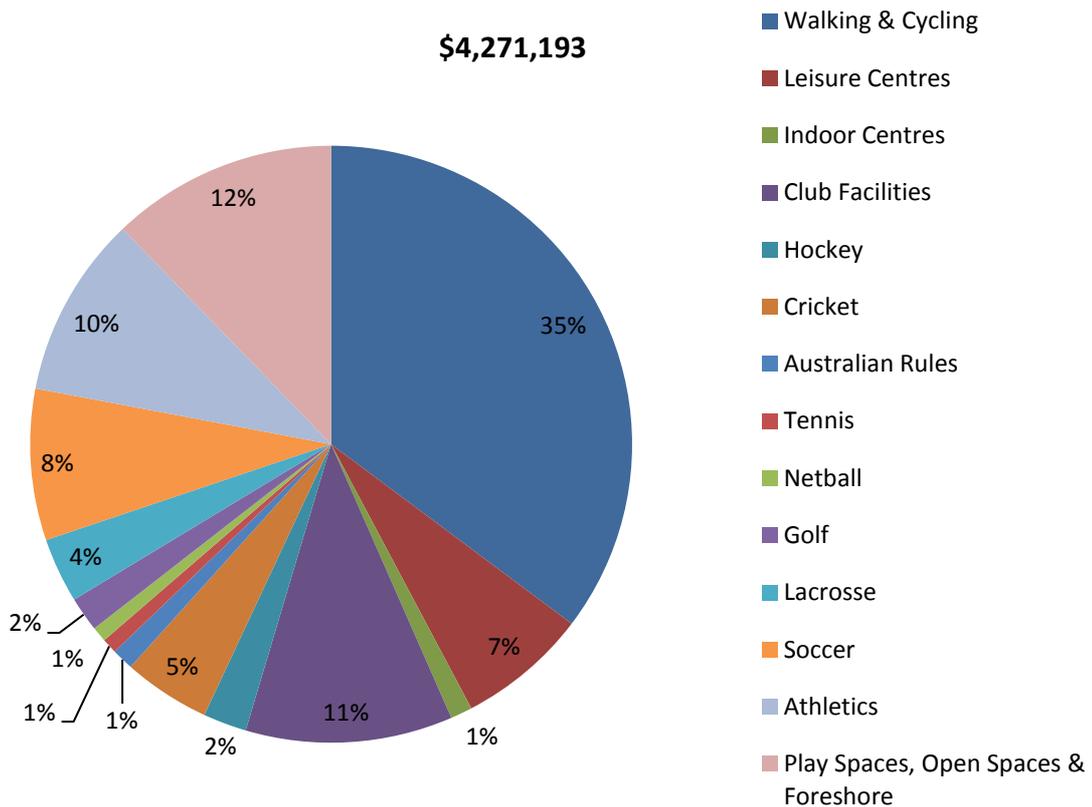


Figure 4: Investment in Sport and Recreation 2014/15

Figure 4 highlights the Council’s planned investment in sport and recreation infrastructure over the next 12 months.

\$19,636,193

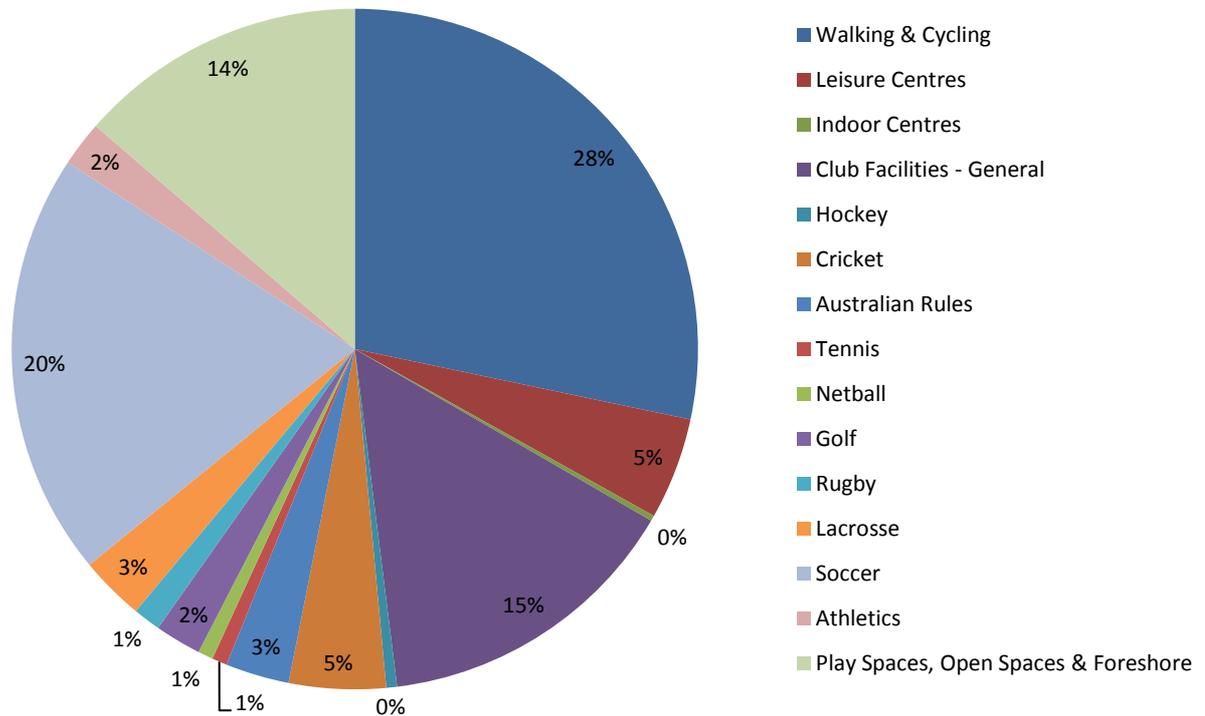


Figure 5: Investment in Sport and Recreation 2014/15-2018/19

Figure 5 highlights the Council's draft programmed investment in sport and recreation infrastructure over the next four years (subject to approval and review).

- Walking and cycling infrastructure (28%) is a high priority for investment.
- Soccer (20%) is a high priority for investment.
- Play spaces, opens spaces and foreshore areas (14%) are high priorities for investment.
- Leisure centres (5%) are a high priority for investment.
- Cricket (5%) is a priority for targeted investment.

8. Strategic Action Plan

This section of the discussion paper presents a Strategic Action Plan that has been developed outlining key short, medium and long term strategies to guide the delivery of the SRS.

Figure 7 identifies the guiding principles followed by a summary of the goals and strategies which have been developed to provide a framework for the delivery of the SRS and future provision of sport and recreation infrastructure and services.

Figure 7: Sport and Recreation Strategy Guiding Principles, Goals and Strategies

<p>Sport and Recreation Strategy Guiding Principles</p>
<p>Access and Equity</p> <p>Provide an accessible, equitable and inclusive approach to the provision of sport and recreation facilities and activities.</p>
<p>Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Pursue opportunities that support the objectives of the Health and Wellbeing Plan and support the communities participation in sport and recreation.</p>
<p>Building Strong Communities</p> <p>Work in partnership with and empower the community and other stakeholders to use sport and recreation as a means to help build stronger and more resilient communities.</p>
<p>Sustainable Development</p> <p>Focus on sustainable practices in the planning, development and delivery of sport and recreation infrastructure, services and programs.</p>
<p>Multi-use and Flexibility</p> <p>Plan and develop facilities and resources that support multiple-uses and users and have capacity to adapt to changing community needs.</p>



GOAL 1: ENABLE OUR PEOPLE TO BE ACTIVE

We will provide opportunities for all to participate in sport and recreation.

Strategies

- Provide extra support to communities that have low participation rates through promotion of affordable recreation activities and provision of outreach programs.
- Strengthen our partnerships with the health sector, such as through South West Melbourne Medicare Local (SWMML) or ISIS Primary Care, to emphasise the compelling health message of physical activity.
- A focus on facilitating walking and cycling infrastructure and program development.
- Create more significant and diverse participation opportunities through infrastructure and service provision.

GOAL 2: STRENGTHEN SUPPORT AND CONNECTIONS BETWEEN COMMUNITY AND SPORTING CLUBS

We will do all we can to listen, support and connect volunteers and community clubs that underpin local sport and recreation activity.

Strategies

- Celebrate and support the growth and development of volunteers that underpin grass roots participation in sport and recreation.
- Develop sustainable environments that support the long term operation and aspirations of sport and recreation community organisations.

GOAL 3: DELIVER QUALITY COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE, SUPPORTIVE OF ALL COMMUNITY NEEDS AND CONDUCIVE TO RECREATION

Design and develop environments that strengthen community capacity and sport and recreation opportunities.

Strategies

- We will provide infrastructure that meets needs based on demand through demographic analysis, condition audits and provision standards.
- Optimise efficiencies in infrastructure design and operations to achieve best value for money.
- Work hard to secure financial support from a range of sources.

GOAL 4: RAISE AWARENESS OF AND ENABLE PEOPLE TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN SPORT AND RECREATION

Empowering people to participate through effective marketing and engagement.

Strategies

- Build widespread community awareness of sport and recreation opportunities and the positive impacts that come from participation.
- Develop ways for the community to network, contribute information to and share stories about sport and recreation opportunities in the City.
- Work collaboratively with community, government and private sector partners.

8.1 Short Term Strategies (December 2014)

The following actions have been identified as priorities for achievement by December 2014:

- **Review and update policies relating to fees and charges for the use of Council's recreation and community facilities.**
Currently the fees and charges structure for Council's recreation and community facilities is inconsistent, inequitable and needs to be simplified and updated.
- **Establish a Capital Works Approvals and Contributions Policy for recreation and community facilities.**
Council receives numerous requests from clubs and community groups to undertake capital improvements to facilities including offers to contribute in-kind or financially towards these improvements. The process for approval of such requests and the scope of work which would be considered needs to be clearly defined.
- **Establish standards for the development and maintenance of recreation and community facilities.**
The purpose of the standards is to provide Council with a planning tool to guide the future development and redevelopment of Council's recreation and community facilities. The standards should also specify the levels of service for maintenance of facilities.
- **Review and update policies relating to the occupancy of Council's recreation and community facilities.**
This policy will identify the criteria that will be used to determine which groups are eligible to enter into an occupancy agreement, establish a framework for the allocation of facilities and establish a framework for negotiating the terms under which an agreement will be offered.
- **Review years 2 to 10 in the draft 10 Year Capital Works Program to ensure alignment with Priorities for Investment (Section 6).**

8.2 Medium Term Strategies (2015)

The following actions have been identified as priorities for achievement within the next 12 months:

- **Integrate the SRS and draft CSIP.**
The key outcomes of this integration are to:
 - Develop mechanisms that match community and sport and recreation infrastructure resourcing with demand, demographic trends, condition audits, provision standards and innovative opportunities.
 - Optimise efficiencies in infrastructure design and operation to achieve best value for money.
 - Undertake a series of feasibility studies to investigate the provision of shared infrastructure to support appropriate service and program delivery.
- **Develop a Property Management Strategy.**
The key outcomes of a Property Management Strategy are to:
 - Ensure that the day to day operations of Council's property are managed in accordance with relevant compliance requirements.

- Identify opportunities to better align the management of Council’s property assets with the draft CSIP, SRS and Open Space Strategy.
 - Determine performance indicators and reporting mechanisms to assess the performance of the property portfolio.
 - Identify opportunities to improve Council’s return on investment specifically from commercial property.
 - Deliver a suite of consistent policies and management practices that maximise benefit to the Council and the community.
 - Establish consistent policies and management procedures with regard to the review, management and operation of Council’s property specifically governance arrangements, fees and charges, roles and responsibilities and asset management.
- **Review all issues identified in Priorities for Investment (Section 6) and prepare a revised three year strategic action plan to address these.**

8.3 Long Term Strategies (beyond 2015)

The following actions have been identified as priorities for achievement beyond 12 months:

- **Implement the Integrated SRS and CSIP and Property Management Strategies.**
- **Continue to pursue opportunities that support the objectives of the Health and Wellbeing Plan and support the communities’ participation in sport and recreation.**

9. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Council:

1. Note the Sport and Recreation Strategy Discussion Paper.
2. Endorse the Strategic Action Plan including the guiding principles, goals and strategies which have been developed to provide a framework for the delivery of the SRS.

10. Appendices

Appendix 2 – State of Play of Tennis in Hobsons Bay

Appendix 3 – State of Play of Netball in Hobsons Bay

Appendix 4 - Hobsons Bay Parks and Reserves Master Plans

Appendix 5 - Hobsons Bay Sport and Recreation Master Plans

Appendix 6 – Synthetic Sports Fields Feasibility Study 2013

Appendix 7 - Preface to Sport and Recreation State of Play Report 2013

Appendix 8 - Sport and Recreation State of Play Report 2013