



HORNSBY SPORTSGROUND STRATEGY FINAL REPORT

OCTOBER 2018



Prepared by
Otium Planning Group Pty Ltd

OTIUM PLANNING GROUP PTY LTD



Head Office:

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

Local Office

Address: Suite 1/273 Alfred Street North,
North Sydney NSW 2060
Contact: Simon Haire
Phone: (02) 8011 0725
Email: simon@otiumplanning.com.au

Otium Planning Group has offices in:

- Brisbane
- Cairns
- Darwin
- Melbourne
- New Zealand
- Perth
- Sydney

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



Document History

Document Version	Date	Checked	Distribution	Recipient
Final v1	12/10/2018		S Haire	A Flick
Final v2	26/10/2018	D Mason	S Haire	A Flick



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	i
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Objectives and Scope	1
1.3 Methodology	2
2. Background and Context	4
2.1 Background Research	4
2.2 Area Profile	5
2.3 General Principles	10
2.4 Discussion Paper and Previous Consultation	11
3. Current Situation Analysis	14
3.1 Sportsground Inventory	14
3.2 Asset Management	17
3.3 Overview of Selected Sports	18
3.4 Analysis of Sportsground Use	21
4. Demand Assessment and Gap Analysis	30
4.1 Participation Based Demand Analysis Model	30
4.2 Allocation Based Demand Model	31
4.3 Gap Summary	32
4.4 Sport Specific Demand	33
4.5 Regional Demand and Supply Pressure	34
5. Strategies to Address Demand	36
5.1 Opportunity Review	36
5.2 Future Demand and Supply Summary	41
5.3 Facility Planning Model	42
6. Summary and Recommendations	48
Warranties and Disclaimers	49



DIRECTORY OF TABLES

Table 1: Total Potential Capacity Increase by Type	ii
Table 2: Hornsby Shire Population projections to 2036 (based on current LGA boundary)	10
Table 3: Percentage change in population of Hornsby Shire from 2011-2036	10
Table 4: Supply by LGA	16
Table 5: Asset Renewal and Upgrade Program	17
Table 6: Summary of Current Use Issues	20
Table 7: Summary of Winter Utilisation to Practical Capacity Benchmark (Hectare Hours)	24
Table 8: Hornsby Shire Council Netball Courts	27
Table 9: Projected Requirements based on Participation Demand Analysis Model	31
Table 10: Projected Requirements based on Allocation Demand Analysis Model (Ha)	32
Table 11: Playing Space Gap Summary (Ha)	32
Table 12: Gap Summary (Hectare Hours)	32
Table 13: Indicative Sport Specific Demand	33
Table 14: Indicative Implementation Model	38
Table 15: Summary of Potential School Fields by LGA	40
Table 16: Total Potential Capacity Increase by Type to 2026	40
Table 17: 2026 Demand and Supply Analysis (Hectare Hours)	41
Table 18: 2026 Demand and Supply Analysis (Equivalent Playing Space)	41
Table 19: Sport by Sport Opportunity Evaluation	44

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Consultation Outcomes Report	51
Appendix 2 - Sportsground Inventory	52

Executive Summary

Otium Planning Group has been engaged to provide an assessment of the current and future demands for sportsgrounds within Hornsby Shire and provide recommendations to meet these demands. This study has been conducted in two main phases. The first was a discussion paper developed in 2017 and the second is the Sportsground Strategy (this report).

The discussion paper was the first deliverable for the project and was developed to outline sportsground analysis and provide indicative future strategies/directions for consideration and discussion by Council and key stakeholders.

Following a consultation process with key stakeholders and the Hornsby community in general, the study findings have been reviewed in order to prepare specific recommendations in a final strategy document (this report).

Current Situation

Research and analysis indicates:

- Council provides around 43 sportsgrounds with a total playing surface area of 59Ha (most sportsgrounds are single fields)
- In the winter season, 76% of Council's fields are allocated close to or over their adopted benchmark
- On a cumulative basis, winter use is more than 15% above the practical capacity
- Fields that are over allocated are, on average, almost 26% over their combined capacity
 - As a proportion of the total supply capacity, this is approximately 14.7%
- For the winter season, Football (soccer) is by far the largest user of sportsgrounds in the LGA, utilising 59% of the space allocated to sporting groups; this is followed by AFL (11%), Rugby Union (9%) and Rugby League (9%)
- The current shortfall of playing surface area is 12.6 Ha
- Hornsby's annual population increase is 1% which is forecast for the next ten years
- A gap analysis indicates that with no change to the current supply, by 2026 there would be a shortfall of sportsground playing surface in the Hornsby Shire Council area of approximately 19.9 Ha. In addition to the actual playing area, an allowance for ancillary space needs to be made (estimated at 70%) which results in a total land area required of approximately 33.8 Ha.

Development Options

Whilst the shortfalls in supply are expressed as land areas, a number of measures can contribute to addressing the shortfall in supply of sportsgrounds. These include:

- Improving the carrying capacity of existing sportsgrounds
- Installing or upgrading lighting
- Reconfiguring playing fields to improve functionality
- Upgrading drainage and/ or surface quality
- Installing additional multi-purpose synthetic surfaces or special purpose surfaces
- Ensuring provision of active open space land in new residential developments
- Converting existing open space to sportsground use
- Acquiring or securing other land for sportsgrounds
- Partnering with schools and/ or other institutions to use existing or develop new facilities
- Consideration of new technology
- Ensuring the sportsground allocation process effectively balances maximising use with equity of access

- Continuing to improve field maintenance and management practices

Further elaboration of these measures is provided at Section 5. An indicative model has also been developed to show the potential impact of selected initiatives. The total potential additional supply as result of capacity increases by Council and the increased use of school grounds is shown in the table below.

Table 1: Total Potential Capacity Increase by Type

Category	Equivalent Playing Space (Ha)
Council Sites	19.5
School Sites	4.0
Total	23.5

Guiding Principles

In order to guide further development of options and to assist in future decision making processes, the following principles have been proposed:

Planning, funding and facility delivering

- Priority Principles
 - Where feasible Council should increase sportsground capacity, and enhance viability of existing facilities through improved surfaces, lighting, drainage and design
 - Maximising carrying capacity at existing sportsgrounds should be pursued as a priority to optimise investment in these facilities
 - Best value - initiatives that provide a strong cost benefit ratio
 - Best fit - initiatives that match uses/activities with the characteristics of sportsgrounds and other users
- Funding Principles
 - Funding responsibility for sport should be shared with federal and state governments and sports codes
 - For new or upgraded facilities Council should seek contributions from:
 - federal and state government and sports codes for regional priorities
 - users for one off local projects;
 - Where limited funds are available, Council's funding priorities are focussed upon improving sportsground facilities for conducting sport, as opposed to contributing towards club based social facilities
 - Should users wish to have higher quality of facility than Council can afford, or is considered a low priority, they may contribute to the capital cost of the upgrade works
 - Council should plan collaboratively for turf and synthetic ground replacements and whole of life costs

Restructuring and/or Reallocation Principles

- Guiding Principles for Council
 - Council should seek additional grounds, increase carrying capacity at existing grounds and ensure facilities are shared in both seasons
 - Council should prioritise access to sportsgrounds for community based sport
 - Maintain a diversity of sports across the area, and a good depth of competition
 - Where limited opportunities exist for new or upgraded sportsground facilities at the local level, it is acknowledged that users will need to travel to adjacent venues
 - Council should provide for diversifying populations and lifestyles: age, ability, cultural backgrounds and demand for new sport formats and schedules

- Guiding Principles for Sporting Organisations
 - Commitment to collaborate with Council and other sports to address demands for all users
 - Adaptation - meeting demand for limited sportsgrounds requires groups to be flexible to new opportunities
 - Maximise current capacity - existing sportsgrounds in all parts of the LGA should be utilised despite travel distances

Key findings and Recommendations

This study has confirmed the gap between demand and supply of sportsgrounds in the Hornsby LGA. The potential gap between future demand (by 2026) and current supply has been estimated at 40%. Potential increases in supply have been estimated at up to 45% which, if implemented in full and used to maximum capacity could by and large meet demand to 2026.

It is acknowledged that forecasting demand over a long period has its limitations and changes in trends/demands will take place over this time which will alter current forecasts. Nevertheless, the gap is such that even if all identified initiatives were employed in the short term, the increase in supply will only just account for demand to 2026. However, demand is likely to escalate further by 2036. Therefore, the overall aim should be to implement as many of the initiatives as possible within the next 5 years and monitor subsequent outcomes and changes in demand and develop/refine the analysis and strategy accordingly.

Specific recommendations to implement the findings of this report are as follows:

1. Adapt and maintain the facility inventory developed for this project
2. Adapt and monitor seasonal utilisation based on methods established for this project
3. Monitor sport participation rates and trends against utilisation/allocations
4. Adopt and progressively implement the model outlined in Section 5.1 for increasing the capacity of sportsgrounds in the LGA including
 - Reviewing and evaluating options to further boost capacity through the use of synthetic sports surfaces at appropriate sites
 - Engage with the Department of Education to review options for embellishing and using identified school sportsgrounds
5. Progressively review the impact of initiatives on supply/capacity of grounds against contemporary and forecast demand/utilisation to refine the quantum for additional increases in capacity
6. In line with the models developed, progressively work through development and allocation options and alternatives with sporting bodies to ensure contemporary needs are met including planning for new facilities -
 - Westleigh Park -
 - Prepare a masterplan for development of fields and supporting infrastructure based on two oval areas overlaid with up to four rectangular football fields
 - Plan for the use of synthetic surfaces in first phase of development to boost capacity
 - Key sport users in winter should include football (soccer) and AFL and in summer should include cricket, summer football, touch and/or oztag
 - Seek regional and state support for the development of Westleigh Park as a regionally significant facility
 - Hornsby Park -
 - Prepare a masterplan for the development of an oval and support facilities to cater for cricket (level of competition and pitch type to be determined) and football in winter
7. Identify specific requirements for the upgrade of ancillary facilities to compliment capacity upgrades and address contemporary issues (e.g. safety, shade, customer expectations/standards, increased female participation, cultural profiles)
8. Investigate longer term opportunities for new and upgraded facilities to meet demand beyond 2026 (including Cowan and Schofield Parade)

INTRODUCTION





1. Introduction

Otium Planning Group has been engaged to provide an assessment of the current and future demands for sportsgrounds within Hornsby Shire and provide recommendations to meet these demands. This study has been conducted in two main phases. The first was a discussion paper developed in 2017 and the second is the Sportsground Strategy (this report).

The discussion paper was the first deliverable for the project and was developed to outline analysis provide indicative future strategies/directions for consideration and discussion by Council and key stakeholders.

Following a consultation process with key stakeholders and the Hornsby community in general, the study findings have been reviewed in order to prepare specific recommendations in a final strategy document (this report).

1.1 Background

Hornsby Shire Council adopted the Active Living Hornsby Strategy, which has provided Council with a framework to meet the recreational needs for the shire. The Sportsground Strategy is a key recommendation from the strategy that is aimed to address the current and future pressures faced by sportsground usage.

There are currently 46 sportsgrounds within the Hornsby Shire, which are used for a range of organised sports plus informal recreation, fitness groups and events. Many of these facilities are currently being utilised beyond their carrying capacity, with high demand for night time training and weekend usage. Many sports are forced to share grounds with other codes to accommodate demand, or the quality of training is reduced as a result of high occupancy rates.

1.2 Objectives and Scope

The scope of this study is limited to the provision and assessment of outdoor sportsgrounds. As outlined in Council's project brief, the scope of the study is to conduct an assessment of current and future demand for sportsgrounds in Hornsby Shire, including areas of highest impact and sports codes affected. This includes:

- Review available census data within the Hornsby LGA.
- Review existing and projected demographic data for the LGA for the period 2016 to 2026.
- Analysis of Council's existing sports club data which includes up to date information for registered player numbers, ground use, weekly training hours for each venue/field etc
- Identify localised sports participation trends (Council has detailed exiting use data).
- Identify current gaps in the provision of sportsgrounds
- Identify future demands for sportsgrounds and potential gaps in meeting demand in ten years' time
- Identify options to meet demand

The following sports are covered in the scope of the study:

- Athletics
- Australian Football
- Baseball
- Cricket
- Hockey
- Netball
- Touch/Oztag
- Rugby League
- Rugby Union
- Football (Soccer)
- Softball



1.3 Methodology

The following methodology was developed and implemented for this project.

Phase 1 - Discussion Paper Report

	Task
Stage 1	Inception Meeting
	Literature Review
	Demographic Analysis
	Workshop with key internal staff
	Analysis of sports club data
	Examine sports participation data
	Supply Analysis
	Follow up discussions with Council staff
	Sport Demand Modelling
	Demand Assessment
	Gap analysis
	Present Stage 1 findings to Council staff
	Stage 2
Workshop with Council staff	
Stage 3	Draft Report
	Presentation of Draft Report
	Discussion Paper
Stage 4	Public consultation process

Phase 2 - Strategy Report

	Task
Stage 1	Review previous project outputs
	Inception meeting
	Review consultation outcomes
	Review NSROC Sportsground Strategy
	Update utilisation analysis
	Update participation data
	Update demographic data
	Review demand forecast
Stage 2	Identification of Opportunities
	Develop supply and demand models
	Workshop with key internal staff (1)
	Refine supply and demand model
	Develop recommended use options
	Develop strategy outline
	Workshop with Council staff (2)
Stage 3	Draft Report
	Review of Draft Report
Stage 4	Councillor presentation
	Public consultation process
Stage 5	Prepare and deliver Final Report

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT





2. Background and Context

2.1 Background Research

A review of local, regional, and state planning documents relevant to sport was undertaken to provide strategic context for this report.

A summary of relevant aspects of key local and regional plans and studies reviewed are outlined below.

- Active Living Hornsby Strategy, 2015
 - One of the key strategy areas of this document is - Adapting to a changing sports environment.
 - Other recommendations relevant to this paper included -
 - *Sports Strategy* - develop a Sports Plan (or update the Sports Facility Strategy) for the Shire
 - *Regional Planning* - undertake consultation with clubs and associations at a local and regional level
 - *Hierarchy of Sports Facilities* - develop and progressively implement
 - *Increasing Capacity and Flexibility of Field and Courts Facilities* - identify and implement initiatives to increase capacity at existing facilities including through lighting, improved soil profiles, drainage, irrigation, synthetic surfaces and season crossover 'threading'.
- Hornsby Shire Council Integrated Planning and Reporting Documents
 - *Your Vision | Your Future 2028*, Hornsby Shire's Community Strategic Plan
 - **Value statement** - our Bushland Shire is a place for people. It has impressive places and wonderful environments and offers a great lifestyle for all members of our community.
 - **Action statement** - we are committed to collaboratively implementing infrastructure, sustainability, liveability, productivity and affordability initiatives to ensure our Bushland Shire thrives now and into the future.
 - **External impacts** - our Bushland Shire is being shaped by our natural environment, population growth, housing and employment opportunities.
 - Outcomes and indicators relevant to sport -
 - Infrastructure meets the needs of the population (*Community Outcome*)
 - Sporting facilities in the area meet needs - Benchmark 60% (*Indicator*)
 - Council plans well to secure the community's long term future (*Community Outcome*)
 - Plan well for community's long term future - Benchmark 28% (*Indicator*)
 - Delivery Program 2018-21 including the Operational Plan 2018/19
 - Manage parks and sporting facilities, plan future improvements and identify areas for future green space or open space acquisition and protection (*Service*)
 - Develop a draft Sportsground Strategy for the Shire
 - Maximise the use of existing sportsground facilities and advocate for regional venues in the Shire (*Ongoing Activity*)
- NSROC Regional Sportsground Management Strategy Review, 2017



- The aim of the project was to improve coordination of community sportsground management across the NSROC region to maximise participation opportunities and deliver community health and amenity benefits. The project has a focus on outdoor sportsgrounds and key sports competing for these spaces.
- Relevant findings include -
 - Overall, the capacity of Sportsgrounds in the NSROC Region needs to increase by 26% by 2026 and by 40% to 2036
 - NSROC Councils identified potential increases of up to 22% with around half of those increases potentially sourced from the Hornsby LGA
 - Demand and supply of sportsgrounds is regionally based meaning increases in one LGA supports the whole region

Key NSW Government reports reviewed included:

- NSW Government Response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Sportsground Management in NSW, 2007.
 - Recognised that there is a ‘chronic shortage’ of sporting venues in many local government areas and existing facilities are subjected to increasing user pressures. Recommendations included use of public and private schools, improved playing surfaces, reduced playing seasons, improved lighting, land acquisition in high demand areas, and provision of active sportsgrounds in new release areas.
- Game Plan 2012 - NSW Sport and Recreation Industry Five Year Plan
- NSW Open Space Planning Guidelines, 2010
- DET Community Use of School Facilities Policy, 2009
- Our Greater Sydney 2056 - North District Plan (2018)

2.2 Area Profile

The Hornsby LGA¹ is located in Sydney's northern suburbs - about 25 kilometres from the Sydney CBD. Hornsby is bounded by the Central Coast LGA and the Hawkesbury River in the north and north-east, Cowan Creek in the east, the Ku-ring-gai LGA, the City of Ryde and the City of Parramatta in the south, and The Hills Shire in the west.

Hornsby is a predominantly rural and residential area, with some commercial and industrial land use. The Shire encompasses a total land area of about 460 square kilometres, of which two-thirds is National Park and reserves. Most of the land in the northern section is rural. The Shire has two major centres, with a major centre at Hornsby and a secondary centre at Pennant Hills. There are also many suburbs, villages, islands and river communities.

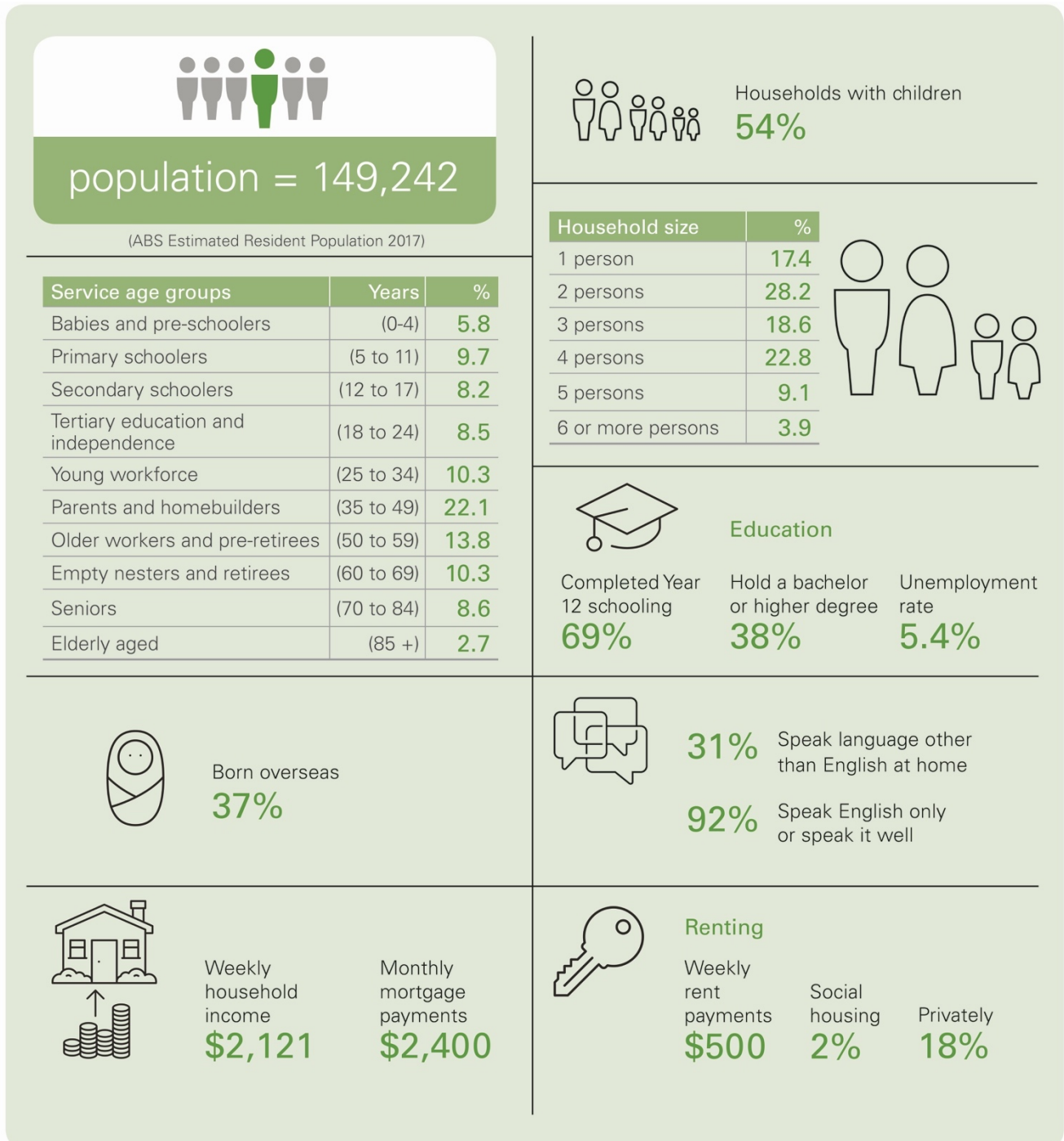
2.2.1 Demographic Profile

The 2017 Estimated Resident Population for the LGA is 149,242. This has grown from 136,162 in 2006. The following figure summarises key demographic data for the Hornsby LGA.

¹ This profile is based on the Hornsby Community Profile Compiled and presented by .id - the population experts id.com.au in March 2018



Figure 1 - Demographic Profile²

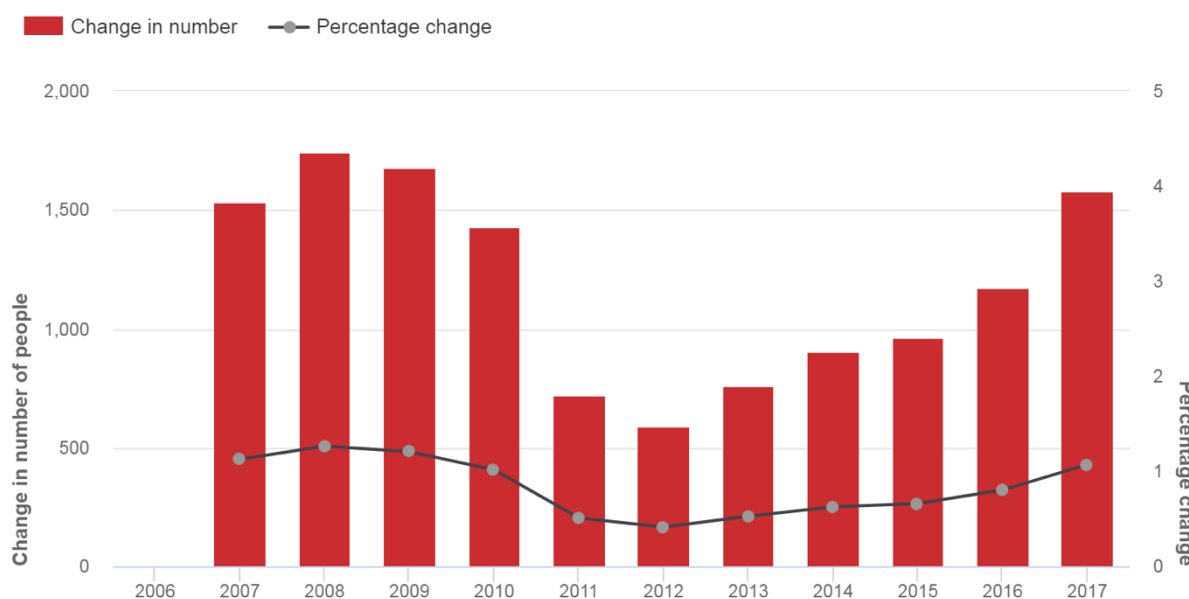


The change over the 10-year period to 2016 is 13,080 or 9.6%. The following figure shows annual population change from 2006 to 2017.

² Estimate Resident Population is the estimate of the population of the area at June 30 in the year of the last Census, and updated annually with a preliminary estimate thereafter until the next Census data is available



Figure 2 - Annual Change in Population



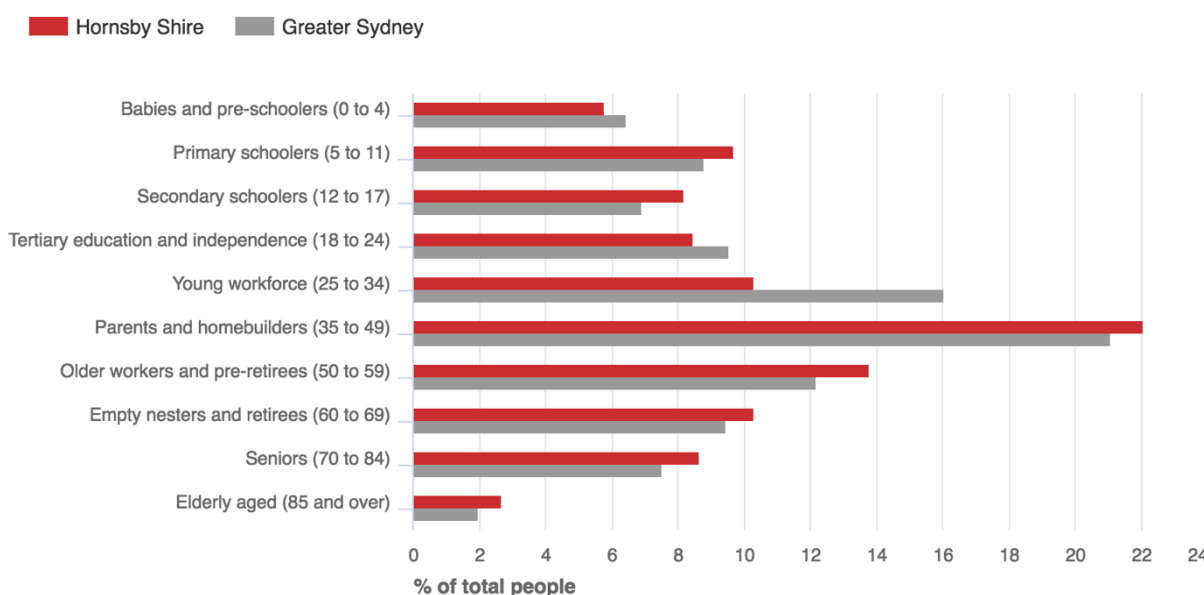
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Population Growth, Australia (3218.0). Compiled and presented by .id the population experts



The Age Structure of the LGA provides key insights into the level of demand for age based services and facilities. It is an indicator of its residential role and function and how it is likely to change in the future. Service age groups divide the population into age categories that reflect typical life-stages.

They indicate the level of demand for services that target people at different stages in life and how that demand is changing.

Figure 3 - Age Structure - Service Age Groups

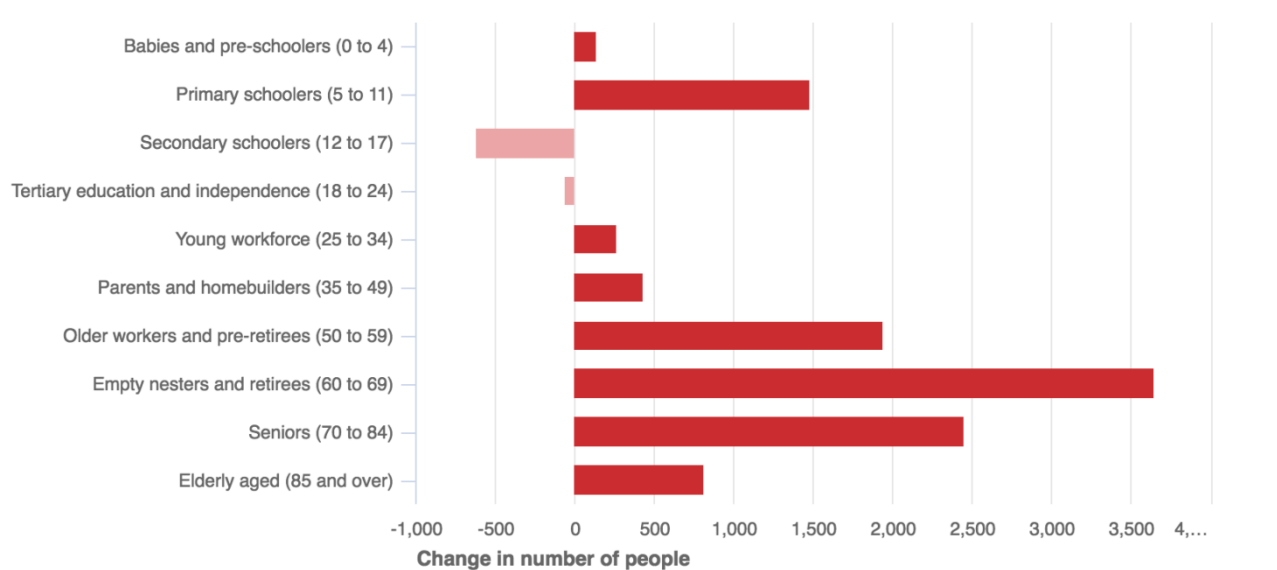


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2016 (Usual residence data). Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id, the population experts.





Figure 4 - Change in Age Structure 2006-2016



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2006 and 2016 (Usual residence data). Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id, the population experts.

.id the population experts

Dominant groups

Analysis of the service age groups of the Hornsby Shire in 2016 compared to Greater Sydney shows that there was a higher proportion of people in the younger age groups (0 to 17 years) as well as a higher proportion of people in the older age groups (60+ years).

Overall, 23.7% of the population was aged between 0 and 17, and 21.7% were aged 60 years and over, compared with 22.2% and 19.0% respectively for Greater Sydney. The major differences between the age structure of the Hornsby Shire and Greater Sydney were:

- A *larger* percentage of 'Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59)' (13.8% compared to 12.2%)
- A *larger* percentage of 'Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)' (8.2% compared to 6.9%)
- A *larger* percentage of 'Seniors (70 to 84)' (8.6% compared to 7.5%)
- A *smaller* percentage of 'Young workforce (25 to 34)' (10.3% compared to 16.1%)

Emerging groups

From 2011 to 2016, Hornsby Shire's population increased by 5,416 people (3.9%). This represents an average annual population change of 0.78% per year over the period. The largest changes in the age structure in this area between 2011 and 2016 were in the age groups:

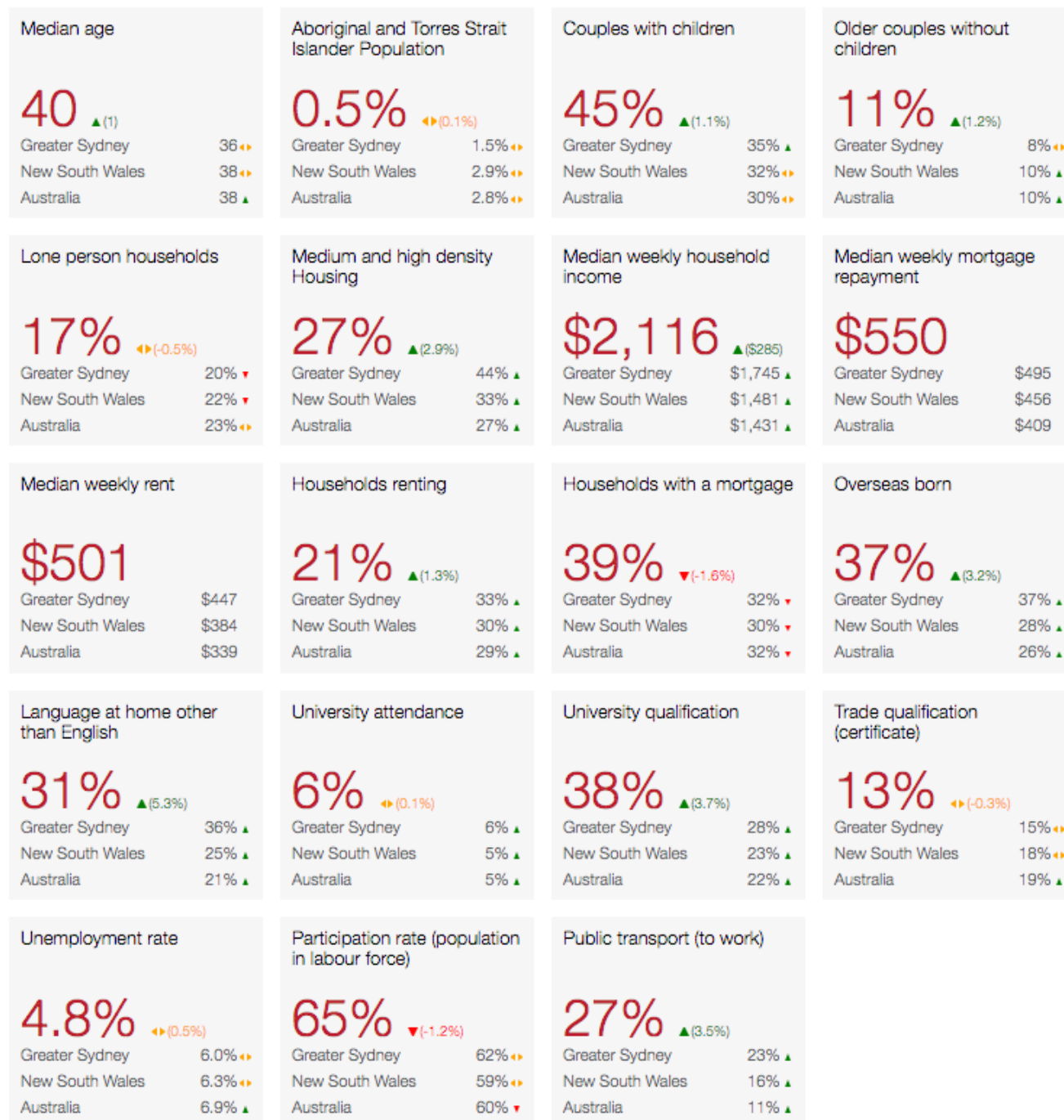
- Seniors (70 to 84) (+1,609 people)
- Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69) (+1,373 people)
- Primary schoolers (5 to 11) (+1,113 people)
- Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59) (+765 people)

A range of general demographic statistics from the 2016 Census are shown in the figure on the following page. These compare Hornsby statistics with Greater Sydney, NSW and Australian figures and indicate proportional changes for each area from the 2011 Census.



Figure 5 - Other Demographic Statistics

↔ No significant change since previous Census (less than ±0.5%) ▲ Increased since previous Census ▼ Decreased since previous Census



Across all statistics the review indicates there was no significant change from the 2011 Census. Other observations compared to Greater Sydney include:

- Higher median aged
- Higher rate of couples with children
- Lower unemployment rate



2.2.2 Population Growth

New South Wales state government population projections suggest that the Shire’s population would stand at 149,650 in 2016³. The population is expected to continue increasing into the future to 164,650 in 2026 (10%) increase and 178,100 in 2036 (Table 2). The expected population growth from 2011 to 2036 suggests 34,750 additional people will be living in the Shire, representing a 24.3% increase (Table 3).

Table 2: Hornsby Shire Population projections to 2036 (based on current LGA boundary)

TOTALS:	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036
Total Population	143,350	149,650	159,050	164,650	170,900	178,100

Table 3: Percentage change in population of Hornsby Shire from 2011-2036⁴

2011-2036		
Total Change	Total % Change	Annual % Change
34,750	24.3%	0.9%

2.2.3 Implications of Population Profile and Growth

- Higher proportions of young people aged 5 to 17 suggests a greater demand for junior sport
- A much lower proportion of young workforce representatives (25-34 years) than Greater Sydney suggests a lower demand for senior participation
- A projected additional 34,750 residents by 2036 will exacerbate demands for sportsgrounds

2.3 General Principles

In seeking a framework for addressing the issues raised in the discussion paper, Council has incorporated the following principles developed in the NSROC Regional Sportsground Management Strategy, 2017:

Councils’ role in sport

- Councils’ primary roles in sport are strategic planning, provision and management of sports infrastructure (see section 5.1)
- Councils’ secondary role in sport is supporting clubs and opportunities for participants
- Councils should provide equitable support to all sports clubs in the region
- Councils’ emphasis will be on community sport, recognising the importance of providing pathways to all levels of competition

Managing fluctuations in demand

- Ensure facilities are shared in both seasons
- Seek to maintain the current sportsground capacity to population ratio
- Prioritise community sport over other activities on purpose built sportsgrounds, as many other activities in demand are able to use other open spaces
- Maintain a diversity of sports in the region and provide for diversifying populations and lifestyles: age, ability, cultural backgrounds and demand for new sport formats and schedules
- In conjunction with sports codes, promote available sports opportunities and monitor use of facilities
- Assist sports codes with strategic planning at a regional level
- Support smart transport initiatives and encourage low sport miles

³ 2016 New South Wales State and Local Government Area Population and Household Projections, and Implied Dwelling Requirements

⁴ Based on updated LGA boundary



Planning & managing infrastructure and the carrying capacity of grounds

- Develop and implement a consistent approach to, and ongoing monitoring of, sportsground performance
- Seek to increase carrying capacity of existing grounds and seek opportunities for new grounds (on greenfield and brownfield sites)
- Develop partnerships with schools and clubs to manage demand and supply
- Infrastructure planning should be based around flexibility/adaptability/multi-use wherever possible to meet changing demands
- Engage with and lobby key government agencies to plan and implement long term solutions to address the supply gap
- With the State Government and SSO's, develop a hierarchy of facilities by sport within the region
- Complement the supply of sportsgrounds with indoor facilities

Pricing and occupancy of facilities

- Maintain consistency between Councils for sportsgrounds pricing
- Subsidise not-for-profit or volunteer based sports clubs more than commercial sports enterprises
- Use price incentives to encourage clubs to train off-field, use low grade fields, and divert demand away from high grade facilities
- Encourage capital user contributions, whilst maintaining public ownership and shared use
- Standardise: allocation systems, occupancy agreements and conditions of use; ground closures, season dates and rest between seasons; approach to schools, insurance requirements; and collection of usage data

Funding capital works, planning and management

- Resource regional funding coordination: packaging funds for sportsground improvements and regional facilities, and share the cost of developing a regional inventory, utilisation and monitoring system
- Seek contributions from: federal and state government and sports codes (for regional priorities); users for one-off local projects; as well as corporate and private sports providers through joint ventures

2.4 Discussion Paper and Previous Consultation

As noted in the introduction of this report, a prior phase of this project involved the preparation of a discussion paper to outline analysis provide indicative future strategies/directions for consideration and discussion by Council and key stakeholders.

After the discussion paper was prepared it was circulated to key stakeholders and placed on public exhibition. In addition, Elton Consulting were engaged by HSC to facilitate and record a consultation program. The objective of the consultation was to seek feedback from key stakeholders and the community on the Draft Sportsground Discussion Paper which was to contribute to preparing the final Sportsground Discussion Paper. During the six week consultation period, feedback was sought through:

- An online survey
- Focused meetings with key sportsground stakeholders representing ten sports, and
- General submissions.

The *Consultation Outcomes Report Hornsby Sportsground Strategy* as prepared by Elton Consulting is attached at Appendix 1.

A summary of the consultation findings as reported by Elton Consulting is as follows:



- *Coming out of all the feedback gathered and analysed during the consultation process, was a general acceptance of Council's priorities. Overall, results from the surveys, comments made during the stakeholder meetings and ideas raised in the submissions largely correlated with one another.*
- *Across the survey results, stakeholder meetings and submissions, there was overwhelming support for the principle to maximise carrying capacity by improving drainage, lighting and surface and design/field configuration. The majority of stakeholder meeting participants recognised the benefits that previous upgrades to their home grounds have made, allowing for longer hours of use and a better-quality game.*
- *There was also majority support amongst survey respondents for the principle that clubs/organisations should contribute to the cost of the upgrade if they wish to have a higher quality of facility than Council can provide.*
- *There was wide-spread support for the principle that Council should prioritise improving sportsground facilities for conducting sports, over club based social facilities. Some stakeholder meeting participants did not support this principle and indicated that clubhouses and social facilities contribute to social and community aspect of playing sport.*
- *Across the survey results and stakeholder meetings, some flexibility was expressed to travel further for training and competitions. Interestingly, the survey responses indicated more willingness to travel for training rather than competition while meeting participants indicated more willingness to travel for competitions rather than training.*
- *In terms of multi-use sportsgrounds, survey respondents expressed strong support to have choice and access to a variety of different sports codes and prioritising developing multi-use sportsgrounds. Whilst stakeholder meeting participants showed wide-ranging support for multi-use grounds, they indicated that for any potential multi-use grounds, consideration must be made for compatible sports and these should be prioritised.*
- *Coming out of the survey results, stakeholder meetings and submissions, Westleigh and Hornsby Park were the most popular locations to establish new sportsgrounds. Stakeholder meeting participants expressed that due to Westleigh's size, it could be a multi-use sportsground and accommodate a variety of sports codes. Ideas were also raised to establish Hornsby Park as a satellite training and competition ground for overflow.*
- *Sports that are suited to utilising synthetic turf surfaces (AFL, Soccer NSFA and Soccer GHFA) all expressed support for synthetic turf surfaces during the stakeholder meetings. However, they suggested that Council should consider the location of these grounds, who they are shared with and what material is used to lower the risk of injury.*



CURRENT SITUATION ANALYSIS



3. Current Situation Analysis

The Discussion Paper provided an overview of Hornsby Shire Council sportsgrounds, sporting groups and their current utilisation. This is summarised below.

3.1 Sportsground Inventory

Council's inventory of booked sportsgrounds is distributed across 43 sportground sites supplying a total playing area of 59.04Ha (actual field space) within a total land area of approximately 100.37Ha. The difference between these two areas (41Ha) represents ancillary areas (e.g. car parks, amenities, landscaping, pathways and informal open space). This area is approximately 70% of the sportsground playing surface area which is consistent with ratios established by Otium Planning Group (OPG) in other sportsground planning projects in NSW, ACT and Queensland. An extract of the sportsground inventory is shown at Appendix 2.

In its winter configuration, these facilities provide approximately the following number of fields/ courts:

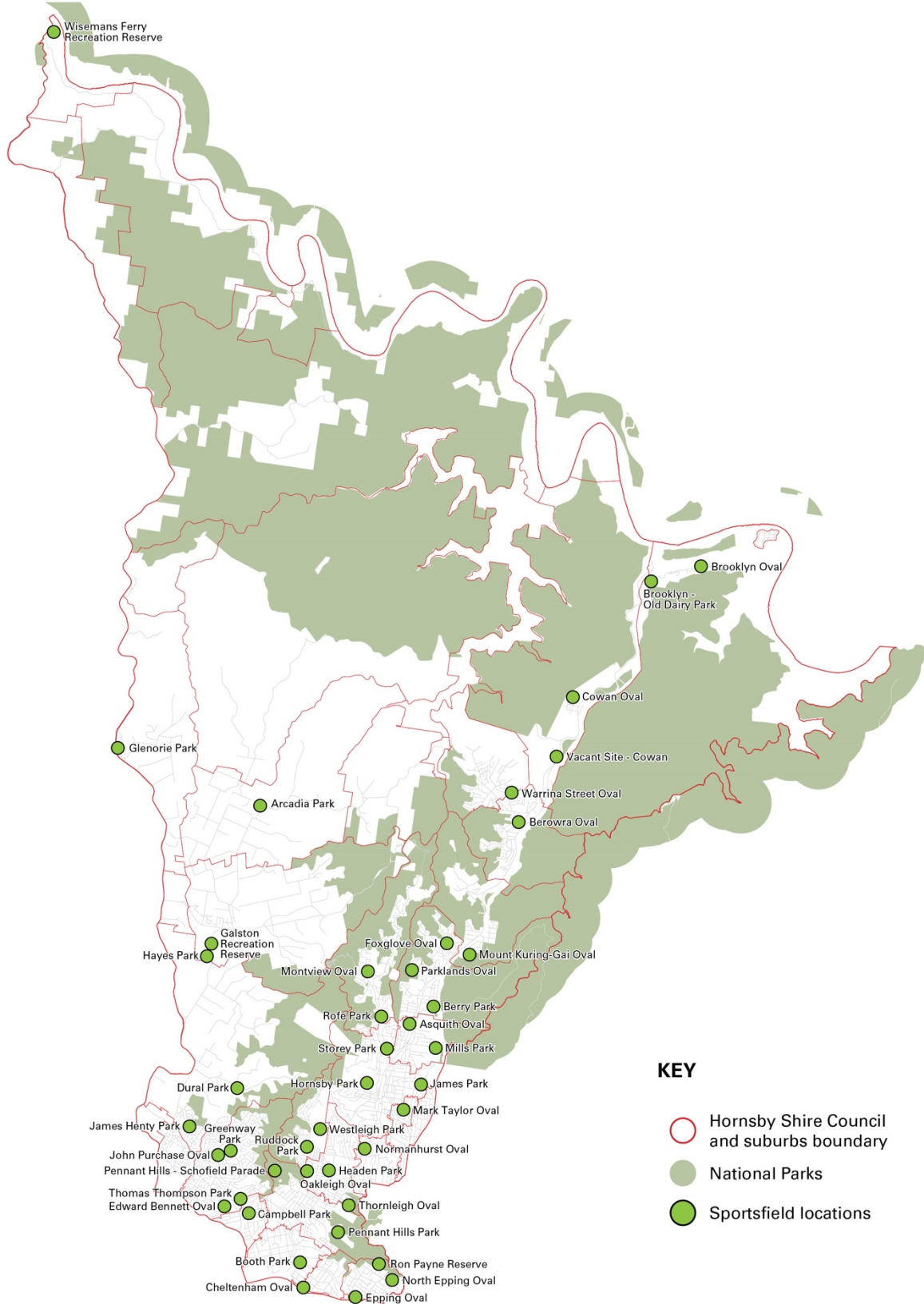
- 25 x Senior Soccer (100 x 70)
- 18 x Junior Soccer (60 x 40)
- 11 x Small Soccer (40 x 30)
- 22 x Mini Soccer (30 x 20)
- 5 x Rugby Union (100 x 70)
- 3 x Rugby League (100 x 70)
- 4 x AFL (various sizes)
- up to 22 baseball and softball fields; and
- 38 netball / sports courts.

One field has a synthetic sports surface installed (Pennant Hills Park No.3) plus 2 synthetic hockey fields. In summer, areas are reconfigured to cater for other field sports including softball, touch, oztag, small sided football, AFL 9's and cricket (up to 38 pitches).

A map showing the distribution of Hornsby Shire Council sportsgrounds throughout the LGA is provided on the following page.



Figure 6 - Sports Field Locations





3.1.1 General Sportsground Observations

The provision of sportsgrounds in Hornsby is characterised by a high level of small playing areas. One third of fields have a playing area smaller than a ‘standard field’ (circa 7,000m²). The average playing area for sportsgrounds in the LGA is just over 1Ha.

The current supply of sportsgrounds is constrained by a number of factors that impact on their functionality for sport, namely:

- The distribution of grounds is fragmented with many located in residential areas (this is perceived as a barrier by some sporting groups)
- Most grounds have no expansion capacity and smaller areas are suitable only for junior sport
- While lighting is installed on the majority of grounds (86%), the level and/ or coverage of lighting is limited in some cases with 44% having competition standard lighting.
- The topography of the area has led to many small and isolated facilities located on ridge tops

3.1.2 Inventory Benchmarking

It is difficult to gain reliable data to benchmark the provision of sportsgrounds due to different data collection methods and levels of accuracy for recording sportsground areas. Often, figures are quoted that incorporate expanses of bushland, recreation parks and other associated spaces that are not directly related to the provision of sport. To gain a more appropriate comparison, the area of available/useable ‘playing space’⁵ needs to be compared. This level of data is not typically reported by most Councils, however, OPG recently conducted a similar study for NSROC which is available for comparative purposes. Table 4 shows the comparison between the NSROC LGAs.

Table 4: Supply by LGA

Area	Population	Playing Area Count	Playing Space (Ha)	Average Site Area (Ha)	Pop/Ha	Ha/1000 Pop
Hornsby	149,650	44	59.5	1.35	2,516	0.40
Hunters Hill	14,500	10	6.5	0.65	2,238	0.45
Ku-ring-gai	123,500	63	63.6	1.01	1,943	0.51
Lane Cove	37,350	7	9.3	1.33	4,016	0.25
North Sydney	72,150	13	10.1	0.77	7,179	0.14
Ryde	119,950	73	61.9	0.85	1,936	0.52
Willoughby	75,450	19	28.5	1.50	2,651	0.38
Total	592,550	229	239.3	1.04	2,476	0.40

The following observations can be made from the data above:

- Overall provision of playing space -
 - Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai and Ryde LGAs supply the majority playing space, with
 - Combined total of 185Ha or 77% of the total playing space
 - Approximately 60Ha each
 - Willoughby is the next largest at 28.5Ha followed by North Sydney, Lane Cove and Hunters Hill
- Provision of space compared to population -
 - Ku-ring-gai and Ryde have the highest provision per head of population, above the region average
 - Hornsby, Hunters Hill and Willoughby are around the NSROC average
 - Lane Cove and North Sydney are below the NSROC average

⁵ This relates to useable sports surfaces (e.g. competition/training areas) and immediate surrounds. The analysis in this report focuses predominately on this figure.



- Proportion of NSROC playing space compared to proportion of NSROC population -
 - Ku-ring-gai and Ryde LGAs provide a larger proportion of space compared to their proportion of the NSROC population
 - Willoughby, Hornsby and Hunters Hill contribute a similar proportion of space compared to their proportion of population
 - Lane Cove has a slightly lower proportion of space compared to population share, whilst North Sydney has a much lower proportion of space contributed compared to population
 - Combined, the larger three 'outer' LGAs (Ryde, Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby) house 66% of the population but provide 78% of the available playing space

3.2 Asset Management

Council has recognised for some time that attention was needed to improve the capacity and sustainability of sportsgrounds. Council has developed and implemented an asset renewal and upgrade program to address this need. Recently completed and planned works under this program are shown in the table below. This excludes other Council contributions including for sportsground and facility maintenance.

Table 5: Asset Renewal and Upgrade Program⁶

Site	Year	Works	Cost (\$'000)
Dural Park	2012	Floodlight upgrade	155
Pennant Hills No 1	2012	Floodlight upgrade	130
Oakleigh Park	2012	Floodlight upgrade	160
Cheltenham Oval	2013	Drainage	30
James Henty Park	2014	Drainage	40
Thomas Thompson Park	2014	New playing surface and drainage	60
Greenway Park No 2	2014	New playing surface, irrigation and drainage	350
Berowra Oval	2014	Floodlight Upgrade	100
Mark Taylor Oval	2015	Floodlight upgrade	120
Campbell Park	2015	Floodlight upgrade	90
Foxglove Oval	2015	Floodlight upgrade	220
Montview Oval	2015	New playing surface, irrigation and drainage	310
Greenway Park No 2	2015	Floodlight upgrade	130
Pennant Hills No 1	2016	Drainage	90
Old Dairy Site	2016	New Field construction	60
Asquith Park	2016	Floodlight upgrade	95
Pennant Hills No 3	2016	Synthetic Field and lighting upgrade	1,300
Pennant Hills Netball	2014-16	Reconstruction of courts, Floodlight upgrade and car park upgrade	730
Thomas Thompson Park	2016	Floodlight upgrade	70
Greenway Park No 1	2016	Field renovations	50
Ron Payne Reserve	2016	New floodlights	130
Campbell Park	2016	New playing surface, irrigation and drainage	90
Hayes Park	2016	Floodlight upgrade	160
Pennant Hills Archery	2016	Levelling of grass surface, fence upgrades and installation of new butts	50
Oakleigh Park	2016	Irrigation and drainage	100

⁶ Figures do not include upgrades and renewals to sites transferred to City of Parramatta as part of the local government boundary adjustments in 2016. Includes contributions from grant funding and sports clubs.

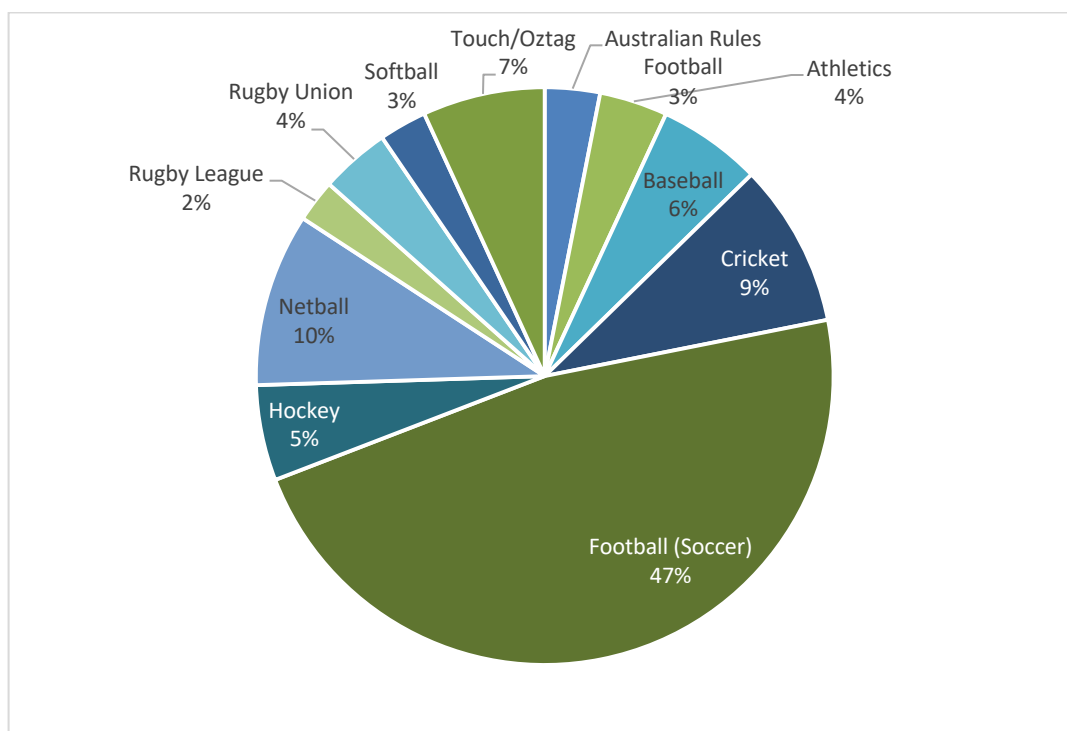


Site	Year	Works	Cost (\$'000)
Storey Park	2016	Floodlight upgrade	95
Warrina St Oval	2017	Floodlight upgrade	100
Pennant Hills No 2	2017	Floodlight upgrade	160
Edward Bennett Park	2018	Drainage and Surface	80
Berowra Oval	2018	Drainage and surface	70
James Park	2018	Floodlight upgrade	100
Little Warrina St Oval	2018	Floodlight Upgrade	20
Greenway Park Oval No.1	2018	Irrigation, drainage and surface upgrade	800
Asquith Oval	2019	Irrigation and drainage	250
Normanhurst Oval	2019	Irrigation and drainage	200
Total			6,695

3.3 Overview of Selected Sports

Council’s data on sports participation has been reviewed and analysed to establish overall participation trends for selected sports (relevant to the study) in the LGA⁷. In total, there are approximately 20,000 participants recorded by the selected sports. The proportional breakdown by sport is shown at Figure 7 below.

Figure 7 - Proportion of Total Selected Sport Participants



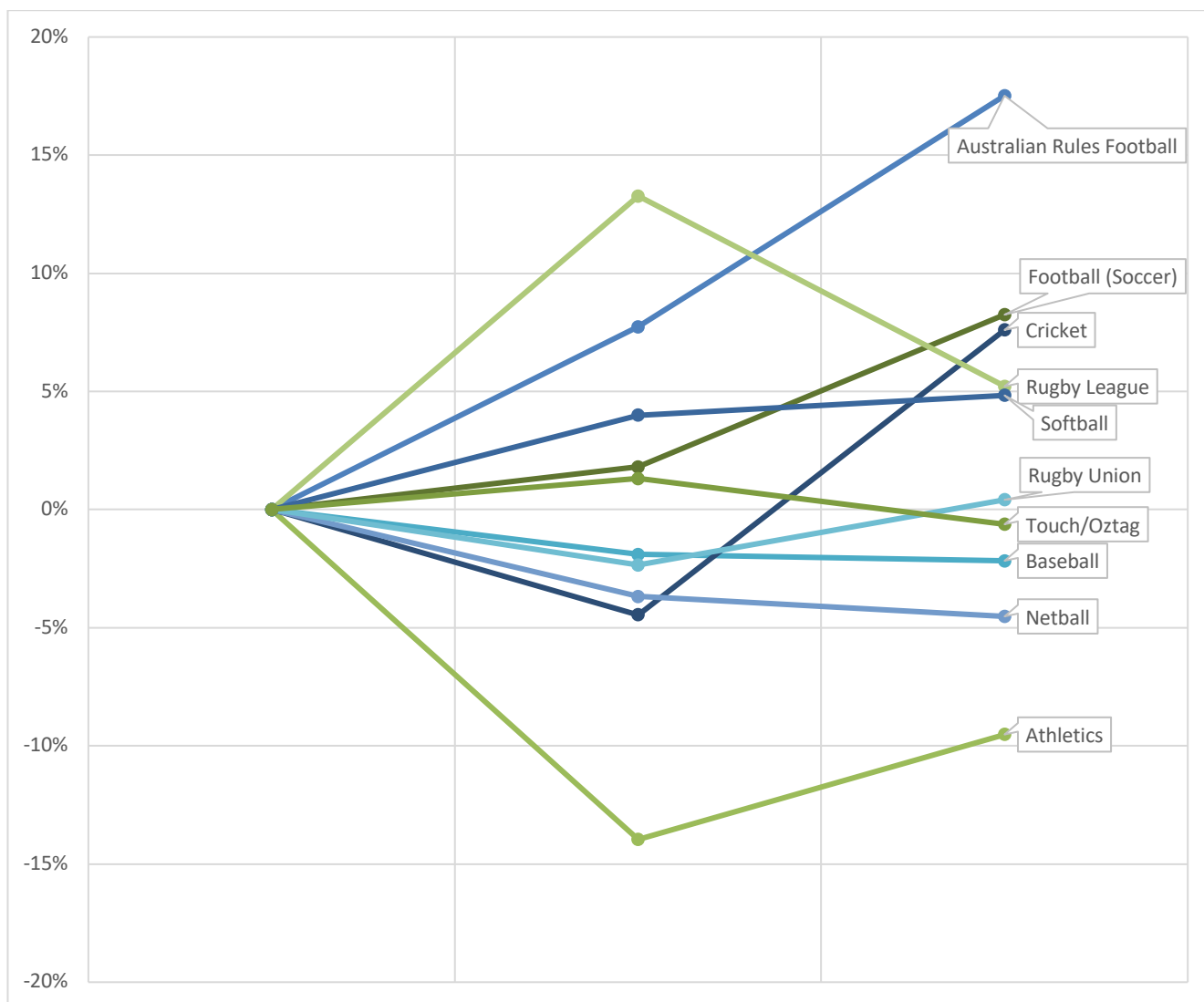
This shows that football (soccer) accounts for by far the highest proportion of participants in those sports within the scope of the study (47%) followed by netball (10%), cricket (9%) and touch/ Oztag (7%).

The following graph shows three-year participation trends for each of these sports on a proportional basis.

⁷ Based on 2014-2016 data sourced from sporting clubs and associations.



Figure 8 - Three Year Participation Trends



This data shows:

- An overall decline in athletics participation (10%), although this has recovered from 15% decrease
- A continual slight decline in netball participation
- Relative stable rates for baseball, touch/oztag, and rugby union
- Reasonable proportional increases for softball, rugby league, cricket and football
- Significant increase in Australian Rules participation

3.3.1 Current Sport Issues

Based on observations and user feedback, a summary of existing key issues for the subject sports and/or other users at specific locations has been developed. This is presented in Table 6 below.



Table 6: Summary of Current Use Issues

Sport	Current Use Issues
AFL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restrictions on available times due to shared use of grounds with other codes for both training and competition• Narrow shape of field at Pennant Hills park
Baseball	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restrictions on available times due to shared use of grounds with other codes for both training and competition
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School carnivals impact on overuse of Foxglove Oval• Conflict at Pennant Hills Park with cricket pitch use• Shared use of grounds with other codes• No all weather facility
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High participation rates requiring access to many fields for training and competition
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restricted to 2 pitches for the Shire with high by participants from other areas
Oztag/Touch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For efficient running of competition, touch requires access to multiple fields to be in 1 location
Rugby League	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shared use with other codes at Greenway Park restricts available times
Rugby Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shared use of ground at Dural Park - Mark Taylor Oval scheduling issues for cricket finals
Softball	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For efficient running of competition, softball requires multiple fields to be located within 1 site, reducing options for expansion
Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Layout of existing sites limits shared use• High demand on Saturdays for competition venues
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training and playing facilities conflict with urban growth at Waitara Park• Lack of available pitches for junior cricket

It is worth noting that each sport would ideally like to have single use facilities to meet their specific requirements and availability. These issues are considered further in this report to establish a framework for planning future development and management approaches.



3.4 Analysis of Sportsground Use

This section examines the current booking and usage patterns of Hornsby Shire Council sportsgrounds. This has been developed by scrutinising Council's sportsground booking data. Whilst it is acknowledged that booking data may not always accurately represent actual utilisation, it remains the only attainable and consistently applicable data available. Further, it is recognised that not all use is equal. That is, higher impact sports (greater numbers, game play and footwear) and user types (adults v children) may result in higher or lower surface deterioration. The booking data available does not make these distinctions.

Council's booking policy and procedure is based on hourly bookings and is partly substantiated through monitoring of sports lighting use which provides a higher level of reliability. However, it should be noted that bookings are made on a 'site by site' basis and not 'field by field'. The booking data used for this analysis does not include school or unstructured use of fields.

It is generally accepted that sportsground utilisation and facility condition have a direct and inseparable relationship. Several turf consultants suggest that any use of more than 25 hours a week will contribute to a deterioration of the playing surface. However, it is very common for playing fields in metropolitan Sydney to exceed 25 hours usage per week.

The focus of this analysis is on the winter season as this is when demand reaches its peak and supply is at its most tenuous due to growing conditions for natural turf. Therefore, a fundamental premise is that if enough capacity is available to accommodate winter sport demand then, in general, summer sport should also be accounted for.

Council's booking schedule identifies 54 individual 'bookable' fields/spaces across 43 sportsground sites. For the purpose of this analysis, netball court areas (4) have been set aside as they are single use hardcourt areas. This leaves 50 individual sports field areas.

OPG have developed a spreadsheet-based model which captures and analyses key aspects of sportsground allocations. Key considerations and assumptions for this model are outlined below:

- Council owned or managed facilities - only facilities where Council manages and/or records usage are included (due to availability of data)
- Winter use focus -
 - When demand reaches its peak and supply is at its most tenuous
 - The winter season runs from April to August
- Focus on peak hour usage
 - Weekdays 4pm-9pm
 - Weekends 8am - 5pm
- Weekly use benchmarks - analysis is based on a typical or average week of allocations in winter and compared against a range of benchmarks
 - 'Standard capacity benchmark'
 - Natural turf field with lights 25 hours
 - Synthetic surfaces 54 hours
 - 'Practical capacity benchmark'
 - Specific to each site based on limitations including location, size, lighting availability, specialised facilities/type of use and other capacity attributes (this is the primary benchmark used for analysis)
 - 'Maximum capacity benchmark'
 - Maximum peak hour capacity identified by Council



- Excluded facilities - some facilities are excluded because they are not used by any one of the selected sports (i.e. they may be used for other sports not included in this study)
- School use - school use is recorded but due to inconsistencies in details and impacts they are not included in core analysis
- Other recreational use - other recreational use is not generally recorded by Councils and is difficult to quantify, however, its impact on capacity is noted and acknowledged
- Capacity versus allocations - the capacity of sportsgrounds and their use is measured in 'hectare hours' (see below for further details)
- Type of use impact - impacts by type of activity or user can be factored in to the model but has not been broadly used for this analysis

In order to fully analyse the data provided by Council, it is necessary to not only consider the amount of time sportsgrounds are booked, but their relative size and carrying capacity. That is, not all sportsgrounds are the same size, therefore they have different capacities for use. For example, a ground 2Ha in size used for one hour is effectively the same as using a ground 1Ha in size for two hours.

To address this and to enable more detailed analysis and modelling (in sections 4 and 5), a simple measure referred to as 'hectare hours' has been developed. This combines the time of use (in hours) and the size of the space (in hectares). This measure is utilised regarding both supply (capacity) and demand (allocation/use). Using the same example as above, a 2Ha ground used for 1 hour would equate to 2 'Hectare Hours'; similarly, a 1Ha ground used for 2 hours would also equal 2 'hectare hours'.

Regarding supply/capacity, this means multiplying the adopted hours of use benchmark (carrying capacity) for each field by its available playing surface area. Regarding demand, this means multiplying the number of hours a field is booked by the size of its playing surface. The results of supply and demand calculations can then be compared.

3.4.1 Winter Season - Field Allocation Analysis

For the winter season, Council allocates a combined total of approximately 1,153 hours of sports field use per week. This use is spread across most of its supply network, but is not evenly distributed with many fields being 'over allocated' whilst others are not used or 'under allocated'

Using the assumptions outlined above, the current allocations provided by Council (winter 2017) were compared to the practical capacity benchmarks assigned to each 'bookable' field/area to identify current usage levels. Figure 9 presents a summary of this comparison by showing the results of each bookable field/area. That is, the proportion that each field/area is allocated either 'Over Capacity' (shown as a negative number), 'At Capacity' or 'Under Capacity' (shown as a positive number) relative to its applicable benchmark.

As noted above, specific fields were excluded from the analysis due to current restrictions including location and/or site limitations. These included Glenorie Park, Old Dairy Park, Pennant Hills Archery and Wisemans Ferry Oval.



Figure 9 - Allocation Compared to Benchmark by Field





This shows that over 76.1% of Council's grounds are allocated close to or over their adopted benchmark and approximately 23.9% have allocations under their benchmark or no use. Table 7 shows an overall summary of allocations compared to capacity.

Table 7: Summary of Winter Utilisation to Practical Capacity Benchmark (Hectare Hours)

Item	Fields	Capacity	Allocation	Difference	% Difference
Sub-total of Fields Allocated Over Benchmark	22	725	910	-185	-25.5%
Sub-total of Fields Allocated At or Within 10% of Benchmark	13	314	300	14	4.5%
Sub-total of Fields Allocated Under Benchmark ⁸	10	215	160	55	25.5%

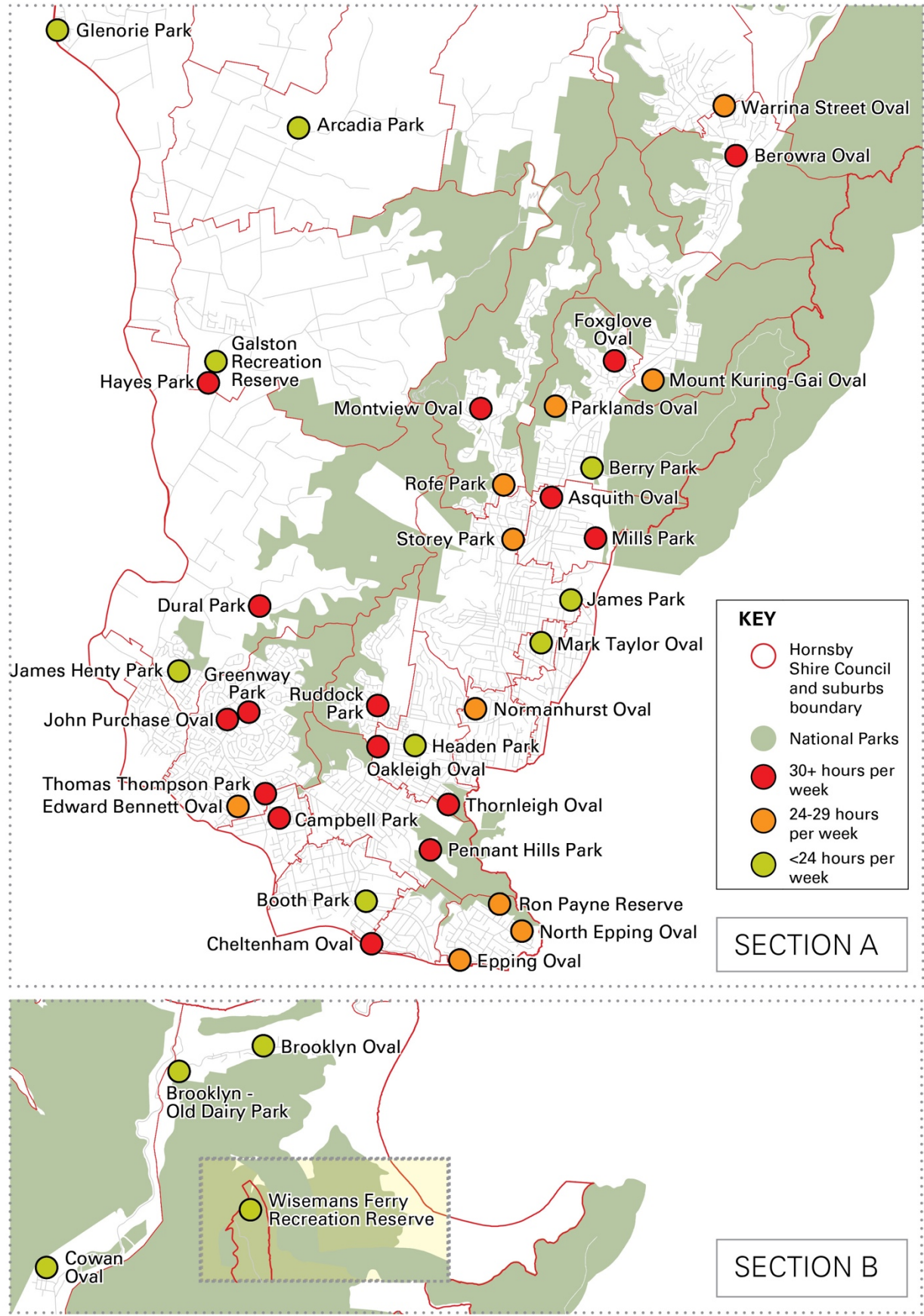
For the winter season, Council allocates a combined total of approximately 1,370 'hectare hours' of sports field use per week compared to a theoretical capacity of 1,258. This shows that overall the system is operating beyond its theoretical capacity.

Use is spread across most of its supply network, but as demonstrated above is not evenly distributed with many fields being 'over allocated' whilst others are 'under allocated'. Fields that are over allocated are, on average, almost 26% over their combined capacity. As a proportion of the total supply capacity, this is approximately 14.7%. As noted previously, this is without school use and/or informal/other recreational use. The data collected for school use, although not comparable with sport use, indicatively suggests that level of over allocations would almost double if it was factored into the equation.

⁸ Fields under allocated by more than 10%



Figure 10 - Winter Use Indicators - Sections A and B

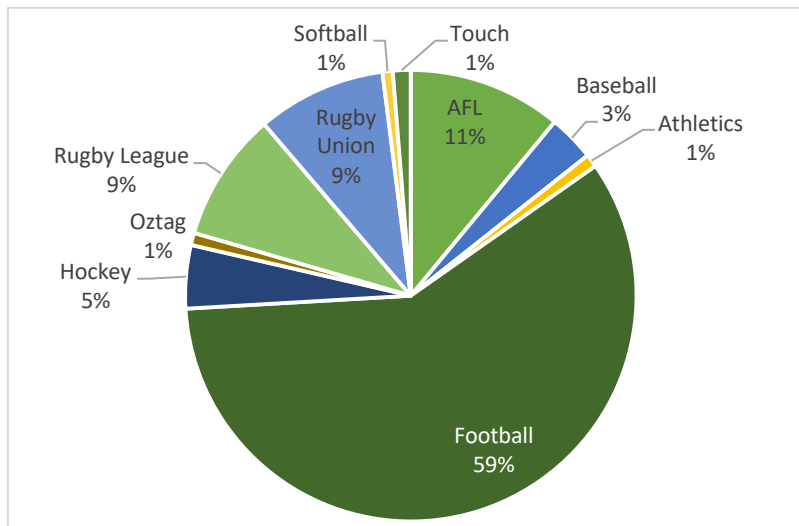




3.4.2 Winter Season - User Analysis

Continuing with the 'hectare hour' method and by further interrogating the allocation system by sport specific bookings, an estimate of relative usage can be established for each sport. That is, based on a calculation of space and time allocated to each sport. The figure below presents the proportion of total hectare hours used by sport.

Figure 11 - Proportion of Winter Sportsground Use



This demonstrates that football (soccer) is by far the largest user of sportsgrounds in the LGA, utilising 59% (or 806 hectare hours) of the space allocated to sporting groups. This is followed by AFL (11% or 151 hectare hours), Rugby Union (9% or 127 hectare hours) and Rugby League (9% or 127 hectare hours).



3.4.3 Winter Season - Netball Assessment

Netball in the Hornsby Shire is managed by the Hills District Netball Association. The Association has had a relatively stable membership of around 3,300 members for the past eight years. The association is made up of 22 clubs with half of those based in the Hornsby Shire consisting of approximately 1,800 members (55% of the total association membership).

The Association's primary competition and training venue is at Pennant Hills Park and Hornsby clubs also access a number of secondary training facilities as shown in the table below. Local clubs also use training facilities based in the Hornsby LGA but participate in competitions outside of the shire.

Table 8: Hornsby Shire Council Netball Courts

Site	Courts	Lighting	Training hours	Notes
Pennant Hills Park	17	17		Managed by association
Pennant Hills Park - Indoor	1	1		Managed by association
Warrina St Berowra	2	2	20	Multi-Use
Berowra Waters Rd Berowra	2	2	20	
Montview Oval Hornsby Heights	4	4	10	Multi-Use
Normanhurst Park	2	2	25	
Galston Recreation Reserve	2	2	20	
Greenway Park Cherrybrook	4	4	20	Multi-Use
North Epping Oval	2	2		Managed through lease
Cheltenham Oval	3	3		Removed due to North West Rail. To be reconstructed as part of rehab works
Total	39	39		

A 2010 NSROC Netball Development Plan, demonstrated that this level of provision was adequate with all sites identified as having some spare capacity. This included the primary facility at Pennant Hills where approximately 10 hours in spare capacity was identified. Given that participation numbers have remained about the same since this time, it is likely that this remains the case. Also, the introduction of mid-week evening netball assists in relieving pressure on weekend periods.

Further, a comparison of other associations at the time showed that this level of provision is similar to that in other areas:

- Hills District Netball Association - 22 clubs / 3356 players / 18 courts
- Ku-ring-gai Netball Association - 19 clubs / 3600 players / 21 courts
- Northern Suburbs Netball Association - 29 clubs / 4775 players / 19 courts
- Eastwood- Ryde Netball Association - 30 clubs / 4002 players / 28 courts

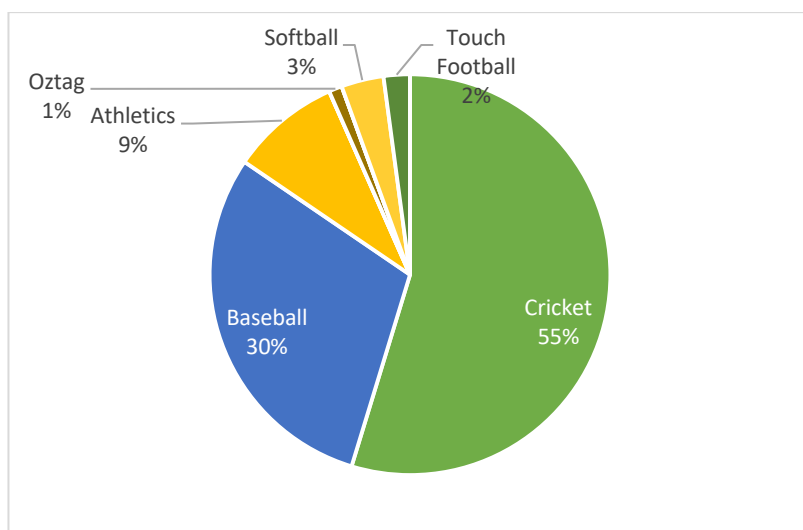
3.4.4 Summer Season

Council's summer booking schedules were interrogated using the same method as outlined previously. However, given stronger growing conditions for turf in the summer season and the tendency for lower impact sports to be played, adopted benchmarks are less relevant. Furthermore, total booking hours are lower in summer (834) than in winter (1,153). Nevertheless, if the benchmark is applied it shows that four fields may be over allocated. At face value, this analysis suggests that reallocation of bookings from fields that are 'overbooked' to fields that are 'under booked' would provide a more balanced outcome within the total capacity of the sports field supply chain.



Based on a calculation of space and time allocated to each sport the proportion of total hectare hours used by sport can be estimated. This is shown in the figure below.

Figure 12 - Proportion of Summer Sportsground Use



A specific issue for consideration during the summer season is the supply of cricket pitches particularly to cater for junior games (predominately) on Saturday mornings. Based on junior participation figures, team numbers would be around 90 meaning approximately 45 pitches would be needed to stage all games in one timeslot. Council currently has 29 synthetic cricket wickets and 9 turf cricket wickets, but these serve clubs and teams outside of the Hornsby LGA as well as local clubs.

DEMAND ASSESSMENT AND GAP ANALYSIS





4. Demand Assessment and Gap Analysis

The analysis of likely demand and the amount of land required to meet that demand relies on a number of methodologies and the informed interpretation of results. OPG has developed two models for estimating the current and future demand for sportsgrounds in Hornsby Shire - one is a generic participation based demand model and the other an allocation/utilisation based demand model. The following sections provide an overview of each model and subsequent results for the Hornsby LGA.

4.1 Participation Based Demand Analysis Model

Demand for facilities can be estimated using available participation data and modelling of field or court capacity required to service that participation. OPG have developed a Demand Analysis Model based on participation data and a set of assumptions for facility/ field capacity, utilisation rates and a mix of lit and unlit fields.

The Demand Analysis Model uses the following information to produce both anticipated participation of a given population and the amount of land required to accommodate that population. In brief, it uses the following inputs:

- Population data within age cohorts
- Participation data
- Area needed for specific playing fields/ courts
- Capacity of playing fields/ courts to accommodate numbers of players
- Likely peak demand hours
- The mix of lit and unlit fields/ courts.

None of these sources are used as a stand-alone basis for the final estimate. Rather they form a set of data points that enable triangulation to a more refined prediction. The following are some key points in relation to the model for this study:

- Participation data used is sourced from survey returns from local sports associations and/or data supplied by Council for the area. Any issues with individual sports participation rates are not of particular concern when modelling the data for overall field sports participation. The aggregated participation data is more robust for the purposes of projection. To explain, while we can be less certain about exact numbers playing a particular sport, we can be reasonably confident that participation in field sport as a whole will continue. So, though the land requirements to service field sport can be projected with some confidence, the actual configuration of the land (in terms of types of fields) is less certain the further ahead projections are made.
- In a forward planning context, it is therefore important to consider the overall land needed and to obtain suitable areas of a size and shape that allows for a range of configurations over time. The Demand Analysis Model is focused on formal sport participation. It does not include an allowance for informal sporting or active recreation areas. In summary, the modelling tool, while relying on assumptions about utilisation and capacity and externally reported participation, provides an alternative to traditional models based on ratios of land to population.
- The application of the Demand Analysis Model for this study focused on field sports (athletics/ track and field, baseball, cricket, Australian football, rugby league, rugby union, soccer (football), touch football, hockey, softball and netball). Given the number of junior fields currently marked across the Council sites and within full size rectangular and oval fields, the most appropriate method of projection is to focus on the overall land available and the proportion of that land which is dedicated to the actual playing surface.



- Future population estimates developed in consultation with Council officers have been used to calculate the demand for the 2026 period. The current supply of sport land within Hornsby Shire has been provided by Council.
- Ancillary facility needs (e.g. for buffer space, club facilities, amenities, some parking) required to make areas functional has been incorporated into the overall area calculation per facility. This means that while actual playing surface may be 1 Ha, the actual land needed is greater to allow space for parking, ancillary facilities and buffers.
- Based on test analysis of a number of locations across QLD, NSW and ACT, Otium Planning Group has found that generally for field sports the additional ancillary area required is approximately 70% of actual playing space. Therefore, total land needs are calculated as 1.7 x the playing area needed.

The table below presents the results calculated by the Demand Analysis Model for 2026 against the current area supplied by Council.

Table 9: Projected Requirements based on Participation Demand Analysis Model

	2026 Analysis ⁹	
	Playing Surface	Playing Surface + Ancillary (70%)
Calculated Demand (Ha)	83.2	141.5
Existing Supply (Ha)	59.0	100.4
Surplus (Deficit) (Ha)	24.2	41.1 ¹⁰

This suggests that, based on the estimated 2026 population and current supply levels, there would be an undersupply of 41.13 Ha of land for sportsgrounds (including an allowance of 70% for ancillary areas) if no further facilities were provided. In terms of playing space required, the model suggests that there would be a predicted undersupply of 24.19 Ha.

4.2 Allocation Based Demand Model

The second method employed OPG to assess the current needs for the provision of sportsgrounds in the Hornsby LGA is a utilisation or allocation based demand model. This model utilises data from section 3.4 to estimate the current excess or shortfall of sportsgrounds. This analysis demonstrated that peak demand is experienced during the winter season, therefore, these figures have been used for the purpose of the model.

Section 3.4.1 revealed that the cumulative over allocation of fields used above their benchmark was 185 'hectare hours'. As a percentage of total supply (1,258 hectare hours), this is 14.7%. If the current playing space (59Ha) is multiplied by this proportion, the additional playing space needed to meet current demand would be approximately 8.7 Ha. This model assumes that:

- there is currently no 'unmet' demand
- utilisation should be brought into line with adopted benchmarks
- no further capacity can be generated from the current supply
- the over allocation would need to be met by additional land; and
- the yield from new facilities would be similar to that of the current supply.

This would mean that a total supply of 67.7Ha of playing space would be needed to meet current demand. If this is increased by forecast population growth by age (seniors and juniors), then the required playing space would be as shown in the table below.

⁹ For the purpose of the modelling projections to 2026 assume that current supply is unaltered.

¹⁰ The total land deficit is based on 1.7 x the playing area required and is not the difference between current total supply needed and existing total land area.



Table 10: Projected Requirements based on Allocation Demand Analysis Model (Ha)

	Current	2026 Analysis
Calculated Demand	67.7	74.6
Existing Supply	59.0	59.0
Surplus (Deficit)	(8.7)	(15.6)

4.3 Gap Summary

The modelling presented above indicates that with no change to the current supply, the current gap in provision will increase by 2026. The participation model represents the ‘ideal’ level of supply whilst the allocation model represents the ‘minimum’ level. In order to establish a ‘mid-range’ estimate, the outputs of these two models have been averaged. A summary is shown in Table 11 below which presents the estimated gap of forecast demand to the current supply.

Table 11: Playing Space Gap Summary (Ha)

	Current	2026
Participation Model Estimate	16.5	24.2
Mid-Range Estimate	12.6	19.9
Allocation Model Estimate	8.7	15.6

As noted previously, additional area for ancillary facilities also needs to be allowed for. This is typically in the order of 70% of the playing space area.

Whilst the calculations above are based on a land area, in order to model the impact of potential changes in the capacity of current facilities along with acquisition of new facilities, these land areas need to be converted to ‘hectare hours’. To do this, land areas are multiplied by 25 being the ‘standard’ weekly hours of use benchmark for a turf field. Table 12 presents the results of this conversion.

Table 12: Gap Summary (Hectare Hours)

	Current	2026
Participation Model Estimate	413	605
Mid-Range Estimate	315	498
Allocation Model Estimate	218	390

This range of shortfall figures provides effective targets to focus on in order to meet current and forecast demand. These can be compared to proposed increases in capacity/supply to estimate a net result (see section 5.1 below). Essentially, given that there is an existing gap in supply and demand, in order to meet future demand, the supply/capacity of sportsgrounds would need to increase by approximately 40% to 2026.

4.3.1 Potential Changes in Demand

The forecast demand produced by these models will be affected by changes in the nature of future demand including the relative popularity of specific sports, changes in game formats (field sizes, game times) and training schedules. Many of these changes offer opportunities to proactively ‘manage demand’ and assist in reducing the identified gap.

4.3.2 Demand from Increased Development

In addition to official population forecasts, Council has indicated that further population growth is possible as part of housing strategy targets.



Whilst these potential developments will create additional demand, it is anticipated that it will be met through development contributions for the acquisition and embellishment of sports facilities. Based on the analysis of this report, the minimum acquisition rate for these developments should be no less than 1 Ha/1000 population.

The completion of the NorthConnex tunnel in 2019 will improve North/South connectivity along Pennant Hills Road. This will dramatically increase the accessibility of sportsgrounds within close proximity to Pennant Hills Road and help to connect them to high growth areas.

4.4 Sport Specific Demand

The models presented above ‘aggregate’ overall demand for sportsgrounds by all identified users. This is viewed as the most appropriate measure given that demand for specific facility types and playing area shapes are likely to change over time based on contemporary demand.

Nevertheless, by examining current utilisation and participation trends it is possible to provide an indication of likely future facility demands by sport. The table below outlines the results of this exercise along with key facility parameters/limitations that will influence future planning and/or provision. The indicative demand is stated in terms that are equivalent to the relevant sport’s ‘standard’ field, however, it is suggestive only. Where possible, this demand maybe catered for in numerous configurations and through various facility types.

Table 13: Indicative Sport Specific Demand

Sport	Indicative Additional 2026 Demand	Facility Parameters/ Limitations
AFL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 field for up to 25 hours per week (winter) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large oval for seniors, small oval for juniors
Baseball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher use of existing fields (may need to reduce use by others) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unique size and shape of field required; back nets and mounds
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher use of existing fields (may need to reduce use by others) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require large elongated oval; jumping pits and throwing cages
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10+ full sized fields for up to 25 hours per week (winter) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flexible field sizes - common full size circa 8,000m²+
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water based synthetic surface (generally hockey specific)
Oztag/Touch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2+ fields for up to 25 hours per week (winter and summer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require multiple fields (6+) in one location to run effective competitions
Rugby League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1+ field for up to 25 hours per week (winter) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard field up to 10,000m²+
Rugby Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited additional need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard field circa 10,000m²+
Softball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher use of existing fields (may need to reduce use by others) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unique size and shape of field required; back nets
Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited need for additional courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require large number of courts in one location for competitions; majority hard courts
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional spaces for junior cricket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Size and shape of field required (large oval for seniors, small oval for juniors); pitch area conflict with winter users

These notional suggestions will assist in developing recommendations for future planning and management later in the report (Section 6).



4.5 Regional Demand and Supply Pressure

The need to plan for sport and recreation facilities outside the confines of LGA boundaries is widely acknowledged. That is why a regional approach was adopted in the NSROC Sportsground Strategy. It demonstrates that by examining the needs and potential supply of the whole area, a more cohesive approach can be adopted. It also demonstrates how increases in one LGA can help to contribute addressing a region wide issue.

As noted previously, Councils in the NSROC area face a current shortage and overuse of sportsgrounds. A situation that will be exacerbated by future population growth. Modelling of future demand against potential increases in supply capacity shows a nett shortfall by 2026 with little or no potential to meet demand beyond this point.

A noticeable trend in the NSROC analysis mirrors other growth/demand issues. That is, demand/growth versus supply pressure is highest closer to the central areas which transfers demand to outer areas. In this case, lower north shore areas pushing demand pressure out to LGA's such as Ryde and Willoughby. The analysis showed that this trend is likely to expand further out in the future.

Not only will the 'outer areas' such as Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby feel the effects of this push, they also represent the best opportunity for increasing capacity of supply (higher potential relative to other areas). Therefore, the potential of increasing supply in these areas has regional significance and should be supported by all LGA's.

In short, this means that the importance of increasing the capacity of sportsgrounds in Hornsby (particularly through new facilities) goes well beyond its LGA boundary and should be supported by neighbouring LGA's and state government agencies.

This is a fact that is supported by the Parramatta Social Infrastructure Strategy (SIS) in relation to sportsground provision noting the importance of viewing sportsgrounds as a network and the notion that facilities in neighbouring LGAs provide opportunities to meet needs. It further endorses the regional approach by identifying a need to "*...work in partnership with neighbouring Councils to understand capacity of nearby sports fields and opportunities for coordination and future joint planning to meet community needs.*"

The Parramatta SIS also supports the notion that residents can and will be serviced by sports facilities outside the LGA when it acknowledges that:

- *There are some other alternate options within the area which service City of Parramatta residents with varying degrees of public access for the community, including:*
 - *Nearby local and state government owned/operated sports and recreation facilities.*

The draft Parramatta SIS demonstrates that there is an inability to meet future demand for sportsgrounds within the LGA. Statements within the SIS include:

- *...the City of Parramatta's current sports field provision overall is below adequate*
 - *...potential 2036 gap 249.6Ha - 354.8Ha*
- *It is clear from the benchmark analysis that population growth within some catchment areas will far exceed the capacity of the current Council owned sports fields located directly within these catchments*
- *Current Council owned sports fields are already at capacity in most areas*
- *A current lack of sports field provision in suburbs that are projected to have high population growth in the future (Epping...)*

This shows that there is already a significant overall shortage across the Parramatta LGA and that pressure from growth is likely to impact surrounding LGA's including Hornsby.

STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS DEMAND





5. Strategies to Address Demand

This section seeks to outline possible strategies and actions to address the identified gap between demand and supply. Whilst previous calculations have been based on a land area, the model presented below is based on the utilisation or ‘hectare hour’ approach outlined in section 3.4.2. This enables changes in the capacity of current facilities to be modelled along with acquisition of new facilities.

Through the demand models presented in section 4, the current ‘gap’ in demand and supply has been expressed as a land area. When the gap in playing, surface is calculated in hectare hours, the 2026 shortfalls are approximately:

1. Minimum requirement - 390 hectare hours, based on the utilisation demand model (approximately equivalent to a playing surface area of 15.6 Ha)
2. Mid-range requirement - 498 hectare hours, based on average of demand models (approximately equivalent to a playing surface area of 19.9 Ha)
3. Ideal requirement - 605 hectare hours, based on participation based model (approximately equivalent to a playing surface area of 24.2 Ha)

This range of shortfall figures provides Council with effective targets to focus on in order to meet current and forecast demand to 2026.

5.1 Opportunity Review

This review identifies and describes options to assist in meeting the current and future gap in supply. These options have been developed in view of recommendations from the *Active Living Hornsby* report and NSROC Sportsground Strategy and through discussions with Council staff.

Whilst the shortfalls in supply are expressed as land areas, a number of measures can contribute to addressing the shortfall in supply of sportsgrounds. They could include the following:

1. Improving the carrying capacity of existing sportsgrounds

This could comprise:

- Installing lighting on presently unlit areas to allow for night training and competition
- Upgrading lighting of existing areas to promote more even use of the ground and allow night competitions
- Reconfiguring existing fields to improve functionality and usage
- Upgrading drainage/ surface quality to improve functionality and carrying capacity

2. Additional synthetic surfaces

Synthetic surfaces can increase the intensity of use and lessen pressure on grass fields. However, without scheduling changes, this ability can be limited by ‘peak demand periods’ for training and competition (e.g. Tuesday and Thursday nights and Saturdays). Converting existing fields to synthetic surfaces can provide better value for money than acquiring and developing new fields and facilities.

However, not all sites may be suitable and site selection will take into account many variables, such as (yet not limited to):

- The costs of installing
- Ability to use for optimum hours to (i.e. up to 60Hrs / week) to achieve required cost benefit
- Consideration of the need for multi-use and retain summer / winter sports
- Consideration of environmental issues such as drainage (stormwater) and adjoining residents
- Presence of support facilities such as carparking and lighting



Therefore a detailed feasibility study and business case is required prior to developing a synthetic sports field. It will address the location, demand, financial viability, use and capital development cost.

3. Acquiring/ securing additional land for new developments

- Ensure planning for new residential developments includes provision of land for active open space according to Council's open space provision requirements
- Several sites have been identified for potential development as sportsgrounds
 - Westleigh Park
 - Hornsby Park (former quarry)
 - Vacant Site - Cowan
 - Schofield Parade - Pennant Hills

4. Acquiring or securing other land

- Could include consideration of Crown land or land currently used for other purposes

5. Converting existing open space to playing fields

- This is likely to displace other informal and/or formal users

6. Partnerships with Schools or other Institutions

- A number of sports are already utilising facilities on school land to assist in meeting demands (e.g. grass playing fields, netball courts, synthetic surfaces).
- Suitable open space areas in schools could be floodlit and utilised for training to take pressure off grounds for competition
- The Department of Education has recently prepared a draft policy on joint provision of facilities which will facilitate a greater number of Council/ Education partnership opportunities.
 - One initial opportunity identified involves the conversion of John Purchase into a synthetic field

7. New Technology

This could include consideration of emerging portable synthetic cricket pitch technology

8. Resource Management

- Review sportsground allocation processes to:
 - Ensure maximum use is effectively balanced against equity of access principles
 - Establish appropriate summer and winter usage benchmarks for each field
 - Improve monitoring of actual use and associated impacts where possible
- Continue to improve field maintenance and management practices to preserve and increase carrying capacities.
- Accommodate training demands away from playing areas where practical

5.1.1 Considerations for Land Supply

If Council is able to acquire/ secure additional land to help meet the demand generated by winter sports, then a number of summer sport's needs (e.g. cricket, softball etc.) could be accommodated within existing (reconfigured) and new spaces to address the needs for cricket and other sports during the summer season.

A further consideration is the importance of land quality. The demand model used for the analysis assumes a consistent land quality over time. This means that if land quality declines, the model could under-estimate the area needed due to declining yield from sites secured. Additionally, for Council the risk is also that forward



capital estimates will be insufficient due to increased costs of making unsuitable land functional for formal sport.

While difficult to adjust for in demand model calculations, land secured for sport is often sub-optimal, and the expectation of yield (in terms of actual playing surface) can vary greatly. Some of Council's sportsgrounds are small and only result in a few playing fields. Therefore, the aggregated sum of the land proposed to service future demand may give too optimistic an expectation of yield.

5.1.2 Planned Improvements

Council officers identified known or possible plans to increase the supply and/or capacity of its sportsgrounds. The potential increases identified were a mix of new sites and increasing capacity through lighting and synthetic sports fields. From this information, an indicative model was developed to estimate the additional capacity that could be realised from the initiatives identified. This involved calculating an assumed increase in capacity for each project/initiative. The model is presented in the table below.

Table 14: Indicative Implementation Model¹¹

Category	Location	Description	Field Area (Ha)	Additional Capacity Hours	Yield in Hectare Hours	Estimated Cost
Synthetic Surface	Westleigh Park	New synthetic sports complex with approx. 3.75Ha of playing surface	3.75	54	202.50	\$38m
New Development	Westleigh Park	New sports complex with approx. 3.75 Ha of natural playing surface	3.75	25	93.75	
New Development	Hornsby Quarry	New field with approx. 1.5Ha playing surface	1.5	25	37.50	\$20m
Synthetic Surface	Warrina Oval (small)	Install half football pitch	0.3	37	11.10	\$0.9m
Increase Current Use	Old Dairy	Full utilisation + New amenities building	0.95	25	23.75	\$150,000
Synthetic Surface	Campbell Park	Install full size football pitch	0.8	29	23.20	\$3m
Synthetic Surface	John Purchase	Install full size football pitch	0.75	29	21.75	\$1.5m
Synthetic Surface ¹²	Cheltenham Oval	Install full size football pitch	0.75	(29)	(21.75)	\$1.5m
Convert Space	Epping Athletics	Reconfigure field for shared use	0.77	25	19.25	\$300,000
Increase Current Use	Multiple Fields (James Park, Parklands Oval etc.)	Full utilisation	0.7	20	14.00	-
Sports Lighting	James Henty	New lighting system	0.7	17	11.90	\$100,000
Sports Lighting	Pennant Hills Archery	New lighting system	0.4	25	10.00	\$80,000
Sports Lighting	Galston Rec Reserve	New lighting system	0.48	20	9.60	\$100,000
Sports Lighting	Cowan Park	New lighting system	0.55	15	8.25	\$100,000
Total					486.55	

¹¹ Initiatives are ordered by potential increase on capacity, they are not in priority order

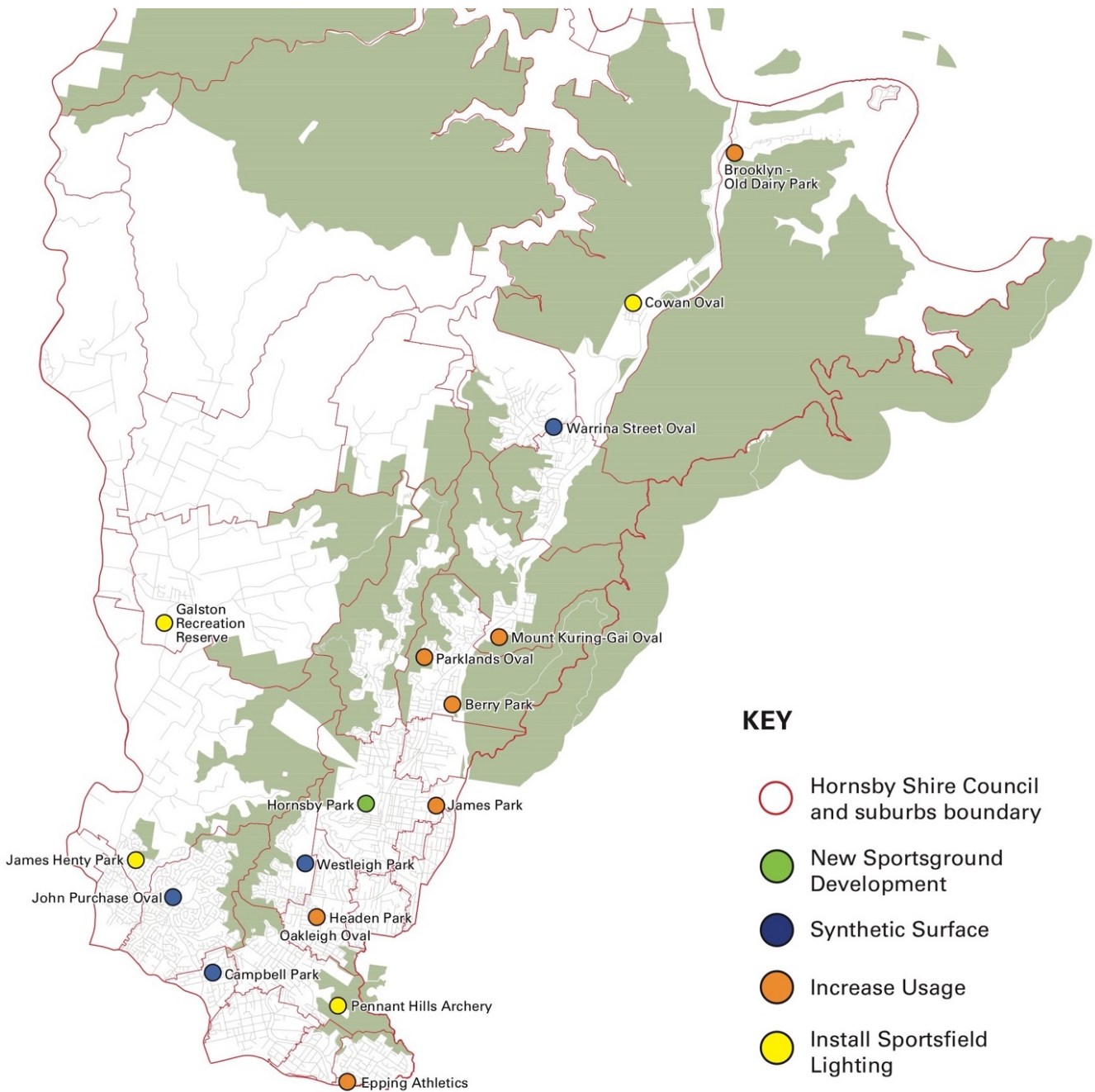
¹² The need for a synthetic surface at Cheltenham Oval is not warranted based upon current usage rates, however, pending the completion of current works to a new sports building a synthetic surface may be needed to address maintenance issues. Therefore, for the purposes of this study, the calculations for Cheltenham Oval have not been included.



This shows that, with the projects listed, up to 486.6 hectare hours of extra capacity can be realised. This model assumes that all existing areas and new/upgraded areas are used to their functional capacity. Therefore, it may be viewed as optimistic.

Much of this is sourced from several new sites that have been identified for potential development as sportsgrounds including Westleigh Park and Hornsby Park (former quarry). In particular, 61% of the forecast increase is generated by the assumed capacity increase at Westleigh including establishing half of the playing area as synthetic surface. The location of suggested new and/or upgraded facilities is shown in the figure below.

Figure 13 - Location of Capacity Increases by Type





5.1.3 Preliminary Joint Use Review

In partnership with the Department of Education, a preliminary review of 33 school sites in the Hornsby LGA was conducted to identify potential for increased use of school sportsgrounds. The review identified grounds with the potential to accommodate at least either a full size rectangular or a ‘three quarter’ sized football field. Sites already being managed by Councils or used regularly by sporting groups were filtered out of the list. This left 16 potential fields (6 full size and 10 three quarter size) that could be considered for shared use. A summary of sites is shown below.

Table 15: Summary of Potential School Fields by LGA

School Site	3/4 Fields	Full Size Fields	Comment
Asquith Girls High School	1	-	
Asquith Boys High School	-	1	Not suitable for senior cricket
Cheltenham Girls High School	1	-	
Cherrybrook Public School	-	1	High demand location
Epping North Public School	1	-	
Galston High School	1	1	Adjoining facilities currently under utilised
Glenorie Public School	1	-	
Hornsby Girls High School	1	-	
Hornsby Heights Public School	1	-	
Mount Colah Public School	1	-	
Normanhurst Boys High School	-	1	Not suitable for a senior cricket field
Normanhurst West Public School	1	-	
Pennant Hills High School	-	2	High Voltage overhead wires may limit lighting opportunities
West Pennant Hills Public School	1	-	
Total	10	6	

The majority of possible sites consist of three quarter fields which provide a low level of functionality and capacity. Therefore, many may be seen as unsuitable for sport use and not able to add to capacity. Accordingly, only full sized fields have been considered in modelling additional capacity. Using an assumed availability of 20 hours per week, the five full sized fields would yield approximately 80.4 hectare hours.

It is worth noting that, the potential yield from these facilities could be boosted by the use of synthetic surfaces which may also be necessary in some cases to ensure the sustainability for school and after hours use.

5.1.4 Potential Additional Supply Summary

The total potential additional supply as result of capacity increases by Council and the increased use of school grounds is shown in the table below.

Table 16: Total Potential Capacity Increase by Type to 2026

Category	Estimated Hectare Hour Yield	Equivalent Playing Space (Ha)
Council Sites	486.6	19.5
School Sites	80.4	4.0
Total	566.9	23.5



This equates to an increase in capacity of up to 45% and shows that the majority of potential increase are based on the development of new fields. However, as noted previously, these estimates are likely to be optimistic and the actual capacity increase delivered is expected to be lower.

5.2 Future Demand and Supply Summary

It is acknowledged that the models presented above are based on a range of assumptions and are subject to several variables and, therefore, can be considered as indicative only. However, they do provide a means to quantifying the likely demand and supply factors. This in turn helps to confirm the need to implement viable initiatives/projects and to seek out further opportunities to redress the balance.

Essentially, based on these models, there is a need to increase the current supply capacity by around 40% to 2026 (498 hectare hours, equivalent to 19.9Ha of playing space). An initial review of options to increase the capacity of council grounds and increase the use of school grounds identifies an opportunity to increase capacity by up to 45% (yield of 566.9 hectare hours or the equivalent of 23.5Ha of playing space). This is considered a very optimistic outcome and, whilst it is above the mid-range demand estimate, it falls short of the 'ideal' target (605 hectare hours). The demand and supply analysis is summarised in the tables below.

Table 17: 2026 Demand and Supply Analysis (Hectare Hours)

	Min	Mid	Ideal
Demand	390	498	605
Supply	567	567	567
Surplus/(Deficit)	177	69	(38)

Table 18: 2026 Demand and Supply Analysis (Equivalent Playing Space)

	Min	Mid	Ideal
Demand (Ha)	15.6	19.9	24.2
Supply (Ha)	23.5	23.5	23.5
Surplus/(Deficit)	7.9	3.6	(0.7)

This demonstrates that, based on the demand and supply models, Council could meet demand up to 2026 if it was able to implement all planned improvements and increase use of school sites.

5.2.1 Beyond 2026

Whilst it may be possible to meet future demand to 2026 through implementing all of the identified initiatives, future population growth beyond this is likely to require additional increases in sportsground capacity. By way of comparison, the NSROC Sportsground Strategy found that to meet 2036 demand, current sportsground capacity would need to be increased by 40% compared to a 26% increase to 2026.

Therefore, planning for the further acquisition and embellishment of sportsgrounds beyond 2026 should be facilitated where possible. This should include consideration of developing synthetic sportsgrounds in the first stage of development for new facilities. This is likely to be more efficient and effective than developing additional new facilities.

In addition to Westleigh and Hornsby Park, Council has already identified two potential long term sites for future sportsground at Cowan (Vacant Site) and Pennant Hills (Schofield Parade). Both of these will need to be investigated further in the short term to establish the best long term development option to assist in meeting demand beyond 2026.

To manage the implementation of improvements and new facilities, Council will need to progressively review the impact of initiatives on supply/capacity of grounds against contemporary and forecast demand/utilisation to refine the ongoing implementation of improvements.



5.3 Facility Planning Model

5.3.1 Principles for Facility Provision

Prior to developing, detailing and prioritising specific actions/options it is important to establish a range of principles to help guide and facilitate the process. The following principles for planning, funding and delivering facilities are suggested for consideration:

Priority Principles

- Where feasible Council should increase sportsground capacity, and enhance viability of existing facilities through improved surfaces, lighting, drainage and design
- Maximising carrying capacity at existing sportsgrounds should be pursued as a priority to optimise investment in these facilities
- Best value - initiatives that provide a strong cost benefit ratio
- Best fit - initiatives that match uses/activities with the characteristics of sportsgrounds and other users
- Where possible align planning and development with sporting organisation planning and state government planning

Funding Principles

- Funding responsibility for sport should be shared with federal and state governments and sports codes
- For new or upgraded facilities Council should seek contributions from:
 - federal and state government and sports codes for regional priorities
 - users for one off local projects; as well as corporate and private sports providers through joint ventures
- Where limited funds are available, Council's funding priorities are focussed upon improving sportsground facilities for conducting sport, as opposed to contributing towards club based social facilities
- Council should plan collaboratively for turf and synthetic ground replacements and whole of life costs
- Should users wish to have higher quality of facility than Council can afford, or is considered a low priority, they may contribute to the capital cost of the upgrade works

Supporting Infrastructure

The focus of this study has been on the capacity of sportsgrounds in regard to the amount of use they can accommodate. This is reflected in the principles above, however, it is recognised that associated infrastructure such as change rooms, storage and kiosks are essential to support the intended use of these facilities. Therefore, it will be necessary for Council to plan for this provision (estimated at 70% of playing area) to complement any future increase in facility capacity of new facilities provided. Furthermore, the value of club spaces is also recognised in building social and community cohesion and a sense of club identity and belonging.

Maintenance and Renewal of Existing Facilities

Although the focus of this strategy is on the future demand and supply of sportsgrounds, action to address this should not be at the expense of maintenance and renewal of existing facilities. If this occurs, it will be counterproductive and ultimately undermine the intent of the strategy. Therefore, part of future planning should be to ensure that adequate resources are allocated to maintenance and renewal of facilities in line with demand and utilisation trends outlined in this report.



5.3.2 Review of Utilisation Structure

The implementation model will be reviewed and further developed in the final strategy report. However, in any case, it is inevitable that any actions to address current and future demand will necessitate changes to the current methods of provision, use and management of facilities. This section seeks to initiate a basis for managing this change.

Principles for Restructuring

As noted above, prior to developing, detailing and prioritising specific actions/options it is important to establish a range of principles to help guide and facilitate the process. The following principles for facilitating restructuring and/or reallocation of grounds are suggested for consideration:

- Guiding Principles for Council
 - Council should seek additional grounds, increase carrying capacity at existing grounds and ensure facilities are shared in both seasons
 - Council should prioritise access to sportsgrounds for community based sport
 - Maintain a diversity of sports across the area, and a good depth of competition
 - Where limited opportunities exist for new or upgraded sportsground facilities at the local level, it is acknowledged that users will need to travel to adjacent venues
 - Council should provide for diversifying populations and lifestyles: age, ability, cultural backgrounds and demand for new sport formats and schedules
- Guiding Principles for Sporting Organisations
 - Commitment to collaborate with Council and other sports to address demands for all users
 - Adaptation - meeting demand for limited sportsgrounds requires groups to be flexible to new opportunities
 - Maximise current capacity - existing sportsgrounds in all parts of the LGA should be utilised despite travel distances

5.3.3 Sport by Sport Opportunity Review

Building on the review of relevant sports in Section 3.3 and the 'Sport Specific Demand Model' outlined in Section 4.4, a preliminary evaluation of opportunities to meet future demand for each sport has been prepared and is presented in the following table. This evaluation examines and considers:

- Current use issues
- Indicative additional 2026 demand
- Facility parameters/ limitations
- Opportunities altered use of existing spaces
 - This is to outline notional options for reallocation (i.e. based on demand and facility parameters)
- Opportunities for use of 'new/upgraded areas'
 - This is to outline notional options for use of new/upgraded areas (i.e. based on demand and facility parameters)



Table 19: Sport by Sport Opportunity Evaluation

Sport	Current Use Issues	Indicative Additional 2026 Demand ¹³	Facility Parameters/ Limitations	Opportunities Altered Use of Existing Spaces	Opportunities for Use of 'New/Upgraded Areas'
AFL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restrictions on available times due to shared use of grounds with other codes for both training and competition Narrow shape of field at Pennant Hills park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 field for 25 hours per week (winter) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large oval for seniors, small oval for juniors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocation of grounds to allow effective use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could utilise proposed oval(s) at Westleigh
Baseball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restrictions on available times due to shared use of grounds with other codes for both training and competition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher use of existing fields (may need to reduce use by others) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unique size and shape of field required; back nets and mounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocation of grounds to allow effective use, reducing the requirement to share with other codes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If sharing requirements are reduced, more effective use of existing facilities could be achieved
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School carnivals impact on overuse of Foxglove Oval Conflict at Pennant Hills Park with cricket pitch use Shared use of grounds with other codes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher use of existing fields (may need to reduce use by others) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require large elongated oval; jumping pits and throwing cages Prefer natural grass for juniors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School carnivals could utilise Montview Oval to reduce impacts on Foxglove Oval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential dedicated facility at Westleigh
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High participation rates requiring access to many fields for training and competition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10+ fields for 25 hours per week (winter) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flexible field sizes - common full size circa 8,000m²+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtually any site has potential for football of some form 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could potentially utilise any of the suggested new/upgraded facilities
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 pitches for the shire at Pennant Hills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water based synthetic surface (generally hockey specific) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No opportunity unless new area is developed as a specific hockey field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand may be influenced by potential supply in other areas
Oztag/ Touch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For efficient running of competition, touch requires access to fields to be in 1 location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2+ fields for 25 hours per week (winter and summer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require multiple fields (6+) in one location to run effective competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of large, multi-surface facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple fields at Westleigh could be an option
Rugby League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared use with other codes at Greenway Park restricts available times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1+ field for 25 hours per week (winter) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard field up to 10,000m²+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites with field area above 7,500m² are options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modest growth indicates potential for increased space, schools may represent best options beyond current facilities

¹³ This indicates additional demand to current usage levels and is stated in terms that are equivalent to the relevant sports 'standard' field. However, it is indicative only, where possible this demand can be catered for in numerous configurations and through various facility types.



Sport	Current Use Issues	Indicative Additional 2026 Demand ¹³	Facility Parameters/ Limitations	Opportunities Altered Use of Existing Spaces	Opportunities for Use of 'New/Upgraded Areas'
Rugby Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared use of ground at Dural Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited additional need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard field circa 10,000m²+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites with field area above 8,000m² are options if needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower growth and availability of alternative existing spaces limits additional need, consolidation may be appropriate
Softball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For efficient running of competition, softball requires fields to be located within 1 site, reducing options for expansion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher use of existing fields (may need to reduce use by others) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unique size and shape of field required; back nets Prefer natural grass surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocation of grounds to allow effective use, reducing the requirement to share with other codes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If sharing requirements are reduced, more effective use of existing facilities could be achieved
Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High demand on Saturdays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited additional need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require large number of courts in one location for competitions; majority hard courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No need for additional space Current court surface and layouts limit opportunity for shared use by other sports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No need for additional space
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training facilities conflict with urban growth at Waitara Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional spaces for junior cricket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Size and shape of field required (large oval for seniors, small oval for juniors); pitch area conflict 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduling of competitions to maximise use of grounds across multiple days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could utilise proposed oval(s) at Westleigh

This evaluation provides a framework which will assist in more detailed planning for the development and management of new and existing sportsgrounds in the LGA over the coming years. It can guide the preparation of options for utilising existing and new spaces. An initial option is presented below.



5.3.4 Future Facility Development and Allocation Options

In order to address identified issues and meet future demands, it will be necessary to reorganise the allocation of sportsgrounds and plan for the development and use of new facilities. However, when it comes to preparing options for the development and management of new and existing sportsgrounds in the LGA, there is a seemingly unlimited range of alternatives. This is because a change for one sport at any one location will have a 'flow on' effect to other users or other surrounding sites.

Further, given that implementation will occur over a relatively long time span, during which specific demands and needs are likely to change, it is almost impossible to 'lock-in' any final option. Therefore, the planning of options will be an ongoing task. Nevertheless, the key findings of this study including the evaluation framework presented above can provide key guidance. This is particularly the case in relation to proposed new facilities which are of high importance in meeting future needs. To provide some initial guidance, a high-level facility scope for Westleigh Park and Hornsby Park are outlined below.

Westleigh Park

To provide the largest and most flexible sportsground configuration, it is suggested that Council initially investigate/plan for the provision of two large oval areas both of which could also accommodate two full sized football (soccer) fields and include layouts to optimum AFL/cricket dimensions. This is a relatively standard model for new sportsground developments as it is versatile and multi-purpose in nature.

These areas could be configured in various ways but could provide maximum field numbers for each sport at any one time as follows:

- AFL - 2 senior ovals
- Cricket - two senior ovals
- Football - 4 senior fields
 - Which could be subdivided into numerous junior fields
- Touch/Oztag - 8 fields
- Athletics - one of these ovals may also be configured to include athletic facilities

To gain the capacity increase modelled in this report, these field areas would require sports lighting and other support infrastructure (amenities, car park etc.). As noted previously, consideration should be given to developing these areas as synthetic fields in the initial development to gain maximum benefit and cost efficiency. This would enable high use of the facility year round by multiple users. Sportsground models similar to this have been recently installed at Blackman Park (Lane Cove Council) and Melwood Oval (Northern Beaches Council).

The current local needs are being met by the existing provision of fields in the adjoining suburbs. Westleigh Park has the opportunity to provide regional level facilities that can assist with improving local sport in areas experiencing high demands for usage.

Hornsby Park

Due to its limited size, the main option for Hornsby Park is to develop it as an oval that can be used for cricket in summer and football (soccer) in winter. If possible (based on final dimensions) and required, this could include a turf cricket pitch.

Engagement and Consultation

As detailed planning evolves and re-allocations are further considered, it will be necessary for Council to continually consult and engage with key stakeholders to ensure that detailed issues and requirements are considered.

A photograph of a soccer field with a goal and a fence. The field is green with white lines. A goal is visible in the background, and a black chain-link fence runs across the middle ground. Trees are visible behind the fence.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS



6. Summary and Recommendations

This study has confirmed the gap between demand and supply of sportsgrounds in the Hornsby LGA. The potential gap between future demand (by 2026) and current supply has been estimated at 40%. Potential increases in supply have been estimated at up to 45% which, if implemented in full and used to maximum capacity could by and large meet demand to 2026.

It is acknowledged that forecasting demand over a long period has its limitations and changes in trends/demands will take place over this time which will alter current forecasts. Nevertheless, the gap is such that even if all identified initiatives were employed in the short term, the increase in supply will only just account for demand to 2026. However, demand is likely to escalate further by 2036. Therefore, the overall aim should be to implement as many of the initiatives as possible within the next 5 years and monitor subsequent outcomes and changes in demand and develop/refine the analysis and strategy accordingly.

Specific recommendations to implement the findings of this report are as follows:

1. Adapt and maintain the facility inventory developed for this project
2. Adapt and monitor seasonal utilisation based on methods established for this project
3. Monitor sport participation rates and trends against utilisation/allocations
4. Adopt and progressively implement the model outlined in Section 5.1 for increasing the capacity of sportsgrounds in the LGA including
 - Reviewing and evaluating options to further boost capacity through the use of synthetic sports surfaces at appropriate sites
 - Engage with the Department of Education to review options for embellishing and using identified school sportsgrounds
5. Progressively review the impact of initiatives on supply/capacity of grounds against contemporary and forecast demand/utilisation to refine the quantum for additional increases in capacity
6. In line with the models developed, progressively work through development and allocation options and alternatives with sporting bodies to ensure contemporary needs are met including planning for new facilities -
 - Westleigh Park -
 - Prepare a masterplan for development of fields and supporting infrastructure based on two oval areas overlaid with up to four rectangular football fields with options for multi-use facilities such as athletics
 - Plan for the use of synthetic surfaces in first phase of development to boost capacity
 - Key sport users in winter should include football (soccer) and AFL and in summer should include cricket, summer football, touch and/or oztag
 - Seek regional and state support for the development of Westleigh Park as a regionally significant facility
 - Hornsby Park -
 - Prepare a masterplan for the development of an oval and support facilities to cater for cricket (level of competition and pitch type to be determined) and football in winter
7. Identify specific requirements for the upgrade of ancillary facilities to compliment capacity upgrades and address contemporary issues (e.g. safety, shade, customer expectations/standards, increased female participation, cultural profiles)
8. Investigate longer term opportunities for new and upgraded facilities to meet demand beyond 2026 (including Cowan and Schofield Parade)



Warranties and Disclaimers

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

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

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

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



APPENDICES

Consultation Outcomes Report

Hornsby Sportsground Strategy

Client:
Hornsby Shire Council

Date:
19 September 2017

Final

Contact:

Calli Brown

calli.brown@elton.com.au

02 9387 2600

Sydney

02 9387 2600

Level 6

332 – 342 Oxford Street

Bondi Junction NSW 2022

www.elton.com.au

consulting@elton.com.au

Sydney | Canberra | Darwin

ABN 56 003 853 101

Prepared by	Katya Dobinson
Reviewed by	Calli Brown
Date	19 September 2017
Document name	Sportsground Discussion Paper Consultation Report_HSC_20170919
Version	Final

Contents

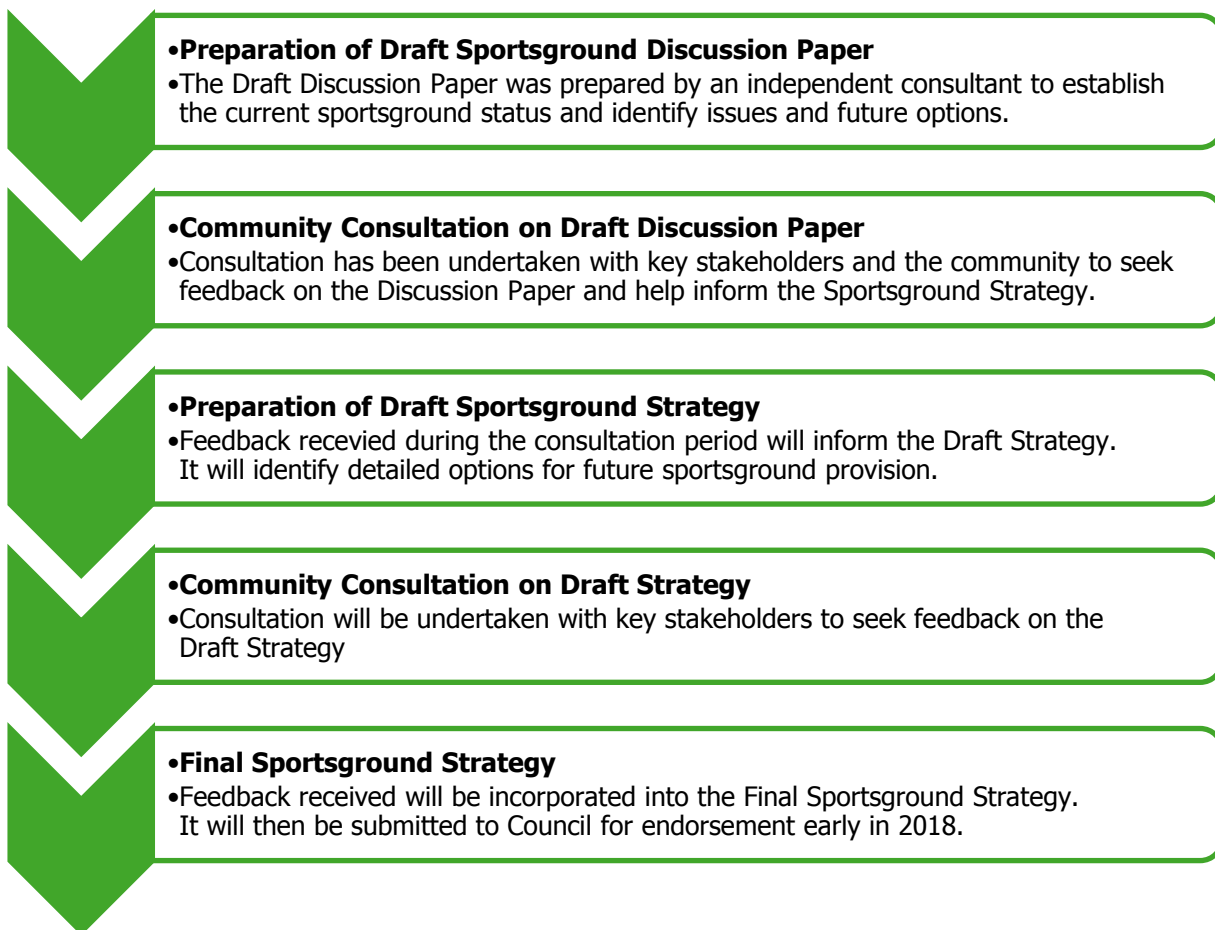
1	INTRODUCTION	4
1.1	Overview	4
1.2	Consultation	5
2	SURVEY RESULTS	6
3	STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS	18
3.1	Meeting attendees	18
3.2	Answers to discussion questions	20
4	SUBMISSIONS	35
5	CONCLUSION	37
APPENDICES		
A	Online survey	39

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

Hornsby Shire Council is currently undertaking a comprehensive analysis of its Council-owned sportsgrounds to inform the development of its Sportsground Strategy. The Strategy will include budget estimates required to implement priority actions and will establish guiding principles to assist in meeting the Shire's sporting demands for sportsgrounds.

The process in drafting the final Strategy is set out below:



1.2 Consultation

The objective of the consultation was to seek feedback from key stakeholders and the community on the Draft Sportsground Discussion Paper which will contribute to preparing the final Sportsground Discussion Paper.

During the six week consultation period, feedback was sought through:

- » an online survey,
- » focussed meetings with key sportsground stakeholders representing ten sports, and
- » general submissions.

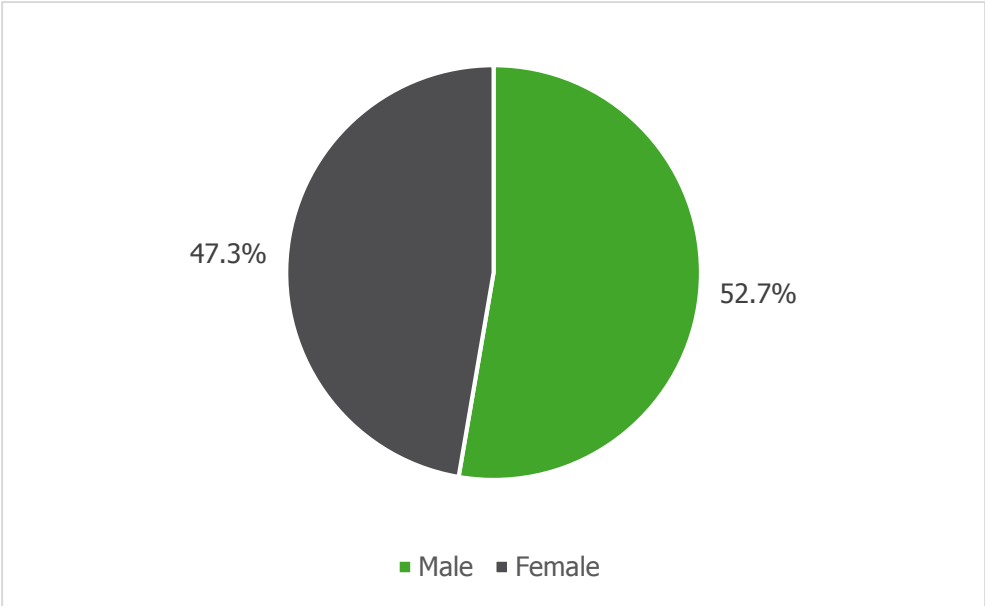
2 Survey results

There were 516 respondents to the online survey.

Demographic data

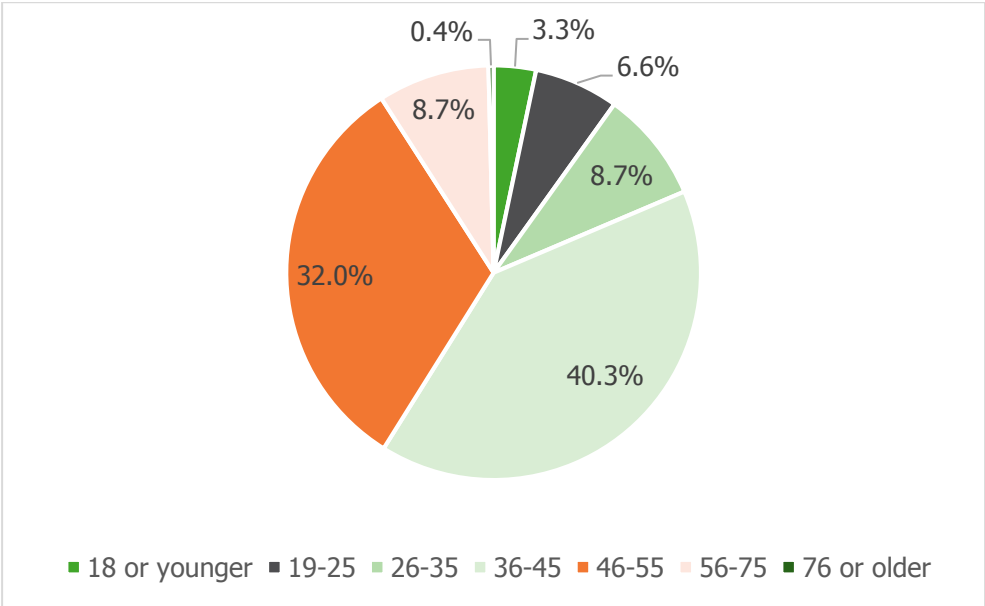
Breakdown of gender

Just over half of the respondents were male.



Breakdown of respondents' age

Around two-thirds of the respondents were aged between 36 and 55 years old.

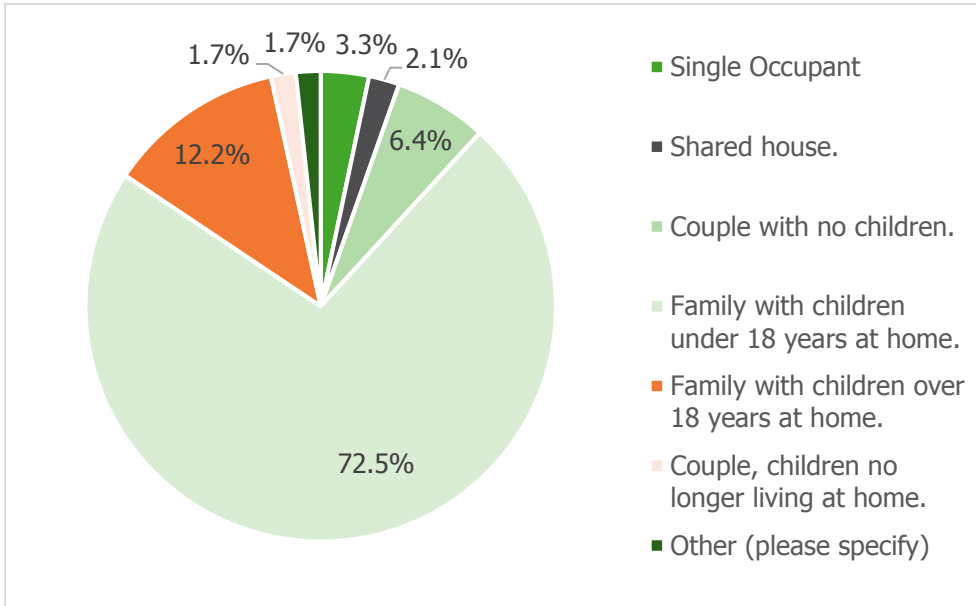




Appendix 1 - Consultation Outcomes Report

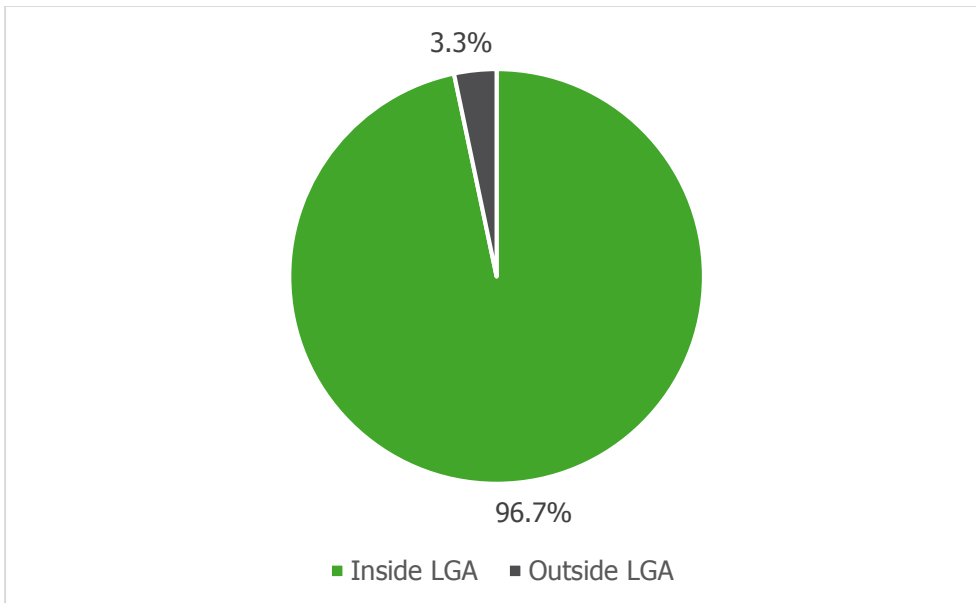
Breakdown by household

Just over two-thirds of respondents were a family with children under 18 years at home.



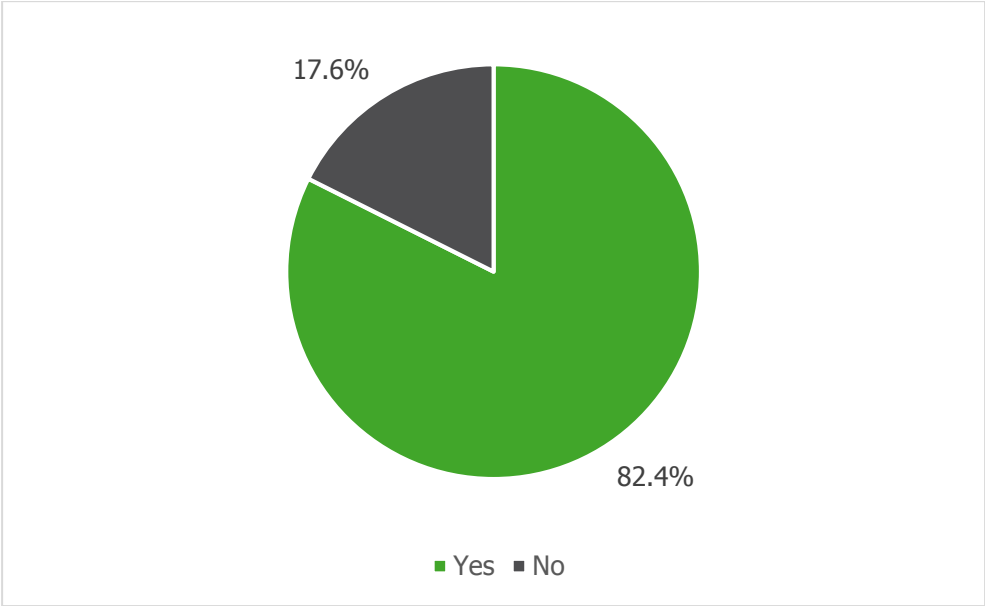
Breakdown of area

Almost all respondents were LGA residents.



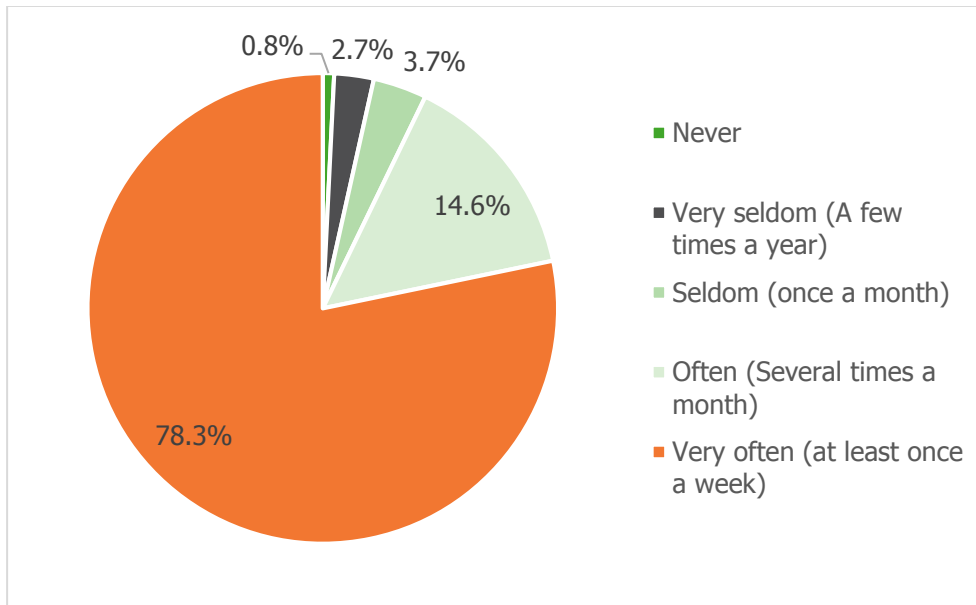
Clubs/organisation

Respondents were asked if they were affiliated with a club(s) when using the sportsground. Over three-quarters responded that they were.



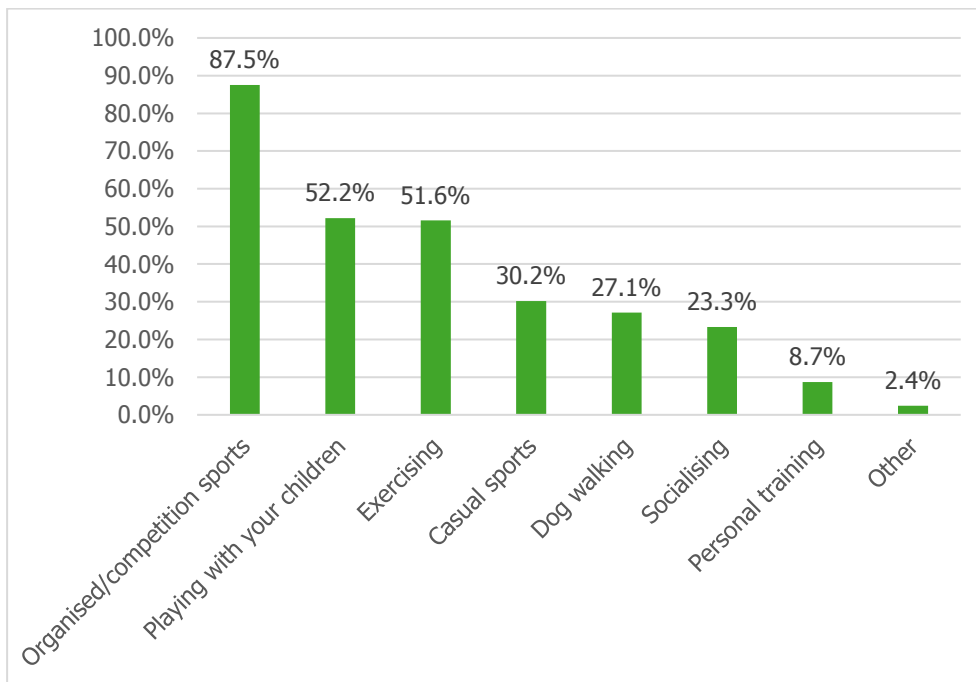
Sportsground usage

The majority of respondents visit a sportsground in Hornsby Shire several times a month and at least once a week.



Q. Which of the following activities do you participate in when you visit the sportsground? You may choose more than one answer.

The majority of respondents participate in organised/competition sports when they visit the sportsground.



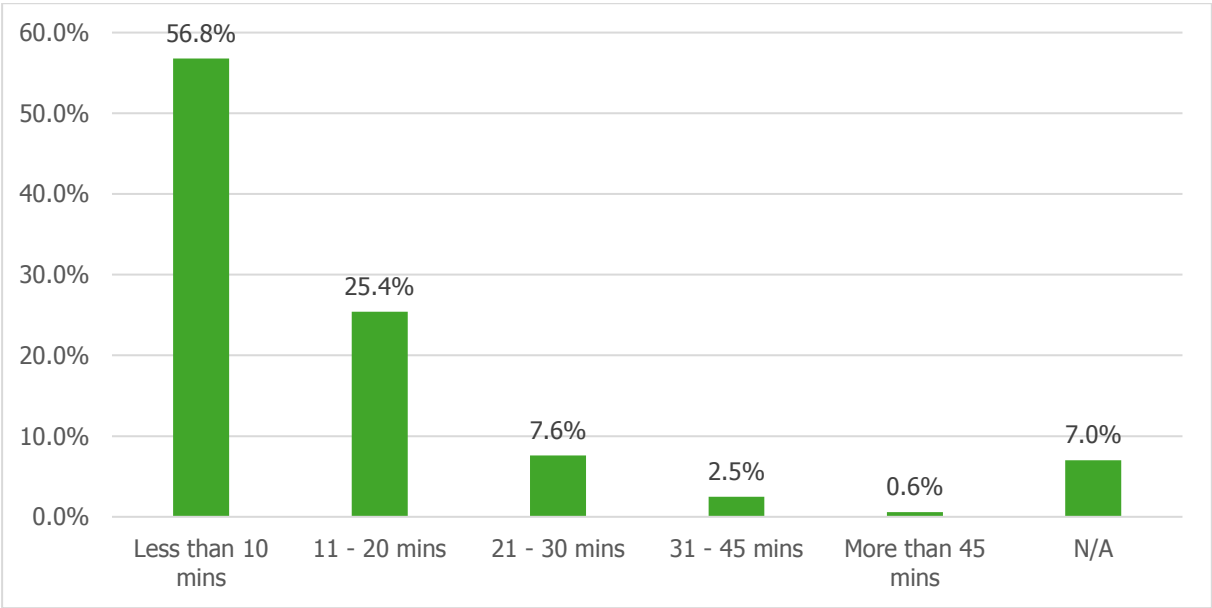
NB: Respondents could choose more than one answer.

Travel to sportsgrounds for training and competitions

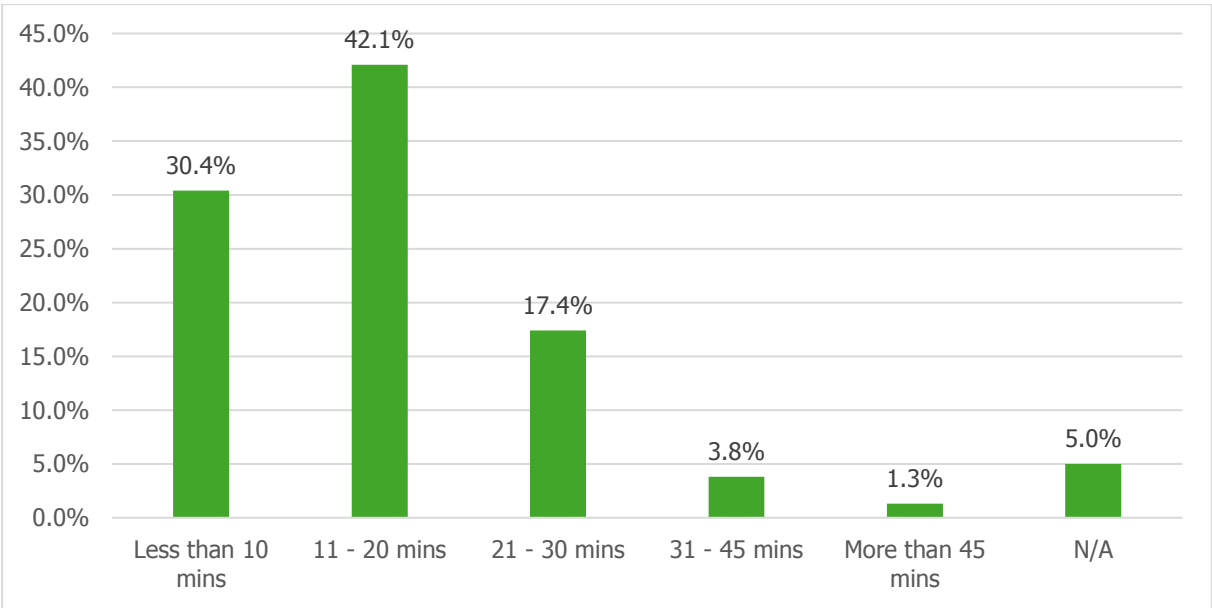
Although most sportsgrounds are at over-capacity, there are some that are under. Respondents were asked how long they currently travel by car to training and competitions and how long they would be willing to travel by car to training and competition to gauge their tolerances.

The vast majority of respondents (82.2%) currently travel less than 20 minutes by car for training. Despite this, survey respondents demonstrated a flexibility to travel further distances for training. When asked how far they would be willing to travel, responses for 'less than 10 minutes' decreased from 56.8% to 30.4% and responses for '11-20 minutes' and '21-30 minutes' increased from 25.4% to 42.1% and 7.6% to 17.4% respectively.

Current travel times to training

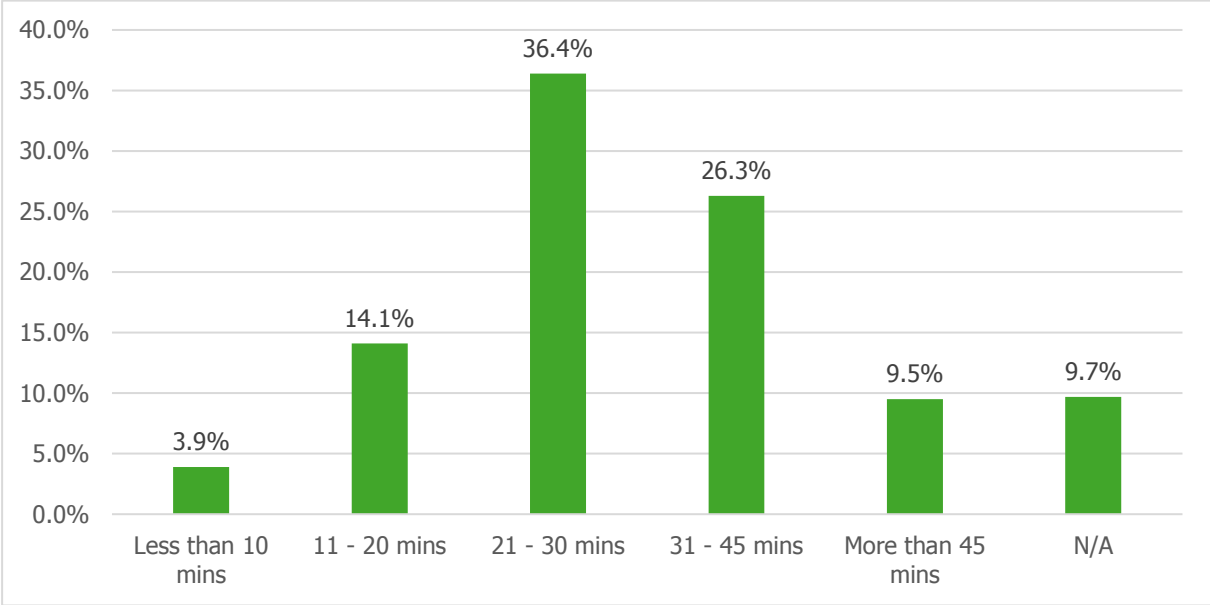


Distance willing to travel in the future for training

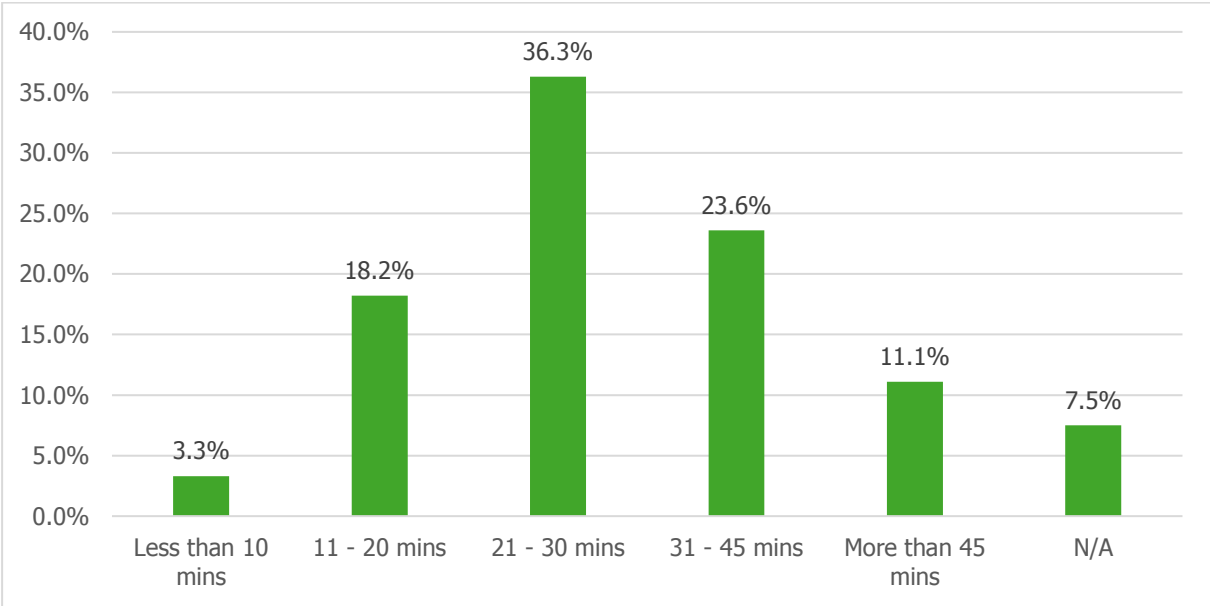


Although survey respondents were more willing to travel further distances for training, they were not as willing to travel further distances for competition. When asked how far they would be willing to travel for competitions, responses were fairly consistent with current travel times.

Current travel times to competitions



Distance willing to travel in the future for competitions

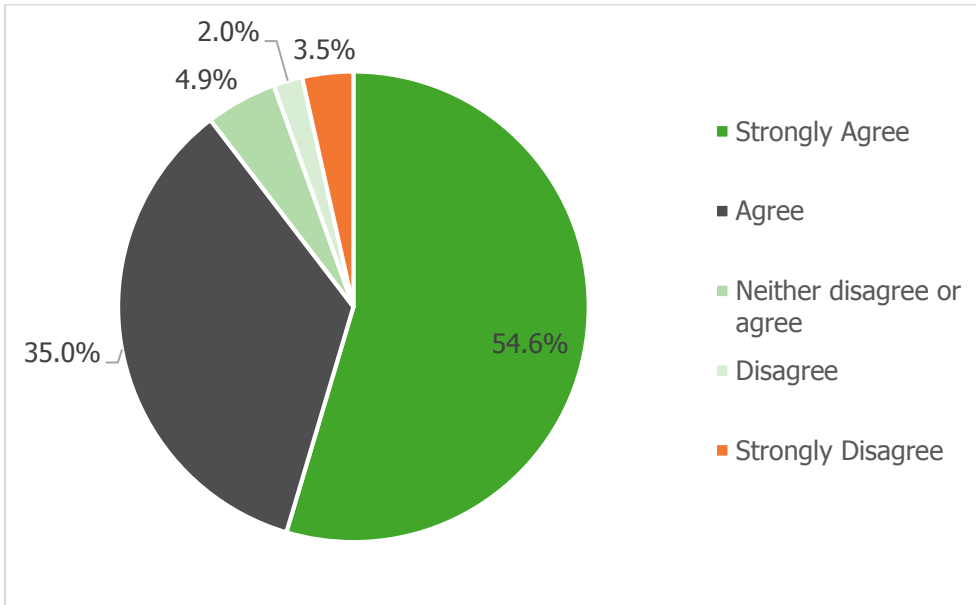


Utilisation of sportsgrounds

To optimise usage, Council needs to investigate utilising grounds for a diverse range of sports and activities. The following questions were asked to test respondents' opinions and beliefs regarding multi-use sportsgrounds.

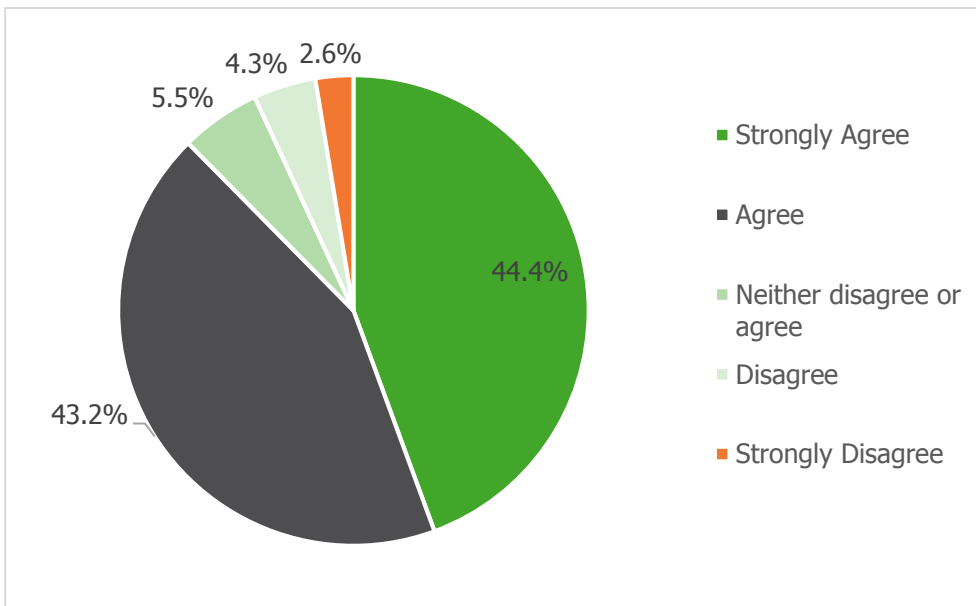
Q. Residents should have choice and access to a variety of different sports codes.

There was overwhelming support for having choice and access to a variety of sports codes with 89.6% of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing with the question's statement. Only 5.5% of respondents demonstrated disagreement or strong disagreement with this statement.



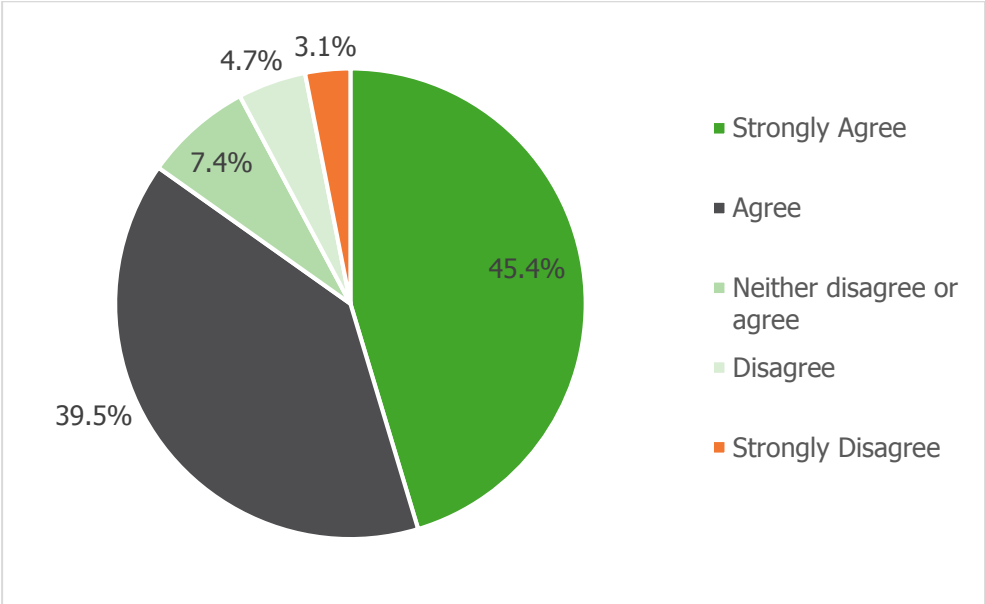
Q. Where there is a limitation on availability, sportsgrounds should be utilised by both winter and summer sports.

Similarly, there was overwhelming support for utilising sportsgrounds for both winter and summer sports with 87.6% of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing with the question's statement. Only 6.9% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement.



Q. With increasing diversity of sports and sporting formats (eg. shorter versions), planning for new and upgraded sportsgrounds and facilities need to accommodate for a wide range of use.

Likewise, survey respondents demonstrated overwhelming support for multi-use sportsgrounds with 84.9% of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing with the question's statement. Only 7.8% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement.

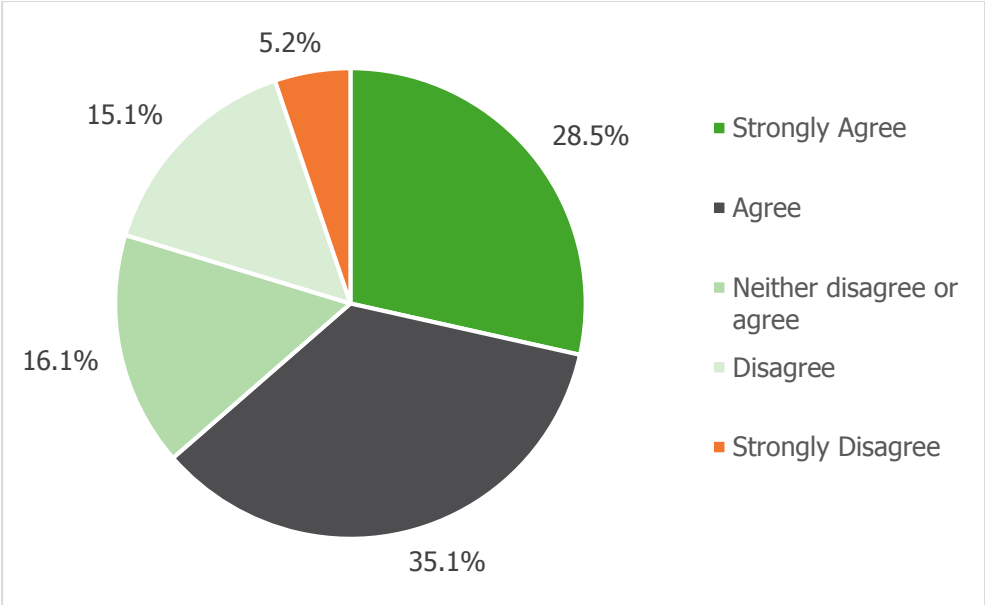


Sportsground improvement funding

In order to maximise usage, Council must carefully allocate resources and funding. The following questions were asked to understand respondents’ priorities.

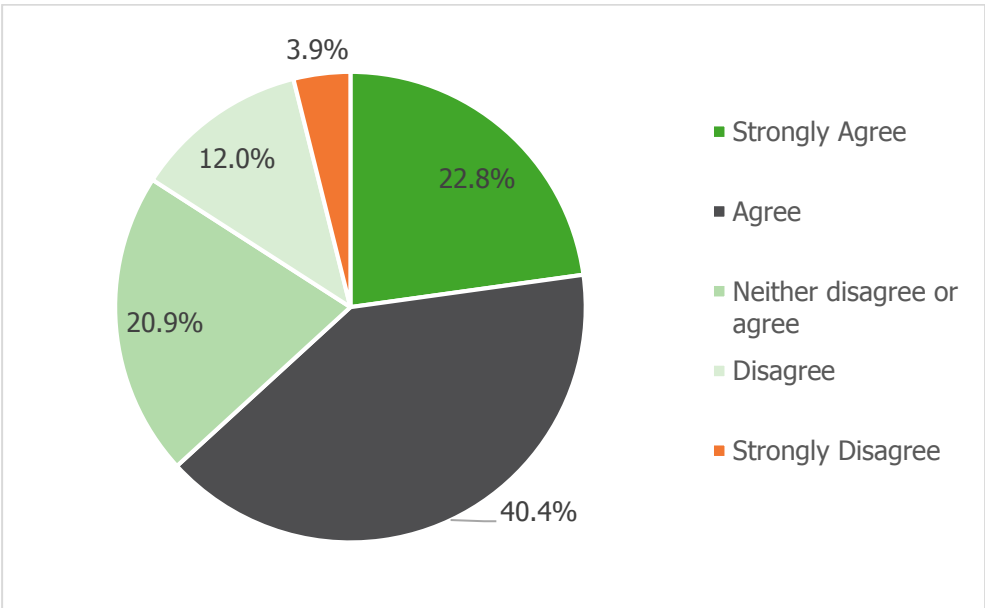
Q. Council should prioritise investment in existing venues to increase capacity and to maximise usage of the existing sportsground (through improvements to lighting, turf surfaces, drainage and irrigation etc) before establishing new grounds.

Two thirds of survey respondents supported this principle – 63.6% either agreeing or strongly agreeing with the question’s statement. Although there was majority support for this statement, 20.3% of respondents did disagree or strongly disagree with this statement.



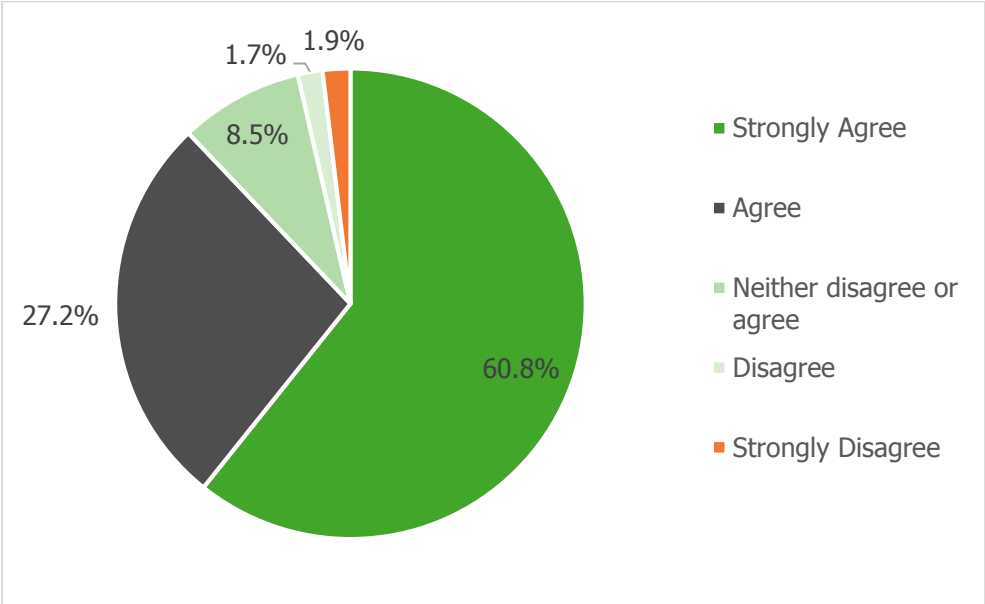
Q. Council should prioritise improving sportsground facilities for conducting sports, over club based social facilities (ie. club house).

Similarly, two thirds of survey respondents supported this principle with 63.2% either agreeing or strongly agreeing with the question’s statement. Only 15.9% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement.



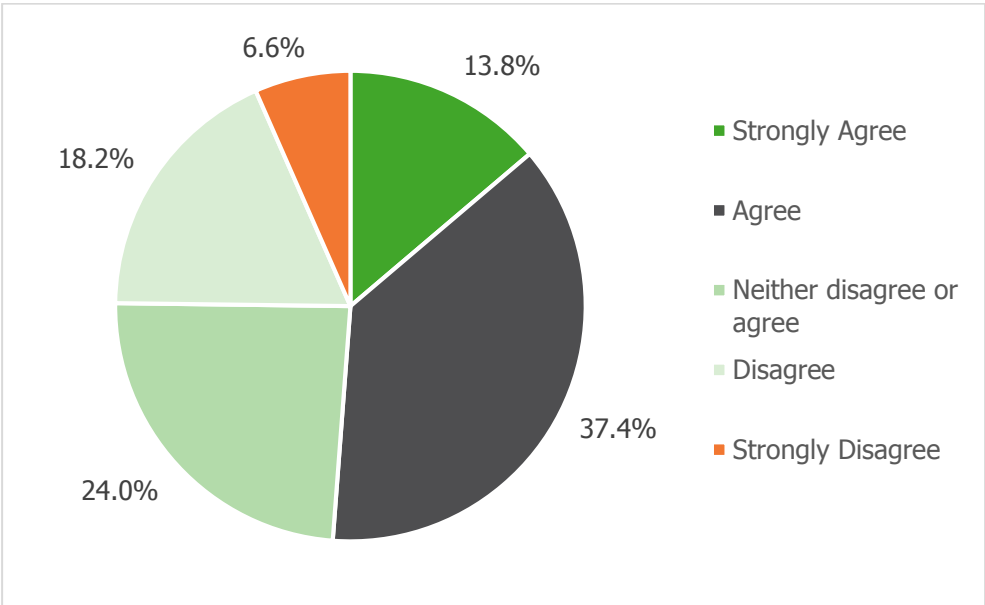
Q. Council should ensure that housing developments contribute towards sportsground upgrades to cater for the increased population.

Survey respondents showed overwhelming support for this principle with 88% either agreeing or strongly agreeing with the question’s statement. Only 3.6% either disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement.



Q. If clubs/organisations wish to have a higher quality of facility than Council can provide, they should contribute to the cost of the upgrade.

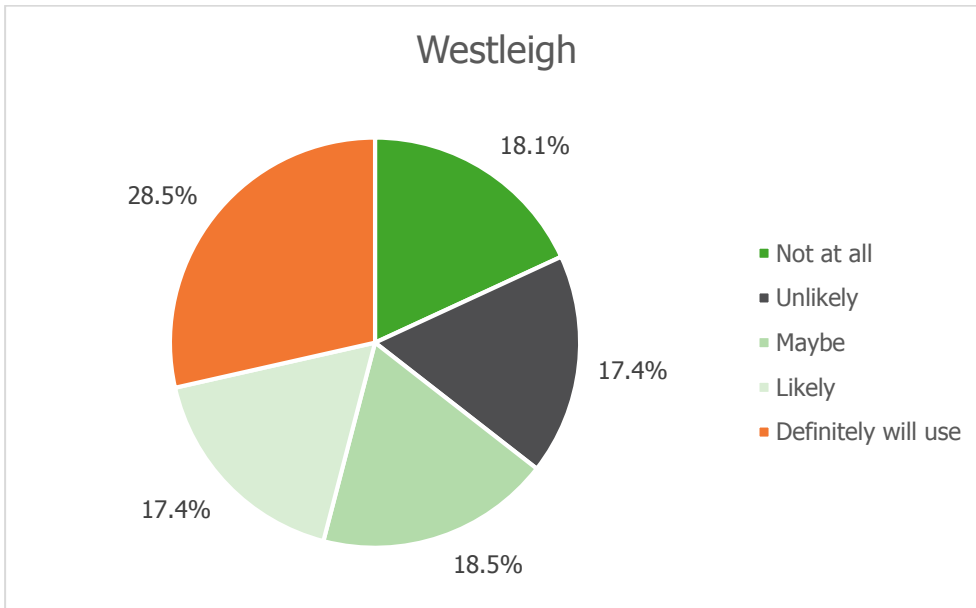
Half of the survey respondents demonstrated support for this principle with 51.2% either agreeing or strongly agreeing with the question’s statement. Even though there was majority support for this principle, there was still significant disagreement with 24.8% of respondents either disagreeing or strongly disagreeing with this statement.



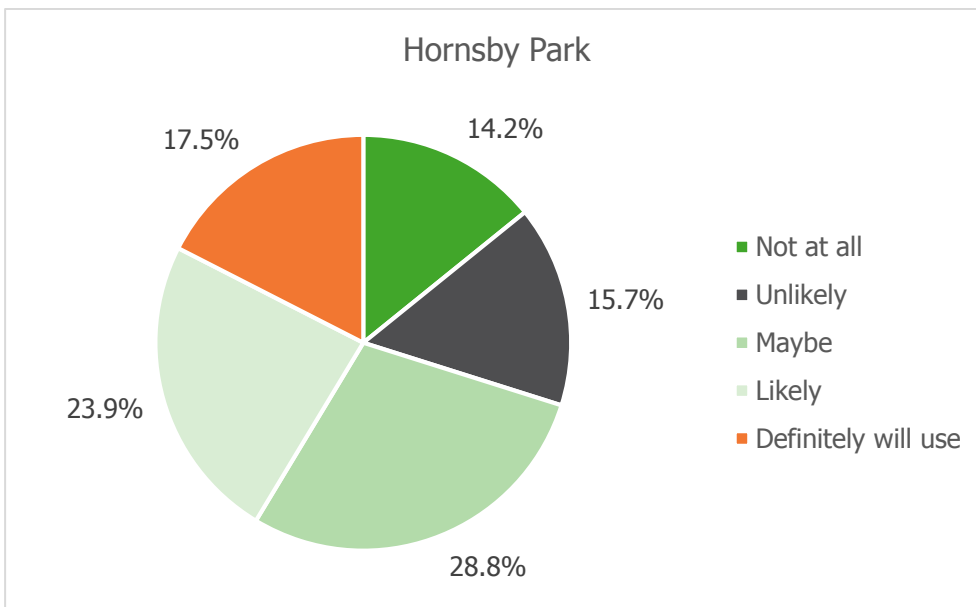
Future sportsgrounds

Council has identified the following sites as potential new sportsgrounds. Respondents were asked how likely themselves or their club/organisation would be interested in utilising the sportsgrounds if they were to be developed.

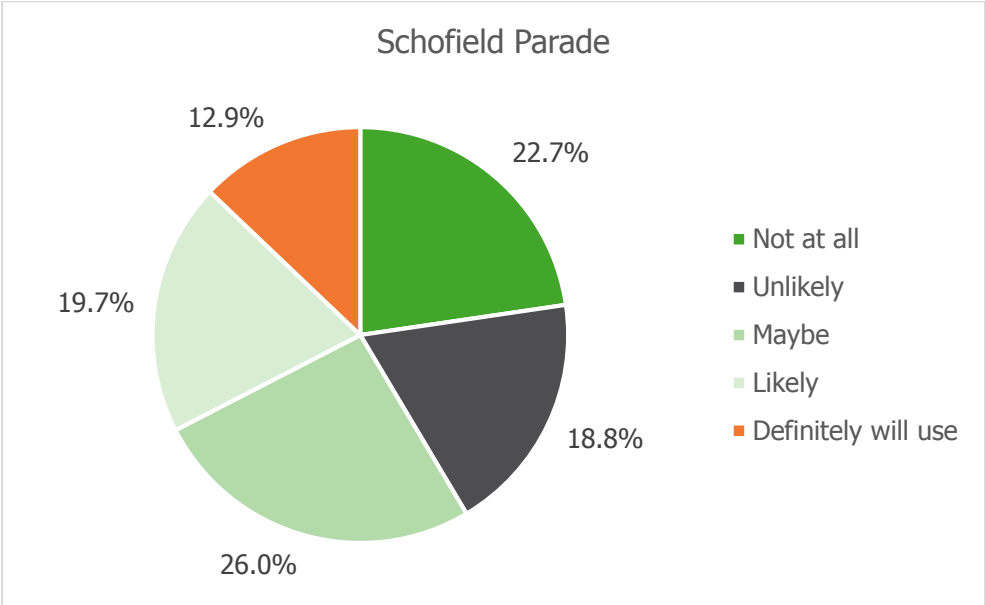
Westleigh was the most popular location to establish a new sportsground. Over one quarter of respondents (28.5%) answered they would 'definitely use' Westleigh, the highest response compared to all the locations and 35.9% may or would be likely to use Westleigh.



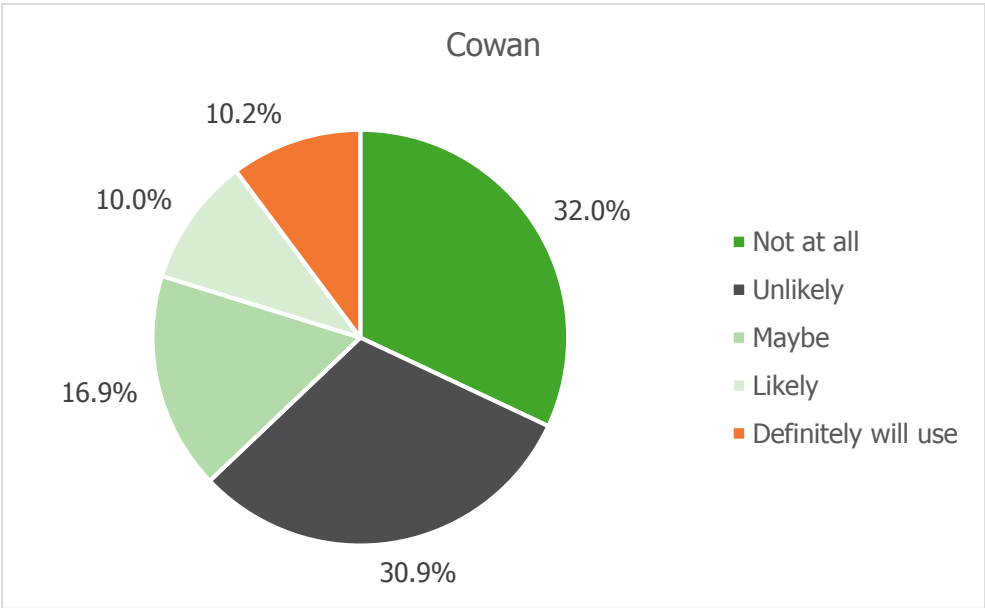
Hornsby Park was the second most popular sportsground out of all possible locations – 17.5% answered they would 'definitely use' it and 52.7% answered they may or would be likely to use this location.



Schofield Parade was the third most popular location – 12.9% answered they would 'definitely use' it and 45.7% answered they may or would be likely to use Schofield Parade.



On the other hand, the majority of survey respondents would be unlikely to use Cowan with 62.9% answering they would not use or would be unlikely to use this location.



3 Stakeholder meetings

Hornsby Shire Council hosted dedicated meetings with sportsground stakeholders across the Shire. The purpose of these meetings was to:

- » inform and educate sporting groups about the Draft Discussion paper and the current status of sportsground use across the Shire, and
- » gain feedback about the Discussion Paper and the needs and aspirations of the sporting groups.

A total of six meetings were held with representatives from 10 sporting groups.

3.1 Meeting attendees

	Attendees
Rugby League, Union & Touch 17 July 2017	» Asquith Rugby League: 2 » Hornsby Rugby Union: 1 » Hornsby Touch: 2 » Berowra Wallabies Rugby League: 1 TOTAL: 6
Cricket 18 July 2017	» Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hills District Cricket Association: 1 » Hornsby District Cricket Club: 2 » Berowra Cricket Club: 1 » Thornleigh Cricket Club: 1 » Pennant Hills District Cricket Club: 2 » Northern District Cricket Club: 1 » Epping District Cricket Club: 1 TOTAL: 9
AFL 19 July 2017	» Hornsby Berowra Eagles AFL: 1 » Westbrook Bulldogs AFL: 1 » AFL NSW/ACT: 1 » Pennant Hills Australian Football Club: 2 » Pennant Hills AFL Juniors: 1 TOTAL: 6
Soccer – NSFA 25 July 2017	» Hornsby RSL Football: 2 » Berowra Football Club: 2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Mt Colah Football Club: 1 » Westleigh Waterboard Alliance (GHFA): 1 » NSFA: 1 » Hornsby Heights Football Club: 2 » Asquith Soccer Club: 2 <p>TOTAL: 11</p>
<p>Soccer – GHFA 26 July 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Beecroft Football Club: 1 » Hills Hawks Football Club: 3 » Thornleigh Thunder Football Club: 1 » Westleigh Waterboard Alliance: 1 » NWSWF Association: 2 » WPHCFC: 1 » GHFA: 1 » North Epping Rangers: 1 » Pennant Hills Football Club: 2 » Football NSW: 1 <p>TOTAL: 14</p>
<p>Netball, Softball & Baseball 31 July 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Hills District Netball Association: 1 » Thornleigh Baseball Club: 1 » Hills Hawks Softball Club: 1 » Rangers Baseball Club: 1 » Hornsby District Softball: 1 <p>TOTAL: 5</p>

3.2 Answers to discussion questions

The table below summarises the responses to questions related to the Sportsground Discussion Paper.

Q: If Council prioritises increasing carrying capacity at existing facilities through upgrades to: lighting, drainage and improved surfaces and design; how would this affect your club/ association?

Rugby League, Rugby Union & Touch Football

There was general consensus that upgrades would have a positive impact on training and games. Individual comments that reflect the sentiments and opinions expressed include:

- » League: installation of lighting and drainage has been a big improvement and changed the way League is played
- » Union: installation of lighting has been good for training and games
- » Touch: installation of lighting has been good, the effectiveness of drainage is dependent on weather, Council has neglected maintenance. Although acknowledged that Foxglove Oval was located on a landfill site that created maintenance issues.
- » League: if these improvements were prioritised, it would make a huge difference to training and games but ovals are already at capacity so would not solve capacity issue
- » Drainage fields could be an issue due to shared ground with cricket

Cricket

There was general consensus that upgrades would have a positive impact on training and games. Individual comments that reflect the sentiments and opinions expressed include:

- » Installation of an extra wicket strip has made a good impact
- » Installation of drainage has been working well and enabled field to be open for longer
- » Lighting improvements could facilitate junior cricket games at night which reflects some Cricket NSW plans
- » Concern was expressed that lighting could impact on neighbours' amenities

AFL

There was general consensus that upgrades would have a positive impact on training and games. Individual comments that reflect the sentiments and opinions expressed include:

- » Lighting has improved usability as can host games at night
- » Surface improvements would not impact carrying capacity – it would only enhance the experience as grounds are already at capacity and grass is not getting a chance to grow sufficiently
- » Reconfiguration of certain fields could increase carrying capacity for junior games

Soccer – NSFA

There was general consensus that upgrades would have a positive impact on training and games. Individual comments that reflect the sentiments and opinions expressed include:

Q: If Council prioritises increasing carrying capacity at existing facilities through upgrades to: lighting, drainage and improved surfaces and design; how would this affect your club/ association?

- » Installation of drainage has enabled increased useability
- » Lights and fencing would enable use of another ground for juniors training and competition
- » Concern was expressed that lighting could impact on neighbours' amenity
- » Longer sportsground use presents issues with parking especially if grounds are near residential areas
- » Drainage of sportsgrounds can be poor if ground is a cricket field and is closed when rains
- » Design has big implication on utilisation e.g. touch fields located across soccer goal mouths which is already a heavily used area, athletics tracks on soccer sidelines are confusing to players – potentially could marking lines with different colours

Soccer – GHFA

There was a mixed response to this question. Individual comments that reflect these sentiments and opinions expressed include:

Concerns were raised over the objective of the question and how the answers were going to be used e.g. "Are you going to have scientists to look at the soil and see if improved surface will increase carrying capacity?"

Concern was also expressed over breaking the Discussion Paper down into specific priorities as it was thought to be a mechanism to hide a "white elephant"

Netball

Concern was raised about the current condition of netball courts. There was consensus that if repairs to courts were prioritised, the courts would be able to cope with the current carrying capacity.

Baseball

There was general consensus that upgrades would have a positive impact on training and games. Individual comments that reflect these sentiments and opinions expressed include:

- » Lighting upgrades would give ability to host more competitions
- » Drainage improvements could enable more diamonds to be established on the field

Softball

There was general consensus that upgrades would have a positive impact on training and games. Individual comments that reflect these sentiments and opinions expressed include:

- » Lighting upgrades addresses safety concerns regarding training at night
- » Improving surfaces due to multi-use is a priority area
- » Improvements to drainage would enable less cancellations due to wet weather

Q: If Council prioritises increasing carrying capacity at existing facilities through upgrades to: lighting, drainage and improved surfaces and design; how would this affect your club/ association?

- » If Council can obtain dirt-sand used on softball diamonds, this could lift the strength of competition and could increase number of competitions and gala days for older players

Analysis:

Across all the meetings, there was support for this priority. The only exception was the GHFA meeting. The vast majority of sporting groups all provided examples of where improvements to lighting, drainage, surfaces and design had benefited their club or association in the past.

The survey results also reflected this consensus as 63.6% of survey respondents answered either 'Strongly Agree' or 'Agree' to this question.

Q. We heard earlier from Simon that the demand for more hectares needed to play sport will only increase into the future. Considering Council has a limit to the resources it can devote to sportsgrounds, Council is considering prioritising resources to conducting sports over providing club based social facilities. Do you support this principle?

It was established that amenities such as canteens and changerooms are not considered as social facilities but are included as part of conducting sport.

Rugby League, Rugby Union & Touch Football

There was general support for this principle. Individual comments that reflect this sentiment and opinion included:

- » League: possibility for Council to help write grants to apply for funding to build amenities and club based social facilities

Cricket

There were mixed views on this question. One club expressed that they will need to raise their own funds to improve their social facilities.

AFL

This principle was not supported. Individual comments included:

- » AFL is wholistic and a social outlet, facilities need to be in place to support social aspect of game

Soccer – NSFA

There was general support for this principle.

Soccer – GHFA

Q. We heard earlier from Simon that the demand for more hectares needed to play sport will only increase into the future. Considering Council has a limit to the resources it can devote to sportsgrounds, Council is considering prioritising resources to conducting sports over providing club based social facilities. Do you support this principle?

This principle was not supported and there was disagreement with the question's wording and sentiment. Individual comments that reflect these sentiments and opinions expressed included:

- » Club and organisation leaders need professional facilities
- » Clubhouses are important to building community
- » Club based facilities are just as important as sports facilities

Netball

There was general support for this principle.

Baseball

There was general support for this principle.

Softball

There was general support for this principle.

Analysis:

Seven sporting groups generally supported, one group had mixed views and two groups did not support this principle. The sporting groups that did not support this principle expressed that clubhouses are important to build a sense of community within the club. The spread of survey results also reflected these sentiments – 63.2% of survey respondents answered either 'Strongly Agree' or 'Agree' and 15.9% of survey respondents answered either 'Strongly Disagree' or 'Disagree' to this question.

Q. Although most sportsgrounds are at over-capacity, there are some that are under. We're interested in gauging your attitudes towards travelling by car to these grounds.

What distance would you be prepared to travel for the following?

Training: Less than 10 Mins; 11-20; 21-30; 31-45

Competition: Less than 10 Mins; 11-20; 21-30; 31-45

Why?

Rugby League, Rugby Union & Touch Football

Training: less than 10 minutes was the general consensus

Competition: around 20 minutes was the general consensus

Cricket

Training: there was general consensus that parents of junior players would not want to travel far for training

Competition: There was general consensus that senior players are willing to travel far distances for competition. Individual comments that reflect the sentiments and opinions expressed included:

- » Travel correlates with ground quality – there is a need and expectation to travel to good quality fields to play a good quality game

AFL

Training: there was general consensus that more than 20 minutes would be too far for parents of junior players. There was general consensus that senior players would be likely to travel further distances

Competition: there was general consensus that players are willing to travel far distances for competition. Individual comments that reflect the sentiments and opinions expressed included:

- » Consideration should be given to volunteers as they may not have enough volunteers to travel far between different grounds

Soccer – NSFA

Training: there was general consensus that travel time should be kept as low as possible because clubs are very localised and players aren't willing to travel far

Competition: there was general consensus that players are willing to travel far distances for competition

Soccer – GHFA

Training: there was general consensus that travel time should be kept as low as possible because clubs are very localised and players aren't willing to travel far

Competition: it was expressed that focus should also be on spectators who may miss out on games due to travelling too far

Q. Although most sportsgrounds are at over-capacity, there are some that are under. We're interested in gauging your attitudes towards travelling by car to these grounds.

What distance would you be prepared to travel for the following?

Training: Less than 10 Mins; 11-20; 21-30; 31-45

Competition: Less than 10 Mins; 11-20; 21-30; 31-45

Why?

Netball

Training: there was consensus that clubs were flexible with training and have negotiated with local schools to use their facilities if unable to use their own

Competition: additional facility for competition is not ideal for Netball. It was requested for more courts to be installed at same facility. It was also expressed that feasibility of sharing with tennis courts or archery fields are being investigated

Baseball

Training: there was general consensus that more than 20 minutes would be too far for parents of junior players

Competition: there was general consensus that players are willing to travel far distances for competition

Softball

Training and Competition: Existing players are willing to travel for training and competition. However, splitting the junior and senior league across two different grounds is not ideal as softball is marketed as being at the same time and place for each game. This could also be an issue for senior players who are involved in the administration of junior games

Analysis:

There was general consensus that travel time to training should be as low as possible. The sporting groups were more flexible with travel for competitions, with the exception of Rugby League, Union and Touch which all indicated that travel time should be around 20 minutes.

Netball and softball expressed concern about splitting up their leagues across two different sites and would prefer to stay at one site and would be happy to travel to it. There was also consideration for different expectations for junior and senior players. The survey responses were not reflective of these sentiments as survey respondents were more willing to travel further for training and less for competitions.

Q. Is your club/association interested in using a future sportsground located in Westleigh? Why/why not?

Rugby League, Rugby Union & Touch Football

There were mixed views on this question:

- » Union & League: No
- » Touch: location would be suitable for a satellite competition enabling an expansion of the game into the area

Cricket

General consensus: Yes. This was the most preferred location and all participants expressed they would be flexible they could share this location with other sporting groups

AFL

General consensus: Yes. This location was identified as a potential new club base for senior and junior players. Participants expressed they could share this location with other sporting groups

Soccer – NSFA

General consensus: No. However, there is consideration for Westleigh to potentially become a regional park with first-class facilities for multiple sports

Note: this location is outside of NSFA competition boundary set by Football NSW

Soccer – GHFA

General consensus: Yes. This was the most preferred location. Fundraising is already occurring within the soccer community to assist in realising this site

Netball

General consensus: Yes, could be a training facility

Baseball

General consensus: Yes, could be multi-use

Softball

General consensus: No. There has been recent investment in the organisation's current location and there is preference not to move to another ground

Q. Is your club/association interested in using a future sportsground located in Westleigh? Why/why not?

Analysis:

The majority of sporting groups were interested in establishing either a base for their club or a satellite training or competition ground at Westleigh due mostly to its large size. A number of clubs indicated that this ground could be multi-use and would be willing to share with other sporting groups.

Soccer GHFA expressed they have established the Westleigh Waterboard Alliance in order to fundraise to establish this site.

The survey results did reflect the same level of overwhelming interest in this location as compared to the other potential new sites at Old Mans Valley, Schofield Parade and Cowan.

Q. Is your club/association interested in using a future sportsground located in Old Mans Valley? Why/why not?

Rugby League, Rugby Union & Touch Football

There were mixed views on this question:

- » League: No
- » Touch: No – current home ground is very close to public transport
- » Union: Maybe – would consider moving but has a strong sentimental attachment to current location

Cricket

General consensus: Yes

AFL

There were mixed views on this question:

- » Senior clubs: not appropriate
- » Junior clubs: potential training ground
- » It could be a potential 'hub and satellite' set up. Could be satellite sportsground for overflow

Soccer – NSFA

General consensus: Yes, close to public transport. There was some concern about the grounds' potential size and noise impacts on neighbours due to amphitheatre shape of park

Soccer – GHFA

General consensus: No. However, if the question was asked about where money will be spent, it can be answered differently

Note: this location is outside of GHFA competition boundary set by Football NSW

Q. Is your club/association interested in using a future sportsground located in Old Mans Valley? Why/why not?

Netball

General consensus: No, sharing facilities with schools is a better option

Baseball

General consensus: Yes. Due to its proposed size, it could be a suitable location for junior games. If sportsground's lights don't impact neighbours, it could also host night games

Analysis:

There were mixed responses to this question, only three sporting groups were definitely interested, two were 'maybes' and the rest were not interested. Concerns were raised over the field's proposed size. However, some groups suggested it could be used for junior teams instead.

In addition, some concern was raised about the proximity of residents to the ground and the potential they could be disturbed by lighting or noise. The survey results reflected a high level of interest to use Hornsby Park.

Q. Is your club/association interested in using a future sportsground located in Schofield Parade? Why/why not?

Rugby League, Rugby Union & Touch Football

General consensus: No

Cricket

General consensus: Yes

AFL

General consensus: No, too small

Soccer – NSFA

Note: this location is outside of NSFA competition boundary set by Football NSW

Soccer – GHFA

General consensus: Yes

Netball

Q. Is your club/association interested in using a future sportsground located in Schofield Parade? Why/why not?

General consensus: No

Baseball

General consensus: No

Softball

General consensus: No

Analysis:

The majority of sporting groups were not interested in using this location, with one club claiming it would be too small. This was not reflected in the survey results as more respondents were more likely than not to use Schofield Parade in the future.

Q. Is your club/association interested in using a future sportsground located in Cowan? Why/why not?

Rugby League, Rugby Union & Touch Football

General consensus: No

Cricket

General consensus: Yes

AFL

General consensus: No, too far away

Soccer – NSFA

General consensus: Yes. This was identified as a good location for a multi-use sportsground as it could facilitate small and large ovals, would have few potential impacts on neighbours and is easily accessible by car

Soccer – GHFA

General consensus: No, too far away

Note: This location is outside of GHFA competition boundary set by Football NSW

Q. Is your club/association interested in using a future sportsground located in Cowan? Why/why not?

Netball

Could be of interest to Berowra and Brooklyn based teams

Baseball

General consensus: Potentially interested if the sportsground has lighting. There is the potential that if it facilitated two senior-sized diamonds, it could be shared with AFL

Analysis:

Three sporting groups were interested and excited about using this location due to its large size, capacity to be multi-use and distance from residents. However, five groups all thought it was too far away. This sentiment was somewhat reflected in the survey results with 62.9% of respondents answering they would not use or would be unlikely to use this location.

Q. Many sports are evolving into new formats, which have implications for the size and requirements they need from sportsgrounds. If council tries to pre-emptively accommodate any changes needed with upgrades to existing grounds or new facilities to cater to a range of uses and codes, could this benefit your sporting organisation?

Rugby League, Rugby Union & Touch Football

There was wide-ranging support for multi-use sportsgrounds. Individual comments that reflect the sentiments and opinions expressed included:

- » Touch: any new sportsground needs to consider amenities e.g. canteen, separate storage sheds for different groups, toilets
- » League: sharing could work as long as they are like-sports, can reconfigure fields for different uses
- » Touch: Council would need to consider how touch is played like a carnival – 8 fields are needed to be un use simultaneously

Cricket

There was wide-ranging support for multi-use sportsgrounds. Individual comments that reflect the sentiments and opinions expressed included:

- » Multi-use sportsground would work if it was a large site and could facilitate a variety of sports and formats
- » Depends on sports' minimum requirement for playing field dimensions
- » Concern that rectangle fields can fit into ovals but ovals cannot fit into rectangle fields

AFL

There was wide-ranging support for multi-use sportsgrounds. Individual comments that reflect the sentiments and opinions expressed included:

Q. Many sports are evolving into new formats, which have implications for the size and requirements they need from sportsgrounds. If council tries to pre-emptively accommodate any changes needed with upgrades to existing grounds or new facilities to cater to a range of uses and codes, could this benefit your sporting organisation?

- » AFL will always require certain dimensions
- » Any new facility should be able to accommodate two ovals
- » Ideal set up would be an AFL oval with cricket wicket in middle and two rectangle fields

Soccer – NSFA

There was wide-ranging support for multi-use sportsgrounds but soccer dominant facilities are still required due to high participation rates. Individual comments that reflect the sentiments and opinions expressed included:

- » Need to investigate combinations that are compatible, and prioritise those that will work well together
- » Need to consider rapid growth of new formats of soccer e.g. Summer-six-aside
- » Blackman and ELS ovals are good examples of multi-use sportsgrounds (cricket, AFL and soccer)
- » There could be potential for sharing netball courts by installing synthetic turf for junior training and smaller competitions
- » Concerns were expressed that some fields are under-utilised because they are single use only

Soccer – GHFA

This was generally unsupported due to the impracticality of sharing with another winter code as the ground will need to be used at the same time. Individual comments that reflect the sentiments and opinions expressed included:

- » Marie Bashir facility in Mosman is a good example of a multi-use sportsground
- » There could be an ability to share if amenities could support it e.g. separate canteens, storage sheds etc
- » Cannot have sportsgrounds with multiple lines as confuses players

Netball

There was general support for sharing with like sports, for example basketball, archery and tennis

Baseball

There was general support for multi-use sportsgrounds as it would allow access to more grounds

Softball

There was general support for multi-use sportsgrounds. However, this was dependent on the ground size. Individual comments that reflect the sentiments and opinions expressed included:

Q. Many sports are evolving into new formats, which have implications for the size and requirements they need from sportsgrounds. If council tries to pre-emptively accommodate any changes needed with upgrades to existing grounds or new facilities to cater to a range of uses and codes, could this benefit your sporting organisation?

- » The organisation currently shares its ground with soccer. There could be potential to install a dirt track around the softball bases then cover it with grass at the beginning of soccer season

Analysis:

Nine out of the ten codes demonstrated wide-ranging support for multi-use sportsgrounds. However, all codes expressed that for any potential multi-use grounds, Council needs to consider compatible combinations, the fields' dimensions and sports' ground size requirements. Some codes came up with their own suggestions about configuring sportsgrounds into multi-use and gave examples of good multi-use sportsgrounds. Some codes also suggested that Council should consider sportsground amenities as well and how these could be shared amongst different codes.

Survey respondents demonstrated stronger and overwhelming support for multi-use sportsgrounds – 84.9% of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing that sportsgrounds and facilities need to accommodate for a wide range of use. Similarly, 89.6% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that residents should have access to a variety of different sports codes. And 87.6% either agreed or strongly agreed that sportsgrounds should be utilised by both winter and summer sports.

Q. As synthetic surfaces are expensive to establish and maintain, Council is considering prioritising for conversion those grounds that will fully utilise the potential for extended hours. Would this approach benefit your club?

Rugby League, Rugby Union & Touch Football

There was general consensus that this would not benefit the sporting groups due to risk of injury

Cricket

There was general consensus that this would not benefit the clubs. Individual comments that reflect the sentiments and opinions expressed included:

- » Synthetics are more related to winter sports and wouldn't apply to turf wickets
- » Unsure if practical because synthetic fields can overheat
- » Would prefer resources are diverted to lighting, drainage upgrades

AFL

There was general support of synthetic turf surfaces as long as they are installed and maintained to a high standard. Some concern was expressed about potential injuries.

Soccer – NSFA

There was general support of synthetic turf surfaces installed across the LGA. Individual comments that reflect the sentiments and opinions expressed included:

- » Synthetic turf surfaces could enable mid-week competitions

Q. As synthetic surfaces are expensive to establish and maintain, Council is considering prioritising for conversion those grounds that will fully utilise the potential for extended hours. Would this approach benefit your club?

- » Need to consider installing synthetics on sportsgrounds that are away from neighbours so can fully utilise night games and higher carrying capacity

Soccer – GHFA

There was general support of synthetic turf surfaces. However, this would depend on their location. Concern was expressed over funding model for synthetic turf surfaces. If it was to be analysed through participation numbers, the cost would be much less per soccer player to install and maintain

Baseball & Softball

There was general consensus that this would not benefit the sporting groups as it could be challenging for sliding on the bases

Analysis:

There was a range of responses to this question, due to the compatibility of synthetic turf surfaces with different codes. AFL, Soccer NSFA and Soccer GHFA were all supportive of synthetic turf surfaces but expressed that Council should consider the location of these grounds and what material is used to lower the risk of injury. The use of synthetic turf surfaces was not asked in the online survey.

Other general comments made during the discussion

Theme	Comments
Discussion Paper research constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Touch & Soccer – NSFA: school bookings should be incorporated into sportsground use data » Cricket: request for Discussion Paper to consider ground maintenance and associated costs » Cricket: projected demographic growth rates should also include ethnicity to reflect people of different cultures joining sports teams » AFL: Strategy should consider rapid growth of women playing AFL in growth projections and impact that has on capacity » AFL & Softball: concern over winter/summer classification and impact this has on sportsground access for gala days, pre-season training etc. » Soccer – GHFA: concern over winter 5 month and summer 7 month division of annual sportsground usage. As winter competitions are compressed to accommodate the alternative season and sporting code, the grass doesn't have a chance to recover before next sport uses it. Suggestion that winter/summer codes have equal 50/50 access to grounds as

Theme	Comments
	<p>that would reduce intensity on ground usage due to elongated winter competition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Soccer – GHFA: concerns expressed over calculation of sportsground use benchmarks – this results in an under-estimation of ground use by Soccer compared to other sporting codes » Soccer – GHFA: concerns expressed over model utilised to assess demand – believe that the model used under-estimates the future capacity needs. Suggested participation model should have been utilised instead » Soccer – GHFA: requested soccer clubs to send their participation numbers through to Council
Sportsground supporting infrastructure e.g. canteens and change rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Union: social facilities including canteens are vital part of game and are important for raising revenue » AFL & Soccer – GHFA: due to growth of women in sport, Strategy should consider amenities for women e.g. girls change rooms » Soccer – GHFA: question raised if clubs contribute funds for facilities, what is the return? Tenure of the sportsgrounds?
Ground sharing with schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Touch & Cricket: request for Council to consider ground sharing with schools
Next steps in developing the Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » All participants raised questions regarding whether strategy will include funding details for future decisions
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » AFL: clubs want Council support to establish a new club and location to represent the LGA » Cricket: need to ensure training and competition travel time is attractive to junior players as they feed into senior teams » Touch: area needs more casual sport offerings where people can play/pursue general recreation to limit casual use of sportsgrounds » Cricket & Rugby League: questions raised whether property developer contributions can be utilised for sportsgrounds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Survey respondents showed overwhelming support for this principle » GHFA concerns raised that other codes have grounds booked but are not utilising their booking

4 Submissions

Four submissions were received from Pennant Hills District Civic Trust, Primary Soccer, Football NSW and Pennant Hills District Cricket Club.

Pennant Hills District Civic Trust

Key issues raised in this submission responding to Discussion Paper:

- » Support for Discussion Paper's priority principles:
 - maximising carrying capacity by improving drainage, lighting and surface and design/field configuration
 - support to pursue agreements with local schools for shared use of school sportsgrounds
- » Support for Discussion Paper identification of Westleigh and Hornsby Park as potential new sites for sportsgrounds
- » Issue with Schofield Parade option due to small size
- » Concern about lack of funding available in report's funding principles

Other issues:

- » Concern about survey questions assuming all users travel by car and not by other means e.g. public transport, walking
- » Lack of recommendations about additional traffic and park associated with increase in sportsground usage traffic

Primary Soccer

Key issues raised in this submission responding to Discussion Paper:

- » Support for Discussion Paper's priority principles:
 - Improvements to surface and design/field configuration e.g. variable field markings, portable goal posts and multiple goal post concrete sleeves
- » Concern with proposed plan to build synthetic turf surfaces due to over-heating in summer

Other issues:

- » Adjusting summer/winter changeover to occur later in year to take advantage of optimal grass growth in Spring
- » Introducing a variable limit on ground use for juniors and seniors due to higher impact on grounds from adult players
- » Concerns about Council sportsground booking system

Football NSW

Key issues raised in this submission responding to Discussion Paper:

- » Support for Discussion Paper's priority principles:
 - maximising carrying capacity by improving drainage, lighting and surface and design/field configuration

- support to pursue agreements with local schools for shared use of school sportsgrounds
- » Support for building of synthetic turf surfaces and fields
- » Support to convert existing open space to sportsground use e.g. conversion of non-traditional spaces for smaller training grounds

Other issues:

- » Request to ensure provision of active open space in new residential developments

Pennant Hills District Cricket Club

This submission contained two appeals to Council:

- » Provide specific separate location or complex for Little Athletics clubs due to clashes with cricket use at Pennant Hills Park
- » Install an extra turf wicket or 2 metres of turf couch wicket to square at Ern Holmes Oval

The level of support for Council's priorities expressed in the submissions was largely reflective of what was heard in the survey results and stakeholder meetings. Support was expressed for the Discussion Paper's priority principle of maximising carrying capacity by improving drainage, lighting and surface and design/field configuration. In addition, support for developing Westleigh and Hornsby Park as future potential sportsground was expressed in one of the submissions. Similar to the comments raised at the stakeholder meetings, there was support for developing synthetic turf surfaces but also concerns expressed with the type of materials used and the potential to cause injury. Due to the nature of open submissions, these submissions also raised a number of issues not directly related to the Draft Discussion Paper.

5 Conclusion

Coming out of all the feedback gathered and analysed during the consultation process, was a general acceptance of Council's priorities. Overall, results from the surveys, comments made during the stakeholder meetings and ideas raised in the submissions largely correlated with one another.

Across the survey results, stakeholder meetings and submissions, there was overwhelming support for the principle to maximise carrying capacity by improving drainage, lighting and surface and design/field configuration. The majority of stakeholder meeting participants recognised the benefits that previous upgrades to their home grounds have made, allowing for longer hours of use and a better-quality game.

There was also majority support amongst survey respondents for principle that clubs/organisations should contribute to the cost of the upgrade if they wish to have a higher quality of facility than Council can provide.

There was wide-spread support for the principle that Council should prioritise improving sportsground facilities for conducting sports, over club based social facilities. Some stakeholder meeting participants did not support this principle and indicated that clubhouses and social facilities contribute to social and community aspect of playing sport.

Across the survey results and stakeholder meetings, some flexibility was expressed to travel further for training and competitions. Interestingly, the survey responses indicated more willingness to travel for training rather than competition while meeting participants indicated more willingness to travel for competitions rather than training.

In terms of multi-use sportsgrounds, survey respondents expressed strong support to have choice and access to a variety of different sports codes and prioritising developing multi-use sportsgrounds. Whilst stakeholder meeting participants showed wide-ranging support for multi-use grounds, they indicated that for any potential multi-use grounds, consideration must be made for compatible sports and these should be prioritised.

Coming out of the survey results, stakeholder meetings and submissions, Westleigh and Hornsby Park were the most popular locations to establish new sportsgrounds. Stakeholder meeting participants expressed that due to Westleigh's size, it could be a multi-use sportsground and accommodate for a variety of sports codes. Ideas were also raised to establish Hornsby Park as a satellite training and competition ground for overflow.

Sports that are suited to utilising synthetic turf surfaces (AFL, Soccer NSFA and Soccer GHFA) all expressed support for synthetic turf surfaces during the stakeholder meetings. However, they suggested that Council should consider the location of these grounds, who they are shared with and what material is used to lower the risk of injury.

Next steps

Hornsby Shire Council will analyse the feedback and outcomes contained in this report to inform their Draft Sportsground Strategy. Further consultation will be undertaken with key stakeholders to seek feedback on the Draft Strategy in late 2017 / early 2018.

Appendices

A Online survey

A Online survey

Introduction

Council is seeking feedback from the community for the preparation of a final Sportsground Discussion Paper. The result of this engagement will assist Council in identifying and planning for current and future needs of sportsgrounds across the Shire.

Tell us about you

We would like to ask you a few questions about you so that we can understand who is using our sportsgrounds and what is important to you.

* 1. What is your gender?

- Male
 Female

* 2. What is your age range?

- 18 or younger 46-55
 19-25 56-75
 26-35 76 or older
 36-45

* 3. Which of the following best describes your household?

- Single occupant. Family with children under 18 years at home.
 Shared house. Family with children over 18 years at home.
 Couple with no children. Couple, children no longer living at home.
 Other (please specify)

* 4. Which suburb do you live in?

Your Sportsground Usage

* 5. How often do you visit a sportsground in Hornsby Shire?

Never Very seldom (A few times
a year) Seldom (once a month) Often (Several times a
month) Very often (at least once a
week)

Utilisation of Sportsgrounds

To optimise usage, Council needs to ensure that sportsgrounds are suitable for a diverse range of sports and activities.

10. Residents should have choice and access to a variety of different sports codes.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither disagree or agree Agree Strongly Agree

11. Where there is a limitation on availability, sportsgrounds should be utilised by both winter and summer sports.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither disagree or agree Agree Strongly Agree

12. With increasing diversity of sports and sporting formats (eg. shorter versions), planning for new and upgraded sportsgrounds and facilities need to accommodate for a wide range of use.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither disagree or agree Agree Strongly Agree

Sportsground Improvement Funding

Council must carefully allocate resources to maximise usage of its sportsgrounds. Please answer these questions to help us understand what is important to you.

13. Council should prioritise investment in existing venues to increase capacity and to maximise usage of the existing sportsground (through improvements to lighting, turf surfaces, drainage and irrigation etc) before establishing new grounds.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither disagree or agree Agree Strongly Agree

14. Council should prioritise improving sportsground facilities for conducting sports, over club based social facilities (ie. club house).

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither disagree or agree Agree Strongly Agree

15. Council should ensure that housing developments contribute towards sportsground upgrades to cater for the increased population.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither disagree or agree Agree Strongly Agree

16. If clubs/organisations wish to have a higher quality of facility than Council can provide, they should contribute to the cost of the upgrade.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither disagree or agree Agree Strongly Agree

Future Sportsgrounds

Council has available the following sites for the establishment of new sports facilities.

17. Please indicate how likely you or your club/organisation would be interested in utilising the following sportsgrounds if they are to be developed.

	Not at all	Unlikely	Maybe	Likely	Definitely will use
Westleigh Park, Westleigh (see location)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hornsby Park, Hornsby (see location)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Schofield Parade, Pennant Hills (see location)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cowan (see location)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



www.elton.com.au



Appendix 2 - Sportsground Inventory

Facility/Site Name	Owner	Management	Facility Area (Ha)	Playing Surface Area (Ha)	NSROC Hierachy Category	Main Winter Use(s)	Main Summer Use(s)	Field Type(s)	Full Size Rectangle Fields	Mod/Jnr Rectangle Fields	Full Ovals	Junior Ovals	Netball Courts	Baseball	Softball	Changerooms	Toilets	
Arcadia Park	Council	Council		0.94		Soccer	Cricket	Turf			1						2	Yes
Asquith Oval	Council	Council		1.49		Soccer	Cricket	Turf			1						2	Yes
Berowra Oval	Council	Council		1.47		Soccer	Cricket	Turf, Hardcourt			1		2				2	Yes
Berry Park	Council	Council		0.75		Soccer	Cricket	Turf										Yes
Booth Park	Council	Council		0.32		Soccer	Cricket	Turf										Yes
Brooklyn Oval	Council	Council		0.55		Soccer	Cricket	Turf									2	Yes
Campbell Park	Council	Council		0.82		Soccer	Cricket	Turf	1								2	Yes
Cheltenham Oval	Council	Council		1.07		Soccer	Cricket	Turf	1		1						2	Yes
Cowan Park	Council	Council		0.55		Soccer	Cricket	Turf	1									Yes
Dural Park	Council	Council		1.78		Union/ League	Cricket	Turf	2								4	Yes
Edward Bennet Oval	Council	Council		0.6		Soccer	Cricket	Turf	1								1	Yes
Epping Athletic Track	Council	Council		0.65		Athletics	Athletics	Turf	1									Yes
Epping Oval	Council	Council		1.3		Soccer	Cricket	Turf	1		1						2	Yes
Foxglove Oval	Council	Council		3		Soccer	Touch	Turf	2								2	Yes
Galston Recreation Reserve	Council	Council		0.68				Turf					2					Yes
Glenorie Park	Council	Council		0.56		Soccer	Cricket	Turf, Hardcourt	1									Yes
Greenway Park	Council	Council		4.84		AFL	Baseball, Athletics	Turf, Hardcourt	1		1		4	4			2	Yes
Hayes Park	Council	Council		2.3		Soccer	Softball	Turf	2						6		4	Yes
Headen Park	Council	Council		1.18		Union/ League	Cricket	Turf	1								2	Yes
James Henty Park	Council	Council		0.7		Soccer	Cricket	Turf	1								2	Yes
James Park	Council	Council		0.63		Soccer	Cricket	Turf	1									Yes
John Purchase Oval	Education	Council		0.65		Soccer	Cricket	Turf	1								2	Yes
Mark Taylor Oval	Council	Council		1.41		Union/ League	Cricket	Turf			1						2	Yes
Mills Park	Council	Sport		1.84			Cricket	Turf	1								2	Yes
Montview Oval	Council	Council		2.8		Soccer, Netball	Cricket	Turf, Hardcourt	2								2	Yes
Mt Kuringgai Oval	Council	Council		1.28		Soccer	Cricket	Turf			1						2	Yes
Normanhurst Oval	Council	Council		1.5		Soccer	Cricket	Turf, Hardcourt			1		2				2	Yes
North Epping Oval	Council	Council		1.17		Soccer	Cricket	Turf			1						2	Yes
Oakleigh Oval	Council	Council		1.38		Soccer	Baseball	Turf	1					2			2	Yes
Old Dairy Park	Council	Council		0.95			Cricket	Turf			1							Yes
Parklands Oval	Council	Council		1.29		Soccer	Cricket	Turf			1						2	Yes
Pennant Hills Sports Complex	Council	Council		3.47		AFL, League, Union	Athletics, Soccer	Turf, Synthetic	3		2						6	Yes
Pennant Hills - Archery	Council	Council		0.4		Archery	Archery	Turf										Yes
Pennant Hills - Hockey	Council	Sport		1.15		Hockey	Hockey	Synthetic	1								2	Yes
Pennant Hills - Netball	Council	Sport		1.7		Netball	Netball	Hardcourt					17					Yes
Rofe Park	Council	Council		2.58		AFL	Baseball	Turf			1			4			2	Yes
Ron Payne Reserve	Council	Council		0.99		Soccer	Cricket	Turf	1									Yes
Ruddock Park	Council	Council		0.85		Soccer	Baseball	Turf						3				Yes
Storey Park	Council	Council		1.3		League	Cricket	Turf	1									Yes
Thomas Thomson Park	Council	Council		0.62		Soccer	Cricket	Turf	1								2	Yes
Thornleigh Oval	Council	Council		1.02		Soccer	Cricket	Turf			1						2	Yes
Warrin Street	Council	Council		1.51		League, Soccer	Cricket	Turf, Hardcourt			1		2				2	Yes
Wisemans Ferry Oval	Council	Council		3				Turf			1							Yes
Total				59.04					29		18		29	13	6	27	41	