



Recreation Plan



1

VOLUME

STRATEGIES  
AND  
ACTIONS



## About this document

This document is Volume 1. of the *Municipal Recreation Plan: Strategy and Actions*.

Other volumes include: **Volume 2. Issues Paper**, and **Volume 3. Demand and Consultation Findings**.

The Appendices to this Volume include:

- Action Plan (Appendix 1.)
- Priorities by Township (Appendix 2. A spreadsheet)
- Sporting Infrastructure Policy (Appendix 3.) and
- Inventory of Facilities (Appendix 4. A separate database).

This report is a strategic document that addresses key issues and challenges the Shire faces in terms of recreation. It summarises the priority issues identified into key focus areas for Council over the next 10 years and provides an integrated way forward for recreation in the Indigo Shire.

## Acknowledgements

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Project overview

The aim of this Recreation Plan was to prepare a municipal plan that identifies the current and future community needs for recreation opportunities and activities, and provides a framework for the strategic development of appropriate recreation infrastructure and facilities for the next 10 years.

The project has arisen from a strong need for Council to better support strategic planning for sport and recreation, in particular the future planning, maintenance and development of Council infrastructure. Council also wishes to be in a position to better respond to the changing nature of the Shire and its population, and the way in which they choose to participate in recreation. Reviewing and updating Council's 1997 Recreation Plan was also a driving factor in the development of this plan.

**The Municipal Recreation Plan is to be sustainable, highlighting strategies that offer cost effective solutions to identified issues. It promotes community involvement and partnership development; and increases overall participation in sport and recreation activities.**

Rather than providing detailed individual township plans, this plan's focus is Shire wide strategies, although localised actions are also included. However, some recommendations and priorities regarding local area recreation facility improvement have been developed and are provided in the Action Plan prepared in Appendix 1.

The findings of this project are contained in three report volumes: 1) Strategy and Actions, 2) Issues Paper and 3) Demand and Consultation Findings. For detailed discussion and information regarding project research and background, refer to Volumes 2 and 3.

### Methodology

This Strategy and Actions Report follows a number of project tasks and stages that included:

- a review of Council's 1997 Recreation Plan
- a review of relevant literature, including Council policies and strategies
- site inspections of key open spaces, reserves and recreation facilities
- analysis of state and regional recreation participation data and trends
- analysis of local area population data and demographics
- telephone interviews with local and regional stakeholders
- telephone interviews with a range of sport and recreation clubs, community groups and schools
- a *householder survey* distributed to 5,800 households in the Indigo Shire. 758 survey responses were received and analysed.
- preparation and presentation of an *Issues Paper* to staff and the community (via website and through 3 community forums)
- preparation of a *Draft Municipal Recreation Plan – Strategy and Actions*.

## 1.2 Recreation plan context

### Shire context

Through this study, a number of specific Shire and local area influences have had, and will have, an impact on the level and ability of Council to provide for recreation in the future.

Council has limited financial resources to provide significant increases in the level of recreation provision and servicing, particularly in the area of new asset development. Council's budgets focus on supporting asset improvement and renewal, and maximising their use by maintaining available facilities throughout their entire life-cycle. However, it will be possible for Council, to deliver community benefits through this plan, that are not solely facility related.

Council currently employs a Recreation and Community Development Coordinator to deliver recreation related projects and services. The impact of the position and its recreation focus has been effective. This is demonstrated by the positive feedback received from community groups that participated in consultation forums. Further expansion and promotion of this role may be required to ensure its continued success, to capitalise on new opportunities and compete with other Council programs such as arts, culture and heritage.

The Indigo Shire is characterised by its township based settlement pattern. The geographic spread of major townships and their relatively low population make it difficult to support major or regional level facilities and programs. Competition between towns for new facilities and services also places great demand on Council's limited resources. In this context, this Plan is based around local area provision, with the expectation that Indigo's neighbouring municipalities (Cities of Wangaratta and Wodonga), could meet the needs for major and regional recreation facilities.

### 1997 Municipal Recreation Plan

Council produced a Municipal Recreation Plan in 1997. This plan raised a number of priority issues for Council to address in future years, as well as providing a framework for recreation provision across the Shire.

Priority issues identified in the 1997 Plan were grouped into the following areas:

- Aquatic facilities
- Indoor sports stadiums
- Public halls
- Outdoor sporting reserves / courts
- Playgrounds
- Open space pathways / trails
- Youth
- Lakes / Crown land areas
- Information and communication systems
- Festivals and events
- Transport.

Many issues raised in 1997 still remain issues today and were identified again through the *Householder Survey* conducted in November 2006. However, **Council has made some significant changes and improvements regarding the provision and servicing of recreation opportunities over the past 10 years.**

Some key achievements made following adoption of the 1997 Plan include the following.

- The appointment of a Recreation and Community Development Officer to focus a large portion of their work program on better servicing sport and recreation opportunities.
- Physical capital improvements made to all Shire swimming facilities, as well as additional procedures developed regarding the collection and monitoring of pool attendances.
- Securing State Government funding for the Rutherglen to Wahgunyah link for the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail.
- Preparation of major sport and recreation reserve master plans at Baarmutha Park, Barnawartha Recreation Reserve, Coulston Park (Committee of Management led) and Yackandandah Sports Park.
- Development of a coordinated program, (including State Government funding) to improve netball courts across the Shire.
- Development of a Playground Strategy to guide the future provision, maintenance and priority development of playgrounds, this is currently being implemented.<sup>1</sup>

## Key demographic findings

Some key characteristics of the Shire's resident population include:<sup>2</sup>

- a 2001 population of 14,212<sup>3</sup>, growing to 14,798 in 2006 (according to available 2006 Census data)
- a relatively large proportion of people aged 5 to 14 years, with further increase in the 10 to 14 age group to 2006
- a relatively small proportion of people aged 15 to 24 years, however increase in the 20 to 24 age group were reported in 2006 Census
- a small proportion of people born overseas
- similar numbers of people living in rural areas in the Shire to those people living in the main population centres (43%).

The Shire's main population centres are the townships of Beechworth (2,644 residents), Rutherglen (1,989) and Chiltern (1,063). Since 2001, the populations of Rutherglen and Chiltern have experienced growth of 8.2% and 2.3% respectively, while Beechworth's population has decreased by an estimated 4.8%. Main population centres have also reported increasing numbers of adults aged 55 years and older, as well as a declining number of young people, contributing to the ageing nature of the population.

The *Indigo Planning Scheme Review 2006/07* (discussion document as at February 2007) predicts that the Shire's population will continue to grow over the next 20 years.

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<sup>1</sup> Of note in the data collection and analysis of the 2007 Municipal Recreation Plan, was the limited reference made to the quality of playgrounds in the Shire. In general terms, playgrounds are commonly rated highly by the community as facilities needing improvement. Since 1997, Council have made considerable steps forward in this area, and as such, playgrounds were not featured as a priority in this Plan and have not been addressed in detail in this document.

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<sup>2</sup> ABS Population by Age and Sex (2004) Cat No. 325.2

<sup>3</sup> Source: ABS, Catalogue No 3218.0 Preliminary data only.

The settlement review conducted, identifies the townships of Yackandandah, Barnawartha and Kiewa/Tangambalanga as likely to experience the greatest growth (between 100% and 300% growth)<sup>4</sup>, with the approximately 50% growth expected for Chiltern and Wahgunyah up to the year 2025.<sup>5</sup>

### Recent trends in recreation participation

According to Victorian participation data, 'walking', 'swimming' and 'cycling' have consistently been the recreation activities participated in by most people over the past five years. These three activities were also identified as the most participated in the Indigo Shire, consistent with state-wide trends.

The nature of recreation participation has been changing. Many Shire's are reporting an increased demand for, and diversity in, fitness-related activities, and trail based activities (eg 'walking and cycling'). More recently, leisure and recreation activity has seen an increasing focus on, and demand for, programmed activities, particularly in the older adult market.

At the regional level (Goulburn-Ovens-Murray Region)<sup>6</sup>, traditional sports including Australian Rules football, cricket, tennis, golf and netball remain the most popular sporting activities, however they still experience fluctuations in participation. Regional participation growth has been observed in walking, swimming and cycling, as has participation in 'aerobics/fitness' activities. This trend is consistent with state-wide participation, and is represented in local participation rates gathered during this project.

Comparisons between Council's 1997 *Municipal Recreation Plan* data and this Plan identified some general trends and changes in activity participation of Indigo Shire residents over time.

- The activities that have seen the greatest participation increases are those that are more unstructured in their nature, such as *walking, swimming and cycling*.
- *Tennis and bushwalking* have seen a significant decline in their participation rates.
- *Lawn bowls* was not in the top 12 activities in 1997, but was the eighth participated activity in 2006 and is likely to continue to increase as the population ages.

### Contextual implications on this plan

The changing age structure of the Indigo Shires population will have a significant impact on the future community sport and recreation needs. With older adults becoming and staying physically active later in life, it is likely that there will be an additional need for specialised recreation programs and services, as well as safe and warm indoor facilities to cater for this population group. Demand for community based gymnasium, exercise and physical activity programs have already been observed throughout the Shire.

Opportunities or facilities to encourage walking, swimming, fishing, playing tennis and socialising will become increasingly important to serve demand from the older adult population.

Long-term population projections anticipate an overall reduction in young people aged 5 to 25 years living in the Indigo Shire by 2021. Traditionally, this group contributes a large majority of organised sporting participants, particularly in the team sports of Australian Rules football, soccer, cricket and netball, and it could be expected that the ability to fill teams and maintain existing competition levels may be constrained.

<sup>4</sup> Indigo Planning Scheme Review 2006/07 – Discussion document, February 2007.

<sup>5</sup> The *Indigo Shire Recreation Plan - Issues Paper* provides details of population projections for the Shire's major townships at high and low growth scenarios to the year 2025.

<sup>6</sup> Goulburn-Ovens-Murray Region is a statistical region used to prepare state level participation data (ERASS). The region includes the municipalities of Alpine, Campaspe, Delatite, Greater Shepparton, Indigo, Mitchell, Moira, Murrindindi, Strathbogie, Wangaratta, Wodonga.

This impact has been experienced around the state, with particular impact being felt in smaller rural townships.

However, with significant population increases projected in some smaller towns (eg. Yackandandah and Barnawartha) the range, quality and level of sport and recreation facilities and services may need to be reviewed in the short to medium term. Increased player and participant expectations could be expected if growth is by 'sea or tree change' residents. There will also be an additional need to provide safe facilities, should there be an increase in younger children. Upgrading of existing facilities to meet the increased local demand will be important in these areas.

Almost half of the Shire's residents are based outside of the main townships and population centres, creating a different set of challenges for recreation provision. The settlement pattern of residents will affect the demand for connections and trails into main townships, as well as increase the need for basic level facility provision that is well distributed around the Shire in order to limit travel for those living outside of main townships.

It would be likely that effective marketing and promotion of recreation activities, particularly through electronic mediums, will also be more important for those that are not in regular contact with central communication points and structured recreation facilities.

### 1.3 Key challenges

The key challenges for Council regarding the ongoing provision of recreation opportunities across the Shire, as presented in *Volume 2: Issues Paper*) are:

- refining **Council's role** in recreation in context of available funds
- meeting **increased and changing demand**
- creating a **diversity of aquatic** opportunities
- enhancing provision for **cycling and walking**
- **creating better access to** – and availability of – recreation facilities
- **marketing, and better** distribution of information
- enhancing the **condition of facilities** and experiences,
- and **prioritising infrastructure** developments

Details about these key challenges were provided as part of the *Issues Paper (Volume 2)* presented to staff, stakeholders and the community in June/July 2007. Key strategies for action have been developed to address each of the key challenges identified.

A priority capital works plan for recreation infrastructure (by township) has also been prepared, it is provided in **Appendix 2** of this Plan.

## 2. Recreation service principles

The following principles address the challenges, issues and context in which recreation services are to be delivered across the Indigo Shire.

### Encouraging participation

- Council will promote the benefits of healthy lifestyles and life long participation in physical and social recreation activities, as well as advocate for recreation activity as a means of personal development, community building, and to foster social connections and a sense of place.
- Council will provide infrastructure and information about available opportunities, as well as support community groups, schools and clubs to encourage participation in physical and social recreation activities.
- Council will increase the likelihood of currently marginalised groups participating, by overcoming physical and attitudinal barriers that may restrict access to recreational opportunities for older, and less mobile people, and those with a disability.

### Maximising choice and opportunity

- Council will resource marketing and ongoing management of its facilities in order to maximise their value.
- Council's responsibility in recreation is to provide opportunities and choice, particularly where the private sector does not provide them.
- Council will seek to maximise the diversity of opportunities for leisure and recreation experiences that are available to residents by influencing the provision and nature of recreation and sporting facilities, open space and other leisure settings.

### Enhancing sustainability

- Council will work closely with other land managers, schools, community groups, the health sector and private enterprise to deliver integrated, affordable and cost effective services, and promote them to the community and visitors alike.
- Council will support the maintenance and quality provision of facilities throughout the whole facility life-cycle.
- Council will facilitate access to leisure and recreation services and settings by co-location, connectivity with community hubs and provision of off-road trails.
- Leisure and recreation settings should be designed to maximise the range of uses by the widest possible age range, without compromising their primary purpose.
- Council will seek to minimise the consumption of potable water and energy, and maximise opportunities to recycle and reuse water and energy in recreation facilities and infrastructure.

### Maintaining equity

- Council will seek to ensure that leisure services are relatively equitably distributed to serve the largest proportion of the population, including those in rural areas.
- Council will aim to support a similar level of service in settlements of a similar size, based on adoption of a facility/ township hierarchy.
- Council will ensure all recreation services and facilities are inclusive of all people regardless, of age, gender, income, ability or cultural background.
- Council will target those groups who have limited access to recreation due to social disadvantage, stage of the lifecycle, location or other such barriers.

### 3. Strategic framework

This chapter identifies and explains the key focus areas for Council in relation to recreation. Focus areas are:

- 1. Refining Council's role**
- 2. Planning to meet increased demand**
- 3. Diversifying swimming opportunities**
- 4. Encouraging walking and cycling**
- 5. Making recreation accessible**
- 6. Marketing and information**
- 7. Maximising the value of the existing infrastructure**

Issues and opportunities for each focus areas were presented in *Volume 2: Issues Paper*. In this Volume a goal, key strategies and actions are identified as well as Priorities by Township.

### 3.1 Focus areas and goals

FOCUS AREA	GOAL
<b>Refining Council's role</b>	<i>'Encourage participation in physical and social recreation activities through improving the quality of recreation settings, the sharing of information and better management of resources.'</i>
<b>Planning to meet increased demand</b>	<i>'Plan for, and respond to, identified changes in recreation to encourage participation.'</i>
<b>Diversifying swimming opportunities</b>	<i>'Enhance the benefits of existing aquatic facilities by increasing accessibility, functionality and level of service, while focusing on social, family and recreational swimming experiences.'</i>
<b>Encouraging walking and cycling</b>	<i>'Develop and promote an integrated network and hierarchy of trails that increase participation in walking, cycling and horse riding.'</i>
<b>Making recreation accessible</b>	<i>'Provide more conveniently located recreation opportunities by improving and supporting the distribution and accessibility of facilities and services.'</i>
<b>Marketing and information</b>	<i>'Utilise a range of information dissemination and promotion techniques to regularly inform the Indigo community of the recreation opportunities accessible, their value and overall benefits.'</i>
<b>Maximising the value of existing infrastructure</b>	<i>'Increase the benefits of community sport and recreation through supporting and enhancing the quality, flexibility and viability of existing facilities.'</i>

## 4. Refining Council's role

### The issue

Council's core business, in terms of sport and recreation, is to provide the necessary leadership, settings and opportunities that result in specific benefits to the community. Council's focus, needs to be on maintaining and developing the community's recreation experiences, as opposed to just its facilities.

As Council's resources are limited, the key roles it plays will be;

- to provide and promote a basic level of community infrastructure;
- to support community groups to manage facilities and;
- to support sport and recreation clubs and peak bodies to deliver a wide range of activities and competitions.

Assisting, supporting and partnering clubs, groups and community services to deliver recreation activities and programs for the entire community, including targeted services, is an important role (and gap) for Council to fulfil. Greater support and a stronger facilitation role may be a more effective one for Council as a way to improve the management and delivery of recreational opportunities throughout the Shire without increasing costs significantly.

Council is in the best position to utilise its collective knowledge to prioritise key planning and development opportunities and thereby influence community development. Providing leadership, technical planning and design advice, and project management skills to assist shire-wide facility improvement and development will be increasingly important to assist meeting growing demands and expectations of the community.

Informing the community about recreation opportunities was identified as Council's most important role. However, a better understanding of who uses what facilities and when, is required. By shifting emphasis from the provision of facilities, to marketing them and facilitating their use, more opportunities could be offered to more people for the same cost.

Communicating and liaising with peak bodies and recreation providers will also assist Council to understand the specific needs of particular activities and their ongoing requirements.

### The goal: Refining Council's role

***'To encourage participation in physical and social recreation activities through improving the quality of recreation settings, the sharing of information, and the management of resources.'***

## Priorities: Refining Council's role

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Three key areas for Council's focus have been identified and prioritised by asking three key questions:

- how do we address the areas of greatest need?
- how do we increase participation in sport and recreation?
- how do we achieve results within tight budgetary constraints?

Council's role for the life of this Plan should focus on:

- **Promoting existing opportunities and their value;**

through a greater focus on marketing and the collection, distribution and interpretation of information about recreation opportunities.

- **Getting better value from existing infrastructure**

by providing strong leadership in planning and design processes, by replacing or renewing ageing infrastructure, by supporting clubs and committees and by ensuring facilities offer multi-use opportunities, thus maximising use and opportunities for sharing.

- **Facilitating walking and cycling**

through supporting development of an expanded network of trails and path circuits and providing connections to major rail trails and townships.

## Key strategies: Refining Council's role

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The following strategies are recommended for implementation in order to help guide Council's future role and support of community recreation. Corresponding actions for each strategy are provided in the Action Plan, located in Appendix 1.

1. **Refine Council's focus for recreation.**
2. **Adopt the proposed shire-wide approach and framework to the provision and support for recreation, before focusing on individual township needs.**
3. **Support and encourage better utilisation and improvement of existing facilities before investing in new ones.**
4. **Provide additional recreation planning input into land use planning.**
5. **Facilitate the service delivery planning and communication with schools, state government and land management agencies, community groups, sports clubs and private partners.**
6. **Ensure sports facilities are planned and designed to be viable and sustainable in the long-term (eg support a preparation of a Hockey Facility Feasibility Study for Beechworth)**

## 5. Planning to meet increased demand

### The issues

#### Demand for activities

Demand estimates prepared for this project are based on regional and state participation<sup>7</sup>. Data suggests that walking, swimming, cycling (road), aerobics/fitness, golf, tennis, fishing and bush walking are the physical activities likely to be most in demand in the future – and this was confirmed in responses to the *2006 Householder Survey*. Additionally, netball and lawn bowls were also reported as being popular activities locally.

Walking remains the activity that the largest number of people likely to participate in by 2021, with over 6,159 people or 43% of the Shires population expected to walk. An increase in walking is expected given the significant projected ageing of the population. Similarly, golf, swimming and aerobic/fitness activities are shown to be in high demand, whilst the participation rates of club competition and higher impact sports (eg. Australian Rules football and running) are shown to be decreasing.

Cycling and skateboarding/ rollerblading were the activities identified to be in most demand by children between the ages of 5 and 14. However, the overall size of the market for organised sport, leisure and recreation activities for children is projected to decline as the population ages.<sup>8</sup> However, of the main sporting activities undertaken, swimming, soccer, Australian Rules football, tennis and basketball are shown to have the highest likely number of participants.

Activities (identified from the householder survey) that people would like to do (but currently did not) include *swimming, cycling (road), gym/fitness, yoga, fishing, golf and walking*. The future demand for swimming was more than twice that of the next most popular activity (9.5% for swimming, to 4.7% for cycling).

When asked what would encourage people to participate in these activities, respondents nominated *conveniently located facilities and more information about what is on and where*.

#### Changing demand

Analysis of research and community survey data highlighted a number of key changes in recreation activity demand and participation. Significant growth from 1997 was identified in *walking, swimming and cycling*, and to a lesser extent, *lawn bowls*. A decline in participation was observed in *tennis, golf and fishing*.

Participation and demand for recreation activities can often be a reflection of the quality and supply of available facilities. In the case of tennis and golf facilities, there are a number of quality issues associated with facilities provided across the Shire. Drought may have affected participation in fishing.

The changing age structure of the Indigo Shire residential population will have a significant impact on future community sport and recreation needs. With older adults staying physically active later in life, demand for community based gymnasium, exercise and physical activity programs is likely to grow. Opportunities to walk, swim, fish and play tennis and lawn bowls will become increasingly important to serve demand from the older adult population.

<sup>7</sup> Estimates prepared for this study are provided in Volumes 2 and 3 of the Indigo Shire Recreation Plan.

<sup>8</sup> Statistics used are based on available national participation rates and local trends.

## The goal: Planning to meet demand

***'To encourage participation by planning for, and responding to, identified changes in recreation.'***

## Key strategies: Planning to meet demand

The following strategies are recommended to help guide Council's response to changes in recreation demand. Corresponding actions for each strategy are provided in the Action Plan in Appendix 1.

7. **Periodically replicate the 2006 Recreation Plan Householder Survey to a random sample of households.**
8. **Monitor changes in sport, demographics and environmental conditions.**
9. **Respond to identified changes in recreation demand and participation.**
10. **Partner community groups, community service providers and private partners to support the delivery of recreation and physical activity opportunities to target population groups (eg. older adults).**

## 6. Diversifying swimming opportunities

### The issues

The Indigo Shire owns and operates five outdoor swimming pools, located in the townships of Beechworth, Chiltern, Rutherglen, Tangambalanga and Yackandandah. Swimming pools are highly valued by their local communities and were identified as *the second most important recreational service or facility in the Shire* (after support for local community groups and clubs).

'Swimming' was the second most participated recreation activity (identified from the householder survey, by 19% of residents). Significant unmet demand for swimming was also identified. An estimated 1,516 additional residents of the Shire 'want to swim' in the future. Demand for swimming opportunities was greatest in the townships of Barnawartha and Wahgunyah, where there are currently no local public swimming pools.

When asked what would encourage them to swim, both male and female respondents nominated '*facilities conveniently located*' (including 60% that indicated that would like to swim indoors), *provide better quality facilities, availability of suitable programs/classes, information about what is available and where and scheduling of activities at more convenient times.*

### Indoor swimming opportunities

There are no indoor or heated swimming pools located in the Shire. The closest facilities are located in Wodonga and Wangaratta.<sup>9</sup> Council does not believe it is able to meet the demand for additional or indoor swimming facilities in the Shire within current budget constraints and existing rate base, particularly in the immediate future.

Demand for new and indoor facilities is equally spread between a number of townships and determining its potential location will be problematic. Even if Council were able to fund one additional facility, it would not meet demand in other places.

It would be unlikely that Council could provide a facility that would adequately compete with other existing regional facilities in surrounding municipalities that are already used by Indigo residents (eg Wodonga, Wangaratta).

### Improvements to existing facilities

Significant steps have been made over the past 10 years (following the 1997 Recreation Plan) to provide better swimming facilities across the Shire, with a suite of improvement works being carried out on swimming pool support facilities and amenities.

Since these facility improvements, swimming pools have seen a 15% increase in attendances. Without providing new facilities, there are opportunities for Council to provide further improvements in a number of different areas. The householder survey respondents identified swimming pools as the *'highest priority'* of all recreation services for improvement, should funds be available.

The most likely and achievable improvements Council could make include provision of hot showers, increased accessibility of facilities (including water space), extended operating hours, heating of pools (or consider the part-enclosure of one or more pools<sup>10</sup>), and extending marketing and programs and classes available.

The analysis of pool attendance and financial data has indicated that each pool serves relatively different markets, with attendance levels and financial performance varying greatly at each. Further analysis of usage and feedback data would be helpful: to know why people come (or don't continue to use swimming pools), what they like and what they buy. Additionally, some management performance benchmarks would enable Council to compare pools over time and to assist in the prioritisation of future improvements between pools.

### The goal: Diversifying swimming opportunities

***'To enhance the benefits of existing aquatic facilities by increasing accessibility, functionality and level of service, while focusing on social, family and recreational swimming experiences.'***

<sup>9</sup> The Beechworth swimming pool has previously been solar heated, however at the time of writing the solar system had failed and required replacement.

<sup>10</sup> Such as undertaken at Toora in South Gippsland.

## Key strategies: Diversifying swimming opportunities

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The following strategies are recommended in order to help diversify Council's future provision of swimming services and infrastructure. Corresponding actions for each strategy are provided in the Action Plan, located in Appendix 1.

11. **Address the provision and condition of swimming infrastructure to enhance its accessibility and functionality.**
12. **Diversify the range of aquatic opportunities and enhance standards of service provided.**
13. **Enhance the promotion and marketing of existing swimming pools and their services and programs.**

## 7. Encouraging walking and cycling

### The issues

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An increase in people walking and cycling has many potential health, social and community benefits. Walking and cycling are highly accessible to the majority of the community, are affordable and should remain a focus for Council.

An estimated one third (or 5,000 people) of the Indigo Shire population *'regularly walk'* for recreation. Much of this is likely to occur with dogs. A further 18% (or estimated 2,688 people) indicated that they *'cycle'* for recreation. An additional 7% of the local population also identified *'bush walking'* as a regular recreation activity.

### Facilitating trail activities

*'Bicycle paths/ walking trails'* were identified as the 2<sup>nd</sup> most commonly used facilities across the Shire, after *'lakes and riverside parks'*.

The *'provision of more cycling tracks, paths or trails'* was listed as the main opportunity that would enhance and encourage more people to cycle. *'Making cycling trails safer and providing additional signage'* was also identified as a way to improve sport and recreational facilities in the Shire.

*Survey respondents identified 'Cycling paths and trails'*, as the second highest priority for a recreational service or facility.

### Mountain biking

There is a well-developed cycling movement in Indigo, particularly in mountain biking and off-road trail riding, with some well established networks already existing. Householder survey responses from Beechworth and Yackandandah returned above Shire average participation rates in cycling, which may reflect the strength of the movement and the provision of off-road trails in these areas.

Further community consultation identified the need to have cycle paths (in particular mountain bike trails) formalised so more people know about them and could access them.

### **On-road cycling**

The householder survey identified unmet demand for on-road cycling. Of all males who indicated that they *'would like to do a recreational activity they don't currently do'*, more wanted to *'cycle (on-road)'* than all other activities, with the exception of swimming. Female respondents identified *'cycling (on-road)'* as their third preference after *'swimming'* and *'gym/fitness'* activities.

Council could encourage more people to cycle through the *'provision of better quality facilities, more conveniently located'*. *'Having someone to go or participate with'* was also identified as an influence on whether people chose to walk or cycle. Council may wish to consider enhancing existing road verges, and nominating, improving and line marking roads that connect major townships in-line with future asset management strategies to better support the safety of on-road cycling.

### **The hierarchy of trails**

The key challenge for Council is to be able to meet the demand for the wide range of different path based activities, that all have slightly different requirements. The further development and expansion of an integrated shared trail network throughout the Shire would help to satisfy the majority of demand for cycling, as well as horse riding. Whereas, the provision of township circuit and perimeter pathways around the major recreation reserve may assist to further encourage more people to walk, more often.

The development of a trail hierarchy that connects into the regional trail network, as well as provides opportunities to meet local and visitor demand by extending the rail trail network and filling in any gaps would be desirable. Consideration should be given to all possible links from townships to existing adjacent rail trails, and creating circuits for people to take that add interest and encourage social behaviour.

The householder survey also identified high participation by females in *'horse riding'*. The integration of shared and/or riding trails in any hierarchy would encourage participation in local riding activities.

### **The goal: Encouraging cycling and walking**

***'Develop and promote an integrated network and hierarchy of trails that enhances participation in walking, cycling and horse riding.'***

### **Key strategies: Encouraging cycling and walking**

The following strategies are recommended in order to assist Council to better provide and enhance opportunities to cycle and walk. Corresponding actions for each strategy are provided in the Action Plan, located in Appendix 1.

14. **Create a hierarchy of off-road tracks and trails to better serve walking, cycling and horse riding activities.**
15. **Expand the network of trails by developing additional circuits and perimeter pathways.**
16. **Update the Shire Bicycle Plan and investigate opportunities to provide better and safer on-road and off-road cycling routes to meet changes and increases in demand.**
17. **Provide additional legitimate places to ride mountain bikes (MTB).**
18. **Continue to support the use, development and promotion of major and regional rail trails throughout the Shire.**
19. **Support and promote local Bicycle User Groups and cycle clubs to encourage greater social participation in regular cycling activities.**

## 8. Making recreation accessible

### The issues

#### Convenient location of facilities and services

Convenience is a major factor determining whether people use facilities, but so is quality. When asked *'what would enable or encourage residents to do activities that they would like to do'*, the most frequent response was provide *'facilities conveniently located'*.

Local communities build strong links within individual townships. However, equitable provision of facilities between townships in large Shires is a challenge due to the expectations relating to quality. To provide more facilities close to all residents with the same budget means facilities need to be a lower standard. Most people prefer to use local facilities and therefore there is often demand to provide the same suite of recreation facilities in each major township.

In each key population centre a base level of recreation and facilities should be provided, over and above which communities can resource themselves. Where particular communities can find the resources to provide a higher level of service, Council should, where possible, support their initiatives.

#### Ability to get to an opportunity

Commonly, participation in recreation and sporting activities is constrained for those that cannot easily get to facilities and programs (eg. families with young children, schools, people with disabilities, older adults etc).

School and community groups identified accessibility to be an issue for young people within the Indigo Shire. Cost of transportation, distances that need to be travelled to get to sports facilities and the variety of sports within close proximity were also issues.

Access to skate facilities was raised in the consultation for this project. In small communities, the low number of young people makes it difficult to fund substantial skate facilities and to generate high use that creates the energy and atmosphere that makes them successful.

The settlement pattern of the Shire means the majority of residents travel some distance to access a full range of recreation facilities. As with many rural municipalities, there is a lack of public transport between Indigo townships and connections to the larger transport hubs of Wangaratta and Wodonga. Limited accessible transport has the greatest impact on younger people as they are mostly reliant on transport systems and parental support to access recreation opportunities.

Council may be in the position to influence or enhance existing transport opportunities, and create new partnerships to assist community and sporting groups to regularly and affordably access community transport options.

Additionally, to serve the greatest number of residents and enhance convenient access, it would be desirable for Council to continue to provide major recreation facilities in key townships. Opportunities to extend and promote greater use of facilities, including offering transport alternatives and flexible scheduling (ie. around school times) may enable a greater number of the Indigo population to engage in recreation activity.

#### Physical access to facilities and infrastructure

The accessibility of many Shire recreation assets and facilities is poor, predominately due to their age. When asked about what recreation facilities and services should be a priority, household survey respondents mostly said *'more accessible toilets'*, *'better wheelchair access to community areas'* and *'better recreation opportunities for people with a disability'*. Limited understanding and knowledge of disability issues was also raised.

All future recreation facility or building improvements and upgrades, as well as new facilities will need to recognise accessible planning and design and meet current building codes and Australian Standards for accessibility.

Benefits may be achieved through enhancing or expanding the role and partnership opportunities for Indigo's Disability Advisory Committee (IDAC) to include advice and research regarding future provision of recreation services.

### **The goal: Making recreation accessible**

***'Make recreation opportunities more convenient by improving and supporting the distribution and accessibility of facilities and services.'***

### **Key strategies: Making recreation accessible**

The following strategies are recommended for implementation in order to make recreation activities more accessible to the Indigo community and visitors. Corresponding actions for each strategy are provided in the Action Plan, located in Appendix 1.

20. **Seek to establish a hierarchy of facility provision that is closely matched to viability issues surrounding smaller population centres.**
21. **Review accessibility of existing community facilities and key parks and recreation reserves.**
22. **Improve Council's knowledge about, and demand and requirements for, recreation activities from people with a disability.**
23. **Investigate options for improving community transport connections between townships to reduce pressure on Council to provide new facilities in all population centres.**

## 9. Marketing and information

### The issues

#### Knowing what to promote

The range of sport and recreation activities that Indigo Shire residents participate in is extensive. Some 100+ different activities were identified through the householder survey, from traditional team sports through to 'gardening with friends'. However, recreation in regional areas is traditionally strong in only a core group of regular activities that residents participate in. Diversity of opportunities could be better achieved if residents knew *where and how they could participate* in other activities.

#### Council's role is to promote choice

The collection, distribution and promotion of information are vital roles of local government. Councils are in the best position to monitor and use information to plan for the benefit of the local community.

Gaps were reported between Council's current level of information service provision and the community's perception of what services are important.

Council can make recreation choices 'easy' for people through developing and coordinating regular reporting mechanisms Shire-wide, and better promote *'what recreation activities are available and where'*.

Additionally, information regarding funding grants and assistance in applying for funding was identified as an area where Council could provide better service in.

As Council does not directly provide programs available in the Shire, an important role is to identify available programs, activities and services and promote them widely.

If knowledge of existing recreation services and facilities, and the clubs and organisations that operate them are accurate, centralised and regularly updated, information can be used as an effective tool to market available opportunities.

Council's existing community facilities (eg. libraries, community buildings, swimming pools, information and transaction centres) could work closely to devise information that targets different types of clients and develop information hubs where relevant local and regional information could be sourced – and local facilities and programs promoted.

#### Communication and information management

Keeping up regular dialogue with all recreation stakeholders is vitally important for Council and maintaining accurate records of contacts (both hard copy and electronically) is always a challenge.

An up-to-date community directory and a map and inventory of recreation opportunities, open spaces, trails and facilities (and characteristics which make them relevant for specific groups) would assist with future planning, with answering public enquiries, and with marketing of recreation, both within and outside the Shire. The use of electronic and website promotion will be important in informing visitors to the Shire of what is available and where.

Sport and recreation clubs and groups said they *'would like more opportunities to meet with others of a similar nature'*, and to meet with Council to share information and to discuss issues and ideas. In turn, Council is in a good position to facilitate more dialogue with, and between, stakeholders and peak bodies. A series of regular and/or activity specific networking opportunities would be desirable and could be coordinated through existing networks (ie. the Regional Sports Assembly).

Additionally, signage plays an important role in creating an image and conveying information, including warnings and advice about conditions of use. Most reserves would benefit from improved signage.

## The goal: Promoting recreation opportunities

***‘Utilise a range of information dissemination and promotion techniques to regularly inform the Indigo community of the recreation opportunities accessible, their value and overall benefits.’***

## Key strategies: Promoting recreation opportunities

The following strategies are recommended to better promote available recreation opportunities. Corresponding actions for each strategy are provided in the Action Plan, located in Appendix 1.

24. **Utilise a range of media and information distribution channels to promote Shire-wide recreation opportunities.**
25. **Update the Shire website to better promote recreation opportunities and available information.**
26. **Develop an annual calendar of networking opportunities for recreation providers with existing providers and peak bodies.**
27. **Prepare an inventory of recreation facilities, groups and activities – publish it and regularly update it – in order to promote opportunities more widely.**
28. **Utilise existing Council networks to promote and distribute recreation related information to visitors and residents.**
29. **Continue to improve design and consistency of signage at recreation reserves and facilities, and trail routes.**

## 10. Maximising the value of existing infrastructure

### The issues

A review of the Shire’s facilities and infrastructure identified a range of issues that will ultimately impact and constrain existing infrastructure to meet changing community needs, be flexible in their use and to keep pace with increasing player and participant expectations.

### Infrastructure quality

An aging stock of recreation assets in the Indigo Shire and limited resources to develop new and improve existing facilities, is an ongoing challenge. Cyclic maintenance and facility improvement programs, as well as an integrated process controlled by Recreation (in conjunction with Asset Management) would enhance club and facility sustainability, viability and relevance to the population they serve.

### Facility planning and design

Maximising use and viability of community recreation facilities should be an achievable goal for Council. If Council were to take a stronger leadership role, provide technical planning and design advice and continue to provide project management skills there could be fewer separate buildings, more co-location and sharing, design for multiple use, and enhanced planning, and quality design.

Providing specialist recreation advice in future land use planning of new residential areas, and ensuring appropriate demand and feasibility assessments are conducted for the development of new facilities will also provide ongoing benefits to Council.

Capacity of sporting facilities to meet community demands are often constrained by facilities not meeting minimum peak body guidelines and requirements.

When new, improved or expanded facilities are being planned, it would be desirable for Council to ensure they meet at least club competition standards, in order to maximise their use and avoid the need for duplication in the future (an example of this is netball court run-off requirements).

## **Management, funding and support**

### **The Assets Maintenance Program**

Council has transferred direct management control over many recreation facilities located on Council owned land (particularly recreation reserves), to Committee's of Management. There is also a significant number of recreational facilities in the Shire located on Crown Land, managed by a state government controlled Committee of Management.

Council has an Assets Maintenance Program that assists some eight five Committees to look after community assets: many of which are buildings of a recreational nature. The cost of this program to Council in 2007/08, was in order of \$110,000. For these funds, Council, the community and facility users, receive considerable benefits in the way of opportunities, and social capital. Committees also contribute considerable volunteer hours.

The Assets Maintenance Program budget, in some cases, is no longer adequate to enable Committees to maintain facilities at a consistent standard and effectively over the life of assets, let alone address pressing issues such as lack of water, risk management and additional regulatory and sporting code requirements, aging infrastructure and senescing trees. Few Committees have substantive income streams and yet Committees are often being required to make capital contributions to facility upgrades.

The consultation for this project found Committee's of Management and tenant clubs / groups are required to make major contributions to the management, maintenance and replacement of community facilities, particularly sporting grounds and pavilions, which they say is often difficult. Committees generally feel they need more support to control use, management and financial operation of facilities.

Whilst it is recognised that Council does not have substantial additional funds to contribute to capital works and asset management projects, greater investment (and provision through the Capital Works Budget) will need to be made in order to retain and adequately maintain existing facilities throughout their life and to invest in major capital improvement projects to serve new needs.

It is suggested that funds distributed through the Assets Maintenance Program should be increased by 7% annually for the next five years until this Plan is reviewed.

The Assets Maintenance Program funds are currently allocated using the following criteria:

- A Base Allocation  
(based on whether the facility is a recreation reserve and includes an oval, or whether it is just a building, and if it is a Council committee)
- Whether the Building Inspection was paid for by the Committee
- Other Council Funding provided
- Ability to generate user fees
- Facility size
- The Facility's Condition/Age
- Access to other Funding Sources
- Identified Risk Management Issues
- Whether a Strategic Plan is in Place
- If Heritage Listed
- User Numbers
- Other Special Considerations

These may well still be considerations taken in adjusting the fee on a case-by-case basis however not all this information is available, and the program could be simplified, and made more consistent with the objectives of this Plan by adding qualifiers, and providing incentives for a Committee to address current issues. With refinements, the program could include: 1. **Base allocation, 2. Operational funding, and Incentives.**

**1. Base allocation** This Base Allocation by type of facility.

This would be based on: a) whether the facility is a multiple facility recreation reserve and includes an oval, or b) it is just a building eg hall, and the scale.

The highest allocation is currently \$1500 annually and the lowest \$300.

This base allocation should have some **qualifiers** such as:

- facilities need to be open to the general public for hire
- facilities must be useable by more than one club of the same or different codes (except where this is not possible ie for lawn bowls, croquet and golf,)
- sports pavilions must support two or more playing fields and be shared by summer & winter tenants (preferably two clubs per season).
- the Committee should have a business plan
- The Committee needs to keep Council update with information about: use, contact details, and how the money is being spent.

Where these things are not in place Council could assist the Committee to attain these qualifications.

2. **Operational funding**; the level of funding could be dependent on the reserve's classification, (ie local, township or district) and the hierarchy of the settlement type in which the reserve is located (rural settlement, township, district).
  - A reserve of **district** significance for example- (which will have larger facilities, serve a larger number of people from a wider catchment, and be expected to be maintained to a higher standard) will be provided a higher grant, than a local facility in a rural settlement.
3. **Incentives**: These relate to funding policy principles and priorities in this Plan.

Additional funds will be provided where a Committee initiates service enhancements or minor projects that:

- ➔ Enhance accessibility
- ➔ Encourage older people or wider range of people to participate
- ➔ Are marketing and information initiatives (including signage)
- ➔ Encourage walking/ cycling
- ➔ Increase utilisation of the facility, number of users or length of season
- ➔ Address water / energy saving/harvesting/recycling objectives

The current Indigo Management System Asset Management Policy is largely still relevant, however some additional objectives could be included to link these, with the findings of this Plan.

These minor adjustments to the annual funding of Committee's of Management and the maintenance of Council's recreation assets would be desirable. These could be phased in. One-off incentive payments over and above the existing base allocation could be introduced, with assistance to clubs to be able to meet to the other qualifiers. This will ensure that existing Committees are not penalised.

The provision of additional incentives through the Asset Maintenance Program may assist Council to prioritise funds in areas that support the implementation of this Plan and its guiding principles, and greater consistency between Capital Works and Community Grants funding. Appendix 2 provides the basis for prioritising actions on a township basis. The criteria are based on principles in this Plan. Appendix 3 provides a provisional *Sports Infrastructure Policy* and criteria clarifying funding qualifiers.

### Council's Community Grants

These grants are currently not for capital works. However, they may be the most appropriate form of funding for small infrastructure projects on local reserves.

Eligibility for different grant programs could be determined based on the classification of the reserve or facility. For example local facilities may be more suited for Council's Community Grants whilst capital works in township or district level facilities may be more suited to state government minor and major facility programs.

Supporting local community groups and clubs with funding and grant assistance should be a continued role of Council, as well as providing assistance to project manage projects that receive such funding.

Council also have a responsibility to maximise the value of grant funding available and a more focussed approach towards shared community facilities may help to better align applications with State and Federal Government policy.

Indigo's Community Grant Scheme is highly valued (but not necessarily understood by all) organisations in the Shire. Refinements would now be beneficial, especially to the guidelines about community grants and asset maintenance funding programs. Guidelines on community grants, the Asset Maintenance Program, and annual state government grants would be valuable to cover in the one guide. These should address:

- Need for demand information and follow up reports
- Who can get a loan for what?
- What amounts can clubs get for assets maintenance?
- What are clubs/ committees responsible for, after they have the grant
- Need for a policy about maximum amounts

An annual review to more actively prioritise capital works programs, target priority groups and projects, and importantly implement the findings of this Plan would be beneficial.

### **Prioritising infrastructure developments**

The *Issues Paper (Volume 2)* prepared for this Plan identified key recreation facilities and infrastructure as priority or focus areas for Council. They include:

- indoor multi-use sports courts
- recreation reserves and sporting grounds
- skate and BMX facilities
- golf courses
- outdoor sports courts (tennis and netball).

### **Indoor multi-use sports courts**

There is a limited range and variety of dedicated indoor sports courts available across the Shire, with single multi-purpose courts only provided in Rutherglen and Beechworth. The existing provision of indoor sporting facilities was identified by householder survey respondents as *'the least well provided recreation facility / service'* by Council, as well as providing *'the greatest gap between their importance and provision'*.

There are many community benefits to be achieved through the provision of indoor facilities, particularly given an aging population. The increase in demand for social sports, increasing need for indoor training, and to accommodate weather conditions are all benefits of indoor facilities. Additionally, an increased range of sporting and recreational activities can be achieved through multi-use facilities at a reasonable cost to Council and the community.

Future proposals for the upgrade of community centres, halls and sports pavilions should consider multiple sports and physical activity uses, and the benefits of potential income from these. Opportunities to develop facilities with partners especially schools should be pursued as a priority, to ensure daytime and evening use.

### **Recreation reserves and sporting grounds**

Indigo has a number of large sporting grounds, reserves and recreation precincts, predominately serving the traditional sports of Australian Rules football, cricket, netball and tennis.

In most cases, sports grounds have considerable support facilities and pavilions catering for a range of sporting groups. Many of these have been built incrementally, are now ageing and are either functionally obsolete or in the need of major refurbishment to bring them up to required standards.

An injection of funds will be required to bring sporting assets in-line to address issues of quality and risk management and to meet increasing peak body requirements and increasing player and community expectations. Council's investment will need to be prioritised, as demand for all improvements cannot be met in the short to medium term. Appendix 2 provides priorities for pavilion development and improvement. However, the greatest demand and need is to address existing infrastructure at the Yackandandah Sports Park, Barnawartha Recreation Reserve and Baamutha Park (in Beechworth).

Development or expansion of existing recreation reserves to accommodate secondary sports playing fields should be considered wherever demand for new ovals exists. Consolidated development will assist to expand the range of opportunities on the one site and in the longer-term; club viability. Limited funds and constraints (such as water restrictions) may provide an incentive for clubs to consider greater co-location, sharing and joint developments. Significant opportunities also exist for Council to support and promote more water reuse and recycling initiatives to further assist club and ground sustainability.

A number of townships have single use grounds (ie. one for Australian Rules football and one for cricket). The promotion of the benefits of ground sharing, particularly in terms of future resource allocation and club viability could be enhanced by Council, with the targeting of specific reserves for priority support and development.

Lack of shade for spectators at sporting grounds, as well as netball and tennis courts was observed from site inspections conducted by consultants. In almost all cases, spectator seating was well provided around playing areas, however with very limited natural or permanent shade structures provided.

### **Skate and BMX facilities**

It could be expected that with a large younger person and school aged population across the Shire, that skate and BMX activities will be important activities that younger people will want to do, outside of organised sport and recreation activities. The issues of providing recreation for young people are of concern in most rural areas throughout Victoria, with the main emphasis

on provision in the more traditional and organised sporting activity. Stakeholders are concerned about the lack of transport for young people to get to sport and other activities.

There is limited provision of dedicated facilities for young people. Skate parks are provided in the Shire's main population centres of Beechworth, Yackandandah and Rutherglen. It would be beneficial to develop a strategic skate park development program and devise a specific management program for existing facilities. A greater diversity of elements and some minor additions, as well as improved maintenance, would increase their use. Homemade modifications to skate facilities were observed, which is a general indication that users are looking for more advanced and challenging activities.

Council does not provide, manage or maintain any purpose built BMX tracks or facilities. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the community build and use tracks and dirt jump facilities that they construct themselves. At the time of writing, Council were facilitating the planning process for the development of a BMX facility in Chiltern.

Continued support for this project is encouraged, and it would be desirable for Council to use as a pilot project and monitor the success of its outcomes, with a view to replicating projects in other key townships where future demand exists.

The location and siting of BMX facilities is critical to their use and success. In all instances, suitable sites should be evaluated involving community and user input. Where possible, they should meet criteria that may include; a high level of visibility, is easily accessible from the main town centre, co-located within a recreation or community precinct, makes better use of existing land area and is ideally constructed on public land that is not subject to inundation. Consideration should be given to the Chiltern Recreation Reserve as a potential site.

## Golf courses

There are five golf courses provided in the Indigo Shire, based in the main townships of Beechworth (18 holes), Rutherglen (18), Chiltern (9), Yackandandah (9) and Barnawartha (9). All courses vary in quality and consultation with clubs suggested that facilities were *'currently adequate to serve the majority of club / player needs'*.

Golf was listed in the top 10 recreational activities that people would like to do, but currently did not. Householder survey respondents identified the following things that would encourage them to play golf; *'provide better quality facilities'*, *'information about what is available and where'* and *'availability of suitable programs/ classes'*.

There is no golf course located in the Indigo Shire with grass greens (all are sand-scrape greens), which is likely to negatively impact on use, membership and the ability to attract new players from outside or near the Shire boundary.

Householder survey responses highlighted a low use of golf courses located within the Shire, compared with the strong reported participation rates.<sup>11</sup> This would indicate a significant proportion of golfers playing outside the Indigo Shire.

The localised nature of golf courses provides a township culture of provision and limits the need for players to travel. However, ultimately the quality of experience that can be provided will affect the long-term participation in golf. It would be desirable for Council to focus their support towards the continued support and promotion of existing golf courses, and their activities and programs, to better service the community and to maintain current strong levels of participation. Private partners, where possible, should be sought by the golfing community to improve and enhance facilities.

Council may also wish to seek partnership support from golf's peak bodies and associated coaching networks to offer a greater range of instruction and coaching programs for residents and schools.

## Outdoor sports courts

The traditional sports of tennis and netball are vital to recreation provision in rural areas, and in most cases throughout the Shire, they are well provided (in terms of number and location). However, despite the high level of outdoor court provision, there are significant issues in the range and quality of courts provided. Many are in need of improvement and resurfacing.

Council, in conjunction with local football / netball clubs have begun implementing programmed improvement of netball courts, with funding provided through Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) grant programs. However, at the time of writing, no such program existed for the provision and upgrading of tennis courts, either by Council or the sports peak body.

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<sup>11</sup> Local participation in golf is high, with 11% participation identified through the householder survey, and golf was the fourth most regularly participated activity overall, after *'walking'*, *'swimming'* and *'cycling'*.

In a few examples observed through site inspections (eg. Barkly Park, Rutherglen), the quality of court resurfacing has been an issue for some recent netball court upgrades, with some surfaces failing to meet expected standards. It would be desirable for Council to liaise with – and seek technical advice from – peak netball and tennis bodies when considering the provision of new or replacement surfaces, taking into account levels of estimated use, life-cycle costs and issues of local climate etc.

Council could assist clubs and Committee’s of Management with design input, project management and final contract supervision / sign-off for all surface works projects to ensure sustainability and quality of works.

**Tennis facilities**

Participation in tennis is relatively strong across the Shire and is consistent with other regional and state-wide participation rates. However, a significant decline in participation has been identified since the development of the 1997 *Recreation Plan*. Much of the decline in tennis has been attributed to ‘the deterioration of facilities’ and ‘competing demands for people’s family and recreation time’. Tennis was not listed in the top 10 activities that survey respondents would like to do, however a small percentage (2%) of males aged 35+ said they would like to play tennis, should ‘better facilities be provided’.

Player preferences towards night tennis pose future opportunities for Council and clubs to capitalise on, however significant and targeted investment into floodlighting infrastructure will be required.

It would be desirable for Council to develop a hierarchy of tennis facilities to assist in their future use, management, planning and development / improvement, and to help develop the sport. A hierarchy may assist with prioritising facility improvements where courts are located within close proximity to schools or within major sporting precincts. Council may also wish to encourage and support a basic level of tennis provision (ie. one or two court / multi-sport facilities) in smaller rural areas to encourage participation in a range of different activities.

A shire-wide tennis facility hierarchy could consider the elements of provision detailed in the table below. No regional level facilities have been

recommended, as it is expected that tennis facilities in Albury / Wodonga and Wangaratta would be better placed to serve regional needs.

**Recommended tennis facility hierarchy**

Hierarchy level	Example of basic level of provision
<b>District</b>	4-8 courts (with a quality surface – not asphalt or concrete), all floodlit, access to pavilion/toilet/change facilities, provided in a main population centre, club managed.  Location example: Beechworth, Rutherglen, Chiltern, Yackandandah.
<b>Small township</b>	2-4 courts (any range of surfaces), preferably minimum of 2 floodlit, small shelter, access to toilet / social facilities, club managed or committee of management.  Location example: Wahgunyah, Tangambalanga (Coulston Park), Barnawartha, Chiltern Valley.
<b>Rural settlement</b>	1-2 free access courts (preferably shared or provided in conjunction with multi-use netball or school courts), optional floodlighting, small shelter, access to toilet facilities, school or committee managed.  Location example: Stanley, Wooragee.

### Netball facilities

The majority of netball courts are linked to the local football / netball leagues and club playing fields, with competition facilitated through league fixtures. There is no district or regional level netball complex or competition, and as like tennis, regional level activities would be facilitated in Albury / Wodonga and Wangaratta. Clubs are currently meeting requirements for local competition, although the quality and safety of surfaces at some facilities requires improvement.

Many netball court upgrades have been recently funded by Local and State Government sources including courts at Rutherglen (including floodlighting), Wahgunyah and Chiltern.

It would be desirable for Council to continue to support and implement a programmed replacement of netball court surfaces (seeking grant funding from SRV), and prioritising those with strong football and community partnerships. Appendix 2 provides a priority plan for netball court improvements.

### The goal: Maximising the value of infrastructure

***'Increase the benefits of community sport and recreation through supporting and enhancing the quality, flexibility and viability of existing facilities.'***

### Key strategies: Maximising the value of infrastructure

The following strategies are recommended for implementation in order to help guide Council's future support and provision of recreation infrastructure. Corresponding actions for each strategy are provided in the Action Plan, located in Appendix 1.

30. **Align the Community Grants Program to match infrastructure recommendations and priorities detailed within this Plan (and 10-year capital works program in Appendix 2).**
31. **Encourage greater use of the Community Grants Program by clubs and Committees for business, strategic and facility feasibility planning as well as small capital projects for local facilities**
32. **Redefine (in-line with principles and goals in this Plan- Appendix 3.) Council's role in the provision and support of recreation infrastructure.**
33. **Revise Council's Asset Maintenance Program grant criteria to include a Base allocation, Operational funds, based on a number of qualifiers (such as facility sharing) and incentives based on this Plan's priorities.**
34. **Increase the funds available through the Asset Maintenance Program by 7% per year until this Plan is reviewed.**
35. **Prepare new guidelines for the Asset Maintenance Program, and Community Grants Scheme using Appendix 2 and 3 of this Plan.**

### ■ Key strategies: Prioritising infrastructure developments

The following strategies are recommended to easily prioritise recreation infrastructure development and improvement. Corresponding actions for each strategy are provided in an Action Plan, located in Appendix 1.

36. **Support the provision of at least one viable full-size indoor multi-purpose sports court in each main population centre (ie. Beechworth, Rutherglen and Yackandandah).**
37. **Support developments at recreation reserves that promote sharing, maximise facility use, enhance sustainability and encourage greater community participation.**
38. **Work towards an overall reduction in the demand for potable water at sports grounds and recreation reserves.**
39. **Prepare a strategic skate park development program and devise a specific management program for existing skate facilities.**
40. **Continue to facilitate and support the planning and site selection process for the Chiltern BMX facility.**
41. **Support and promote golf opportunities available within in the Shire.**
42. **Adopt the tennis facility hierarchy, and prepare / assess capital works requests based on it.**
43. **Continue to seek State Government funding to improve the quality of netball courts in the Shire.**

## Appendix 1: Action Plan

Directions and recommendations provided in this Action Plan have been prepared for priority implementation over the next ten years. Priorities are based on financial and resource commitments required, as well as the overall benefit each direction will provide. It should be acknowledged that priorities can change and will be reliant on the availability of funding. The presentation of new or unknown opportunities, or changes in community and club demands, can also affect priorities.

Priorities for Council have been identified and documented by asking three key questions:

- how do we address the areas of greatest need?
- how do we increase participation in sport and recreation?
- how do we achieve results within tight budgetary constraints?

In general terms, the high, medium and low priorities in this Action Plan have been identified, primarily based on their nature and ability for Council to implement.

- **HIGH:** required actions that offer the greatest potential to influence change in community recreation provision.
- **MEDIUM:** actions that generally require partnership facilitation and review of existing practices, as well as design related exercises.
- **LOW:** areas and actions in which Council may have limited control and influence.
- **ONGOING:** actions that require a general shift in Council operations and those that should generally form regular Council Officer activities.

The following tables provide actions for each strategy listed in previous focus area chapters.

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS		PRIORITY
<b>FOCUS AREA 1: Redefining Council's role</b>		
1	<p><b>Redirect Council's focus for recreation towards:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ supporting marketing and information distribution</li> <li>➤ service planning and communicating with partners</li> <li>➤ partnering other providers to manage and maintain recreation facilities</li> <li>➤ matching residents and visitors desire for activities and recreation settings with those available in the Shire</li> </ul>	High
2	<b>Adopt the proposed shire-wide approach and framework to the provision and support for recreation, before focusing on individual township needs.</b>	High
3	<b>Support and encourage better utilisation and improvement of existing facilities before investing in new.</b>	Ongoing
4	<p><b>Provide recreation planning input into land use planning, in particular to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ aid the co-location of services</li> <li>➤ ensure accessible footpaths and off road trails are provided</li> <li>➤ ensure adequate recreation opportunities are planned for in all new residential development</li> </ul>	Ongoing
5	<p><b>Facilitate the service delivery planning and communication with schools, state government and land management agencies, community groups, sports clubs and private partners.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ develop partnerships with education and other service providers (eg. RSA, Community Health Services etc) to assist in the delivery of training programs for sport and community recreation groups</li> </ul>	Medium
6	<p><b>Ensure sports facilities are planned and designed to be viable and sustainable in the long-term. Council's key focus areas should be to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ continue to coordinate the planning, design and project management of local recreation infrastructure development projects (eg Hockey Facility Feasibility Study for Beechworth)</li> <li>➤ facilitate the sharing and multiple use of existing infrastructure to maximise use and reduce long-term management costs for Council and community groups</li> <li>➤ ensure any support is equitable and is consistently monitored</li> <li>➤ assist with identifying and communicating funding opportunities to sporting clubs and community recreation groups</li> <li>➤ undertake the application preparation and submission process for funding grants, where possible and relevant.</li> </ul>	Ongoing

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS		PRIORITY
<b>FOCUS AREA 2: Planning to meet increased demand</b>		
7	<p><b>Replicate the 2006 Recreation Plan Householder Survey to a random resident sample on a periodical basis, and:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ analyse and report on changes in community recreation need and demand</li> <li>➤ identify key trends that may impact on future recreation provision</li> </ul>	High
8	<p><b>Monitor Shire sporting, demographic and environmental change.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ gather activity specific demand information from clubs, leagues, associations, peak bodies etc</li> <li>➤ monitor and review patterns of use in order to better match facilities with users</li> </ul>	Ongoing
9	<p><b>Respond to identified changes in recreation demand and participation.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ prepare annual action plans that cater for the changing recreation market</li> <li>➤ prioritise the support for specific facilities and opportunities that best meet increasing demand (ie. walking and cycling trails)</li> <li>➤ promote and support clubs and groups to better cater for projected increased participation in walking, swimming, cycling (road), aerobics/fitness, golf, tennis, fishing, bush walking, netball and lawn bowls</li> </ul>	Ongoing
10	<p><b>Partner community groups, community service providers and private partners to support the delivery of recreation and physical activity opportunities to target population groups (eg. older adults).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ ensure facilities are developed to promote flexible use and sustainability</li> <li>➤ encourage the shared used of existing community facilities and spaces, and where necessary, evaluate existing management plans and arrangements</li> <li>➤ to assist community groups and providers</li> <li>➤ continue to allocate support funding through Council's Community Grants program</li> </ul>	Medium

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS		PRIORITY
<b>FOCUS AREA 3: Diversifying swimming opportunities</b>		
11	<p><b>Address the provision and condition of swimming infrastructure to enhance its accessibility and functionality. In particular:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ prepare a prioritised capital works program for each swimming pool, identifying improvements that could be made on an incremental basis</li> <li>➤ prioritise the provision of basic service enhancements such as hot water showers, providing accessible amenities and support facilities and increasing the levels of accessibility into water spaces</li> <li>➤ ensure public infrastructure and equipment meets current Australian and Industry Standards</li> <li>➤ prepare and implement a cyclic maintenance program for all pool plant, equipment, pipe work, pumps and filtration infrastructure</li> </ul>	High
12	<p><b>Diversify the range of aquatic opportunities and enhance standards of service provided.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ continue to promote and cater for the recreation, social and family swimming markets at Indigo swimming pools</li> <li>➤ encourage and promote opportunities for competitive swimming through swim clubs and regional swimming centres</li> <li>➤ assist external and/or regional providers to cater for indoor swimming</li> <li>➤ develop a service level agreement that outlines Council's expectations and commitment to swimming pools, their operation and maintenance, and the services offered so as to align with community expectations</li> <li>➤ consider transferring swimming facility operations and management into Council's Health and Well-being department to better assist with customer servicing, enhancing recreation programming, and the dissemination and promotion of relevant swimming pool information</li> <li>➤ continue to collect, analyse and report on swimming pool attendances and financial performance to ensure community expectations are being met</li> <li>➤ consider developing swimming pool membership packaging across all venues</li> <li>➤ explore opportunities to expand or facilitate more programs and classes, and to extend operational hours in conjunction with the addition of heated water</li> <li>➤ promote more opportunities for 'secondary spending' to add value and provide secondary sources of revenue</li> </ul>	High
13	<p><b>Enhance the promotion and marketing of existing swimming pools and their services and programs.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ ensure all swimming pool operational, pricing and program information is advertised through Council's website, regular publications, and visitor and customer service centres</li> <li>➤ develop a schedule of programs, community events and promotional activities at swimming pools to increase attendances</li> </ul>	High

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS		PRIORITY
<b>FOCUS AREA 4: Encouraging walking and cycling</b>		
14	<p><b>Create a hierarchy of off-road tracks and trails to better serve walking, cycling and horse riding activities.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ classify all existing and proposed tracks, trails and pathways in terms of provision, users and catchment</li> <li>➤ develop a hierarchy of tracks, trails and pathways that reflects demand, levels of use, construction type and available resources.</li> <li>➤ consider the benefits and opportunities of developing shared trails suitable for equestrian use as part of any trail hierarchy</li> <li>➤ promote the walking school bus program and support the development of suitable paths and connections to schools.</li> <li>➤ ensure footpaths are provided in any new sub-divisions to enhance mobility where future residential development occurs</li> <li>➤ encourage developers to provide footpaths and linkages into main community hubs and town centres</li> </ul>	High
15	<p><b>Expand the network of trails by developing additional circuits and perimeter pathways.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ develop non-sealed circuit paths along existing waterways and around the perimeter of major recreation reserves/precincts</li> <li>➤ investigate the provision of circuit and perimeter path routes in all future reserve/precinct master plan projects</li> <li>➤ in conjunction with future township development or urban design frameworks, consider planning shared bicycle and walking paths as a major priority</li> <li>➤ partner local Landcare and community groups to identify and develop new trails in local areas</li> <li>➤ ensure Council approves, and is involved in the development and construction of new trails on public land.</li> </ul>	Medium
16	<p><b>Update the Shire Bicycle Plan and investigate opportunities to provide better and safer on-road and off-road cycling routes to meet changes and increases in demand.</b></p>	High
17	<p><b>Provide additional legitimate places to ride mountain bikes (MTB).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ continue to work with land owners and management agencies and MTB riders/clubs to formalise popular riding tracks</li> <li>➤ involve local riders/clubs to assist in the ongoing management of tracks and routes</li> <li>➤ where require, support the provision of additional information and directional signage along popular MTB tracks and routes</li> </ul>	Low

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS		PRIORITY
<b>FOCUS AREA 4: Encouraging walking and cycling ( cont'd)</b>		
18	<p><b>Continue to support the use, development, and promotion of major and regional rail trails throughout the Shire.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ investigate new connections to existing rail trail networks, particularly from key township centres</li> <li>➤ continue to support the funding application process for expansion of the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail section between Wahgunyah and Rutherglen</li> <li>➤ create a Shire promotional brochure (or promote and provide existing) of rail trails, track and trail networks, key shared trails and associated facilities located in the Shire</li> <li>➤ promote all available tracks and trails via Council's visitor information centres and website</li> </ul>	Ongoing
19	<p><b>Support and promote local Bicycle User Groups and cycle clubs to encourage greater social participation in regular activities.</b></p>	Low
<b>FOCUS AREA 5: Making recreation accessible</b>		
20	<p><b>Seek to establish a hierarchy of recreation facility provision that is closely matched to viability issues surrounding smaller population centres.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ where Council cannot provide additional facilities, support local communities to address gaps in recreation facility provision</li> <li>➤ promote available regional centres and facilities and the opportunities they offer in areas where Council cannot provide or support new facilities</li> </ul>	Low
21	<p><b>Review accessibility of existing community facilities and key parks and recreation reserves.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ prepare a prioritised program of improvements in-line with Council's Disability Action Plan</li> <li>➤ plan any new infrastructure to cater for people with a disability</li> <li>➤ design a suite of standard park furniture that is accessible</li> <li>➤ prepare a basic guide to making key elements of parks and paths accessible.</li> </ul>	Low
22	<p><b>Improve Council's knowledge about, and demand and requirements for, recreation activities from people with a disability.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ work closely with the Indigo Disability Advisory Committee (IDAC), the Shire's Rural Access worker and the Regional Sports Assembly to survey clubs and people with a disability to ascertain opportunities for engagement, demand for recreation programs and services, and priorities with respect to making community facilities accessible</li> <li>➤ through the IDAC, create a database of buddies to assist people with a disability or those with mobility constraints to access recreation activities</li> <li>➤ consider likely local organisations and community health networks that could deliver recreation programs to people with a disability, older adults and those that cannot easily access available opportunities</li> </ul>	High

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS		PRIORITY
<b>FOCUS AREA 5: Making recreation accessible (cont'd)</b>		
23	<p><b>Investigate options for improving community transport connections between townships to reduce pressure on Council to provide new facilities in all population centres.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ investigate opportunities to expand Council's community transport scheme to support access to community recreation programs and services</li> <li>➤ support the review of <i>DVCs Transport Connections</i> program</li> <li>➤ consider private enterprise assistance to enhance the provision of community transport options for schools, sporting clubs and others who have restricted access to sport and recreation options</li> </ul>	Low
<b>FOCUS AREA 6: Marketing and information</b>		
24	<p><b>Utilise a range of media and information distribution channels to promote shire-wide recreation opportunities.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ create a standard, regular, shire-wide recreation publication (hard copy or electronic) to promote recreation clubs, activities, events and available community funding packages and opportunities</li> <li>➤ regularly produce recreation marketing and promotional information for publication in a range of media (eg. Council newsletters, local newspaper columns, visitor information brochures, rate notices etc)</li> <li>➤ where possible, target information towards specific population groups (eg. youth, older adults etc) to encourage participation from a broader range of people</li> </ul>	High
25	<p><b>Update the Shire website to better promote recreation opportunities and available information. In particular, provide:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Council's commitment to recreation services, recreation principles and the priorities relating to this Plan</li> <li>➤ a list of sport and recreation clubs and their contact details</li> <li>➤ a list of <b>all</b> recreation facilities (including their features) and the activities and/or services they provide</li> </ul>	High
26	<p><b>Develop an annual calendar of recreation networking opportunities in conjunction with existing providers and peak bodies. The focus of these sessions should be to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ keep in regular contact with local clubs, organisations and peak bodies</li> <li>➤ inform and educate attendees on common and topical recreation issues</li> <li>➤ communicate Council directions and decisions to reduce misinterpreted information</li> <li>➤ market activities to a broader range of people</li> </ul>	Ongoing

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS		PRIORITY
<b>FOCUS AREA 6: Marketing and information (cont'd)</b>		
27	<b>Keep an inventory of recreation facilities (See Appendix 4.) groups and activities up to date – publish and distribute – in order to promote recreation opportunities more widely.</b>	Ongoing
28	<p><b>Utilise existing Council networks to promote and distribute recreation related information to visitors and residents.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ work with Visitor Information Centres and their staff to prepare township maps locating recreation facilities, including trails and spaces available for hire by groups</li> <li>➤ engage in regular dialogue with information centres to ensure feedback and demand for information is monitored and adjusted to cater for resident and visitor needs</li> </ul>	Ongoing
29	<b>Continue to improve design and consistency of signage at recreation reserves and facilities and trail routes.</b>	Low
<b>FOCUS AREA 7: Maximising the value of existing infrastructure</b>		
30	<b>Align the <i>Community Grants Program</i> to match with infrastructure recommendations and priorities detailed within this Plan (and 10-year capital works program in Appendix 2)</b>	Medium
31	<b>Encourage greater use of the <i>Community Grants Program</i> by clubs and committees for business, strategic and facility feasibility planning.</b>	Medium
32	<p><b>Redefine (in-line with principles and goals in this Plan) Council’s role in the provision of recreation infrastructure. In particular, focus resources on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ encouraging and supporting better utilisation and development of existing infrastructure before building new</li> <li>➤ promoting the benefits of shared facilities, and allocate resources to encourage better shared and multi-use</li> <li>➤ leading the future planning and design of recreation facilities</li> <li>➤ assisting committees to consolidate, upgrade, make accessible and replace aging and functionally obsolete facilities</li> <li>➤ assisting facility user groups to review scheduling, management, marketing, maintenance and development of facilities to increase use and enhance viability</li> </ul>	Ongoing

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS		PRIORITY
<b>FOCUS AREA 7: Maximising the value of existing infrastructure (cont'd)</b>		
33	<p><b>Revise Council's Asset Maintenance Program grant criteria to better encourage facility sharing and promote greater equity. Include a Base allocation, Operational funds based on a number of qualifiers (such as facility sharing), and incentives based on this Plan's priorities: For example initiatives that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Enhance accessibility</li> <li>➤ Encourage older people or wider range of people to participate</li> <li>➤ Are marketing and information initiatives (including signage)</li> <li>➤ Encourage walking/ cycling</li> <li>➤ Increase utilisation of the facility, number of users or length of season</li> <li>➤ Address water / energy saving/harvesting/recycling objectives</li> </ul>	High
34	<b>Increase the funds available through the Asset Maintenance Program by 7% per year until this Plan is reviewed.</b>	High
35	<b>Prepare new guidelines for the Asset Maintenance Program, and Community Grants Scheme using Appendix 2 and 3 of this Plan.</b>	High
36	<p><b>Support the provision of at least one viable full-size indoor multi-purpose sports court in each main population centre (ie. Beechworth, Rutherglen and Yackandandah).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ ensure any new courts are large enough to cater for netball and provide a multi-purpose floor surface</li> <li>➤ continue to negotiate with existing providers to maximise 'out of school hours' use for community sport and recreation organisations</li> <li>➤ support the implementation of the <i>Yackandandah Sports Park Master Plan</i> and the preparation of a Business Case for the development and management of an indoor sports court on site</li> <li>➤ consider commencing research and initial planning into the provision on a multi-purpose indoor sports court (or similar facility) in Chiltern and Barnawartha</li> </ul>	Low

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS		PRIORITY
<b>FOCUS AREA 7: Maximising the value of existing infrastructure (cont'd)</b>		
37	<p><b>Support developments at recreation reserves that promote sharing, maximise facility use, enhance sustainability and encourage greater community participation.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ assist reserve committees to develop (and then monitor) seasonal ground allocation and usage agreements</li> <li>➤ increase incentives for committees of reserves to ensure grounds serve both summer and winter sports</li> <li>➤ seek to introduce a combination of structure and planting for shade at all major recreation reserves (particularly those used for summer sports)</li> </ul>	High
38	<p><b>Work towards an overall reduction in the demand for potable water at sports grounds and recreation reserves.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ investigate options for conversion of surfaces to warm season or more drought tolerant grass species</li> <li>➤ support the installation and development of water storage, reuse and recycling initiatives</li> <li>➤ support Committees of Management investigating and implementing programs to access grey water from agriculture or other sources</li> <li>➤ research available grant programs and funding regarding water initiatives and promote to recreation clubs and groups</li> <li>➤ support community funding applications that promote efficient water use initiatives and consider aligning Council's community Grants Program to provide additional support.</li> </ul>	Medium
39	<p><b>Prepare a strategic skate park development program and devise a specific management program for existing skate facilities.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ review maintenance practices and prepare a cyclic program</li> <li>➤ consult with local skaters regarding adding diversity to the range of local skate facilities provided</li> </ul>	Low
40	<p><b>Continue to facilitate and support the planning and site selection process for the Chiltern BMX facility.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ utilise the experience as a pilot project to inform future facilities should demand exist in other townships</li> </ul>	High
41	<p><b>Support and promote golf opportunities available within in the Shire</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ seek partnership support from golf's peak bodies and associated coaching networks to offer a greater range of instruction and coaching programs for residents and school networks</li> <li>➤ support private partners and the golfing community to develop or upgrade existing facilities should an opportunity be presented</li> </ul>	Low

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS		PRIORITY
<b>FOCUS AREA 7: Maximising the value of existing infrastructure (cont'd)</b>		
42	<p><b>Adopt the tennis facility hierarchy, and prepare and assess capital works requests based on it.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ assist tennis clubs with design input, project management and contract supervision / sign-off for all surface and floodlighting improvement works</li> <li>➤ continue to support the relocation of the Beechworth Tennis Club</li> </ul>	Medium
43	<p><b>Continue to support seek State Government funding to improve the quality of netball courts in the Shire.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ assist netball clubs with design input, project management and contract supervision / sign-off for all surface improvement works</li> </ul>	High

## Appendix 2: Priorities by Township (Spreadsheet to be revised annually)

This Appendix is a copy of a spreadsheet designed to annually set priorities for planning and capital works. It shows 2007 priorities. The spreadsheet will be used by Council to formulate its annual Capital Works program budgets.

It provides recommended planning and capital works directions for key townships and their recreation facilities. The table will be reviewed annually. Therefore, priorities may change based on changing community needs, funding opportunities, community support for projects, and new State and Federal Government initiatives.

Priorities have been based on the following set of weighted assessment criteria, with the aim to ensure the greatest benefits can be achieved in the areas of greatest need, both shire-wide and by individual township.

The assessment criteria, and weightings may be reviewed annually and the priorities will be reviewed annually.

### Assessment criteria 2007

Weighted assessment criteria is based on whether each individual project:

- addresses gaps in existing facility provision
- contributes to the provision of shared trail networks
- improves the quality and / or functionality of existing facilities
- focuses on a current asset that is in poor condition
- is undertaken in a location that has a projected residential population increase
- enhances participation in recreation activity
- promotes resource sharing
- is listed in Council's 2007/08 (or subsequent) capital works program
- is already funded or has the possibility of attracting external funding.

### Scoring

The township priority tables following have been designed specifically for this project, with each recommended action being scored a zero, one or two against each assessment criteria.

- 0 = no score or does not meet criteria
- 1 = partially meets criteria in some capacity
- 2 = fully meets or exceeds criteria.

### Notes

The following notes should be read in conjunction with the priority tables.

- *Weightings* for each assessment criteria are provided at the top of each column. These may be reviewed annually.
- *Total Score* for each action reflects aggregated 0, 1 and 2 scores allocated for each criteria, then multiplied by their weighting.
- *Priority for Township* accounts for all actions for a specific township, and ranks them by their total score (with 1 being the highest priority).
- *Municipal Priority* ranks each action from 1 (highest priority) to 71 (lowest priority) based on their total score.

LOCATION		TYPE OF ISSUE	TYPE OF FACILITY	PRIORITY FOR TYPE OF FACILITY	PRIORITY FOR TYPE OF FACILITY									SCORE	PRIORITY FOR TOWNSHIP	MUNICIPAL PRIORITY	IMPLEMENTATION STATUS
					1. Addresses gaps in existing facility provision	2. Contributes to shared trail network provision	3. Improves quality / functionality of existing facilities	4. Current asset in poor condition	5. Location has projected population increase	6. Project enhances participation	7. Project promotes resource sharing	8. Project listed in Capita Works Program	9. Already funded or possible external funding				
	<b>Weighting</b>				1	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.5				
	<b>ACTION BY TOWNSHIP / LOCATION</b>																
Allans Flat	Assist the Committee of Management to upgrade the Allans Flat picnic area at the waterhole	CAPITAL WORKS	PARKS	3	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2.5	1	71	
Barnawartha	Consult with local school students and residents regarding the potential development of a BMX track at the Barnawartha Recreation Reserve	PLANNING	BMX	2	2	1	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	6.5	3	19	
Barnawartha	Prepare a business case and facility design for the development of a new multi-purpose pavilion at Barnawartha Recreation Reserve - consider incorporating an indoor sports court large enough to cater for netball	PLANNING	PAVILION	1	2	0	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	8.7	1	4	
Barnawartha	Consider providing the proposed relocated tennis and netball courts into one footprint to promote shared facilities, particularly if an indoor netball court is provided within the pavilion facility	DESIGN	TENNIS COURTS	2	1	0	1	2	2	2	2	0	1	7.8	2	9	
Barnawartha	Investigate opportunities to create a shared trail (on or off-road) that better connects Barnawartha and Chiltern	PLANNING	TRAIL	1	1	2	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	5.7	5	35	
Barnawartha	Formalise a township trail network that connects the Barnawartha Recreation Reserve, Indigo Creek Park and Memorial Hall with the perimeter of the Barnawartha Golf Course	DESIGN	TRAIL	1	1	2	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	6.3	4	24	
Beechworth	Support the preparation of the Beechworth Synthetic Hockey Feasibility Study	PLANNING	HOCKEY	3	2	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	2	6.5	5	19	
Beechworth	Continue to support and plan for the relocation of the Beechworth Tennis Club	PLANNING	TENNIS COURTS	2	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	1	2	5.9	8	28	
Beechworth	Consult with local skaters regarding the inclusion and development of additional features and elements at the Beechworth Skate Park	DESIGN	SKATE PARK	2	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	5.3	11	40	
Beechworth	Undertake minor functional improvements at the Beechworth Swimming Pool, including provision of hot showers and accessible entry into the main pool	CAPITAL WORKS	SWIMMING POOL	1	2	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	5.8	9	30	
Beechworth	Replace solar heating at the Beechworth Swimming Pool, and expand the range of services and programs to better match and accommodate potential increased demand	CAPITAL WORKS	SWIMMING POOL	1	2	0	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	7.1	4	14	
Beechworth	Support the Beechworth Golf Club and golf community to source a private provider to improve club facilities and develop and maintain grass greens	PLANNING	GOLF COURSE	3	1	0	2	1	1	2	0	1	1	6.4	6	21	
Beechworth	Develop a shared trail network throughout the township that links key community facilities, including Baamutha Park (Recreation Reserve and Golf Course), Wallace Park, La Trobe University and schools with the existing Lake Sambell path network	DESIGN	TRAIL	1	2	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	6.4	6	21	
Beechworth	Consider the replacement of 1 grass green at the Beechworth Lawn Bowling Club with a synthetic surface	CAPITAL WORKS	LAWN BOWLS GREEN	3	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	5.4	10	38	
Beechworth	Adopt the Baamutha Park Master Plan concept to help guide and prioritise future site development	PLANNING	REC RESERVE	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	9.3	1	1	
Beechworth	Prepare a business case and facility design (in-line with Master Plan implementation) for the development of a new multi-purpose pavilion at Baamutha Park - ensure the focus of development is on providing shared use of facilities for all major tenant / user groups	PLANNING	PAVILION	1	1	0	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	8.4	2	7	
Beechworth	Replace the existing Baamutha Park netball courts and floodlights in-line with Master Plan implementation	CAPITAL WORKS	NETBALL COURTS	2	1	0	2	2	1	1	0	2	2	7.5	3	11	
Beechworth	Continue to negotiate with Beechworth Secondary College regarding community access to available indoor sports courts for local club / Association use	PLANNING	INDOOR COURTS	1	0	0	2	0	1	2	2	0	0	5.1	12	42	
Chiltern	Complete the planning, design and funding application process for the development of the Chiltern Skate Park	PLANNING	SKATE PARK	2	2	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	7.3	2	12	
Chiltern	Continue to undertake planning (in conjunction with the local community) for the development of a BMX facility at Chiltern Recreation Reserve	PLANNING	BMX	2	2	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	6	4	26	
Chiltern	Undertake a Master Plan for the Chiltern Recreation Reserve that identifies priority areas for facility development and improvement, as well as considering an overall future site plan to potentially cater for new facilities (ie. BMX track or skate park)	PLANNING	REC RESERVE	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	0	2	8.1	1	8	
Chiltern	Assist the Chiltern Tennis Club to resurface their existing hard courts	CAPITAL WORKS	TENNIS COURTS	2	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	1	2	6	4	26	
Chiltern	Undertake minor functional improvements at the Chiltern Swimming Pool, including provision of hot showers and accessible entry into the main pool	CAPITAL WORKS	SWIMMING POOL	1	1	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	1	5.9	6	28	
Chiltern	Consider formalising a walking path system from the town centre, around the Recreation Reserve, town park and Lake Anderson.	DESIGN	TRAIL	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	6.7	3	16	
Chiltern	Upgrade kitchen at Chiltern Bowls Club	CAPITAL WORKS	PAVILION	1	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	4.5	7	50	
Chiltern Valley	Support the club to maintain and retain 2 tennis courts at the Chiltern Valley Recreation Reserve in alignment with the recommended tennis facility hierarchy	MAINTENANCE	TENNIS COURTS	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	2.2	1	72	
Gundowring	Support the club to maintain and retain 2 tennis courts at Gundowring in alignment with the recommended tennis facility hierarchy	MAINTENANCE	TENNIS COURTS	2	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	3.6	1	62	
Huon	Formalise walking paths through Huon Reserve	CAPITAL WORKS	TRAIL	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	5	1	43	
Huon	Support the club to maintain and retain the 2 tennis courts at Huon in alignment with the recommended tennis facility hierarchy	MAINTENANCE	TENNIS COURTS	2	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	3.6	2	62	
Kiewa/Tangambalanga	Investigate opportunities to develop shared tracks/trails that incorporate and connect Riverside Park, Coulston Park, Kiewa River and Primary School	PLANNING	TRAIL	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	4.3	6	53	

LOCATION	Weighting	TYPE OF ISSUE	TYPE OF FACILITY	PRIORITY FOR TYPE OF FACILITY	1. Addresses gaps in existing facility provision	2. Contributes to shared trail network provision	3. Improves quality / functionality of existing facilities	4. Current asset in poor condition	5. Location has projected population increase	6. Project enhances participation	7. Project promotes resource sharing	8. Project listed in Capital Works Program	9. Already funded or possible external funding	SCORE	PRIORITY FOR TOWNSHIP	MUNICIPAL PRIORITY	IMPLEMENTATION STATUS
					1	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.5				
	<b>ACTION BY TOWNSHIP / LOCATION</b>																
Kiewa/Tangambalanga	Investigate the need and potential design for a skate park in Tangambalanga. Consideration should be given to its location within the Coulston Park community precinct.	DESIGN	SKATE PARK	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	4.2	7	56	
Kiewa/Tangambalanga	Consult with local school students and residents regarding the potential development of a BMX track	PLANNING	BMX	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3.2	10	65	
Kiewa/Tangambalanga	Remove existing Coulston Park football/netball clubrooms and replace with a multi-purpose and shared clubroom facility for football, netball and tennis.	CAPITAL WORKS	PAVILION	1	0	0	2	2	0	1	2	2	2	7.2	2	13	
Kiewa/Tangambalanga	Through any future development of Coulston Park, consider the relocation of the Kiewa Cricket Club into any new facility.	DESIGN	PAVILION	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	3	11	67	
Kiewa/Tangambalanga	Plan for playing field renovations, drainage and irrigation improvements should the Kiewa Cricket Club relocate their main operations to Coulston Park	CAPITAL WORKS	REC RESERVE	1	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	1	1	5.5	4	36	
Kiewa/Tangambalanga	Maintain and retain the Kiewa tennis courts in alignment with the recommended tennis facility hierarchy	MAINTENANCE	TENNIS COURTS	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	3.6	9	62	
Kiewa/Tangambalanga	Upgrade court surfaces and floodlighting at the Tangambalanga Tennis Club (Coulston Park) in-line with the proposed tennis facility hierarchy	CAPITAL WORKS	TENNIS COURTS	2	0	0	2	1	0	1	2	0	2	5.5	4	36	
Kiewa/Tangambalanga	Consider the replacement of 1 grass green at the Tangambalanga Lawn Bowling Club with a synthetic surface	CAPITAL WORKS	LAWN BOWLS GREEN	3	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	4.2	8	58	
Kiewa/Tangambalanga	Review the existing Coulston Park Master Plan in line with proposed site developments and consider the preparation of a revised site plan that incorporates new facility development proposals.	PLANNING	REC RESERVE	2	1	1	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	8.7	1	4	
Kiewa/Tangambalanga	Undertake minor functional improvements at the Tangambalanga Swimming Pool, including provision of hot showers and accessible entry into the main pool	CAPITAL WORKS	SWIMMING POOL	1	2	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	5.7	3	32	
Rutherglen	Consider alternative uses for dis-used hard courts at Barkly Park	PLANNING	REC RESERVE	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	10	67	
Rutherglen	Project manage the resurfacing and floodlighting of Barkly Park's main netball court	CAPITAL WORKS	NETBALL COURTS	2	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	2	2	6.8	2	15	
Rutherglen	Provide shade for spectator seating adjacent netball court for netball and playing field viewing	SHADE	REC RESERVE	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	4.2	7	58	
Rutherglen	Consider expanding the Rutherglen Skate Park to incorporate additional elements that increase its diversity of skating activities	DESIGN	SKATE PARK	2	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	4.1	8	60	
Rutherglen	Create a formal walking trail circuit around Lake King, connecting the swimming pool, Apex Park, lawn bowling club, caravan park, Rutherglen Golf Course and Showgrounds with the town centre	DESIGN	TRAIL	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	0	0	8.9	1	3	
Rutherglen	Undertake minor functional improvements at the Rutherglen Swimming Pool, including provision of hot showers and accessible entry into the main pool	CAPITAL WORKS	SWIMMING POOL	1	2	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	5.8	4	30	
Rutherglen	Provide a safe trail link (on or off-road) between Rutherglen and Lake Moodemere, that connects into the Murray-to-Mountains Trail link between Wahgunyah and Rutherglen	CAPITAL WORKS	TRAIL	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	4.3	6	53	
Rutherglen	Create a formalised walking/cycling circuit around Lake Moodemere	CAPITAL WORKS	TRAIL	1	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	5.3	5	40	
Rutherglen	Support the provision of floodlighting at the Rutherglen Tennis Courts, in-line with the proposed tennis facility hierarchy	CAPITAL WORKS	TENNIS COURTS	2	2	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	2	6.7	3	16	
Rutherglen	Continue to negotiate with Rutherglen Secondary College regarding community access to available indoor sports courts for local club / Association use	PLANNING	INDOOR COURTS	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	3.8	9	61	
Stanley	Continue to support the Committee of Management and DSE to clear dangerous Pine Trees	MAINTENANCE	REC RESERVE	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	4.2	4	56	
Stanley	Assist the Stanley Recreation Reserve Committee of Management to make the existing sports ground clubroom facility functional	CAPITAL WORKS	PAVILION	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	2	0	0	6.2	2	25	
Stanley	Consider the floodlighting of the Stanley Tennis Court, and bring the court surface, run-offs and court enclosure fencing up to expected minimum standards	CAPITAL WORKS	TENNIS COURTS	2	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	2	4.6	3	49	
Stanley	Investigate opportunities to create a shared trail (on or off-road) that better connects Stanley and Beechworth	PLANNING	TRAIL	1	2	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	6.6	1	18	
Wahgunyah	Prepare a Master Plan for the Wahgunyah Recreation Reserve, including assessment of the long-term sustainability of the speedway	PLANNING	REC RESERVE	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	4.4	7	52	
Wahgunyah	Develop shaded spectator areas for cricket and netball viewing at the Wahgunyah Recreation Reserve	SHADE	REC RESERVE	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1.6	9	73	
Wahgunyah	Reorganise and upgrade car parking at the Wahgunyah Recreation Reserve	DESIGN	REC RESERVE	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	2.8	8	70	
Wahgunyah	Develop a Master Plan for the Wahgunyah Willows Reserve	PLANNING	PARKS	3	2	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	4.6	4	46	
Wahgunyah	Continue to support development of the Wahgunyah to Rutherglen - Murray to Mountains Rail Trail link	PLANNING	TRAIL	1	2	2	0	0	1	2	1	2	2	8.4	1	6	
Wahgunyah	install safety barriers around track at Wahgunyah Speedway	CAPITAL WORKS	REC RESERVE	2	0	0	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	4.6	4	46	
Wahgunyah	Upgrade electrical supply to the Wahgunyah Recreation Reserve and extend to the Wahgunyah Speedway	CAPITAL WORKS	REC RESERVE	2	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	4.8	3	44	
Wahgunyah	Construction of the Wahgunyah to Lake Moodemere walking/ cycling track	CAPITAL WORKS	TRAIL	1	2	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	5.7	2	32	

LOCATION	ACTION BY TOWNSHIP / LOCATION	TYPE OF ISSUE	TYPE OF FACILITY	PRIORITY FOR TYPE OF FACILITY	1. Addresses gaps in existing facility provision	2. Contributes to shared trail network provision	3. Improves quality / functionality of existing facilities	4. Current asset in poor condition	5. Location has projected population increase	6. Project enhances participation	7. Project promotes resource sharing	8. Project listed in Capital Works Program	9. Already funded or possible external funding	SCORE	PRIORITY FOR TOWNSHIP	MUNICIPAL PRIORITY	IMPLEMENTATION STATUS	
					1	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.5					
	<b>Weighting</b>				2	2	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	4.6	4	46	
	<b>Wahgunyah</b>	Improve water access for recreation activities at Willows Park	CAPITAL WORKS	PARKS	2	2	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	4.6	4	46	
	<b>Wooragee</b>	Support the Club / Committee of Management to maintain and retain 2 tennis courts at Wooragee in alignment with the recommended tennis facility hierarchy	MAINTENANCE	TENNIS COURTS	2	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	4.3	1	53	
	<b>Yackandandah</b>	Consider the provision of a public toilet at the Soldiers Memorial Garden	CAPITAL WORKS	PUBLIC TOILET	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.9	9	69	
	<b>Yackandandah</b>	Undertake pavilion and social room refurbishments at Butson Park to enhance it as the primary Football/Netball venue in the township	CAPITAL WORKS	PAVILION	1	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	5.7	4	32	
	<b>Yackandandah</b>	Undertake minor functional improvements at the Yackandandah Swimming Pool, including provision of hot showers and accessible entry into the main pool	CAPITAL WORKS	SWIMMING POOL	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	4.8	6	44	
	<b>Yackandandah</b>	Prepare a business case for the development of an indoor sports court (and associated amenities) at the Yackandandah Sports Park	PLANNING	INDOOR COURTS	1	2	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	8.9	1	2	
	<b>Yackandandah</b>	Consider the replacement of tennis/netball court floodlights at the Yackandandah Sports Park	CAPITAL WORKS	TENNIS COURTS	2	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	4.5	7	50	
	<b>Yackandandah</b>	Undertake a maintenance, risk and safety inspection of the Skate Park to ensure all bolts are in place and equipment is in an acceptable state of use.	ASSET MANAGEMENT	SKATE PARK	2	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	3.2	8	65	
	<b>Yackandandah</b>	In consultation with local skaters, consider the replacement or reconfiguration of some equipment to offer greater challenge and diversity for a greater range of users	DESIGN	SKATE PARK	2	1	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	5.4	5	38	
	<b>Yackandandah</b>	Upgrade the Gorge Walk trail, and its associated amenities and connections	CAPITAL WORKS	TRAIL	1	0	2	2	1	1	1	0	2	2	7.6	2	10	
	<b>Yackandandah</b>	Upgrade toilets and club facilities at Yackandandah Bowls Club to provide access to people with a disability	CAPITAL WORKS	PAVILION	1	2	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	6.4	3	21	

## Appendix 3: Sporting Infrastructure Policy

The Indigo Shire, like other Local Governments in general, is in the business of sport to provide a range of benefits to individuals and the community.

The value, or benefits of sport are the desirable consequences of participation and involvement (eg. social engagement, community development, enhanced physical activity etc.) Council is in the business of creating an environment where these benefits are maximised.

The focus of Council's involvement in sport is not the facilities it provides or supports, but the benefits derived from use of those facilities, by its ratepayers.

Council has a primary role in facilitating the prerequisite activity, leadership, organisational and environmental conditions that provide these **positive** outcomes. Council is not in the business of organising ongoing sports competition or the administration of the playing of the game.

The provision of a basic range of infrastructure to support sports participation is one of Council's core businesses in sport and recreation.

### Council's Sports Aims

In facilitating the provision of sports facilities, Council's aim can be assumed to be:

- to **promote the benefits** of an active lifestyle
- primarily to **increase participation in sport** (and then increase involvement as non players, spectators and volunteers)
- primarily provide for the **foundation** and **participation** levels of sports development before subsidising *performance* and *excellence* levels<sup>12</sup>
- primarily provide and service **local, township and district level facilities**, before providing any facilities of regional or state significance
- to maximise the opportunities for all residents to play and view **sports of their choice**, regardless of age, gender, culture or ability
- to provide a **hierarchy of sports facilities** to ensure sport can be sustained at varying levels of competition, to encourage a good depth in competition and to enhance choice for potential participants.

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<sup>12</sup> **Foundation**; the development of basic movement skills. eg., school sports. **Participation**; playing for or reasons of enjoyment, fitness or social contact, eg., junior sport or local mums playing social volleyball. **Performance**; where the focus is on players improving in club competitions to meet personal goals, eg., district cricket. **Excellence**; where competitors aim to achieve public measured levels of success, ie. State/ national /league competitions.

## Policy objectives

The following objectives are provided to assist Council meet its sporting aims, to follow policy principles and to deliver quality sporting infrastructure that continues to meet the needs of the Indigo Shire community.

Council's policy objectives are:

- to provide and subsidise local **foundation** and **participation** levels of sports development, and facilitation rather than the higher levels
- to enhance the return on investment in facilities by ensuring facilities are marketed and utilised to the maximum (but not overused)
- to ensure the quality of playing surfaces matches the level of competition appropriate for the municipality to support (ie. focus on local and district club competition rather than regional and state level facilities.)
- to ensure long term viability of the sports facility and clubs, by ensuring clubs do not over capitalise on developments, and that facilities are located so as to strengthen the sport and existing club membership bases
- to provide incentives for sporting clubs and Committee's of Management to contribute to the marketing, planning and development of facilities, and to adequately maintain and upgrade facilities over their whole life cycle: for the benefit of the local community
- to create partnerships and joint responsibilities with clubs and Committee's of Management in the development and management of sporting facilities, and develop partnerships with stakeholders such as local schools, tertiary institutions and peak bodies to minimise competition between local facilities, encourage joint and shared use, reduce Council's expenditure on new facilities and avoid duplication of services
- to subsidise facilities open to the general public and useable by more than one club (of the same and different code) to a greater extent than those used exclusively by members of one club – perhaps with the exception of facilities specific to lawn bowls, croquet and golf
- to make available and market facilities to visitor markets and for casual public use
- to provide incentives (through grants) to clubs and Committee's of Management to meet Council's sport aims, and assist the growth and development of sport
- to ensure facility and reserve developments are preceded by appropriate planning and feasibility analysis, or a reserve master plan when whole site developments are proposed
- to prioritise Council support for pavilion improvement where they are shared by summer and winter tenants, and by two clubs / sports that play during the same season. Council will prioritise new pavilions where they serve two or more grounds, and two or more clubs / sports.

## Funding principles

The Community Grants, Asset Maintenance Program, and Council funding through other bodies, should be consistent, and support the following:

- facilities need to be open to the general public for hire (unless they serve a regional catchment or there are exceptional circumstances)
- facilities must be useable by more than one club of the same or different codes (except lawn bowls, croquet, golf facilities)
- pavilion developments must support 2 or more playing fields and be shared between clubs/ organisations, and have summer & winter tenants (preferably two clubs that play during the same season).
- the Committee should have a business plan

**Community grants:** These should be largely for small local program initiatives, minor capital works and planning projects.

**A capital works project fund:** This should be for infrastructure development undertaken at a recreation reserve (at a township or district level) that is supported by a Committee of Management and Council.- for a State government, Minor or Major Facilities Grants Program.

**An operational grant** included in the Asset Maintenance Grant for Committees of Management is money provided for recurrent (“every day”) expenses such as utilities and minor maintenance for Committees of Management . An operational grant is not be used for any events or capital works projects (excluding routine/cyclical maintenance). It is expected that all operational funding will be spent within the grant period.

## Funding by hierarchy

### Local facilities

- At the lowest level facilities should be in walking distance of the majority of families they serve. This may be within a township but most commonly, they would be in a small rural settlement. These facilities will therefore need to be more accessible, affordable, multipurpose and lower quality.
- These will be primarily funded by community grants and committee /community fundraising activities.

### Township facilities

- These facilities can be expected to include one or more relatively high quality club grounds with some spectator provision and a clubhouse.
- These would typically include multiple codes, lighting, and support facilities, but will still be shared.

## **Funding by hierarchy**

### **District level facilities**

- These will serve an area wider than a township. These facilities can be expected to include multiple fields, some spectator provision, these may include specialised surfaces and competition lighting, and social support facilities, but will still be shared.
- At this level, facilities will be used for club competition and will need to meet association standards for the sport.
- Facilities at this level will be planned, and generally funded through state government or sports grants. In most cases, clubs would contribute to the capital cost or development of facilities.
- The third and highest level- will include more regional level facilities ie synthetic surfaces for sports such as hockey or athletics, or provision for motor or horse racing for example
- Council will primarily support the provision and subsidisation of the lower levels of facilities: whereas the higher levels would be expected to be funded by partnerships, the sport, regional development programs and state government grant programs.

The criteria for funding capital works are shown in Appendix 2.



## Appendix 4: Recreation Facilities Inventory

Facility Name	Address	Facility Type 1	Facility Type 2	Facilities	Township/Locality	Ownership	Management	Catchment
<b>Allans Flat</b>								
Allans Flat Recreation Reserve	cnr Allans Flat Road & Wodonga Yackandandah Road	Recreation Reserve			Allans Flat	DSE	Allans Flat Recreation Reserve COM	Local
<b>Barnawartha</b>								
Barnawartha Soldiers Memorial Hall		Community centre/hall			Barnawartha		Barnawartha Soldiers Memorial Hall COM	Local
Barnawartha Recreation Reserve	High Street	Recreation Reserve	Golf course	Hard surface cricket pitch, general use oval with AFL posts, hardcourt tennis courts, multi purpose pavilion (ex-badminton), local playground.	Barnawartha	DSE	Barnawartha Recreation Reserve COM	Local
Barnawartha Primary School		School	Netball courts	Outdoor netball court, small oval	Barnawartha			Local
Barnawartha Golf Club	Havelock Street	Golf course		9-hole, sand-scrape greens	Barnawartha			District
Indigo Creek Park	High Street	Creek / lake / riverside park		Local playground	Barnawartha			Local
<b>Beechworth</b>								
Baarmurtha Park	Balaclava Road	Recreation Reserve	Golf course	Netball court, general use oval, grandstand building, football change rooms building, golf course (18 holes, sand greens), 4 training lights (flimsy construction), pipe rail fence, signage on oval, netball court, grandstand	Beechworth	Crown	Baarmurtha Park Reserve/ Grandstand COM	District
Beechworth Golf Course	Balaclava Road	Golf course		18 hole, sand-scrape greens	Beechworth	Crown		
Beechworth Croquet Club	Harper Avenue	Croquet club		One floodlit green	Beechworth	Victrack	Beechworth Croquet Club	Local
Lake Sambell Reserve	McConville Avenue	Creek / lake / riverside park		Local playground, walking tracks etc jetties	Beechworth		Beechworth Lake Sambell Reserve COM	Local
Lake Sambell Caravan Park	Jarvis Road	Caravan Park		Private playground	Beechworth			Local
Beechworth Lawn Bowling Club	Harper Avenue	Lawn bowling club		1 synthetic green, 1 grass green, clubrooms and storage shed	Beechworth	DSE	Beechworth Lawn Bowling Club COM	District
Beechworth Memorial Hall	101 Ford Street	Community centre/hall			Beechworth		Beechworth Memorial Hall COM	Local
Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre	24 Ford Street	Neighbourhood house			Beechworth		Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre COM (Leased)	Local
Beechworth Public Recreation Reserve	Jarvis Road (behind Lake Sambell Caravan Park)	Local park / garden			Beechworth	DSE	Beechworth Public Recreation Reserve (Pony Club)	Local
Beechworth RSL	101 Ford Street	Social / services club			Beechworth	Council	Beechworth RSL COM (Leased)	Local
Beechworth Senior Citizens	Harper Avenue	Social / services club			Beechworth	Railway land (Victrack)	Beechworth Senior Citizens COM	Local
Beechworth Tennis Club	8 Tanswell Street	Tennis courts		7 grass and 4 porous, club rooms, store shed, change/toilets	Beechworth	Club	Beechworth Tennis Club COM	Local
Beechworth Youth Centre	Harper Avenue	Community centre/hall	Skate/BMX	Adjacent skate park	Beechworth		Council through Beechworth Youth Centre COM	Local
Beechworth Swimming Pool	Harper Avenue	Swimming Pool		25 m outdoor pool, learners pool, toddlers pool, change rooms / toilets, first-aid room, kiosk/kitchen, BBQ, tables, volleyball	Beechworth			Local
Beechworth Skate Bowl	Harper Avenue	Skate Park		Skate bowl	Beechworth			Local
Newtown Park	Cnr Bridge Rd and Diffey Street	Local park / garden	Tennis Court	Tennis court (hard surface), local playground	Beechworth			Local
Victoria Park	Loch Street	Local park / garden	Playground	District playground, Girl Guides hall	Beechworth			Local
Beaumont Park	Beaumont Drive	Local park / garden	Playground	Local playground	Beechworth			Local
Wells St Reserve	Wells Street	Local park / garden	Playground	Local playground	Beechworth			Local
Wallace Park	Harper Avenue	Local park / garden	Playground	Local playground	Beechworth			Local
Centenary Park		Local park / garden	Playground	Local playground and toilets	Beechworth			Local
Beechworth Secondary College		School	Community centres/hall	Football ground, two rectangular grounds (soccer ground, and additional hockey fields), indoor multi-purpose ball court	Beechworth			Regional
Beechworth Primary School		School	Playground	Disused tennis court, 2 playgrounds, hard court (no goal facilities) separate basketball court, junior cricket ground with concrete wicket	Beechworth			Local
St Joseph's Primary School	Priory Lane	School		Tennis court	Beechworth			Local
Town Hall Gardens	113b Ford Street	Park / Garden		Fountain, seats and gazebo	Beechworth			Local
Murray to Mountain Rail Trail		Track / Trail (Regional)		Beechworth forms a major connection point of this Regional Trail. Offers an area for an overnight stop or township stop along the way.	Beechworth			Regional
La Trobe University		Recreation Reserve		Synthetic wicket, 2 practice wickets, 1 pavilion - used for cricket overflow	Beechworth			Local
<b>Chiltern</b>								
Chiltern Athenaeum Centre	Conness Street	Museum			Chiltern		Chiltern Athenaeum Centre COM	Local
Chiltern Community Offices	52 Main Street	Community centre/hall			Chiltern		Chiltern Community Offices COM	Local
Chiltern Courthouse	58-60 Main Street	Museum			Chiltern	Crown	Council through Chiltern Courthouse COM	Local

Facility Name	Address	Facility Type 1	Facility Type 2	Facilities	Township/Locality	Ownership	Management	Catchment
Chiltern Bowling Club	Alliance Street	Lawn bowling club		1 grass green, clubrooms	Chiltern			Local
Chiltern Golf Club Reserve	North Road	Golf course		9-holes, sand-scraps greens, clubhouse	Chiltern	Crown	Chiltern Golf Club COM	District
Chiltern Memorial Hall	86 Conness Street	Community centre/hall			Chiltern		Chiltern Memorial Hall COM	Local
Chiltern Recreation Reserve	Conness Street	Recreation Reserve		Hard surface cricket pitch, netball court, multi-use playing field, tennis club/courts, football/netball pavilion & grandstand	Chiltern	DSE	Chiltern Park Recreation Reserve COM	District
Chiltern Racecourse Reserve	Racecourse Road	Racecourse		Clubrooms	Chiltern	DSE	Chiltern Racecourse Reserve COM	District
Chiltern Senior Citizens	84 Conness Street	Senior citizens centre			Chiltern		Council through Chiltern Senior Citizens COM	Local
Chiltern Swimming Pool	Alliance Street	Swimming pool		25m outdoor pool, learners pool, toddlers pool, change rooms, entry/kiosk, swimming club rooms	Chiltern			Local
Lake Anderson Reserve	Alliance Street	Creek / lake / riverside park		Scouts pavilion, machinery shed, walking track	Chiltern			Local
Martin Park Music Bowl	Martin Park	Local park / garden		Recreation building, district playground	Chiltern			District
Chiltern Valley Recreation Reserve	Cnr Chiltern Valley & Marengos Roads	Tennis courts		2 artificial grass tennis courts, 2 non-used hard courts and associated club rooms. Shade structure.	Chiltern Valley	Crown land	Council through Chiltern Valley Recreation Reserve COM	Local
Chiltern Primary School		School		1 small and 1 large oval	Chiltern			Local
St Joseph's Primary School	North Road	School			Chiltern			Local
<b>Gundowring</b>								
Gundowring North Tennis Club	Gundowring Road	Tennis courts		2 synthetic grass tennis courts, clubrooms	Gundowring	DSE	Gundowring North Tennis Club COM	Local
<b>Huon</b>								
Huon Reserve		Creek / lake / riverside park		Picnic area overlooking Hume weir	Huon			Local
Huon Tennis Club		Tennis courts		Concrete & synthetic grass tennis courts	Huon	DSE	Huon Tennis Club COM	Local
<b>Kergunyah</b>								
Kergunyah Memorial Hall	Kergunyah Rd	Community centre/hall			Kergunyah	DSE	Kergunyah Memorial Hall COM	Local
Kergunyah Streamside Reserve		Creek / lake / riverside park			Kergunyah	DSE	Kergunyah Streamside Reserve COM	Local
Kergunyah Community Tennis Club	Gundowring Rd	Tennis courts		Clubrooms	Kergunyah			Local
<b>Kiewa</b>								
Kiewa Memorial Park		Recreation Reserve	Tennis court	2 hard surface practice cricket wickets, oval with turf wicket, and football posts, 2 hard court tennis courts (2 lights), cricket pavilion, soccer ground, picnic shelter, BBQs and local playground	Kiewa	DSE	Kiewa Memorial Park & Public Reserve COM	Local
Banksia Park		Park / Garden	Playground	Local level playground	Kiewa			Local
Kiewa Valley Primary School	Kiewa East Road	School		Asphalt ball court, playground, soccer ground	Kiewa			Local
<b>Lilliput</b>								
Lilliput Public Recreation Reserve		Park / Garden			Lilliput	DSE	Lilliput Public Recreation Reserve COM	Local
Middle Indigo Primary School		School	Netball courts	Oval, playground, 2 netball courts, asphalt area	Lilliput			Local
<b>Osbornes Flat</b>								
Osbornes Flat Primary School		School		Small asphalt area (not size of full basketball court), oval, playground	Osbornes Flat			Local
Osbornes Flat Community Centre	Osbornes Flat Road	Community centre/hall			Osbornes Flat	Community Committee	Osbornes Flat Community Centre	Local
<b>Rutherglen</b>								
Rutherglen Racecourse Public Reserve		Racecourse		Pavilion	Rutherglen	DSE	Rutherglen Racecourse Public Reserve COM	Local
Barkly Park	Reid Street	Recreation Reserve	Netball courts	Basketball court, 2 practice cricket wickets (hard surface), turf wicket, 2 netball courts with shelter, turf wicket football/cricket oval, training lights on oval and netball courts, pavilion & change room building, ticket box & entrance gate, scoreboard, change/toilets - new buildings, open spectator shelter, local playground. Pipe rail boundary fence	Rutherglen	DSE	Barkly Park Rutherglen COM	Local
Rutherglen Bowling Club	Murray Street	Lawn bowling club		2 floodlit grass greens	Rutherglen	DSE	Rutherglen Bowling Club Inc COM	District
Rutherglen Common School Museum	Murray Street	Museum			Rutherglen	DSE	Rutherglen Common School Museum COM	Local
Rutherglen High School/Community Centre		School	Community centres/hall	One indoor court basket ball stadium marked for a range of sports. 2 outdoor asphalt tennis courts - no lights	Rutherglen	Dept of Education	Rutherglen Community Centre COM	District
Rutherglen Apex Park	Murray Street	Skate Park	Playground	Picnic shelter, BBQs, skate park, youth info pillar, playground, traffic school, levee bank and walking track	Rutherglen	Crown land	Council through Rutherglen Apex Park COM	Local
St Mary's Primary School	High Street	School			Rutherglen			Local

Facility Name	Address	Facility Type 1	Facility Type 2	Facilities	Township/Locality	Ownership	Management	Catchment
Rutherglen Primary School		School		Small junior oval	Rutherglen			Local
Lake Moodemere		Creek / lake / riverside park		Boat shed, picnic ground, BBQ	Rutherglen	DSE	Rutherglen Lake Moodemere Reserve COM	Local
Rutherglen Lions Club Recreation Area	Douglas Street	Town Park	Playground	Old Railway Station room and park with picnic tables and seats. Large exotic mature trees. Small way side stop, passive playground	Rutherglen	Victrack	Rutherglen Old Railway Station COM	Local
Rutherglen Park & Recreation Reserve		Showgrounds	Golf course	Rutherglen Tennis Club - 2 plexi pave tennis courts, 4 synthetic tennis courts (no floodlights) and pavilion. Rutherglen Agricultural Society Showground gardeners tool shed, cattle pavilion, sheep pavilion, poultry pavilion, AJ Shelley and HH Jackson Pavilion, AE Hendersons Pavilion, exhibition shed 1, 2 & 3, Rutherglen Badminton Club, indoor multi purpose sporting complex, 18 hole golf course with sand-scrape greens and golf clubrooms.	Rutherglen	DSE	Rutherglen Park & Recreation Reserve COM	Local
Rutherglen RSL		Social / services club			Rutherglen		Rutherglen RSL (leased)	Local
Rutherglen Youth Centre	Murray Street, part of Shire Hall complex	Social / services club			Rutherglen		Council through Rutherglen Youth Centre COM	Local
Rutherglen Swimming Pool Complex	Main Street	Swimming Pool		33m outdoor pool, toddlers pool, kiosk, change rooms, swimming club rooms	Rutherglen			Local
<b>Sandy Creek</b>								
Sandy Creek Memorial Hall	Adjacent Sandy Creek Reserve	Community centre/hall			Sandy Creek	DSE	Sandy Creek Memorial Hall COM	Local
Sandy Creek Recreation Reserve	631 Lockharts Gap Road	Recreation Reserve	Tennis Court	Main sports grounds, hard surface tennis court, main pavilion building	Sandy Creek	DSE	Sandy Creek Recreation Reserve COM	Local
Upper Sandy Creek Primary School		School	Playground	large playground, asphalt netball court	Sandy Creek			Local
<b>Stanley</b>								
Stanley Recreation Reserve	Stanley Road	Recreation Reserve	Tennis Court	Hard surface cricket wicket, general use oval, pavilion, single tennis court, local playground, single practice wicket, open shelter servicing cricket ground - no lights or change facilities	Stanley	DSE	Stanley Recreation Reserve COM	Local
Stanley Soldiers Memorial Hall	Stanley Road	Community centre/hall			Stanley		Stanley Soldiers Memorial Hall COM	Local
Stanley Primary School		School		Outdoor basketball court	Stanley			Local
Stanley Spring Ditch & Wetlands Reserve	Mount Stanley Road	Local park / garden			Stanley	DSE	Stanley Spring Ditch & Wetlands Reserve COM	Local
<b>Tangambalanga</b>								
Coulston Park Recreation Reserve	29 Kiewa East Road	Recreation Reserve		4 synthetic grass tennis courts, with lights two plexi pave without lights, boys club rooms/ community hall building, tennis store building, time keepers building, store shed, passive playground	Tangambalanga		Tangambalanga Coulston Park COM	District
Tangambalanga Kiewa Swimming Pool	31-41 Kiewa East Road	Swimming pool		25m pool, learn to swim pool, baby pool, new change areas building	Tangambalanga		Tangambalanga Swimming Pool COM	Local
Tangambalanga Bowling Club	29 Kiewa East Road	Lawn bowling club		2 grass greens (floodlit), clubrooms	Tangambalanga			District
Tangambalanga Community Centre	Coulston Park	Community centre/hall		Community hall - doesn't not cater for indoor sporting opportunities	Tangambalanga			
<b>Wahgunyah</b>								
Wahgunyah Playground		Playground		Playground, shelter, seats	Wahgunyah	DSE	Wahgunyah Playground COM	Local
Wahgunyah Recreation Reserve	Recreation Reserve Road	Recreation Reserve	Speedway	Netball courts (2), large netball pavilion, football/cricket oval and pavilion, tennis courts (4) - 2 plexipave and 2 synthetic grass, tennis club rooms, hit up wall, local playground with sand under surface. Scores/ time keepers tower and box. Speedway/ raceway adjacent.	Wahgunyah	DSE	Wahgunyah Recreation Reserve COM	Local
Wahgunyah School of Arts	Ford Street	Community centre/hall			Wahgunyah	DSE	Wahgunyah School of Arts COM	Local
Wahgunyah Willows Reserve	Murray River	Creek / lake / riverside park	Water access	The Mass Tree, BBQ, shelters tables and seats	Wahgunyah	DSE	Wahgunyah Willows Reserve	Local
Blanche Street Reserve	Cnr Blanche & Ford Streets	Local park / garden	Playground	Local playground	Wahgunyah			Local
Wahgunyah Primary School		School		Basketball court, football oval, cricket nets	Wahgunyah			Local
<b>Wooragee</b>								
Wooragee Public Reserve	Beechworth-Wodonga Road	Wayside stop	Community centres/hall	Centenary hall, David Nankervis memorial tennis courts, floodlit, sandpit, public toilets, fire shed, BBQ, picnic tables, shelter and community noticeboard	Wooragee			Local
Wooragee Primary School		School	Playground	Concrete basketball half-court, playground	Wooragee			Local
Wooragee Community Centre	Beechworth-Wodonga Road	Community centre/hall			Wooragee		Wooragee Community Centre COM	Local

Facility Name	Address	Facility Type 1	Facility Type 2	Facilities	Township/Locality	Ownership	Management	Catchment
<b>Yackandandah</b>								
Yackandandah Bowling Club	Station Street	Lawn bowling club		1 floodlit grass green	Yackandandah		Yackandandah Bowling Club	District
Yackandandah Community Education Centre	29 High Street	Community centre/hall			Yackandandah		Yackandandah Community Education Centre COM	Local
Yackandandah Golf Club	Racecourse Road	Golf course		9 holes, sand-scrape greens, clubrooms	Yackandandah	DSE	Yackandandah Golf Club Reserve COM	Local
Yackandandah Historic Bank Museum		Museum			Yackandandah		Yackandandah Historic Bank Museum COM	Local
Yackandandah Pistol Club	Sandy Gully Road	Target sport		Shooting range	Yackandandah		Yackandandah Pistol Club COM	District
Yackandandah Public Hall	36 High Street	Community centre/hall			Yackandandah		Yackandandah Public Hall COM	Local
Yackandandah Senior Citizens Club	14 Wellsford Street	Social / services club		Large hall, stage, kitchen, toilets	Yackandandah		Yackandandah Senior Citizens Club COM	Local
Yackandandah Sports Park	Wellsford Street	Recreation Reserve		Cricket ground - turf, pipe rail fence - no lights, 2 sight screens, 2 synthetic practice wickets and enclosure with shed, separate scout shed. Covered area and cricket club social facilities attached to scout hall. Separate tennis club building, 2 synthetic tennis courts & 2 asphalt with acrylic surfaces also marked as one netball court, all courts floodlit. Partly constructed indoor structure comprising 1 ball court sized roofed area. Part of building includes cricket club, change and gym, other end includes scouts. Uneven topography from tennis car park mound of dirt - appears to be used by bikes.	Yackandandah	DSE/Council	Yackandandah Sports Park COM	District
Yackandandah Vintage Engine Club	2 Williams Street	Museum			Yackandandah		Yackandandah Vintage Engine Club	Local
Butson Park	High St reet	Recreation Reserve		Single main oval with pipe rail fence, tall coaches box/time keepers, separate tall score board, two coaches boxes, manual sprinklers, four light towers on the oval, synthetic wicket, football club members rooms and social facility - veranda providing covered seating for the one acrylic blue netball court with four light towers and separate clubroom overlooking. Two interchange benches. Separate visitor change facilities, separate toilet block. Large shady trees, ticket entry box.	Yackandandah	DSE	Butson Park COM	District
Yackandandah Swimming Pool Complex	3 William Street	Swimming pool		25m outdoor pool (with slide), toddlers pool (shaded), change rooms/toilets, kiosk/entry	Yackandandah	Council		Local
Yackandandah Soldiers Memorial Garden	Cnr High & Wellsford Streets	Local park / garden		Bandstand and Anzac memorial gates - adjacent Senior Citizens Centre	Yackandandah			Local
Yackandandah Primary School		School		cricket pitch, basketball court, top terrace with soccer goal				Local
Sir Isaac Isaac Park	Isaacs Avenue	Town Park	Playground	Two picnic shelters, district playground, climbing apparatus, spring toys and swing picnic tables, rose arbour, public toilets. Used as a travel stop for visitors passing through the township.	Yackandandah			Local
Yackandandah Skate Park	William Street	Skate Park		Series of steel ramps ledges and rails on old tennis courts	Yackandandah			Local
Yackandandah Royal Bicentenary Walking Track		Track / Trail		Granitic sand walking track along the creek				Local
<b>Other Localities</b>								
Bruarong Community Hall	Barlow/Bruarong Lane	Community centre/hall				DSE	Bruaring Community Hall COM	Local
Christmastown Reserve		Recreation Reserve				DSE	Christmastown Reserve COM	Local
Cornishtown Community Hall		Community centre/hall				DSE	Cornishtown Community Hall COM	Local
Gooramadda Public Tourist & Camping Reserve		Camping Reserve				DSE	Gooramadda Public Tourist & Camping Reserve COM	District
Woolshed School Reserve		Local park / garden				DSE	Woolshed School Reserve COM	Local