

Appendix 2 - State of Play of Tennis in Hobsons Bay

Introduction

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

Tennis in Hobsons Bay

Tennis in Hobsons Bay is a popular sporting activity with almost 1500 registered players living in the municipality, with approximately 90% of these players members of local tennis clubs. However, according to Tennis Australia data the number of registered players in the municipality has declined by almost 30% in recent years, down from 1750 in 2012/13 to 1457 in 2013/14.

There is a total of eight tennis clubs located within the City of Hobsons Bay all providing a variety of tennis related services including junior and senior competitions, coaching, development programs, elite squads, social tennis and publicly available courts for hire. All tennis clubs have access to clubrooms.

Two larger district level facilities and multiple public facilities exist in the western part of the municipality. The western part of the municipality is considered to have a stable supply of club based and publicly accessible tennis facilities (Map 1).

The eastern part of the municipality has one district level facility, multiple local facilities within a 3.5km radius of each other and only two public access courts. There is a current lack of large community tennis venues in the eastern part of the municipality which limits opportunities to host tournaments and events of a local to regional scale. There are no tennis clubs located in the suburbs of Altona North or Newport.

A detailed tennis facility audit conducted in 2013 identified that club courts are in reasonably good condition however public courts were generally rated between acceptable and poor. These facilities offer a range of court surfaces, court lighting (100% of courts will be floodlit following the installation of new lighting at the Altona Tennis Club) and clubrooms and supporting off-court infrastructure.

Tennis in Williamstown

There is a strong supply of local tennis venues in the east, particularly around Williamstown, with five separate club venues located within a 3.5km radius (Map 2). The majority of Williamstown tennis venues are small (2 to 3 courts), with the exception of Bayside Secondary College (8) and Liston Tennis Club (6).

There appears to be a shortage of club based and publicly accessible tennis courts in the east, particularly around Williamstown, Williamstown North and Newport. The closest publically accessible venue is located in Spotswood.

The recommended ratio of courts to club members, as defined by Tennis Australia, is one court for every 25 members. A review of registered player numbers at Williamstown based clubs identified a clear shortage of courts, with the Liston Tennis Club (1:72), Williamstown Central Tennis Club (1:59) and Williamstown Beach Tennis Club (1:62) all currently exceeding these guidelines.

Liston, Williamstown and Williamstown Central require the use of additional courts (both inside and outside the municipality) to accommodate existing use.

There are two sites in Williamstown which could be expanded to help address the shortage of club based and publicly accessible courts, Bayside Secondary College and Dennis Reserve.

The further development of three courts at the Bayside Secondary College site has been identified in both Council's and the College's long-term facility planning. This proposal would establish the site as a sub regional tennis facility as it would meet the Tennis Victoria criteria of twelve courts on the one site. The development of a sub regional facility has the capacity to attract state government funding and would be considered a higher state sporting association priority over local provision.

The development of three additional courts at Bayside Secondary College in conjunction with a review of the management arrangements to ensure access for local club use during peak times is considered the highest priority as it would help address the facility requirements of all Williamstown based clubs. The development of two additional courts at Dennis Reserve would primarily meet the needs of the WCTC. Both developments are supported to meet the long term requirements of all clubs.

This development of the Bayside College site is consistent with current planning and will increase the capacity of the venue to a sub- regional standard. There is also an opportunity to review the management contract at Bayside Secondary College (due for review at the end of 2014) to incorporate conditions to better meet the needs of local clubs, particularly in regards to court usage, address capacity issues and meet the need for publically accessible courts.

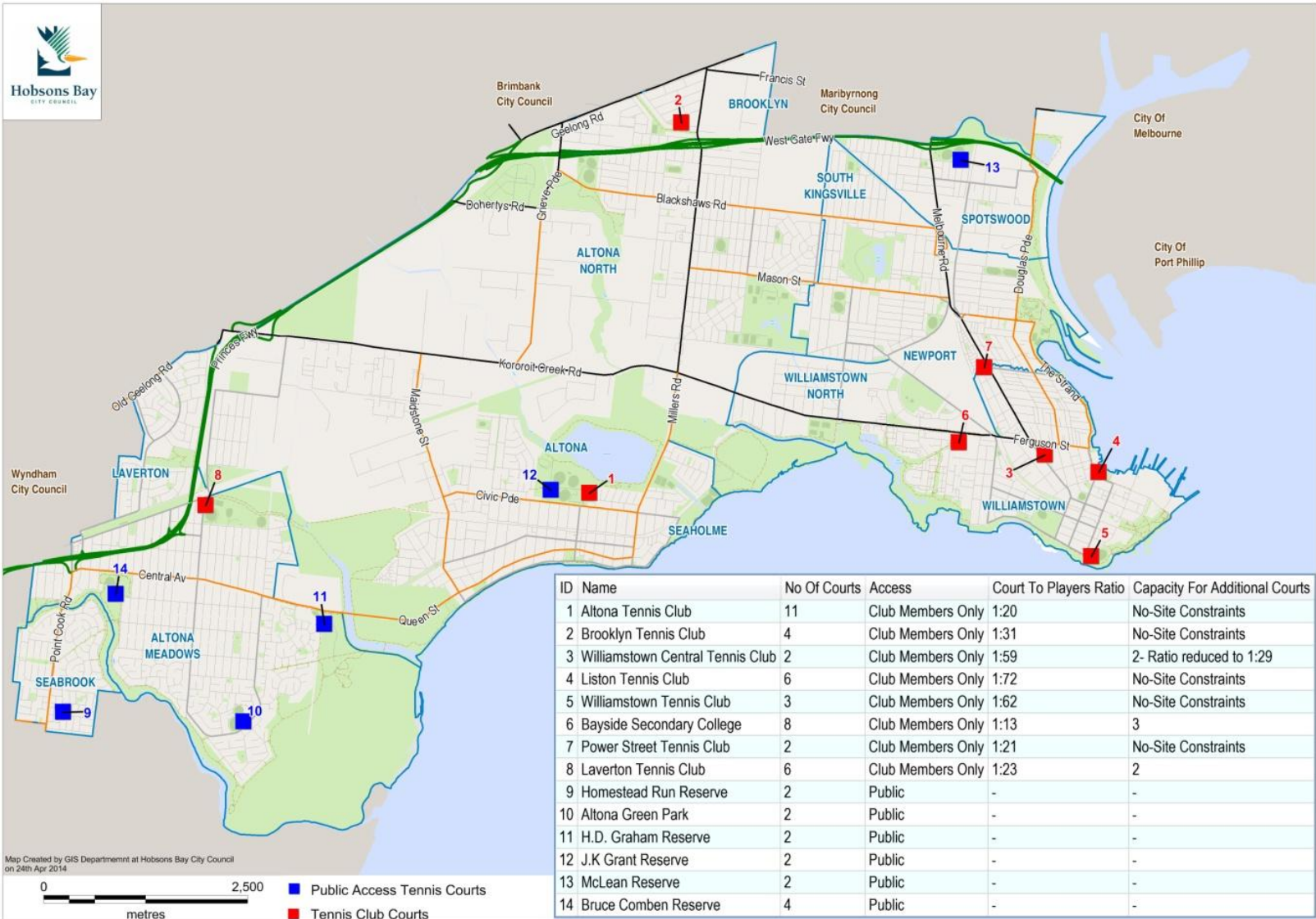
The development of an additional three courts at Bayside Secondary College would require a funding commitment from the school. The estimated cost to develop these courts is \$250-300,000. The development of the facilities to a subregional standard, partnership with the school and access for multiple clubs is considered to better meet the funding criteria for State Government grants than the Dennis Reserve development. The next State Government funding program will be for 2016/17. It is unlikely that Council would receive funding for both tennis court projects. Should a funding application be successful it is estimated the Council's contribution towards this project would be \$60-75,000. In the short term, the management agreement could be revised and implemented by 2015.

It is acknowledged that two compliant tennis courts with appropriate run off areas and floodlighting can fit comfortably within the existing fence line of the WLBC site at Dennis Reserve. Based on the development of two additional courts at Laverton Park in 2012 and independent advice, the development of additional courts at Dennis Reserve is estimated to cost \$200-250,000 subject to suitable ground conditions and existing power supply.

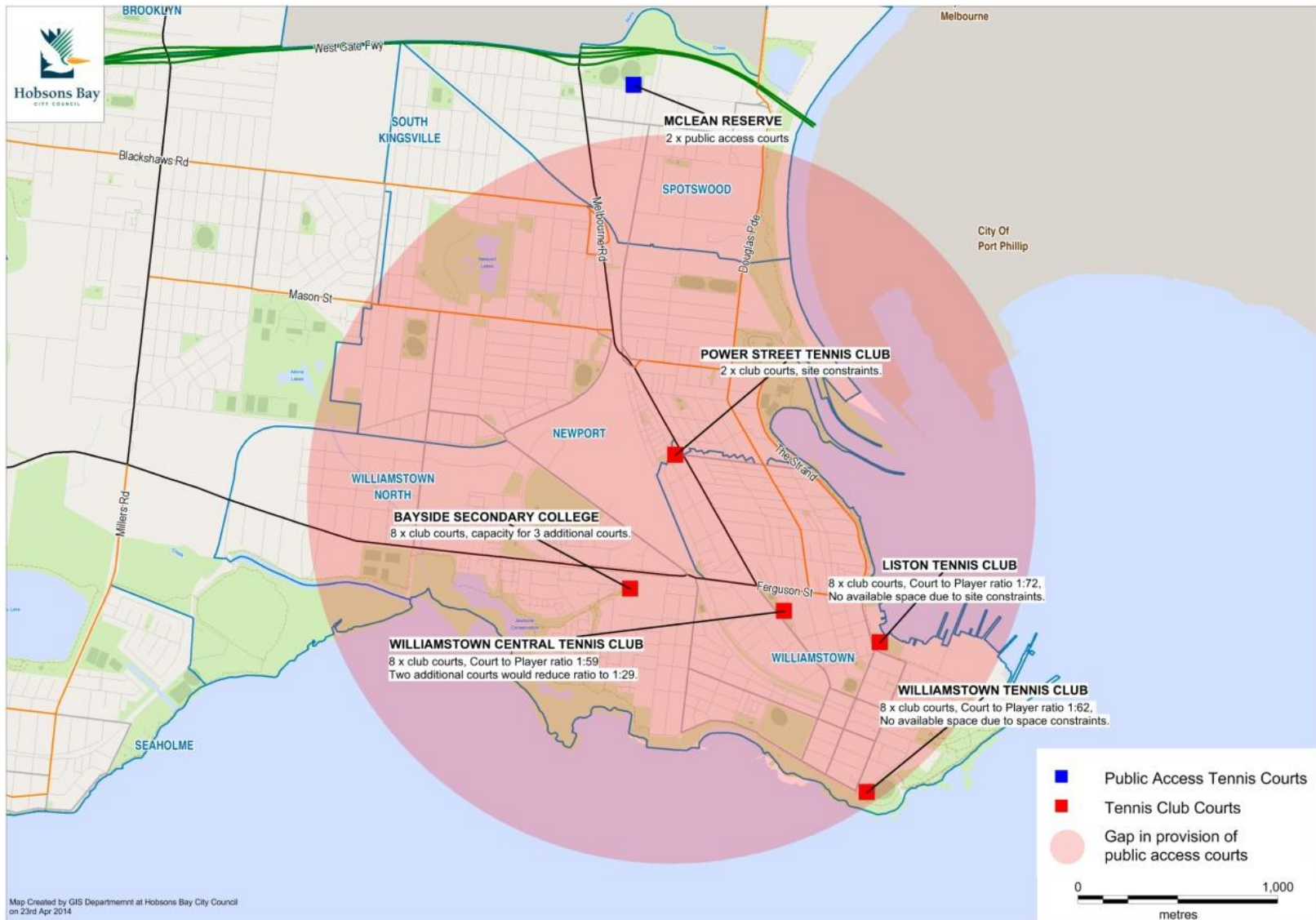
Additional tennis courts at either Bayside Secondary College or Dennis Reserve would assist in addressing the facility shortfall.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Council progress current planning for additional tennis courts in Williamstown.



Map 1: Tennis in Hobsons Bay



Map 2: Tennis in Williamstown