



South East Sports Complex Landscape Master Plan Report

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and respect the palawa/pakana peoples of lutruwita (Tasmania) and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples across Australia as the traditional custodians of our shared lands, waters and seas.

We recognise their unique ability to care for Country and their deep spiritual connection with the land, waters and seas – the same land, waters and seas which are a central focus of our profession.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom will ensure the continuation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.



The South East Sports Complex Landscape Master Plan outlines a comprehensive, long-term strategy to meet the future needs and demands of the precinct. Informed by community consultation, stakeholder input and landscape design principles, the plan offers an integrated approach for implementation over time.

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South East Sports Complex Landscape Master
Plan Report

Final Report 29.06.26

This report was prepared for Sorell Council by
Inspiring Place Pty Ltd



SITE PHOTOS



1 South East Stadium and car parking



2 Soccer fields



3 Netball courts



4 BMX track



5 Changing rooms, storage and little athletics in foreground, PCYC building in background



6 Change rooms



7 AFL field



8 Clubhouse with change rooms, toilets and kiosk



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SITE ANALYSIS

KEY

- Site boundary
 - Lot boundaries
 - Pedestrian entry/exit
 - Pedestrian pathways
 - Park run
 - Vehicle entry/exit
 - Vehicle circulation
 - Prevailing westerly winds
 - Open drain
 - 1m contours
 - Buildings
 - Turf
 - Irrigated turf
 - Vegetation
- South East Stadium with indoor sports courts, gym, change rooms, toilets and meeting/function/bar/canteen rooms
 - Amenities Building with toilets, storage and sauna
 - Clubhouse with toilets, kiosk
 - Change rooms and toilets
 - PCYC building
 - Underground fenced water retention area
 - Parking
 - Overflow parking
 - Overflow RV parking



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OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

The South East Sports Complex is a large regionally scaled site for a multitude of sporting games, events and recreation for the community. There are significant opportunities for the current and future uses of the site, defined into three zones being:

- Zone 1: Soccer, basketball, netball and dog park
- Zone 2: Cricket, AFL and little athletics
- Zone 3: BMX, skate park, tennis courts, RV park and equestrian

Each zone provides the opportunity for a centralised accessible amenities and facilities for the uses and requirements for each sporting group as well as the general public (referring to facilities and amenities provided for the local community and visitors who do not attend the precinct for competition and sporting games). This will include gender neutral change rooms, public toilets and storage.

Each zone will also provide ample facilities and services including all weather shelter, seating, picnic tables, bubblers and barbeques supporting the sporting clubs as well as spectators and the local community. The overall site amenity will be improved with native planting and shade cover for protection against the elements.

All sporting facilities and grounds will be inclusive with improved accessibility for pedestrians and vehicles, with service (refers to vehicular access such as ambulance/garbage trucks) and 3-phase power provisions. The whole complex will be serviced by a PA system for each key sporting area.

There is also the opportunity to improve legibility and wayfinding throughout the South East Sports Complex to aid navigation to different sporting locations and venues.



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OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

ZONE 1: SOCCER, BASKETBALL, NETBALL AND DOG PARK

OPPORTUNITIES

- 1 Retain existing stadium courts
- 2 Increase the scale of the stadium with additional building to accommodate additional 2x indoor multipurpose courts with linemarking for basketball, netball and additional opportunity for badminton and pickleball. Opportunity to increase stadium seating as well as additional storage space
- 3 Upgrade soccer facilities to accommodate specific infrastructure for National Premier League, including 1x additional synthetic turf field, lighting and fencing. This would alleviate turf overuse and balance game/training events
- 4 Upgrade netball courts with facilities including protected seating and storage
- 5 Opportunity to provide future accessible gym and recovery services for sporting groups, particularly soccer with a private operator
- 6 Provide playspace for public use, particularly during game days for families
- 7 Additional multipurpose sporting field
- 8 Upgrade existing amenities building as a shared space to accommodate accessible gender neutral change-rooms, public toilets, office and increased storage spaces
- 9 Relocate extent of equestrian facilities to accommodate additional sporting fields with the opportunity to provide purpose built facilities for equestrian users to enable pathways to competition
- 10 Reconsider fencing to water retention zone to open up space for public use but limit any heavy use

CONSTRAINTS

- 11 Limited size of existing stadium is a constraint for additional sporting linework however testing of the improved programming could be undertaken
- 12 Soccer grounds at maximum capacity and over-used limiting future growth
- 13 Lack of mid-sized multi-use courts for casual incidental play for the community
- 14 Limited food van use and location due to lack of 3-phase power provision
- 15 Existing carpark creating safety issues during major events due to volume of cars with a single entry/exit
- 16 Existing location of equestrian facilities limiting the extension of additional sporting fields for soccer and basketball/netball
- 17 Lack of facilities for equestrian users
- 18 Exposed to strong westerlies and lack of shelter



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OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

ZONE 2: CRICKET, AFL AND LITTLE ATHLETICS

OPPORTUNITIES

- 1 Nominate a premier and secondary cricket field. Premier field to be upgraded to accommodate a turf wicket and lighting allowing for pathways to premier cricket
- 2 Provide clubhouse for AFL fields to support sporting groups
- 3 Limited spectator shelter and seating for cricket and AFL
- 4 Future proof little athletics facilities with upgraded fit for purpose surfacing and provide new shelter
- 5 Additional synthetic turf cricket nets and lighting for increased training
- 6 Rectify existing PCYC building
- 7 Overflow parking is disorganised and unsafe during large events
- 8 Improved landscaping to the park run and new shelter at the start of the route
- 9 Provide small local play opportunity for public use, particularly local residents to the north

CONSTRAINTS

- 10 Adjacent trees to cricket nets and limited lighting causing shading issues
- 11 Prevailing westerly winds impact sporting games
- 12 Existing building layout and car park creating risks for pedestrians with undefined roads and pathways



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OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

ZONE 3: BMX, SKATE, TENNIS COURTS, RV PARK AND EQUESTRIAN

OPPORTUNITIES

- 1 Opportunity to consider tennis courts in the long term
- 2 BMX participant and spectator supporting infrastructure upgrades to support venues long term use and national event capability
- 3 Improve amenities for skate park and localised elements for youth involvement, such as ping pong tables
- 4 Provide skills park for BMX riders as a recreational learning space
- 5 Opportunity to relocate dog park
- 6 Opportunity to consider medium/long term RV park relocation

CONSTRAINTS

- 7 Moderate use of dog park
- 8 Undefined RV park extent
- 9 Prevailing westerly winds will impact tennis courts location



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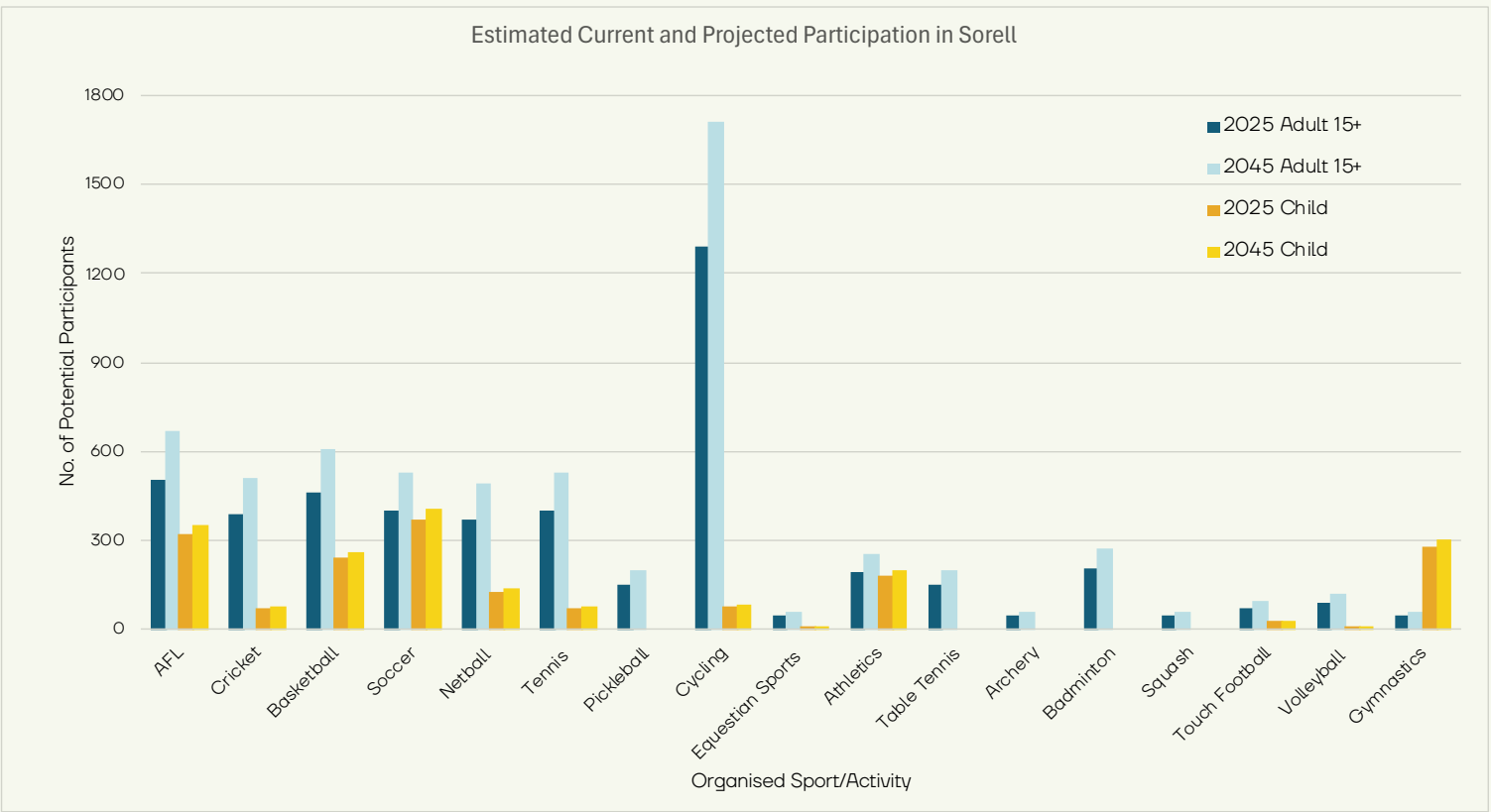


SUMMARY STATISTICS

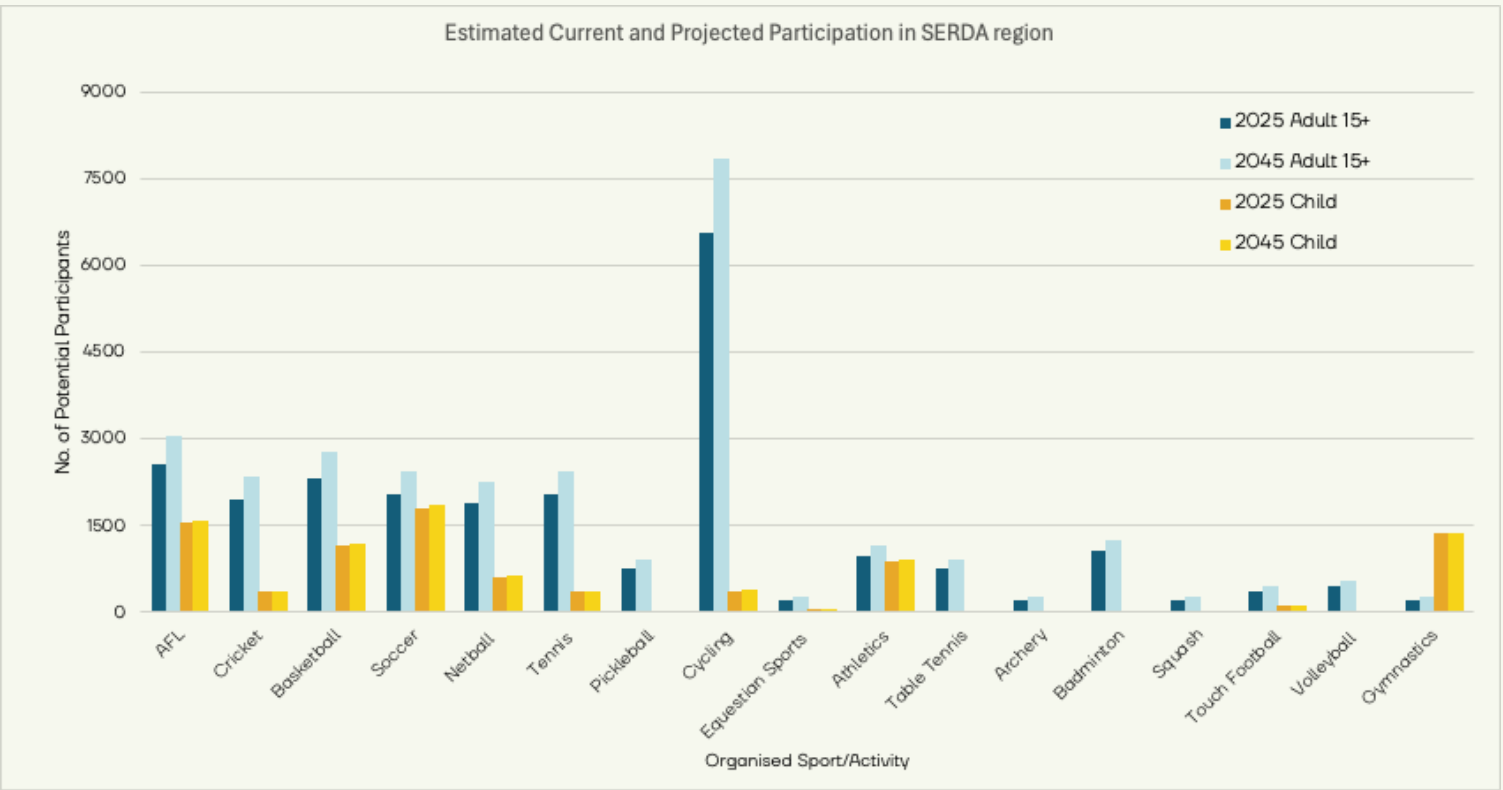
Ausplay provides trends in sports participation, providing an indication of the most popular sporting and recreation activities undertaken in Tasmania. The adjacent graphs provide an indication of the number of participants for each identified sport in Sorell and the SERDA region based on population forecasts to 2045 .

The graphs are a highly conservative indication of participation estimates and should be considered as subsidiary to information obtained through consultation with local stakeholders and state sports governing bodies.

For further information refer to Appendix 1: Issues and Opportunities Paper.



Estimated current participation estimates for Sorell based on state participation (Source: AusPlay), and projected participation in Sorell based on population forecasts for 2045 (Source: DSG, Tasmania)



Estimated current participation estimates for SERDA based on state participation (Source: AusPlay), and projected participation in SERDA in 2045 based on population forecasts for 2045 (Source: DSG, Tasmania)

GUIDING LANDSCAPE PRINCIPLES



01

RESPONSIVE

- Contribute and enhance the existing uses and conditions of the site
- Listen and respond to the needs and requirements of the stakeholders and community
- Future proofing the site for staged implementation over time



02

ENGAGING

- Provide a destination location for a range of user groups, beyond sporting groups to visit and stay
- Support social engagement and communities for improved social outcomes



03

DIVERSE

- Offer a range of sporting needs and requirements for premier training, games and competition
- Provide a range of amenities and facilities to support sporting needs as well as key stakeholders and the community
- Support the diverse needs for an inclusive and accessible sports complex

PRECEDENT IMAGERY

ZONE 1: FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, NETBALL AND DOG PARK



PRECEDENT IMAGERY

ZONE 2: CRICKET, AFL AND LITTLE ATHLETICS



PRECEDENT IMAGERY

ZONE 3: BMX, SKATE PARK, TENNIS COURTS, RV PARK AND EQUESTRIAN





South East Complex Landscape Master Plan

7 Tasman Highway, Sorell, Tasmania
PREPARED FOR SORELL COUNCIL



Date 29.06.2026
Scale 1:1500 @ A1
1:3000 @ A3
16

ZONE 1: FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, NETBALL AND DOG PARK

KEY

- 1

Pedestrian pathways with shared service access
- 2

Vehicular roads
- 3

Small amenities building
- 4

Fitness equipment
- 5

Indoor stadium courts for basketball and netball
- 6

New extension to stadium to accommodate multi-purpose courts including basketball, netball, badminton, futsal and pickleball as well as indoor and outdoor change rooms. Opportunity to increase stadium seating as well as additional storage space
- 7

Relocated purpose built accessible gym and recovery services for sporting groups, particularly soccer with a private operator
- 8

Primary premier soccer field upgraded to accommodate specific infrastructure for National Premier League, including lighting and fencing
- 9

Secondary soccer field (synthetic TBD)
- 10

Multi-purpose field for sports such as soccer, touch football
- 11

Relocated dog park for small and large dogs
- 12

Upgrade netball courts with facilities including protected seating with potential for 2x additional courts
- 13

Upgrade existing amenities building suitable for adjacent sporting user groups and public users to accommodate accessible gender neutral change-rooms, public toilets, office and increased storage spaces
- 14

Accessible public amenities within spill out zone including shelters, barbecues, seating, picnic tables, bike rack and bubblers
- 15

Provision of service vehicle access and 3-phase power
- 16

Centralised playspace for inclusive all ages play. Junior play located near the netball precinct for close supervision
- 17

Centralised 'green heart' hub providing space and amenity for groups and the community such as a pavilion and barbecues
- 18

Remove temporary fencing to water retention zone to open up space for public use and limiting any heavy access and use
- 19

Formal car parking
- 20

Zone for additional use
- 21

Retain and extend tree planting for shelter, protection and biodiversity
- 22

Formalised tree avenues to assist with wayfinding and legibility throughout the site



South East Complex Landscape Master Plan - Zone 1

7 Tasman Highway, Sorell, Tasmania
 PREPARED FOR SORELL COUNCIL

ZONE 2: CRICKET, AFL AND LITTLE ATHLETICS

KEY

- 1 Pedestrian pathways with shared service access
- 2 Pedestrian threshold
- 3 Vehicular roads with turning circle
- 4 Existing cricket field.
- 5 Senior AFL field
- 6 Clubroom upgrades with extension to accommodate AFL clubhouse
- 7 Provide spectator shelter and seating for cricket and AFL games
- 8 Accessible public amenities within hardscape spill out zone for multi-use shared space including shelters, barbecues, seating, picnic tables, bike racks and bubblers
- 9 Provision of service vehicle access and 3-phase power
- 10 Turf practice wicket net shed with removable nets. Provide limited vehicle access to parking area
- 11 Emergency vehicle exit
- 12 Improve landscaping along park run with improved canopy cover and mass planting
- 13 New park shelter with multipurpose picnic table with the Little Athletics/ park run
- 14 Future proof little athletics facilities with upgraded fit for purpose surfacing
- 15 Rectify existing PCYC building
- 16 Formal car parking including option of Arthur Street road reserve
- 17 Upgraded double access from Arthur Street
- 18 Retain and extend tree planting for shelter, protection and biodiversity
- 19 Formalised tree avenues to assist with wayfinding and legibility throughout the site



South East Complex Landscape Master Plan - Zone 2

7 Tasman Highway, Sorell, Tasmania
 PREPARED FOR SORELL COUNCIL

ZONE 3: BMX, SKATE PARK,
 MULTI-PURPOSE COURTS, RV
 PARK AND EQUESTRIAN

KEY

- 1

Pedestrian pathways with shared service access
- 2

Pedestrian threshold
- 3

Vehicular roads
- 4

BMX participant and spectator supporting infrastructure upgrades. Provide skills park for BMX riders as a recreational learning space
- 5

Long term implementation of new tennis courts after relocation of dog park
- 6

Relocated equestrian precinct
- 7

Improve amenities for skate park with shelter and seating
- 8

Amenities building providing a sports clubhouse, gender neutral changing rooms and public toilets
- 9

Accessible public amenities within hardscape spill out zone including shelters, barbeques, seating, picnic tables, bike racks and bubblers
- 10

Provision of service vehicle access and 3-phase power
- 11

Youth play opportunities to complement existing BMX and skate park facilities, such as half basketball court, ping pong tables and parkour
- 12

Short term implementation for BMX parking
- 13

Formal car parking
- 14

Retain existing crossover for vehicles
- 15

Retain and extend tree planting for shelter, protection and biodiversity
- 16

Formalised tree avenues to assist with wayfinding and legibility throughout the site
- 17

Passive parkland
- 18

Relocated RV park
- 19

Explore potential for pedestrian foreshore connections
- 20

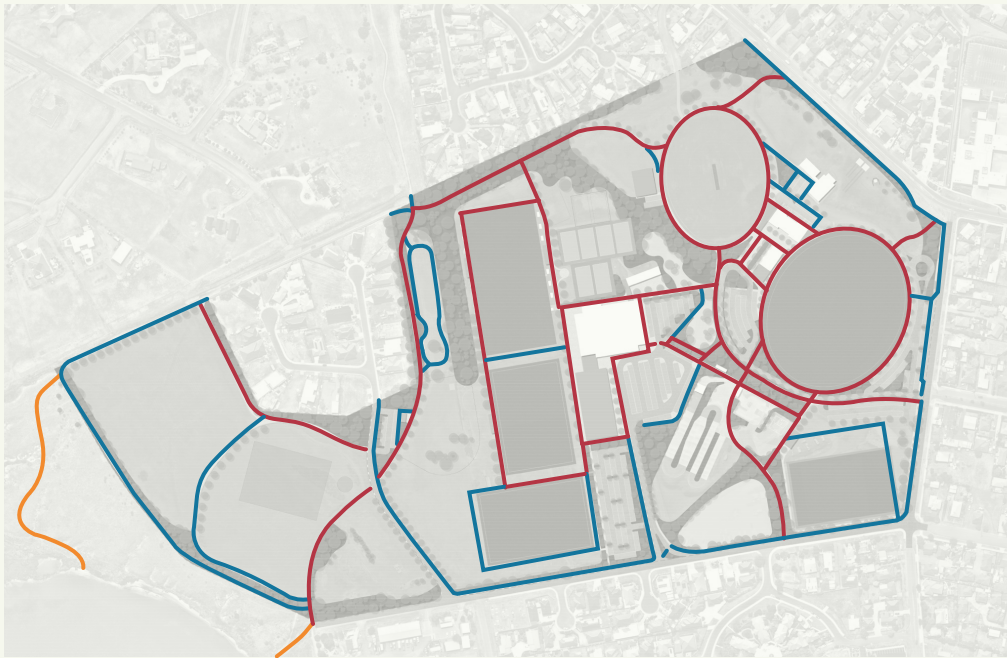
Bike facilities including bike maintenance station, scooter and bike charging



South East Complex Landscape Master Plan - Zone 3

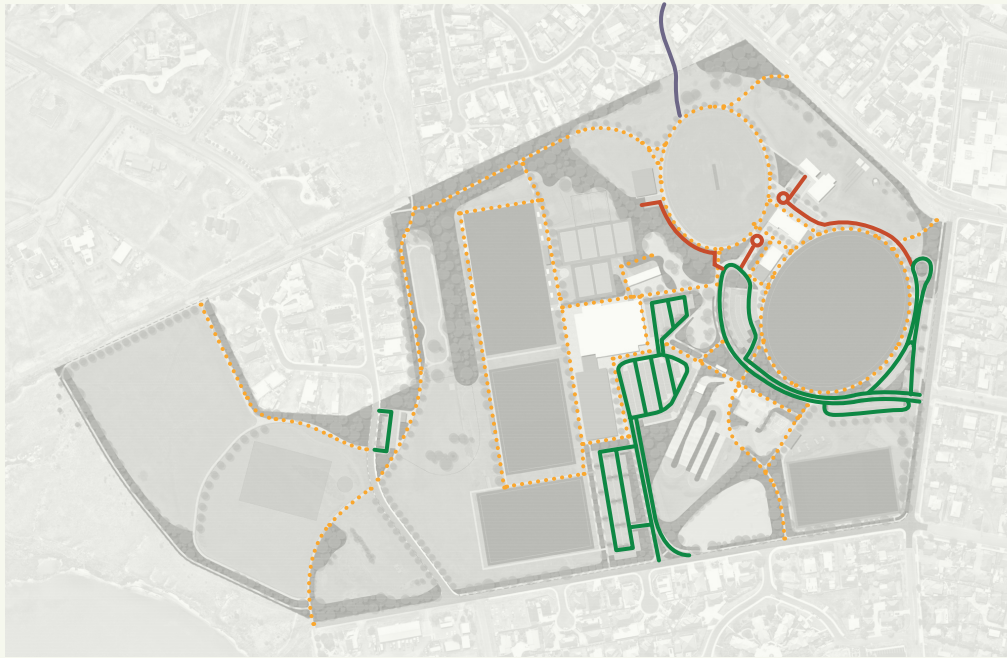
7 Tasman Highway, Sorell, Tasmania
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LANDSCAPE DIAGRAMS



- Key
- 2m wide primary path
 - 1.5m wide secondary path
 - Informal path

Pedestrian access and circulation



- Key
- Vehicle access
 - Priority vehicle access
 - Service vehicle access
 - Emergency access

Vehicular access and circulation



- Key
- Amenities buildings

Amenities Buildings



- Key
- Permanent car parking

Car parking

STAGING AND ACTION PLAN

Short term priority actions (years 1-5)

These actions are considered critical to achieving short term outcomes. It is recommended that these activities be undertaken or commenced as soon as practicable, or within the first 5 years following the adoption of the master plan.

Medium-term priority activities (years 5-10)

These actions are necessary to achieve the desired outcomes, but are not considered as urgent or high priority as the short-term priority actions. They may be activities that need to be sequenced after other work is completed or funding sources identified. These activities are recommended to be undertaken in 5-10 years depending on available funding.

Longer-term priority activities (years 10-20+)

These actions will contribute to the desired overall outcomes, but are less critical than other actions. These activities are recommended to be undertaken from 10-20 years onwards or may wait until resources become available.

Criteria

- Guiding landscape principles
- Funding opportunities, budget constraints and services infrastructure investment



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APPENDICES

1. ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES PAPER



LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN REPORT

South East Sports Complex

Issues and Opportunities Paper



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03.06.25	Revised Draft for Client Review	
22.06.26	Final Report	

Inspiring Place Project No. 25-02 (24-CCCC)

Cover photo: Dan Colthorpe, Inspiring Place

This issues and opportunities report was developed through desktop research and review and community and stakeholder consultation to support the revision and update of the South East Sports Complex Master Plan.

Inspiring Place thanks all Sorell Council staff, including Ben Buckland, Natalie Cameron, Penny Goodland, Robert Higgins, and Jess Hinchin and all other staff members who provided input and support, as well as all sports governing bodies, committee members of local sports and recreation clubs and the Sorell community for their time and input.

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1 INTRODUCTION

This paper summarises the main issues and opportunities gleaned from community and stakeholder consultation on the South East Sports Complex. Findings are drawn from meetings with relevant sports governing bodies, local sports and recreation club/group surveys (five responses) and community surveys (57 responses), and meetings with local sport and recreation club/groups.

The South East Sports Complex plays a significant role in the provision of sports and recreation opportunities in the south east region of Tasmania. The Complex has experienced significant growth in usage. Given Sorell's rapid population growth, the South East Sports Complex Master Plan requires update and revision to ensure that it can continue to support and accommodate current and future needs.

The purpose of the project is to develop a modern and evidence driven updated Master Plan for the South East Sports Complex to guide future upgrades to infrastructure, sustainable practices, and inclusive community engagement. The Master Plan is to support the asset's long-term sustainability, futureproof growth, and enhance opportunities for sports and recreation in the region over a minimum 10-year period. The updated plan must align with community needs and demographic trends while also considering a hierarchical approach to local, regional and state-level community/recreation infrastructure.

Council has made excellent progress already on the development of the South East Sports Complex. Existing facilities at the Complex include two sports ovals, soccer pitch, outdoor netball courts, athletics ground, horse-riding arena, BMX facility and skate park, dog park, RV parking, and a state-of-the-art indoor sports stadium. The value of these facilities is recognised at a regional and state-level, as expressed by relevant sport governing bodies and by local sports clubs and are a testament to Council's ability to deliver high quality outcomes with limited resources and support for an active community. Inspiring Place are grateful for the excellent input and insights from sports governing bodies, local stakeholders, the community and Council staff during consultations and site visits.

The Master Plan process will be delivered in four stages. The present paper provides a summary of the findings from research and consultation that were conducted in Stage Two (March 2025).

So far, the following tasks have been undertaken:

initial briefing and site visits with Sorell Council staff;

background research and review of relevant background reports and sports and active recreation policies and strategies;

consultation with governing bodies in Tasmania for sports both represented and currently unrepresented at the South East Sports Complex; and

consultation with local sports and recreation clubs, including a survey and on-site meeting to discuss issues and opportunities further.

2 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

2.1 POLICY FRAMEWORK

Future development of the South East Sports Complex will need to fit within the national, state and local policy framework. Key documents relevant to the future planning of the South East Master Plan were reviewed, and are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1 strategic plans and policy documents considered in this review

Strategic documents considered	Summary
<i>At the national level</i>	
Sport 2030 – National Sport Plan	The national sport plan outlines the vision and direction for sport in Australia to 2030. The plan aims to maximise the potential of Australian sport, enhance participation, improve performance and contribute to the well-being of individuals and communities. The key target outcomes of the plan include: - improving the physical and mental health of Australians through the recognised role of sport and physical activity in promoting health and wellbeing, reducing chronic diseases and contributing to positive mental health; - growth in personal development to encourage individuals of all ages and backgrounds to be their best self; - strengthening communities by harnessing the recognised social benefits of sport through improved cohesion and reduced isolation; and - building on the already significant economic contribution of sport to the Australian economy.

<i>At the state level</i>	
Active 2030 Strategy	This strategy is being developed by the Tasmanian Government to ensure that sports and recreation initiatives and investments are guided by a long-term vision. Once completed, it will provide strategic directions to guide the focus of Tasmanian Government support and investments in sport and active recreation. A discussion paper was developed as a tool to assist in the development of this strategy in 2021 with the vision for 'Tasmania to be the Place to Play'. The main objective to achieve this vision is to 'increase participation in sport and active recreation' including by: • enabling increased participation for all; • providing access to infrastructure, facilities and spaces; and • supporting pathways to high performance.
Tasmanian Community Sport Facilities Portal	The Tasmanian Government is in the process of developing a central database that shows the location, level and condition of community sport facilities across the state. The portal will enable informed decision-making and provide insights for planning and future strategic investment decisions.
Healthy, Active Tasmania: 20-year preventative health strategy 2026-2046	The strategy aims to support and enable Tasmanians to achieve good health and wellbeing. Focus Area 3 of the discussion paper emphasises on the importance of: • safe and accessible walking and cycling infrastructure to help increase opportunity for physical activity and to connect people to public open space and active recreational opportunities; and • developing and continuously improving physical environments so they are accessible for people of all ages and abilities.
<i>At the regional level</i>	
Greater Hobart Sports and Recreations Infrastructure Strategy	This strategy is at the very early stages of development. It aims to improve collaboration between municipal areas across greater Hobart, including Sorell, for the provision and management of sporting facilities. The purpose of this project is to improve collaboration between municipal areas across Greater Hobart for the provision and management of sporting facilities and to address common challenges, including: • a general need for modern, fit-for-purpose sporting facilities; • inadequate facilities to support growing participation including the growth of women and girls sport; • seasonal congestion across sporting codes; • inefficient duplication of facilities; and • disjointed priorities and advocacy due to the lack of an overarching infrastructure strategy.
SERDA Economic Infrastructure Strategy 2024	Guides priorities for infrastructure in the South East Region Development Association region which comprises the Tasman, Sorell, Clarence and Glamorgan Spring Bay LGA's. The strategy notes high growth rate in Sorell and Clarence compared to other council areas in the South East. Population projections indicated that Clarence City, Glamorgan Spring Bay and Tasman council areas are projected to slow beyond 2028 but is estimated to increase by 0.37%, 0.35% and 0.19% annually, respectively. Comparatively, population growth in the Sorell region is also expected to slow down but will remain in a growth state of 0.73% by 2052. Recreational infrastructure including the South East Sports Complex is identified as high priority enabling infrastructure in the SERDA region. Focus areas in relation to recreational infrastructure enablers include:

	- continued developed of related public infrastructure such as improving streetscapes, tree plantings, footpaths to improve visitor appeal, ongoing investment in public amenities, toilets to improve visitor appeal; and - coordinating objectives and plans of Sorell and Clarence in relation to proposals for regional sporting facilities at Pembroke Park, Geilston Bay, Bayview and Seven Mile Beach.
Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy (STRLUS) 2010-2035	Guides land use, development and infrastructure investment decisions in southern Tasmania by state and local governments and other providers of infrastructure. The strategy identifies Sorell as a major regional centre and a major satellite of Greater Hobart. The strategy identifies regions for potential growth in southern Tasmania – areas include Sorell LGA and Sorell Township East as a Greenfield Development Precinct for residential growth.
<i>At the local level</i>	
Sorell Strategic Plan 2019 – 2029	Provides strategic planning guidance for the Sorell LGA over a ten-year period. The plan is reviewed every four years, the most recent review was in 2023. It is based on four objectives: - to facilitate regional growth - responsible stewardship and a sustainable organisation - to ensure a liveable and inclusive community - increased community confidence in Council A key deliverable under Objective 3 is securing funding to develop the South East Sports Complex as a regional recreational facility.
Sorell Social Strategy 2024	This strategy is one of the deliverables under objective 3 of the <i>Sorell Strategic Plan 2019-2029</i> which specifically refers to the development and implementation of a social infrastructure and inclusiveness strategy. Four key priority areas were identified including: - promoting safe, healthy and active communities; and - a focus on children and young people Key objectives under these priority areas to guide Council's planning, design, management and delivery of social infrastructure and facilities programs over the next 10 years include: - provide and upgrade amenities and spaces that better cater to the diverse needs of the community; - seek funding and resourcing for improvements to open space and recreation to support community satisfaction and increased participation in recreation; and - improve safety for users of facilities and the community through design.
Sorell Active Transport Strategy 2024	The strategy sets out the plan for the next 10 years to develop the existing walkways and wheeling network, as well as the commencement of a bike network development to improve access to essential goods and services. One of the identified priority projects is the provision of a shared path on both sides of Arthur Street and Montagu Street. The path would connect with the existing shared path at the South East Sports Complex's locations in Pembroke Park at South East Stadium.
Sorell Open Space Strategy 2020	Guides the delivery, maintenance and acquisition of open space and recreation areas in the Sorell Municipality. A list of priority projects and recommendations are identified to strengthen the open space network and to ensure it is sufficient to support the current and changing needs of the Sorell community.

	The strategy highlights Sorell's rapidly growing and transitioning community noting the complex characteristics of different sections of the community and very diverse values and needs. Continuing to develop the South East Sports Complex as a regional facility is a key recommendation to support greater participation at a local level, and also to provide a facility suitable for the hosting of regional competitions.
Sorell Township Urban Master Plan 2015	Guides the strategic development of the township and the wider municipality and provides a framework for design, infrastructure, urban planning, development, investment and funding in the Sorell township over the next 20 years. The Master Plan notes the town's capacity of up to 5-7000 new residents within the coming decade or an increase of up to 50% with a large proportion of these moving into Sorell Township. Identified strategic directions for the South East Sports Complex in 2015 is to: • continue to develop and consolidate recreational uses within the South East Sports Complex and Miena Park areas, • consider potential to relocate Pioneer Park tennis courts and Bowling Green to the Complex; and • prepare a Master Plan that includes tree planting, parking, services and facilities towards a providing a high quality environment.
Land Improvement Asset Management Plan 2019/20	The plan guides Sorell Council's long-term strategic management of its land improvement assets (10 year planning period) to ensure continuous improvement of assets and that the community's required levels of service are met. Sorell's high population forecast is noted as being 3.6 times the state average. As a result, there is high demand for Council services along with requests for new facilities, infrastructure and recreational facilities.
Pembroke Park Master Plan 2017 and 2021 Update Business Case and Feasibility Assessment of the Pembroke Park Master Plan 2016	The Master Plan guides the future growth and development of the South East Sports Complex. The initial concept was developed in 2015 (<i>Pembroke Park Master Plan – Report</i>, and <i>Pembroke Park Master Plan – Concept</i> developed by Inspiring Place). A business case and feasibility assessment was prepared by @leisure Planners (2016). The 2015 Master Plan was updated in 2017 and again in 2021. These reports note rapid growth and changing community characteristics in the region and the associated implications for sports and recreation infrastructure and services provision. These changes are likely to continue as noted in Section 2.3 of this report. The benefits of developing the South East Sports Complex identified in 2015 Master Plan and in 2016 business case assessment still remain including: • meeting the needs of a wide range of ages, abilities and interests; • encouraging visitation to the region; • delivering environmental benefits through ground improvements and tree planting to provide shelter and landscape amenity; • providing non-sporting physical and social activity such as walking and social/family recreation; and • access to a suite of indoor sporting and recreation opportunities including gym and fitness spaces.

South East Youth Engagement Project Consultation Report 2024	The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) were engaged to consult with young people ages 12 to 19 years living in the south east region of Tasmania. The findings would inform future youth programs, and services and activities to increase youth engagement and enhance youth participation in the local community. The consultation found that youth in the area wanted: • social and recreational opportunities just for young people – it was noted that there was little to engage young people outside of school, work and sports; • greater focus on addressing barriers to participation, particularly costs, poor weather conditions and inadequate active transport; and • safe spaces in their community for them after school and on weekends – there are concerns regarding antisocial behaviour which young people attributed largely to unmet needs in their peers including boredom and isolation, and mental health. The South East Sports Complex was highly regarded by young people who used it who noted that the Complex had become a hub for the sporting community across the region and other surrounding areas. To reduce barriers to access, young people suggested: • upgrading local skate parks to be more exciting and engaging (adding graffiti walls, new bowls, jumps, etc.) and incorporating adequate weather shelter and lighting. • repairing local sporting facilities and equipment that are accessed outside of competition such as local cricket nets and basketball and netball courts.
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In general, the policy and planning framework for sports and recreation in Tasmania focus on:

increasing and enabling participation in sporting and recreation activities;

equipping development pathways for high performance;

enhancing personal development and positive health outcomes; and

improving accessibility for all.

There are several strategies emphasise the need and benefits for consolidation and collaboration across governing areas, and there are two projects underway (the Tasmanian Community Sport Facilities Portal and the Greater Hobart Sport and Recreations Infrastructure Strategy) to support this outcome.

Importantly, Sorell is recognised as a regional centre with considerable forecasted population growth. Local strategies recognise the changing population profile and diversifying needs of the community. Gaps in provision of social and recreation

opportunities for young people in the community is emphasised in the Active Transport and Social Strategy (2024) and in youth engagement projects recently conducted.

2.2 EXISTING AND PROPOSED REGIONAL FACILITIES IN THE SOUTH EAST REGION

CURRENT USES AND AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES AT THE SOUTH EAST SPORTS COMPLEX

The South East Sports Complex is the primary sports and recreation venue for the Sorell Municipal area. The precinct is owned and operated by Sorell Council and is located on a land title of 21.7ha on the Western edge of Sorell. The complex currently serves several key uses including:

as the primary training and competition grounds for the Dodges Ferry Horse Riding Club, Sorell Cricket Club, Sorell Football Club, South East Basketball Association, South East Districts Little Athletics Centre, South East Netball Association, South East Pickleball, South East United Football Club, and the Southern City BMX Club;

for community and social events, including award-winning fundraising events for clubs and groups such as the Truck Show hosted by the South East Suns, and the Taste of the South East hosted by the South East Netball Association;

by Showtime Soccer for junior training and competition events, including weekly futsal competitions in the stadium;

by Discovery Sports Performance (gym and sauna);

by Sorell School and the Indie School for large school events, and by Indie School for unstructured recreational activities;

occasional use of the Stadium and grounds by the Jack Jumpers, Netfit and Hobart Chargers;

as part of the Pembroke ParkRun route; and

for informal recreational activities use including recreational walking/running, dog exercising/walking, skating; and other social play such as use of the open spaces and use of cricket nets and outdoor netball courts that are open for public and casual use.

The complex also houses a RV caravan park that is currently managed by Sorell Council with fee collection undertaken by the Sorell Lions Club, as well as a designated dog park.

Sorell Council owns and manages the facilities at the Complex, venues are hired out to external providers (clubs, operators, etc.) to run programs and use is encouraged by Council through a broad range of organisations and people. In addition to the above mentioned uses, the Complex offers a multitude of activities from traditional, competitive sports to community and public programs such as chair yoga.

The Stadium is available for use from 6am to 10pm. The function rooms, meeting rooms and other spaces including sporting venues are available for hire through the Council. Venues can be booked via an online booking system (Skedda). A fee schedule is available through Council that identifies casual hire costs for various group sizes. Events, programs and services are advertised and promoted via a dedicated Facebook Page for the South East Sports Complex, through noticeboards inside and at the entrance of the Stadium, and through Council's social media channels.

Many of the local clubs and groups, attract members from outside the Sorell municipal area including from as far out as Triabunna, Orford, the Tasman Peninsula, and Richmond. Competitions and events held by these clubs and others including the Southern City BMX club and the Dodges Ferry Horse Riding Club also attracts people from outside the region. This regional accessibility is one of the key points of difference of the South East Sports Complex and brings significant value to the south eastern and southern regions of Tasmania.

Another major opportunity and point of difference for the complex is its significant size and allocation of flat land which allows for the development of multiple pitches and related facilities to support current and future growth in sporting activities (e.g. football, soccer, cricket).

OTHER SPORTS AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN SORELL AND THE SURROUNDING MUNICIPALITIES

Assessment of population and demographic trends, and sports and recreation participation trends indicate that growth in population and in active and passive

recreation is likely to continue. Given Council's financial constraints, a strategic assessment of current and proposed sports and recreation facilities in the region is necessary to ensure that future development of the complex is sustainable, maximises efficiencies and is an effective and responsible use of funds. Tables 2 and 3 list the current and proposed sports and recreation facilities in the region.

Table 2: List of current sports and recreation facilities (excluding those within the South East Sports Complex)

Facility Name	Location	Facilities / existing uses	Comments
<i>Available local sports and recreation facilities in Sorell</i>			
Sorell Bowls Club	11 Parsonage Pl, Sorell	Bowls	
Kellevie Mountain Bike Park	Access via 509 Kellevie Rd, Kellevie	Mountain Biking	Privately owned with limited access
Murraville Golf Course	25 Florence St, Dunalley	Golf	Privately owned
Pittwater Golf Club	Penna Rd, Midway Point	Golf	
Blue Hills Shooters Club	Blue Hills Rd, Copping	Shooting	
Dodges Ferry Skateboard Park	510 Old Forcett Rd, Dodges Ferry	Skating/scootering	
Dunalley Skatepark	Church St E, Dunalley	Skating/scootering	
Dunalley Tennis Courts	25 Florence St, Dunalley	Tennis courts	
Midway Point Courts	31 Hoffman Street, Midway Point	Tennis and basketball courts	
Midway Point Hall	32 Hoffman Street, Midway Point	Dancing	
Pioneer Park Tennis Courts	14 Parsonage Place, Sorell	Tennis courts	Managed and maintained by Sorell Tennis Club
Dodges Ferry Recreation Ground	538 Old Forcett Rd, Dodges Ferry	Football and cricket (incl. cricket nets)	
Dodges Ferry Recreation Centre	538 Old Forcett Rd, Dodges Ferry	Indoor basketball, volleyball and indoor bowls.	
Flippers Swim Centre	99 Lewisham Scenic Dr, Lewisham	Swimming	
Primrose Sands Community Hall	570 Primrose Sands Rd, Primrose Sands TAS 7173	Indoor basketball court, skating, bike/pump track, 1/3 court basketball hoop	
Copping Hall	69 Allanby St, Copping TAS 7174	Football and cricket	Oval is not maintained by Council
Sorell Memorial Hall	44 Cole Street, Sorell	Dancing, karate	
<i>Available local sports and recreation facilities within 30 minutes of Sorell</i>			
Cambridge Memorial Oval	1000 Cambridge Rd, Cambridge	Soccer field, football oval, cricket ground and cricket nets	There are proposed upgrades to this venue, see below.

Geilston Bay Ovals	18 Debonmords Ln, Geilston Bay	2 AFL ovals and cricket grounds	There are proposed upgrades to this venue, see below.
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Table 3: List of proposed new sports and recreation facilities (excluding those within the South East Sports Complex)

Facility Name	Location	Facilities	Comments
<i>Proposed regional sports and recreation facilities outside the immediate Sorell region</i>			
Bayview Secondary College Sports Precinct	Clarence	Proposed facilities in concept plan: 4 outdoor netball/tennis courts, 4 indoor multi-sport courts (including basketball), two AFL and cricket grounds (acknowledged urgent need of turf wicket for cricket), and a junior soccer pitch	High participation multi-sport facility, in progress. The plan was targeted for adoption in 2024. The SERDA infrastructure strategy notes the need to “coordinate objectives and plans of Sorell and Clarence in relation to this and South East Sports Complex proposals.
Cambridge Memorial Oval	Cambridge	Additional facilities proposed include: new soccer/football field, off lead dog park and walking trail/circuit.	Proposed upgrades to Cambridge Memorial Oval. The project is currently awaiting further input from DECYP.
Geilston Bay Sport Precinct Master Plan	Geilston Bay		Regional sports facility upgrade is planned for the Geilston Bay Recreation Area. The Master Plan is currently on hold but targeted to commence in 2025. The SERDA infrastructure strategy notes the need to “coordinate objectives and plans of Sorell and Clarence in relation to this and South East Sports Complex proposals.
Wentworth Park Master Plan	Howrah	Potential redevelopment of Wentworth Park for soccer.	This plan commenced in 2023 and is currently on hold.
<i>Proposed investment State infrastructure relevant to the South and SERDA region</i>			
Brighton Gymnastics Facility	Brighton	Designated gymnastics centre	
Glenorchy Four Court Multi-Sports Centre	Glenorchy	basketball, netball, volleyball, and futsal	
Seven Mile Beach Cricket Tasmania Home	Seven Mile Beach	Cricket – 3 ovals one of which will be a turf wicket and open to community use.	Cricket Tasmania has plans to develop a home for Cricket at Seven Mile Beach. These plans are not yet funded.

2.3 BROADER SPORT AND RECREATION TRENDS

The ways by which leisure, sport and recreation opportunities have been provided has changed quite substantially over recent years. These trends are important to consider given the significant investment in community sport and recreation infrastructure (both indoor and outdoor). Emerging trends include the following, many of which have remained since development of the 2015 Pembroke Park Master Plan:

megatrends that are likely to impact sport, recreation and leisure in coming years;

participation levels;

building and site designs;

the siting of facilities;

the development of a strong relationship between indoor and outdoor areas; and

programming.

These trends also reflect the changing aspirations of the community with regard to its engagement in sporting and recreation activities. A brief summary of these trends is presented in the following sub-sections.

MEGATRENDS

The CSIRO published a key report in 2013¹, which sought to assess a set of critical “megatrends” which could be expected to impact on sport and recreation in Australia over coming years. The following main conclusions were reached:

The commitment to regular, organised sport will fall in comparative terms as more people pursue single-person and small group fitness activities. This will mean that funding for facilities for these activities will need to increase, perhaps at the expense of traditional sports;

¹ CSIRO Futures, 2013: The Future of Australian Sport. Megatrends shaping the sports sector over coming decades, Australian Government, Australian Sports Commission

greater efforts will need to be put into both understanding and responding to the link between sport and recreation and mental and physical health, crime prevention, social development, and international cooperation. This may mean that some activities will be found to warrant greater funding while others are given less funding than in the past;

sport and recreation providers will need to respond to the changing age and cultural make-up of the community if they are to attract continuing support; and

corporate funding and salary differentials between sports will disadvantage “loosely organised sports associations” and activities, which do not need or have structured organisations. It is thus likely that local and state governments will need to strengthen their support for these activities if the growing diversity and quality of opportunities sought by the community is to be achieved.

PARTICIPATION LEVELS

Ausplay^{2,3} data showing trends in sports participation from 2015 to 2023 provides an indication of the most popular sporting and recreation activities undertaken in Tasmania. It found that,

the most popular sports activities amongst adults (in order) were walking (recreational) (44.4%), fitness/gym (35.8%), running/athletics (17.0%), swimming (16.2%), cycling (12.6%), bushwalking (7.5%), yoga (5.8%), football/soccer (5.6%), golf (5.2%), and tennis (4.9%); and

amongst children, the most popular activities (in order) were swimming (29.5%), football/soccer (17.4%), gymnastics (11.4%), running/athletics (9.9%), basketball (8.6%), dancing (recreational) (8.5%), Australian football (7.8%), Netball (5.1%), Cricket (5.0%), and Hockey (4.0%).

Further insights from AusPlay data are discussed in more detail in the following subsection.

² Clearinghouse for Sport 2025, AusPlay Participation Trends 2015–2023, <https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/research/ausplay/results-2015-2023>, accessed 03 Jun 2025

³ A new baseline has been established for Ausplay data collection from 2023 onwards. This information cannot be directly compared with data from 2015 to 2023. For this reason, only data was 2015 to 2023 have been used here.

Ausplay data and findings from the Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey 2010 provides an indication of trends over the past two decades in Australia. This data shows participation in non-sport related physical activities has increased significantly in the last 20 years, this trend has continued in recent years. The shift towards unstructured, or un-organised physical activities is likely, due in part, to the time and financial pressures that the community face.

Many people now pursue sport and recreational activities specifically because they are aware of the significant personal (psychological/mental health) and community (social) health benefits that involvement provides rather than for the enjoyment of the selected activities *per se*. This is occurring across a wide range of age groups with people taking up or recommencing activities that offer body strengthening, enhanced aerobic capacity, weight loss and a general improvement in their health. Much of the activity is non-competitive engagement but some sports are also gaining participation numbers as a consequence. It has also meant that some activities that previously had low participation rates may find growing interest.

Significantly, the pursuit of health outcomes has generated another linked trend, that being participation in active recreation pursuits across nearly all age groups with some of the greatest growth occurring in the 50s, 60s and 70s age groups as older, healthier people remain active.

AusPlay participation trends and estimates

Data collected by Ausplay between 2015 and 2023 in Tasmania provides an estimation of the level of use of sports and recreation facilities and venues, or the frequency of participation:

80% of the adult (15+ years) population and 47% of children (<15 years) participates in sports and recreation activities at least once per week;

55% of adults participate through an organisation or venue; and

22% of adults and 64% of children participate through a sports club or association; national trends indicate that there has been a 1% increase in the number of adults participating through sports club/association.

AusPlay undertakes annual surveys in sports and recreation participation. The sample size for these surveys for Tasmania and state LGA's have been generally small and with high relative margin of error.

The available and most up to date estimates of participation numbers for each sport in Tasmania is currently too irregular across available years (2016 to 2024) to generate reliable estimates of future participation projections based on annual growth rates.

Below graphs provide an indication of the number of participants for each identified sport in Sorell and the SERDA region based on population forecasts to 2045⁴. Calculations are based on the assumption that annual growth in participation remains constant over the projected period. As such, the graphs are an indication of growth in participation based on growth in population and the latest available state participation rates⁵ alone and does not take into account growth trends in a given sporting activity.

The graphs are a highly conservative indication of participation estimates and should be considered as subsidiary to information obtained through consultation with local stakeholders and state sports governing bodies.

These findings indicate that given should participation rates remain the same over the next two decades, population forecasts for the region (medium growth projection estimate), there would still be an increase in the number of expected participation. These numbers are expected to be higher, however, given external growth factors such as proposed subdivisions in the Sorell area and the SERDA region.

⁴ Department of State Growth (2025), Tasmanian Population Projections, <https://www.population.tas.gov.au/projections>, accessed 09.06.2025.

⁵ Ausplay (2025), 'Participation by Activity – Calendar year 2024', https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/research/ausplay/results#data_portal, accessed 05.06.2025

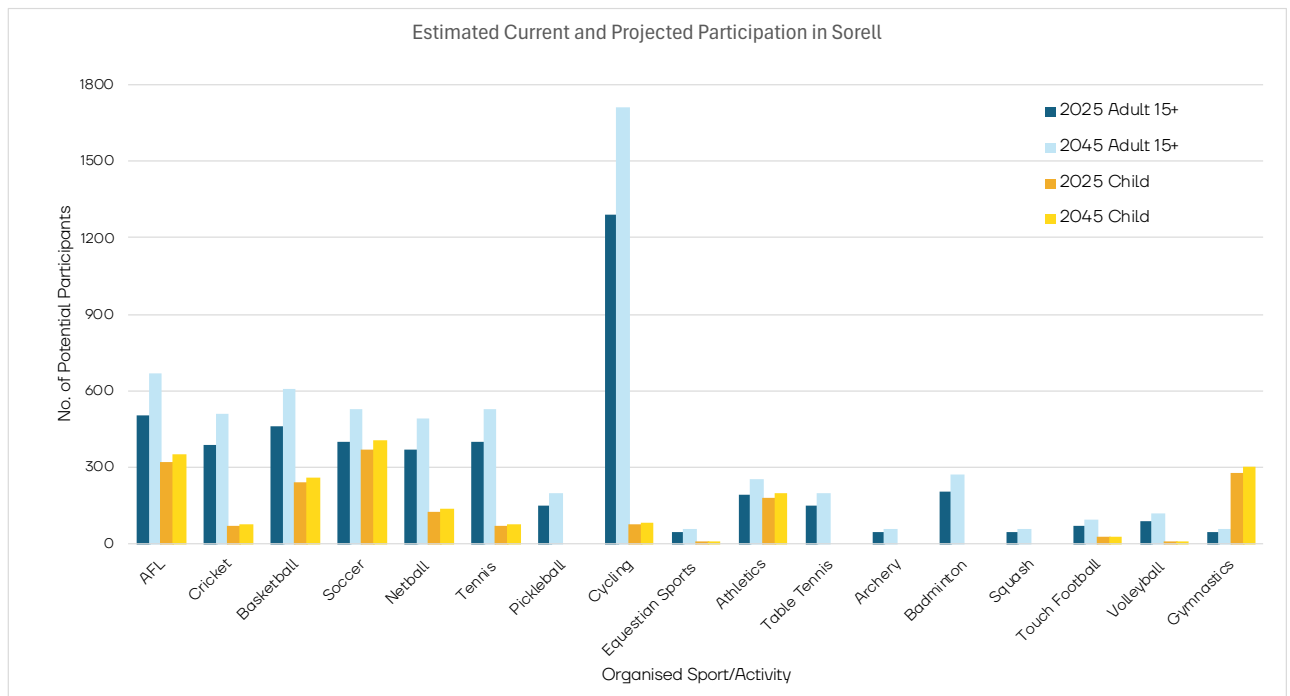


Figure 1 Estimated current participation estimates for Sorell based on state participation (Source: AusPlay), and projected participation in Sorell based on population forecasts for 2045 (Source: DSG, Tasmania).

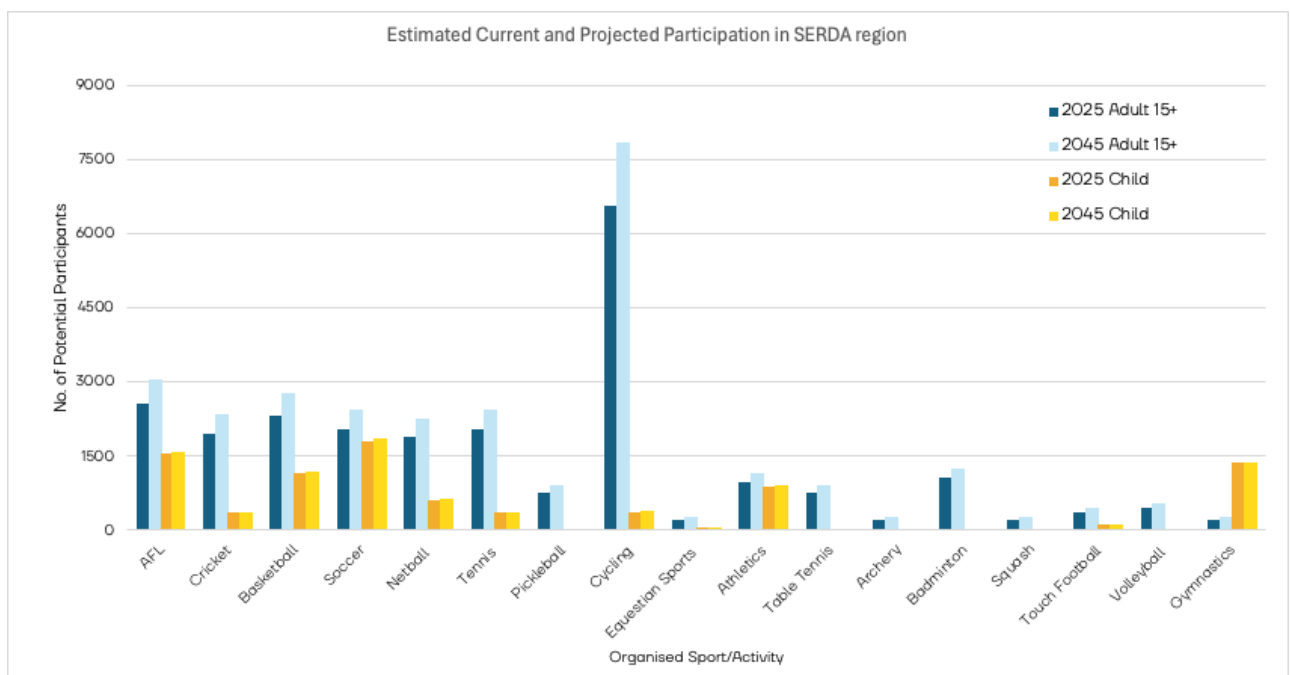


Figure 2 Estimated current participation estimates for SERDA based on state participation (Source: AusPlay), and projected participation in SERDA in 2045 based on population forecasts for 2045 (Source: DSG, Tasmania)

BUILDING DESIGN AND SITING TRENDS

Sound structure and design

Building design and presentation of sporting venues have greatly improved over recent years. Building quality is rising dramatically through good design. This is in response to building and health regulations, workplace safety standards, competition, wider user experiences, and expectations regarding the standards of local provision. Building design trends are also responding to the need to cater to the mix of different genders in sport and separation of facilities for umpires/referees.

The initial investment is designed to reduce costs and litigation while enhancing the user experience and attracting higher use levels. The cost of retrofitting facilities can be more expensive than new, which needs to be considered in how to change facilities to cater to female athletes.

A changing climate

Climate change is driving resilience thinking in terms of building design and development. Australia's climate has warmed by ~1°C in the last century with effects that include, increasing risk from bushfire, increasing frequency of storm, rainfall and extreme heat events, as well as changes to the physical environment such as changes to shoreline position due to sea level rise and increased coastal erosion. To address these events, current and future planning for the built environment need consider the capacity of infrastructure to adapt to changing conditions. This includes:

- Minimising new developments to help protect natural values, assessing the suitability of a location for any future infrastructure, achieving low maintenance outcomes and having the capacity to protect, or repair damage; and

- Recognising the potential for a coordinated, long-term response to climate-related hazards and risks, including options for adaptation and managing retreat pathways. Hazards and risks include but are not limited to, coastal inundation and sea level rise, wider and potentially more extreme temperature changes, and risks from higher rainfall and storm levels.

Consolidation and shared use

Clubrooms and other sports venues are no longer treated as stand-alone buildings, but increasingly sited with schools, public transport, outdoor recreation venues, shopping centres and libraries. Consolidation of sport and recreation opportunities entails the development of a few multi-user venues rather than many stand-alone facilities.

Many sporting facilities have evolved over a long period of time in response to the individual needs of individual groups. It often takes time and significant resources to transition towards using fewer, better resourced infrastructure. The challenge being faced all around Australia is managing facilities designed in the past to meet the needs of the present and future.

The consolidation of provision and sharing of use allows the freeing up of land for other purposes; savings through the sharing of enhanced infrastructure; clubs to focus on their activities and programs rather than on buildings; reduced maintenance costs by having fewer venues; the possibility of professional management; and infrastructure that better supports regional events and programs. Further, it facilitates building strategic networks linking infrastructure, key sites and outdoor spaces, streets to increase efficiency and enhance economic growth and community development through improved connection and socioeconomic cohesion.

Policy and planning approaches

Current and continuing trend in policy and planning across Australian states has been towards integrated and multi-use facilities. This is driven by the need to provide for a wide range of community needs and interest while achieving long-term sustainability, financial viability. As a result, Councils generally seek to:

- co-locating community infrastructure and integrating and sharing provision across government, community and the private sectors;

- upgrading facilities to accommodate evolving needs, ensure flexibility for various uses, and allow for future adaptability;

- providing multi-use, linked open space networks; and

- designing sports facilities and building capacity to meet current and future needs, and be flexible/adaptable to unexpected change.

PROGRAMMING AND USE TRENDS

There is increasingly tight management control over programming and program timetabling in order to optimise venue use and to offer a diverse array of activities to a wider cross-section of the community.

Professional programmers have replaced volunteers at many larger venues in response to user expectations, risk and insurance issues, and competition. In many Council across Australia, professional managers and programmers are now employed to run libraries, indoor leisure and sports centres, pools, museums and galleries. Good managers and programmers know how to engage people, how to identify and meet community and member needs and how to evaluate and improve on what they have offered previously.

One of the strengths of programming is that it does not have to be regular. Rather, programs might be run on anything from a one-off, daily, weekly, monthly, half yearly, annual, holidays/seasonal or even less frequent basis. Many Councils, which do not have the financial capacity or space to build new facilities, have put a growing emphasis on targeted programming and have won national awards for their efforts.

Venues are staying open in urban areas for increasingly longer hours to accommodate demand levels, to ensure accessibility for shift workers, part time workers and families of mixed make-up and to counter commercial 24/7 operators.

Program diversification entails providing new and different activities that encourage participation. It includes:

- provision of new opportunities to target residents who are not actively involved in existing groups and clubs e.g. youth at risk, people with disabilities, new residents, aged and lone household members of the community, members of cultural minorities;

- provision of programs that deliver benefits that cannot be achieved through existing pursuits; and

- existing clubs working together to offer a mixed program of activities over say one or two weekends annually.

2.4 COMMUNITY PROFILE

Sorell is projected to experience the second fastest growth rate in Tasmania. The local government area had an estimated population of 16, 743 persons in 2021⁶. This population is forecast (on a medium growth projection) to increase to 22, 951 by 2045 from natural change and net total migration (people arriving and leaving the local government area)⁷. This represents an average yearly increase in population of approximately 1.58%.

Planned subdivisions in the municipal area, including a subdivision of over 2900 lots (1000 current approved residential lots) that was recently announced suggests rapid increase in population in the short-term. Notably, Sorell township and the Sorell region is identified in the Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy as a Greenfield Development Precinct for residential growth over a 20 to 25 year forecast period.

The current median age is 42 years, this is projected to increase to approximately 49 years in 2045. At present, approximately 20.8% of the population comprises of those below the age of 18. 20.1% comprise of 18 to 34 year olds, 39.3% are between 35 to 65 years, and 20% are over the age of 65.

The age classes of 35 to 49 years (18.2%) and 50 to 64 years (21.1%) make up the largest age cohorts. This is expected to change in the next few years with a considerable increase in young families in the region as a result of interstate and intrastate migration.

52.7% of the population work full-time, 35.1% work part-time. 53.3% reported no long-term health conditions, of those who did report health conditions, the most common conditions were arthritis (13.1%), mental health conditions (e.g. depression, anxiety) (12.1%), and asthma (9.3%).

The growing population and shifting demographic trends indicate that participation in physical and social activities is expected to keep rising, especially among younger age groups. Furthermore, as the current population ages, it's important to consider the range of sports and open space activities available for older adults.

⁶ ABS 2021, Sorell 2021 Census All persons QuickStats, <https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA64810>, Accessed 06.03.2025

⁷ Tasmanian Government 2025, Tasmania's Population Data Dashboard, <https://www.population.tas.gov.au/dashboard>, Accessed 17.03.2025

Diversity in community character is likely to grow as the region's population increases and transitions. To promote inclusivity and accessibility, consideration should also be given to potential non-sporting users or community groups who enjoy engaging in sports casually/socially, and to the different barriers to participation for potential user groups including time and financial constraints.

3 STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

3.1 KEY FINDINGS FROM STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

ACTIVE TASMANIA

Active Tasmania is a leading agency in the development and management of sports and recreation infrastructure in Tasmania. Active Tasmania was engaged via email correspondence and through online meetings between March and May 2025 to gain a statewide perspective and inform an understanding of ongoing and future projects.

The Tasmanian Government is developing a strategy, *Active 2030 Strategy*, for sport and active recreation. Once developed the strategy will provide strategic direction to guide the focus of Tasmanian Government investments in sport and active recreation in the state. One key objective outlined in the *Tasmanian Sport and Active Recreation Strategy Discussion Paper 2021*⁸ is to increase participation in sport and active recreation. This objective would be supported by a number of focus areas including,

- enabling increased participation for all;
- supporting pathways to high performance;
- providing access to infrastructure, facilities and spaces; and,
- building stronger organisations.

Active Tasmania also noted the Tasmanian Government's 20-year *Preventative Health Strategy (2026-2046)*. The strategy aims to transform Tasmania's health outcomes by supporting healthy and active living across the state. On sports and active recreation, Focus Area 3 of the discussion paper⁹ outlines the importance of

8 Department of Communities Tasmania 2021, *Tasmanian Sport and Active Recreation Strategy: Discussion Paper*

9 Department of Health Tasmania 2024, *Health, Active Tasmania, 20-year preventative health strategy 2026 – 2046*, https://www.health.tas.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-11/discussion_paper_-_20-year_preventive_health_strategy_O.pdf, accessed 19 March 2025

accessible and inclusive physical infrastructure, public spaces, footpaths, cycle ways, activity centres, open green spaces, playgrounds and sporting facilities to improving mental and physical health.

In regard to strategic planning to effectively meet current and future needs, Active Tasmania emphasised their support for networking and sharing of ideas between Council through Local Government Networking Meetings. These are currently ongoing in the Northern region of Tasmania, and being developed in the South and North West regions. On improving collaboration between municipal areas, the Greater Hobart Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Strategy, which is in the early stages of development, was noted. The Strategy is a partnership between six Greater Hobart councils (Hobart, Clarence, Glenorchy, Kingborough, Sorell and Brighton) and the Tasmanian Government (represented through Active Tasmania) and intends to 'Deliver a holistic strategy that transcends council boundaries to identify, prioritise and guide the development of sport and recreation facilities across the Greater Hobart region'.

The strategy will provide specific future infrastructure recommendations in order of best opportunities and/or highest priorities to guide Council work through to 2045.

The scope and purpose of this strategy identifies the following common challenges:

- a general need for modern, fit-for-purpose sporting facilities;
- inadequate facilities to support growing participation including the growth of women and girls sport;
- seasonal congestion across sporting codes;
- inefficient duplication of facilities; and
- disjointed priorities and advocacy due to lack of an overarching infrastructure strategy.

Active Tasmania is also developing a Tasmanian Community Sport Facilities Portal as a public planning tool. The information portal will include an audit of all community sports facilities in Tasmania towards a central database that shows the location, level and condition of facilities. This information will be overlaid with population forecasts (median range, and at 5-year increments) to assist with planning and to ensure that investment decisions are meeting current and future needs.

The Portal is close to delivery and in its current version consolidates information on, primarily, Council-owned sports and recreation facilities across the state. Active Tasmania intends to expand the Portal to include

- school/education infrastructure
- standardised sport participation data; and
- information on planned future developments.

There may be opportunity to review the Master Plan in the near-term once this information is made available.

Additionally of note are two state funded facilities that are in progress and of relevance to the south and south eastern region, these are the Brighton Gymnastics Facility and the Glenorchy Four Courts Multi-Sports Centre.

ENGAGEMENT WITH SPORTS GOVERNING BODIES

Online meetings and over-the-phone conversations were held with sporting bodies¹⁰ in March and April 2025. Further follow-up consultations were undertaken in May 2025 with Major sporting bodies to clarify if any changes to strategic directions have taken place since the Australia Federal Elections 2025.

Engagement focused on current participation trends in Sorell and regionally, the role of the South East Sports Complex in current and future plans and strategies, gaps in infrastructure and facilities requirements, and future priorities for growth.

Conversations were held both with governing bodies of sports currently represented at the SE Complex, and with several other sports bodies suggested by Sorell Council as potential future at the Complex. Sporting bodies of the major represented sports (Soccer, Netball, Basketball, Cricket, AFL, Auscycling, Athletics and Pickleball) and Tennis Tasmania were closely engaged with their respective Clubs and had previously been in touch with the Clubs about the Master Plan update. The governing bodies spoke highly of their respective clubs and emphasised their support for club goals and their future priorities. The future plans and associated needs / demands noted by governing bodies are based on their close relationship with the clubs and the wider strategic focus and policies / requirements of the respective governing bodies.

Key points from conversations with each governing body are summarised in Table 4. Some identified needs that were discussed during consultations in March and April

¹⁰ Sporting bodies contacted but not met with: Archery Society of Tasmania,

2025 have been addressed since the initial drafting of this document. These are indicated where relevant in the table.

The main findings for sports that are currently a part of the South East Sports Complex, were that:

there is a general increase in participation and membership, particularly amongst mainstream sports and active recreation in the south and south east regions;

the Complex is critical to connecting rural regions such as nearby Richmond, and as far out as Triabunna, Swansea, and the Tasman Peninsula; and

all representative governing bodies spoke highly of the current facilities, noting that Council had done an exceptional job in providing high quality facilities. While the current facilities are satisfactory, upgrades are necessary to meet future demand and to support pathways to higher level competition. Particularly given the present and growing success of Clubs. Upgrades include meeting facilities requirements for competing/training at a higher level and improving provision of amenities.

Table 4 summary of conversations with governing bodies for supports for Tasmania. Note that information on trends is generalised based on the discussions had with governing bodies; all figures and statistics noted in the table are based on the information sent by governing bodies or sourced from latest strategic documents and policy reports.

Governing Body	State Participation Trend	Projected growth	Strategic focus	Value of South East Sports Complex	Facilities requirements and near-term priorities / Opportunities	Benefit to SERDA region and Sorell
<i>Sports currently represented at the Complex</i>						
AFL Tasmania	- Increasing trend in growth 708 participants in Sorell region in 2024 (45% increase since 2019) - Huge growth Auskick (149% since 2019) - Growing female participation	Continued growth expected	- AFL Tasmania strategy is a regional model. In the Southern region, biggest challenge is improving quality of in-field and off-field infrastructure which is important to support the flexibility and carrying capacity of venues - Junior development – particularly Auskick; - Improving accessibility/inclusivity - Improving community facility provision (new guidelines published) - Pembroke Park is a regional venue where community level football is played ('second division'). There are no plans at	- Central Hobart is in a facilities pinch, participation is set to distribute to surrounding areas - Sorell is a central hub and Complex very well placed to meet demand - Two ovals support growth of the sport in the region and beyond	- Current facilities (particularly supporting infrastructure and amenities) are not adequate to support current and forecast growth. priority is increasing capacity of existing venue through both core and supporting amenity provision. - Ground surface concerns – past issues with drainage - Improved lighting to ovals (lighting to Senior oval has been upgraded by Council in April 2025) - Upgraded/expanded pavilion/seating with shelter – there is a major lack of seating	- Sporting competitions and events bring large crowds, interest and engagement. - Better accommodated facilities (including lighting and ground condition) could help run more programs, particularly junior programs

Governing Body	State Participation Trend	Projected growth	Strategic focus	Value of South East Sports Complex	Facilities requirements and near-term priorities / Opportunities	Benefit to SERDA region and Sorell
			present to promote to a higher level but there may be future interest. Financial support is available (Facilities Fund) for facilities upgrades that are geared at increasing participation outcomes. Such as, lighting upgrades, providing gender neutral changerooms, ground surface improvement		and accessibility for spectators. Games have consistently (anecdotally) brought in 1000+ spectators in the past year. - Access to external public toilets - Netting (Currently underway by Council following 2024 State Election) - Upgrades to clubhouse – requires expansion to support the membership footprint	
Cricket Tasmania	Increasing trend in growth	Major increase expected	- Increasing participation and membership particular focus on expanding junior participation - Pathways program – ‘developing winning elite teams’ by enhancing playing opportunities for high potential players and supporting development and wellbeing of players - Improving facilities and infrastructure across the State	- Complex plays a key role in creating opportunity for the entire south east region. - In particular, having two grounds is a major asset. - The Complex is very well-placed to play a more central role in developing pathways for premier cricket in Tasmania - Is an important venue for regional competition and events	- There is major need for more turf wicket in Tasmania and the South East Complex is ideally placed and equipped. - Cricket Tasmania included an Under 10 team from Sorell in the Premier League, if this arrangement is to continue in the longer-term, Sorell will need a turf ground - The second oval could be expanded and	- The Sorell Cricket Club has been very successful and is continuing to grow. The club has major community support as demonstrated by large crowds during events. - Turf wicket would greatly increase pathways to premier cricket in Southern Tasmania.

Governing Body	State Participation Trend	Projected growth	Strategic focus	Value of South East Sports Complex	Facilities requirements and near-term priorities / Opportunities	Benefit to SERDA region and Sorell
				and has the capacity for larger statewide events.	converted to a turf wicket. • Additional turf nets for training. • Dodges Ferry ground could be upgraded (including female changing rooms/toilets, and synthetic nets for training) to replace existing use of the second oval.	
Basketball Tasmania	• Increasing - participation rates in the south (including Sorell) • Lower comparative rates in the South to gaps in court provision • The Greater Hobart region (including Sorell Council area) had 3,685 registered club players in 2024.	Continued growth expected - SEBA has had great success, while no senior team is currently established, one will form soon and the Club will require a venue and facilities that can accommodate both a junior and senior team.	• State facilities strategy: roadmap to address issues related to lack of dedicated and accessible infrastructure for basketball. This is imperative to sustain ongoing major growth in participation. • The Greater-Hobart region (which includes Sorell Council area) has the greatest provision gap – current supply only meets 42% of demand. Facilities deficit is expected to worsen in the next decade with continuing growth in participation.	• South East Stadium is the best facility in the southern Tasmanian region. • Has a very wide catchment, bringing in players from as far as Oatlands and Triabunna. • Is an important venue for major state-wide programs and events including the Grand Finals. • Would be a key venue for state-wide and higher level competitions if four courts are available.	• A further two courts to facilitate state-wide competition and address major shortfall in courts provision in the South. • Four court facility is required at Sorell to play home and away games. Currently these are played every weekend at Kingsborough, but, being the only venue available with required capacity which means that bookings are not guaranteed and games are spread out or cannot be played. A four court facility in	• South East Basketball Association has had major success and has greatly increased sport participation and membership. • Programs such as SheHoops brings in interest and engagement from across the state.

Governing Body	State Participation Trend	Projected growth	Strategic focus	Value of South East Sports Complex	Facilities requirements and near-term priorities / Opportunities	Benefit to SERDA region and Sorell
			Southern Tas region is 16 courts short. Basketball Tasmania is seeking 2 additional courts from Sorell to fill this gap. Remaining gap to be filled from other areas, including 4 courts from Clarence.		Sorell would secure games Improvements to amenities provision including increased stadium seating where possible to facilitate larger crowds, designated or more accessible clubroom/kiosk (current clubroom/kiosk) has not had sufficient availability).	
Football Federation Tasmania	Increasing participation in the Southern region as informed by clubs and programs in the region.	Continued growth – particularly in junior development	- Increasing local competitions and pathways to junior and youth competition - Grow participation and engagement, including options to retain players and developing resources for clubs to transition players from junior to youth programs. - At present, there is a severe facilities gap which has been exacerbated – particularly in the focus area of female	- SE Sports Complex is a popular football venue has strategic importance at a regional level. - South of the State is severely lacking in infrastructure, SE Complex is of strategic importance due to this. - There is major capacity for the South East United Football Club to develop pathways through to seniors and the opportunity to play at the National Premier League. Which makes	- National Premier League license requires specific infrastructure upgrades including a dedicated training area. - Football Federation Tasmania has included a request amounting to \$1.7m for a second pitch, perimeter fencing (this has recently being completed by Council) and lighting upgrades at the SE Sports Complex. - Main (grass) pitch is at capacity and struggles to facilitate all current	- Popular venue with ongoing and anticipated growth and long-standing history. - Opportunity for club to play at the highest level of competition. - South East United has won the Statewide Cup semi final (May 2025) despite playing in a division below their NPL's Tasmania opponent and will progress to the Statewide Cup final in June 2025.

Governing Body	State Participation Trend	Projected growth	Strategic focus	Value of South East Sports Complex	Facilities requirements and near-term priorities / Opportunities	Benefit to SERDA region and Sorell
			participation. Improving the quality and provision of facilities including developing plans to secure state, federal and local government funding. - Facilities strategy underpinned by local facilities renewal and ongoing upgrades when opportunities and funding is available. Particular focus is given to space utilisation and smart investment to maximise utilisation – such as providing gender appropriate amenities, lighting upgrades and hybrid and synthetic pitch surface technology - Key success measures include increasing investment into football facilities in collaboration with clubs and Government, and increasing football participation by 4% per annum to 47,000.	facilities upgrades critical to their success A future Home of Football in the South is intended for Clarence. This will cater for all levels of football. In Sorell, a second pitch which is synthetic is an investment in infrastructure given the growing community. This pitch will provide space for youth programs (run multiple times a week) and act as a training pitch for senior teams, so that the grass pitch is suitable for match day, this is a criteria for joining the NPL>	teams – infrastructure needs to accommodate current growth. A quarter of current club membership is female – appropriate amenities to support a female team and sustain, grow participation needs to be considered.	

Governing Body	State Participation Trend	Projected growth	Strategic focus	Value of South East Sports Complex	Facilities requirements and near-term priorities / Opportunities	Benefit to SERDA region and Sorell
Pickleball Tasmania	• Rapid increase in participation across the state including south and south east regions. • Membership with governing body has grown from 66 members in 2021 to 534 in 2024.	Major growth expected	• Growth in participation and membership of sport and encouraging competition by supporting development of clubs and facilities/equipment for play. • Particular focus in growing junior/youth participation through school programs and providing training for PE teachers.	• Indoor stadium is very well placed to cater to the south eastern region, with great facilities. • Since the local South East Pickleball Club's inception in July 2024, participation has grown from 20 players to averaging approximately 100 to 150 players a month. • Pickleball lacks an accessible venue in Tasmania to run major tournaments which bring in competitors from within and outside Australia.	• Permanent lines for play is important – a considerable portion of the club's costs go towards lining and relining.	• Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in Australia. The most recent tournament brought in more than 300 international, interstate and local players. • Social sport that is open to all abilities and ages to play together. • In the past year has made a contribution of \$158k to communities and \$420k estimated health outcomes.
Auscycling	• Biking/cycling consistently growing as an organised sport and recreational activity. • Mountain Biking has seen exponential growth (130%) in Tasmania • In 2022, more than 750 (adults	Continued growth	• Improving inclusivity and diversity in participation and membership • Developing higher competition level performance pathways	• BMX facility at the Complex is a major asset at a regional and state level. • State series are held at South East Complex. • Inclusion of facility has contributed to increased participation and growth in the Southern region. • Ideally placed to support further growth.	• Structural upgrades required to support higher level competition and participation. This includes bitumen surfacing of track to meet national level hosting requirements. • Other requirements are: bitumen pathways from carparks and complex entrance;	• Sports complex is centrally placed and ideal to host national level competitions with international interest. • Cycling is a major sport in Australia that has been on a major growth trajectory including as an Olympic sport.

Governing Body	State Participation Trend	Projected growth	Strategic focus	Value of South East Sports Complex	Facilities requirements and near-term priorities / Opportunities	Benefit to SERDA region and Sorell
	15+ years) active participants reported in the Sorell region.				upgrades to storage and scoring; elevated grandstands to improve viewing; waterpoint and irrigation system to maintain grounds; finish ground upgrade with signage. • Access to a kiosk in proximity to track was noted as being beneficial • Opportunity to include a 'skills park' close to BMX facility as a recreational learning space.	
Equestrian Tasmania	• Slow growth, has remained consistent even through COVID • Approximately 850 members across Tasmania. Numbers are evenly split between the north and south.	Expected growth	• Strong focus on membership growth and further development of sport • Aims to achieve the above through education and development pathways including training for coaches and officials; and, facilitating provision of facilities. • Focus on promoting competition opportunities including through interschool	• The horse-riding arena at the South East complex has importance as an introduction to higher level competition. • The facilities provide opportunity for participation across the Sorell and south east region.	• Upgrades to facilities are required to sustain growth seen in the past few years including a watering/irrigation system for grounds, screens and fencing to protect from other activities in the vicinity of the arena, support with mowing and maintenance, support with amenities. • Support with providing quality coaching more consistently to provide	• An important sport with specific health and recreational benefits, and has traditionally been a significant Olympic sport. • Being one of the few accessible facilities across Tasmania, with additional support from government, the horse-riding arena provides opportunity for many across the state to engage in the equine sports.

Governing Body	State Participation Trend	Projected growth	Strategic focus	Value of South East Sports Complex	Facilities requirements and near-term priorities / Opportunities	Benefit to SERDA region and Sorell
			programs across the state.		pathways to competition.	
Athletics Tasmania	Increasing	Expected growth	- Working towards and statewide facilities plan to upgrade available facilities (particularly Domain Centre) and improve membership retention - Participation relatively strong but issues with retention – the Body aims to address this through an organisational restructure and facilities plan.	- South East Complex is a crucial and critical for athletics in the south east region - Services athletes as far as Swansea and Triabunna	- Future proofing of facilities ensuring that surface is fit-for-purpose and upgrading to meet facilities requirements for risk mitigation where possible. - Many schools in the region can host Athletics Carnivals, ensuring that the space is fit-for-purpose as above and in terms of amenities will mitigate risks. - Future planning should consider upgrading to synthetic / rubberised surfaces to minimize maintenance costs and avoid risk to participants.	Supports athletics participation by schools across the south east region
Netball Tasmania	Increasing participation, particular growth seen in NetSetGo and in school programs.	Expected growth	Focus on growing participation and membership in the sport through increasing programs (NetSetGo and school programs), and strategic statewide	- Since its opening, the South East Stadium has been a very important part of Netball, especially in the South - Complex facilities are very high quality and	2 indoor courts are not adequate to host competitions – 4 courts are the ideal, particularly given the size of the Sorell community. Additional courts will allow for	- Home court of the South East Suns who play in the Netball League. - Sorell has strong participation and the Netball team has

Governing Body	State Participation Trend	Projected growth	Strategic focus	Value of South East Sports Complex	Facilities requirements and near-term priorities / Opportunities	Benefit to SERDA region and Sorell
			facilities development and utilisation. Netball Tasmania views the South East Sports Complex as having a great footprint for expansion where new courts might be more feasible compared to proposed upgrades in New Town and Clarence (bayview).	fit-for-purpose. This is the primary consideration for venue selection – Netball will move to where the best facilities are. Addition of 2 more courts would move competitions from Hobart to Sorell. - Netball Tasmania has been and will continue to push more state development programs to the stadium. - Clarence municipality do not have appropriate courts and the New Town facility is out of date and do not meet requirements to host state-level competitions. Increasingly, Sorell is becoming the key facility provider in the eastern shore. It is ideally located and provides high quality and appropriate facilities for player.	more programs to be undertaken and for Sorell to be the primary venue for Tasmanian events. Gym space in the same venue is an important consideration. Increase in available floor space where possible would be greatly beneficial.	grown and is growing with the community. Even outside of state league, the club has done an excellent job in growing the sport. Netball Tasmania is highly supportive of futureproofing this success.
Futsal Tasmania	Increasing participation across state.	Sorell recognised as	Growing sport by providing additional development pathways	Futsal is played at South East Stadium run by Showtime Soccer.	The infrastructure at South East Stadium are very high quality and to	Inclusive and widely played sport. Currently considered one of the

Governing Body	State Participation Trend	Projected growth	Strategic focus	Value of South East Sports Complex	Facilities requirements and near-term priorities / Opportunities	Benefit to SERDA region and Sorell
		a growing area	and programs and improving access to more facilities/infrastructure for futsal where possible. Futsal Tasmania is currently liaising with developers of Glenorchy Sports Centre (development application recently lodged) on the inclusion of futsal infrastructure for full-time rental by Futsal Tasmania.	Games are not organised in affiliation with Futsal Tasmania. - Futsal games at South East Stadium opens the sport to the Sorell region and beyond - Including standard requirements for programs and pathways run by Futsal Tasmania would help the sport to grow in Sorell and surrounds where there is a dearth of facilities.	a great standard. However, Futsal Tasmania requires removable netting to be installed to avoid balls from hitting glass walls of stadium court. This is a major safety risk.	largest school-based tournaments in Tasmania with approx. 260 teams playing. - Inclusion of sport at a competitive level would expand sport and rec opportunities in the SERDA region. - Great social outcomes noted from previous school programmes run at Sorell High School.
<i>Sports currently unrepresented at the Complex</i>						
Tennis Tasmania	Growing participation across state. In Sorell region, there has been stable growth and is considered a prominent growth area – club requires larger facilities to accommodate growth.	Continuing growth expected	- Growing membership and participation base both in social tennis and organised sport - Facility and venue development – one of the key priorities this coming financial year is to develop/update facilities and infrastructure guide which would help identify where opportunities for additional courts,	- Sorell Tennis Club is one of the best performing clubs in Tasmania - Tennis Tasmania is highly supportive of its further development and expansion which could be accommodated by relocating to the Complex - The Sorell region is of strategic priority to Tennis Tasmania.	- The Complex is a key location for future growth - The 4 courts at the existing club are at high occupancy – to accommodate growth a minimum of 6 full sized courts needed (8 ideally) - Blended lines on some courts to support multi-use including Hot Shots (children's progression	- Sorell Tennis Club has a very vibrant social scene with the courts regularly being used for social/casual play and coaching services as well as organised competition. - Dedicated multi-use courts, with guidance from Tennis Tasmania will promote flexible play, community participation and long-term sustainability.

Governing Body	State Participation Trend	Projected growth	Strategic focus	Value of South East Sports Complex	Facilities requirements and near-term priorities / Opportunities	Benefit to SERDA region and Sorell
			facilities and venues. Sorell could very much be one of these locations considering growth, however this will be determined after a strategy is developed. • Strengthening women and girls participation as well as inclusion and diversity in the sport		program), pickleball, and pop tennis.	
Table Tennis Tasmania	• Decreased slightly since last year but on growth trajectory overall • 442 full members recorded in Tasmania and 159 social members in 2024. • 2024 participation by Table Tennis Tasmania affiliates include 862 participants in ongoing	Expected to increase – particularly female participation	• Expanding membership and participation by improving facilities provision • Improving women's participation, children's participation, and all abilities play through more opportunities and programs for play	• Many members travel from south east region to play at Hobart • Including facilities in Sorell would be critical to reaching people in the south east regional area	• Relatively little space requirements (12 tables could be fit into one basketball court to accommodate) • Smaller, casual games could be played in function room	• Social sport and active recreation activity that encourages casual community engagement • Very easy set up for play with limited space requirements.

Governing Body	State Participation Trend	Projected growth	Strategic focus	Value of South East Sports Complex	Facilities requirements and near-term priorities / Opportunities	Benefit to SERDA region and Sorell
	weekly competitions.					
Badminton Tasmania	- Strong increase in participation across Tasmania and the South – there is a shortfall of facilities to accommodate growth. - Around 7500 participating in Tasmania – at least 900 participated in Tennis in the Sorell area in 2021.	Expected to continue growing	- Increasing participation and membership - Improving access to facilities - Increasing gender diversity - Large number of programs (currently, 305) being run including school programs and gala days (approximately 2000 students, 22 schools at the last event).	- South Hobart Stadium is the key venue in the south but these courts are entirely at capacity and there is major need for an additional venue to service this region. - Sorell would be ideal due to central location – many players in the region are already playing in Hobart.	- Interested in opportunities for hosting tournaments and school-based training as well as afterschool training - Indoor stadium has plenty of opportunity for an 8 court set-up that can lend to regional, state and national competition - Courts can also be used for pickleball - Facilities/amenities including canteen can be shared with other clubs - Would require storage – space requirements for net bases are similar to that of netball - Badminton Tasmania is happy to drive participation if facilities provided	- Social and formal sport accessible to a wide range of abilities and ages – in particular it offers a non-threatening and less confrontational play opportunity - Badminton has been growing in popularity across Australia and has notable international popularity - Noted that South Hobart Badminton Centre earns 400k a year from court hire. - Culturally popular – Badminton Tas also run a linguistic program.
Squash Tasmania	Seeing slow growth - particular growth in participation at	Expected to increase	Squash Australia Participation and Facilities Strategy: supporting growth of	No facilities to service the Sorell region, many players are currently using courts in the South (Bellerive,	Courts can be incorporated with basketball, badminton and pickleball courts – required floor	Extremely social sport that is quick to grow when accessible facilities are made available.

Governing Body	State Participation Trend	Projected growth	Strategic focus	Value of South East Sports Complex	Facilities requirements and near-term priorities / Opportunities	Benefit to SERDA region and Sorell
	East Side Squash on account of improved facilities. Membership has grown from 60-70 to 200+ in the past 5 years as east side • 52% of registered players are in the South of Tasmania • 500 registered players in Tasmania		sport through provision of high-quality facilities • Identifying new facilities and improving existing centres and developing supporting tools and resources to assist in planning and funding.	Kingsborough, etc.) which are reaching capacity • Can provide opportunity to reach more people in this region.	dimensions: 6-7m wide, 9-10m long; high durability walls • Games are typically 'after hours', important that players have access to facilities at all hours.	• Multigenerational and all abilities sport. • Squash Australia have provided a letter of support to Squash Tasmania to support any investigation and inclusion of facilities at the South East Sports Complex.
Touch Football Tasmania	• Player numbers peaked in 2019, reduced due to COVID-19, slight reduction in numbers since. • School competition series has seen considerable growth. 64 schools participated in 2024, this is expected to	Expected growth in area over the next 2-5 years	• Grow school-based competition across the state, particularly in the south (short-term priority) • Gala days being hosted to attract new players. • Focusing on providing greater support to the southern region to foster pathways for senior competition growth.	• Potential for Southern Touch Competition to be held at South East Sports Complex • If access to Wentworth Park is lost, Southern Touch Competition will need to be relocated • Gives opportunity to access south-east region	• Permanently marked playing/training fields (x2) • Permanent clubrooms and change facilities • Office and storage space	• Year-round play/use of grounds • Offers both competitive and social participation

Governing Body	State Participation Trend	Projected growth	Strategic focus	Value of South East Sports Complex	Facilities requirements and near-term priorities / Opportunities	Benefit to SERDA region and Sorell
	increase to 100 next year.					
Volleyball Tasmania	- Increasing participation in the southern region - Volleyball in Tasmania is currently in a growth phase, particularly in Junior Development. - Likely to be major growth in interest and participation following up to major volleyball event planned for 2032 Olympics. - Full members in Tasmania have grown from 757 to 884 since 2021.	Expected growth –	- Junior development programs - Increasing participation and membership across the state through engagement with schools and clubs.	- Major shortfall in facilities across the state. Current facilities are almost at capacity and cannot accommodate ongoing growth. - Southern league which is the premier competition in the southern region (including Sorell) is at capacity. - Inclusion of facilities would address needs and open up considerable opportunity to support engagement and interest in the sport across the region both socially and for competition.	Volleyball courts could be set up in the indoor stadium but this would require holes on the floor for nets.	Traditionally inclusive and gender-balanced sport. Offers both social and competitive participation.
Gymnastics Tasmania	Increasing participation across Tasmania – particularly in Under 5's	Continued growth expected including significant growth	- Growth in facilities and infrastructure provision - Improve workforce participation. - Regional strategies to grow gender diversity.	Major need and demand for appropriate, dedicated facilities – including facilities in Sorell would	Some gymnastic sports could be run successfully using a pack-up/set-up model including trampolining, tumbling and mums	Gymnastics has an incredibly diverse age and abilities range – training begins <6 months and continues to 60+

Governing Body	State Participation Trend	Projected growth	Strategic focus	Value of South East Sports Complex	Facilities requirements and near-term priorities / Opportunities	Benefit to SERDA region and Sorell
	More than 6700 club-based participants in 2023 – 18% growth since 2022.	leading up to Brisbane Olympics	Focus on supporting clubs to grow membership and participation.	benefit the entire south east region.	and bubs programs. Dedicated facilities are required to run other programs at a competition level.	There is notable growth in interest in Tasmania, particularly amongst Under 5's as foundational movement skills in younger kids.

3.2 KEY FINDINGS FROM ENGAGEMENT WITH LOCAL SPORTS AND RECREATION ORGANISATIONS

All identified local sports and recreation clubs/groups and other organisations were contacted for input. Consultation activities included a targeted survey and face-to-face or over-the-phone conversations. A total of 6 clubs returned surveys. Face-to-face meetings and over-the-phone conversations¹¹ were had with 13 organisations (including with the clubs who returned surveys). Consultation took place in March and April 2025.

All consulted clubs and groups stated noted their appreciation of the current Complex and the incredible progress that Council has made in developing the venue. Improvements are needed to the operation and management of the Complex that could help improve the useability of the venue and its sharing capacity in a way that benefits all user clubs and the community.

Common issues and challenges raised by these organisations were

- all sports clubs have indicated a growth in membership numbers and expect membership to grow further in the next five years;

- many of the major sports clubs are at capacity with regard to available facilities, this is limiting further growth and in providing pathways for greater competition to members;

- all clubs noted issues with scheduling/booking venues including conflicts with other user groups, sometimes cumbersome booking system, and lack of dedicated staff and support services;

- most clubs noted need for more storage;

- all large user clubs noted the need for improved spectator areas including more accessible public toilets, sheltered seating areas, social (sheltered) areas for BBQs etc; and

¹¹ Note: some clubs responded a list of concerns/needs via email in response. List of local stakeholders were provided by Council. All stakeholders were contacted with a three-contact approach.

having access to a kiosk was noted as critical to club funding, particularly given very high cost of booking grounds. A clubroom/kiosk is available for booking to all users. Many of the major clubs described that it has not been available to them when needed. Cricket and Football have their own clubroom/kiosk which is managed by the Sorell Football Club and shared seasonally with Cricket.

All major clubs also expressed interest and desire in increasing capacity to bring in the wider Sorell community to the Complex. This included suggestions of increasing seating and shelter, increasing capacity to bring in food vans, have BBQs, play areas for children, etc.

A summary of consultations with local sports and recreation clubs and groups are given in Table 5. As mentioned above, identified needs that have been addressed since consultation have been noted in the table.

Table 5 summary of conversations with local sports and recreation clubs and groups. N/A indicates areas where no information was provided

Organisation Name	Participation and membership	Current use of SE Complex	Future plans for growth	Near-term priorities	Suggested Ideas / Opportunities for improving facilities and services
Dodges Ferry Horse Riding Club	• 72 total active members • Increasing membership – seeing growth recently • Activities include a range of financially accessible training programs including learning programs for kids and western horsemanship (not taught by the Tasmanian Equestrian Centre) • Club reported 100 members during consultation for 2015 Pembroke Park Master Plan	• Fortnightly use of arena for club scheduled activities • Grounds available all week for member use and training • Not used at night due to lack of lighting • Used for rallies which bring 80 – 100 competitors – brings in visitors and competitors from across the region and beyond. • The arena is the only flatland of required size venue available to rural horse-owners in the region	• Increasing programs for education and disability inclusion • Increasing multiple use including dog obedience club and car shows	• Ground maintenance and infrastructure upgrades • Management of risk from other user groups (particularly soccer) and from vandalism and misconduct by youth – noted incidents of fires, harassing horses of horses and the need for (fencing, barriers) • Support to help maintain and promote club activities including with grant applications	• The Club noted that they have invested a great amount of time and funds to developing the arena. If the Club is to be relocated they will require support to rebuild the facility to appropriate standards

Organisation Name	Participation and membership	Current use of SE Complex	Future plans for growth	Near-term priorities	Suggested Ideas / Opportunities for improving facilities and services
Lions Club of Sorell	• Low and ageing membership • 30 total members, 12 active	• Provides cost effective meals for shows, community and sporting events • Receives an allowance from council to check on the RV site which is self-contained (without showers and changerooms) making them easier to maintain – RV site is important visitor accommodation, gap in supply of local accommodation • Restocks community library		• Club is satisfied with current location but notes that if the club is to be moved to the complex the new location will need to allow for storage of large equipment including BBQs, marquees, two large food trailers; shared office, kitchen and amenity faculties; meeting room and table; and, space to display items and memorabilia, etc. • Additionally, cost of hiring new location is a concern. Current arrangement has no rates, rent, utilities etc.	• Club is happy to share space with other groups/organisations, however, need space to display items, memorabilia and for book sales (monthly).
Pembroke Park Run	• On average around 159 finishing participants each week since first parkrun in mid-Jan.	• New park run track developed some of which runs along and around the Complex. • Public toilets at the complex are noted as being		• Landscaping and beautifying of the Complex will add value to the Park Run • Weeding and maintenance around track is needed for risk management.	

Organisation Name	Participation and membership	Current use of SE Complex	Future plans for growth	Near-term priorities	Suggested Ideas / Opportunities for improving facilities and services
		available to participants			
Sorell Cricket Club	• 140 active members • Larger junior program, which is expected to continue growing • Expecting addition of an additional men's/women's team. • Upgrades are required to existing infrastructure and facilities to sustain rapid growth.	• Training nets used by multiple teams and ability levels 5 days a week from September to March • Ovals are used for junior and senior games and training 6 days a week from October to March, including all day games on the weekend • Occasional school holiday clinics	• Continuing growth in junior development programs including access to turf training for Under 18s • Expanding opportunities for more clinics at grounds/nets	• Expanding the second oval and converting it to Turf wicket. This is a requirement for Premier Cricket. • Upgrades to lighting at cricket nets • Expanding cricket nets • Weatherproof frogbox and multisport electronic scoreboard • Upgrades to clubrooms • Additional storage • Upgrades to seating, shelters and other spectator infrastructure to accommodate large crowds • Upgrades to public amenities and useability of these – it is difficult for the public to access toilets key system does not work well.	• Dedicated management and staff for the complex • Improving information and regulation around accessing facilities and services to avoid scheduling conflicts with clubs and with community members • Improving safety and linkages between dead spaces around grounds and nets and between grounds to streamline movement and improve visitor experience • Access to a centrally located kiosk
Sorell Football Club	• 150 active/playing members • Rapidly increasing membership both on and off field this is likely to continue	• Training, games and competitions on senior and junior ovals 5 days a week from	• Increasing player and spectator base by upgrading amenities and facilities including clubhouse, spectator areas, changerooms	• Expanding and upgrading clubhouse and changerooms • Updating current infrastructure to regulation standard	• Provision of sheltered or indoor infrastructure would facilitate play in winter and all-

Organisation Name	Participation and membership	Current use of SE Complex	Future plans for growth	Near-term priorities	Suggested Ideas / Opportunities for improving facilities and services
	• Growing female participation (currently 50 female participants) • Club is fast outgrowing existing facilities, upgrades are required to accommodate and help sustain growth • Club reported 95 senior players and 170-200 registered juniors during consultation for 2015 Pembroke Park Master Plan	November to September • Approximately 500 to 1000 spectators attend games and approximately 100 attend training and dinners	• A third oval will be needed to accommodate current and expected growth	• Local club gym and training centre for players • Playing lights to facilitate night games (lighting to Senior oval has been upgraded by Council in April 2025) • Improving spectator facilities including increasing wet area, providing seating around park, increasing accessibility of amenities, more accessible public toilets. • Electronic scoreboard (shared with cricket)	weather opportunities • Improving operation procedures to address scheduling conflicts with other users of grounds • Highlighted critical need for accessible gym and recovery services with enough capacity for 150 players to train together and affordable to clubs.
Sorell Tennis Club	• 170 active members • 50% increase in the last decade and continuing to grow • Club reported 100 members during consultation for 2015 Pembroke Park Master Plan	• Club has made significant investment towards developing the courts and facilities at their current location	• Progressing with strategic planning to improve facilities including: replacing two older courts with newer courts which will be serviceable over a 20 year period, lighting, fencing, and new carparking, disability showers, wheelchair accessible courts/paths	• If club is to be relocated, it is important that they are given adequate notice to allow enough time (at least 5 years) to secure necessary funds. • Relocation should consider current strategic directions of the club and support and acknowledge the level of investment already made at the present location.	• The club will require wind protection if courts are relocated – they are willing to start planting vegetation screening now so growth will be an adequate height if move is to be made.

Organisation Name	Participation and membership	Current use of SE Complex	Future plans for growth	Near-term priorities	Suggested Ideas / Opportunities for improving facilities and services
South East Basketball Association	- Major growth in participation and expected continued growth - Growth is limited by availability of courts. - No home court for basketball on the eastern shore which impacts play and opportunities	- South East Stadium is the Association's home. The South East Association combines players from 17 localities including Cambridge, Midway Points, Richmond, Orford, Eaglehawk Neck, and Nubeena. - Indoor courts used for competition and training and for regional and statewide events	Continuing to expand on programs, including junior development	- Further two dedicated basketball courts to accommodate current growth. - More storage is required and access to clubroom/kiosk (the Club noted that the existing kiosk/clubroom has not been available when needed). - Afterhours and improved time availability of indoor courts to address scheduling conflicts with Netball and other users	- Noted need for another show court (could also function as a theater when not in use) - Consider potential to repurpose one or two of the outdoor netball courts to sheltered multi-purpose courts. - Using some of the current dead space near netball courts as recreational/casual shooting bases. - Adding mid-sized courts would increase opportunities and appeal of Complex – no available facilities in Tasmania. These can also be used for badminton and as community spaces when not in use.
South East Netball Association	- More than 550 active members - Growth is expected to continue given	Indoor courts from Jan to Dec for training and	Continuing growth of membership base in particular by offering more inclusive and	2 additional indoor courts to allow wider/parallel competitions - More office space	Adding in a play area in the vicinity of outdoor courts and soccer fields

Organisation Name	Participation and membership	Current use of SE Complex	Future plans for growth	Near-term priorities	Suggested Ideas / Opportunities for improving facilities and services
	present success and population growth in the Sorell region • Having access to high standard indoor and outdoor facilities, all necessary equipment/facilities in one location, storage, and office spaces significantly contribute to the successful operation of club activities • During consultation for 2015 Pembroke Park Master Plan the club reported about 200 registered kids in afterschool programs and approximately 100-140 women playing social netball.	competition 6 days a week • Outdoor courts Mar to Dec 3 days a week • Meeting rooms / function rooms for workshops, meetings, etc.	financially accessible programs • Paid role to manage club activities – currently reaching a stage where it can no longer be conducted by volunteers alone	• Improved outdoor lighting (both for courts and linkages) • Increased seating indoors and outdoors for spectators • Increased secure storage • Sheltered outdoor courts and spectating areas	• Consider ways to balance costs and availability of indoor courts with more cost-effective outdoor courts. Outdoor courts are lower cost but play is highly impacted by weather • Consider improving facilities and amenities to enhance spectator/community experience, including potential for a future 100+ capacity function space for large events, shelter around existing kiosks, BBQ facilities within shelters to prolong social use of the area.
South East Pickleball	• Rapid growth in membership and	• Social games approximately 2/3	• There is great capacity to hold state/national	• Permanent lines have still not been added to the	• Support with disseminating

Organisation Name	Participation and membership	Current use of SE Complex	Future plans for growth	Near-term priorities	Suggested Ideas / Opportunities for improving facilities and services
	participation. Currently 40 active total members Casual participation has grown rapidly since club began in July 2024 to approximately 150 weekly participants	times a week at the stadium courts (morning hours)	championships at the South East Stadium Increasing opportunities for play afterhours (current time slots only suit retirees and shift workers)	Stadium – relining is the largest cost to club and impacts on funding further opportunities. Line markings can be added to the four corners of the stadium without interfering with the show court Increased storage space	information about pickleball and other sports to the wider community would help promote the complex and opportunities therein - Badminton can easily be played on the same courts as pickleball - many pickleball players have also noted interest in playing table tennis.
South East United Football Club	200 total active/playing members including 110 junior and 90 senior members; 30 female and 170 male. - Significant growth particularly in Junior development - Growing female participation – the club requires supporting facilities to sustain and	- Junior and senior training, games and regional and statewide competitions - General game days bring up to 200 people on a weekend and between 50 to 60 on weekday – larger competitions bring in more spectators - Soccer pitch is used year round and on all seven	- Progressing towards providing pathways to National Premier League. - Looking to provide sustainable levels of play for women; this will require specific amenities/infrastructure not available at present. Club noted that governing body invests more in female participation in sport.	- Fencing – high priority to meet National Premier League requirements (perimeter fencing recently completed by Council) - Female player changerooms and referee changerooms close to the pitch - An artificial ground and second grass pitch to accommodate current and expected growth (would cater for 15-20 years of growth).	- Consider offering more cost effective ground hire – difficult to subsidise club costs without consistent access to the kiosk as well. - Improving spectator amenities and infrastructure including more sheltered seating, water fountains and access to toilets. - Better, shorter access to carpark to

Organisation Name	Participation and membership	Current use of SE Complex	Future plans for growth	Near-term priorities	Suggested Ideas / Opportunities for improving facilities and services
	enable participation • Current grounds and facilities are at capacity, upgrades are required to sustain growth and provide further opportunities to players. • Players from across the region, play days are being adjusted to better accommodate out of region players and avoid late games • Club was about to commence during 2014 Master Plan consultations. At the time, they expected to grow by 100 players by 2019/2020.	days: Clinics on Mondays and Wednesdays, training (PM) on Tuesdays and Thursdays, matches (PM) on Fridays and matches all day over the weekend.			make it more accessible • Booking program and operation and management of the Complex needs to be more accessible to clubs.
Southern City BMX Club	• Increasing (as noted by governing body) • Increasing female participation	• BMX training and various types and levels of competition	• Upgrades to facilities to support higher level competition and further programs.	• Bitumen from the finish line to the start hill • Bitumen pathways from the carpark and complex entrances	

Organisation Name	Participation and membership	Current use of SE Complex	Future plans for growth	Near-term priorities	Suggested Ideas / Opportunities for improving facilities and services
				• Upgraded storage – current storage container does not have adequate space and leaks • Waterpoint and irrigation system for ground maintenance • Upgrades to finish line with signage	

3.3 KEY FINDINGS FROM ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

Over the phone / online consultations were held with Indie School Sorell, Sorell School, and with Dodges Ferry Primary School in March 2025.

Dodges Ferry Primary School do not use the Complex due to distance from school and bus hire. They hire the local community hall gym for school needs. The Gym is also used by other community clubs and groups including an afterschool netball programme by SENA Suns and by the local Bowls club. Sorell School noted that their facilities are used by the Basketball Association as a supplementary space and also by the local cheerleading group.

Indie School and Sorell School highlighted the importance of the Complex as a sporting, recreational and event space. Both Indie School and Sorell School use the premises for school special events:

Sorell and Indie Schools use the Stadium to hold reward days, end of year events etc;

The outdoor facilities are used by Sorell School to host the annual athletics carnival and visiting external providers (e.g. AFL 9s). Indie School frequently uses the outdoor space for recreational activities including use of surrounding walking tracks.

Sorell and Indie Schools noted the following major constraints on use:

lack of appropriate shelter, greenery, seating, and water fountains;

lack of access to public toilets; and

high cost of hiring venue - Indie School highlighted that they are often priced out of venues as a not-for-profit organisation and noted that it is often difficult to book venues, communicate with Council staff, and there is lack for support when hosting events.

Both these schools also noted the following gaps in the Sorell region and the Complex:

Recreational spaces for youth are underdone in the region; and

The complex could include diverse, high quality areas that are engaging and inclusive for youth and young adults including green, creatively designed areas and physical activities and problem-solving areas to support early youth/ youth. Some examples used were table tennis, rock climbing, big chess boards, half tennis courts, etc.

Meetings were also had with Showtime Soccer and Discovery Sports Performance in March and April 2025.

Showtime Soccer offers a number of junior football programs and regularly hires facilities at the South East Sports Complex:

the soccer pitch is used for training (5 days a week) and for local and regional competitions including the Tasmania Cup and Christmas Cup which brings between 5-600 players and 1500+ spectators.

the stadium is used for futsal competitions every Wednesday (approx. 160 players)

The program has had very rapid growth across the region, and this is expected to continue. Showtime soccer plans to host more games and expand the program to bring in more players.

The South East Sports Complex is the primary venue with great capacity for large-scale programs and events. The facilities are very well-used and well-loved, however the following were identified as constraints on use:

the soccer pitch is at capacity and at risk of being over-used. A second pitch that is synthetic has long-term sustainability and will reduce pressure on the grass pitch;

there has been a lot of difficulty in using the kiosk, a consistent operator would be beneficial and an improved booking system. The kiosk is critical in generating revenue;

cost of hiring grounds; and

issues with the venue booking system, it would be beneficial to potentially allow term bookings – currently if one middle of the term booking is placed, the system does not allow bookings for the entire term – and to establish booking regulations.

Showtime soccer also identified the following opportunities to support play and bring in the community:

- a playground situated close to the pitch;

- increased seating and shelter at pitches.

Discovery Sports Performance is the existing gym operator. The organisation leases gym space and sauna space from Council. The gym has contracts with the Football, Soccer and Netball clubs and is also open to the public.

Discover Sports noted that the organisation has had successful relationships with the clubs and with Council, however, with the current status of infrastructure and facilities they are limited in their capacity to grow to offer necessary recovery and health services to clubs.

Some of the key issues identified are:

- there is currently no appropriate ventilation and temperature control;

- very limited floor space to run proper training programmes and to accommodate full team training and recovery;

- issues with noise control, doors need to be closed further impacting ventilation issues;

- lack of external lighting outside to the sauna space is a safety concern; and

- limited external accessibility to the gym.

3.4 KEY FINDINGS FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The wider community were engaged through a survey published via the Council website and two 'walk and talk' sessions. 66 survey responses were received; but no community members attended the 'walk and talk' sessions held during a weekend.

3.4.1. SURVEY PARTICIPANT PROFILE

A brief profile of those individuals who participated in the survey:

- 71% identified as female;

Majority of participants were above the age of 30: 29% were between the ages of 40 to 49 years, 25% were 30 and 39 years, 23% were 50 to 59, and 15% were 60 to 69 years;

60% of participants were members of sports/recreation clubs and 18% were casual users (22% answered 'neither'); and

44% of participants reported they used the Complex 2-6 times a week, 15% use it once a week, and 11% said once a month.

Highest indicated regular use of the Complex by participating community members were for: walking/running, use of function room, netball, pickleball, community events and use of the horseriding arena. Notably,

Walking/running was equally done in other locations within the municipality; and

Walking/cycling, meeting with friends and family, dog walking and children's play areas are popular activities regularly undertaken in other locations within the municipality.

The survey asked community members to indicate how important the provision of certain facilities/programs were to them. The most important facilities/programs (more than 40% of participants voted as 'very important') were:

Sports activities/programs for children (56%), young people (66%), adults (61%), and older adults (64%);

Outdoor sports facilities (e.g. soccer, cricket, AFL) (59%);

Indoor stadium courts (for netball, basketball, volleyball, badminton, futsal, pickleball) (59% said 'very important');

Walking/running circuits (49%); and

Netball courts (42%).

Inclusion of specialised indoor sports (such as table tennis, gymnastics, dance, martial arts, squash), tennis, athletics facilities and the BMX facility was voted as somewhat important (greater than 30% of participants voted as 'somewhat important').

Community members were also asked to what extent a list of given options might prevent them from participating in sports and recreation activities at the Complex.

While most community members voted 'not at all' for most of the listed items, the following points were identified:

lack of amenities was voted (33%) by most participating members as impacting participation 'to a great extent' (notably, this aspect was the only option where the majority selected 'to a great extent');

no existing facilities in their preferred sport/recreation activity was also selected as impacting participation to a great extent by 30% of community members; and

existing facilities are too crowded and/or booked out, and don't know what sports and recreation facilities are available was selected as having an impact 'to some extent' by 47% of participants.

The survey also asked participants to rate their current level of satisfaction with facilities/services offered, aspects of the complex that may prevent them from participating in sporting, recreational or community activities, their priorities for improvements and upgrades to the Complex, their opinions on parking and on navigating the Complex.

Notably, majority of community members (between 43% to 75%) answered 'neither satisfied nor dissatisfied' to the question on their level of satisfaction with the existing facilities at the complex. The exception was the indoor stadium which received a rating of 'satisfied' by most (44%) of participants.

The key themes and issues identified from responses to the above-mentioned questions are outlined in Table 6. It should be noted that, in general, these themes relate to improving the useability of the sports complex, and opportunities to increase communication and awareness of opportunities available to the community. The key themes are divided to three larger categories:

accessibility and inclusivity – there is opportunity to improve accessibility to different user groups and the inclusivity of available facilities, programs and services. Balancing the needs of the wider community vs the specific requirements of major sports clubs is a key consideration for futureproofing the Complex for sports and recreation as well as for broader community use;

amenity and comfort – current level of amenity and comfort for users of the facility emerged as a barrier to further participation and engagement; and

safety and risk management – upgrades and improvements to grounds and facilities are required to improve safe use and to mitigate risk to users.

In addition to the considerations noted in Table 6, several members suggested need for a pool and associated programs (including learn to swim) as a major gap in provision. Some acknowledged the upcoming development in Dodges Ferry would soon be at capacity.

Table 6 summary of key themes and issues identified from responses to community survey

ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVITY FOR COMMUNITY VS. SPORTS CLUBS	Key Themes/Issues	Potential need to improve opportunities for / awareness of casual use and after hours use of facilities
	Findings	Community members felt that the Stadium and outdoor facilities were not available for casual/social use and for after-hours use. Specifically, it was the perception of some that: • many people are at work on weekdays and need access (particularly to the stadium) in the evenings or afterhours; • some felt that it was difficult to access facilities/venues unless you were a part of clubs; • there are no opportunities to use/hire courts for social/casual (including for families) play such as 'shooting hoops'; • cost of hiring courts and venues are not affordable, there is a need for more inclusive pricing schemes; and • the BMX track is not very open to public use (some felt the club is not encouraging of use. It is noted that there is restricted access to the track during club events, but the track is otherwise open for public use).
	Key Themes/Issues	Potential need to improve opportunities for / awareness of multi-generational and non mainstream activities available at the Complex
	Findings	Members felt there was a lack of opportunity for other sports and recreational activities for all ages and abilities at the complex. Many of the community members who expressed this view felt there was: • a stronger focus and support from Council for mainstream sports such as basketball, netball and soccer compared to other sports such as pickleball, equine sports, rugby, and volleyball; and • there is not enough capacity/opportunity for other community groups (e.g. art) and social clubs to engage with the space.
	Key Themes/Issues	Opportunities to increase communication of available activities / programs /services
	Findings	Many community members expressed that they did not know what was available and suggested: • advertising of programs or events available to youth, adults and older adults; and • providing information on costings and programs at the Stadium entrance and other locations.
	Key Themes/Issues	Opportunities to facilitate additional programs to cater to young adults, adults and older adults
	Findings	Community members felt that there are not enough programmes for adults (younger or older) to participate including, • programmes for youth, adults and older adults; and • physical exercise programmes – some community members have found that the existing gym does not have enough capacity and requested better programming for general, affordable exercise classes.
	Key Themes/Issues	Opportunities to review provision of support services and operational management to assist with use of the Complex
	Findings	Some members felt there was a lack of support around regulations, operations, how to use venues, and what facilities and venues are available to use by the public, • this a barrier to access for the community; • the Stadium and sports complex feels 'abandoned' and 'locked up'; and • no information on who can be contacted to ask about services or to report any issues.

AMENITY AND COMFORT	Key Themes/Issues	Capacity to increase provision of essential amenities outdoors for public use
	Findings	Community members felt that there is a lack of publicly accessible toilets for use particular to service community and sporting events, and when walking or when using the BMX/skate park, they stated that this: • impacts on their ability to attend events and to visit the Complex for recreational activities; • limits their opportunity to bring kids and older teenagers to the Complex to use outdoor spaces including skate park and walking tracks; and • some community members also noted the need for water fountains/bubblers to be placed outside.
	Key Themes/Issues	Capacity to increase provision of social amenities: BBQs, children's play area
	Findings	Community members felt there needs to be more opportunities for the community to gather during events including: • BBQ and picnic areas in the vicinity of outdoor sports grounds/courts; • sheltered seating areas to view sporting events; and • play equipment/play areas where younger kids can play while older children are participating in sporting activities.
	Key Themes/Issues	Capacity to increase shelter and seating opportunities
	Findings	Community members felt that existing spectator seating outdoors are • not enough to accommodate large events; • are uncomfortable and not sheltered; and • need for more seating was mentioned particularly in relation to the BMX track, soccer, netball and cricket. Additionally, they suggested that more seating is needed along footpaths, walking trails and Parkrun course.
SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT	Key Themes/Issues	Capacity to increase greenery and aesthetic amenity
	Findings	Community members mentioned need for more trees to improve shade, including • along footpaths, walkways, and to improve the overall amenity of the area • native planting along Parkrun course
	Key Themes/Issues	Opportunity to review and improve health and safety requirements
	Findings	Several community members identified areas for improvement around some of the outdoor venues for safety and risk management, including: • fencing around the Soccer pitch to prevent rogue soccer balls flying into horse riding arena (note that Council has since installed fencing as noted in Table 4 and 5); • line of sight and barriers/clear boundaries between traffic and cycling/walking paths and skating area. In particular near skate park and the football ovals; • directional signage; and • need for better ventilation in the stadium, particularly during summer and when hosting large events.
	Key Themes/Issues	Opportunities to increase external lighting around outdoor areas
	Findings	Some members felt that there was a lack of lighting along walkways and outdoor spaces, particularly if sportsgrounds and courts are not being used, particularly in relation to: • safety/comfort at night • making the space feel welcome
	Key Themes/Issues	Opportunity to review maintenance needs of ground and walking/cycling paths

	Findings	Community members mentioned uneven and cracked grounds, poor condition of some sportsgrounds, and need for improved maintenance around walking/cycling paths: • dog park has large cracks on ground which are a major hazard for users; • horse riding arena grounds are dry and hard which impacts the horse and the rider; • more regular mowing of grass and weeding around walking paths and grassed open spaces; and • poor drainage of the football oval.
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4 POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE PLANNING

Findings from literature review and research on sports and recreation participation and trends, and community and stakeholder consultations identified several important implications for consideration in the future planning of the South East Sports Complex.

It is clear from consultations with various stakeholders and the community that the Complex has been a great success and has been an undeniable, positive contribution to the Sorell community. This has resulted in significant demand being placed on the use of space and the existing infrastructure and facilities. Futureproofing and sustainability considerations

CHALLENGES

infrastructure and facilities are required to facilitate an increasing **diversity of programs and services** as community needs and interests grow and change to improve accessibility to the wider community;

the existing **sports clubs need significant upgrades and additional infrastructure** to support both current demands and future growth. These improvements should be carefully balanced with the need to **maintain the flexibility and multi-use functionality** of the Complex, and quality of access;

furthermore, there is high demand for facilities, including outdoor courts / grounds and the indoor stadium courts to **sustainably cater for more competitions and greater use**, and to host larger sporting, recreational and community events;

there is **major demand on spatial availability** – demand for additional facilities and infrastructure includes more grounds / courts, clubrooms, amenities blocks and storage.

OPPORTUNITIES

there is demand for **pathways to inclusive casual / social participation** in sports and to develop a greater focus on recreational activities that **promote healthy living and community wellbeing across different age groups** (especially older kids, youth, and older adults) in addition to facilitating growth of core sporting teams;

there is opportunity to incorporate creative and engaging spaces for **youth participation**;

there needs to be **pathways for inclusive participation in sporting activities**, including to accommodate increasing female participation in sports club membership;

there is demand to develop on **activities that build social and economic capital** in the community;

improving publicly accessible amenities such as toilet facilities, BBQ facilities, play spaces, seating, shade and shelter to improve the visitor experience, extend stay, and enable a broader range of use;

regular review of maintenance policies/schedules, and review of policy and procedures for booking venues, management and tenure options is needed to secure quality of access by all user groups, improve capacity for shared use, and balance evolving club and community use/demand for facilities. It is acknowledged that considerable adjustments have been implemented since consultations were undertaken including hiring of a dedicated facilities manager;

use of the facility and benefit to the community could be improved by capitalising on the opportunity to **cross promote and gain the benefits of cross pollination of participants**, for instance by improving **advertising of programs and increasing multi-sport programming efficiencies**;

future services, including larger gym spaces and associated services (such as recovery) for sports clubs, and childcare programs to further activate/enable use to **provide holistic benefit to community and users;**

there is a need to **build cooperation and a 'one precinct' sentiment**, consideration needs to be given to how user groups can be encouraged and rewarded for sharing facilities;

there is opportunity to present the South East Sports Complex as the **South East Regional Sports Precinct or South East Community and Sports Precinct** or a similar moniker to improve its **staging to the public as a 'central hub'** open for all; and

there is opportunity to **increase the attractiveness of the Complex** to users by upgrading the arrival and wayfinding experience (tree-lined entryway, directional signage, landscaping, lighting).



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