



Nillumbik
Shire Council

Nillumbik Soccer Strategy

Adopted August 2014



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY.....	1
1.2	PROJECT OBJECTIVES/OUTPUTS.....	1
1.3	PROJECT METHODOLOGY.....	2
2	PROJECT AREA	3
2.1	STRATEGIC CONTEXT	3
2.1.1	Internal Documents	3
2.1.2	External Documents	4
3	CURRENT PARTICIPATION TRENDS	5
3.1	NATIONAL PARTICIPATION	5
3.2	STATE PARTICIPATION.....	5
3.3	REGIONAL PARTICIPATION	7
3.4	LOCAL NILLUMBIK PARTICIPATION.....	7
3.4.1	Eltham Redbacks Football Club	7
3.4.2	Eltham Eagles Soccer Club.....	8
3.4.3	DOC United Football.....	9
3.4.4	Nillumbik Junior Soccer Club	9
3.4.5	Participation Growth	9
4	FACILITY PROVISION.....	10
4.1.1	Eltham North Reserve – Synthetic Pitch and Top Oval.....	10
4.1.2	Adventure Playground – Turf Pitch	11
4.1.3	Diamond Hills Reserve – Turf Pitch.....	11
4.2	SURFACE AND FACILITY OPTIONS	12
4.2.1	Artificial Surfaces	12
4.2.2	District/Regional Level Provision.....	12
4.2.3	Nillumbik Regional Context.....	12
4.3	MARKET RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION	13
4.4	SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES AND NEEDS	13
4.4.1	Soccer Clubs.....	13
4.4.2	Eltham Wanderers Cricket Clubs	15
4.4.3	1 st Eltham Scout Group	16
4.4.4	Baseball Clubs	16
4.5	FOOTBALL FEDERATION OF VICTORIA	16
4.5.1	FFV Facilities Strategy	18
4.5.2	Competition Structure	18
4.5.3	Football Federation Victoria (Soccer) proposed introduction of the National Premier Leagues Victoria	19
5	SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES.....	20
5.1	PARTICIPATION	20
5.2	FACILITIES	20
5.3	ELTHAM NORTH RESERVE.....	21
5.4	FUTURE SOCCER STRATEGY OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES.....	21
5.4.1	Options and Opportunities	21
5.5	PROPOSED STRATEGY	22
5.5.1	Site One Wattle Glen – Single Pitch Wattle Glen.....	22

5.5.2	Indicative Capital	23
5.5.3	Site One Single Pitch Wattle Gen	24
5.5.1	Wattle Gen Redeveloped Change rooms	25
5.5.2	Site Two Eltham North – Development of Clubroom Facilities at Eltham North Reserve	26
5.5.3	Indicative Capital	26
5.5.4	Site Two Eltham North Reserve	27
5.5.5	Eltham North Reserve Redeveloped Club Rooms	28
5.5.6	Proposed Second Club Rooms Eltham North – Ground Floor	29
5.5.7	Proposed Second Club Rooms Eltham North – First Floor	30
5.5.8	Site Three Diamond Creek – Diamond Creek Soccer Precinct with Multi-Purpose Area	31
5.5.9	Indicative Capital	31
5.5.1	Site Three Diamond Creek Soccer Precinct with Multi-Purpose Area	32
5.5.2	Site Four Challenge Street – Redevelopment of Baseball Changer Rooms	33
5.5.3	Indicative Capital	33
5.6	FUNDING OPTIONS	33
5.6.1	State Government Funding	33
5.6.2	Commonwealth Funding	34
5.6.3	Football Federation of Victoria (FFV)	34
5.6.4	Community Fundraising and User Group Contributions	34
6	CONCLUSION	35
6.1	SUMMARY OF STRATEGY COSTS	36
6.2	SHORT TERM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	36

DIRECTORY OF TABLES

Table 3.1	Eltham Redbacks Football Club Membership – 2008 - 2013	7
Table 3.2	Eltham Eagles Football Club Membership – 2009 - 2013	9
Table 5.1	Indicative Capital Cost	23
Table 5.2	Indicative Capital Cost	26
Table 5.3	Indicative Capital Cost	31
Table 5.4	Indicative Capital Cost	33
Table 6.1	Proposed Strategy Priorities	35
Table 6.2	Summary of Strategy Indicative Capital Cost 15 Year Period	36

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A:	SUMMARY OF STRATEGY OPTIONS
APPENDIX B:	ELTHAM NORTH RESERVE FACILITY COMPONENT SCHEDULE

1 INTRODUCTION

The Shire of Nillumbik has been lobbied for some years by Soccer Clubs in relation to the provision of soccer facilities in Nillumbik.

In April 2011, Council adopted the Nillumbik Recreation Strategy. One of the short-term recommendations of the Strategy was to develop a Shire-wide strategic plan to address the increasing demand for access to quality soccer facilities including the necessary support infrastructure and management arrangements.

Soccer is increasingly recognised as an emerging sport throughout Victoria and Australia, especially juniors and females. The provision of appropriate resources and facilities to cater for the current and prospective growth of the sport is a growing concern for many Councils.

Local Governments are the major provider of soccer facilities across the State. The Shire of Nillumbik currently has three soccer clubs – Eltham Redbacks Football Club, Eltham Eagles Soccer Club and Nillumbik Junior Soccer Club - with a total membership of approximately 1,200 players.

Nillumbik currently provides four soccer pitches including the synthetic surface pitch at Eltham North Reserve.

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

The purpose of the Nillumbik Soccer Strategy was to undertake a detailed review of the current and future demands for soccer facilities across the Shire. The study provides Council with information in relation to the current and future state of Soccer in Nillumbik and the surrounding region. The Strategy will provide a guide to:

- Current and future demand for soccer
- Facility development/redevelopment opportunities including indicative capital cost estimates.

1.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES/OUTPUTS

The project objectives and outcomes were to:

- Undertake a comprehensive audit of all soccer facilities within Nillumbik including Council owned and school facilities
- Determine the demand for soccer facilities through the statistical analysis of local, regional, state and national participation trends and membership figures
- Identify opportunities and develop strategies with funding parameters for future facility development/redevelopment including the need for support infrastructure such as clubrooms and lighting. This should include identifying the clubroom facility development requirements at the Eltham North Reserve
- Develop indicative capital cost estimates, timelines and funding opportunities for any recommended facility development/redevelopments
- Provide criteria for assessing sustainability of soccer facilities and exploring potential alternative use of facilities

- Maximise the opportunities for all residents to play soccer regardless of age, gender, culture or ability
- Provide an action plan for Council with recommendations that address the identified issues plus others that arise during the consultation.

1.3 PROJECT METHODOLOGY

The review was conducted in two phases, involving the following tasks:

Phase One: Needs Assessment and Analysis

- Task 1: Project Clarification
- Task 2: Review Relevant Documents and Reports
- Task 3: Demographic Review Update
- Task 4: Industry Trend Review
- Task 5: Detailed Soccer and Baseball Audit
- Task 6: Regional Sporting Provision
- Task 7: Key Stakeholder Interviews
- Task 8: Public Submissions
- Task 11: Summary of Opportunities and Constraints

Phase Two: Strategy Development

- Task 1: Development of Draft Soccer Strategy
- Task 2: Review Workshop
- Task 3: Development of Concept Options
- Task 4: Capital Cost Estimate
- Task 5: Occupancy Agreements/Fees and Charges
- Task 6: Draft Report
- Task 7: Final Report

2 PROJECT AREA

Nillumbik is called the Green Wedge Shire and is known as the 'lungs' of Melbourne. The beautiful open spaces and natural treed environment, together with friendly villages, including Eltham, Diamond Creek, Hurstbridge and St Andrews, add to the lifestyle of the Shire.

The Shire of Nillumbik is located less than 25 kilometres north-east of Melbourne, and has the Yarra River as its southern boundary. It extends 29 kilometres to Kinglake National Park in the north. The Shire stretches approximately 20 kilometres from the Plenty River and Yan Yean Road in the west to Christmas Hills and the Yarra escarpment in the east.

The Shire covers an area of 431.94 square kilometres and has an estimated population of 60,623 who live in close-knit communities, which range from typical urban settings to remote and tranquil bush properties.

The population age profile review indicates people in their most active ages (0 to 34 years) account for just under half the population (47.5%) whilst people aged 35 years plus represent (52.5%) of residents.

This indicates that the current pressure and demands being placed on Council to provide a range of leisure activities and facilities to meet the needs of residents will continue.

There is a significant share of persons in the family age groups in the Shire of Nillumbik in 2006, most notably children of school age between 5 and 17 and their parents in their 30s and 40s. This age structure is indicative of an established housing market, which is attracting more mature families.

The review of annual income levels indicates that a high proportion of residents have access to disposal income enabling them to pay for and participate in a range of leisure activities of their choice. In excess of 54 per cent of households have access to weekly incomes \$1000+. However, the review also indicated that a smaller proportion of the population had limited access to disposable income and therefore requires leisure facilities and activities to be set at an affordable fee level to encourage their participation.

Approximately 9 out of 10 Nillumbik residents have access to a private vehicle, which could be used to travel to leisure activities and facilities.

2.1 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

There are a large number of policies, strategies and plans produced by both Council and external bodies that were relevant to the development of the Nillumbik Soccer Strategy. The Council Plan 2013-2017 sets the clear vision for the Shire and forms the guiding document for all Council activity over the next four years. The following strategies and policies are incorporated into the Draft Soccer Strategy.

2.1.1 Internal Documents

- Nillumbik Recreation Strategy 2011
- Open Space Strategy 2006
- Council Plan 2013-2017
- Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017
- Nillumbik Trails Strategy 2011

- Diamond Creek Structure Plan - 2007
- Sustainable Water Management Plan
- Climate Change Action Plan
- Eltham North Reserve Master Plan

2.1.2 External Documents

- FFV Strategic Plan 2012 – 2015
- Football Facilities Information Guide FFV – April 2012
- Uniting Victoria Through the World Game – Victoria United FFV -
- Go for your life – Leading the way to an active and healthy Victoria 2006 - 2010
- The Future of Sport in Australia - 2009
- A Five Year Strategic Plan for Sport and Recreation Victoria 2005 – 2010
- Victorian State Government Health Promotion Priorities for Victoria 2007 - 2012
- Vic Health Strategic Framework 2009 - 2013
- Active Australia 2010
- Australian Sport: The Pathway to Success

3 CURRENT PARTICIPATION TRENDS

The following provides a summary of current participation trends at a national, state, regional and local level.

3.1 NATIONAL PARTICIPATION

Research undertaken by the Australian Sports Commission as part of the 2010 Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey, identified soccer as the 9th most popular activity in Australia with 4.8% of the population participating (for persons aged 15 years and over). In Victoria 155,000 people 3.5% participate in soccer. Furthermore:

- Males have a higher level of participation in soccer (6.4%) than females (2.1%).
- Soccer is ranked the 5th most popular 'organised' activity (behind aerobics / fitness, golf, netball and tennis) with a participation rate of 2.7%.
- Participation in outdoor soccer has increased by 55% from 2001 to 2010 (by number of participants). As a percentage of the population, participation in outdoor soccer has increased from 3.7% in 2001 to 4.8% in 2010.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics; "Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, Australia" (2008) found that "outdoor soccer" was the 2nd most popular sport for children aged 5 to 14 years with a participation rate of 13%. Furthermore:

Outdoor soccer was the most popular sport for boys with a participation rate of 20%.

For girls, outdoor soccer was the 4th most popular sport (behind swimming, netball and tennis), with a participation rate of 6.4%.

Participation in outdoor soccer has increased from 11.4% in 2000 to 13.2% in 2008. Boys' participation has remained stable (20%), however girls' participation has grown from 2.9% in 2000 to 6.4% in 2008.

3.2 STATE PARTICIPATION

The following two main soccer associations service the Shire of Nillumbik:

- Football Federation Victoria (FFV), and
- Victorian Churches Soccer Association.

The majority of clubs across Victoria are affiliated with FFV, which is the recognised State representative body for soccer in Victoria.

Football is well established as one of Victoria's leading sports. In 2011 there were 65,509 registrations¹ to play football. Of these the major part was the 53,712 FFV registered players in 318 clubs across the State in the formal winter club competitions.

¹ Includes players registered for Futsal, social, Beach, Play Football, Cottee's 5-a-side, Summer Sevens/ Fives, School Holiday Programs, Maneroo's, Boys FC, Regional Challenge Cup & Game Development programs

The following graphs details the current Victorian football participation trends between the periods 2007 to 2011.

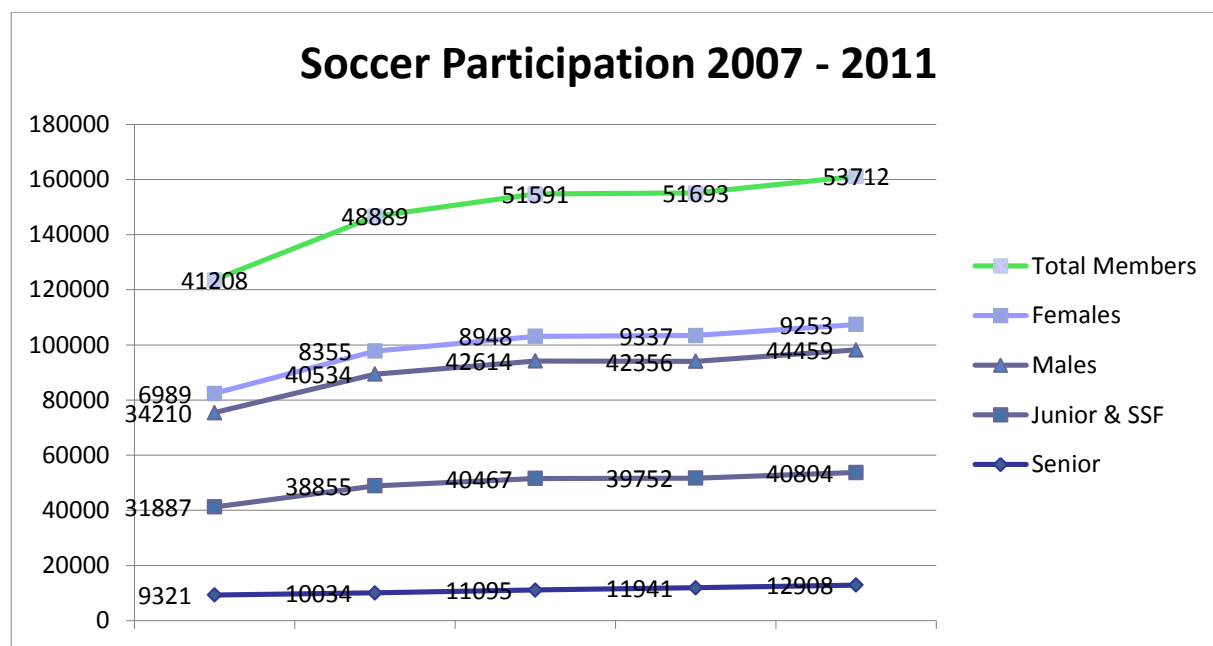


Figure 1

All segments of the game have grown strongly over the past five seasons with an increase of approximately 12,504 members or 30%.

Since 2007, the growth in football (soccer) in Victoria has been exceptional across all facets of the game. Demand has been driven by juniors, females, CALD communities and the sport's increasing profile at the elite level (i.e. 2010 and 2014 World Cups, A-League, W-League and the success of the Socceroos). In 2012, 127,900 Victorians engaged in outdoor football and a further 107,700 participants engaged in indoor football (FFA Census).

The 2012 season saw 53,712 registered players participating in Football Federation Victoria (FFV) affiliated outdoor competitions. This represents a 30% increase (12,503 players) over the last five years.

Women and girls make up around 17% of the player population, with greatest share in the junior ranks where girls make up 23% of players. Women and girls registrations have grown 48% in this time.

There are more FFV affiliated clubs than ever before with 353 clubs in 66 municipalities across the state. Accredited referees have increased 30% and accredited coaches have increased 150% to over 4,600 between 2008 and 2010.

Independent research by KPMG on behalf of Sport and Recreation Victoria determined that participation in organised football would increase by as much as 48% between 2008 and 2012/13. To cater for the anticipated growth in participation, it was estimated that an additional 196 soccer pitches per annum would need to be provided.

3.3 REGIONAL PARTICIPATION

Discussions with neighbouring municipalities identified the following:

- All Councils reported that all of the facilities they make available for soccer are being used to capacity.
- There is a variation in the fees charged to local soccer clubs for the use of facilities across the region. Different municipalities charge a range of fees depending on level of service provided.
- Local governments are by far the most significant provider of soccer facilities, with only a small number of pitches provided by the private sector (both provided within Manningham) and a large number provided by the education sector within the region.

3.4 LOCAL NILLUMBIK PARTICIPATION

The Shire of Nillumbik currently has three Soccer Clubs – Eltham Redbacks Football Club, Eltham Eagles Soccer Club and Nillumbik Junior Soccer Club - with a total membership of approximately 1,200 players.

Nillumbik currently provides four soccer pitches including the synthetic surface pitch at Eltham North Reserve.

The following provides a summary of the membership level of the three Nillumbik based Soccer Clubs.

3.4.1 Eltham Redbacks Football Club

The Eltham Redbacks Football Club was established in the mid-1980s. The Club have a current membership of approximately 850 players which is represented in over 60 teams ranging from the age of 4 years to 45 years +.

The following table indicates the growth in participation in recent years.

Table 3.1
Eltham Redbacks Football Club Membership – 2008 - 2013

Year	Male	Female	Total
2008	262	85	347
2009	274	88	362
2010	535	92	637
2011	596	108	704
2012	740	110	850
2013	676	174	850

In line with state participation trends membership over the past 5 years has increased by approximately 503 players (145%).

Female participation and the over 35 and 45 age categories include approximately 174 players with the remaining membership consisting of juniors living in the local area.



Over the next four years the Club have predicted that membership will continue to increase by approximately 6% per annum. The Club have currently capped the growth to 850 players primarily due to the lack of facilities and available playing grounds.

The Club currently play and train at the turf and synthetic facilities provided at the Eltham North Reserve.

A postcode review of the players for the Eltham Redbacks has been completed and is detailed in the graph below.

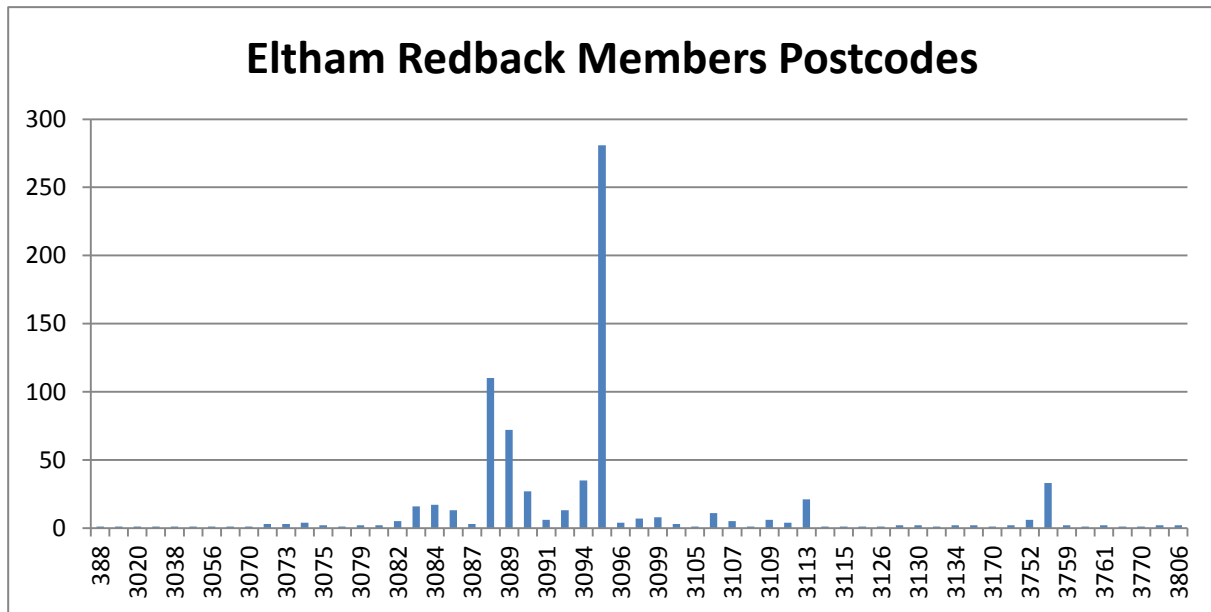


Figure 2 Eltham Redbacks Members Postcodes 2011/2012

The review of member's postcodes indicates:

- Approximately 281 members (37%) reside in Eltham (3095), followed by Greensborough (3088) 110 members, Diamond Creek (3089) 72 members, Montmorency (3094) 35 members, Doreen (3754) 33 members and Plenty (3090) 27 members. These six postcode areas represent 558 players (73%).
- Of the six top post code areas Montmorency and potentially some Greensborough members reside in the City of Banyule and Doreen members reside in Whittlesea City Council area.

3.4.2 Eltham Eagles Soccer Club

The Eltham Eagles Soccer Club was established in 1994 in response to a demand for a Saturday soccer competition. The Club is affiliated with the Victorian Church's Soccer Association.

The Club has a current membership of approximately 150 players. Participation over the last three years has fluctuated as follows:

Table 3.2
Eltham Eagles Football Club Membership – 2009 - 2013

Year	Total Players
2009	250
2010	240
2011	200
2012	150
2013	150

Of the current membership the club has nine teams including three senior males, one senior female and five junior teams (mixed male and female).

The Eltham Eagles currently train once a week at the Eltham North Reserve and on the Adventure Playground Reserve and James Street Reserve in Heidelberg (City of Banyule). The teams compete on the synthetic pitch and the top oval at Eltham North Reserve every second Saturday from 12.30 pm to 5.00pm.

The Club believe the lack of membership growth is directly related to the lack of available facilities and a home base.

3.4.3 DOC United Football Academy

DOC United Football had a membership of approximately 80 people, which represents 5 teams. Over the past 18 months the Club focused on the Academy development program. Doc Academy is an elite training program for juniors and does not use any facilities managed by Nillumbik Shire Council.

3.4.4 Nillumbik Junior Soccer Club

The Nillumbik Junior Soccer Club was established approximately 18 months ago to address the growing demand and participation in community based soccer. The Club has a membership of approximately 80 members of which 46 are males and 34 are females.

The club currently use the Adventure Playground and Challenger Street Reserve one day a week for training and the soccer pitch on the Diamond Creek Primary School site (behind the Community Bank Stadium) for competition.

3.4.5 Participation Growth

Over the past four years Nillumbik soccer participation has grown from approximately 870 players in 2008 to approximately 1200 players in 2013, an increase of 38%. Information received from the clubs indicates that participation will increase by a further 20% in 2014.

4 FACILITY PROVISION

Nillumbik Council provides four soccer pitches across the Shire including:

- Eltham North Synthetic Pitch
- Eltham North top oval – turf pitch
- Adventure Playground – turf pitch
- Diamond Hills Reserve – turf pitch

The multi-purpose training area at Eltham North is also available for training, juniors and small-sided games.

The following details the facilities at each of the Nillumbik soccer pitches.

4.1.1 Eltham North Reserve – Synthetic Pitch and Top Oval

The Eltham North reserve includes one synthetic pitch and one turf oval. The reserve is located on Wattletree Road, Eltham North. The synthetic pitch was originally a turf facility that was converted to a synthetic pitch through funding support from the Shire of Nillumbik and the State Government in 2009.

The two soccer pitches at Eltham North have suitable floodlighting for evening training and matches.

The Eltham North top oval is a turf sporting reserve used for soccer in the winter and cricket in the summer. The facility is located adjacent to the synthetic pitch at Eltham North Reserve

The Eltham Redbacks Football Club, Eltham Eagles Soccer Club and the Eltham Wanderers Cricket Club, who are the primary tenant during the summer season, currently share the playing facilities at the Eltham North Reserve. It should be noted that Eltham Redbacks Football Club has the vast majority of use.

The change room facilities are currently co-located with a Scout Hall used by the 1st Eltham Scout Group and the Eltham North Hall that is used on a regular basis by a number of organisation and community members for social activities. The sporting club facilities provide change areas and limited social and support areas.



Figure 3 Eltham North Reserve Synthetic Pitch, Multipurpose area and Top Oval

4.1.2 Adventure Playground – Turf Pitch

The Adventure Playground pitch is a turf sporting reserve used for soccer in the winter and cricket in the summer. The facility is located on Wattletree Road, Eltham approximately 500 metres from Eltham North Reserve.

The turf at the reserve was converted to a warm season grass in 2012/13 and the sports ground lighting was upgraded to support evening training sessions. The reserve has limited flood lighting to support evening training sessions. The clubs have access to a small amenities block located near the playground however there are no change rooms or clubroom facilities.

The site also includes a large adventure playground that is heavily used during the day. Due to the popularity of the playground car parking at the site can be a concern during weekends and after school hours when soccer training or competition is occurring.



Figure 4 Adventure Playground

4.1.3 Diamond Hills Reserve – Turf Pitch

Diamond Hills Reserve is located at Diamond Hill Drive, Greensborough. The facility is a turf soccer pitch used for training only. Due to the proximity of residential housing there is no capacity to install training lights, which limits usability. The Clubs have access to a small amenities block.



Figure 5 Diamond Hills Reserve

4.2 SURFACE AND FACILITY OPTIONS

4.2.1 Artificial Surfaces

The provision of artificial grass surfaces has continued to evolve. This trend in facility development was initiated some decades ago, but resulted in player discomfort and many artificial pitches being converted back to natural grass. More recently, new generation artificial grass has emerged which has been endorsed by the Federation International Football Association (FIFA), the international governing body for soccer.

In Australia, the peak bodies for soccer identified artificial grass as the future for facility provision, as it has a better capacity to tolerate higher intensity levels of use than natural grass, and is an all year, all-weather surface for the same land area. There are now large numbers of synthetic surfaces that have been developed particularly in Victoria.

The initial capital cost to provide synthetic surfaces is substantial, as is replacement of the surface. A considerable advantage however is the minimal maintenance required (and particularly the substantial reduction in water use to virtually nothing) throughout the life of the surface, estimated at between 10 to 15 years.

4.2.2 District/Regional Level Provision

In 1999, Yarra City Council (in coordination with a working group consisting of representatives from various local governments) and FFV commissioned a study on soccer to consider maximising the use of grounds, planning facility improvements that accommodate males and females and addressing cultural issues in soccer.

That research proposed a structure of provision that represented a mixture of both local and district or regional level facilities. In particular, it identified that junior competitions should be locally based (within 10 kilometres) at appropriate, local level facilities (low level infrastructure). In addition, it was proposed that higher levels of competition should be provided at district or regional level facilities (the idea being that a regional level facility can accommodate the needs of the region – being approximately three municipalities).

The regional facilities would require multiple pitches, large car park, and pavilion with a number of change rooms and a sizeable social space to accommodate the number of participants that such facilities would attract. They would also require large sites and these are difficult to find, especially in highly developed or established municipalities, such as Nillumbik.

4.2.3 Nillumbik Regional Context

Football Federation Victoria recently presented their Strategic Plan to local government authorities across metropolitan Melbourne. The presentation identified the following key performance indicators for 2015 - Where We Will Get To in relation to facility provision:

- 12 regional centres completed or commenced
- Minimum 1 new football facility in each significant new residential development area
- Regional Futsal sites established
- Every FFV Club with a facilities plan.



The first part of implementing this Strategic Plan is to:

- Prepare inventory of usage and availability of facilities/action to better utilise currently underused facilities.
- Conduct audit and research of Futsal facilities/ develop state-wide plan
- Establish Football Facilities Fund.

Within the northern region there are currently two regional soccer facilities including the Darebin International Sports Centre (DISC), Thornbury and the Epping Soccer Facility, Whittlesea. The Eltham North synthetic pitch has been categorised as a municipal facility. With further upgrades to the clubrooms and other support amenities the facilities at Eltham North Facility could be categorised as a regional facility. Alternatively the potential development of soccer facilities at the former Diamond Creek horse and pony club site could be developed to a regional standard.

4.3 MARKET RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION

The initial community consultation to inform the Draft Soccer Strategy and Issues and Options Paper has involved consultation with key stakeholders including:

- Soccer clubs within Nillumbik Council area
- Football Federation of Victoria and Victorian Churches Soccer Association
- Neighbouring municipalities
- Key stakeholders that may be impacted by the strategy including:
 - Eltham North Scout Group
 - Council Officers responsible for managing the Eltham North Hall
 - Council Officers responsible for managing other community facilities in Eltham North including Edendale and the Early Years Facility in Wattle Tree Road
 - Panton Hill Baseball Club and Diamond Creek Baseball Club.

4.4 SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES AND NEEDS

The following provides a summary of key issues identified through the consultation with local soccer clubs and clubs/organisations that may be impacted by the future development of soccer facilities.

4.4.1 Soccer Clubs

Eltham Redbacks Football Club

The Eltham Redbacks Football Club has a current membership of approximately 850 people. The Club has the following age groups and teams:

Juniors

Small sided

Under 7 and below 170 – 190 players

Under 9 – 10 teams – 110 – 120 players

Under 10 – 3 boys, 2 girls

Under 11 – 3 boys, 1 girls

Under 12 – 3 boys, 1 girls

Under 13 – 3 boys, 0 girls

Under 14 – 3 boys, 1 girls
Under 15 – 2 boys, 0 girls
Under 16 – 2 boys, 0 girls
Under 18 – 2 boys, 1 girls

Senior Males

- 2 x seniors
- 2x 3rds teams
- Over 35 x 1
- Over 45 x4

Senior Females

- Women State League 2 x1
- Women Metro x1

Social Program

- Male 18+ 30 people

The small-sided game (5 or 7 players a side) is a key element of the junior development program and is part of the Clubs Strategic Plan. The synthetic pitch at Eltham North Reserve can accommodate 8 small-sided pitches.

The club is also working hard at attracting quality-accredited coaches. There is a dual strategy of attracting new coaches and also developing coaches within the club. The cost of the coaches is high and is driving the cost of the program.

The junior fees for 2014 are between \$325 and \$497 per season.

As the number of juniors increases the lack of storage for equipment is becoming an increasing problem.

There is now a summer and winter soccer program and the club has expressed a desire for the synthetic facility to be available for soccer use 12 months of the year.

The Melbourne Victory Soccer Club has selected 20 Clubs, of which Eltham Redbacks is one, to be part of the Community Program. The program provides the following:

- Coach interchanges
- Player appearances at the Club
- Viewing of training sessions
- Invitation to Victory Games
- Victory coaches running advanced skills program for juniors.

The former Melbourne Victory's Women's Assistant coach is now the Redbacks Women's coach.

The Club has also established a relationship with the North East Diamonds Victorian Championship League who currently does not have a home base.

(ii) Eltham Eagles Football Club

The Eltham Eagles have a current membership of approximately 148 people. The lack of a home base is considered the key reason why a number of people have left the Club and moved to Clubs with more stable facilities.

The Club has the following age groups and teams:

- Goal kick junior development program – 20 people
- Juniors – 50 males
- Juniors – 15 females
- Senior males – 65 players
- Senior females – 18 players.

The club use the synthetic pitch at Eltham North Reserve for competition every alternate Saturday from 12.30pm to 5.00pm and Monday evenings for training. The club also use the Adventure Playground oval, the Diamond Hills Reserve and the James Street Reserve, located in the City of Banyule for training and storage of their equipment.

The Club is affiliated with the Victorian Churches Soccer Association, which they believe has not caught up with the demand for small-sided soccer competitions.

(iii) Nillumbik Junior Soccer Club

The Nillumbik Junior Soccer Club was established in 2013 with the aim of providing access to community based junior programs. The Club has a current membership of approximately 80 juniors including:

- Males 46
- Female 34

The Club currently train one night a week at the Adventure Playground and one night on the at the Challenger Street Reserve baseball site. The Club use the Diamond Creek East Primary School soccer pitch for competition. The Club would like access to a home base soccer facility in the Diamond Creek area.

4.4.2 Eltham Wanderers Cricket Clubs

The Eltham Wanderers Cricket Club uses the facilities at Eltham North during the summer season. The club is considered one of the largest in the region with approximately 250 members. The club has the following age groups and teams:

- 15 junior teams
- 8 senior teams
- 40 participants in the Milo Junior Cricket Development Program

The Cricket Club has established a pathways program which sees their training program commence in June each year. The Club has established a relationship with a District Cricket club to provide their players with a pathway.

The Cricket Club has presented a proposal to develop a second clubroom facility adjacent to the Top Oval at Eltham North Reserve in the south west corner. The Club would like access to a Clubroom that overlooks the main playing area. The proposal includes a social room/community multi-purpose area and viewing area on the first floor and change rooms and storage on the ground level. The proposal also includes an area for the Eltham North Scout Group to alleviate the congestion of the current arrangements. This Draft Soccer Strategy has considered the development of a second clubroom facility as part of the options being considered.



4.4.3 1st Eltham Scout Group

The 1st Eltham Scout Group use the Scout Hall on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening from 6.30pm to approximately 9.30pm.

The group requires access to the storage area on a Friday evening as they go on camps at least once a month and require the trailer and equipment from the storage area.

The group have approximately 120 active members in the following groups:

- Joeys – 8
- Cubs – 40
- Scouts – 30
- Venturers – 10
- Rovers – 10

The Scout Group is one of the largest in the area and has one of the highest retention rates.

The traffic congestion and lack of car parking is a major problem for the Scout Group. The issue has been exacerbated with the recent soccer growth and the increased training and competition during the winter season. If the cricket proposal proceeds the Scout Group would be interested in relocating to this facility on the basis the needs of the group were addressed.

Access to the storage facility and safety of participants with the high traffic volumes is the key concern for the Eltham North Scout Group.

4.4.4 Baseball Clubs

The Diamond Creek Baseball Club and the Panton Hill Baseball Club compete in the winter baseball program.

The Diamond Creek Baseball Club has a current membership of approximately 60 people of which approximately 50% are juniors and 50% are seniors. The Panton Hill Baseball Club is a senior Club only with 28 players of which 3 are females.

The Clubs have found it difficult to recruit players as they are surrounded by three 'A grade' baseball clubs located in Banyule: Research/Lower Plenty, Green Hills/Montmorency and Greensborough.

The Clubs agree in principle with the concept of amalgamating the two clubs to provide a stronger Nillumbik based Club; however there is concern over the best location for the amalgamated Club.

There is some concern by the Clubs that if they agree to amalgamate to address the needs of soccer, the requirements for a quality baseball facility will not be addressed.

The Clubs would like to undertake works to their current facilities however they are not willing to spend the funds due to a lack of security at their current venues.

4.5 FOOTBALL FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

Football Federation Victoria (FFV) is the governing body of football in Victoria, and is a



Member Federation of Football Federation Australia. The following information provided by FFV is derived from the Victoria United Document produced by FFV 2011

FFV is responsible for providing competition playing structures, coaching and referee development services and sport specific educational programs for juniors and seniors, and female and male participants.

Since 2008, the growth of football in Victoria has been exceptional across all facets of the game. Player registrations have increased by a massive 40% over the last three years. Significantly, women and girls now make up 18% of all registrations. In addition, the number of coaches being trained and accredited has increased by over 150%. These numbers, together with the many benefits football brings to Victorian communities, point to a need to continue to invest in the World Game through:

- Investment in the State Football Centre.
- Delivery of 14 Regional Football Hubs across the state.
- The expansion of the 'Strengthening the World Game' program, focusing on investment in local and club facilities in metropolitan and regional Victoria.

One of the key challenges facing football in Victoria is that the supply of facilities is not keeping pace with increased demand for the football experience. Independent research² conducted in June 2010 showed that over 5,700 players were turned away from clubs this year due to an inability to meet the demand with existing facilities and resources. Statistics of this nature and the lost opportunity they represent have major ramifications for the health and well-being of Victorian communities. One of the fastest growing segments in the World Game is the participation of women and girls, yet equal access to facilities has not kept pace with this demand.

More facilities, which are appropriate to both genders, will enable both FFV and clubs to grow their women and girl's teams with program "graduates" included in mainstream club activities.

At a community level, there are emerging societal challenges relating to social inclusion and integration of new arrivals and those from marginalised backgrounds. Football has a critical role to play in assisting communities to come together through the development of multi-purpose, multi-use football-based facilities that can deliver education, social connection programs and act as a conduit to greater social cohesion and growth.

Vic Health's 2010-2013 Action Plan, 'Building health through sport', affirmed FFV's beliefs that participation in physical activity not only provides physical health benefits, but also provides increased self-esteem and opportunities for social connection, integration and participation in the community.

Significantly, Vic Health also highlighted the importance of providing opportunities for females to participate in sport and stated that: "communities with high levels of social cohesion, including participation in community organisations and activities, have better health than those with low levels of social cohesion".

The key outcomes and benefits provided by the proposed investment in football by the Victorian Government will include affordable access to football across the state through improved supply of clubhouse and playing facilities; increased success of football's ability to

² SPORTBUSINESS PARTNERS, SUPPLY AND DEMAND RESEARCH, 2010



unite diverse people and cultures across metropolitan and regional areas; and stimulus to support FFV's strategy of moving towards becoming a self-sustaining state sporting organisation.

4.5.1 FFV Facilities Strategy

In 2010 FFV produced a facilities strategy – Victoria United - that addressed football's facilities across the state, from the needs of talented players and high performance clubs through to grassroots football.

Victoria United identifies four tiers of facilities ranging from the major stadiums serving professional teams and international events down to community football facilities serving local clubs.

A key part of the strategy centres on the key role of community facilities to deliver participation in the game and the consequent need to work with local and State Government to ensure their development in new areas and upgrade existing facilities where they are inadequate in number and/or quality.

It is recognised that as the sport has grown in both numbers and stature its facilities needs have also grown. FFV over a long period had been aware of informal evidence of inadequacy of facilities.

In 2008 and 2010 FFV commissioned independent research to measure the prevalence and impact of inadequate facilities.³

Independent research commissioned every two years by FFV reported that over 5,700 players were turned away from clubs in 2010 due to an inability to meet the demand with existing facilities and resources (down from 7,000 in 2008).

- 59% of FFV affiliated clubs turned away players in 2010 (up from 47% in 2009).
- 45% turned away junior males
- 26% turned away junior females
- 20% turned away senior men
- 11% turned away senior women.

The major reasons identified by the clubs for turning away players were:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| • Lack of pitches/fields | (40%) |
| • Quality of change rooms | (19%) |
| • The impact of the drought | (11%) |
| • Safety of pitches | (11%) |
| • Lack of female change rooms | (10%) |

It is estimated that at least 42 additional pitches across Victoria are needed immediately to cater for the existing backlog of 5,700 players being turned away from the game

4.5.2 Competition Structure

The majority of clubs across Victoria are affiliated with FFV, which is the recognised State representative body for soccer in Victoria. Eltham Redbacks Football Club and Nillumbik Junior Soccer Club are affiliated with FFV and Eltham Eagles Soccer Club is affiliated with the

³ Conducted by Sports Business Partners



Victorian Churches Association. The two associations support local clubs in the area to deliver participation and skill development opportunities including competition structures for juniors, seniors, womens and mixed teams.

FFV, Football Federation Australia (FFA) and the Victorian Institute of Sport, which may lead to National and International playing opportunities, support elite player development.

Competition structures administered by FFV include:

- Men's Foxtel Cup
- Women's Premier League
- Men's State, Provisional & Metropolitan League
- Women's State and Metropolitan League
- Thirds & Masters League
- Super & Junior Leagues
- Under 18 Super League
- Rooball (Under 9's and 10's) (recently replaced with Small Sided Games
- (SSG) development program.

At the peak in Australian domestic competition is the National A-League competition administered by FFA. Victoria is currently represented in the A-League competition by Melbourne Victory and from 2014-15 season Melbourne City FC (formally Melbourne Heart).

4.5.3 Football Federation Victoria (Soccer) proposed introduction of the National Premier Leagues Victoria

Football Federation Victoria (FFV) is planning to introduce the National Premier Leagues Victoria (NPLV) in 2014. The NPLV is Football Federation Australia's (FFA) national second tier of competition and player development sitting below the A-League. Eltham Redbacks Football Club has indicated to officers that the Club do not intend to submit a registration of interest for a licence to field a NPLV team at this time. If the club decides to pursue this issue the potential impact on Council could be:

- A condition of the licence is to have only one team at each age group. This is counter to Council's objective to maximise participation in sport
- Existing local facilities will not meet the required FFV "A" standard facilities. There are no suggestions of funding assistance from FFV to improve facilities. It is likely that Council would be expected to upgrade facilities to meet FFV standards for a Nillumbik NPLV team
- Increased training loads for teams associated with approved NPLV clubs will likely lead to increased use of current allocated pitches, thereby limiting the potential for these pitches to be used by other community based soccer teams. This will further exacerbate the existing shortfall in soccer facilities for local clubs in Nillumbik.

5 SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Based on the consultation with both the local clubs and state sporting association the following provides a summary of the key issues identified.

5.1 PARTICIPATION

- There are a large number of residents participating in soccer activities in the Shire with in excess of 1200 people playing soccer.
- The young age profile of most residents will see continued growth in sporting activities such as soccer even though there will be a gradual aging of the population over time.
- Nillumbik soccer clubs have significant demand for access to quality soccer facilities and activities, particularly for females and juniors. Discussion with the Eltham Redbacks Football Club indicates that they are instigating a number of player development and coaching initiatives that will continue to increase the membership of the club.
- Since the commencement of the Soccer Strategy a third community based Soccer Club – Nillumbik Junior Soccer Club has been established. The Club has a current membership of approximately 80 juniors (male and female).
- The Eltham Wanderers Cricket Club also indicated that they are one of the largest Clubs in the region. The Cricket Club have recently established a relationship with a District Cricket Club to provide a pathway for players. It is anticipated that these initiatives will further increase the Cricket Club membership.

5.2 FACILITIES

- The soccer clubs are indicating that current and future growth is restricted due to the lack of available facilities. Eltham Eagles believe that the decline in membership of their club is directly related to a lack of a home base and the need to use three different venues for training and competition, one of which is located in the City of Banyule.
- The current level of facility provision will not deliver an adequate level to meet the current and future demands. The high participation growth will continue to drive high demand for access to quality facilities including access to support infrastructure such as club rooms and training lights.
- The local soccer clubs regard the provision of additional and higher quality soccer facilities as a priority for the continued development of soccer in the area and the sustainability of their clubs.
- The season length of soccer is no longer restricted to the traditional winter season, April to September. With the instigation of the summer programs, Eltham Redbacks Football Club has a desire to use the facilities at Eltham North all year round.

5.3 ELTHAM NORTH RESERVE

- The current sharing of the Eltham North facilities has been negotiated in the short term however it is anticipated that within a short period of time the facility will only have the capacity to accommodate one soccer club.
- The large numbers of soccer participants is significantly impacting the Scout Group's use of the facilities and the usage of the community hall. At present the community hall cannot be booked on evenings when soccer matches or training occur due to the capacity of the car park and the congestion within the precinct.
- The large number of users at Eltham North continues to result in traffic management issues both within the reserve car parking and along Wattletree Road. The users of the public hall and the Scout Group have indicated that this problem is getting worse as the numbers of soccer players increase.
- The current change room facilities are inadequate at Eltham North as they do not provide for female participants or have the capacity to meet the needs of clubs when consecutive games are being played within the precinct.

5.4 FUTURE SOCCER STRATEGY OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- The market research and consultation has clearly identified that there is insufficient provision of soccer facilities to meet the current and predicted future demand for soccer. The current facilities are at capacity and there are limited opportunities to convert existing outdoor sporting reserves to meet the current demand.
- Discussions with the Eltham Redbacks Football Club indicate that over the past twelve months membership of their club has increased by approximately 150 players, which represent a 21% increase. The Club has also instigated a number of initiatives such as player and coach development programs and creating a strong relationship with the Melbourne Victory Soccer Club, which will assist in further increasing membership over the next few years.
- The Eltham Eagles however have experienced a slight decline in membership. The Club believe that this decline is directly related to a lack of home venue and the requirement to make use of three different venues for both training and competition; one of which is outside of the municipality.
- A third community based soccer club – Nillumbik Junior Soccer Club has been established to meet the growing demand for access to soccer programs and activities.

5.4.1 Options and Opportunities

In July 2012 Council received a briefing paper on the range of strategy options that could be considered to address the current and future demand for soccer facilities in the Nillumbik Shire. The following four options were presented for Councils consideration:

- Option One: Status Quo and consider restriction of participation numbers at Eltham North Reserve
- Option Two: Development of a Regional Soccer Facility
- Option Three: Development of Soccer Precincts in Nillumbik (two precincts with three pitches and associated infrastructure)



- Option Four: Development of Local Facilities (single, double and three pitch).

A summary of each option identified is detailed in **Appendix A**.

At the time Council requested that Council Officers further investigate both Option Three and Option Four and undertake further discussion with key stakeholders to determine future capital cost estimate, timelines and funding opportunities.

At the time Officers also identified the potential impact on community access to the Eltham North Hall and the Panton Hill and Diamond Creek Baseball Clubs. As a result these issues were considered in the further investigations.

It should be noted that during 2014, St Helena Secondary College have been working through a potential project to redevelop and improve the school's sporting facilities. If this project eventuates and there are upgraded facilities at the school, this may provide opportunities for Nillumbik sports clubs to access additional facilities for training and matches. Officers will continue to explore the opportunities at St Helena as part of the project group that also includes Banyule City Council and Glen Katherine Primary School

5.5 PROPOSED STRATEGY

Industry trends indicate that multi pitch facilities are significantly more efficient than single pitch facilities in terms of coordination of training and competition, sharing of resources and equipment, use of coaches and club administrators and player development and pathways. The development of a regional/sub regional facility is also consistent with the strategic direction of the Football Federation of Victoria.

The Draft Nillumbik Soccer Strategy investigations identified that the development of two soccer precincts, providing up to three soccer pitches and associated infrastructure would deliver the best outcome in relation to adequately meeting the current and future demand for soccer over the next 5 to 15 years. The strategy also identified the opportunity to amalgamate the two baseball clubs as a means of both strengthening the position of the sport and providing additional space to develop a single soccer pitch.

Further work undertaken has identified that the high capital cost to implement this strategy would be cost prohibitive when balanced against Nillumbik's financial capacity to deliver the Strategy.

To achieve the objective of providing access to additional soccer programs and activities in line with Councils financial capacity the following three-site investment strategy has therefore been recommended which will provide a total of six soccer pitches and associated infrastructure to accommodate training and competition.

5.5.1 Site One Wattle Glen – Single Pitch Wattle Glen

Establish a new dedicated turf soccer pitch at Wattle Glen for training and competition and continue the use of the single pitch located at Diamond Creek East Primary School (behind Community Bank Stadium), Diamond Hills Reserve and St Helena Secondary College as match day over flow.

Works required would include:

- Development of a new soccer pitch at Wattle Glen

- Refurbishment of the Clubrooms to provide change room facilities
- Amalgamation of the Panton Hill's and Diamond Creek Baseball Club and continued development of Challenger Street as the Shire's Baseball Facility.

The provision of an additional single pitch facility will provide the Eltham Eagles with a home base facility at Wattle Glen and the Nillumbik Junior Soccer Club with access to both the Wattle Glen and single pitch sites for competition over-flow facilities. The improved facilities at Wattle Glen will continue to be used for cricket during the summer season.

The relocation of the Eltham Eagles and the Nillumbik Junior Soccer Club to an alternate venue will free up the soccer facilities at the Eltham North precinct to service the increasing needs of the Eltham Redbacks Football Club.

5.5.2 Indicative Capital

Based on the proposed priority work required the following tables provides a summary of the indicative capital costs required to implement the actions.

Table 5.1 - Indicative Capital Cost

Item	Indicative Cost
• Playing Surface Upgrade	\$250K - \$350K
• Sports field lighting	\$120K - \$200K
• Additional change rooms	\$400K - \$500K
• Car parking upgrade	\$200K - \$400K
Total	\$920K - \$1.45M

*** Note: the listed component can be staged in line with financial capacity to deliver**

5.5.3 Site One single pitch Wattle Gen



5.5.1 Wattle Glen redeveloped change rooms



5.5.2 Site Two Eltham North – Development of Clubroom Facilities at Eltham North Reserve

To improve the usage and functionality of the Eltham North Reserve sporting facilities there is a need to improve access to clubroom facilities at the site. Two stages to achieve this have been identified including upgrading the existing clubroom facilities and the development of a new multi-purpose sporting facility overlooking the top oval.

Stage One would include upgrading and reconfiguring the existing clubroom facility which would result in the facility including the hall being refurbished to meet the needs of the soccer and cricket clubs and the scout group. This will include the provision of male and female change rooms, club room/social facilities and multi-purpose meeting rooms.

Stage Two would involve the development of an additional new facility that would overlook the Top Oval and service the Cricket Club, Scout Group and a range of community based activities.

The proposed new facility would provide the Scout Group with a dedicated ground floor area with the required program space, storage areas and vehicle access. The first level of the facility would be a multi-purpose facility to service the needs of the Cricket Club and the local community.

The development of a second facility will “free up” the scout area within the existing building adjacent to the synthetic pitch and enable these areas to be refurbished to meet the increasing needs of the Redbacks Football Club.

Works required would include:

- Redevelopment of the existing Eltham North Clubrooms and community hall
- Development of a new multi-purpose facility overlooking the top oval
- Consideration of the timing to ensure all stakeholders continue to have access to required facilities.

The refurbishment and development of these facilities will result in the provision of a three-pitch facility with the associated support infrastructure including:

- One full size synthetic pitch
- Two turf pitches – Top Oval and Adventure playground
- Multi-purpose training area with lights.

Appendix B details the priority component schedules developed after consultation with the key tenant clubs for the proposed development of new facilities and the redevelopment of the existing facilities at Eltham North Reserve.

5.5.3 Indicative Capital

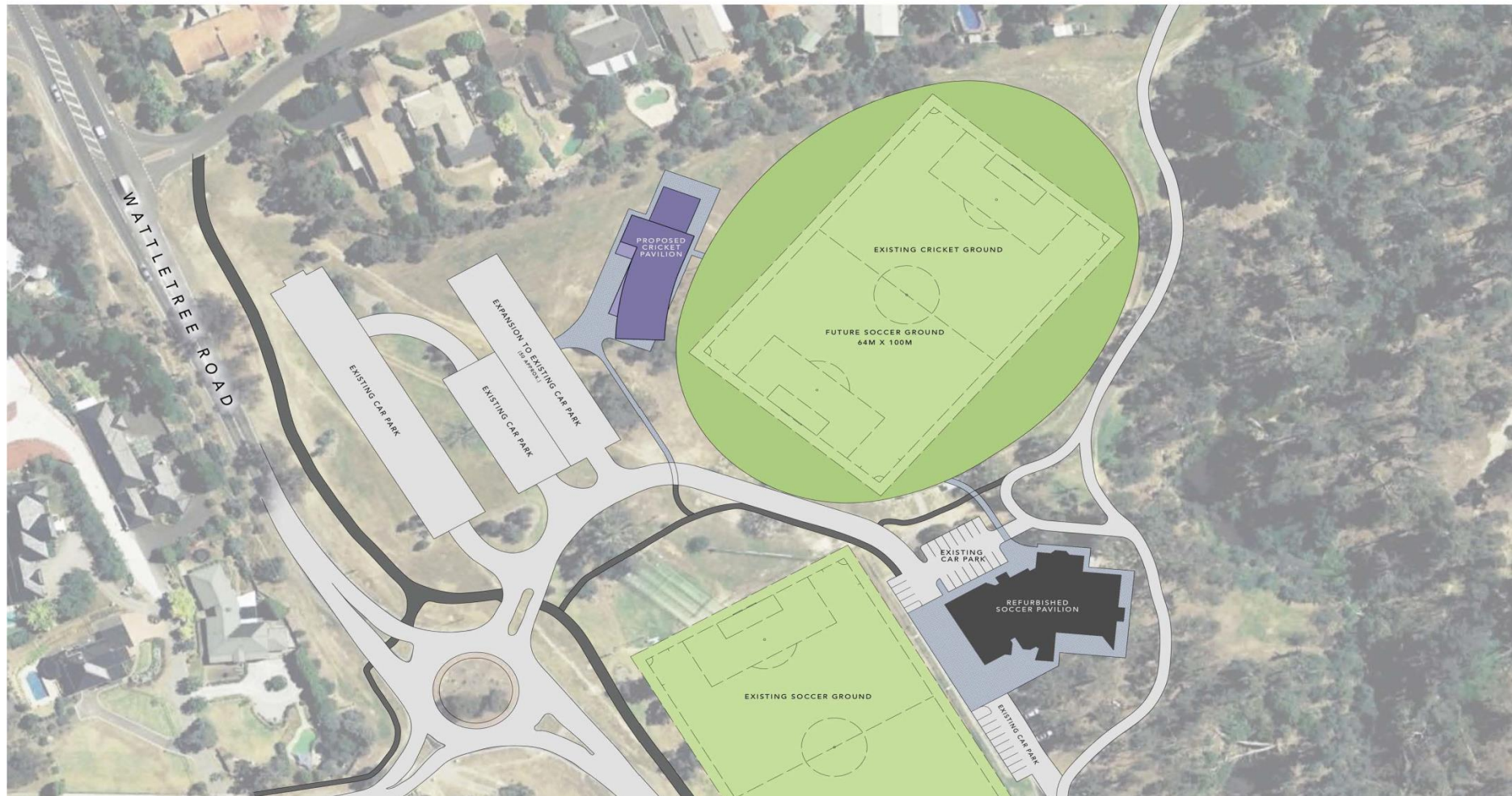
Based on the proposed priority work required the following tables provides a summary of the indicative capital costs required to implement the actions.

Table 5.2 - Indicative Capital Cost

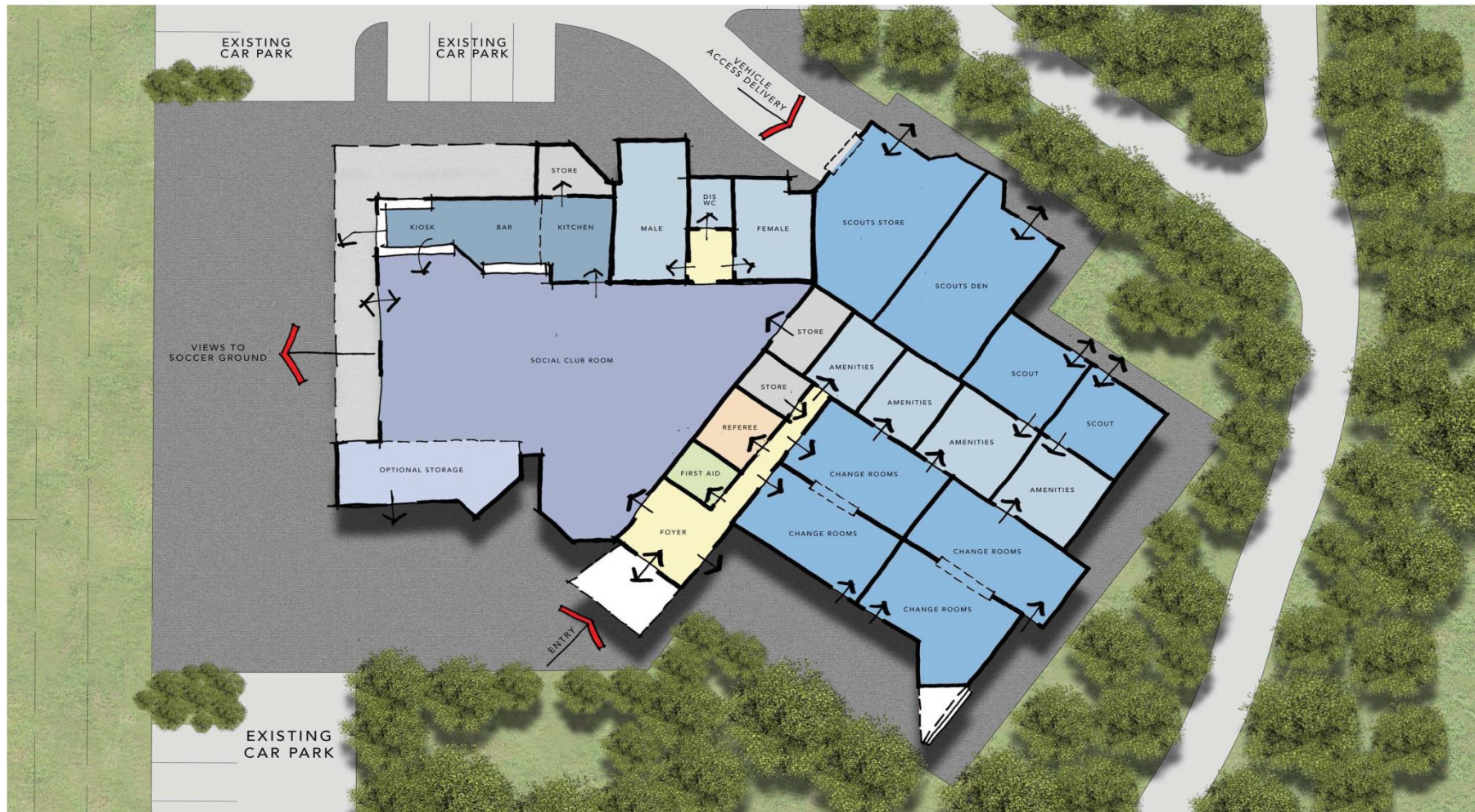
Item	Cost \$
• Concept feasibility and costing for additional facility.	\$20,000
• Stage One: Refurbish the current clubroom / hall stage one	\$1.8M - \$2.2M
• Stage Two: New multi-purpose clubroom and community hall facility	\$2.5M - \$3M
Total	\$4.5M - \$5.4M

*** Note: the listed component can be staged in line with financial capacity to deliver**

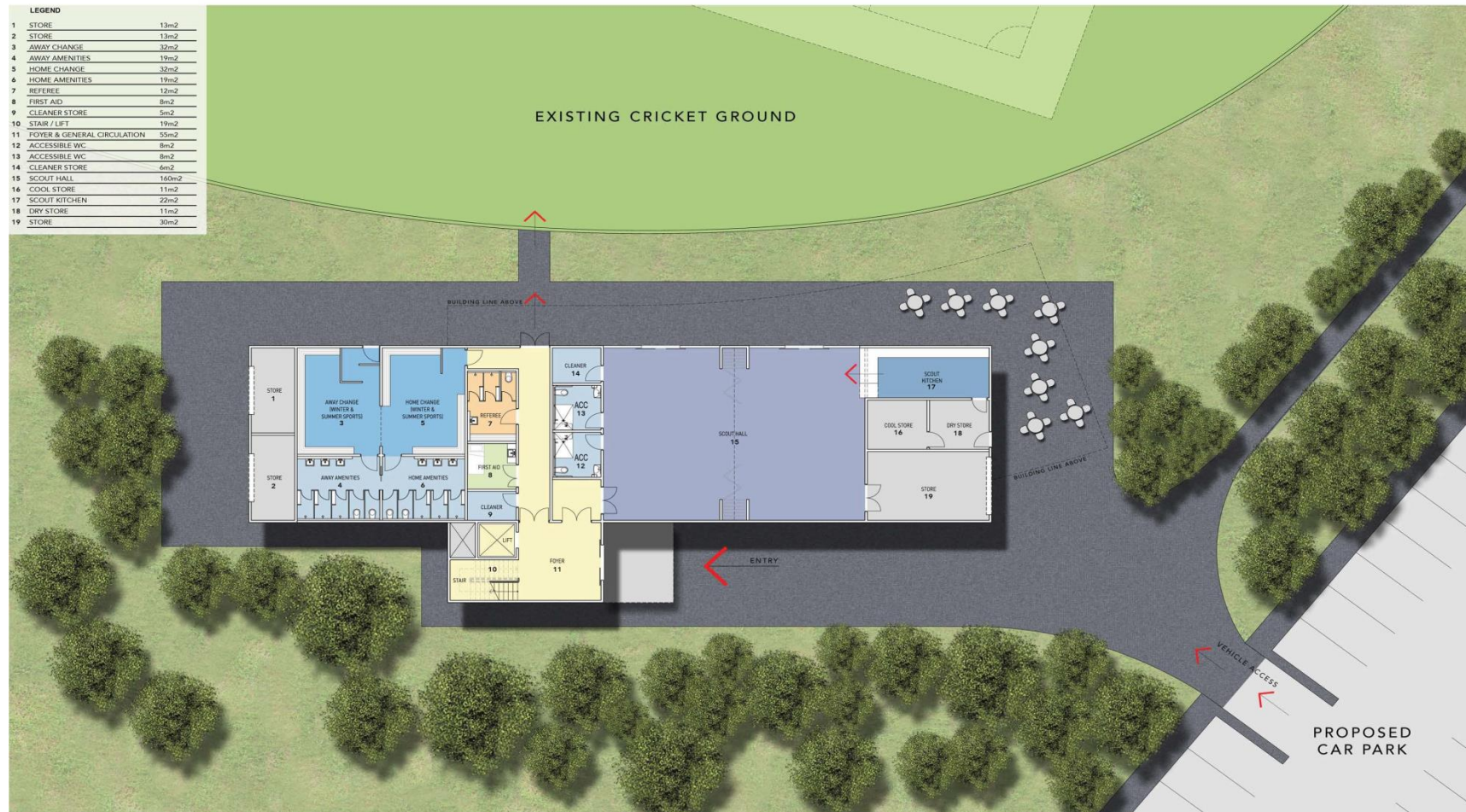
5.5.4 Site Two Eltham North Reserve



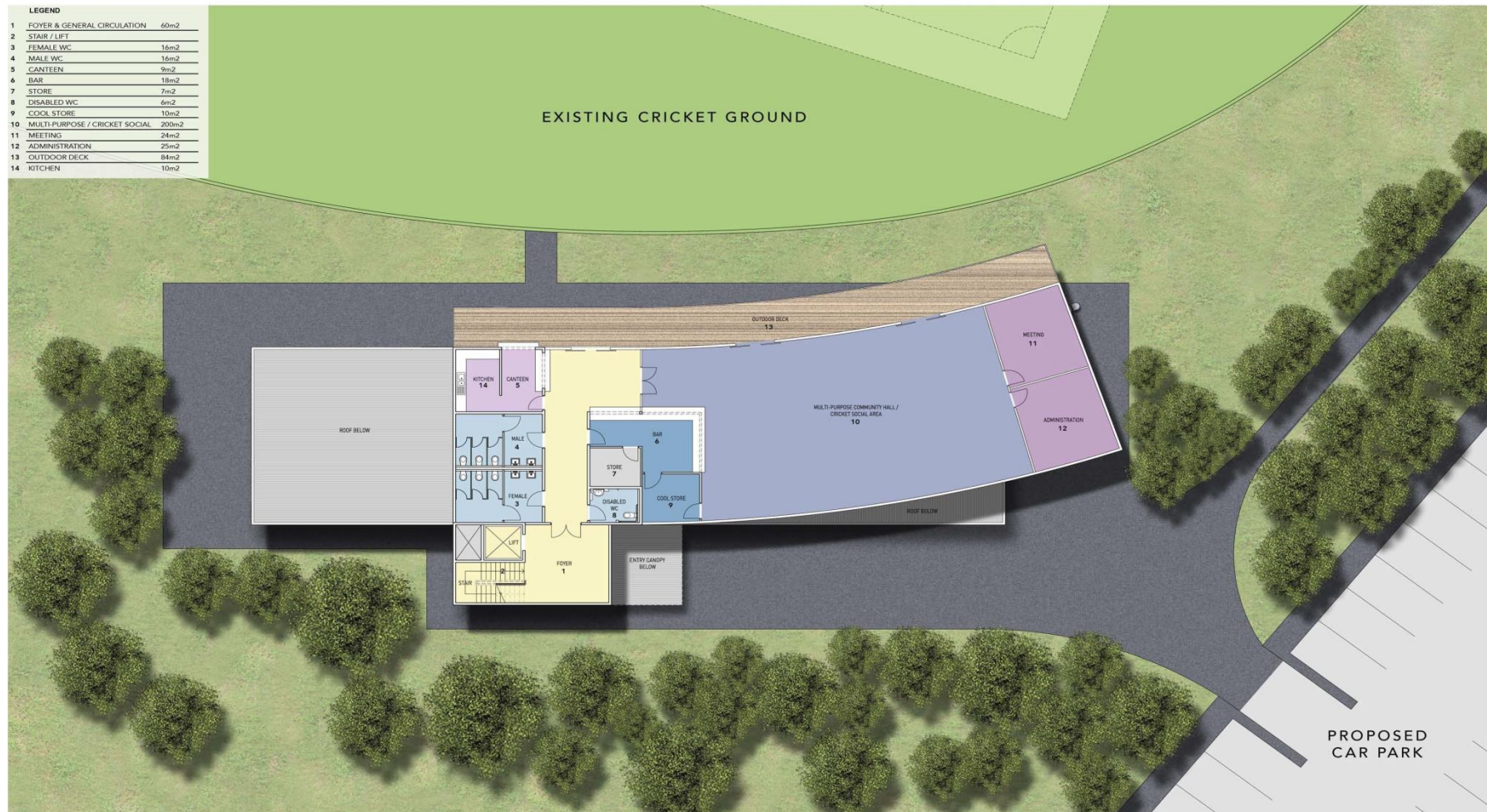
5.5.5 Eltham North Reserve proposed floor plan of redeveloped clubrooms



5.5.6 Proposed new clubrooms Eltham North – Ground Floor



5.5.7 Proposed new clubrooms Eltham North – First Floor



5.5.8 Site Three Diamond Creek – Diamond Creek Soccer Precinct with Multi-Purpose Area

This would see the development of a soccer and multi-use pitch facility on the site of the former Diamond Creek Horse and Pony Club land. The proposed development would include one full size synthetic pitch, and a second turf multi-purpose pitch that would serve as both a second soccer pitch, an over flow baseball diamond or an alternate training area for a range of sporting codes. A dedicated clubroom facility and car parking area would also be included in this development.

As part of the planning for this stage the traffic management requirements including access and egress into Diamond Creek Reserve and Marngrook Oval will need to be considered along with the car parking requirements of the bowling club located adjacent to the site.

The precinct would include:

- Development of one full size synthetic pitch
- Development of one multi-purpose turf pitch – soccer/baseball/ multi-purpose
- Development of a new multi-purpose clubroom facility overlooking the synthetic pitch
- Car parking
- Pathways
- Pedestrian bridge to connect to Diamond Creek Regional Trail.

The development of the facilities in Diamond Creek will provide the Shire with two multi pitch soccer facilities along with the single pitch facilities at Wattle Glen and Diamond Creek East Primary School.

5.5.9 Indicative Capital

Based on the proposed priority work required the following tables provides a summary of the indicative capital costs required to implement the actions.

Table 5.3 - Indicative Capital Cost

Item	Indicative Cost
• Synthetic multi-purpose playing surface	\$600K - \$800K
• Clubroom facility	\$3.0M - \$3.5M
• Car parking	\$600K – \$900K
• Turf multi-purpose playing surface	\$300K - \$400K
• Landscaping / bridges / pathways	\$600K - \$800K
Total	\$5.1M - \$6.4M

*** Note: the listed component can be staged in line with financial capacity to deliver**

5.5.1 Site Three Diamond Creek Soccer Precinct with multi-purpose area



5.5.2 Site Four Challenge Street – Redevelopment of Baseball Change Rooms

This would include the refurbishment of the Clubroom facilities at the Challenger Street baseball facility. The Diamond Creek Baseball Club has recently redeveloped the Clubroom using a portable facility. This facility is servicing the current needs of the Diamond Creek Club, however with the proposed amalgamation of the two baseball clubs there will be a need in the longer term to increase the size of the facility. There is also a need to improve the safety of the area by providing infrastructure such as back netting and a batting cage.

5.5.3 Indicative Capital

Based on the proposed priority work required the following tables provides a summary of the indicative capital costs required to implement the actions.

Table 5.4 - Indicative Capital Cost

Item	Cost \$
• Back netting / batting cage	\$150K - \$200K
• New multi-purpose clubroom facility	\$1.5M - \$2M
Total	\$1.55M - \$2.2M

*** Note: the listed component can be staged in line with financial capacity to deliver**

5.6 FUNDING OPTIONS

This high capital cost of recommended facility improvements and developments will see the need for a number of funding support grants as Council does not have the financial capacity to solely fund such major developments.

The development of leisure and sporting facilities has a history of very limited funding sources that may assist Council in financing the capital cost to implement the Draft Soccer Strategy

Traditionally, funding sources usually involve:

- Council Funding
- Other Government Grants
- Community Fundraising and User Group/Contributions

A combination of Council funding with government grants and some limited community fundraising has occurred for most community sporting facility developments.

5.6.1 State Government Funding

In the 2009/2010 State Budget the Government made a commitment of \$5.7 million over three years to the Strengthening the World Game Program (SWGP).

Specifically, SWGP provided funding to assist local football (soccer) clubs and organisations to upgrade existing or develop new facilities to maximise their capacity to cater for additional participation in soccer. The SWGP is a rolling program open all year round, providing Local Government Authorities with a maximum grant allocation of \$100,000 per

project.

Successful projects focussing on improving access and participation levels are likely to include at least one of the following characteristics:

- Improved facilities to encourage greater participation by females
- Projects that demonstrate innovation in dealing with issues of demand for football facilities
- Developments encouraging sharing of multi-use facilities, which may include additional use by other community groups
- Collaboration between councils and schools that will result in joint use of soccer facilities by schools, soccer clubs and communities
- Projects that include improved energy and water efficiency and environmental sustainability.

In 2012 a review of the program was undertaken and the government provided additional funding for the program.

Some projects have also been able to secure additional state government funding by demonstrating a greater regional need.

5.6.2 Commonwealth Funding

Commonwealth Government funding has been restricted for sport and recreation developments since the early 1990s when the Community Sports and Cultural Centres Improvement Scheme was discontinued.

Although there has been no formal funding scheme, there have been a number of leisure facility projects that were able to generate significant political pressure to receive funding (election promises and stimulus packages).

5.6.3 Football Federation of Victoria (FFV)

Discussion with FFV indicated that they are considering provision of some funds to assist with facility developments. It is understood however that these funds will be limited.

5.6.4 Community Fundraising and User Group Contributions

History indicates that only low levels of capital funds have been raised from community fundraising or user group contributions. These are usually used for equipment purchase or activity and programming costs.

User group contributions also can have restrictive use requirements in return for funding and can cause arrangements that may negatively impact on other group's usage or see low revenue yields for such use.

6 CONCLUSION

The Draft Nillumbik Soccer Strategy has been developed to address the growth and demands for access to quality soccer facilities in Nillumbik over the next 10 to 15 years. Given the growth in soccer participation over the past five years there is a need in the short term to provide the three existing clubs with access to soccer pitches across the municipality for competition and training. The objective of the Draft Strategy is to relieve the pressure on the Eltham North soccer facilities and ensure all clubs have equitable access to quality facilities. In the short term (1 to 5 years) to achieve this objective the capital cost requirement will be in the order of **\$1.140M to \$1.670M**. The remaining works can then be staged over a period of 5 to 15 years.

The table below provides a summary of the proposed strategy priority actions recommended to achieve the above objective over the next 5 to 15 years.

Table 6.1
Proposed Strategy Priorities

Site	Component	Estimated \$	Priority
Wattle Glen War Memorial Reserve	• Playing Surface Upgrade	\$250K - \$350K	Short
	• Sports field lighting	\$120K - \$200K	
	• Additional change rooms	\$400K - \$500K	
	• Car parking upgrade	\$200K - \$400K	
Challenger Street Reserve	• Back netting / batting cage	\$150K - \$200K	Short
Eltham North Reserve	• Concept, feasibility, costing for additional facility	\$20K	Short
Eltham North Reserve	• Refurbish the current clubroom / hall stage one	\$1.8M - \$2.2M	Medium
	• New multipurpose club room Facility	\$2.5M - \$3M (further work required to determine cost estimate)	
Diamond Creek Reserve	• Synthetic multi-purpose playing surface	\$600K - \$800K	Long
	• Clubroom facility	\$3M - \$3.5M	
	• Car parking	\$600K – \$900K	

Site	Component	Estimated \$	Priority
Diamond Creek Reserve	• Turf multi-purpose playing surface	\$300K - \$400K	Long
	• Landscaping / bridges	\$600K - \$800K	
Challenger Street Reserve	• New multipurpose club room Facility	\$1.5M - \$2M	Long

6.1 SUMMARY OF STRATEGY COSTS

The following provides a summary of the indicative capital cost to implement the strategy over the next 15 years.

Table 6.2
Summary of Strategy Indicative Capital Cost 15 Year Period

Priority	Time Line	Cost \$
Short term	1- 5 years	\$1,140,000 - \$1,670,000
Medium	6- 10 years	\$4,300,000 - \$5,200,000
Long	11 – 15 years	\$6,600,000 - \$8,400,000
Total		\$12,040,000 - \$15,270,000

6.2 SHORT TERM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The table below details the work likely to be completed over the next three years in line with the short-term actions identified above.

Year	Site	Project	Cost \$
2014/15	Challenger Street	• Back nets for baseball	\$150k (allocated in major projects plan)
2014/15	Eltham North Reserve	• Concept, feasibility, costing for additional facility	\$20k (club considering funding)
2015/16	Wattle Glen War Memorial Park	• Playing surface upgrade • Sports field lighting	\$370k - \$550k (\$470k allocated in major projects plan)
2016/17	Eltham North Reserve	• Contribution towards new pavilion (more detailed planning and costing to be completed in 2014/15)	\$400k (allocated in major projects plan)
2016/17	Wattle Glen War Memorial Park	• Additional change rooms • Car Park upgrade	\$400k - \$500 (currently unfunded) \$200k-\$400k (currently unfunded but may be funded through sports field car park sealing)
		Total –allocated in major projects plan Short term projects currently unfunded	\$1,020,000 \$600k - \$900k

APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF STRATEGY OPTIONS

Option	Detail	Impact
Status Quo	This option would include maintaining the current level of soccer training and competition facility provision in the Shire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current and future demand for access to additional soccer activities would not be accommodated in the Shire. • Some Nillumbik residents would have to seek alternate Soccer Clubs in neighbouring municipalities. • Some residents may not have the opportunity to participate in soccer activities. • The current issues of congestion at the Eltham North Reserve site will continue and alternate strategies will need to be implemented to address the issues. • The need for improved club and change room facilities for both the soccer and cricket clubs would not be addressed. • The two baseball clubs would not be required to amalgamate. • The use of the two baseball areas will not be maximised due to the current low participation number of both clubs.
Development of Regional Soccer Facility	This option would include working in collaboration with neighbouring municipalities, Sport and Recreation Victoria and Football Federation of Victoria to identify the site opportunities and related costs of developing a regional soccer facility to cater for a number of municipalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The growth in soccer participation would be addressed at a more regional level. • A regional soccer facility may address the soccer facility needs of a number of municipalities. • The review may identify a potential site either within or outside of the Nillumbik Shire. • The current issues of congestion at the Eltham North Reserve site may continue and alternate strategies will need to be implemented to address the issues. • The cost of developing a regional soccer facility may be shared by a number of organisations, including the different levels of government. • It is unlikely that local government authorities will provide funding for the development of a facility(s) not located within their municipal boundary. • If a facility is not developed in the Nillumbik Shire, the growing local needs for soccer may not be addressed. • Depending on the location, the two baseball clubs would not be required to amalgamate. • The use of the two baseball areas will not be maximised due to the current low participation number of both clubs

Option	Detail	Impact
Development of Soccer Precincts in Nillumbik	<p>This option would see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retention of the Eltham North Reserve as a sports precinct. Development of the former horse and pony club land in Diamond Creek as a dedicated soccer precinct. This would also include the use of the Campbell Street Reserve currently used by the Diamond Creek Baseball Club to create a 3 pitch facility. Amalgamation of the Diamond Creek Baseball Club and the Panton Hills Baseball Club and redevelopment of the Wattle Glen baseball facility to service the needs of the amalgamated clubs. The replaced baseball diamond at the Diamond Creek East Primary as an overflow/junior baseball facility. Retention and upgrade of the Diamond Hills and St Helena Secondary College facilities as single over flow pitches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The growth in Nillumbik soccer would be addressed at a more local level The current issues of congestion at the Eltham North Reserve will be addressed. All three Nillumbik based soccer club would have a home base and an opportunity to meet local Nillumbik demand. The different levels of government may share the cost of developing a soccer facility. The development of a separate cricket club facility at Eltham North Reserve will alleviate the pressure on the current change room facilities and provide a relocation option for the Scout and Cricket Group. However this option is unlikely to attract external (government) funding. There will be displacement issues by a number of groups to achieve the development of two soccer precincts. Additional facilities will need to be provided to relocate the displaced clubs i.e. baseball, scouts and users of the Eltham North Hall. The need for improved club and change room facilities for both the soccer and cricket clubs would be addressed. The two baseball club would be required to amalgamate and the Wattle Glen facility would be upgraded to meet the needs of the amalgamated Club. The use of the current baseball areas will be maximised due to the amalgamation of the clubs resulting in increased membership numbers.

Option	Detail	Impact
Development Local Facilities (single and or double pitch)	<p>This option would see</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retention of the Eltham North Reserve as a sports precinct. Development of the former horse and pony club land in Diamond Creek as a dedicated soccer precinct. (Excluding Campbell Street Reserve – site of the Diamond Creek Baseball Club). Development of the Wattle Glen baseball facility as a single soccer pitch. Retention and upgrade of the Diamond Hills and St Helena Secondary College facilities as single over flow pitches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The growth in Nillumbik soccer would be addressed at a more local level with either single/double pitch facilities. The current issues of congestion at the Eltham North Reserve will be addressed to some degree All three Nillumbik based soccer club would have a home base and an opportunity to meet local Nillumbik demand. The different levels of government may share the cost of developing a soccer facility. The development of a separate cricket club facility at Eltham North Reserve will alleviate the pressure on the current change room facilities and provide a relocation option for the Scout and Cricket Group. However this option is unlikely to attract external (government) funding. The need for improved club and change room facilities for both the soccer and cricket clubs would be addressed. The two baseball club would be required to amalgamate and use the current Campbell Street Reserve. Some minor upgrades would be required to meet the needs of the amalgamated clubs. The use of the current baseball areas will be maximised due to the amalgamation of the clubs resulting in increased membership numbers.
Restriction of participation numbers at Eltham North Reserve	<p>This option would see the local soccer clubs being asked to restrict the number of members within the club.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current and future demand for access to additional soccer activities would not be accommodated in the Shire. Some Nillumbik residents would have to seek alternate Soccer Clubs in neighbouring municipalities. Some residents may not have the opportunity to participate in soccer activities. The current issues of congestion at the Eltham North Reserve will be addressed in the short term. The need for improved club and change room facilities for both the soccer and cricket clubs would not be addressed The two baseball club would not be required to amalgamate. The use of the two baseball areas will not be maximised due to the current low participation number of both clubs.

APPENDIX B: ELTHAM NORTH RESERVE FACILITY COMPONENT SCHEDULE

Eltham North Sports Pavilion Concept – Soccer Facility

ACTIVITY AREA	FACILITY COMPONENTS	TARGET MARKETS	FACILITY OBJECTIVES	FUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS	OTHER FEATURES TO CONSIDER	AREA SCHEDULES	TOTAL AREA (m ²)
Social Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Function room Bar Kitchen Kiosk Toilets Club Memorabilia Storage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior and Junior Soccer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide multi-purpose facility to facilitate sports participation and opportunities for external revenue functions Provide opportunities for club activities, meetings and memorabilia Inclement weather/sun protection Provide income stream for tenant clubs through kiosk/bar and function hiring's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise viewing potential over sports fields Adjacent to kiosk and bar facilities Access to amenities Adjacent to outside viewing and external entertainment /play areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disabled access Separation of bar for Junior and Senior codes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Room 200 sqm Bar/Kitchen/Kiosk 30sqm Male/female/accessible Toilets 32 sqm Storage 20 sqm Kiosk plus store 29sqm 	311 sqm
Administration/ Meeting Room/s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small meeting room Administration office Secure storage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenant Clubs Casual Hirers Competition and Administration Needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide one small meeting room available for club meetings Provide one administration/office area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close to social amenities Close to Bar/kitchen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access off main social area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration 15 sq m Meeting Room 20 sq m 	35 sq m
Change Rooms/Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home & away change rooms x 3 Toilets in each change area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior teams Senior teams Male/Female Schools Public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide change facilities for junior and senior male and female sports playing at same time Provide opportunity for change facilities to be separated and combined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjacent to service entry Not encroaching on viewing areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disabled access Temporary partitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 x Home team change including support amenities 32 sq m 3 x Away Team change including support amenities 32 sq m 	102 sq m
Referees Room		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cater for referees during games Possible additional change for overflow use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjacent to team Amenities/ change areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lockable Storage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 sq m 	12 sq m

ACTIVITY AREA	FACILITY COMPONENTS	TARGET MARKETS	FACILITY OBJECTIVES	FUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS	OTHER FEATURES TO CONSIDER	AREA SCHEDULES	TOTAL AREA (m ²)
Equipment Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lockable and separated storage soccer clubs • Lockable storage for cleaners • Lockable storage for Function area equipment • Rubbish storage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soccer tenant clubs • Function users • Community Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To provide adequate, secure, year round storage for soccer clubs, potential regular hirers, function equipment and facility cleaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Club storage easily accessible from playing fields and service entry ▪ External access to building ▪ Least likely to impinge on viewing opportunities ▪ Cleaning storage central to amenities and social areas, adjacent to service entry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Storage for each tenant organisation ▪ Lockable areas ▪ Night security ▪ Casual surveillance ▪ Accessibility ▪ OH&S 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Club storage 26sq m ▪ Cleaner/Rubbish storage 6 sq m ▪ Function Equipment storage 7 sq m 	59sqm
First Aid Room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First Aid Room ▪ Lockable storage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All tenant clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To provide specialist room for off-field injury care ▪ Secure room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Internal/external building access ▪ Disabled access ▪ Emergency access ▪ Proximity to amenities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Security ▪ Off-field access 		9 sq m
Subtotal Indoor Facilities							sq m
Outdoor Facilities							
Participant and Spectator Seating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outdoor spectator seating for participants and spectators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participant seating ▪ Spectator seating ▪ Spectator shelter 					TBA
Entertainment Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BBQ ▪ Paved entertainment area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Soccer Clubs ▪ Participant Families/siblings ▪ Schools ▪ Functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To provide entertainment areas for tenant club spectators and encourage social activities ▪ To encourage community/club social activities and ▪ Assist clubs to maximise income generation for clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adjacent to or within clear view of indoor social areas ▪ Adjacent to kitchen/bar facilities ▪ Safe distance from Car park ▪ Adjacent to spectator seating and shelter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disabled access ▪ Sheltered aspect from wind, rain, sun. ▪ Close proximity to amenities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Entertainment area 40 sq m 	40 sq m
Subtotal Outdoor Areas							TBA
Other Facilities or Features (to be considered as part of master planning process)							
Weather Protection	▪	▪	▪	▪ Adjacent to Pavilion	▪	▪	TBA
Sports Field Lighting		▪	▪	▪ Adjacent to Pavilion	▪	▪	TBA
Car parking		▪	▪	▪ Adjacent to Pavilion	▪	▪	TBA
Subtotal Other Areas							TBA
ESTIMATED TOTAL BUILDING AREA							340-375 sq m

Eltham North Sports Pavilion Concept – Cricket and Scout Facility

ACTIVITY AREA	FACILITY COMPONENTS	TARGET MARKETS	FACILITY OBJECTIVES	FUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS	OTHER FEATURES TO CONSIDER	AREA SCHEDULES	TOTAL AREA (m ²)
Administration/ Meeting Room/s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small meeting room • Administration office • Secure storage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tenant Clubs ▪ Casual Hirers ▪ Competition and Administration Needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide one small meeting room available for club meetings ▪ Provide one administration/office area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Close to social amenities ▪ Close to Bar/kitchen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access off main social area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Administration 25 sq m ▪ Meeting Room 24 sq m 	49 sq m
Social Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Function room • Bar • Kitchen • Kiosk • Toilets • Club Memorabilia Storage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Junior Cricket ▪ Senior Flow-over Football ▪ Senior Cricket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide multi-purpose facility to facilitate sports participation and opportunities for external revenue functions ▪ Provide opportunities for club activities, meetings and memorabilia ▪ Inclement weather/sun protection ▪ Provide income stream for tenant clubs through kiosk/bar and function hirings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maximise viewing potential over sports fields Adjacent to kiosk and bar facilities ▪ Access to amenities ▪ Adjacent to outside viewing and external entertainment /play areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disabled access ▪ Separation of bar for Junior and Senior codes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social Room 200 sqm ▪ Bar/Kitchen/Kiosk 30sqm ▪ Toilets 32 sqm ▪ Storage 20 sqm ▪ Kiosk plus store 29sqm 	311 sqm
	Scout Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scout Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide opportunity for Scout groups to run programs ▪ Access to external storage for storing of camping equipment vehicle access to storage to enable easy loading and unpacking of equipment 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scout Area 160sqm ▪ Kitchen 24 sqm ▪ Toilets ▪ Cleaners 16sqm 	200 sqm

ACTIVITY AREA	FACILITY COMPONENTS	TARGET MARKETS	FACILITY OBJECTIVES	FUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS	OTHER FEATURES TO CONSIDER	AREA SCHEDULES	TOTAL AREA (m ²)
Change Rooms/Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cricket change home & away Toilets in each change area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior teams Senior teams Schools Public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide change facilities for junior and senior sports playing at same time Provide opportunity for change facilities to be separated and combined Provide sports field user toilets Provide public toilets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjacent to service entry Not encroaching on viewing areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disabled access Temporary partitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home team change 32 sq m Away Team change 32 sq m Home team amenities 19 sq m Away team amenities 19 sq m 	102 sq m
Umpires Room		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Umpires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cater for umpires during games Possible additional change for overflow use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjacent to team Amenities/ change areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lockable Storage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 sq m 	12 sq m
Equipment Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lockable and separated storage Cricket tenant Clubs Lockable storage for Scout Group Lockable storage for cleaners Lockable storage for Function area equipment Rubbish storage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cricket tenant clubs Scout Group Function users Community Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide adequate, secure, year round storage for tenant clubs , potential regular hirers, function equipment and facility cleaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club storage easily accessible from playing fields and service entry External access to building Adjacent to change amenities Least likely to impinge on viewing opportunities Cleaning storage central to amenities and social areas, adjacent to service entry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storage for each tenant organisation Lockable areas Night security Casual surveillance Accessibility OH&S 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club storage 26sq m Scout group hirer's 20 sq m Cleaner/Rubbish storage 6 sq m Function Equipment storage 7 sq m 	59sqm
First Aid Room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Aid Room Lockable storage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All tenant clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide specialist room for off-field injury care Secure room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal/external building access Disabled access Emergency access Proximity to amenities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security Off-field access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 sq m 	9 sq m
Subtotal Indoor Facilities							sq m
Outdoor Facilities							
Participant and Spectator Seating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor spectator seating for cricket participants and spectators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participant seating Spectator seating Cricket Spectator shelter 					TBA

ACTIVITY AREA	FACILITY COMPONENTS	TARGET MARKETS	FACILITY OBJECTIVES	FUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS	OTHER FEATURES TO CONSIDER	AREA SCHEDULES	TOTAL AREA (m ²)
Entertainment Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BBQ ▪ Paved entertainment area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participant Families/siblings ▪ Schools ▪ Functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To provide entertainment areas for tenant club spectators and encourage social activities ▪ To encourage community/club social activities and ▪ Assist clubs to maximise income generation for clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adjacent to Junior sports side of facility ▪ Adjacent to or within clear view of indoor social areas ▪ Adjacent to kitchen/bar facilities ▪ Safe distance from Car park ▪ Adjacent to spectator seating and shelter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disabled access ▪ Sheltered aspect from wind, rain, sun. ▪ Close proximity to amenities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Entertainment area 40 sq m 	40 sq m
Childs Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Infant Playground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participant Families/siblings ▪ Public ▪ Functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To provide activities for participant families and children involved in functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adjacent to or within clear view of indoor social areas ▪ Safe distance from Car park ▪ Adjacent to spectator seating and shelter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Close proximity to amenities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TBA 	TBA
Subtotal Outdoor Areas							TBA
Other Facilities or Features (to be considered as part of master planning process)							
Weather Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adjacent to Pavilion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	TBA
Sports Field Lighting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adjacent to Pavilion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	TBA
Car parking		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adjacent to Pavilion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	TBA
Subtotal Other Areas							TBA
ESTIMATED TOTAL BUILDING AREA							340-375 sq m