

SPORT FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

FINAL BACKGROUND REPORT



JANUARY 2020

OTIUM PLANNING GROUP PTY LTD



Head Office:

Level 6
60 Albert Road
South Melbourne VIC 3205
Phone: (03) 9698 7300
Email: vic@otiumplanning.com.au
Web: www.otiumplanning.com.au
ABN: 30 605 962 169
ACN: 605 962 169

Cairns Office

Address: 44/5 Faculty Close, Smithfield,
QLD, 4878
Contact: Martin Lambert
Phone: (07) 4055 6250
Email: qld@otiumplanning.com.au

Otium Planning Group has offices in:

- Auckland
- Brisbane
- Cairns
- Christchurch
- Melbourne
- Perth
- Sydney

OPG, IVG and PTA Partnership has offices
in Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Shanghai and
Beijing



| Document Version | Date | Checked | Distribution | Recipient |
|------------------|----------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| Draft | 04/08/19 | ML | E mail | EK |
| Draft | 19/08/19 | JG ML | E mail | EK |
| Final Draft | 08/10/19 | JG ML | E mail | SN TC |
| Final | 12/11/19 | JG ML | Email | TC SN |

© 2020 Otium Planning Group Pty. Ltd. This document may only be used for the purposes for which it was commissioned and in accordance with the terms of engagement for the commission.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|-------|--|----|
| 1. | Introduction | 6 |
| 1.1 | Study Methodology | 6 |
| 1.2 | Facilities Included in the Study | 7 |
| 1.3 | The Alice Springs Community | 8 |
| 1.3.1 | Family Composition and Income | 8 |
| 1.3.2 | Future Growth and Panning | 8 |
| 2. | Sport Facility Trends | 10 |
| 2.1 | Trends in Sport and Recreation Participation | 10 |
| 2.2 | Leading Practice in Sport and Recreation Facility Planning | 12 |
| 2.3 | Local Government Leading Practice | 12 |
| 2.4 | Ausplay Indigenous Sports Participation Report 2018 | 14 |
| 3. | Review of Key Documents | 16 |
| 3.1 | Progress on Previous Sports Facilities Master Plan | 18 |
| 3.1.1 | Prior Feasibility Study Recommendations | 19 |
| 3.1.2 | New Facility Priorities/Aspirations from SFAC | 19 |
| 3.2 | SFAC Recommendations 2019 | 22 |
| 3.2.1 | Top 10 Priorities for SFAC: | 22 |
| 3.2.2 | Other Projects for opportunistic funding | 22 |
| 4. | Overview of Community and Stakeholder Engagement | 23 |
| 4.1 | Council Perspectives | 24 |
| 4.2 | Sport Summit | 25 |
| 4.3 | Other Groups | 25 |
| 4.3.1 | Personal Trainers and outdoor Group Fitness | 25 |
| 4.3.3 | Blatherskite Park | 26 |
| 4.4 | Community Survey Analysis | 27 |
| 4.4.1 | Facility Usage | 29 |
| 4.4.2 | Time Spent | 30 |
| 4.4.3 | Facility Satisfaction | 30 |
| 4.4.4 | Community Priorities for Sports Facility Investment | 31 |
| 4.4.5 | Activity Barriers | 32 |
| 4.4.6 | Additional Comments | 32 |
| 4.5 | Club Survey Analysis | 32 |
| 4.5.1 | Facility Usage - Club Use per Facility | 33 |
| 4.5.2 | Issues facing Clubs and Organisations | 35 |
| 4.5.3 | Priorities for Clubs and Organisations | 36 |
| 4.6 | School Survey | 37 |
| 5. | Sport in Alice | 39 |
| 5.1 | Summary of Membership Across the Sports | 39 |
| 5.2 | Common Issues | 40 |
| 5.3 | AFL | 41 |

SPORTS FACILITIES MASTER PLAN – BACKGROUND REPORT



| | |
|--|----|
| 5.3.1 Membership | 41 |
| 5.3.2 Facilities Used | 41 |
| 5.3.3 Issues identified by the Sport | 41 |
| 5.3.4 Sport Priorities | 41 |
| 5.4 Cricket | 42 |
| 5.4.1 Membership | 42 |
| 5.4.2 Facilities Used | 42 |
| 5.4.3 Issues identified by the Sport | 43 |
| 5.4.4 Sport Priorities | 43 |
| 5.5 Football (Soccer) | 43 |
| 5.5.1 Membership | 43 |
| 5.5.2 Facilities Used | 44 |
| 5.5.3 Issues identified by the Sport | 44 |
| 5.5.4 Sport Priorities | 44 |
| 5.6 Baseball | 45 |
| 5.6.1 Membership | 45 |
| 5.6.2 Facilities Used | 45 |
| 5.6.3 Issues identified by the Sport | 45 |
| 5.6.4 Sport Priorities | 45 |
| 5.7 Netball | 46 |
| 5.7.1 Membership | 46 |
| 5.7.2 Facilities Used | 46 |
| 5.7.3 Issues identified by the Sport | 46 |
| 5.7.4 Sport Priorities | 47 |
| 5.8 Basketball | 47 |
| 5.8.1 Membership | 47 |
| 5.8.2 Facilities Used | 48 |
| 5.8.3 Issues identified by the Sport | 48 |
| 5.8.4 Sport Priorities | 48 |
| 5.9 Tennis | 48 |
| 5.9.1 Membership | 48 |
| 5.9.2 Facilities Used | 49 |
| 5.9.3 Issues identified by the Sport | 49 |
| 5.9.4 Sport Priorities | 50 |
| 5.10 Touch Football | 50 |
| 5.10.1 Membership | 50 |
| 5.10.2 Facilities Used (As per Council bookings) | 51 |
| 5.10.3 Issues identified by the Sport | 51 |
| 5.10.4 Sport Priorities | 51 |
| 5.11 Rugby Union | 51 |
| 5.11.1 Membership | 51 |
| 5.11.2 Facilities Used | 52 |
| 5.11.3 Issues identified by the Sport | 52 |
| 5.11.4 Sport Priorities | 52 |

SPORTS FACILITIES MASTER PLAN – BACKGROUND REPORT



| | | |
|--------|---|----|
| 5.12 | Rugby League | 53 |
| 5.12.1 | Membership | 53 |
| 5.12.2 | Facilities Used (As per Council bookings) | 53 |
| 5.12.3 | Issues identified by the Sport | 53 |
| 5.13 | Sports who did not provide consultation information | 53 |
| 5.13.1 | Hockey | 53 |
| 5.13.2 | Athletics | 54 |
| 5.13.3 | Softball | 55 |
| 6. | Facility Analysis and Understanding | 57 |
| 6.1 | Traeger Park | 57 |
| 6.1.1 | Facility users | 57 |
| 6.1.2 | Facility Usage | 58 |
| 6.1.3 | Facility Description | 59 |
| 6.1.4 | Site Constraints and Issues | 60 |
| 6.1.5 | User Group Suggestions | 61 |
| 6.1.6 | SFAC Proposals | 61 |
| 6.1.7 | Implications for Sport Facility Planning | 61 |
| 6.2 | Jim McConville Park | 62 |
| 6.2.1 | Facility users | 62 |
| 6.2.2 | Facility Usage | 62 |
| 6.2.3 | Facility Description | 63 |
| 6.2.4 | Site constraints | 63 |
| 6.2.5 | SFAC Proposals | 64 |
| 6.2.6 | User Group Suggestions | 64 |
| 6.2.7 | Implications for Sport Facility Planning | 64 |
| 6.3 | Ross Park | 66 |
| 6.3.1 | Facility users | 66 |
| 6.3.2 | Facility Usage | 66 |
| 6.3.3 | Facility Description | 67 |
| 6.3.4 | Site Constraints | 67 |
| 6.3.5 | User Group Suggestions | 68 |
| 6.3.6 | SFAC Proposals | 69 |
| 6.3.7 | Implications for Sport Facility Planning | 69 |
| 6.4 | Albrecht Oval | 70 |
| 6.4.1 | Facility users | 70 |
| 6.4.2 | Facility Usage | 70 |
| 6.4.3 | Facility Description | 70 |
| 6.4.4 | Site constraints | 71 |
| 6.4.5 | User Group Suggestions | 71 |
| 6.4.6 | Implications for Sport Facility Planning | 72 |
| 6.5 | Rhonda Diano Oval | 72 |
| 6.5.1 | Facility users | 72 |
| 6.5.2 | Facility Usage | 72 |
| 6.5.3 | Facility Description | 72 |

SPORTS FACILITIES MASTER PLAN – BACKGROUND REPORT



| | |
|--|----|
| 6.5.4 Site Constraints | 73 |
| 6.5.5 User Group Suggestions | 73 |
| 6.5.6 SFAC Proposals | 74 |
| 6.5.7 Implications for Sport Facility Planning | 74 |
| 6.6 Flynn Drive Oval | 74 |
| 6.6.1 Facility users | 74 |
| 6.6.2 Facility Usage | 74 |
| 6.6.3 Facility Description | 74 |
| 6.6.4 Site constraints | 75 |
| 6.6.5 User Group Suggestions | 76 |
| 6.6.6 SFAC Proposals | 76 |
| 6.6.7 Implications for Sport Facility Planning | 76 |
| 6.7 Anzac Oval | 76 |
| 6.7.1 Facility users | 76 |
| 6.7.2 Facility Usage | 76 |
| 6.7.3 Facility Description | 77 |
| 6.7.4 Site constraints | 77 |
| 6.7.5 User Group Suggestions | 78 |
| 6.7.6 Implications for Sport Facility Planning | 78 |
| 6.8 Paul Fitzsimmons Oval | 78 |
| 6.8.1 Facility users | 78 |
| 6.8.2 Facility Usage | 78 |
| 6.8.3 Facility Description | 78 |
| 6.8.4 Site constraints | 79 |
| 6.8.5 User Group Suggestions | 80 |
| 6.8.6 SFAC Proposals | 80 |
| 6.8.7 Implications for Sport Facility Planning | 80 |
| 6.9 Understanding Field Utilisation | 80 |
| 6.9.1 Use and Cost of Delivery | 81 |
| 7. Unique Alice Springs | 83 |
| 8. Sports Facility Master Plan | 86 |
| 8.1 Summary of Key Strategic and Facility Issues | 86 |
| 8.1.1 Lack of Sports Fields/ Access to Fields | 86 |
| 8.1.2 Legacy of Past Decisions and Need for Master Planning Precincts | 87 |
| 8.1.3 Developing a Standard of Provision and Facilities Hierarchy | 87 |
| 8.2 The Vision for Sport in Alice Springs | 89 |
| 8.3 Guiding Principles | 90 |
| 8.4 General Recommendations | 90 |
| 8.4.1 Finalise and Adopt a Desired Standard of Provision and Maintenance | 90 |
| 8.4.2 Implement Lighting Audit and Upgrade Program | 91 |
| 8.4.3 Review Facility Bookings and Tenure Policy. | 91 |
| 8.4.4 Event Strategy | 92 |
| 8.4.5 Increase Use of School Facilities | 92 |
| 8.5 Otium Individual Facility Recommendations and Options | 93 |

SPORTS FACILITIES MASTER PLAN – BACKGROUND REPORT



| | | |
|---------|--|-----|
| 8.5.1 | Traeger Park Master Plan | 93 |
| 8.5.1.1 | AFL and Cricket Premier Precinct | 93 |
| 8.5.1.2 | Consolidating the Existing site | 94 |
| 8.5.2 | Jim McConville Park Master Plan | 95 |
| 8.5.2.1 | Diamond Master Plan Option | 96 |
| 8.5.2.2 | Basic Master Plan Option | 96 |
| 8.5.3 | Ross Park Master Plan | 96 |
| 8.5.3.1 | Major Reconfiguration Option | 96 |
| 8.5.3.2 | Basic Planning Option | 97 |
| 8.5.3.3 | Netball Amenities Facilities | 98 |
| 8.6 | Paul Fitzsimmons Oval (CDU) | 98 |
| 8.7 | Tennis Redevelopment or Relocation Options | 98 |
| 8.8 | Additional Rectangular Field | 99 |
| 8.9 | Long Term Facility Planning | 99 |
| 9. | Implementation Plan | 101 |
| 10. | Warranties and Disclaimers | 102 |



1. Introduction

Alice Springs is located in the “Red Centre”, 1,500 km from Darwin, and 1,532 km from Adelaide, and less than 500 km from Uluru. This central Australian location, makes it a key regional centre for a range of key services, including sport, in the southern half of the NT, and remote communities in WA and SA. Alice Springs Town Council has a strong history in delivering quality sport facilities to the community and ensuring suitable planning is undertaken to deliver opportunities to meet the community’s needs.

The previous Sports Facilities Master Plan was developed in 2010 and Council has recognised the need to review the plan and develop a new Sport Facilities Master Plan to take the Alice Springs community into the future. The new Master Plan has been developed in a process to ensure the Alice Springs Community continues to play a major role in the future of Sport Facility Planning in Alice Springs.

The Master Plan has been developed to guide planning and investment for the next 10 years.

1.1 Study Methodology

The preparation of the Master Plan followed the following methodology.





1.2 Facilities Included in the Study

The focus of this masterplan is the following sporting precincts and Sports using these facilities.

Figure 1 - Facilities Included in Study

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Traeger Park | Jim McConville Oval | Ross Park | Albrecht Oval |
| Rhonda Diano Oval | Anzac Oval | Paul Fitzsimmons Oval | Flynn Dr Oval |

Figure 2 Sports Included

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| AFL | Cricket | Football (soccer) |
| Baseball | Softball | Hockey |
| Basketball | Netball | Tennis |
| Rugby Union | Rugby League | Touch Football |
| Athletics | | |



Figure 3 Jim McConville Oval



1.3 The Alice Springs Community

At the time of the last Census, 2016, Alice Springs population was 24,753, with an even split of males and females. The Australian Bureau of Statistics indicated that by 2017 the population had risen to 26,549. The proportion of the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people in Alice Springs is 17.6%, slightly lower than the Territory's proportion of 25.5%. The median age of Alice Springs is 35 years of age, which sits between the Territory median age of 32 years of age, and the national median age of 38 years of age.

The population breakdown by age cohort is shown below.

Table 2: Population by Age Cohort

| Age Cohort | Alice Springs Population | Proportion of Population | NT Proportion of population |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 0-4 years | 1,808 | 7.3% | 7.7% |
| 5-9 years | 1,808 | 7.3% | 7.4% |
| 10-14 years | 1,567 | 6.3% | 6.6% |
| 15-19 years | 1,423 | 5.8% | 6.2% |
| 20-24 years | 1,377 | 5.6% | 7.3% |
| 25-29 years | 2,091 | 8.5% | 9.5% |
| 30-34 years | 2,176 | 8.8% | 9.3% |
| 35-39 years | 1,829 | 7.7% | 7.9% |
| 40-44 years | 1,773 | 7.6% | 7.3% |
| 45-49 years | 1,907 | 7.0% | 7.2% |
| 50-54 years | 1,868 | 5.5% | 6.5% |
| 55-59 years | 1,723 | 3.5% | 5.6% |
| 60-64 years | 1,357 | 2.1% | 4.5% |
| 65 years and over | 2,032 | 8.3% | 7.1% |

1.3.1 Family Composition and Income

The main family composition in Alice Springs is a couple family with children, accounting for 45% of all families. One parent families accounted for a further 16.5%, indicating that families with children account for a higher percentage of residents in Alice Springs than in the NT overall, and nationwide.

The Median individual weekly income in Alice Springs is \$1,002, while for families the weekly income is \$2,259, both of which are approximately \$150 higher than the Northern Territory as a whole.

1.3.2 Future Growth and Planning

Current demographic data for Alice Springs and past trends do not indicate any significant growth is likely, without some form of catalyst project to drive growth. Northern Territory Government and the Town Council have planning in place to accommodate housing growth and this includes some consideration of future sporting needs. The current main planned residential "growth" area is considered to be at Kilgariff, but there are a number of locations across the township where infill and minor growth could occur.

The 2016 land use plan provides an overview of land use planning and growth areas.

| Growth Area | Potential Lot (Dwelling) Yield |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| Kilgariff | 1,800 |
| Larapinta | 300 |
| Mount Johns | 700 |
| Emily Hills | 1,024 |
| Total | 3,824 |

Figure 4 Potential Residential Growth Areas



The Land Use plan below shows that land for growth is located in a number of locations. The Plan suggests that consideration should be given to the planning of a new multi-purpose space (minimum 3.5 Ha), and this space should be considered south of Heavitree Gap.

Land Use Structure

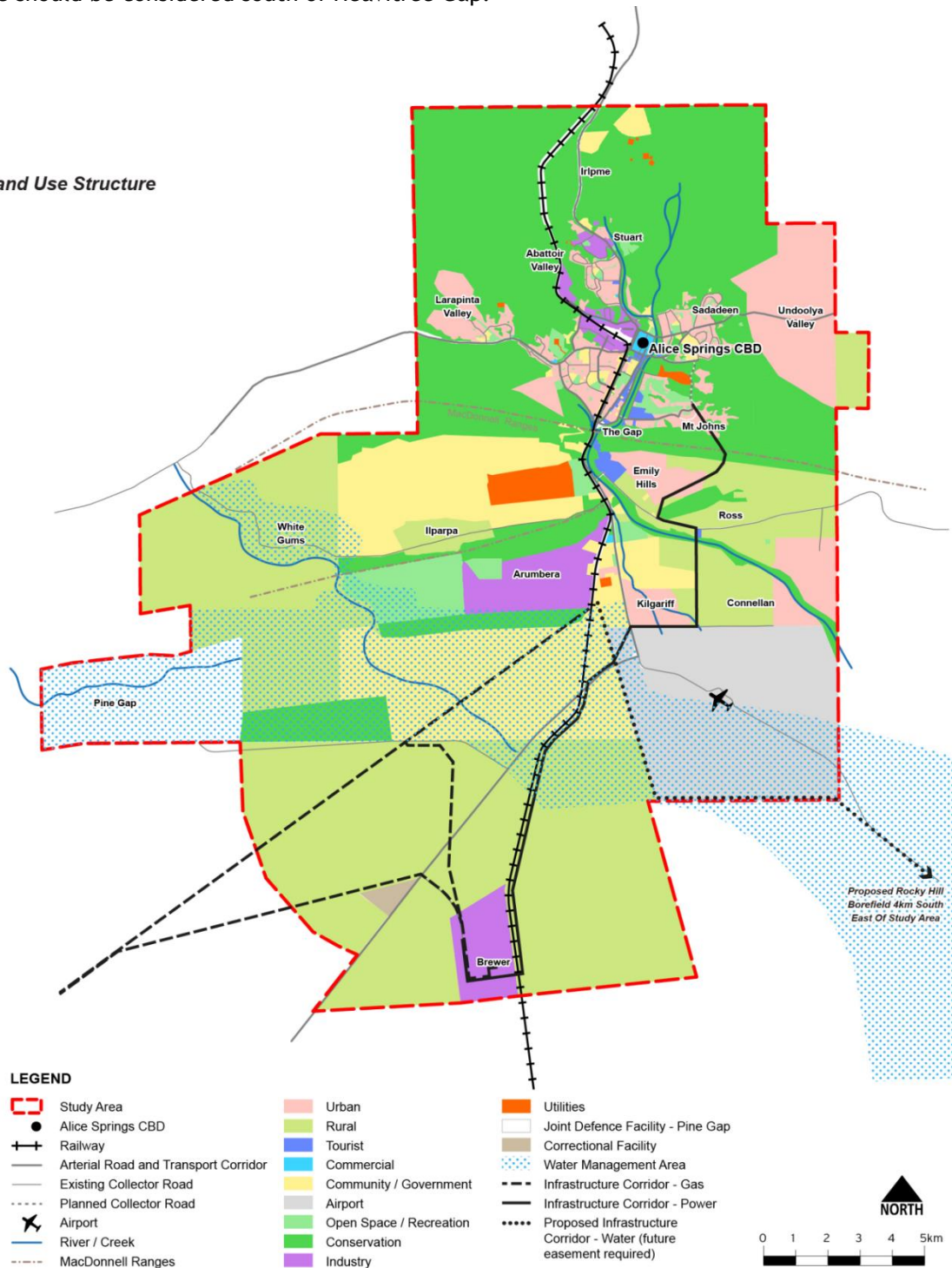


Figure 5 - 2016 Land Use Structure Plan



In terms of rate of growth, the 2016 Land Use Plan identified that it may be somewhere between 25-44 dwellings a year. At an average occupancy of 2.6 persons/dwelling this could see growth at 65 -114 persons per year. In other words, unless there is some significant project to drive growth, population growth could be expected to be in the realm of around 1,200 residents over the next 10 years.

In terms of forward planning to meet sporting facility demand this level of growth would not indicate a high need to plan for major additional land supply to meet formal sporting needs. However, there is still the need to ensure that residential areas have suitable access to open space for active recreation and this means that growth suburbs such as Kilgariff should include planning for local sporting and active recreation facilities.

Past proposals to expand sporting facility provision south of The Gap, have met some resistance due to perceptions of distance. However, as the population eventually grows in this area this resistance is likely to reduce.



Figure 6 View to the Gap

2. Sport Facility Trends

2.1 Trends in Sport and Recreation Participation

A range of sport and recreation trends have been observed through studies undertaken by the Otium Planning Group team for various local governments throughout Australia and also through review of published sport and recreation participation data.



| | |
|---|---|
| How People Are Participating | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organised sport is generally static but there is growing demand for more social forms of participation.• Preference for "turn up and play" activities with minimal volunteering commitments.• Continuous growing popularity of running, riding, mountain biking and outdoor recreation.• Self directed, informal activity is increasing along with demand for outdoor and natural settings.• Participation is increasing in water-based recreation such as stand-up paddle boards.• Increasing participation in exercise and fitness related activities.• Strong emergence of some activities in response to inclusion in the Olympics, changing structures by traditional sports and the rise of individual fitness.• Increasing sports "tourism" activities e.g. triathlons, running events etc.• Increasing demand for women's competitions in field sports such as rugby league and union and AFL.• New versions of court sports such as pickle ball are becoming popular with older participants. |
| How Activity Structures are Changing | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Season overlap and across season usage is becoming more prevalent.• The rise of personal trainers and 'led' fitness means an increased use of public spaces for organised or led activity.• Shift from predominantly weekend and early evening participation to weeknights, days, work hours and early mornings.• The rise of 24-hour gyms, and emerging, modified, short form versions of sports in response to the fragmentation and diversification of work and the 24-hour economy.• Introduction of more social sport and modified forms of participation and scheduling to regrow participation.• Community-based provision (ie volunteer) is under pressure and more and more clubs are looking at paid staff for administration.• Increasing commercial provision of casual and social sport – "pay and play". |
| Social Factors Affecting Management of Sport and Recreation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demographic shift, especially in larger cities, is changing participation patterns.• Ageing population and growing numbers of active and financially independent retirees who readily participate in outdoor recreation and travel.• Increasing densities in larger cities and increasing medium and high-density living for young couples and families with young children.• Declining housing affordability pushing many aspiring home owners and renters to urban fringes, greenfield development fronts and regional areas.• Increased "seachange and treechange" activity with lifestyle affordability driving interstate migration (along with employment).• Rapid change in employment structures with increased part-time, casual or insecure work and participation in the 24-hour economy. This affects participation ability as well as volunteerism.• High correlations between low socio-economic areas and worsening health outcomes• Increasingly multi-cultural society desiring greater variety of recreation activities reflecting a wide range of interests and new sports.• Boom and bust impacts of communities linked strongly to the mining economy. |
| Key Challenges Influencing Sport & Recreation Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Declining volunteerism placing pressure on the remaining volunteer base and on the way Councils manage facilities on their land.• Asset management - greater pressure on Councils with ageing assets and increasing community expectations.• Many clubs are struggling with facility management.• Declining land availability and increasing cost of provision.• Increasing community expectations for better quality spaces and facilities.• Increased focus on healthy and active lifestyles.• Need for shift from viewing sport and recreation infrastructure as a 'cost' to viewing it as an 'investment, impact and value' to communities.• Competitive funding environment - need for demonstrable broad community value. |

Figure 7 - Summary of Emerging Trends



2.2 Leading Practice in Sport and Recreation Facility Planning

The following provides a brief summary of some of the mechanisms that local governments around Australia are using to effectively manage sport and recreation Facilities.

Indoor Facilities

- Minimum of three to four courts for sustainability of indoor court facilities.
- Incorporating indoor court facilities as part of a broader leisure facility mix.
- Facilities that are designed to be “multi-use” are generally achieve higher levels of usage capacity and financial performance.
- A number of studies undertaken by Otium Planning Group over several years has indicated that recommended provision ranges from 1 indoor court per 11,000 people to 1 per 16,000 people.
- Increasingly successful models involve indoor sports, gym and fitness facilities offering social sports and casual participation options along with resident sports/ clubs offering training and competition.

Sports Fields

- Multi-faceted approach to demand assessment - more than just Ha per capita but also considers provision trends, existing use and demand.
- Many councils are developing dedicated sports field optimisation studies that involve a robust, evidence-based analysis of supply, usage and future demand.
- Alternative/ innovative approaches to improve capacity of exiting fields before developing new, e.g. upgrading drainage, lighting, new technology, synthetic fields etc.

Sports Courts

- Multi-faceted approach should consider expressed demand, participation rates and existing usage.
- Continuing trend for court sports to move indoors. Demand for outdoor courts is generally driven by netball and tennis, with some social use. Basketball and futsal are generally provided indoors, with some usage of outdoor courts for training, social or program purposes.
- Demand for outdoor courts is highly influenced by local program provision and accessibility of courts.
- Upgrades to outdoor courts can increase capacity and usage, e.g. improving playing surfaces, multi-use, lighting, shade.

Figure 8 Summary of Key Facility Planning Trends

2.3 Local Government Leading Practice

The term “best practice” implies that there are certain procedures or methods of sport and recreation that achieve the best results and are superior to all others. Through Otium Planning Group’s experience over several decades and through some benchmarking of Council’s, we have identified some best practice methods that Councils have implemented in response to the challenges they face and the past, current and emerging trends influencing sport and recreation management.



Figure 9 - Summary of Leading Practice in Local Government



2.4 Ausplay Indigenous Sports Participation Report 2018

AusPlay Commissioned a report to explore current participation levels, behaviours, key drivers and barriers to participation and the role of sport and sporting clubs in indigenous communities. Football (all codes), basketball, netball and softball were the most common sports within indigenous communities. Participation was high in school aged, however declined in older teenagers and continued a downward trend into late adulthood. Analysis also identified that although Indigenous Australians participated less than non-indigenous Australian, those who did participate did so longer and more frequently.

Across many communities, there was a belief that participating in sport and physical activity had many benefits and should be prioritised for both children and adults. The most common benefits that were identified were physical health benefits, including diabetes prevention and cardiovascular health, mental well-being, social benefits (competition, skill development, bringing communities together, and pride (including increasing confidence).

Across the consulted communities a lack of transportation was highlighted as a barrier to participation, as was cost, for both adults and children. The cost barrier included, seasonal costs and the costs of uniforms and equipment. Overall the barriers that were consistent across the majority of the communities were:

- Lack of time due to other commitments, especially to family or community
- Personal illness or injuries
- Financial Constraints
- Access issues (transportation and availability of services)
- Lack of cultural inclusiveness
- Lack of motivation (feeling in a rut)

The communities suggested that the inclusion of more holistic programs which include healthy lifestyle and cultural programs (particularly for older adults), including passive non-competitive activities. They also identified providing assistance with cost and transport would also improve participation in sport and in sport and physical activity.

The report also identified that although there was a wide spectrum of experiences with sporting clubs, those that embraced and respected Indigenous culture were more likely to have elicited positive reactions than others. This focused on cultural awareness and inclusiveness, in sustaining the engagement, and not the number of indigenous members a club has. Cultural awareness and sensitivity amongst coaches and organisers was crucial, including acknowledging the community and family obligations of Indigenous players, and allowing leniency when there were unable to play as a result of these commitments.

Overall the report made six broad recommendations that could be undertaken by sporting clubs to increase indigenous participation:

- Not charging people to be involved, but instead relying more on fundraising from local business and events.
- Making Indigenous people feel welcome, safe and included.
- Focusing on the fun aspect and the game is instrumental for children, however for longer-term engagement a focus on overall healthy lifestyles is a key driver for adults.
- Getting their mates involved is very important. Clubs don't need to have an Indigenous only focus but do need to make it clear that Indigenous people are welcome and respected.
- Mentoring is very important, both professional athletes and local community members.
- Long-term funding is crucial and can be extremely difficult to obtain.



- Success of a program cannot be simply measured on the participation numbers alone, rather the enjoyment levels and the involvement of the whole community.

Overall the report reaffirms the central role of sport and physical activity within local Indigenous communities and the importance of sporting clubs and organisations to facilitate these opportunities. The recommendations of ensuring that programs are culturally inclusive and respectful, reducing costs, and increasing available opportunities are of critical importance.

Although many barriers were beyond the remit of clubs to resolve, clubs can undertake two simple actions to improve participation amongst Indigenous Australians.

1. Create an environment that is welcoming to Indigenous Australians, including welcome to country messages and specific indigenous promotions that promotes a sense of inclusion and acceptance.
2. Work with existing grassroots organisations to encourage indigenous participation. Such organisations have the trust and involvement of the community, but often lack funding. Connecting these groups with clubs can tap into new members and networks and resources to build sustained participation in local sport programs.



3. Review of Key Documents

The following documents have been reviewed to ensure that a critical understanding of past plans, strategies and issues has informed the Sporting Facilities Master Plan. These documents include:

- Master Plan for Alice Springs Sporting Facilities, 2010
- Alice Springs Strategic Plan, 2018
- Northern Territory Sport and Recreation Master Plan, 2016
- Alice Springs Land Use Plan 2016, NT Planning Commission

Table 1: Implications from previous studies and policies

| Document Information | Implications for the Master Plan |
|---|--|
| Master Plan for Alice Springs Sporting Facilities, 2010, Alice Springs Town Council/ SGL Consulting | <p>At the time of the report, a number of observations were made about the existing facilities. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many facilities were at their end of effective life, with many not supporting access for people with disabilities. • A cost benefit analysis should be undertaken to assess the merit of renovation compared to demolition and redevelopment. • There is a lack of suitable lighting at sporting fields to meet demand. • Outdoor facilities lack shade and amenities. • There is a suitable supply of fields for current demand, however supporting infrastructure is lacking. • There is insufficient space for female sport participation <p>At the time of the report Council was in the initial stages of a new tenure arrangement. This arrangement gave seasonal exclusive access to clubrooms, with clubs required to maintain them during this time. Council would maintain all fields, with no cost attributed to clubs (except that of lighting), and a levy would be in place with the funds to be managed by the Sports Facilities Advisory Committee.</p> <p>As part of the study initial feasibility of an indoor multipurpose venue, outdoor multipurpose facility and outdoor floodlit synthetic facility were undertaken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was an observed need for an indoor centre that incorporated a dedicated gymnastics space, multiple courts and/ or space for exercise and martial arts. • The outdoor multipurpose facility was identified as unviable at Anzac Oval, however options to develop a standalone athletics facility at either Rhonda Diano Oval or a secondary school to develop a major sporting hub, potentially incorporating the Alice Springs Secondary School and Jim McConville Oval. • The development of a synthetic oval required a detailed business plan to assess the financial viability of the proposal of developing Jim McConville Oval to a synthetic playing surface. <p>The study identified four major projects to assist meeting demand and gaps in the existing provision of sporting facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade Traeger Park • Multipurpose floodlit synthetic playing field • Multipurpose indoor sports centre • Synthetic track and field facility |



| Document Information | Implications for the Master Plan |
|---|---|
| ASTC Sporting Facilities Demand Analysis, 2010, Alice Springs Town Council/ SGL Consulting | <p>A number on minor projects were identified by sports and assigned a priority based on the potential to assist Council in achieving its vision and goals.</p> <p>As part of the above master plan, a demand analysis report was developed to identify the situation at the time the report was developed. Overall the report identified a number of development and operational issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lack of training floodlights for many field sports ○ Lack of shade for players and spectators ○ Lack of seating for players and spectators ○ Poor quality amenities (e.g. Change rooms and toilets) ○ Capacity of existing supply of utilities (e.g. electricity at Anzac Oval and Traeger Park and water supply to hockey centre) • Facility or Sport Specific Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public toilets at Traeger Park ○ Run off at Traeger Park Hockey Centre ○ Run off at Traeger Park Tennis Courts ○ Limited room for expansion of individual facilities at Traeger Park (e.g. Tennis) and Ross Park (e.g. Netball) ○ Inadequate size of Albrecht Oval for AFL ○ Cracker dust surface at Jim McConville softball diamonds ○ Spectator facilities at the basketball stadium ○ Quality of playing surface at CDU Oval ○ Lack of synthetic track and field facilities ○ Lack of indoor sport facilities to cater for activities other than basketball • Operational Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cost to operate floodlights at Traeger Park ○ Maintenance costs of turf wickets ○ Maintenance costs of all turf playing fields ○ Availability and of water for maintenance ○ Managing shared use of outdoor sporting facilities, particularly for training in winter ○ Catering for summer sport during daylight hours ○ Equitable and consistent tenure agreements for all sporting facilities ○ Financial capacity of sport to contribute to the operating and development costs of facilities ○ Competition between sports for junior and senior players |
| NT Sport and Active Recreation Master Plan DRAFT, NT Government/ Otium Planning Group, 2016 | <p><i>(note this document was never released as a final document by the NTG)</i></p> <p>The Northern Territory Sport and Active Recreation Master Plan was developed around 6 strategic directions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the sustainability of sport and active recreation organisations and the viability of their programs • Respond to changing patterns of participation and increasing involvement in active recreation • Improve facility planning and provision • Support regional and remote communities • Invest in urban growth areas • Encourage a whole-of-government program integration <p>The structure of the report sets out outcomes, strategies, and actions. The following actions will impact the Alice Springs Sporting Facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review organisational funding programs and the current Tier Funding Approach. Consider adopting a model that provides a base level of funding to all groups (meeting a defined threshold criteria) with additional funding linked to specific DSR objectives and outcomes (such as increased provision in |



| Document Information | Implications for the Master Plan |
|--|--|
| | <p>remote communities or increased participation). The system should be designed to better reward those organisations that are delivering against the Departments objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Alice Springs Sporting Facilities Masterplan |
| Alice Springs Town Council Municipal Plan 2018-2022, 2018 | <p>The municipal plan set out a number of initiatives associated with sport and recreation facilities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3.096M investment in parks, gardens and ovals • \$2.239M investment in Alice Springs Aquatic and Leisure Centre • \$152,000 to fund the Healthy Communities Program • \$5.4M towards the Alice Springs Capital Sporting Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ resurfacing of the Hockey Pitch at Traeger Avenue (\$600 000) ○ Installation of evaporative coolers and fans at the Alice Springs Basketball Centre (\$540 000) ○ Upgrade toilets, change rooms, canteen facilities and ancillary facilities at Jim McConville Oval (\$1 000 000) ○ Upgrade of toilets, canteen facilities, change rooms and ancillary facilities at Ross Park (\$1 000 000) ○ Upgrade of track and field facilities at Rhonda Diano Oval (excludes lights and fencing) (\$300 000) ○ Upgrade toilets, canteen facilities, change rooms and ancillary facilities at Flynn Drive Oval (\$1 000 000) ○ Upgrade change rooms, toilets, storage and ancillary facilities at Albrecht Oval (\$1 000 000). • \$1.2M towards lighting upgrade at the Albrecht Oval (with \$600K funding from the NTG) |
| Strategic Plan 2018-2022, Alice Springs Town Council, 2018 | <p>The strategic plan, developed by Council, set out a number of strategic objectives aimed to assist Council in reaching their vision of <i>A vibrant and thriving community that embraces our culture: diversity and environment.</i></p> <p>To implement these objectives a number of actions are associated with them. The following actions will have an implication on the delivery of the new Sport Facilities Master Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 2: A great place to live. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide sport, recreation and leisure opportunities, which maximise social capital ○ Promote active lifestyles for people of all ages |
| Alice Springs Land Use Plan 2016, NT Planning Commission | <p>The Alice Springs Land Use Plan identifies that there is limited sport and active recreation opportunities south of the gap. The existing opportunities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Motorcycle Club • The Shooting Complex • The Blatherskite Showground • Pioneer Park Racecourse • Finke Desert Race • Central Australia Drag Racing <p>The Plan suggests that consideration should be given to the planning of a new multi-purpose space (minimum 3.5 Ha), and this space should be considered south of Heavitree Gap.</p> |

3.1 Progress on Previous Sports Facilities Master Plan



In reviewing the previous master plan the Sports Facility Advisory Committee (SFAC) noted that investment has not strictly followed the recommendations, including not undertaking any of the four feasibility studies.

3.1.1 Prior Feasibility Study Recommendations

The following key feasibility recommendations emerging from the last master plan have been reviewed and the recommended progression of these is below.

Indoor Centre

The previous plan identified a need for an indoor centre that incorporated a dedicated gymnastics space, multiple courts and/ or space for exercise and martial arts.

This study or the facilities suggested are no longer required with the development of the new netball centre as a four-court indoor complex and the YMCA indoor centre which supports gymnastics and martial arts.

Outdoor Multi-purpose Facility- Athletics Track

The outdoor multipurpose facility was identified as unviable at Anzac Oval, however options to develop a standalone athletics facility at either Rhonda Diano Oval or a secondary school were considered. One option was to develop a major sporting hub, incorporating the Alice Springs Secondary School and Jim McConville Oval.

Work for the new Master Plan still supports the need for multi-purpose sports fields, mostly to address training access for a number of codes. In the case of athletics, the development of a synthetic athletics track and facility is not supported at this time as the sport has low numbers, a synthetic facility is expensive to build and maintain and the prospect of attracting a number of events is unknown. If interest in this proposal continues then a full feasibility is recommended, but it is likely that any facility will require a significant operational subsidy.

Athletics should continue to be supported at Rhonda Diano Oval and a grassed facility provides for multiple use effectively. SFAC has identified a desire for a partial synthetic track to be installed.

Synthetic Sports Oval

The development of a synthetic oval required a detailed business plan to assess the financial viability of the proposal of developing Jim McConville Oval to a synthetic playing surface.

Progressing a large synthetic surface sporting oval is not supported at this time. Work undertaken by Otium for AFL NT on the feasibility of a synthetic AFL field in Darwin highlighted a number of issues with the use of synthetics in the territory, not the least of which is the heat load on these surfaces in the summer. The level of demand, capital cost, maintenance costs and replacement values would suggest that this is not financially supportable proposition in Alice Springs. The development of a higher quality grass playing surface would most likely be more cost effective.

3.1.2 New Facility Priorities/Aspirations from SFAC

SFAC provided a list of revised improvements on facilities the SFAC are responsible for, outlined in the table below. These plans were not an alternative to the previous sports facilities master plan, but rather a suggested direction for future planning. Several of these suggestions have been implemented with the latest round of NTG funding.

Table 2 Suggested Facility Directions/options from SFAC

| Proposed Future Development |
|------------------------------------|
| TRAEGER PARK - HOCKEY ARENA |
| Shade on eastern banks |



| |
|---|
| Proposed Future Development |
| Change rooms & first aid room, Incorp Bar area |
| Shade on western side |
| Seating on eastern bank |
| Determine use for grassed pitch adjacent |
| Concrete run off |
| Separate water supply |
| TRAEGER PARK - TENNIS CENTRE |
| Upgrade to sports lighting |
| Additional Drinking fountain |
| Extension and alterations to clubhouse |
| Additional Shade |
| Concrete areas |
| Upgrade fencing |
| Upgrade A/C System in managers house |
| Upgrade A/C system in clubhouse |
| Additional 4 courts required |
| Alternate - Replacement of Venue - 16 courts |
| TRAEGER PARK - BASKETBALL STADIUM |
| Replacement of playing surface |
| Upgrade of sports lighting |
| Additional parking at front of stadium |
| Security lights at front of stadium |
| External shade at rear of stadium |
| Rework court 1 seating to allow runoff |
| Alternate - Capital Construction of new facility |
| TRAEGER PARK - MAIN OVAL |
| Completion of Stage 2 of the lighting project 2000 lux |
| Completion of stage 2 of the Grandstand project |
| Upgrades to the Canteen areas |
| Shade for spectators |
| Continuation of grassed mounds for spectator viewing |
| Install new oval perimeter fence |
| Resurface dirt area at southern end |
| Construction of a child's play area |
| Reconstruct Speed Street main entry |
| Set up of sight screens |
| Upgrade to electronic scoreboard and time clock |
| Play area for kids |
| Entry Statement off Gap Road |
| PAT GALLAGHER NETBALL CENTRE |
| Canteen A/C System |
| Install A/C system in Umpires room |
| Replacement of steel goal posts |
| Storage room |
| Additional shade |
| Scorers tables |
| Upgrade play equipment in playground |
| Freestanding training wall |
| Sponsor signage frame |
| Reallocate soccer change rooms |
| Remove gate keeper enclosure |
| Alternate - Replacement of facility |
| ALBRECHT OVAL |



| Proposed Future Development |
|---|
| Installation of sports lights |
| Installation of public toilets and more change rooms |
| Installation of canteen & electronic scoreboard |
| Installation of spectator shade |
| Upgrade to fencing |
| Replace goal posts |
| TRAEGER PARK - LYLE KEMPSTER BASEBALL PARK |
| Shade areas around seating and canteen areas |
| Construction of Grandstand |
| Improve & upgrade security lighting |
| Upgrade main ground lighting |
| New Storage shed |
| Construction of Bull Pens |
| Repair batting cages |
| Extend dug outs |
| Installation of training room |
| JIM McCONVILLE DIAMONDS |
| Construction of toilets and change rooms west end |
| Installation of Lighting on diamond 1 |
| Movement of diamond 1 - easterly |
| JIM McCONVILLE OVAL |
| Turf wicket Facility & Storage Shed |
| Shade Southern End |
| Fencing |
| ANZAC OVAL |
| Electronic Scoreboard |
| Permanent Grandstand |
| Additional Shade |
| Conversion to Rectangular Lit Facility |
| ROSS PARK OVAL |
| Increase Storage Area |
| Increase height of fence behind A grade pitch |
| New Goal posts for all pitches |
| Technical covered area on east side of A grade pitch |
| Installation of Sports lighting A grade pitch |
| Shade on B grade pitch |
| Toilets upgrade |
| Build separate Change rooms |
| Canteen upgrade - concreting & Lighting |
| Canteen Water Heater |
| Lights on the School side |
| Perimeter fencing around whole site |
| <i>Alternate - Relocate to new site with potential for 4 pitches and amenities</i> |
| FLYNN OVAL |
| Upgrade lighting |
| RHONDA DIANO OVAL |
| Synthetic Athletic Track and associated facilities |
| Lights |
| CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY OVAL |
| Installation of public toilets and change rooms |
| Installation of spectator shade |
| Car access |



3.2 SFAC Recommendations 2019

Following an initial review of the findings of this study, Council and SFAC provided a list of actions that they view as priorities for the provision of sport facilities across Alice Springs. These include a list of the top ten priorities, and a range of other actions that, where possible, could be investigated by the individual sport or organisation through opportunistic funding.

It is important to consider the long-term strategic direction of sport facility provision in Alice Springs. Along with this Master Plan, the items below should be subject to an annual review to ensure that development of sport in Alice Springs is planned with a shared vision for the future. It is not recommended that individual sports or organisations develop facilities outside of what is identified within the Master plan, unless an expressed demand arises and consultation with SFAC and Council is undertaken.

3.2.1 Top 10 Priorities for SFAC:

1. New Sporting Oval with Lights at Kilgariff Estate
2. Desert Life Church - Rectangular Field
3. Anzac Oval- Power Upgrade
4. Hockey- Facility Upgrade
5. Netball - Facility Upgrade
6. Increase Lux Level - Anzac Oval
7. Increase Lux Levels - Ross Park Main Pitch
8. Increase Lux Levels - Flynn Drive Oval
9. Increase Lux Levels- Traeger Park Main Oval
10. Increase Lux Levels - Lyle Kempster Baseball Diamond

3.2.2 Other Projects for opportunistic funding

- Anzac Scoreboard
- Albrecht Fence
- Basketball toilets
- Baseball Toilets
- Baseball Shed/Scorers Box
- Jim McConville Fence
- Softball Diamonds Grassed Field
- Fence at Hockey
- Hockey Shed
- Traeger Park Change rooms
- Shade at Traeger - Retractable
- Traeger Main- AFL Office and Change rooms
- Tennis Toilets
- Resurface Tennis courts
- Tennis Canteen
- Resurface Netball outdoor courts



- Lighting - Netball Car Park
- Netball Shade
- Rhonda Diano Lights
- Rhonda Diano Shade
- High Performance facility
-

4. Overview of Community and Stakeholder Engagement

The community engagement program was developed with council staff and SFAC¹ input. It was designed to build a strong understanding of current facility issues and organisational issues for the sports as well as increase understanding of community views, issues and aspirations.

Figure 10 Key Community Engagement Activities



¹ Sports Facility Advisory Committee



Figure 11 Albrecht Oval

4.1 Council Perspectives

Discussions with council staff and elected members identified a number of key perspectives for the study:

Alice Springs is Unique

For its population size, Alice Springs has a very high level of service, and “punches well above its weight” in reference to its ability to attract high level events to the town. This however has led to a growing level of community expectation around the standard of facility that should be provided in Alice Springs. The Town acts as the “capital” of Central Australia and services a large region. Its unique status means that it can often attract good levels of support from federal and territory governments.

Impact of Success

Hosting elite sport and the levels of participation in Alice Springs while a success, has also led to overuse of some facilities, due to demand for the higher quality facilities. This has led to issues around facility condition and maintenance scheduling, this is of particular issue at Traeger Park. This is compounded by the current maintenance practice of removing turf from one field to replace at another. Overall, maintenance is Council’s main concern, including Council’s ability to continue the current level of service across all sites.

‘The Gap’

Council also recognise that there are existing community concerns in reference to facility development south of ‘the gap’ and travel distance. Past proposals to develop additional sports field capacity or relocate sports south of ‘The Gap’ have largely been unsuccessful. However existing facilities in the locale have been building profile and utilisation as locations for horse sports, difficult to locate sport and major events.

Demand and Utilisation

It is recognised that not all facilities are currently being used to capacity. However, there are a number of constraining factors limiting hours a specific field or oval can sustain. These include, playing surface condition, size, access and location, and lack of or poor quality of lighting available at fields.

Developing a Strategic Approach

Council’s priority is to ensure that the existing facilities are maintained to a suitable standard, however, defining the standard can be complex within the aspirations of individual sports, high expectations of the community and the financial constraints that council must acknowledge when considering operating costs of



sport and recreation facilities. A key issue is that external funding for capital works can often be found but the recurrent costs of maintaining facilities is left solely with council and user groups. It is important any new development is part of a larger plan for strategic investment and is at a scale that is sustainable for council and the community.

4.2 Sport Summit

A sport summit was held to provide community club and organisations an opportunity to provide input into the project. There were 13 representatives from various sports present at the meeting. The following comments were made.

- Need for improved spectator amenities, particularly shade:
 - The design of any permanent shade structures needs to take into consideration the climate and angles of light in Alice Springs.
 - Consideration of volunteer hours needs to be considered as part of moveable or temporary features.
- There is limited knowledge among the sports on how to correct issues when they arise, leading clubs to not want to play at the ground.
- The current practice of removing turf at one venue to use at another venue for major events is having large impacts on both sites.
- There is a need to increase multi-use and sharing of facilities across sports.
- Pat Gallagher Netball Complex does not have suitable player amenities and the opportunity to co-locate facilities with soccer may have been missed.
- Car parking is a major issue at Ross Park.
- Access to drinking water at all sports precincts needs to be investigated to ensure there is suitable drinking water access, especially for junior sports.
- Across the various sites there are canteen concerns, especially with the increasing workplace health and safety requirements and demand on volunteers.
- Access to facilities for new or emerging sports is difficult, and there is little communication between sports around availability of spaces.
- Overall a number of observations were made about how existing facilities could be better utilised to provide synergies between sports without duplicating existing facilities.
- There is a conflict between the traditionally larger sports, who in the past have successfully attracted large one-off events, and smaller membership-based sports. This has led to the community expectations for increased investment into these facilities to ensure they are of a suitable standard to continue to host these events, at the expense of other facilities.
- Clubs would like to see more investment in non-council land (such as schools), however, they understand that any investment would need to be after an agreement to ensure community access.
- There were suggestions to look at the role SFAC plays in Alice Springs, and whether they should have a more proactive approach to facility management and development of clubs.
- There was a desire for better communication across all levels including with Council, SFAC, NTG, peak sporting bodies and between individual user groups in Alice.

4.3 Other Groups

4.3.1 Personal Trainers and outdoor Group Fitness



Get Physical, along with other personal trainers, use Anzac Oval for various bootcamp style classes. There is anecdotal evidence that some use of the oval does damage the field and sidelines, however, Get Physical attempt to limit use of the oval to running and using existing features, such as the grandstand, to facilitate classes.

There is a growing demand for space for personal fitness and boot camp style classes. Traeger Park was identified as a site that would also provide similar opportunities for the PT community, however, Get Physical understands that the field is a premier site and that Council may wish to limit access. At a minimum Get Physical identified the need for access to a good surface, preferably turf, and water points.

4.3.2 YMCA

YMCA currently has approximately 780 members and are expanding the existing program space to have 3 program rooms and a spin room. The facility has a rock wall, childcare, and court space. The court space is also hired by gymnastics and where available, program space is hired for various groups. The YMCA does face similar issues to other clubs and groups with difficulty in obtaining qualified coaches, and many community groups, particularly martial art groups do not have qualified instructors to run programs.

YMCA would like to continue to develop the existing site, with potential to look at a hydrotherapy pool on site, and some outdoor activities. The development of a multi-use grass space adjacent to the centre is being considered to create outdoor activity space and this could be used by groups needing training space but is not likely to be a formal field configuration. YMCA also wants to look at running some programming off site, where possible.

4.3.3 Blatherskite Park

This large facility south of 'The Gap' supports a number of sports and events. It is managed by a community board and is home to a large range of 'difficult to locate' sports and activities, including:

- Riding for the disabled
- Dog obedience training
- BMX
- Equestrian facilities
- RC cars
- Rodeo
- Drone flying
- Men's Shed
- 4WD
- Fitness activities (walking and running)
- Model train space
- Supports major events such as the Finke Desert Race

The management board do not see they have a role in providing space for traditional field sports, under the current management model, as they are unable to maintain fields to a suitable standard and this is unlikely to change while equestrian activities are undertaken on those spaces. A previous use for soccer had been trialled unsuccessfully. Generating sufficient revenue to maintain the park and facilities is a challenge and they are currently developing van and motorhome accommodation for around 30 tourist camping spaces, creating an additional source of revenue.



The park's development plans for the next decade is to focus on improving existing infrastructure and continuing to provide space for groups and organisations that are generally difficult to locate.

4.3.4 Lhere Artepe Native Title holders

The native title holders have no concerns regarding sporting use of the current sites. On a more general note they would like to see a more precinct-based approach to sport facility planning in Alice Springs. In particular, they observed that some co-location of compatible sports and planning for the whole precinct not just the individual sport facility would be an improvement. This may help to address parking, which they see as a major issue. As indicated in the past they are willing to work with the Northern Territory Government and council on the development of a new sports precinct along Bradshaw Drive, should additional facilities be needed.

4.3.5 Sport and Recreation - Northern Territory Government

The Northern Territory Government sees Alice Springs as a key regional location for central Australia. Sport and Recreation see Alice Springs as a location with quality facilities and identified that there were challenges with maintenance under existing policy settings which leave council as solely responsible. The standard of some facilities may be inhibiting Council's ability to attract higher level events.

Sport and Recreation identified that school facilities were an 'untapped' resource in Alice Springs however noted that they normally leave the negotiation of agreements to Council's to manage and develop. The current model operating between Council and Charles Darwin University was seen as a positive advance and that should be investigated further as a possible model for other education facilities in Alice Springs.

4.4 Community Survey Analysis

A community Survey was conducted during the consultation period to gather the views of the general community on a range of aspects of sporting facilities in Alice Springs. The Survey ran for six weeks, closing on the 14th of June, and was promoted on Council's website, social media pages and three press releases were made in the local media.

In total 71 responses were received, with the majority of respondents being male (60.5%) and aged between 30-49 (62%). The Survey also asked respondents about others in their households, which meant that the total number of residents covered by the survey responses was approximately 213.

62 of the 71 respondents indicated that they were a member of a sporting club, and only 11% of the respondents indicating that their level of participation decreased in the last 12 months. 55 respondents stated that they are currently volunteering in some capacity. Those that stated they didn't volunteer identified lack of time as the main barrier, followed by lack of training, however these combined, only accounted for 13 total responses.

Respondents were asked to identify what facilities they had used in the last 6 months, with the most popular facilities identified as Albrecht Oval, Flynn Drive Oval, Jim McConville Oval, and Paul Fitzsimmons Oval (CDU Oval). These facilities were overwhelmingly used for organised sports participation, with the exception of Anzac Oval, which respondents identified as their main use being a spectator.



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

ALICE SPRINGS SPORTS FACILITIES MASTER PLAN – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Alice Springs Town Council is seeking community input to the Sports Facilities Master Plan to enable planning for the future growth of respective sports within the community and upgrading/development of Council-owned and managed facilities, including ovals, pitches, fields and stadiums.

To complete the online survey, visit:

www.alicesprings.nt.gov.au/consult

before 5pm, Friday 14 June 2019

For more information please contact Council's Sports Officer on 8950 0563.

Rex Mooney
Chief Executive Officer
"A town like Alice"

(08) 8950 0500

www.alicesprings.nt.gov.au

Figure 12 Press Release for the Community Survey



4.4.1 Facility Usage

The community survey focused on determining existing facility usage and community priorities. The community was able to nominate any of the facilities in Alice Springs not just those that are the focus of the study. This allowed an understanding of the amount and diversity of use of sporting facilities in Alice Springs. Respondents were asked to select the facilities that they had visited in the last 12 months. These are identified in the figure below.

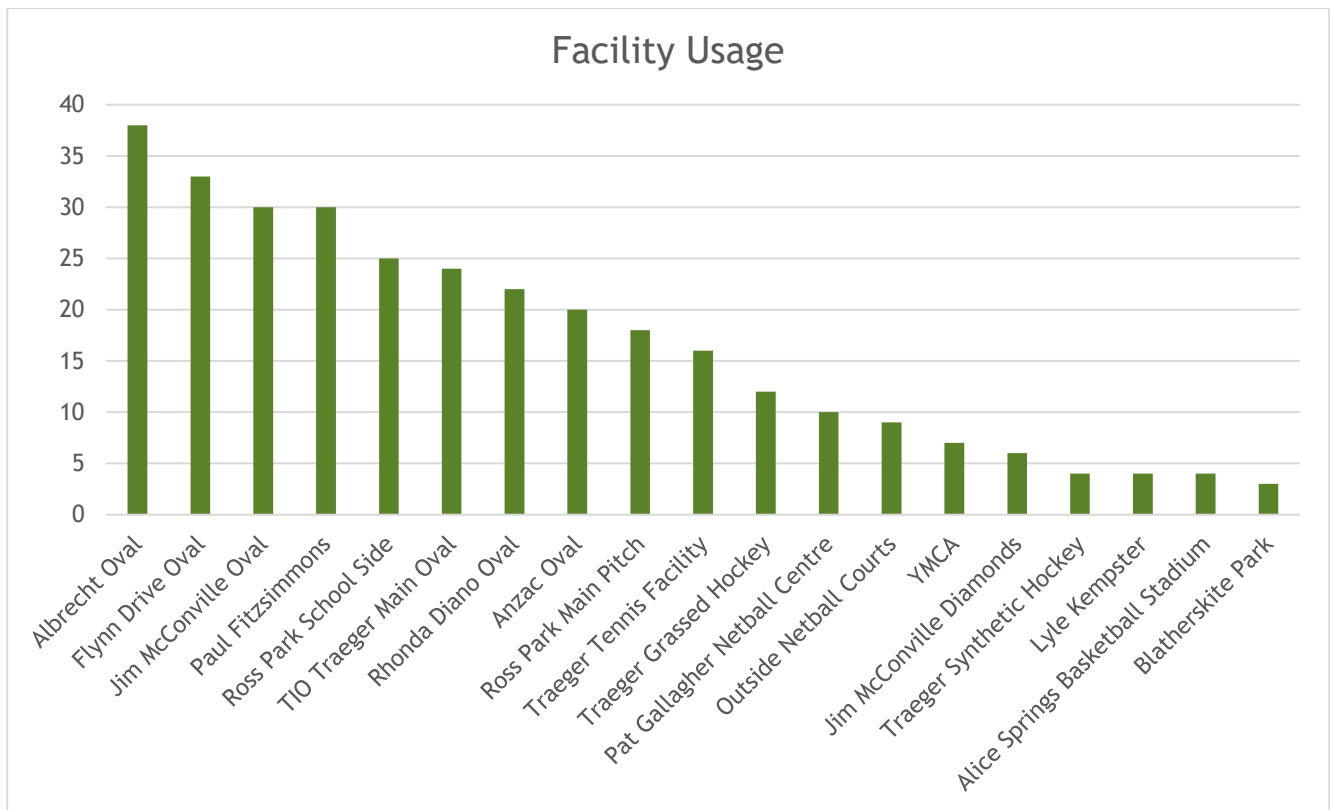


Figure 13 Facility Usage - Community Survey



4.4.2 Time Spent

Many of the respondents were spending more than 2 hours at a facility, which accounted for approximately 50% all responses across each site. This is not unusual for field sport facilities.

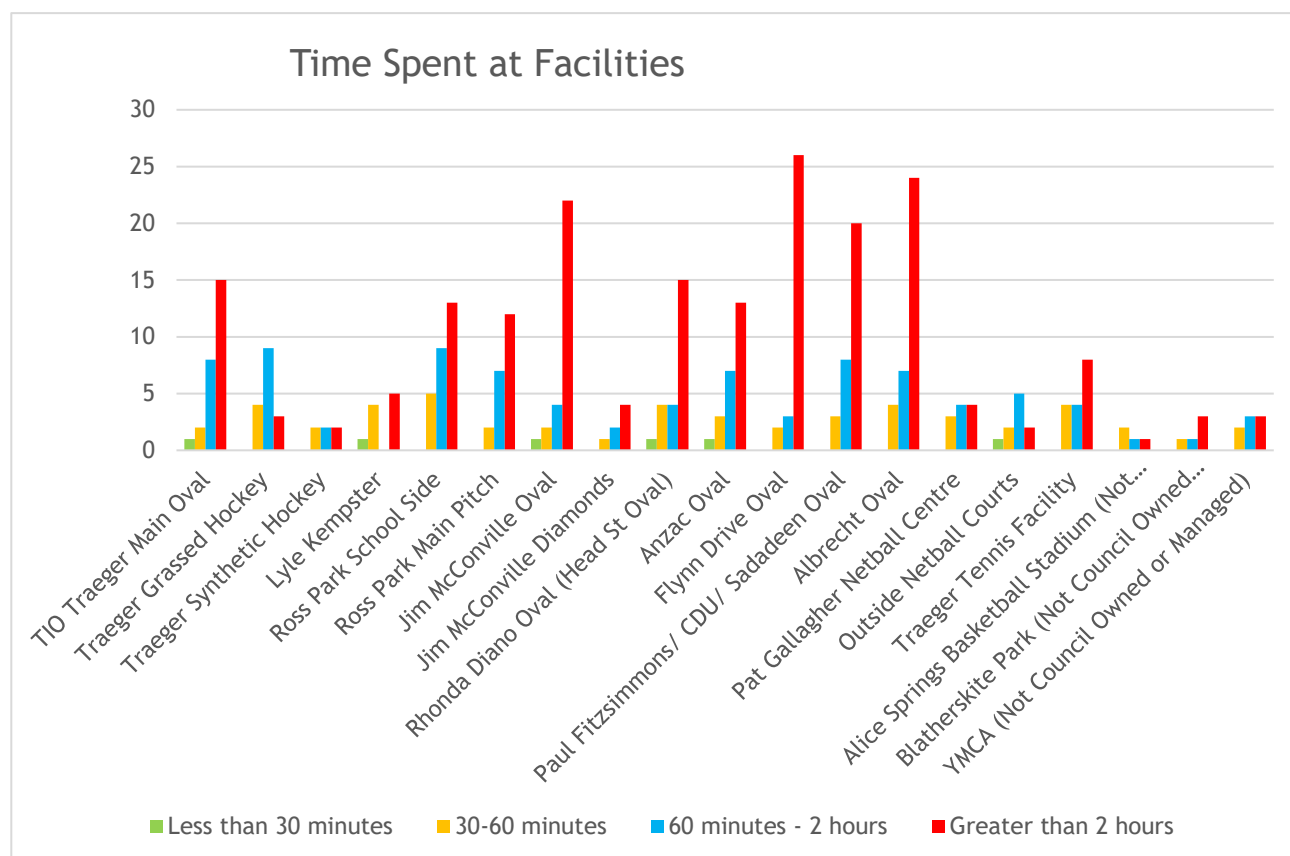


Figure 14: Time spent at the facility

Key observations on the duration of use are:

- On average, field sport locations have much longer duration stays than court sports.
- Albrecht, Flynn Drive, Jim McConville and Paul Fitzsimmons had the highest responses for long stays. This suggests that spectator and player amenities may be a priority at these locations.
- Traeger Synthetic Hockey field appears to have very low rates of use and short stays

4.4.3 Facility Satisfaction

Respondents were asked to rate the satisfaction of each facility that they visited on a scale from very poor to very good. Of the 19 facilities that were identified as part of the survey, 6 received an overall poor rating (with at least 50% of responses being poor or very poor). These facilities were TIO Traeger Main Oval, Traeger Grassed Hockey, Jim McConville Diamonds, Flynn Drive Oval, Paul Fitzsimmons Oval, Alice Springs Basketball Stadium. It is important to note however not all facilities received the same number of responses (as in users) which means that facilities with low use could have a low satisfaction rating due to limited respondents views. The following graph summarises:

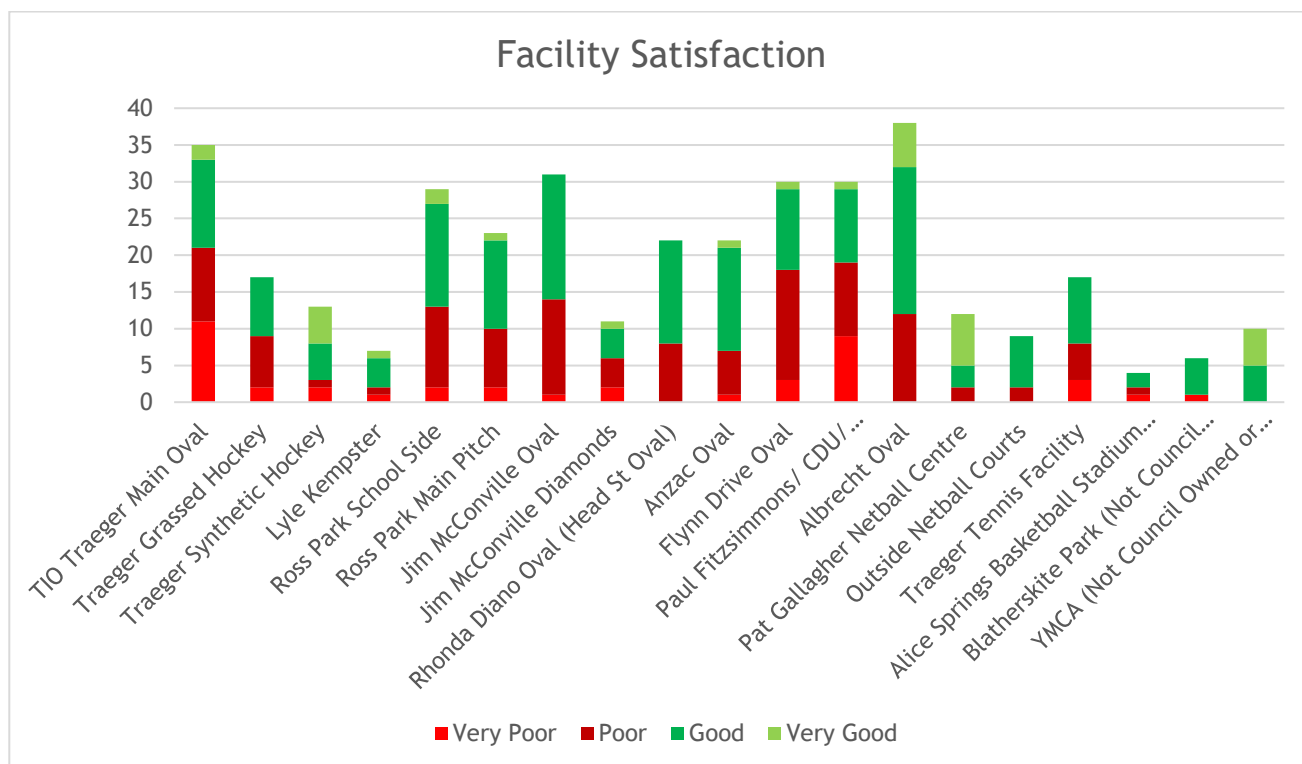


Figure 15: Facility Satisfaction

4.4.4 Community Priorities for Sports Facility Investment

In general, community priorities across the facilities focused on lighting and improving amenities, however it is important to note that as part of the \$6.2 million grant funds received from the Territory government, a number of venues will have new or improved amenities buildings.

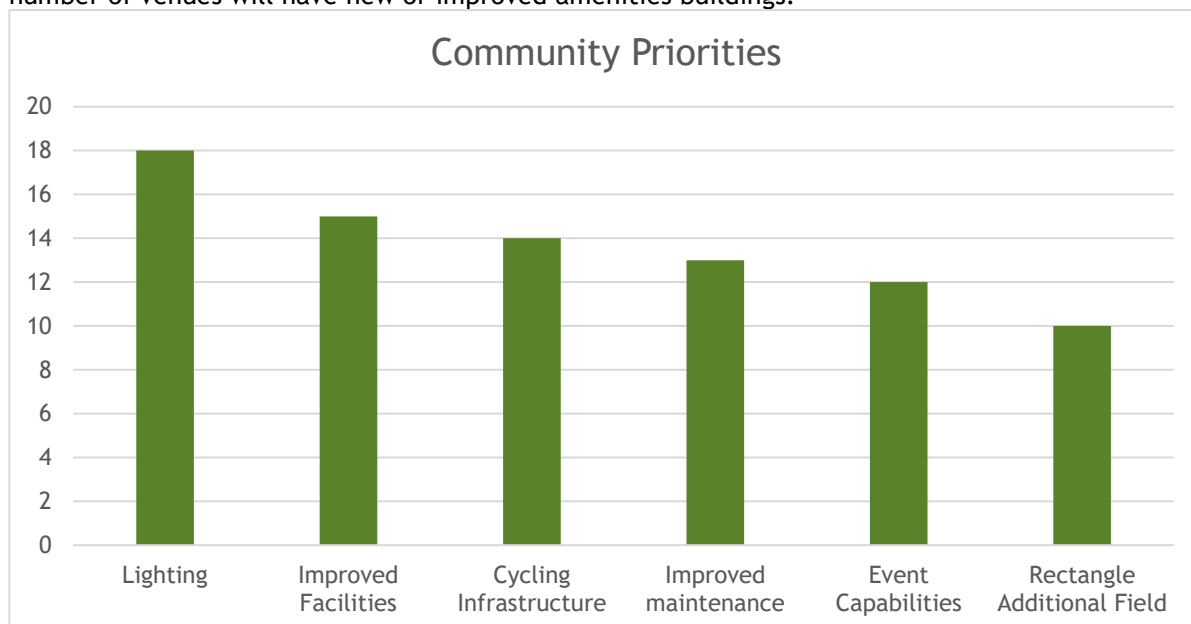


Figure 16 - Top Priorities for Sports Facilities Improvement



Improving field maintenance was potentially influenced by the loss of a Big Bash League (BBL) match and issues around playing surface for cricket. Cycling infrastructure was identified by the Central Australian Rough Riders (CARR) members, who showed a commitment to encouraging members respond to the survey.

4.4.5 Activity Barriers

Respondents were asked to identify any activities that they would like to participate in, but currently don't, and why. The activities that were identified include:

- Junior Baseball - lack of participation
- Junior Cricket mid-week - lack of lit facilities
- Social football competitions - lack of free ovals
- Indoor Cricket - lack of facilities
- Pump track - lack the facility
- Athletics - Lack a synthetic facility
- Junior Hockey - lack of facilities

Other activities that were identified included Yoga, spectating games and passive time with family, with public transport or family and work commitment identified as the barrier.

4.4.6 Additional Comments

Respondents were also provided an opportunity to provide additional comment on the study or sports facilities in Alice Springs. There were wide ranging comments from improvements to specific facilities, to general comments regarding communication and consultation from SFAC and Council. Eight themes were identified, listed below in order of response rate:

1. Upgrading facilities (22 responses)
2. Developing Mountain Bike facilities (8 responses)
3. Improving management and access to facilities (6 responses)
4. Improving turf maintenance (5 responses)
5. Attracting events (4 responses)
6. Improved communication with Council/ Sports Facility Advisory Committee (4 responses)
7. New facilities (2 responses)
8. Improving healthy eating options (1 responses)

4.5 Club Survey Analysis

Run Concurrently to the community survey a club and organisation survey was run to identify the facilities used, issues and constraints facing the groups and the priorities for each group². Club surveys were distributed by email with a link to the online survey. Clubs were reminded multiple times to complete surveys. At the close of the survey, 32 clubs and organisations had responded and all user sports except Athletics, Hockey and Softball had completed surveys.

A detailed analysis was undertaken for each sport and is summarised in section 5 of this report. This section will give a brief overview of the findings from the club and organisation survey.

² Some clubs and organisations had multiple responses from multiple members. In this case the president's response was used as part of the analysis.



4.5.1 Facility Usage - Club Use per Facility

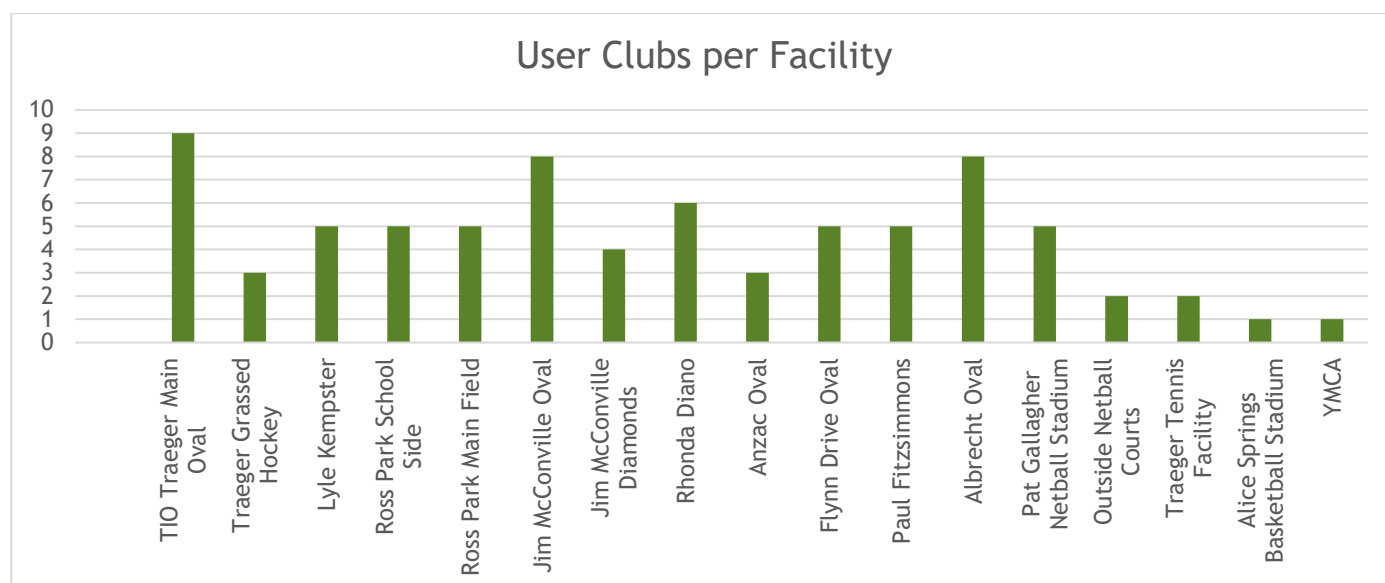


Figure 17: Facility Usage

The above indicates that most sports will operate across a number of facilities. The number of clubs using a facility indicates how many sports a facility may support, however it is not the best measure of utilisation as the actual hours of use provide much clearer picture. Hours of use is discussed in detail under each facility in Section 6.

The facilities with the highest numbers of clubs using them were: Traeger Main Oval, Jim McConville Oval and Albrecht Oval, all oval facilities reflecting the dominance of cricket and AFL as a field sport user group. If a facility is not shown in the graph in the figure above, it was not used by respondents.

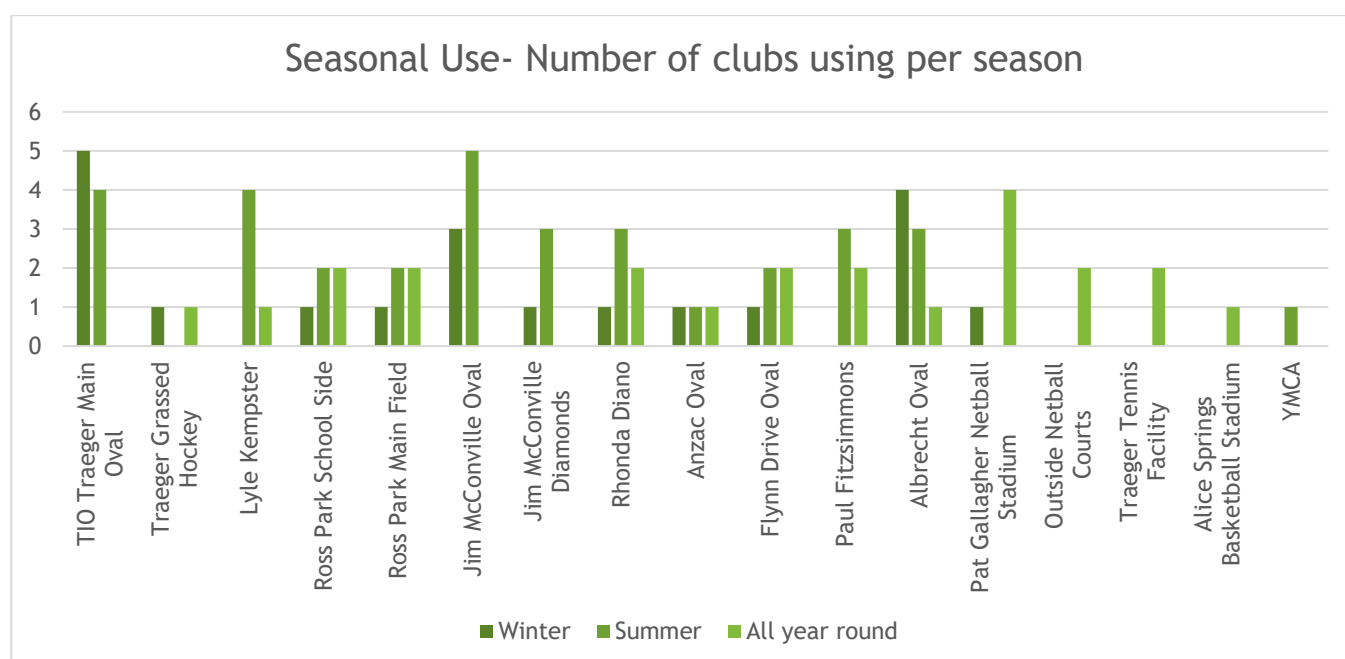


Figure 18: Seasonal Use of Facilities



The majority of facilities were used all year round, and some of the specialist facilities had greater use in their peak season, like Lyle Kempster Baseball Diamond.

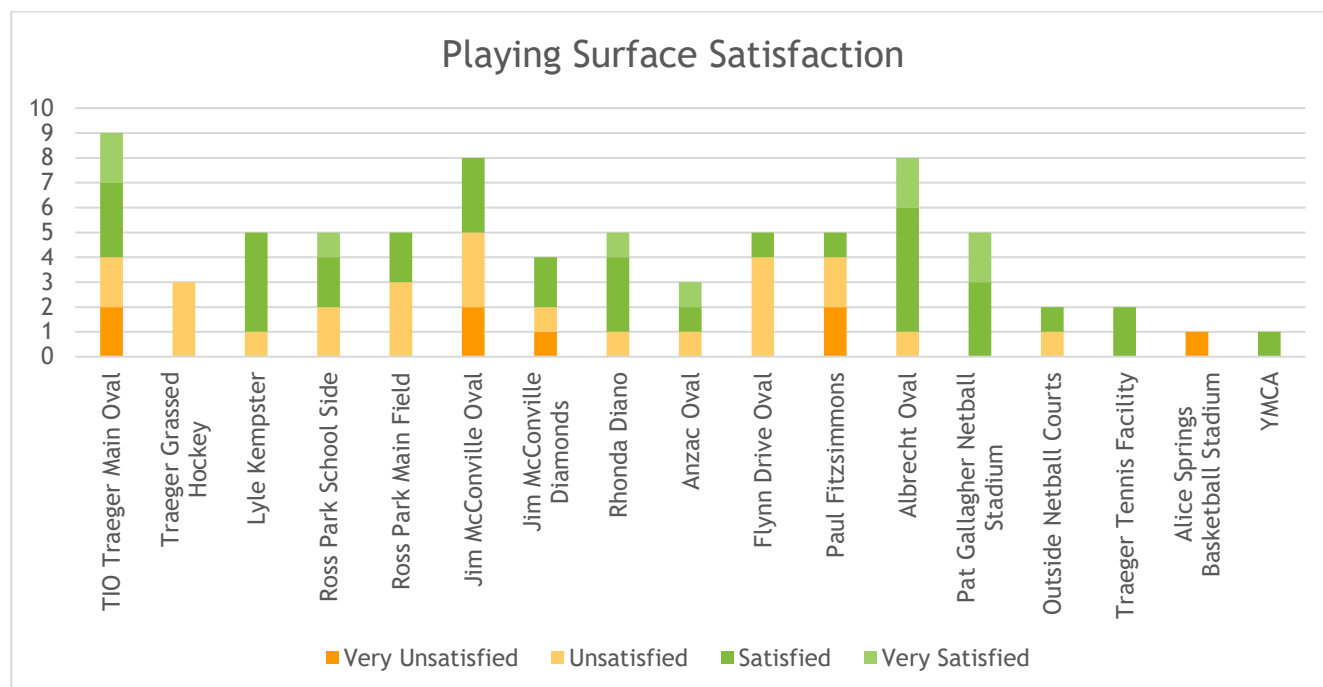


Figure 19: Playing Surface Satisfaction

Although there were some concerns at the time of the survey with the quality of the playing surfaces (this was most likely influenced by recent issues associated with hosting high level cricket and decisions made to prepare a suitable playing surface that impacted on a number of clubs). In general, there were 27 responses with an “unsatisfied” viewpoint. Reasons featured poor ground maintenance (including the removal of turf to be used on different sites), access to watering, and overuse of the facility leading to surface damage.

The facilities that were identified as unsatisfactory include:

- Traeger Grass Hockey Field (3 total responses)
- Jim McConville Oval (8 total responses)
- Flynn Drive Oval (5 total responses)
- Ross Park Main Oval (5 total responses)
- Paul Fitzsimmons Oval (5 total Responses)
- Alice Springs Basketball Stadium (1 response)

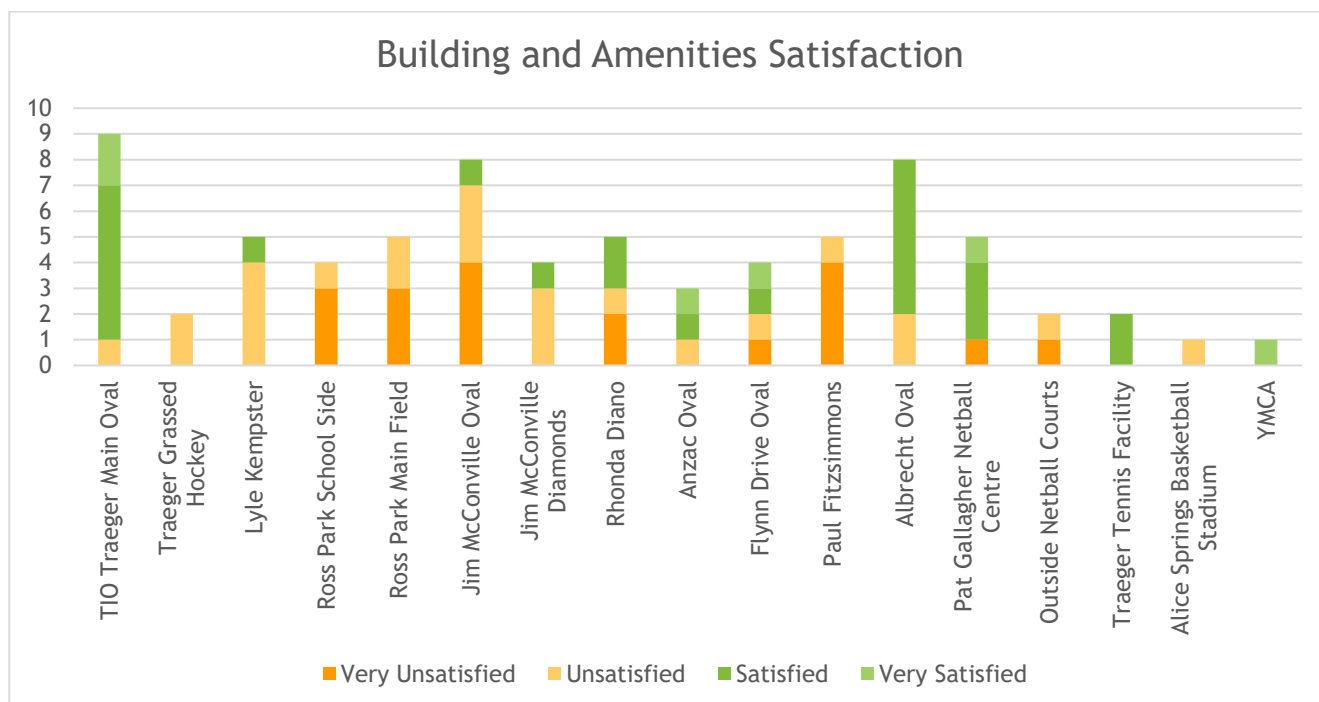


Figure 20 User Satisfaction with Buildings and Amenities

The majority of the built facilities were rated unsatisfactory by respondents. Most of these indicated that their dissatisfaction was around access to amenities, and although Council was taking steps to address these issues there was also concern around impact on access during the construction phase. It should be noted that new amenities buildings were being constructed for most of the main facilities covered by this study (except Paul Fitzsimmons Oval, owned by Charles Darwin University, and Traeger Park). These upgrades are the result of grant funding received from NTG.

Other responses also identified the need for additional shade, particularly for spectators and the need for additional lights.

The facilities performing the best were:

- Pat Gallagher Netball Centre
- Traeger Park Main Oval
- Albrecht Oval
- Traeger Park Tennis
- YMCA

More detail on the issues with specific facilities covered by this master plan is provided in Section 6.

4.5.2 Issues facing Clubs and Organisations

Clubs and Organisations were asked to rate the impacts a number of issues had on their organisation. The top four issues facing clubs and organisations (those with the most responses to “high Impact”) were ‘lack of field lighting’, ‘difficulty attracting and retaining volunteers’, ‘lack of spectator amenities’ and ‘access to toilet and change facilities’.

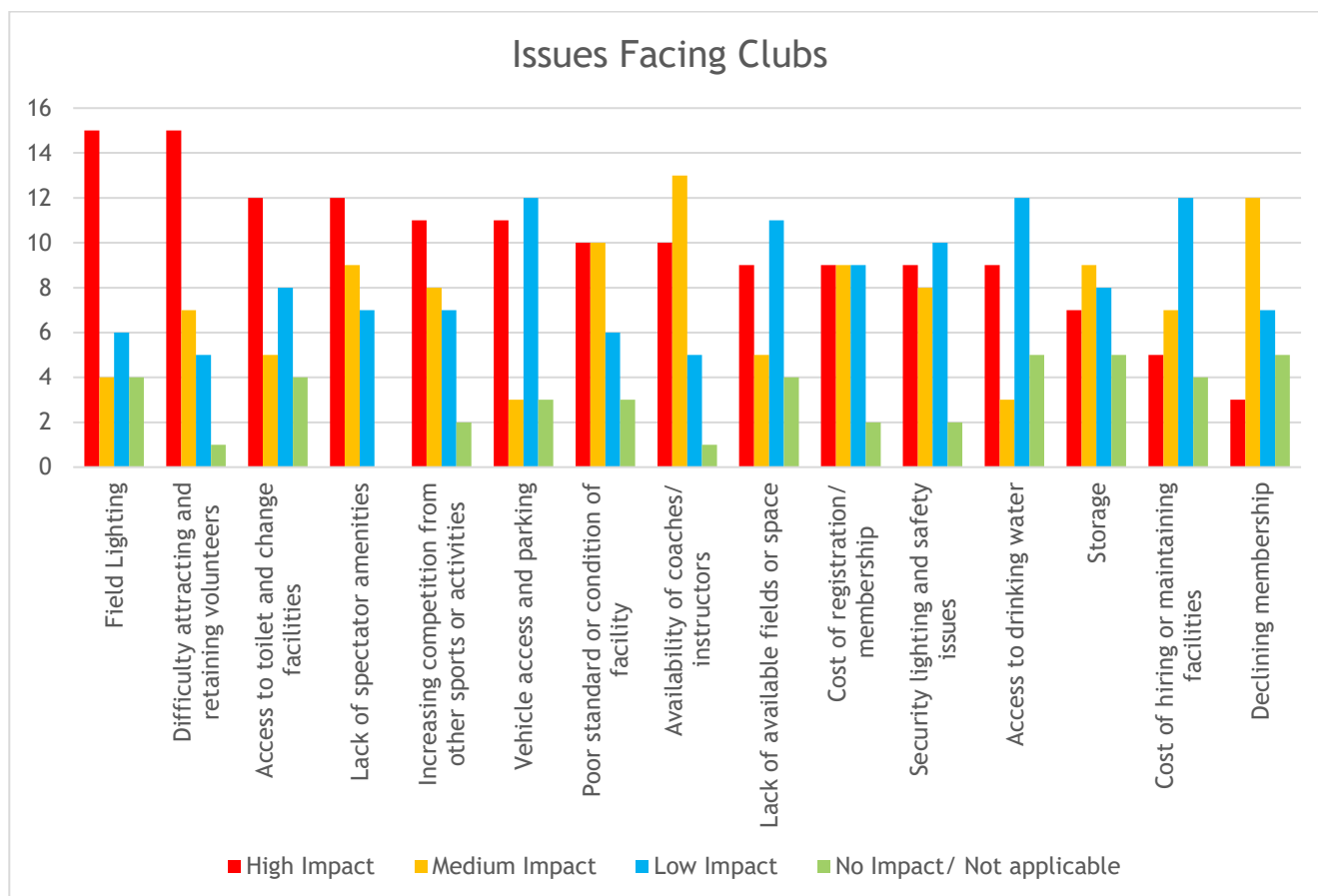


Figure 21: Issues facing clubs and organisations

However, there were a number of secondary issues (those with medium impact) which also highlighted issues of concern. The key impacts were ‘poor standard/ condition of facility’, ‘availability of coaches/ instructors’, and ‘declining membership’.

When considering the combined importance of High and Medium impact two issues emerged further. The issue “increasing competition from other sports or activities”, is a general trend seen across many communities and sports. As sports seek to retain or expand their “market share” the development of new participation modes (such as social competitions and small sided-short form games) has driven additional participation as well as expanding sports into new seasons which competes with the traditional winter-summer divide that sports previously relied on , especially in smaller communities.

Cost of involvement in sport is also an issue that is reflected across the territory and the country. Many clubs are struggling with the registration fees increasing continually due to peak body costs being passed to community level sport. Yet, cost was considered as a low impact from the same number of clubs as considered it a high or medium impact.

4.5.3 Priorities for Clubs and Organisations

Respondents were asked to provide their top priorities for the future for facilities and club governance.

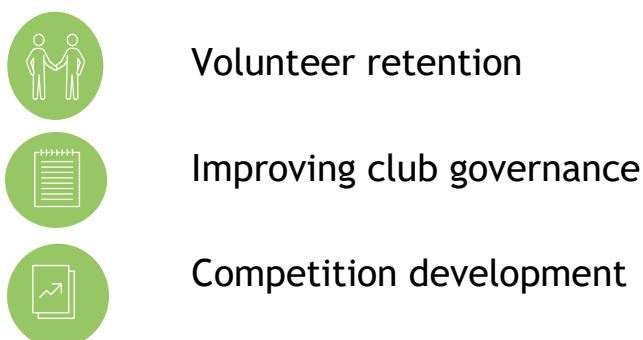
Priorities for facilities focused on two key areas, facility upgrades and playing surface improvements. The facility upgrades varied based on sport type and specific issues for individual facilities, however a theme of improving the ancillary facilities across Alice Springs emerged. This included upgrades to changerooms or the establishment of amenities at certain venues, upgrades to the kiosk/canteen facilities, or improving the standard of the facility generally to encourage more use.



Of the various sports that responded to the survey, almost all identified a priority of improving the quality of the surface on which they play. It is important to note that the timing of the survey coincided with a maintenance issue at Traeger Park, resulting in the loss of a Big Bash League game, and subsequent closure of the site until emergency maintenance could be carried out. However, maintenance practices of removing turf from other venues was identified as an area of concern for some groups.

For club governance and management there were more than 15 different themes that were identified by respondents, many of which were only identified by one or two groups. The top three themes, which were separated by a significant margin from others are shown below.

Figure 22 Top Governance and Management Priorities



The first two are common themes that are generally interconnected. That is clubs are struggling to retain volunteers at all levels and thus are struggling to recruit appropriate skills to provide sustained governance operations, with much of the work falling to a few committed members of the club or organisation.

The competition development theme focused on two areas. The first was Junior and female competition development, which many groups identified as a key area for them going forward. Anecdotal evidence in Alice Springs identified that there were limited competition opportunities for juniors and smaller sports struggled to maintain a reasonable level of competition.

The second was increased competition for members between sports, and with the introduction of female competition into traditionally male dominated sports taking women away from other codes. A good example is netball which is noting a loss of players to women's AFL. Strategies to combat potential membership decline are a dominant question for clubs facing increased competition for players, particularly in a small population.

4.6 School Survey

Schools across Alice Springs were contacted to assist in determining the availability of sport facilities on School grounds. The following schools returned surveys: Centralian Middle School

- Gillen Primary School
- Braitling Primary School
- Alice Springs Stiener School
- Bradshaw Primary School
- Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic College
- Araluen Christian College



Across those schools the following facilities were identified.

Table 3 Summary of School Facilities

| Sport Facility | No. of Facilities | Community Access Allowed |
|-----------------|-------------------|--|
| Indoor Court | 2 | Yes |
| Covered Court | 5 | Yes |
| Outdoor Court | 9 | 3 allow access, but only 1 has an existing user. |
| Rectangle Field | 6 | 4 schools allow access to their fields, with 3 schools having an existing user of the field. |
| Oval Field | 3 | No community use is allowed on the ovals. |

For the majority of the schools, there was limited interest from clubs or teams to use the facilities. Many schools did not have a charge to use their facilities, while others were negotiated on a case by case basis.

Only two schools had any development plans going forward, one to resurface the existing outdoor courts, the other having aspirational plans to develop an existing oval to a cricket pitch, with cricket nets already installed.

A phone conversation was also held with Centralian Middle School, who identified that they were open to reconfiguring the school boundary to allow Council to develop ovals for Community use, while the school still retained access, similar to how Ross park operates. The school did note that they weren't in a position to approve such a development, with the final decision resting with the Northern Territory Government.



5. Sport in Alice

The following section collates information sourced from discussions, surveys and council held membership data to provide an overview of each sport.

5.1 Summary of Membership Across the Sports

Table 4: Summary of Membership of sports (as reported to ASTC)

| Sport | Membership collection year | Seniors | Juniors | Total | Annual hours booked | Hours booked /member |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------|---------|-------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Field Sports | | | | | | |
| Football (Soccer) | 2018 | 375 | 567 | 942 | 2088 | 2.22 |
| AFL | 2018 | 523 | 417 | 940 | 1572 | 1.67 |
| Cricket | 2018 | 228 | 120 | 348 | 2448 | 7.03 |
| Touch | 2017 | 200 | 75 | 275 | 648 | 2.36 |
| Baseball | 2017 | 89 | 134 | 223 | 672 | 3.01 |
| League | 2018 | 74 | 128 | 202 | 1272 | 6.30 |
| Union | 2016 | 136 | 0 | 136 | 432 | 3.18 |
| Hockey | 2018 | 95 | 22 | 117 | 240 ³ | 2.05 |
| Athletics | 2017 | 0 | 77 | 77 | 528 | 6.86 |
| Softball | 2017 | 50 | 8 | 58 | 312 | 5.38 |
| Court Sports⁴ | | | | | | |
| Netball | 2018 | 461 | 571 | 1032 | | |
| Basketball ⁵ | 2016 | 138 | 260 | 398 | | |
| Tennis | 2018 | 86 | 110 | 196 | | |

While there are some estimations used for booked use hours and the membership data has relied on a mix of responses over years. The analysis highlights some interesting comparisons across field sports. In particular that cricket books the most hours of any sport and has the highest player to hours ratio of the field sports. This is in part due to the mode of play and longer games.

Over more than 10 years of membership data the top four sports for participation appear to be (in order) Netball, AFL, Football and Basketball. However, the latter may be showing a long-term decrease in membership.

Five-year membership trends (most 2014-2018, some used early 5-year cohort as that was the only available trend data) were graphed for comparison across the sports and the following observations summarise:

- Growth and shrinkage trends across five years tend to be similar so external factors such as sudden population growth or key events may be responsible.
- AFL, Cricket and Netball have the most consistent membership

³ Estimated from web data

⁴ Court facilities are managed independently by each sporting association and not booked through Council.

⁵ Updated membership data was received following the completion of the report, with 2018 membership at 146 seniors and 240 juniors.



- Football (soccer) appears to have volatile membership
- Basketball appears to be in a general decline - however trend data is for the 2012-2016 period
- Tennis, Touch, league and Union have declined marginally over the 5 years

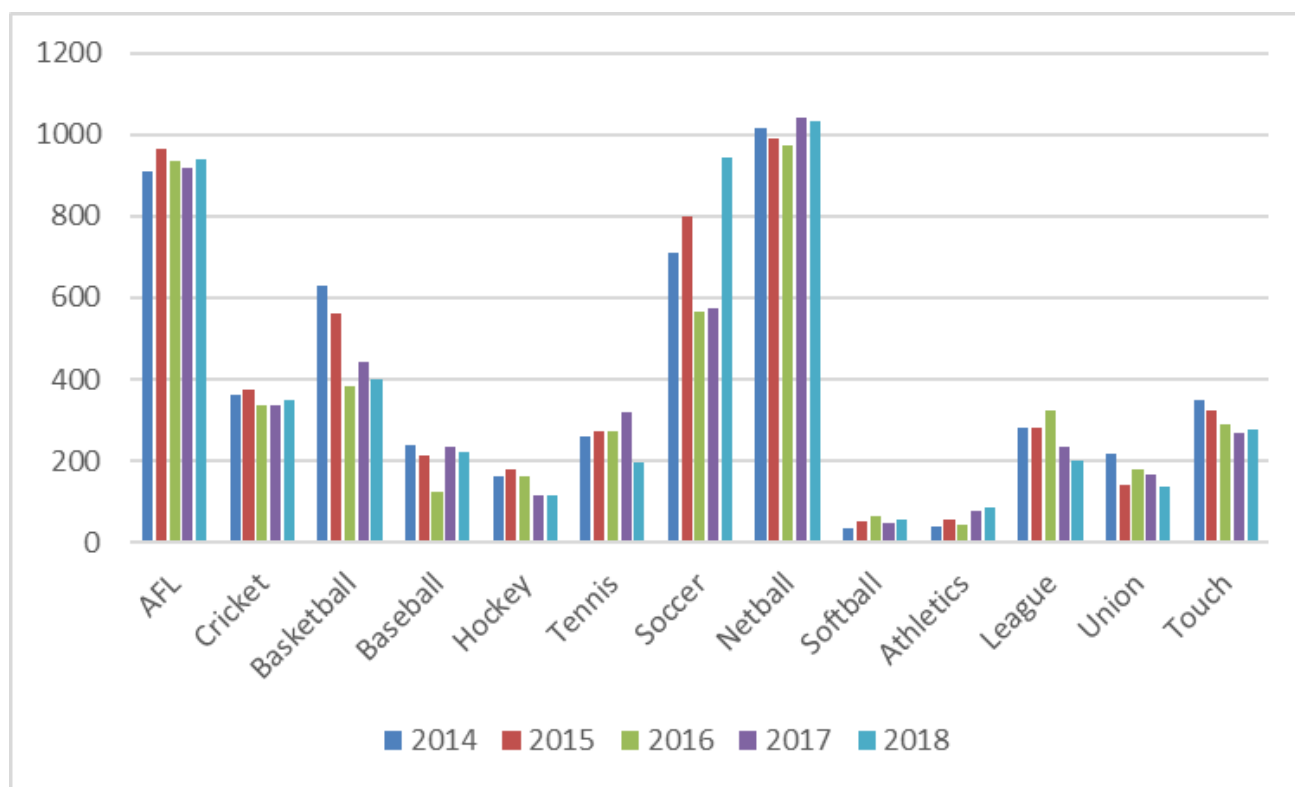


Figure 23 Five Year Membership Trends

Note: Basketball (2012-2016), Baseball (2013-2017), Softball (2013-2017), Union (2012-2016), Touch Football (2013-2017).

Participation in the above sports also occurs within the school sport system which creates additional demand for field hours. This use is captured in the booking data where booked on Council facilities.

5.2 Common Issues

There were a number of common issues raised by all clubs.

- The cost of participation is having an impact on the ability to compete with other sports where there is strong subsidy from the peak body.
- The transient nature of Alice Springs has a large impact on participation and the development of junior competition. It also impacts on sport's abilities to recruit and develop coaches and officials. This volatility can impact on participation when key people leave town.
- The need to have a minimum standard for sporting areas which includes drinking water, shade and toilets/facilities.

The following sections summarise key information for each sport.



5.3 AFL

5.3.1 Membership

Table 5: AFL Membership

| Membership Type (2018) | Number |
|------------------------|--------|
| Seniors | 523 |
| Juniors | 417 |

AFL has 7 clubs, runs both men's and women's competitions and an Auskick program. Five-year membership trend to 2018 is stable and over 10 years the sport has shown strong growth.



Figure 24: AFL Membership 2005-2018

5.3.2 Facilities Used

Table 6: Facilities Used (As per Council bookings)

| Facilities Used | Type of Use | Fields Used | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat | Sun | Total weekly hours |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| TIO Traeger Oval | Competition | 1 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 3 | 6.5 | 6 | 15.5 |
| Lyle Kempster | Training | 1 | 2 | Nil | 2 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 4 |
| Jim McConville | Training and Competition | 1 | 2 | 2.5 | 2 | 2.5 | Nil | If Traeger unavailable | If Traeger unavailable | 9 |
| Paul Fitzsimmons Oval | Training | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | Nil | Nil | Nil | 10 |
| Albrecht Oval | Training and Competition | 1 | 3 | 2.5 | 3 | 2.5 | 3 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 27 |

The Traeger grassed field adjacent to Hockey was also used infrequently by AFL a total 22.5 hours

5.3.3 Issues identified by the Sport

- Access to amenities and water were identified as issues by the clubs and association, however the planned improvements at all sites, except Paul Fitzsimmons Oval (CDU) should rectify these concerns.
- Capacity of some ovals limited by the lack of lighting.

5.3.4 Sport Priorities

Priorities for Playing areas and building and amenities

- Improved access to amenities and water



- Improved playing surface
- Additional field lighting
- Additional Storage
- Removal of cricket pitches
- Additional spectator facilities
- Additional shade

Priorities for Governance and Management

- Volunteer retention
- Peak body support
- Club governance
- Funding assistance

5.4 Cricket

5.4.1 Membership

Table 7: Cricket Membership

| Membership Type (2018) | Number |
|------------------------|--------|
| Seniors | 228 |
| Juniors | 120 |

Cricket supports around 5 clubs including both men's and women's teams. Five-year membership trend is mostly static with a slight decline over 10 years.

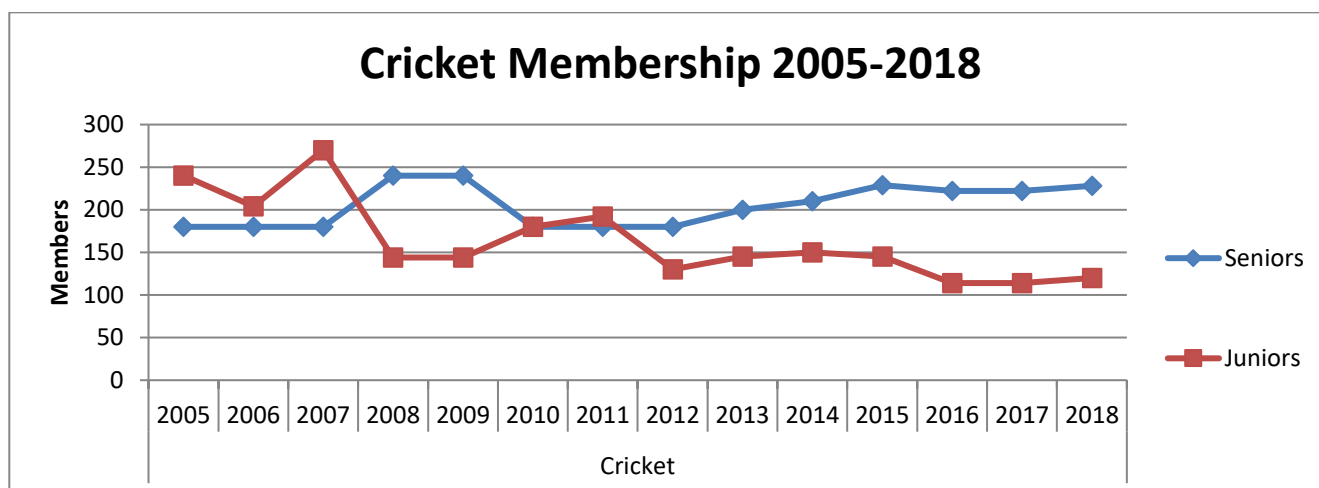


Figure 25: Cricket Membership 2005-2018

5.4.2 Facilities Used



Table 8: Facilities Used (As per Council bookings)⁶

| Facilities Used | Type of Use | Fields Used | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat | Sun | Total weekly hours |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|
| Ross Park | Competition and Training | 1 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 9 | Nil | 21.5 |
| Jim McConville | Competition and Training | 1 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 9 | Nil | 26.5 |
| Rhonda Diano Oval | Competition | | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 9 | Nil | 9 |
| Flynn Drive | Competition | 1 | Nil | Nil | Nil | 4 | Nil | 9 | Nil | 13 |
| Paul Fitzsimmons Oval | Competition and Training | 1 | Nil | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 9 | Nil | 23 |
| Albrecht Oval | Competition and Training | 1 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 9 | Nil | 9 |

5.4.3 Issues identified by the Sport

- Participation is affected by the transient population, specifically the loss of juniors.
- The climate also has a large impact on participation.
- Access to amenities across the sites used were also identified as an issue. Development of these facilities are already underway, except at Paul Fitzsimmons Oval.
- Outfield condition particularly at Traeger Park, Paul Fitzsimmons and Flynn Drive Oval were identified as poor.

5.4.4 Sport Priorities

Priorities for Playing areas and building and amenities

- Upgrading field lighting
- Playing surface upgrade
- Facility upgrades

Priorities for Governance and Management

- Improving available training and game facilities
- Competition development
- Improved communication with Council

5.5 Football (Soccer)

5.5.1 Membership

Table 9: Football Membership

| Membership Type (2018) | Number |
|------------------------|--------|
| Seniors | 375 |
| Juniors | 569 |

There are 5 clubs operating in Alice Springs.

The 5-year membership trend shows volatility with a substantial slump only reversed in 2018/ the 10-year trend shows strong growth.

⁶ Cricket have utilised Traeger Park in the past and it is anticipated that this will continue if outfield is maintained. Overall the bookings would simply move from one field to Traeger, and it is unlikely to generate additional demand.

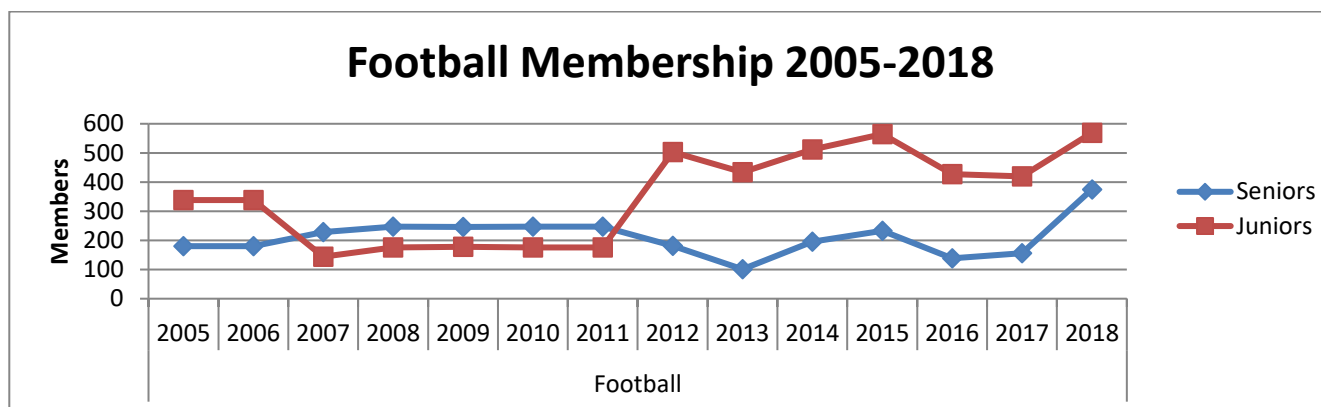


Figure 26: Football (soccer) Membership 2005-2018

5.5.2 Facilities Used

Table 10: Facilities Used (As per Council bookings)

| Facilities Used | Type of Use | Fields Used | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat | Sun | Total weekly hours |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----|-------|---------|-------|-------|--------|-----|--------------------|
| Ross Park ⁷ | Competition and Training | 3 | 3 | Nil | Nil | 3 | 5 (2) | 12 (3) | 6 | 29 |
| Traeger Grass Field | Training | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | Nil | Nil | Nil | 26.5 |
| Rhonda Diano Oval | Training | 1 | Nil | Nil | 3 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 3 |
| Flynn Drive | Training | 2 | Nil | 7 (2) | 2.5 (1) | 7 (2) | Nil | Nil | Nil | 16.5 |

5.5.3 Issues identified by the Sport

- Quality of player and spectator facilities is impacting their ability to grow the sport.
- Poor surface condition was identified as an area of concern at Traeger Hockey and Ross Park.
- Flynn Drive was identified as a facility that was overused, with limited training space.
- Ross Park is considered to be beyond capacity and can no longer support Soccer in Alice Springs.

5.5.4 Sport Priorities

Priorities for Playing areas and building and amenities

- Facility upgrades, including player amenities and canteen facilities
- Improved playing surfaces
- Additional lighting
- Additional playing fields, especially for training

Priorities for Governance and Management

- Improved access to quality facilities
- Improved administration support
- Officials support
- Reducing costs

⁷ The numbers in brackets indicate the number of fields being used.



5.6 Baseball

5.6.1 Membership

Table 11: Baseball Membership

| Membership Type (2017) | Number |
|------------------------|--------|
| Seniors | 89 |
| Juniors | 134 |

There are 3 clubs in the sport currently.

The 5-year trend shows a slight decline but mostly stable numbers. Over 10 years there is some growth.

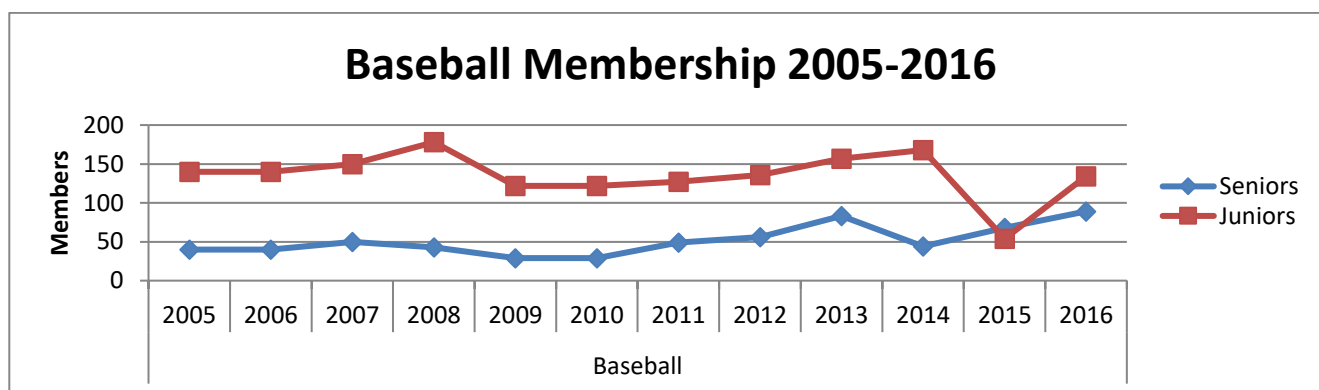


Figure 27: Cricket Membership 2005-2016

5.6.2 Facilities Used

Table 12: Facilities Used (As per Council bookings)

| Facilities Used | Type of Use | Fields Used | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat | Sun | Total weekly hours |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|
| Lyle Kempster | Competition and Training | 1 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 4 | 12 | Nil | 26 |
| Jim McConville | | 4 | Nil | Nil | 2 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 2 |

5.6.3 Issues identified by the Sport

- Poor facility design at Jim McConville does not encourage junior participation, mainly the use of crusher dust which is a harsh surface for children.
- Poor facility maintenance has led to safety concerns.

5.6.4 Sport Priorities

Priorities for Playing areas and building and amenities

- Upgrading of the existing facilities, with specific mention to general maintenance, field maintenance, improved spectator facilities and additional training/ field upgrades (removal of the crusher dust).

Priorities for Governance and Management

- Reducing the financial impact on the sport, in part to increase the growth of the sport.
- Improving communication with Council



- Improving volunteer retainment
- Improving facility maintenance.

5.7 Netball

5.7.1 Membership

Table 13: Netball Membership

| Membership Type (2018) | Number |
|------------------------|--------|
| Seniors | 461 |
| Juniors | 571 |

There are 7 clubs supporting senior and juniors as well as a master's competition. Netball has consistently high participation and the 5-year trend shows a slight growth, over 10 years participation numbers have been stable and consistently above 900.

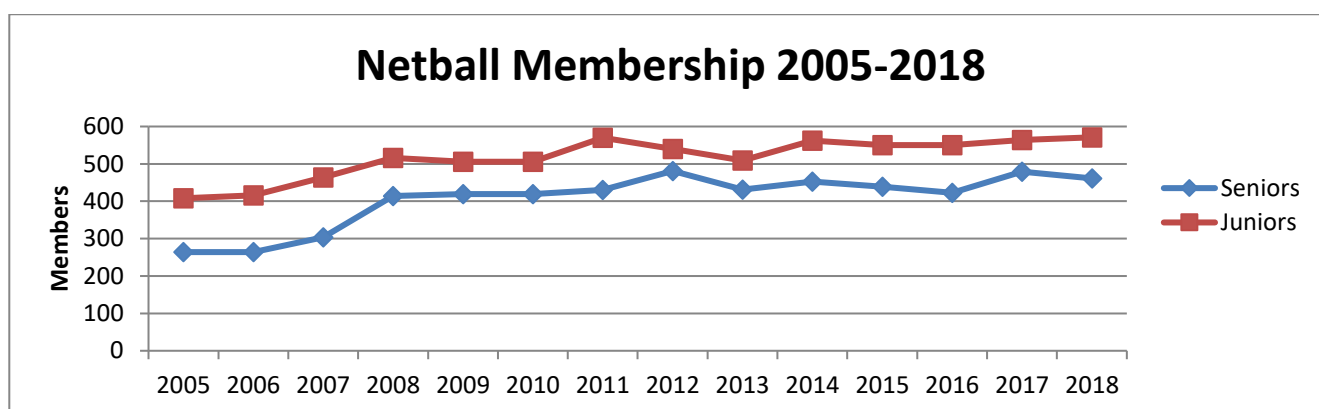


Figure 28: Netball Membership 2005-2018

5.7.2 Facilities Used

Table 14: Facilities Used (As provided by Alice Springs Netball)

| Facilities Used | Type of Use | Courts Used | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat | Sun | Total weekly hours |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|
| Pat Gallagher Netball Centre | Competition and Training | 4 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 2 | 9 | | 29 |
| Outdoor Netball Courts | Competition and Training | 4 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | | 9 | | 27 |

5.7.3 Issues identified by the Sport

- A new 4 court indoor facility has been built for netball. This facility provides change facilities only but does not have public toilets, suitable storage or any office and administration space. The facility is not under council control, at the time of this report, as there are unresolved issues with the construction and some wall buckling on the panels used. Currently Netball is funding the facility operation.



- The increase in available sports, particularly the rise in female sport has impacted the participation in Netball, with some clubs seeing a rise with women wanting to play multiple sports, while others have seen a decline due to increased opportunities.
- Lack of change rooms for males and females and lack of male toilets is limiting the potential to run mixed competitions.
- The existing administration building, change facilities, kiosk and public toilets is very old and does not meet contemporary standards.
- Poor facility design and co-location for shared facilities with Soccer, particularly canteen/ kiosk and change facilities for the outdoor courts.
- The outdoor courts lack suitable lighting.
- The association has noticed that registration fees have had an impact on netball, especially with the introduction of other popular sports developing female competitions, like AFL.

5.7.4 Sport Priorities

Priorities for Playing areas and building and amenities

- Improved access to facilities, including reduced cost to access facilities.
- Improving the facility, particularly the provision of amenities, and greater sharing of facilities with soccer.
- Improved general maintenance.
- Improved playing surface of the outdoor courts.
- Improved shade for the outdoor courts.
- Improved parking and access.

Priorities for Governance and Management

- Improving club governance
- Diversifying the competition and programs offered
- Improving communication across all levels
- Reducing cost impacts of administration
- Retaining volunteers, particularly coaches

5.8 Basketball

5.8.1 Membership

Table 15: Basketball Membership

| Membership Type (2016) | Number |
|------------------------|--------|
| Seniors | 157 |
| Juniors | 428 |

There are 4 clubs involved in the sport.

In the last five years of data supplied (2011-2015) the sport had dropped numbers substantially and rebuilt junior numbers in 2016. Long term trend data over 10 years shows high volatility in junior numbers with reasonable stable senior membership.

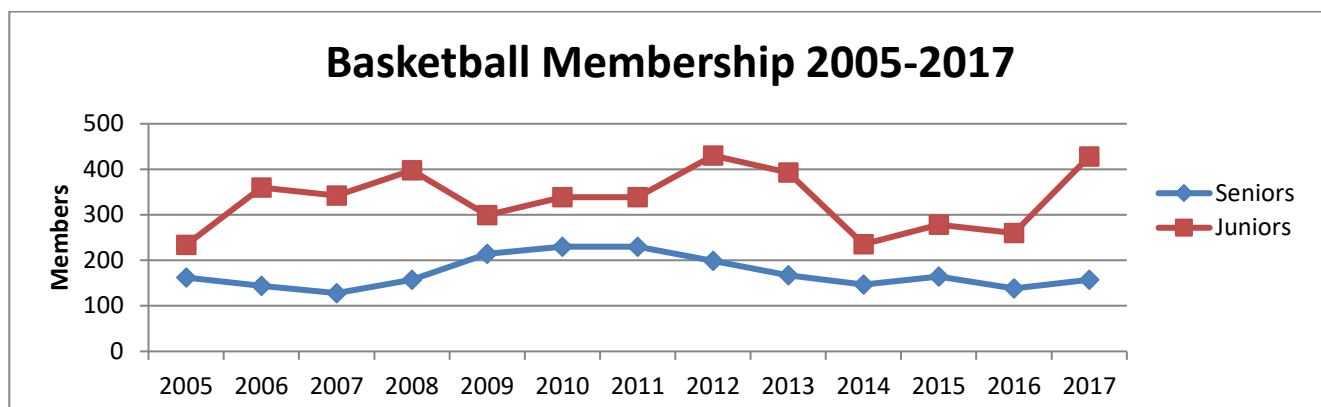


Figure 29: Basketball Membership 2005-2017

5.8.2 Facilities Used

Table 16: Facilities Used (Provided by Alice Springs Basketball Association)

| Facilities Used | Type of Use | Courts Used | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat | Sun | Total weekly hours |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----|------|---------|---------|---------|-----|---------|--------------------|
| Alice Springs Basketball Stadium | Competition and Training | 3 | 3 | 2 | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | 5 | Unknown | 10 |

5.8.3 Issues identified by the Sport

- The increase in available sports, particularly the rise in female sport has impacted the participation in basketball, with some clubs seeing a rise with women wanting to play multiple sports, while others have seen a decline due to increased opportunities.
- The transient nature of the population impacts the ability of some clubs.
- The cost of participation is also having an impact on the ability to compete with other sports where there is strong support from the peak body.

5.8.4 Sport Priorities

Priorities for Playing areas and building and amenities

- Continued access to the facility
- Improving amenities and canteen
- Improving spectator amenities

Priorities for Governance and Management

- Ensuring security of access and improving general security to the facility.

5.9 Tennis

5.9.1 Membership



Table 17: Tennis Membership

| Membership Type (2018) | Number |
|------------------------|--------|
| Seniors | 86 |
| Juniors | 110 |

Tennis operates under a single association.

5-year membership trends indicate tennis is showing some fluctuation in recent years and over the 10 years is showing a decline.

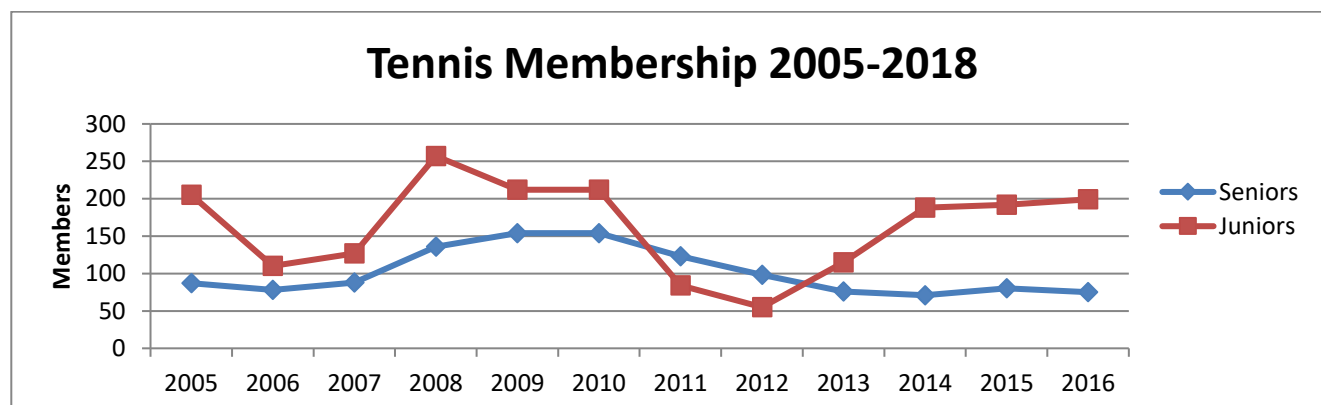


Figure 30: Tennis Membership 2005-2018

5.9.2 Facilities Used

Table 18: Facilities Used (Usage from Website Information)

| Facilities Used | Type of Use | Courts Used | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat | Sun | Total weekly hours |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|---------|---------|--------------------|
| Traeger Tennis Facility 10 courts | Competition and Training | 10 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 | unknown | unknown | 24 |

Note: the above hours are guessed from the website competitions information. The number of courts used at any time is also not known. The above does not include social games.

5.9.3 Issues identified by the Sport

Tennis NT confirmed that for Alice Springs tennis to expand it would most likely have to relocate. However, both the Association and Tennis NT would prefer to stay in the current location due to its perceived accessibility, especially for juniors. If a suitable relocation site was identified tennis believes it would need to be located close to the CBD.

Tennis has had an independent assessment of the current facility by SportEng, which found:

- The courts are in poor condition and are experiencing issues associated with age, surrounding site conditions and poor design.
- The surface cracking is due to thinner areas of the underlying pavement, while bubbling in the acrylic surface is due to water seeping through the cracking.
- Drainage is a major issue and poor surface drainage is resulting in ponding and infiltration into the subsoils.

Those findings led to SportEng to recommend that at least 6 courts need to be redeveloped, at a cost of approximately \$1 million and an additional \$750,000 to replace the other 4 courts. This report has led Tennis NT to begin investigating the possibility of relocating to a site that could allow for national/international events and provide suitable options for expansion, should the club require additional courts.



Other issues include:

- Competition from other sports, including the time demand that other sports places on participants.
- The loss of large national/ international events for tennis has reduced the reach and popularity of the sport in Tennis.
- There are security concerns as the facility had been vandalised multiple times during the study.
- Part of the tennis site includes a caretakers house, which is (according to the local tennis association) heritage listed and unable to be removed to make space for a reconfiguration and improvement of the tennis complex.⁸

5.9.4 Sport Priorities

Priorities for Playing areas and building and amenities

- Improving the court surface, and if possible, redesign to accommodate high level events.
- Upgrade the canteen and amenities.

Priorities for Governance and Management

- Retaining the coaches
- Improving security
- Developing facilities to accommodate events and retaining the existing events.

5.10 Touch Football

5.10.1 Membership

Table 19: Touch Football Membership

| Membership Type (2017) | Number |
|------------------------|--------|
| Seniors | 200 |
| Juniors | 75 |

Touch is run under a single organisation and is predominantly a social sport with individual teams instead of clubs.

The 5-year trend shows a decline in participation and the 10 year trend shows an increase, however it appears membership peaked in 2013.

⁸ The authors were unable to verify this claim with council staff.

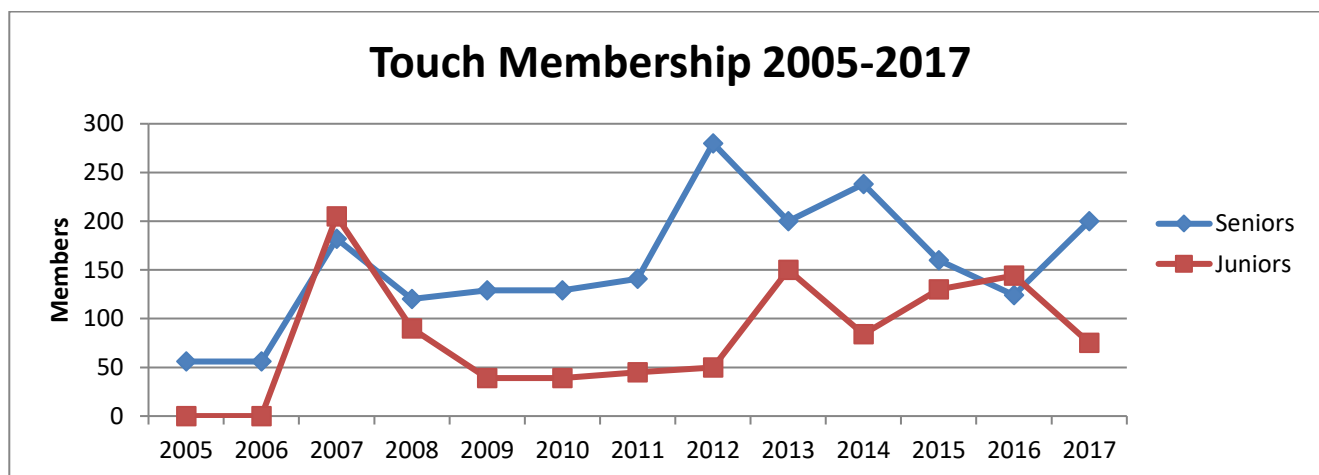


Figure 31: Touch Membership 2005-2017

5.10.2 Facilities Used (As per Council bookings)

Table 20: Facilities Used (As per Council bookings)

| Facilities Used | Type of Use | Fields Used | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat | Sun | Total weekly hours |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|
| Flynn Drive Oval | Competition and Training | 4 | 2 | Nil | 7 | Nil | 4.5 | Nil | Nil | 13.5 |

5.10.3 Issues identified by the Sport

- The strong sporting culture and availability of options creates a competitive landscape for sport participation.
- The Flynn Drive Oval is overused.

5.10.4 Sport Priorities

Priorities for Playing areas and building and amenities

- Ensuring that there are suitable facilities, both amenities and playing surface for the members.
- Ensure there is equity in provision of lighting to reduce the stress on Flynn Drive Oval.

Priorities for Governance and Management

- Improve the profile of Touch Football to attract new players.
- Ensure the product provides value for money.

5.11 Rugby Union

5.11.1 Membership

Table 21: Rugby Union Membership

| Membership Type (2016) | Number |
|------------------------|--------|
| Seniors | 136 |
| Juniors | 0 |

Three clubs operate in Alice Springs.



Over the last 5 years⁹ participation has been volatile and generally declining and the 10-year trend shows overall growth in senior members only.

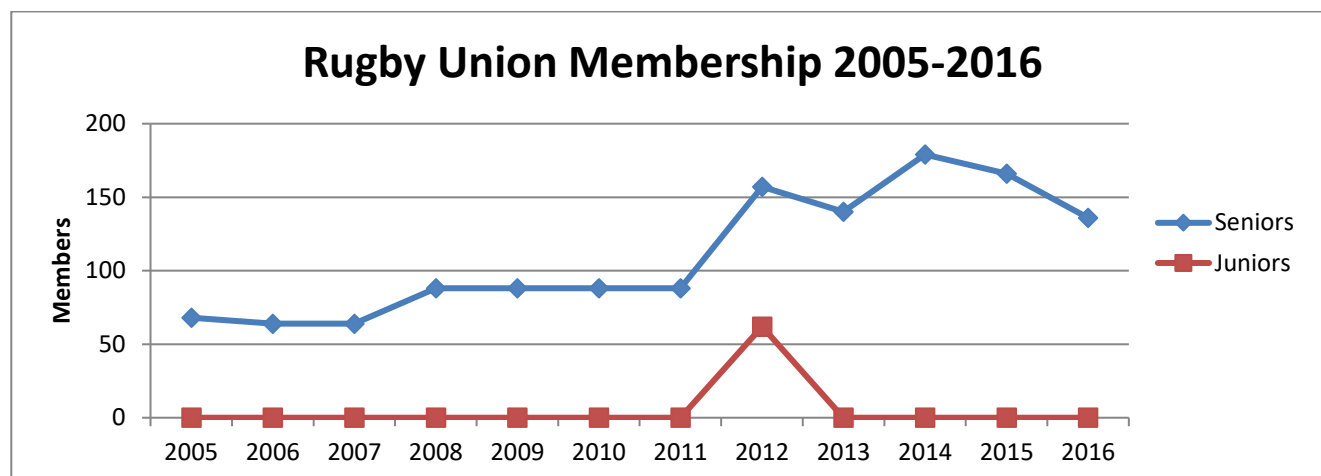


Figure 32: Rugby Union Membership 2005-2016

5.11.2 Facilities Used

Table 22: Facilities Used (As per Council bookings)

| Facilities Used | Type of Use | Fields Used | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat | Sun | Total weekly hours |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|
| Anzac Oval | Competition and Training | 1 | Nil | 3 | Nil | 3 | 5.5 | 6.5 | Nil | 18 |
| Traeger Grass Field | Training | 1 | Nil | 3 | Nil | 3 | Nil | Nil | Nil | 6 |
| Rhonda Diano Oval | Training | 1 | Nil | 2.5 | Nil | 2.5 | Nil | Nil | Nil | 5 |

5.11.3 Issues identified by the Sport

- Use of Anzac Oval as a premier ground for events impacts the ability of rugby union to run a suitable season. A second training and competition facility is needed.
- The lack of general maintenance at Anzac Oval has created a hazard for players.
- Population characteristics, shift work and working outside Alice Springs has impacted participation.

5.11.4 Sport Priorities

Priorities for Playing areas and building and amenities

- Providing a suitable alternative training and competition venue for use when Anzac Oval is used for community events.
- Upgrade the canteen facilities.

Priorities for Governance and Management

- Continuing to develop the available competitions, including a junior competition and women's competition.
- Bring high level events to the region.

⁹ Note date used for 5-year trend was 2012-2016



5.12 Rugby League

5.12.1 Membership

Table 23: Rugby League Membership

| Membership Type (2018) | Number |
|------------------------|--------|
| Seniors | 74 |
| Juniors | 128 |

There are currently 4 clubs operating under Rugby League.

Trend data for the last 5 years shows a decline in participation, especially since a major peak in 2016. Over 10 years participation has also declined.

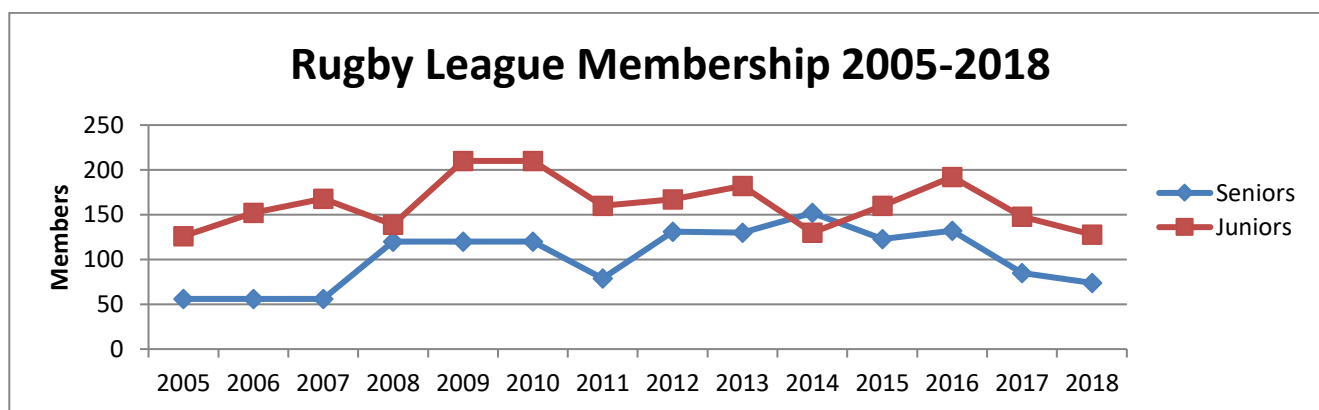


Figure 33: Rugby League Membership 2005-2018

5.12.2 Facilities Used (As per Council bookings)

Table 24: Facilities Used (As per Council bookings)

| Facilities Used | Type of Use | Fields Used | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat | Sun | Total weekly hours |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|
| Anzac Oval | Competition and Training | 1 | Nil | 3 | Nil | 3 | 5.5 | 6.5 | Nil | 18 |

5.12.3 Issues identified by the Sport

- Anzac Oval is the only ground in Alice Springs for rugby league or union, and there are currently no other sites with goal posts.
- The lack of general maintenance at Anzac Oval has created a hazard for players.
- Now that the future of Anzac Oval is more certain, Rugby League would like to see move investment made to bring the amenities up to contemporary standard.

5.13 Sports who did not provide consultation information

5.13.1 Hockey



Table 25: Hockey Membership

| Membership Type (2018) | Number |
|------------------------|--------|
| Seniors | 95 |
| Juniors | 22 |

There were 8 teams in the 2018 competition, with limited observed club structures. Trend over 5 years shows a decline in junior participation.

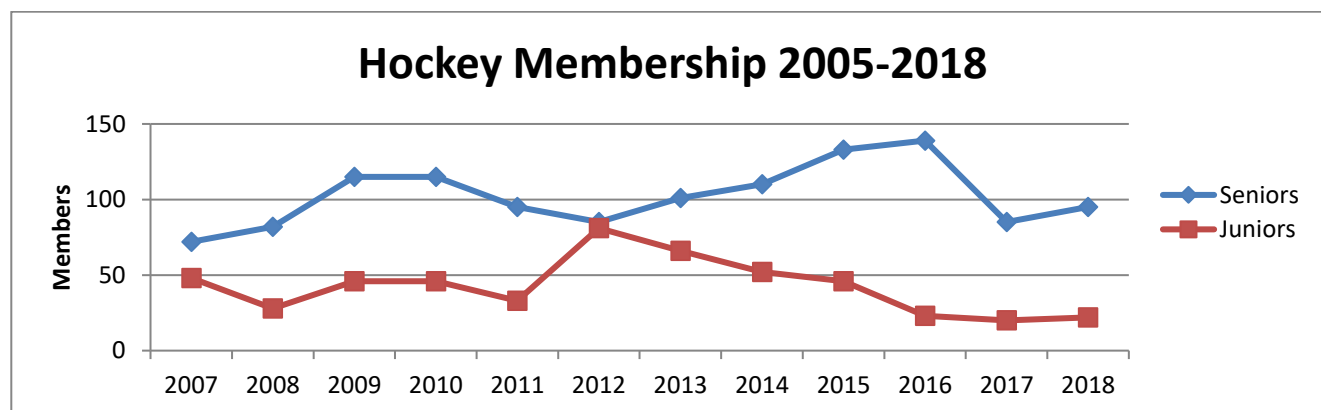


Figure 34: Hockey Membership 2005-2018

Hockey's main facility is the synthetic hockey field at Traeger Park and no use data was made available. Based on current fixtures on the sports website the approximately 11 hours per week was estimated.

5.13.2 Athletics

Table 26: Athletics Membership

| Membership Type (2018) | Number |
|------------------------|--------|
| Seniors | 2 |
| Juniors | 84 |

Athletics operates under a single association with possible use by other running groups. Some growth over the 5-year trend was indicated.

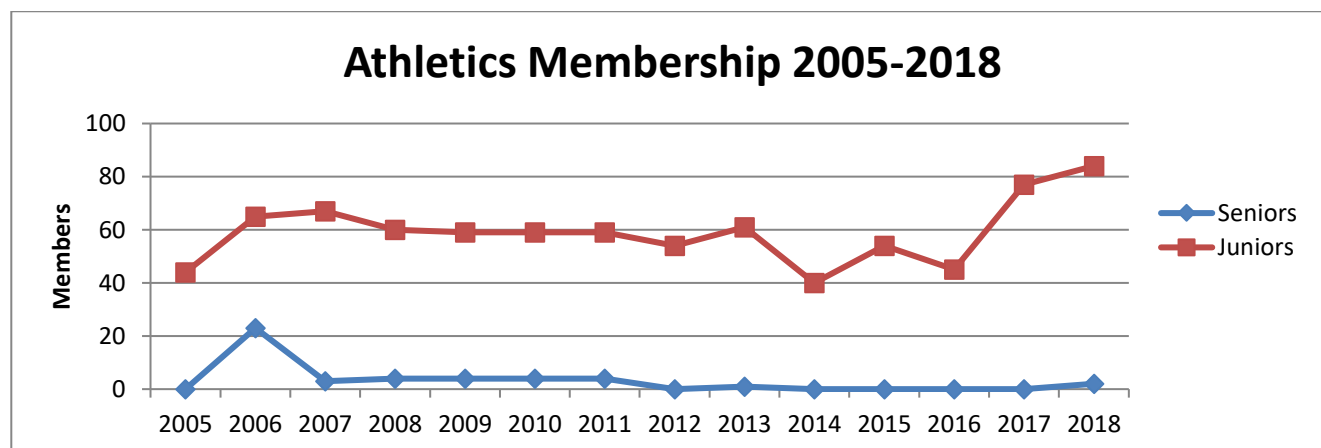


Figure 35: Athletics Membership 2005-2018



Table 27: Facilities Used (As per Council bookings)

| Facilities Used | Type of Use | Fields Used | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat | Sun | Total weekly hours |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|
| Rhonda Diano Oval | Competition and Training | 1 | 2 | Nil | 2 | 2 | 2 | Nil | 3 | 11 |

5.13.3 Softball

Table 28: Softball Membership

| Membership Type (2017) | Number |
|------------------------|--------|
| Seniors | 50 |
| Juniors | 8 |

There are 4 clubs operating in Alice Springs.

Since 2007 there has been a general decline in membership. There is limited junior membership, with a peak membership in 2016 of 16 members. The Senior membership in the last 5 years has fluctuated at about 40 members.

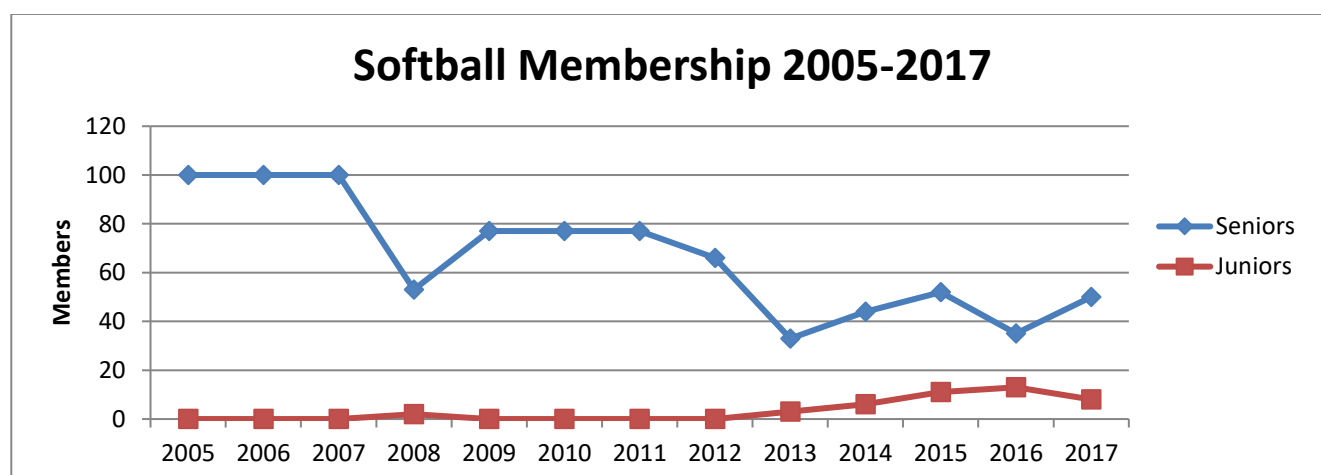


Figure 36: Softball Membership 2005-2017

Table 29: Facilities Used (As per Council bookings)

| Facilities Used | Type of Use | Fields Used | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat | Sun | Total weekly hour |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|
| Jim McConville Diamonds | Competition and Training | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | Nil | 5 | Nil | 13 |



Figure 37 Jim McConville Oval



6. Facility Analysis and Understanding

6.1 Traeger Park

6.1.1 Facility users

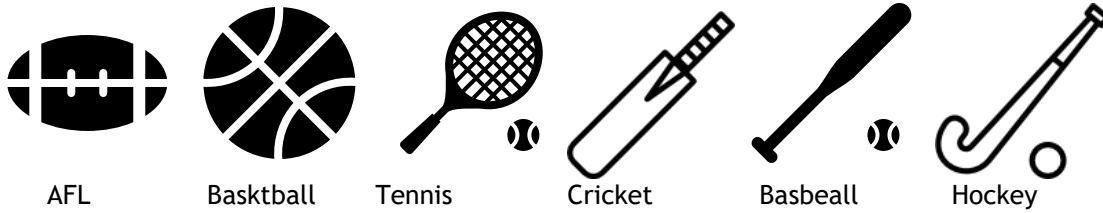




Figure 38 Traeger Park- Main Oval and Tennis Courts

6.1.2 Facility Usage

Traeger Park is a sports precinct which hosts multiple sports and facilities. In general, most of the site is fenced and has no informal recreation use, with the exception of the rectangular grass field next to the hockey field. Site development appears to have occurred over time and without an overall master plan. The focus of development has been around the main facilities below and the infrastructure needs of the resident sports

Traeger Main Oval (Cricket and AFL)

Winter: 20.5 hours per week

Summer: 29 hours per week¹⁰

Traeger Grass Field (informal rectangular training field)

Winter: 6 hours per week (football)

Summer: 6 hours per week (Union)

School: 30 hours per winter

Traeger Synthetic Hockey

Use hours not known- but believed to be very low. 2018 data on the website indicates that around 6 hours a week for competition.

Managed by Hockey

Traeger Tennis

Use hours not provided but estimated at around 24 hours/week

Managed by tennis

Lyle Kempster - Baseball

Winter: 4 hours per week

Summer: 28 hours per week (includes AFL use)

Basketball

Annual use average 10 hours/ week, believed to be higher for training use.

¹⁰ Usage for training unconfirmed.



Managed by Basketball

Key Events

- Masters Games (hockey, AFL, Baseball)
- Big Bash League
- AFL finals
- Asia Baseball League Cup (2019)

6.1.3 Facility Description

Traeger Park is the main outdoor sports venue in Alice Springs, comprising five sporting facilities.

1. Oval

The Oval is suitable for all turf field sports including Australian rules football and cricket. It is the only cricket oval in Alice Springs accredited by the Australian Cricket Board as suitable for first class cricket matches. Features of the oval include:

- Turf wicket
- Floodlighting suitable for high standard football and cricket matches
- Grandstand
- Two story clubrooms incorporating change rooms on the lower floor and social rooms on the first floor

2. Baseball Diamond

This purpose-built facility includes:

- Baseball diamond with dirt running tracks
- Floodlights suitable for match conditions
- Practice pitching mound
- Two batting cages
- Clubrooms

3. Hockey Facilities include:

- Synthetic turf hockey pitch
- Grass hockey field/ multi use field
- Clubrooms located between the two fields
- Floodlighting suitable for match standard on the synthetic hockey pitch

4. Basketball Stadium

Alice Springs Basketball Stadium includes a fully air conditioned, three court facility

5. Tennis Courts

Facilities include:

- Ten flood lit hard courts
- Clubrooms
- Caretakers residence



6.1.4 Site Constraints and Issues

The site layout currently only allows single provision of the larger field facilities, while the two court facilities, basketball and tennis, are land locked and have limited options for growth into the future. Overall the site is highly developed and, on the south, shares an entry and carpark with the aquatic centre. Parking in the area is compounded by the nearby hospital and demand overflow from that facility.

The key issue for tennis is the inability to meet new facility standards (e.g. for run-off) without the loss of courts and the need to retain 10 courts to enable hosting of competition. They have no real “centre” court which also limits their ability to act as a major regional centre. Options for them on the existing site are limited and development

Parking and access within the site were common issues for the main users. The site has not been planned as an integrated multi-use precinct, rather it appears that each sport has planned facilities independently. This “silos” the various sports and opportunities for more efficient land use by sharing of parking, access and spectator’s amenities can be lost.

The current condition of playing surfaces across the field sport facilities, with the exception of the synthetic hockey pitch, was raised as an issue. To protect surface quality a Council policy to exclude training use on the main Oval was adopted. However, use of this as “premium” oval is still high.

Site use is poorly planned, and some uses could be amalgamated or relocation including Council’s storage on the site. A number of sheds of varying purpose are located in the southeast corner of the site which could be consolidated to a single shed offering a space saving and opening the current location to enhancing site use and roadside parking.

Users also raised the issue of removal of turf from other facilities to repair the AFL field which led to the degradation of multiple fields instead of one.

The basketball stadium is an older facility and the ancillary facilities are not at a contemporary standard. The facility also has had solar panels installed however these are yet to be connected to the grid and the benefits realised. Parking was a particular issue for Basketball and Tennis.

The synthetic hockey field is relatively new but hockey as a sport is believed to be in a low participation phase and use is very low. Although the facility is managed by Hockey it would be worth considering how alternative users could be encouraged/ facilitated, as feedback from several sports was that access to training space was a key issue.





Figure 39: Aerial view of Traeger Park (Nearmaps July 2019)

6.1.5 User Group Suggestions

Both Tennis NT and the Tennis Association have suggested that they are open to relocating the tennis facility to ensure the future growth of tennis in Alice Springs. Although neither Tennis NT or Alice Springs Tennis Association could identify any possible locations, they were both clear that any new location would need to have similar locational characteristics to the existing site, primarily the proximity to the CBD and co-location with other sports. Both organisations identified that any suggestion to relocate south of the gap was unlikely to gain the support of the community. The motivation for relocation was to enable a more purpose designed regional tennis centre capable of hosting events and high-level matches.

Alice Springs Baseball also highlighted the potential to relocate to a new site should the opportunity to host a major league team in Alice Springs materialise. Alice Springs Baseball did state that there was not strong support in to past to relocate away from Traeger Park, however the president recognised the overall benefit to a purpose-built facility to accommodate both junior and senior baseball.

6.1.6 SFAC Proposals

SFAC have suggested a number of improvements that are considered major capital works that need to be considered as part of the master plan. These include:

- Upgrades to AFL Office - including staff toilets
- Upgrade of bathrooms, disabled toilets, changerooms
- Hockey Clubhouse toilets major upgrade
- Perimeter and internal complex fencing to match existing fencing around Traeger main oval
- New public toilets going up near boxing shed (only used at major events)

6.1.7 Implications for Sport Facility Planning

Traeger Park is the Premier Sporting facility in Alice Springs and is currently home to 6 sports. The main oval is now in very good condition and investment by both AFL and cricket in the precinct has seen it increase its potential to support those sports and events. It is centrally located and if considered as premier site for AFL and Cricket, has a number of strengths and potential for improvements to site operations.

The overall precinct has been developed in an ad hoc fashion and faces a number of issues and constraints. Overall the site suffers from limited internal parking, field and court maintenance issues, constraints on expansion, poor coordination between users and the legacy of no overall master plan guiding site investment. Utilisation of some areas is poor (e.g. the grassed field next hockey and the hockey synthetic) and operation of the site in a major event is problematic for parking and circulation.

The analysis of use, site issues and aspirations of the resident sports suggests the following options could be considered.

- Overall a new master plan for the site should be developed to guide future planning and if significant decisions are made to relocate some sports and reconfigure the site, a master plan is required to guide that planning.
- If a suitable site was found and Tennis were able to secure funding, relocation of Tennis to a new location to develop a purpose designed regional centre could be considered. This would free up the existing space for much needed parking which could service the hospital as well (which may encourage support from NTG for the proposal).

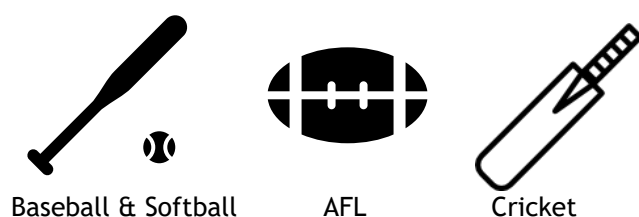


- Alternatively, further investigation into changing the configuration of tennis and removal of the caretakers residence and improving remote security could be considered. This could allow most of the site problems to be solved. It is understood that 10 courts are the minimum for a successful regional centre and to support regional competitions.
- Consolidation of diamond sport (baseball and softball) could be achieved at Jim McConville Park with a new main stadium built there complementing the existing diamonds. This could free up the space at Traeger to develop a second oval for cricket and AFL who have both reported a high need for additional training space. As the main users of the site it would also make strategic sense to have a two-oval facility at Traeger which would support events and high-level matches as well as the development of these two sports.
- Any reconfiguration would require the loss of some trees and re configuration of the parking and access.
- Basketball needs to invest in its existing facility to improve player and spectator amenity. If tennis was relocated that would allow them to address another major issue, the lack of parking near the facility.

With the possible opportunity to relocate both the tennis and baseball facilities to more suitable locations within Alice Springs there is an opportunity to redesign Traeger Park into the premier oval sport precinct and provide the only location in Alice Springs with two ovals in one location.

6.2 Jim McConville Park

6.2.1 Facility users



6.2.2 Facility Usage

Jim McConville Park is a mixed-use field sport precinct providing three skinned baseball/ softball diamonds, a 4th grass diamond and a multi-use oval for AFL and Cricket. Some off-street parking is provided at two main nodes and on street parking provided on most of the boundary. The site is not fenced and is used frequently by residents for recreation and exercise.

The main use is summarised below.

AFL/ Cricket¹¹

Winter: 29.5 hours per week

Summer: 29 hours per week

Diamonds

Winter: 11 hours per week

Summer: 2 hours per week

Schools:

Winter: 15 hours per winter

Summer: 20 Hours per summer

Key Events

- Master Games (softball and Cricket)

¹¹ AFL Bookings do not match the competition draw for this field



- School carnivals/ competitions



Figure 40 Jim McConville Park

6.2.3 Facility Description

Jim McConville Park is a large multipurpose field and diamond sport precinct located adjacent to Centralian Middle School.

Jim McConville comprises:

- Four softball/ baseball diamonds complete with backstops, 3 of which have infield constructed of cracker dust
- Australian rules/cricket oval with a turf wicket
- Cricket nets
- Amenities facility (under construction)

6.2.4 Site constraints

There is currently a large amount of unused space at Jim McConville Oval due to the location of the diamonds, AFL/ cricket field and surrounding trees and bollards. The new amenities building adds to site complications constraining options for improved configurations. The surface of the grounds has also been identified as an area of concern.

Although there is suitable on street parking at Jim McConville, any increase in use of the site would most likely have an impact on the surrounding road system. As there is limited off-street parking and a number of different access points.

In the current layout of the park there has limited opportunities for expansion of any facilities, without impacting on current users.



A key location issue is the adjacent school campuses with Centralian Middle School campus containing a very large area of land and a new bus parking/ student drop off area being developed adjacent to Jim McConville further confounding logical expansion issues.



Figure 41: Jim McConville Park (Nearmaps August 2019)

6.2.5 SFAC Proposals

SFAC have provided a number of proposals to be considered as part of the study. Improving the lighting level to support training is proposed.

The others include fencing off part or all of the facility. This could limit the community access of this facility. It is instead preferred that increased barrier/ vehicle fencing be considered along with perimeter fencing for the oval.

6.2.6 User Group Suggestions

This site was identified by multiple groups as a space that required improved development. There are large areas of unused space and poor layout of the junior diamonds limits the use of the area. Informal discussions around possible uses regarding baseball identified that consolidating baseball and softball here would be logical as long as a new stadium similar to Lyle Kempster at Traeger could be provided (noting the past resistance to this proposal from some in the sport).

Cricket and AFL have strong use of the oval, and as a turf wicket this site is important for cricket competition matches. Lack of spectator amenity and parking are key issues.

6.2.7 Implications for Sport Facility Planning

As part of the overall planning for sports facilities in Alice Springs, planning for Jim McConville needs to be viewed in conjunction with Traeger Park. If Baseball was to be relocated to Jim McConville, then a redesign/master plan for the whole site would be needed.



The AFL and Cricket hours booked on the site indicate the oval is well used, however there is some indication that not all the booked hours are used, and they may be held as contingency. Softball and baseball use are quite low and it is possible that an alternative approach to scheduling will meet needs for the life of this plan without any modification of the layout of the diamonds.

As the park is located next to CMS, a future expansion option could be to access some of the large areas of unused land within the school precinct. There is an opportunity to pursue this with the NTG and informal discussions have indicated the school is open to proposals.

Community use of the site for recreation and exercise is likely to be important and any planning for the site should look to retain that access.

A key need for sporting use is the improvement of spectator amenities with additional shade plantings around the oval and for the diamonds. Portable shade solutions stored on site and shared between the resident sports should also be considered.

Overall a master plan for the site could be considered that:

- Locates a premier “diamond” with spectator and player facilities similar to Lyle Kempster (this would only be considered if the potential Asian league Baseball team is secured to be based in Alice Springs and there is agreement to relocate from Traeger Park).
- Assesses scheduling and use for baseball and softball to investigate the need for diamonds with potentially only two skinned diamonds and two grass diamonds. This could include replacing the crusher dust used for skinning with sand.
- Improves shade and spectator amenity for the AFL/ Cricket oval.
- Identifies a potential partnership with CMS and Education Department for a future field development adjacent to the bus parking area. This could be a rectangular field, established to support league, union and football, but developed with league/union posts and able to support training needs as well as supporting these sports for school programs.
- Negotiate access to the bus parking area for large events and competition days.
- Retains community access to most of the site



Figure 42: Jim McConville and CMS site showing the amount of unused land in the school which could provide additional sports fields for school and community use.

6.3 Ross Park

6.3.1 Facility users



Football



Netball



Cricket

6.3.2 Facility Usage

Soccer

Winter: 25 hours per week

Summer: 16.75 hours per week

Cricket

Summer: 30 hours per week



Netball

Winter: 29 hours per week

Summer: 29 hours per week

Schools

Winter: 12 hours per winter

Summer: 12 hours per summer



Figure 43 Ross Park Main Football Field and Netball Courts

6.3.3 Facility Description

Ross Park is the home of football (soccer) and netball. It is adjacent to Ross Park Primary School and provides the playing fields for the school. Ross Park includes:

- A new 4 court indoor netball centre
- 4 outdoor courts (3 lit)
- Netball kiosk, small club and amenities building
- Floodlit soccer pitch and new club rooms (under construction)
- 2 additional senior football fields (multi marked for smaller fields) with a cricket overlay and concrete wicket.
- Practice nets
- Large on-site sealed carpark adjacent to the main field.

6.3.4 Site Constraints

Ross Park is a heavily developed site hosting a new 4 court indoor netball centre, 4 outdoor courts and an old netball administration, kiosk and amenities building. Netball is the largest sport by membership in Alice Springs and the facility receives high use with parking and pedestrian access key issues for the sport.

The new netball facility has some final construction issues to be resolved before the facility is handed from the NTG to Council and in the interim is being managed by Netball. A key issue for netball is the lack of player facilities (change rooms) and the current sports administration, meeting and kiosk facilities being hosted in an old facility external to the new stadium (rather than being incorporated into the new stadium build). There is limited parking for netball and traffic and pedestrian movement is a key issue.



Football is the other main user of the site and they have a main competition field supported by 2-3 smaller fields adjacent (these being multi-marked for small side/junior games). These smaller fields support all the training demand as well as cricket use in the summer. A large new carpark has been built next to the competition field and a new kiosk and amenities building between football and netball was funded with NTG grant funds. The main field is only used on Friday, Saturday and Sunday for Competition. The adjacent school also uses the training fields for school sport.

Overall, Netball's ancillary facilities are aged and in need of considerable upgrading to bring to a contemporary standard. There is also limited shade across the site for both football and netball. Access to field hours for training is a priority issue for football who have worked with council to develop a proposal to lease some of the vacant land from the Desert Life Church, to develop a training field.



Figure 44: Ross Park Layout (Nearmaps Aug 2019)

6.3.5 User Group Suggestions



There is a strong push from Football for the need for additional training space as they are at capacity across their training fields and are using a number of other fields across the region. Council is currently in discussion with the Desert Life Church to develop an additional training space, located opposite the existing fields at Ross Park.

Netball would like to see improved synergies across the site, in particular improving the shared access to existing and future club and amenities. A better approach to managing site parking and the issue of peak use times clashing were also important considerations. For netball the eventual replacement/ upgrade of the old administration facility is a strategic priority and potential for shared solution with football should be explored. The outdoor courts need better lighting and if possible, the long-term plan would be to shade these courts creating a far more useable space to support junior sport.

6.3.6 SFAC Proposals

SFAC have suggested a number of improvements that are considered major capital works to be considered as part of the master plan. These include:

- Full upgrade to old/existing netball changeroom and clubhouse, plumbing not sufficient to handle volume of use and regularly block during events/times of high use
- Increase number of male toilets at Netball
- Shade for spectators - tree or shade shelter
- Shade Over outdoor courts
- Resurfacing outdoor courts

6.3.7 Implications for Sport Facility Planning

The current layout of fields and amenities across Ross Park could be improved to increase capacity. However, it would require a major reconfiguration. A Master Plan should be undertaken with the overall aim of redesigning the existing facilities and playing spaces to increase the available space. The use of the Desert Life Church carpark area as a training field could be revisited as there may be potential to relocate parking from Ross Park to the Desert Life Site and increase the number of fields at Ross Park.

The Pat Gallagher Netball Centre and the new amenities (currently under construction) should be investigated for increase sharing opportunities to reduce the cost of duplication across the site. There is need for improved shade across the entire site, in particular for spectators and players along the side lines.

Netball and Football are both high participation sports with longer term trends supporting this to continue so investing in capacity for these sports is reasonable.

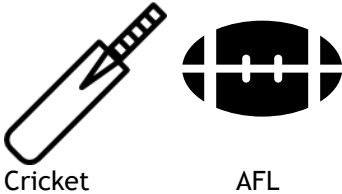
Overall there are a number of options that could be considered for the site:

- Short term planning for resurfacing of the outdoor netball courts
- Longer term planning for shade over all or 2 of the outdoor netball courts
- Short to medium term planning for improved lighting of the outdoor courts
- Medium term planning for the replacement of the Netball administration building. The preferred approach is to build on the investment in the new amenities block and create a shared administration and player amenities hub supporting both football and netball.
- Consideration of the best approach to provide additional training field capacity for football. The simplest and likely cheapest options is to develop a field on land leased from the Desert Life Church. However, a longer-term approach that considers the overall site operation would be to consider reconfiguring the main field and adjacent carpark to a main field and a secondary field and relocate parking to the leased church land.



6.4 Albrecht Oval

6.4.1 Facility users



6.4.2 Facility Usage

Winter: 25 hours per week
Summer: 12 hours per week

Schools:

Winter: 80 hours per winter

Major Events include:

- Imparja Cup / NICC

6.4.3 Facility Description

Albrecht Oval includes a picket fenced oval with turf wicket suitable for cricket and AFL. This site has the most recent amenities and is Alice Spring's second premier cricket and AFL ground. The site is also adjacent to a number of education facilities in Larapinta. Council is also in the process of installing lights and improving the existing amenities.





Figure 45 Albrecht Oval, In use for Imparja Cup

6.4.4 Site constraints

The site is a single oval facility, located 10 minutes from the Centre of Town by car. This is the most isolated sporting facility, under Council management, however it is a high standard suitable for higher level competition in both AFL and Cricket. There has been significant recent investment in upgrading the facility for player and spectators and the playing surface itself.

Distance from other services and facilities, along with limited space for expansion, beyond additional amenities limits the opportunities for Albrecht Oval. However, it is well serviced for parking with large shared parking precinct servicing both the campus and the oval. The investment in the amenities, lights and infrastructure, means this facility can operate as a “number 2” competition facility complementing TIO Traeger Oval.



Figure 46: Albrecht Oval (Nearmaps Aug 2019)

6.4.5 User Group Suggestions

There is a strong push for lighting of Albrecht Oval (which has already been funded and construction started) and, for AFL in particular, the need for a working scoreboard at the site (there were reports of issues with the new score board during consultation).



6.4.6 Implications for Sport Facility Planning

Most of the user group issues and suggestions have been incorporated into current plans for Albrecht and apart from continued improvement to spectator facilities there are few additional needs. Council are currently in the process of improving the lighting, developing new change rooms and amenities on site. Across the life of this plan maintenance of the facility to the new standard is likely to be the main priority.

The Larapinta residential area surrounding the oval, is not well supplied with parks and open space. For homes close to Albrecht, there are limited opportunities for outdoor recreation and access to developed parkland. Consideration could be given to providing a local park and play area on the south-east corner of the park where the old nursery was. Additionally, pedestrian access to the grounds for use when it isn't booked could be investigated.

6.5 Rhonda Diano Oval

6.5.1 Facility users



Soccer



AFL



Athletics



Cricket



Schools

6.5.2 Facility Usage

Winter: 15.5 hours per week

Summer: 25 hours per week

Schools:

Winter: 80 hours per winter

Summer: 16 hours per summer

Key Events:

School Carnivals

6.5.3 Facility Description

Rhonda Diano Park (also called Head Street Oval) is the only sporting reserve in the northern suburbs of Alice Springs.

Rhonda Diano Park comprises a large grassed area which is used mainly for athletics and cricket. Specialist athletics facilities include two jumping pits, one shot put area and a throwing cage. There is a concrete cricket pitch in the middle of the playing fields.



Figure 47 Rhonda Diano Oval

6.5.4 Site Constraints

The site is home to the Alice Springs Athletics Club, while other field sports use the centre field for training space. It was identified that the facility has poor lighting, probably not suitable for training use. The site is essentially land locked, adjacent to a school campus and a shopping centre. It is however open for community use and supports exercise and active recreation when not in use for formal sport. Access is well developed and there are two parking areas plus informal areas to service the site.

The site was also poorly rated by the users of the site, in particular cricket, although the main reason for the dissatisfaction was lighting quality.

The oval is also important to the residents of Braitling as there are few other large open space areas provided for residents and public access should be retained.



Figure 48 Rhonda Diano Oval (Nearmaps August 2019)

6.5.5 User Group Suggestions



Previous aspirations for the site have included the proposed development of a synthetic running track here. This would be challenging for a number of reasons, the main ones being the site size, shape and slope and the lack of feasibility to fund and operate such a facility.

The main suggestion arising during this current study was to improve the standard of lighting to better support training use.

6.5.6 SFAC Proposals

SFAC have provided a number of improvements that are considered major capital works that need to be considered as part of the master plan. The suggestion to install 4 x 100m Synthetic Lane + 2 x 50m curve (150m in total), relocate 2 x Long jump pit with additional 10m run off, however as stated above this should be subject to a feasibility study.

6.5.7 Implications for Sport Facility Planning

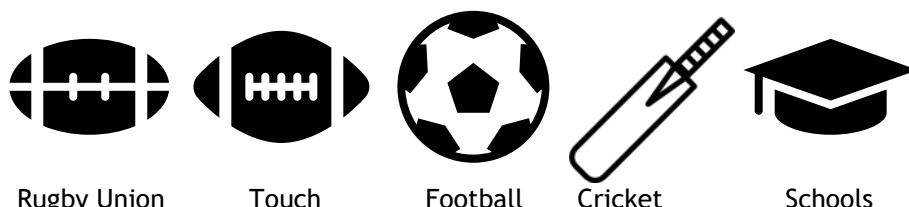
Rhonda Diano Oval is a well-used facility, with higher use in summer but indicating capacity for additional use in winter which could provide an additional training facility for rugby league, union or soccer, while continuing to be the home of Athletics and a secondary oval for cricket.

Based on user feedback and site assessment the main improvements indicated for the site would be improved lighting to support night time training use and additional tree planting to for shade and amenity. Retention of community access for informal recreation is also recommended.

The SFAC proposal for a synthetic training space would need to be investigated further. It will be critical to undertake a feasibility assessment for the proposal, which investigates the benefits, costs, maintenance, and impacts to other sports, including cricket use of the site.

6.6 Flynn Drive Oval

6.6.1 Facility users



6.6.2 Facility Usage

Winter: 39 hours per week (Maximum use one field receives is 19 hours per week)

Summer: 32 hours per week

Schools:

Winter: 22 hours per winter

Summer: 16 hours per summer

6.6.3 Facility Description

Flynn Drive Oval is located adjacent to Bradshaw School and a short distance from Jim McConville Park. Flynn Drive Oval comprises an irregular shaped, floodlit playing field with concrete cricket wicket. The field is marked for touch which has four fields. The site is also connected to a small supermarket, limiting the potential of any kiosk/ canteen facilities.



Figure 49 Flynn Drive Fields- the Home of Touch Football

6.6.4 Site constraints

Flynn Drive Oval is one of the most heavily used facilities in Alice Springs, primarily for touch football, football (soccer) training during the winter season, and cricket and touch in summer. This has led to some concerns, from touch in particular, that the site is being overused, while other fields remain competition only grounds.

Cricket also has concerns regarding the quality of the surface, which may be due to the high level of use. The organisations also raised concern that the site didn't have access to suitable amenities, however a new amenities building is currently under construction.

There is a reasonable case indicating overuse of this site. In many councils, 25 hours a week in Winter is seen as close to full use and over 30 hours is often difficult to support. In an arid environment with very low overnight winter temperatures 39 hours per week is very high use and may not be sustainable. However, it should be noted that these are booked hours, and may not all be used



Figure 50: Flynn Drive Oval (Nearmaps August 2019)

6.6.5 User Group Suggestions

Alice Springs Touch Association would like to see less training at Flynn Drive, as it is impacting the usability of the fields, which was also highlighted by multiple cricket clubs.

6.6.6 SFAC Proposals

SFAC have provided a number of improvements that are considered major capital works that need to be considered as part of the master plan. These include:

- Light upgrade to lux level suitable for local night-time cricket. Currently there are safety concerns around playing night-time cricket

6.6.7 Implications for Sport Facility Planning

Flynn Drive Oval is one of the most heavily used facilities in Alice Springs, primarily due to the lighting which supports night time training, as the site is not used on weekends by any group during the winter. While the other facilities in Alice Springs remain unlit Flynn Drive Oval will continue to be heavily used.

6.7 Anzac Oval

6.7.1 Facility users



Rugby League & Rugby Union, Fitness groups

6.7.2 Facility Usage

Winter: Booked by Rugby League from 3pm to 10pm Monday-Friday, and from 7am to 10pm on Saturday, however only game on the most current draw is 2pm to 6pm Saturdays
Summer: 17 hours per week



The site is popular with personal trainers and outdoor group fitness.

Schools:

Winter: 12 hours per winter

Summer: 12 hours per Summer

Key Events:

NRL preseason training camps (Parramatta Eels)

Major Community events such as concerts

6.7.3 Facility Description

Anzac Oval is a significant multi-purpose open space area. As well as being the base for rugby union and rugby league in Alice Springs, it is also the major focus for community festivals and events.

Sporting facilities include:

- Floodlit playing field marked out for rugby league and rugby union
- Pavilion with change rooms



Figure 51 Anzac Oval

6.7.4 Site constraints

Anzac Oval is the only facility suitable in Alice Springs for Rugby League and Rugby Union. Due to uncertainty around the future use of the site the amenities and supporting infrastructure at the site are not up to contemporary standard.

As the only suitable site for the two codes, when Anzac Oval is used for events and training camps for NRL teams there are no alternative options for the sports to relocate games too, increasing the importance of the facility.

The site is also considered a ‘public space’, which means that it is available to be used by any member of the community, between 6am and 10pm. This had led to the site becoming popular for outdoor boot camps and personal training classes, due to the proximity to surrounding facilities, quality of the surface and the grandstand. Although the organisations did not have an issue with this use there have been instances in the past of damage to the field made by these users.



Figure 52: Anzac Oval (Nearmaps August 2019)

6.7.5 User Group Suggestions

Both Rugby Union and Rugby League would like to have access to other facilities to spread the load from Anzac Oval, while also providing an alternative option in case of events at Anzac Oval. There was also a push from the sports to see increased investment in Anzac Oval now the future of the site is clearer.

6.7.6 Implications for Sport Facility Planning

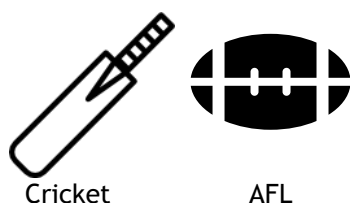
Anzac Oval should continue to operate as the premier rectangle field venue, due to the proximity to the CBD and surrounding services. This should include additional investment in upgrading the amenities and support infrastructure.

An investigation into the use of the site by fitness groups should be undertaken to understand the existing usage and potential measures to reduce damage to the game day facilities.

There is a need for additional training spaces for Rugby League/ Rugby Union in Alice Springs, with the installation of goal post sleeves at other sites an opportunity to provide these spaces if needed without impacting on existing users.

6.8 Paul Fitzsimmons Oval

6.8.1 Facility users



6.8.2 Facility Usage

Winter: 5 hours per week
Summer: 28 hours per week

6.8.3 Facility Description



Paul Fitzsimmons Oval (also known as CDU Oval) is a joint community and university facility located at Charles Darwin University (CDU). Facilities include a large playing field area, however it does not have separate toilets and change rooms and has inadequate shade, no drinking water and limited car parking areas.



Figure 53 Paul Fitzsimmons Oval at CDU

6.8.4 Site constraints

As the site is not owned by Council there has been very limited investment into ancillary infrastructure, including no current access to shade structure, water or change and amenities. This site is also poorly signed, with limited wayfinding signage to the facility.



Figure 54 Location of Paul Fitzsimmons Oval at CDU - access and parking is difficult and no player amenities are provided. (Nearmaps August 2019)

6.8.5 User Group Suggestions

A priority for Cricket and AFL is to have amenities installed on site, although they understand that Council has concerns with the development of infrastructure that is not on Council land, and how the maintenance of such a facility will be managed.

6.8.6 SFAC Proposals

SFAC have provided a number of improvements that are considered major capital works that need to be considered as part of the master plan. These include:

- Develop CDU Oval into a user-friendly Oval including toilets, change rooms, umpires rooms, storage, canteen, power, shade, water.

6.8.7 Implications for Sport Facility Planning

If the field is to continue to be used for AFL and Cricket then ancillary facilities need to be developed, a minimum of which would be toilets and drinking water need to be accessible on site. A possible opportunity to the management of this could be to develop the facilities outside of the University grounds, on Stott Terrace, or to install demountable facilities that can be removed if the university rescinds access.

Signage and wayfinding are important for the site as is parking, a new entry point for community use of the field. with parking on Stott Terrace and a pedestrian access developed over the gully a potential option.

6.9 Understanding Field Utilisation

It is important to note that there were a number of sports that had booked facilities that were most likely not being used as booked, however Council had no information to confirm this. An analysis of the booking data versus the competition draw appears to show a disparity between booked hours for competition and



likely use including, for example, ovals booked on a Saturday from 8am to 10pm for competition some of which are not lit or fixture information indicating the latest game starting at 1 pm.

It is important to develop a clearer understanding of actual usage of facilities and not relying on booking data alone to determine field usage. There were a number of facilities that are booked by organisations, however the quantum of hours booked are hard to reconcile with actual use and cannot easily be substantiated through an inspection of competition draws or estimates of training sessions.

In some cases, it appears clubs may be block booking field hours “in case” of need and may not utilise all the hours booked. For example, some unlit facilities appear to be booked well into the evening hours that it is unlikely a sport will use. Anecdotally, this issue was mentioned by Council staff, who observe the current model has no incentive for sports to only book what they need and when staff are trying to find field hours for a sport they have to negotiate with clubs who have booked hours, possibly in advance of actual need.

For many local governments matching actual need with field hours is a constant challenge and the learning from many is that there should be a direct nexus with the charge clubs pay and the use they require. In most cases use is heavily subsidised, and council will manage and maintain a space so that they can ensure multiple users have equitable access.

The current system for booking of fields allows clubs to essentially pay a more or less fixed fee per member regardless of the number of field hours they require. While they pay for lighting and may or may not have responsibilities associated with club facilities and amenities, the field use charge does not change relative to the hours consumed. Clubs or sports can pre-emptively book field hours “in case” and have little incentive to consider alternative approaches to scheduling that may free hours up for other users.

The current system is the result of a policy decision by council and while it is designed to be supportive of sport, it can also skew the market and disadvantage some sports who may be unable to access field hours needed to grow. On the other hand, it ensures for participants that the “charge” from council is the same for everyone.

In attempting to analyse this issue it is difficult to verify actual use from booked hours but some comparison with average field hours across some sports is possible using demand analysis models which estimate the competition and training hours per participant and the subsequent field hours needed.

6.9.1 Use and Cost of Delivery

A further confounding factor is that clubs/ sports pay on the basis of membership numbers reported, this could create an incentive to under report participation to reduce cost to the sport.

An analysis of the most recent membership data shows that there are a number of sports that pay a much lower contribution, through the sports levy when converted to a cost per hour of booking.

Table 30: Analysis of Sport Participation Levy System

| | AFL | Cricket | Baseball | Hockey | Soccer | Softball | Athletics | League | Union | Touch |
|---------------------|------|---------|----------|--------|--------|----------|-----------|--------|-------|-------|
| Year | 2018 | 2018 | 2016 | 2018 | 2018 | 2016 | 2018 | 2018 | 2016 | 2016 |
| Seniors | 523 | 228 | 89 | 95 | 375 | 35 | 2 | 74 | 136 | 124 |
| Juniors | 417 | 120 | 134 | 22 | 567 | 13 | 84 | 128 | 0 | 144 |
| Total | 940 | 348 | 233 | 117 | 942 | 48 | 86 | 202 | 136 | 268 |
| Booked Hours | 65.5 | 102 | 28 | 10 | 87 | 13 | 11 | 53 | 18 | 13.5 |
| Season Length | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 48 | 24 | 24 | 48 |
| Yearly Hours Booked | 1572 | 2448 | 672 | 240 | 2088 | 312 | 528 | 1272 | 432 | 648 |



| | AFL | Cricket | Baseball | Hockey | Soccer | Softball | Athletics | League | Union | Touch |
|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Sport Levy Contribution | \$19,943 .40 | \$8,064 .00 | \$4,036 .80 | \$3,074 .40 | \$17,033 .40 | \$1,182 .60 | \$916. 80 | \$3,525 .60 | \$4,080 .00 | \$5,188 .80 |
| Contribution per hour booked | \$12.69 | \$3.29 | \$6.01 | \$12.81 | \$8.16 | \$3.79 | \$1.74 | \$2.77 | \$9.44 | \$8.01 |

Under the current model sports like Cricket, who have lower memberships, but book a lot of hours are contributing significantly less, per hour booked, than other sports. However, sports such as athletics who have low membership and low use are also “paying” less per hour than other users.

One of the common principles in developing tenure policies for sports, is the linkage of charges to the level of impact or the amount of facility time consumed. This does two important things:

- 1) It allows a policy framework to consider the overall cost of provision, determine the level of subsidy required, and then charge for access in an equitable way across all sports.
- 2) It provides a financial incentive for sports to be more efficient in their field use planning.

From a policy sense, having an objective basis for the charge also allows development of intentional subsidies, such as for junior sport or new emerging sports. Some local governments will build policy mechanisms into charging frameworks to support the development of sport for children or in villages with small populations. The impact or effectiveness of a particular policy objective and implementation mechanism can be assessed more easily in this case.

Otium Planning Group have developed a demand analysis model, which utilises participation data, in this case local participation data, industry trends on field capacity, and anticipated usage. Using this model, it was identified that using the model all field sports had higher field bookings than what would be expected for their membership numbers.

Based on our demand model for field sports and the reported membership/participation numbers the following comparison of expected use hours against the booked hours demonstrates that there may be some over booking. The modelled hours assume a certain level of training use and competition hours per junior and senior member. Importantly it also assumes the capacity of a “modelled” field to accommodate use (in other words the number of players a field can support for competition or training). If field capacity is much lower than the average modelled, then the required field hours will increase as less users per field can be accommodated and more hours will be needed.

Table 31 Comparison of Booked Field Hours with Modelled Demand

| Sport | Booked field hours | Modelled demand | Difference |
|-----------|--------------------|-----------------|------------|
| AFL | 1572 | 1176 | 396 |
| Cricket | 2448 | 1296 | 1152 |
| Baseball | 672 | 360 | 312 |
| Hockey | 240 | 192 | 48 |
| Football | 2088 | 1272 | 816 |
| Softball | 312 | 144 | 168 |
| Athletics | 528 | 96 | 432 |
| R. League | 1272 | 240 | 1032 |
| R. Union | 432 | 264 | 168 |
| Touch | 648 | 432 | 216 |

It should also be noted that often hours booked can reflect attempts to create more flexible participation options for a smaller community and separation of training uses to a number of facilities (often local to a club) which will increase the need for field hours and decrease the efficiency of use.



Cost of delivery:

Council has provided the annual operational costs for the subject facilities.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| 2019/20 expense budget including water | \$1.732 M |
| 2019/20 expense excluding water | \$1,146,840 |

Analysis of averaged cost data provides the following:

- Total hours booked 14,940
- Cost per hour (inc water) \$115.92
- Cost per hour (excl water) \$76.76
- Current rate of recovery 5.6%
- Recovery (excl water) 8.5%

Under the current sports participation levy system, the contribution that sports are making is approximately 5.6% of the cost of delivery. The level of subsidy for sport is a policy decision for council. However, the current model does not appear to subsidise all sports equally, but it does ensure the larger sports pay a larger amount towards the levy which is loosely linked to impact. It is also understood that the levy system is designed to create a fund for the Sports Facility Advisory Committee to recommend expenditure on sporting facilities and as such the contribution may not be intended to be linked to the actual use of facilities.

A possible alternative approach is to consider a basis for charging that collects charges for use, and still contributes to the levy for future benefit. But the basis for calculation is the impact/ use of facilities rather than just membership numbers. Membership numbers ultimately drive the field hours needed so the “big” sports will still pay more.

For some sports, such as cricket, which require longer hours this could possibly be a disadvantage, however the demand for field hours from cricket is summer based so has less competition and could be discounted on that basis but still be charged on a time used basis.

The other issue that should be considered in developing a new or revised policy is the level of service required by the user. This means that the rate of the charge should be linked to the standard of maintenance required, including the frequency of field mowing, and turf maintenance, costs of providing and maintaining specialist infrastructure and other factors such as consumption of power and water. For many local governments the tenure policy will transfer the cost of power and water consumption to the sport as a direct cost (in some cases subsidised).

Scenario Model

A possible starting point for calculating an hourly rate charge for field bookings could be based on the existing return of around 5.6% of the total maintenance budget to Council. An hourly rate of \$6.50 would return the same percentage to Council as the sports levy does, based on the current bookings data, however the distribution of the charge between sports would change. In other words, some sports would pay less and some would pay more if they retained their current level of booking hours.

Rather than model the likely impacts of this across the various sports, the above analysis is provided by way of example only to suggest that a review of the policy basis for access charging and field bookings may be indicated as one strategy to address perceived shortages of field hours.

In considering a new charging model, the increase of hourly rates to recover more of the cost needs to be balanced against the need for a happy medium that is not unsustainable for sport but does discourage over booking of hours. This approach could conceivably free up additional hours for other sports that are currently struggling to get access.

7. Unique Alice Springs



Alice Springs poses a number of unique challenges that are rarely seen across the Country. Alice Springs has a relatively small population base, but services much of Central Australia, and is arguably one of the most important regional centres in the Northern Territory. Compared with any other regional town of a similar population and with many larger regional towns, Alice Springs has a high level of service in terms of facilities. Many regional centres of a similar size would only have one “premier” type sporting facility, whereas Alice Springs has several. The climate and isolation do mitigate in favour of a higher level of investment and when considering the regional communities supported the investment in sport event capacity is an investment in the wider region, not just the town. Key facilities include:

- TIO Traeger Park Stadium
- Lyle Kempster Baseball Stadium
- Pat Gallagher Netball Centre (a 4-court indoor netball centre)
- Alice Springs Basketball Stadium (a 3-court indoor basketball centre)
- Albrecht Oval
- Anzac Oval
- Alice Springs Aquatic and Leisure Centre

In addition, the number of secondary fields and facilities means that most sports are well supplied.

Alice Springs has a strong history of attracting large events, that other towns of a similar size could only dream of attracting. It has been building capacity in its ability to host sporting events through programs such as the Masters Games which has the dual benefit of being good for the local economy and bringing competition to the township to expand the sporting experience of residents.

This section has identified similar regional centres in Queensland and Western Australia that have a similar regional context to Alice Springs, their event capabilities and access to sporting fields. This information further highlights the unique situation Alice Springs is in, with access to quality facilities and ability to attract high level events. However, the frequent investment from Territory and Federal government in facilities provides capital only, and Council then needs to find the ongoing costs of maintenance and operation.

Table 32: Similar locations to Alice Springs

| Location (LGA) | Population | Sporting Facilities | Event Capabilities | Regional Context |
|----------------------------|------------|--|---|--|
| Alice Springs Town Council | 24,753 | Major facilities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TIO Traeger Park Stadium• Lyle Kempster Baseball Stadium• Pat Gallagher Netball Centre - A four court indoor Netball centre• A 3-court indoor basketball centre• Albrecht Oval• Anzac Oval• The Aquatic Centre | With the current standard of facilities, including ancillary facilities Alice Springs has a strong track record of attracting high level events to town, most recently, a WBBL match. | Located approximately 1,500 km from Darwin and Adelaide, Alice Springs is a major regional centre for 2 states, and supports a number of communities within the NT and SA. |



| Location (LGA) | Population | Sporting Facilities | Event Capabilities | Regional Context |
|--------------------------------|------------|---|---|--|
| Mt Isa City Council | 21,000 | 6 facilities, mostly single field facilities. | Similar to Alice Springs, Mt Isa is a regional town that services a large catchment. To date there are minimal events that can be held within the township except for the Rodeo, Bull ride and Equestrian related events. | Located just to the east of the NT-QLD boarder MT Isa is key town in Western Queensland. |
| Western Downs Regional Council | 34,467 | 33 facilities, across 14 townships. Within the main townships there are 12 facilities. | There are limited event capabilities within the region and Council is not currently seeking to attract any large sporting events. | Western Downs Regional Council covers 38,000 Km ² and with major townships of Dalby, Chinchilla and Tara. |
| Shire of Broome | 17,251 | 3 sporting facilities, totalling 4 fields, an aquatic centre, indoor sport courts, 10 outdoor netball courts. | There are limited other ancillary facilities in Broome, and the recently completed Sports Master Plan did not identify and event capabilities for the existing facilities. | Broome is located approximately 2000 km from both Perth and Darwin, with a central airport. |



8. Sports Facility Master Plan

8.1 Summary of Key Strategic and Facility Issues

The development of this masterplan has considered the mix of issues and aspirations identified by the stakeholders. It has also looked at each facility and the objective information around use, perceived needs and what might be sustainable opportunities for the township. The key issues driving the development of the plan are detailed in the following section.

8.1.1 Lack of Sports Fields/ Access to Fields

A number of field sports raised the issue of access to fields that were suitable for training and in some cases possible expansion of competition. The previous sections of this report have investigated the perceived needs of individual sports and the data around field use. While potential growth in demand was identified as one of the drivers for needing additional field space, there is currently no indication that the township is likely to experience significant growth in population.

At current growth rates population growth alone will not generate sufficient demand for additional field capacity. However, where growth occurs is an issue and if areas such as Kilgariff do grow then it is reasonable to consider provision of parks and sporting space to service that community. In considering formal sport provision, south of The Gap, the existing supplies of land at Blatherskite Park and the Racecourse should be considered first before additional areas for formal sport are acquired. Informal fields/ active spaces should be provided close to the residential area.

The analysis has indicated that an additional rectangular field able to be used by football, league and union is a priority. To meet training needs and provide a second competition field for league and union this field should have appropriate goal posts for these codes.

Investigation of possible responses and current levels of use have indicated:

- The current booking system and use charge (levy) does not operate well to link hours used to fees paid. Consequently, there may be an issue with some sports “overbooking” field hours and not investigating improved scheduling options to be more efficient in field use.
- Some locations such as Flynn Drive Oval are heavily booked and heavily used and if all the booked hours are actually being used - the level of winter use is possibly unsustainable.
- A key issue for AFL and Cricket is that there are no facilities with two ovals at the same location making it difficult to run a more efficient model for training and competition.
- While cricket has one of the highest levels of booked hours per player, it is a summer sport and has less competition for field hours than those operating in winter.
- Only one rectangular field with goal posts for league/union is available. This impacts on training capability. In addition, this facility (Anzac Oval) is used for a number of events which can further disrupt fixtures and training.
- Football locates much of its use at Ross Park for training and competition. The main field is only used for competition, meaning the “back” fields are supporting training three nights a week. On weekends the whole site supports competition and is booked 9 am-8.30 pm both days.
- Options for increasing capacity include lighting additional fields and developing an additional field for training use. Potential locations for a new field include the proposed use of land owned by the Desert Life Church, community access to school fields or land for development of a field; or, conversion of another oval field to a rectangular field. The main demand would appear to be for a rectangular field. In addition, a review of the way fields are booked and including an incentive to be more efficient in hours booked could free up capacity.



8.1.2 Legacy of Past Decisions and Need for Master Planning Precincts

Many of the key sites involved in this master plan appear to have been planned around individual facilities and not around an overall precinct master plan. This means that opportunities to allow for future growth, chances for shared infrastructure and overall efficient use of space have been lost or constrained.

Traeger Park, Ross Park and Jim McConville are the three locations that would benefit from a master plan. However, there is some interaction between sites as the potential to consolidate some sports in a single precinct should be considered. In addition, some surrounding issues (such as parking at Traeger and the nearby hospital) suggest that a new approach could have multiple benefits. The identified opportunities include:

- Redeveloping Traeger Park to relocate baseball to Jim McConville freeing up space to develop a second AFL/ Cricket oval at Traeger.
- Relocating Tennis to a new location which would allow it to develop a regional complex suitable for hosting higher level competition. The existing courts area could be converted to parking to service Traeger, adjacent basketball and the nearby hospital. Relocation options include land acquired from Desert Life Church (adjacent to Ross Park) or land acquired from Centralian Middle School adjacent to Jim McConville.
- For tennis, the removal of the caretakers house could also be considered as it could allow a reconfiguration of the courts, but this does not improve parking outcomes.
- Revising the overall layout at Ross Park to reconfigure fields to create more senior fields and locate parking on the proposed lease area adjacent to the Desert Life Church. Alternately developing a training field on the Desert Life Church land.
- Master planning for Jim McConville to include land within the CMS campus to provide a future field.

8.1.3 Developing a Standard of Provision and Facilities Hierarchy

The analysis of issues and concerns identified an emerging theme about inequity in terms of the approach to facility planning and levels of provision. Regardless of the issues around access to field hours or facility space, the overall strategy for individual sports should consider what the standard and hierarchy of provision might look like and how it could be applied to forward planning.

A hierarchy of provision for field sports could be:

- A “premier” competition facility able to support high level competition and visiting Territory or National teams and major events.
- Second tier competition venue to support local competition and training.
- Access to additional training fields/ spaces as needed to meet demand

A standard of provision would need to be developed around the level of embellishments expected at different hierarchy of facilities:

Table 33: Possible Provision Standard

| Facility Element | Premier Venue | Secondary Competition and Training | Training |
|------------------|--|--|---|
| Playing surface | High quality surface, suitable for Territory Level competition and compliant | Well maintained surface suitable for high use for competition and training | Basic grass field/ training area, meeting training needs. |



| Facility Element | Premier Venue | Secondary Competition and Training | Training |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| | with relevant sport standards. | | Most often multiple use space |
| Lighting | Lighting sufficient for competition play at night. Lux levels specified for different sports | Lighting sufficient for training use at night. Minimum lux specified. | Lighting optional - could be provided at training standard if use is higher than 25 hours / week in winter. |
| Player Facilities | Full change facilities with hot showers for both teams, officials' room, first aid, drinking water | Change and shower facilities, multi-use space for officials or other club use, first aid room, drinking water | Access to toilets, drinking water |
| Irrigation | In ground irrigation | Irrigated | Irrigated |
| Spectator amenity | Public toilets, drinking water, spectator stands, shaded areas, food and beverage outlets, dedicated hospitality spaces (e.g. for sponsors or media) | Shaded stands, perimeter shade, toilets and drinking water. Kiosk space. | Shaded areas/ perimeter shade. Drinking water |
| Storage | Storage spaces for resident sports provided. | Storage space for resident users and seasonal users. | No on site storage |
| Parking | Parking sufficient for larger events. Player and official access direct to facilities. | Off street parking | Off street or on street parking/ informal parking |
| Outside Broadcast Capability | Optional | no | no |

All facilities to provide unisex player facilities or both male and female change and shower.

If we consider the provision for sports included in this strategy the following general assessment could identify shortfalls in planning according to a hierarchy. However, it should also be noted that if there is not demand from the sport for multiple facilities or high level competition facilities then provision is not warranted. In addition, some sports such as netball or basketball could meet all needs in a single multi-court facility.

Table 34 Nominal Assessment of Sports Against Facility Hierarchy

| Sport | Premier Venue | Secondary Venue and Training | Training |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| Netball | Yes - partial | Yes- main facility | Yes |
| Football (Soccer) | Yes - partial | Yes - partial | Yes |
| AFL | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Basketball | Yes - partial | Yes - main facility | Yes |
| Cricket | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Touch | Yes - could use Anzac | Yes | Yes |



| Sport | Premier Venue | Secondary Venue and Training | Training |
|-----------|---|------------------------------|----------|
| Baseball | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| League | Yes | No | Yes |
| Tennis | No - regional facility not up to standard | Yes - main facility | Yes |
| Union | Yes | No | Yes |
| Hockey | Yes - partial | No | Yes |
| Athletics | No | Yes - partial | Yes |
| Softball | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Another way to consider the above is to confirm a minimum standard for provision for sports is to have a facility capable of supporting competition use supported by additional training capacity at the main or other facilities.

In considering the provision shortfalls the following priorities emerge:

- Paul Fitzsimmons Oval (CDU) provision of shade, drinking water and toilets (this is complicated by the ownership of the site being CDU).
- A second competition capable field for rugby union and league
- Consideration of the need for an improved regional tennis centre
- Confirmation of Anzac Oval as the main premier “rectangular sport” venue and forward planning to enhance the facility for use by football, rugby league, rugby union and possibly touch football.
- Improvements at Ross Park Main oval for player and spectator amenity
- Improvements for Netball Centre to better meet spectator and player needs.
- Improvements for the Basketball Centre to provide spectator facilities and amenities
- Improvements for Rhonda Diano Oval to meet spectator and player needs as a second-tier venue. Further investigation of the need for a premier venue.

8.2 The Vision for Sport in Alice Springs

Alice Springs is a unique town, servicing the vast region of central Australia and acting as an unofficial “capital” for the region. Its remoteness and location, about halfway between Darwin and Adelaide, and proximity to Uluru means it is a popular destination for tourists and visitors. It’s proved capacity to host major events and success in investing in sporting facilities means that it is often successful in securing visiting teams, top tier demonstration games and even national competition matches in the town.

Alice has a proud sporting history and Council and community a strong commitment to supporting sport and enabling participation in a wide range of sports for those who live here.



The Vision for Alice Springs is:

Building on our unique role and our past successes, Alice Springs will continue to develop our sporting groups and sporting facilities in a planned and sustainable way. Our aim is to provide a rich sport and recreation focused lifestyle for our residents that includes opportunities to compete at different levels and host high level competition in the township. The community's investment in our quality sporting facilities benefits the health and wellbeing of our community and strengthens our local economy.

8.3 Guiding Principles

The Master Plan has been developed around the following guiding principles:

1. Maximising return on investment - ensuring all facilities are used to capacity
2. Ensuring equity in provision.
3. Developing partnerships with other levels of government and other agencies.
4. Building on current strengths when considering new events or investment
5. Ensuring sustainable investment.
6. Supporting emerging sports and junior sport.

8.4 General Recommendations

8.4.1 Finalise and Adopt a Desired Standard of Provision and Maintenance

In response to the need for a more equitable approach to facility access and to recognise the need for an objective basis to prioritise investment in existing facilities, a Desired Standard of provision should be developed in partnership with Sports Facilities Advisory Committee (SFAC) and then considered by Council for adoption.

This standard should cover three key areas:

1. The preferred facility hierarchy to apply to each sport
2. The standard of development for facilities according to hierarchy
3. The maintenance standards to be provided for different facility hierarchies.

The considerations for the development of the provision standard are discussed in Section 8.1.3. developing maintenance standards should include consideration of the following:

- Mowing frequency and heights for fields.
- Irrigation frequency and coverage.
- Building maintenance, cleaning of amenities and clarity on respective responsibilities of council and user groups.
- Setting a sustainable level of use for each field or facility (hours per week).
- Field of facility classification standard and the recommended usage (training or competition).
- Event use, preparation and post event service standards and responsibilities of hiring groups.
- Uses considered not suitable for the facility.
- Level of general (informal) community use provided for.



Once a standard level of service is established then use agreements with sporting groups could include additional levels of service for additional cost, helping to maintain equity in provision via a cost nexus with nonstandard expectations of users.

8.4.2 Implement Lighting Audit and Upgrade Program

A clear theme across consultation was the community's desire for increased lighting across Council's facilities. This would increase the capacity of some venues and in turn reduce the pressure on others, especially for training use. Lighting of facilities will also provide increased opportunities for night use, which is increasingly required for social and formal sport in response to climate and participation trends.

As part of the development of the Desired Standards of Provision an audit of the existing lighting quality should be undertaken. Following the audit, Council and SFAC should work together to identify:

- Facilities which should have lighting upgrades as a priority to meet minimum provision standard
- Facilities which could increase capacity if lit to provide more training capacity.

Lighting of fields has been a policy priority for the Territory Government and has been identified by federal agencies such as SportAus as important investments for sport and active recreation.

However, not all fields should be lit as the power costs may not be supported by the use benefit achieved. In addition, reviewing the access and charging mechanisms for sports fields should retain the transfer of costs for power consumption to users.

From the work undertaken for this plan the following priorities are suggested:

- Rhonda Diana Oval (training)
- Additional lit field at Ross Park (training)
- Jim McConville Oval (training)
- Upgrading outdoor netball court lighting at Ross Park to competition standard on at least 2 courts

8.4.3 Review Facility Bookings and Tenure Policy.

As detailed in Section 6.9 the current policy approach may not be conducive to efficient use of fields, with no inbuilt incentive for user groups to minimise hours booked. In addition, when viewed in the light of facility use and contribution to costs it is inequitable across the sports with some sports receiving a greater subsidy than others.

It is acknowledged that the sports levy is not strictly formulated as an access charge and the purpose is to build a fund for facility improvements administered by SFAC. However, the impact of this approach should be considered in the broader context of access, utilisation and equity.

While the policy basis of heavily supporting sport through subsidised use should not change, the approach to charging could be reviewed to improve equity and to encourage less potential "over booking" and potentially freeing up some field hours for other users. There is also the possibility that a new perspective on field needs of a specific sport by identifying a field that could be converted to meet the shortage in rectangular fields or other needs.

The aims of the review should be to:

1. Improve equity in regard to the how sport's book facility hours and access to fields and facilities is managed.
2. Review how bookings are made with respect to the actual use required. Avoid booking of whole fields if only a part of a facility is required.



3. Set the objective rate for the level of subsidy to apply to use of different facilities and develop an access charge to replace the current membership levy. In other words, a more direct link between use and fees.
4. Alternatively, consider a hybrid model where a reduced levy per member is still charged and nominal fees for field bookings are linked to use hours and applied. Fees charge could still go into a fund for facility improvements.
5. Consider the retention of access fees towards the facility improvement fund overseen by SFAC, but for expenditure to be guided by the proposed Desired Standards of Service and the recommendations of this plan.
6. Improve effective use of sporting facility assets.
7. Investigate an online booking system that reduces workload for staff and simplifies bookings for sports. Users should still have the ability to book for a season and secure the spaces needed for junior and senior competition. Training access might be booked on a main facility and secondary space basis.

Consideration regarding any fee set would need to ensure that the sports with a lower membership base are not priced out of field access, while also ensuring fields are used as booked and maintenance to fields reflects the level of use.

8.4.4 Event Strategy

In the past a number of sporting events have been held in Alice Springs, including most recently the WBBL match between the Adelaide Strikers and Perth Scorchers in January 2019. However, this event was marred by the poor condition of the outfield at Traeger Park, resulting in the relocation of the WBBL match to Albrecht Oval, and the loss of the scheduled BBL match. There is a strong desire from the community and clubs to bring more events to Alice Springs, as there is a belief that these are an economic boost to the city and may increase participation in that particular sport.

To ensure that Council can manage the expectation of the community and clubs, a detailed event strategy should be developed to guide:

- The types of events that Council can host with a focus on existing strengths.
- The current capacity of the various facilities and level of event they can host without significant investment
- The main sporting event targets for Alice Springs and the strategic investment required to consolidate hosting or staging rights.
- Emerging sports (such as mountain bike riding, trail running and endurance events), that can be leveraged to establish the destination for signature events.
- The maintenance standards required for specific events and strategies for dealing with displacement impacts on local sports.
- A transparent process that is clear for both Council and sporting groups in regard to selecting events to bid for and the support available for hosting.

8.4.5 Increase Use of School Facilities

Consultations with the schools identified that there are a number of schools that allow community access to their courts and ovals however they have had limited interest from the sporting organisations to date. It is recommended that Council works with schools and clubs to identify possible opportunities to increase use of existing school facilities to accommodate training needs. A potential focus could be to establish particular partnerships between schools and a sport.

To reduce the risk in this approach support from NTG Sport and Recreation should be sought to develop agreements with schools that protect access for clubs for a reasonable level of time. Council could agree to contribute some maintenance costs similar to the CDU agreement. In addition, discussions with Education should seek certainty of tenure and could highlight the 337 hours used by schools on council facilities.



The main opportunity identified was with Centralian Middle School:

- Indicated a willingness to hand over space for a new sports field and relocate fencing etc. to facilitate this (as long as the school can use the field for free during school hours if needed). The school campus has a large amount of excess space. However, any agreement involving development of a new field and relocation of fencing would require the departments approval. The development of a rectangular field or possibly a new regional tennis centre are possibilities here.
- To develop a process to further investigate the opportunity of realigning the boundary of the school, should the need for additional fields arise over the next decade. This would create a larger sporting precinct with Jim McConville Park and provide additional fields north of the Gap and located close to the centre of town and other sporting parks.
- Shared use of the bus parking/ drop off area for weekend sporting events should also be negotiated.

An additional opportunity might exist at East Side Sadadeen, OLSH Sadadeen Campus possibly providing a rectangular field to support training uses.

8.5 Otium Individual Facility Recommendations and Options

8.5.1 Traeger Park Master Plan

Developing a master plan for Traeger Park is recommended to address a number of issues with layout, use of space, access and parking. There are two potential approaches suggested.

8.5.1.1 AFL and Cricket Premier Precinct

There is an opportunity to redesign Traeger Park to become the home of AFL and Cricket, while also providing the only venue in Alice Springs with multiple oval fields. This “big picture” option does require some significant decisions. To achieve this outcome both Tennis (new location to be determined) and Baseball (to Jim McConville Oval) would need to be relocated.

This would also require a redesign of the existing parking layout across the site, and proposed land swap with the Northern Territory Government (for the new tennis centre) to provide additional parking for the hospital on the old tennis site.

This redevelopment would transform Traeger Park into a premier Oval sport facility, while providing synergies for AFL and Cricket, by having access to two senior fields. Both Tennis and Baseball have indicated in their survey and face to face discussion there may be a willingness to relocate if a suitable venue could be provided. Noting that there has been past resistance to the relocation of Baseball and Tennis are keen to retain a site that is close to the CBD.

Depending on the redesign of Jim McConville this could replace the existing oval at Jim McConville with the new one at Traeger and a new rectangular field could be developed at Jim McConville.

Although this does not increase the overall number of ovals in Alice Springs, it provides an opportunity to have an additional lit field, without impacting on additional residents.

Desktop analysis has been undertaken to assess the validity of this proposal, and although there is potential that the additional oval field may not be high level competition size, it would provide an adequate field size for local competitions and training. It would also significantly increase the strength of Traeger park to host multi team cricket and AFL events and would help focus training use in a single location.



Figure 55 Traeger Park- The big picture option

Additional implications and suggestions for this master plan option include:

- Consolidation of the multiple storage sheds into a single facility located in the south east corner and aligned to minimise the current sterilisation of space required for access to the various current sheds.
- Additional roadside parking along Speed Street made possible by the above.
- Relocating the practice nets to reduce the impact on the useable space
- Some loss of parking in the area immediately south of the new oval.
- Large increase in parking for events and for basketball after relocating tennis. This would also service hospital demand.
- Relocation of some infrastructure between Lyle Kempster and the grassed field

8.5.1.2 Consolidating the Existing site

The alternative master plan option is to address a number of smaller issues on the site within the current constraints. These would include:

- Consolidation of the multiple storage sheds into a single facility located in the south east corner and aligned to minimise the current sterilisation of space required for access to the various current sheds.
- Additional roadside parking along speed street made possible by the above.
- Relocating the practice nets to reduce the impact on the useable space
- Remove the caretakers house for tennis and reconfigure the tennis courts to provide a better show court and address the non-compliant run-off issues. The level of remote security now available should be sufficient to manage perceived security risks for the site and the increased use from upgrading the facility may help the sport grow.
- Install rugby league posts on the grassed field to provide an additional training space.



- Establish a long-term plan for hockey, with consideration of converting back to a grassed field when the current synthetic reaches end of life. The issues with synthetic fields are that there are limited multiple use opportunities and if hockey has low numbers then the space is not able to be used. With a well-maintained grass field (maintained to hockey standard) other codes including cricket and rectangular sports can use the space.
- This option does not provide additional parking near the basketball centre.

8.5.2 Jim McConville Park Master Plan

In the current layout, Jim McConville has four diamonds but there is some outfield overlap which could restrict senior games to three concurrent diamonds. Adjacent is an AFL and cricket field, with considerable space unused around the perimeter. A new club amenities block is being constructed from the current round of funding as part of an overall redesign of three major precincts in Alice Springs, Jim McConville would become the new home of Baseball and Softball.

Baseball have indicated that they are open to relocating if they are able to retain the standard of facility they currently have at Lyle Kempster. They have also identified a potential opportunity to host an Asian League team and this could be an opportunity for Baseball to provide a suitable facility for an ABA team based in Alice Springs should their initial discussions with ABA continue.

Redeveloping Jim McConville Park as the Diamond sport precinct provides an opportunity for Baseball and Softball to consolidate their operations into one location. A desktop analysis shows that there is suitable space at Jim McConville for the provision of 3 smaller diamonds, 1 premier competition diamond and a rectangular field to support training space for other field sports.

In addition, there is also future opportunities for additional sporting field space at Centralian Middle School, who indicated that they are open to relinquishing sporting land to Council (however this would need to be approved by the Northern Territory government).



Figure 56 Jim McConville showing a Potential Diamond Sport Precinct



8.5.2.1 Diamond Master Plan Option

The “diamond option” for the precinct would:

- Relocate the main competition diamond to Jim McConville
- Develop a rectangular sports field for training use and community recreation use
- Provide enhanced spectator facilities and parking
- Convert the new club amenities building to the facilities hub for the precinct
- Identify future sports field use of Centralian Middles School Land and negotiate use of the parking and bus area for major games/ events.

8.5.2.2 Basic Master Plan Option

The basic option assuming that the relocation of baseball from Traeger is not proceeding would include:

- Enhance the spectator facilities around the oval with additional shade plantings and water.
- Consider some “hard stand” areas to support relocatable stands for when the oval or diamonds are used for competition.
- Consider lighting the oval for training use by AFL.
- Retain community access for recreation and consider marking a running loop around the perimeter to provide a training space for, resident sports, running groups and exercise opportunity for residents.
- Consolidate player and club facilities around the new building.
- Identify future sports field use of Centralian Middles School Land and negotiate use of the parking and bus area for major games/ events.

8.5.3 Ross Park Master Plan

There are currently plans to develop an additional training field opposite Ross Park to alleviate pressure on other fields and meet perceived needs. This is proposed to be on land leased from Desert life church. The current use hours recorded, and participation numbers support the need for additional capacity for football but there may be alternative strategies to achieving this aim. Pressure from training use may be accommodated through improved facility and turf management policies. There is also an opportunity to redesign the current layout of Ross Park and the Desert Life Church development for a greater outcome for multiple sports.

In addition to the priority for training field space, there are also opportunities for a shared club amenities and admin hub servicing both netball and football and issues such as parking for netball, pedestrian access and overall site configuration.

The site redesign would assist in alleviating existing issues for both football and netball such as parking, overall site configuration, while also concentrating parking and vehicle movement to a single location. The proposed redesign would still provide the additional field and would encourage the opportunities for shared amenities and administration hub for football and netball.

8.5.3.1 Major Reconfiguration Option

A review of the site has indicated that current field dimensions and layouts are not optimal and in some cases larger than needed. In addition, there is a lack of spectator facilities to support this as the “premier” field for football.

The identified opportunity is to redesign the layout of Ross Park, including relocation of the car park to the Desert Life site, to provide 5 senior fields (1 full large size rectangle 120m x 70m, and 4 full size soccer



minimum dimension fields) all fields would still be compliant with football standards and would be developed in the existing site boundary.

This design would retain a smaller central parking site for Soccer and Netball (between the north and south fields) and an additional training field for soccer. As part of this process it will be critical to ensure that Netball and Soccer work collaboratively to ensure maximum shared use of amenities and club room facilities.

The lease of the Desert Life Church land would still be required to provide a parking hub for both football and netball.



Figure 57 Potential reconfiguration of fields for Ross Park

The implications of this option are:

- A reconfiguration of all fields and a slight narrowing of the main field (recommended width for senior competition is 68m and the current field is wider).
- Reconfiguring the northern fields into 3 senior fields of about 55 m width and 5 m buffers. Five fields all co-located.
- Relocation of the recently completed parking area adjacent to the main field.
- Improve spectator facilities for the main field.
- Strengthens the opportunity to investigate a shared club administration and services building for netball and soccer.
- Relocating the cricket wicket if needed to sit between two of the three northern fields and relocating the practice nets.

8.5.3.2 Basic Planning Option

This option would retain the plan to provide a training field on area to be leased from the Church. It could be a transitional plan that provides an immediate solution to an additional field need and allow for overall planning to continue. This would include:

- Reconfiguring the northern fields into 3 senior fields of about 90 m x 55 m width and 5 m buffers.
- Investigating the potential for a shared service hub.
- Improving spectator amenity shade and stands for the main field.
- Consolidate storage and plant sheds to the central service precinct and free up additional parking space.
- Relocating the cricket wicket if needed to sit between two of the three northern fields.
- Relocating the cricket practice nets.



8.5.3.3 Netball Amenities Facilities

As part of either option it will be critical that investigations into the future redevelopment of netball's administration buildings be undertaken. Both Netball and Council have identified the need to improve the provision of administration and amenities facilities. It is recommended that a new facility be developed to provide:

- Administration facilities,
- Canteen,
- Changerooms
- Toilets
- First aid room
- Storage

8.6 Paul Fitzsimmons Oval (CDU)

The level of summer use at this oval supports the need for investment to meet minimum standard for player amenity. However, the certainty of tenure and ownership by CDU are problematic. The development of a amenities building providing toilets and water at the least should be a priority.

If a suitable agreement regarding tenure cannot be reached it is recommended that a demountable solution be sourced and installed as the priority.

The other actions for the site include:

- Signage identifying the facility along Stott Terrace
- Consideration of roadside parking along Stott Terrace and a pedestrian access to the oval developed over the gully.
- Continue negotiations for a better player and spectator amenity on the site including shade and drinking water.

8.7 Tennis Redevelopment or Relocation Options

Tennis has identified a desire to develop a new regional facility with 10 courts including a centre court for higher level matches. Their current facility is not compliant in terms of run-off meaning they cannot bid to host regional or higher events. The existing site is constrained but only if the caretaker's facility is retained.

Possible relocation options were broadly discussed, and while a preference to stay close to the CBD was expressed no sites were identified.

The main options are:

1. Reconfigure the existing site at Traeger Park, which is only possible if the caretakers house is removed.
2. Relocate to the Desert Life Church land opposite Ross Park which would reduce the ability to supply car parking or training space, however initial investigations indicate that there would be sufficient space to provide a 10-court facility and car parking to service Ross Park and Tennis. This could only occur if the land could be acquired instead of leased.
3. Relocate Tennis to the Centralian Middle School on the western side of the existing bus parking site. The school has indicated that they are willing to relinquish land for sporting purposes, however the school would like access to any facilities that are developed. This could offer an opportunity for the school to develop a tennis excellence program as well and build a sport-education partnership. This can only occur



if an agreement with the NT Government can be reached, however the site could be part of a land swap as part of the relocation of Tennis from Traeger Park with the old site developed as parking to support the hospital.

There may be other options, but ultimately the solution needs to be driven by Tennis NT and the local association. Any solution will require significant capital and should be subject to a feasibility and business case that does not rely heavily on a subsidy from Council.

8.8 Additional Rectangular Field

The analysis has indicated a strong case for an additional rectangular field for training that has league goal posts and possibly training standard lighting.

There were a number of opportunities identified in the master plan reviews and the analysis of sites.

As the “big picture” master plan changes are likely to take several years or may not be preferred by council, the following staged approach is recommended.

1. Install league posts at the grassed field at Traeger Park
2. Investigate potential community access to school fields in Eastside/ Sadadeen (OLSH Sadadeen)
3. Negotiate with CMS for access to develop a rectangular field providing a league or union club is committed to using the field as the resident user.
4. If the major reconfiguration of Traeger Park occurs then develop a new rectangular field with training lights and goal posts at Jim McConville.

An alternative approach to providing an additional rectangle field is to utilise land at Kilgariff, where Council and the NT Government have been in preliminary discussions to provide future fields if the demand is evident. If new facilities were to be developed in Kilgariff, it is recommended that a basic sports unit be provided, which consists of two rectangle fields side by side and an oval field overlay. This would need to be complimented by toilet and change facilities, and if long term demand is evident, lighting of the fields should be investigated. In addition, Council should continue investigating the potential for new fields on Bradshaw Drive.

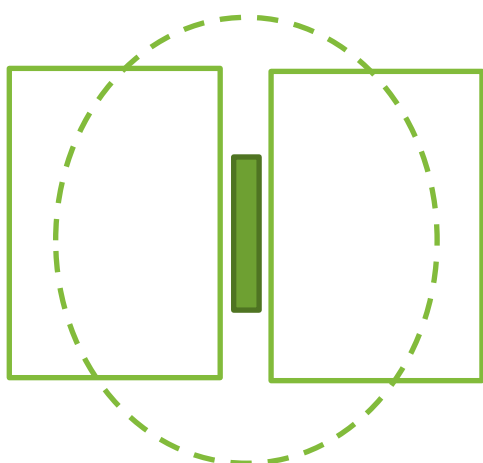


Figure 58: Basic Sports Unit

8.9 Long Term Facility Planning

Population growth within the life of this plan is not expected to require additional land investment for sporting fields, outside of the facilities outlined in section 8.5-8.8. It is important to consider sport facility planning holistically, and if residential land releases were to occur, for example in Kilgariff, land for sport



and recreation needs to be considered as part of the overall planning. As outlined in section 8.8 a basic sports unit should be developed in Kilgariff as part of the overall plan for the area.

It is unlikely that the planned developed within Alice Springs will increase demand for additional formal sporting fields, but any new residential lands should be supported by active and passive recreation space, including access to kick about space and parkland.



9. Implementation Plan

The following implementation plan outlines how the recommendations from SFAC, Council and Otium Planning Group could be implemented across the life of the plan.

| Recommendation | Executive Summary Section | Group Responsible | Priority |
|--|---------------------------|--|-------------|
| TRAEGER PARK | | | |
| Site Master Plan | 5.1.3 - Item 3 | Council, Site users | Short Term |
| Future of a regional tennis centre | 5.1.3 - Item 2 | Council, NT Tennis, Tennis Association | Medium Term |
| Multi-Oval Precinct Master Plan | 5.1.3 - Item 1 | Council | Long Term |
| JIM McCONVILLE PARK | | | |
| Investigate opportunity with CMS | 5.2.3 - Item 2 | Council, NT Sport and Recreation | Long Term |
| Undertake site improvements | 5.2.3 - Item 3 | Council | Short Term |
| Diamond Precinct Master Plan | 5.2.3 - Item 1 | Council, Baseball Association | Long term |
| ROSS PARK | | | |
| Master Plan | 5.3.3 - Item 1 | Council, Site users | Medium Term |
| Develop Desert Life Church as training field | 5.3.3 - Item 2 | Council | Short Term |
| Redevelop Netball Administration buildings | 5.3.3 - Item 3 | Council, Netball, SFAC | Medium Plan |
| Reconfigure northern 3 fields | 5.3.3 - Item 4 | Council | Short Term |
| Site Improvements | 5.3.3 - Item 5 | Council, SFAC | Short Term |
| ALBRECHT OVAL | | | |
| Providing access to the community | 5.4.3 - Item 1 | Council | Short Term |
| RHONDA DIANO OVAL | | | |
| Increase lighting level | 5.5.3 - Item 1 | Council, SFAC | Medium Term |
| Improve spectator shade | 5.5.3 - Item 2 | Council | Short Term |
| Feasibility assessment for synthetic track elements | 5.5.3 - Item 3 | Council, SFAC | |
| FLYNN DRIVE OVAL | | | |
| Installation of goal posts for Rugby league and rugby union | 5.6.3 - Item 2 | Council, SFAC | Short Term |
| ANZAC OVAL | | | |
| Upgrade amenities and support infrastructure | 5.7.3 - Item 1 | Council, SFAC | Medium Term |
| Review fitness group uses | 5.7.3 - Item 2 | Council | Medium Term |
| PAUL FITZSIMMONS OVAL | | | |
| Determine long term future of the site for upgrades with amenities | 5.8.3 - Item 1 | Council | Long |



| Recommendation | Executive Summary Section | Group Responsible | Priority |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Install a demountable for change, toilets and water | 5.8.3 - Item 2 | Council, SFAC | Short |
| Site improvements | 5.8.3 - Item 3 | Council, SFAC | Short - Long Term |
| ALICE SPRINGS WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS | | | |
| Finalise and Adopt a Desired Standard of Provision and Maintenance | 5.9.1 | Council, SFAC | Short Term |
| Implement a Lighting Audit and Upgrade Program | 5.9.2 | Council | Medium Term |
| Review of Access and Charging for Sports Facilities | 5.9.3 | Council | Medium Term |
| Long Term Planning for a Facility at Kilgariff or Bradshaw Drive | 5.9.4 | Council, NT Government | Long Term |
| Developing an Events Strategy | 5.9.5 | Council | Medium Term |
| Increasing Use of School Facilities | 5.9.6 | Council, NT Sport and Recreation | Long Term |

10. Warranties and Disclaimers

The information contained in this report is provided in good faith. While Otium Planning Group has applied their own experience to the task, they have relied upon information supplied to them by other persons and organisations.

We have not conducted an audit of the information provided by others but have accepted it in good faith. Some of the information may have been provided 'commercial in confidence' and as such these venues or sources of information are not specifically identified. Readers should be aware that the preparation of this report may have necessitated projections of the future that are inherently uncertain and that our opinion is based on the underlying representations, assumptions and projections detailed in this report.

There will be differences between projected and actual results, because events and circumstances frequently do not occur as expected and those differences may be material. We do not express an opinion as to whether actual results will approximate projected results, nor can we confirm, underwrite or guarantee the achievability of the projections as it is not possible to substantiate assumptions which are based on future events.

Accordingly, neither Otium Planning Group, nor any member or employee of Otium Planning Group, undertakes responsibility arising in any way whatsoever to any persons other than client in respect of this report, for any errors or omissions herein, arising through negligence or otherwise however caused.