

REGIONAL SPORTSGROUND STRATEGY
REVIEW

FINAL REPORT

DECEMBER 2017

Acknowledgements

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Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils

Address: 48 Longueville Road
Lane Cove NSW 2066

PO Box 20
Lane Cove NSW 1595

Phone: (02) 9911 3660

Email: info@nsroc.com.au

Website: www.nsroc.com.au

NSROC ABN : 65 955 981 255



OTIUM PLANNING GROUP PTY LTD



Head Office:

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

Sydney Office

Address: Suite 1/273 Alfred Street North
North Sydney NSW 2060
Contact: Simon Haire
Phone: 0428 600 657
Email: simon@otiumplanning.com.au

Otium Planning Group has offices in:

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

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



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Executive Summary

Introduction

Otium Planning Group (OPG) was engaged by Northern Sydney Region Organisation of Councils (NSROC) to review their Regional Sportsground Management Strategy prepared in 2011. This report serves as an update to the previous strategy with a focus on analysing future demand for the provision of sportsgrounds in the Region. NSROC is comprised of seven Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the northern part of Sydney which have voluntarily come together to address regional issues, work co-operatively for the benefit of the region, and advocate on agreed regional positions and priorities. The member councils* are Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, North Sydney, Ryde and Willoughby.

The aim of the project is to review and update the Regional Sportsground Management Strategy 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 such as football (soccer), rugby union, rugby league, netball, cricket, touch/oztag, hockey, softball, baseball and AFL.

Synopsis

This study has, for the first time, quantified and reaffirmed the gap between demand and supply of sportsgrounds in the NSROC area. The future gap between demand and supply has been estimated in view of future population growth and potential increases in sportsground capacity. 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 situation is such that even if all identified initiatives were employed in the short term, a gap is still likely to be evident in 2026 which will only escalate further by 2036. Therefore, the initial 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.

However, of more medium to long term importance, is the need for NSROC to work on behalf of and alongside its member councils with state government agencies to develop more far-reaching solutions which often are beyond the remit and/or capacity of individual councils. This aspect has a strong emphasis on state government agencies including the Greater Sydney Commission (GSC), Office of Sport, and Department of Planning to take responsibility, lead and actively facilitate the acquisition and/or embellishment of land or facilities to cope with the increased demand brought about by population increases stimulated by planning policies. These facilities should be provided for as essential infrastructure and state government agencies need to share responsibility for planning and funding them in a similar manner to other essential infrastructure. Although longer term in nature, these initiatives need to commence immediately to ensure opportunities are not lost.

“This aspect has a strong emphasis on state government agencies...to take responsibility, lead and actively facilitate the acquisition and/ or embellishment of land or facilities to cope with the increased demand brought about by population increases....These facilities should be provided for as essential infrastructure and state government agencies need to share responsibility for planning and funding them in a similar manner to other essential infrastructure.”

This could include (amongst other things):

- Facilitating the security and acquisition of land
- Leading and facilitating development of sport areas in high density zones
- Funding or facilitating funding for high capital cost infrastructure that significantly increases the supply/capacity of sportsgrounds to meet future demand

* Mosman Council joined NSROC in late 2017 but were unable to be included for the purpose of this study



Existing Situation

NSROC's inventory of sportsgrounds is distributed across 229 areas/sites supplying a total playing area of 239.3Ha (actual field space) within a total land area of approximately 406.81Ha. The difference between these two areas (167.51Ha) 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 OPG in other sportsground planning projects in NSW, ACT and Queensland.

In a 'winter configuration', these facilities provide approximately:

- 154 x full size rectangular fields
- 57 x mod or junior rectangular fields
- 60 x full sized ovals
- 5 x junior ovals
- 17 x baseball fields
- 9 x softball fields
- 120 x netball courts

These sites are made up of a combination of Council owned facilities, education sites and other community/government providers.

Demand and Supply Considerations

Future Population Impacts

- NSROC's current estimated population (592,550) is similar to the size of the Hunter Region in NSW, the Gold Coast Region in Queensland and the entire state of Tasmania
- From 2011 to 2036, the population of the NSROC region will grow by 200,000 (or 36.4%) to 752,600
- OPG studies in the area have found that existing sportsgrounds (already over capacity) will not be able to cater additional population growth and participation numbers
 - Forecasts have shown that Councils will need to increase the capacity of sportsgrounds by over 40% (through a range of initiatives and new facilities) to cope with existing and future demands
- Increased housing density will intensify the need for access to open space and sportsgrounds
- Demographic changes will continue to diversify the population and their sporting needs creating greater 'competition' between sporting codes for access to space
- The availability and access to quality land (large and level areas) for sportsgrounds becomes rarer as development takes place
 - This reduces the effectiveness and efficiency of resulting facilities and increases the relative cost to develop and manage the land

Possible impacts without effective change

- A lack of space/access will lead to increasing numbers of participants being turned away from sport
 - Increasing physical inactivity, sedentary leisure behaviour and related health and disease impacts
 - Reducing benefits brought about by participation in sport and physical activity
- Increased costs to participate and accessibility of facilities (distribution/time¹) will create inequity in participants and associated benefits
- Access to sport may become based on the capacity to pay and which may create a greater barrier to participation for lower income households

¹ Ausplay: For adults up to middle-age, time pressure is by far the main barrier to participating in sport or physical activity. For children, time pressure is the largest factor after age related limitations.



Possible options/solutions

- Increased supply and capacity of sportsgrounds
- Working with sport to develop and implement game formats and programs to create more 'yield' (intensity of use)
- Investigate conversion and/or co-use of other spaces (e.g. golf courses, bowling greens, schools) for sporting activities
- 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
- 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 practice

Future Demand and Supply Analysis

Whilst they have their limitations, the models developed for this study do provide a means of 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 the models developed, there is a need to increase the current supply capacity by around:

- **26% to 2026** (equivalent to 62Ha of playing space² or 105Ha including ancillary spaces)
- **40% to 2036** (equivalent to 96Ha of playing space³ or 163Ha including ancillary spaces)

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 22% (yield the equivalent of 52Ha of playing space). This is considered a very optimistic outcome and, despite this, it is still short of the two targets (equivalent of being 10Ha short in 2026 and 44Ha short in 2036). A more conservative approach would provide **an estimate of increased capacity at 18% -20% would see a playing space net shortfall of 15-20Ha to 2026 and a 50-60Ha net shortfall by 2036.**

Another issue is that this assumes that demand and use can be distributed evenly across all areas, but given that the majority of opportunities are present in the Hornsby LGA, which is on the outer edge of the NSROC area, this is highly unlikely. That is, **the location of potential increases does not match the location of highest population growth.**

Beyond measures identified in this study, effective and viable opportunities to increase capacity will be scarce. Therefore, the ability to address the residual shortfall in 2026 and then the additional shortfall created by further population growth to 2036 is limited. This requires serious consideration and action through long term planning to create opportunities to meet future demand.

This report provides a basis for quantifying that demand and the relative provision across each LGA. Subsequently, this enables NSROC Councils to individually and collectively define the scope of need and to identify and evaluate longer term options in association with other key planning stakeholders including the GSC and Office of Sport.

From a planning perspective, one of the main issues with sportsgrounds and open space in general, is that we only get 'one chance'. That is, once space is developed for hard infrastructure, it's consumed for good. That is why it is critical to get the provision of sportsgrounds and open space 'right' through planning to maintain

² Equivalent to approximately 78 standard rectangular fields

³ Equivalent to approximately 120 standard rectangular fields



the ability to meet contemporary needs. To assist in this, NSROC should be advocating for the following key outcomes from state government agencies, plans and initiatives:

- Leadership and coordination in the acquisition and/or embellishment of facilities to cope with the increased demand brought about by population increases stimulated by planning policies
- Clear and quantifiable statements of the need to provide for new and/or upgraded sport and recreation facilities to meet demand brought about by development
- Clear and pragmatic guidelines for how sport is incorporated into active healthy living and 'liveability' measures
 - Sport, physical activity and open space should be provided for as essential infrastructure (like roads etc.) and not as an 'after thought'
 - Planning needs to go beyond words and ensure delivery of practical/suitable spaces that are not compromised by other outcomes
- Meaningful leadership and support to provide facilities through planning, funding and policies including:
 - Facilitating the security and acquisition of land
 - Facilitating funding and development opportunities
 - Improved coordination of sport planning and facility provision
 - Support for local government to affect change without creating inequity

Some indicative examples for leading and facilitating initiatives are provided below:

- Securing current sportsfields at risk of loss - e.g:
 - TG Millner Field - acquisition of existing sportsfield land proposed to be sold to relocate Eastwood Rugby Club. This land is considered to be part of the current supply and its potential loss would have detrimental impacts on supply capacity
- Facilitating funding of high cost infrastructure in lieu of land - e.g:
 - Christie Park - construction of synthetic sportsfield on a suspended slab over car parking and additional 5-aside fields (effectively providing the equivalent of 3-4ha of land). This is adjacent to Macquarie Park where additional land is needed (but not readily available) to meet sport needs
- Facilitating planning and development of sports areas in high density zones - e.g:
 - Chatswood CBD - facilitate development of roof top sportsfields on large commercial buildings/carparks. The central location would service resident and worker needs supported by existing infrastructure (i.e. transport, car parking etc.)
- Funding 'regionally significant' project/programs
 - Westleigh Park - facilitate funding for the development and potentially increased scope of a new facility in the Pennant Hills area. This one of the few opportunities in the NSROC area for a new multi-field complex which will significantly boost supply

Strategic Directions

As part of this strategy review, the principles recommended by the previous 2011 strategy have been revised and updated to reflect the current study findings and guide the ongoing approach to sportsground management. These are presented below.

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

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



Key Actions

The following are key actions recommended by this review.

ACTION	Lead role	Partners	Priority
PLANNING AND MANAGING INFRASTRUCTURE AND CARRYING CAPACITY OF GROUNDS			
1. Adapt and maintain the regional facility inventory developed for this project	Sports POG	NSROC	1
2. Adapt (refine facility capacities based on a consistent approach) and maintain (progressively update) details of sportsground capacities	Sports POG	NSROC	1
3. Adapt and monitor seasonal utilisation based on methods established for this project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each council to report seasonal allocations in consistent format 	Sports POG + Each Council	NSROC	1
4. Monitor sport participation rates and trends against utilisation/allocations	Sports POG	SSO's	1
5. Obtain security of tenure (directly or indirectly) of any sportsgrounds that form part of the overall supply that are not owned by Council to ensure there is no loss of grounds or capacity	Each Council	Sports	1
6. Undertake identified initiatives to increase the capacity of sportsgrounds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initially as detailed in Appendix 6 and refined as additional opportunities are identified and assessed Consider installation of synthetic fields at new development sites for efficiency and effectiveness Implement and update the Synthetic Sportsfield Strategy 	Each Council	Office of Sport, Sports POG	1
7. Investigate and develop opportunities for joint use of school sportsgrounds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initially as detailed in Appendix 7 and refined as additional opportunities are identified and assessed Consider installation of synthetic surfaces if viable (especially at High School sites) Identify opportunities and initiate discussions with non-government schools as appropriate 	Each Council	Education, Sports POG	1
8. 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	Sports POG		1
9. Actively engage with state government agencies to pragmatically plan and implement long term solutions to address the supply gap to 2026 and beyond including advocating for the key outcomes from state government plans and initiatives:	NSROC + Sports POG	Office of Sport, GSC, SSOs + Sport NSW	1



ACTION	Lead role	Partners	Priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear and quantifiable statements of the need to provide for new and/or upgraded sport and recreation facilities to meet demand brought about by development • Clear and pragmatic guidelines for how sport is incorporated into active healthy living and ‘liveability’ measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sport, physical activity and open space should be provided for as essential infrastructure (like roads etc.) and not as an ‘after thought’ ○ Planning needs to go beyond words and ensure delivery of practical/suitable spaces that are not compromised by other outcomes • Meaningful leadership and support to provide facilities through planning, funding and policies including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facilitating the securing/acquiring of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land zoned recreation (public and private) ▪ Areas already developed as sportsground/ recreation areas ▪ Other government land that could be used for sports facilities ○ Facilitate funding and development opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding of capacity increasing projects in-lieu of land ▪ Funding ‘regionally significant’ projects/ programs ▪ Planning and development of sports areas in high density commercial zones • Support for local government to affect change without creating inequity • Improved coordination of sport planning and facility provision 			
<p>10. Identify specific requirements for the upgrade of ancillary facilities to complement capacity upgrades and address contemporary issues (e.g. safety, shade, customer expectations/standards, increased female participation, cultural profiles)</p>	Each Council	Sports	2

ACTION	Lead role	Partners	Priority
MANAGING FLUCTUATIONS IN DEMAND			
<p>11. Liaise with sports to identify and implement initiatives to manage demand, this may include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer research to develop alternative service offerings for specific customer profiles (e.g. more alternative formats, targeted training and competition schedules, geographic spread of competition structures) • Alternative program delivery (e.g. locations and times) 	NSROC + Sports POG	SSOs + Sport NSW	2



ACTION	Lead role	Partners	Priority
12. Assist sports codes with strategic planning at a regional level	Sports POG + Each Council	SSO's	2
13. NSROC Councils should at the end of every season monitor the range of sports, and the number of clubs and players across the region and consider adjustments in future allocations to reflect contemporary needs	Sports POG + Each Council	Sports	2
14. NSROC Councils should facilitate regular communication with schools (including private schools) regarding participation in sport and the development of sporting infrastructure	Each Council	DET and private schools	3
15. Prepare an indoor sports strategy (to, amongst other things, help manage demand for outdoor sportsgrounds)	NSROC + Sports POG		2



The objectives of NSROC as defined in the NSROC Constitution are as follows:

- To strengthen the role of Local Government in regional affairs, particularly where the region may be affected by Commonwealth or New South Wales Government policies.
- To ensure that as a region we are providing leadership and participating in the development of; sound urban infrastructure; economic infrastructure and employment opportunities.
- To facilitate the integration of transport, human and environmental infrastructure projects that support opportunities that meet community and business needs.
- To improve the quality and access to human services infrastructure.
- To improve the quality and efficiency of Local Government service delivery throughout the Northern Sydney Region.
- To ensure the organisation develops as a highly credible and cost-effective organisation

1.1.2 Project Aim and Scope

The aim of the project is to review and update the Regional Sportsground Management Strategy to improve coordination of community sportsground management across the NSROC region to maximise participation opportunities and deliver community health and amenity benefits.

The project will focus on outdoor sportsgrounds and key sports competing for these spaces such as football (soccer), rugby union, rugby league, netball, cricket, touch/oztag, hockey, softball, baseball and AFL.

1.1.3 Methodology

The methodology used to undertake this study is outlined below.

Table 1: Methodology

STAGE	TASK
Background and Key Stakeholder Consultation	Inception meeting
	Background review
	Population analysis
	Meeting with Key External Stakeholders
	Workshop with NSROC Sports POG
	GSC draft north district plan submission
Research and Analysis	Meetings with 'Internal' Stakeholders
	Review of Sportsground Inventories
	Review of sports participation data
	Preliminary sports facility analysis
	Consultation with Sporting Organisations
	Assess sports participation data
	Supply analysis
	Review planned provision
	Facility mapping
	Sport demand modelling
	Demand assessment
	Gap analysis
Strategy Development	Identification of Facility Opportunities
	Review of Policy and Management Issues
	Presentation and Workshop with NSROC Sports POG
Reporting	Draft report
	Presentation of Draft Report
Finalisation	Final report



1.2 Context

The following subsections provide contextual information for this study including a rationale, relevant planning, population forecasts and pertinent sport related information.

1.2.1 The Case for Sportsgrounds

It is universally accepted that population growth in our major cities necessitates comprehensive (and expensive) infrastructure solutions to inevitable traffic and transport challenges. While there is mounting evidence of the health benefits to the community of creating environments for active living, the critical importance of ensuring adequate open space for sport and recreation in burgeoning urban environments is, unfortunately, less well recognised.

Several studies and authors have identified the need for greater focus on open space provision in rapidly growing urban environments in Australia. In a 2012 paper, Associate Professor Jason Byrne noted “...recent patterns of residential development in Australian cities are threatening to overwhelm green space in our urban cores” and that “...even a cursory examination of green space distribution within most cities shows that urban green space is neither uniformly accessible nor equitably distributed.”⁴

A 2015 Sport NSW report⁵ noted that “...an increase in population density in Sydney and the subsequent increase in residential and commercial development has meant the amount of public open green space has decreased.” The report commented that the inability to develop new facilities in some local government areas is severely impacting on the ability to increase sport participation. The report also noted that “...many LGAs in Sydney state that sporting facilities are being maximally utilised creating situations which see sporting clubs turned away or limits placed on the number of teams a club can cater for” and that “...the longer the distances that people need to travel to access sports facilities and competition, or the longer waiting period to access facilities of adequate quality, the less inclined people will be to take part in sport.”

Infrastructure for sport and recreation are part of the fabric of our cities and towns that allows our communities to engage in activities that improve their physical, social and mental health. This infrastructure comprises playing fields, parks, public spaces, swimming pools, sports centres, walk/ cycle paths, natural areas and other community, sport and recreation facilities. It creates the spaces and places for our communities to be active, to interact and strengthen social bonds, and supports a diverse and growing realm of employment and business development. While the economic benefits of participation in sport and active recreation accrue across many levels of government, responsibility for community sport and recreation infrastructure lies predominantly with Local Government.

The importance of sound planning for sport and recreation infrastructure is underscored by national and/ or international evidence demonstrates that:

- 6 out of 10 adult Australians are overweight or obese
- Physical inactivity is the 4th leading risk factor for global mortality
- Physical inactivity is associated with chronic diseases (coronary heart disease, stroke, Type 2 diabetes, colon cancer, breast cancer), and
- Sedentary behaviour (in particular long periods of sitting) is an increasing health risk

Access to parks and sportsgrounds can significantly influence residents’ levels of physical activity and improve health outcomes.

Sport is an essential component of what might be termed Urban Health Infrastructure⁶, with wide ranging benefits including⁷:

⁴ Jason Byrne, Associate Professor, Griffith School of Environment. Griffith University. “What is Green Space Worth”, 2012.

⁵ Sport NSW. “Investing in community sport for economic growth and to support healthy, active and connected communities in New South Wales.” 2015

⁶ Martin Lambert, Director, Otium Planning Group, 2014.

⁷ Dr Ralph Richards, Senior Research Consultant, Clearinghouse for Sport, Australian Sports Commission. Feb 2017.

https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/knowledge_base/organised_sport/value_of_sport/sport_for_community_development



- *Wellbeing* - participation in sport is linked to improved health status, both physical and mental, as well as long-term preventive health benefits. It improves self-concept, quality of life, and increases opportunities for social interaction
- *Social Capital* - builds social networks, particularly at the neighbourhood level, and strengthens community cohesion and resilience
- *Building Communities* - sports programs are a key contributor to community development
- *Social Impacts* - has the potential to address gender, cultural, and disability barriers to a greater extent than many other sectors. It provides an opportunity for persons to 'connect' with others within their community
- *Youth* - sports participation in young people helps to foster basic values such as fair play, sportsmanship, competitiveness, and achievement

The provision of sportsgrounds and sport and recreation facilities should not be regarded as a “nice to have” or a “cost” after other infrastructure has been accommodated. They are a “must have” for healthy and economically sustainable cities.

Sports Facility Planning and Use⁸

Access to quality sport and recreation facilities, that are supported by community infrastructure, can be a major factor in a sport’s capacity to meet current user demand and plan for future growth.

Australian Governments at all levels often work together through a number of their departments and/or policies to jointly contribute to the planning and development of sporting facilities that benefit the community. This is undertaken because:

- Provision of appropriate, sufficient and accessible public sports facilities has a positive influence on personal and community participation in sport and other physical activities.
- Government policies, forward planning, and current best practice concerning the provision and ongoing operations of sports facilities can contribute significantly to positive social and community outcomes.
- A range of statistical information from multiple government and community sources is often necessary to effectively plan for current and future sporting infrastructure needs.

The Australian Sports Commission’s *Play.Sport.Australia* outlines key aims that include:

1. More Australians, particularly young Australians, participating in sport more often;
2. Year-on-year participation growth for all sports; and
3. Strong sporting organisations that deliver the products and opportunities Australians want.

These aims rely directly on the provision of facilities to cater for desired growth and related benefits and outcomes. Evidence suggests that the provision of appropriate and sufficient sports facilities has considerable influence on participation in sport. The availability of suitable sports facilities, access to those facilities, and the conditions under which a facility operates can either encourage participation or act as a barrier to participation. A number of geographical, environmental, and population demographic factors are important in determining the impact a sporting facility has on the community.

1.2.2 Plan for Growing Sydney - North District Plan

Planning for Sydney’s growth is part of the city-wide planning policy responsibilities of the NSW Government (through the Department of Planning, the Greater Sydney Commission and various other government agencies). The NSW Department of Planning & Environment released ‘A Plan for Growing Sydney’ in December 2014. The strategy divides metropolitan Sydney into six Districts for the purposes of planning for land use and population growth. The ‘north’ District comprises 9 Council areas including the 7 NSROC Councils along with Northern Beaches and Mosman (see Figure 2 below).

⁸ Adapted from the Clearinghouse for Sport, Australian Sports Commission



Figure 2 - North District



This area is expected to grow by almost 200,000 by 2036 to a total of 1,083,000. Major age structure increases are expected in the babies to pre-schoolers group (11%), 5 to 19 year olds (20%) and 85 years plus (85%).

Since the Plan for Growing Sydney was developed, the Greater Sydney Commission has since prepared six district plans to facilitate its implementation. Within the North District Plan it is noted that proposed actions could influence how different levels of government plan for the District, and how public and private investment decisions are made - directly influencing growth and change. In particular, for local government, the draft District Plan states that it will:



- inform the preparation of local environmental plans
- inform planning proposals
- guide strategic land use, transport and infrastructure planning across local government areas
- inform infrastructure planning

The draft District Plan identifies priorities and actions to realise the vision for the area. These relate to productivity, liveability and sustainability. Within the liveability theme, there are two specific actions related to sport which are directly relevant to this study. These are:

Action	Outcome	Lead Agency	Partners
L14: Develop a North District sport and recreation participation strategy and sport and recreation facility plan	Contribute to informed decision making for sport and recreation infrastructure and increased participation	Office of Sport	Councils
L15: Support planning for shared spaces	Increase in the provision of community facilities, including open space	GSC, DEC	State agencies, organisations + providers

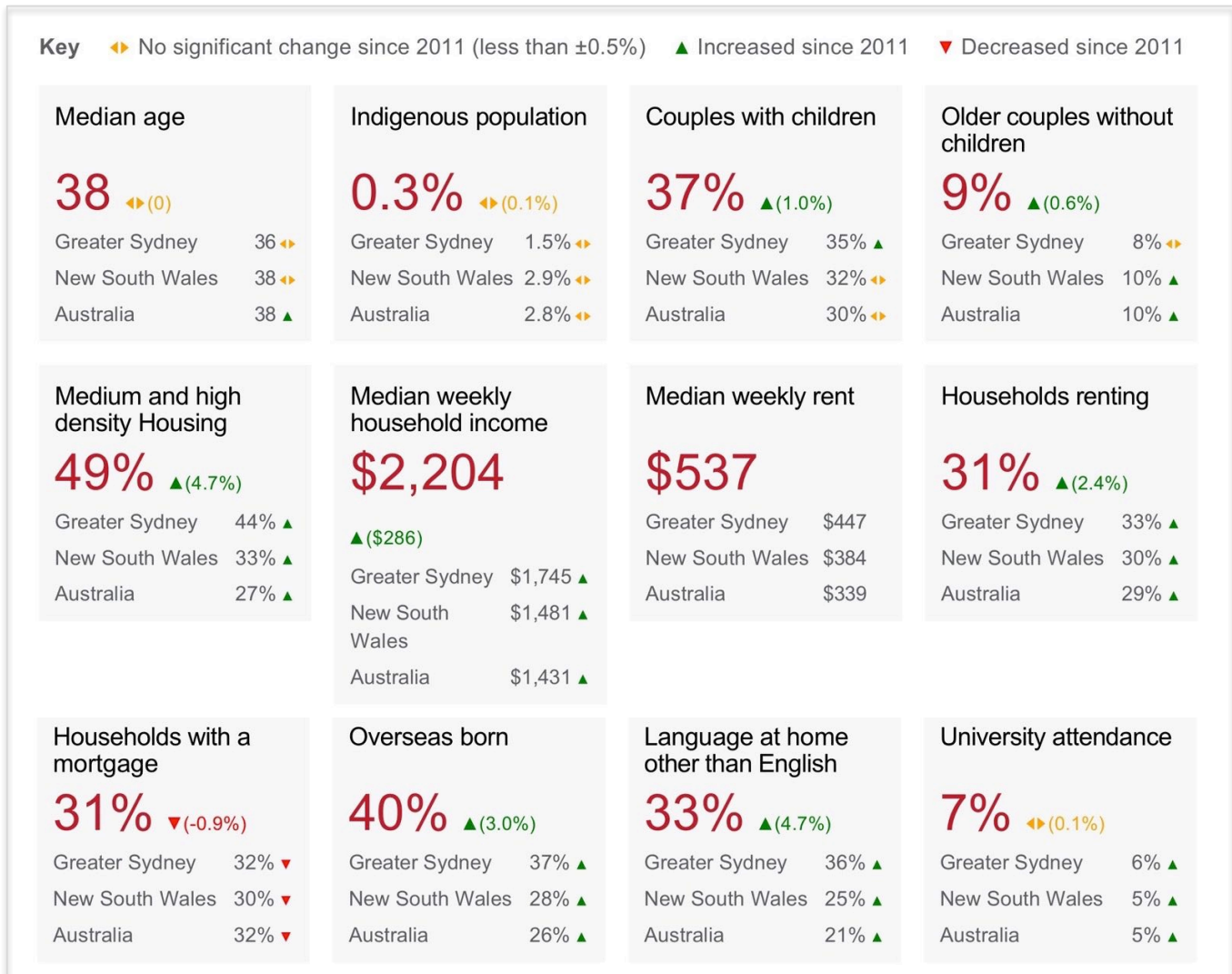
It is anticipated that one outcome of this study will be to help to inform the preparation of the North District Sport and Recreation Facility Plan. These actions also support a more collaborative approach to planning for sport and recreation including developing partnerships to facilitate sharing of facilities and open space.

The Draft North District Plan also identifies four 'Strategic Centres' (Macquarie Park, Chatswood, St Leonards and North Sydney) and one 'District Centre' (Hornsby) in the NSROC area which are the focus of planning in the area.



1.2.3 NSROC Region Population

An overview of the NSROC population prepared by *profile.id* is provided below.



Key points from this profile include:

- Slight increase of couples with children
- Increase in medium and high density housing
- Increase and high proportion in people born overseas
- Increase in language at home other than English

As a major part of the North District, the NSROC area's population is expected to grow by 160,050 from 592,550 in 2016 to 752,600 in 2036⁹. With high growth assumptions, the 2036 population could be as high as 795,550.

⁹ 'Main Series' 2016 New South Wales State and Local Government Area Population Projections - NSW Planning & Environment



The projected change in 5-year age profile is shown in Figure 3 and Figure 4 below.

Figure 3 - 5 Year Age Profile 2016 - 2026

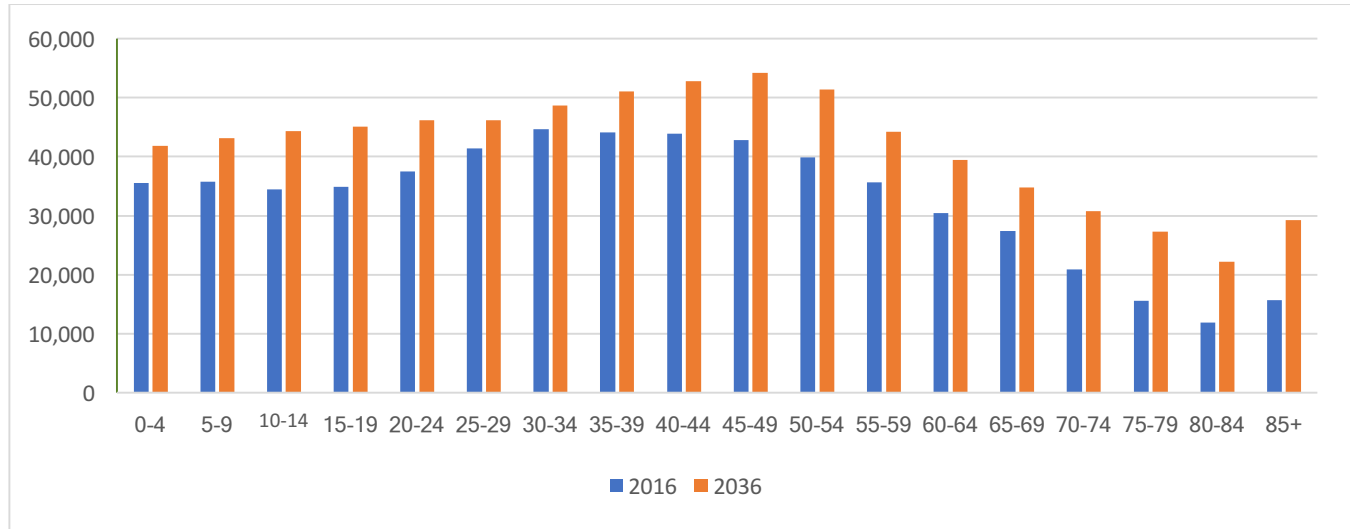
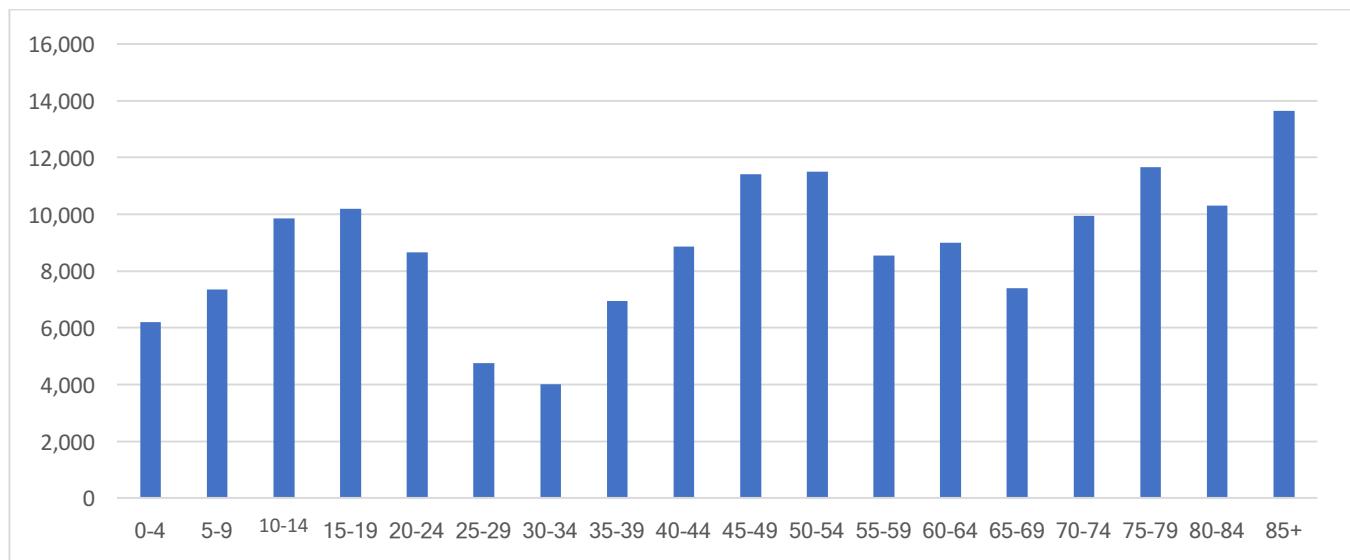


Figure 4 - Change in 5 Year Age Profile (2016-2036)



These figures show increases across all age cohorts including significant increases in the most active age groups (and those more likely to participate in sport) being the 5-19 age group (increase of approximately 27,000 or 26%).

The projected growth in school-aged children varies across the District, with the largest increases expected in Ryde and Ku-ring-gai. By contrast, there will be comparatively small aggregate growth in school-aged children in Willoughby and a small reduction in Hunters Hill.



The distribution of total population growth across the LGAs that make up NSROC is shown in the table below.

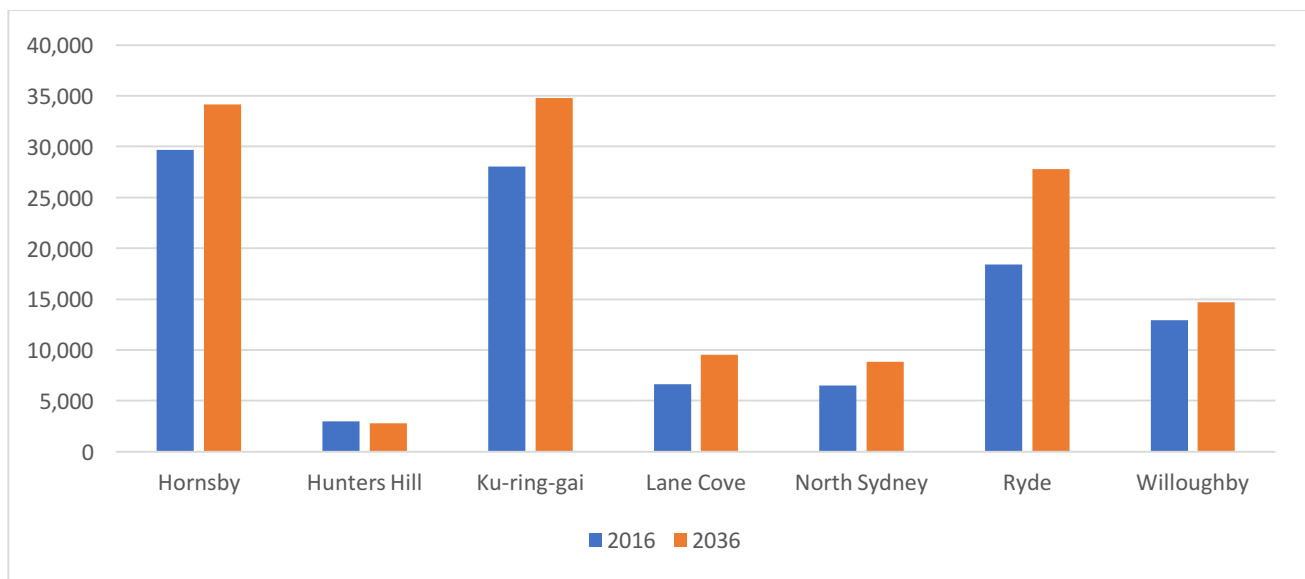
Table 2: Population Growth by LGA

NSROC LGAs	2016	% NSROC Total	2036	% NSROC Total	Total Change	Total % Change	Annual % Change
Hornsby	149,650	25%	178,100	24%	34,750	23.2%	0.9%
Hunters Hill	14,500	2%	15,750	2%	1,850	12.8%	0.5%
Ku-ring-gai	123,500	21%	154,500	21%	39,900	32.3%	1.2%
Lane Cove	37,350	6%	52,300	7%	19,050	51.0%	1.8%
North Sydney	72,150	12%	91,650	12%	24,900	34.5%	1.3%
Ryde	119,950	20%	171,650	23%	62,950	52.5%	1.8%
Willoughby	75,450	13%	88,650	12%	17,500	23.2%	0.9%
NSROC Total	592,550	100%	752,600	100%	160,050	27.0%	0.9%

This shows that, by 2036, Ryde will increase its share of the total NSROC population whilst other LGAs generally maintain their current proportion. The three LGAs with the largest population increases are Ryde, Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby.

These three LGAs will also see the largest increases in people aged in the most active age bracket (5-19 years).

Figure 5 - Population Aged 5-19 years

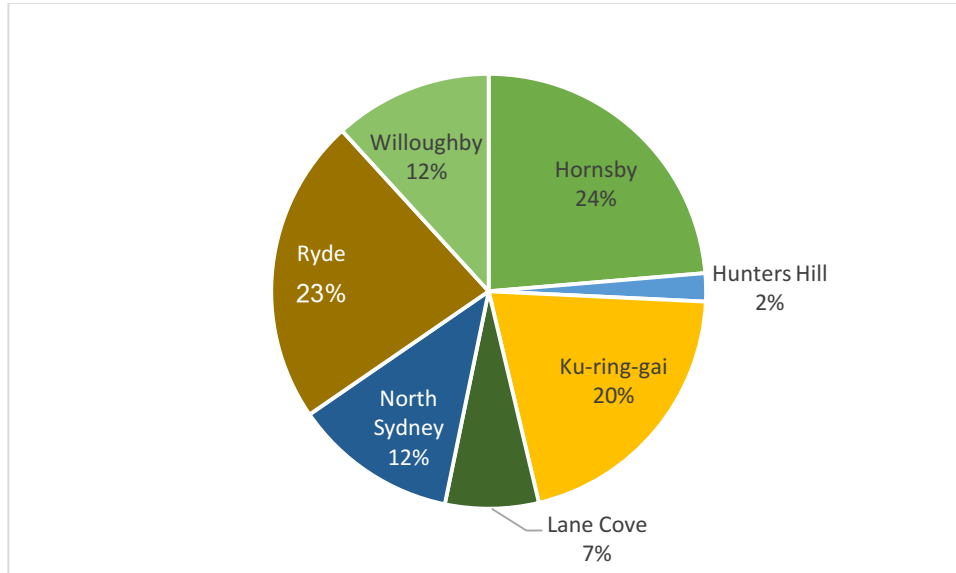


The Department of Planning and Environment have identified the following locations in the NSROC area as priority growth areas and precincts:

- Epping and Macquarie Park
- St Leonards and Crows Nest
- Cherrybrook



Figure 6 - Proportion of Population (2036) by LGA



1.2.4 Current NSROC and Council Sport Strategies

Of the seven NSROC Councils, three (Ryde, North Sydney and Hornsby) have current strategies relating to sport across their LGA. However, there are a range of other relevant studies including several prepared by OPG. These are:

- OPG Studies
 - City of Ryde Sport and Recreation Strategy (2016, co-author)¹⁰
 - City of Ryde Synthetic Surface Action Plan (2016)⁹
 - NSROC Regional Plan for Synthetic Sportsfields (2015)¹¹
 - Chatswood CBD Precinct - Recreation Needs Study (2015)⁹
 - Hornsby Sportsground Strategy (current)
 - Northern Beaches Sportsfield Analysis (2017 - part of North District)
- Other Studies
 - NSROC Sportsground Strategy (2011)
 - North Sydney Recreation Needs Study (2015)
 - City of Ryde Best Value Review: Allocation and Management of Sportsgrounds (2012)

As noted above, the current NSROC Sportsground Management Strategy was completed in 2011 which provided a framework for the management of sportsgrounds in the NSROC area. After this, the NSROC Plan for Synthetic Sportsfields was prepared in 2015. This plan outlined current and planned synthetic sportsfield developments and identified the following key points:

- Councils within NSROC have identified a shortage of sportsgrounds, most grounds are overused in winter, and playing surfaces are sometimes poor, particularly in wet weather. To meet existing and projected demand more sports fields are required and/or existing fields must be developed with substantially increased usage capacity.
- Given the existing deficiency in sports fields across the region, and the potential increase in demand, it is unlikely that demand and supply will be in balance without the construction of more synthetic sports fields.

Based on a review of previous studies conducted and preliminary research for the NSROC Sportsground Strategy Review, OPG have made several observations in relation to sport in the region as outlined below.

¹⁰ Completed as Strategic Leisure Pty Ltd

¹¹ Completed as SGL Consulting Pty Ltd



Existing status of sportsground provision and management in the region

- Without exception, studies in the NSROC area have found:
 - High levels of over allocation and use of sportsgrounds (up to 67% of grounds allocated above recognised benchmarks)
 - A shortage in the current supply of sports facilities (particularly sportsgrounds - at least 15%)
 - Growth in sport participation numbers (particularly female participation)
 - Changes in the types and formats of sports played
- Ongoing demand and supply issues have required initiatives including:
 - Improving the carrying capacity of existing sportsgrounds
 - Use of school facilities for community sport
 - Installing or upgrading lighting
 - Installing multi-purpose synthetic surfaces
- Current issues identified by sports officers has included:
 - Sportsground capacity - management of allocations, maintenance issues, pressure for access to training space
 - Changing demands - traditional sports v new - organised v non-organised sport - competing demands between formalised sport and informal active recreation
 - Perceived conflict between federal and state focus on participation increases (all ages and genders) and lack of space for new participants
 - Limitations on increasing capacity - neighbourhood impacts (particularly field lighting) -peak sport times and structures (traditional completion and or training days)

1.2.5 State and Federal Government Sport Strategies

Australian Sports Commission - *Play.Sport.Australia*

The Australian Sports Commission notes that its task is to make Australian sport stronger, to get more people playing sport and to help athletes pursue their dreams. The following are key points from its key participation strategy, *Play.Sport.Australia*.

Challenges

- Keeping sports relevant and viable
 - Sports are operating in a rapidly changing environment where Australians are increasingly time-poor, have limited budgets and are inundated by new forms of entertainment. Preferences towards other leisure activities are on the rise eroding sports' traditional customer bases
- Keeping Australians active and healthy
 - Too many Australians, young and old, are leading increasingly sedentary lives² and are missing out on the multitude of benefits that come from participating in sport.

Opportunity

- Research into the sports participation market reveals a significant opportunity for sporting organisations to potentially recruit over 4.5 million Australians

Goals

- At the national level we want to see more Australians – particularly young Australians – participating in sport more often.
- At the individual sport level we want the sports we invest in to achieve year-on-year membership and participation growth.
- To achieve the above we want sports to be effective organisations – well-governed, strategic, embracing of commercial opportunities, adopting new technologies and delivering user-friendly sports opportunities that Australians want.



NSW Office for Sport

The NSW Office of Sport has recently undertaken a significant structural and strategic change to increase its presences and relevance in the sport sector. This has included undertaking initiatives such as those outlined below.

Modernising and Optimising Services

The Office of Sport is working with the sport and active recreation sector to design a new service delivery model for sport and active recreation services across NSW. The Modernising and Optimising Our Services (MOOS) Project is a place-based approach to planning, investment and delivery of sport and active recreation. This includes the following key points:

- Four major reform projects:
 - Sport and Recreation Centres
 - Regional Offices
 - High Performance Centres
 - High Performance Pathways
- A more cohesive and holistic regional service delivery model by:
 - Connecting Office of Sport entities in each region
 - Leading and influencing the sport and active recreation sector in each region
- Rationale
 - Increase participation
 - Create integrated performance pathways
 - Improve the capacity, capability and cohesion of the Office of Sport and the sport sector
- Key outputs
 - A new regional sport delivery operating model
 - 10 specific regional sport delivery plans
 - Continuing discussion and collaboration between the partners

Funding Programs

The Office of Sport have received additional funding in recent state government budgets for facility development and participation initiatives. One of these programs is the 'Active Kids Rebate Program' which will enable parents to claim up to \$100 per school child, per calendar year, as a voucher to reduce the cost of sport registration or membership fees for after-school, weekend and structured fitness or physical activity. This initiative is aimed at increasing and retaining participants in sport and physical activity.

1.2.6 Trends in Sport

Knowing the long-term growth potential for participation in key sports is an essential element in planning for future needs. Data gathered regarding participation rates, and more importantly participation trends, shape our estimates of future demands for facilities. However, the nature of sport participation in Australia (as in many countries) is changing. New sports are emerging and some established sports are declining in popularity. Our definition of sport is becoming broader and the distinction between 'organised' and 'social sport' is becoming less clear.

It is impossible to predict exactly how sports (overall) will change to meet future challenges, and this makes facility planning more difficult. However, a range of sport and recreation trends have been observed through studies undertaken by the OPG team for various local governments throughout Australia and analysis of published data (e.g. ABS, CSIRO, Australian Sports Commission). Below is a summary of participation, planning,



design and management trends that may have implications for sport and recreation planning and provision in NSROC and elsewhere.

Generic Trends

The following general trends influencing the use of sport and recreation facilities and parks are evident:

- Many individuals and families are time poor and the scheduling of activities at times that are convenient to them is increasingly important.
- There is a desire by many participants to simply “turn up and play” with minimal volunteering commitments. Many participants are willing to pay extra for this service which has created some opportunities for commercial provision.
- Participation in organised sport is generally static but there is growing demand for social forms of participation in sport.
- Local governments are recognising the importance of creating environments to enable people to lead active and healthy lives, placing greater focus on integration with urban planning, provision and/ or connectivity of walk/ cycle paths, provision of sport and recreation facilities and programs, and provision and access to parks and open space.
- There is a greater demand for floodlighting of facilities so that people can participate at times that are convenient to them or to reduce exposure to the sun.
- Volunteerism is declining in many sport and recreation organisations. This is placing greater pressure on the remaining volunteer base and may impact on participation levels and/ or costs in future if services that were once provided voluntarily need to be paid for.
- Declining volunteerism is also placing greater pressure on Councils in terms of the way they manage sports facilities on their land.
- There is an awareness of the importance of “risk management” and the need for a “whole-of-life” approach to facility development and asset management.
- Multiple use of sport and recreation facilities, season overlap and across season usage is becoming more prevalent in response to limited supply in some areas.
- New methods to maximise use of a facility are being explored (e.g. community/ cultural events, off season sports, non-traditional sports).
- Demographic shift, especially in larger cities, is changing the patterns of participation in sport and recreation.
- Many sports peak bodies are responding to social and demographic trends by introducing modified forms of participation and scheduling.
- Toilets and change rooms are expected to be adequate in size, accessible to playing areas and PWD compliant.
- Accessibility to facilities, particularly via walking and cycling is increasingly important.

Facility Planning & Design

Trends in facility planning and design include:

- The planning process for new facilities has improved significantly with the conduct of effective feasibility studies being the norm. These studies have generally included management/ marketing/ financial plans with demand projections based on sophisticated survey data.
- There is a strong trend away from single purpose facilities towards multi-purpose facilities, however facilities need to be designed to ensure they can meet the specific needs of key user groups.
- Contemporary planning seeks to create, where possible, ‘community hubs’ for sport and recreation that can meet a broader range of needs, and facilitate higher utilisation and viability.



- More flexible designs are being created and there is a growing expectation that facilities will need to be renovated/ upgraded on a periodic basis. There is a realisation that facilities have a “customer interest life-span”, which is much less than the facilities life-span.
- Sport facility designs are increasingly required to cater for different levels and standards of competition.
- Provision for socialising spaces is a key component of facility design.
- Environmentally sustainable design of facilities are pre-requisites.

Outdoor Playing Fields

In relation to outdoor playing fields, the following trends are evident:

- Designing and maintaining playing surfaces to maximise their sustainability is important as the intensity of playing surfaces increases
- It is necessary for facility design to incorporate options for temporary/ spill over parking to support major events
- Water harvesting initiatives to reduce town water consumption, maintain a high standard of playing fields and improve viability is important
- Provision of shade (natural and artificial) is increasingly important given the emphasis on sun safe practices
- Change rooms, canteen, storage and clubrooms are considered typical ancillary facilities provided within outdoor playing field environments
- Due to the open nature of outdoor playing field facilities, CPTED design is critical to protect users and the facility assets
- Lighting of playing fields, compliant with Australian Standards and/ or sport-specific standards and increasingly the desire for LED lighting to enhance cost savings is increasing in importance
- The way people utilise sportsgrounds is changing and people are now relying on open space for an increasingly diverse array of activities. Coupled with increasing cultural diversity, this means that sportsgrounds need to accommodate diverse activities to meet a variety of needs, including for both formal and informal playing opportunities

Synthetic Playing Surfaces

Population growth, extreme climatic conditions, and a shortage of affordable land for sports fields in some urban centres are contributing to increases in the intensity of use of outdoor playing fields. This often results in overuse of fields and adversely impacts on the standard and usability of playing fields. Synthetic surfaces are increasingly being examined as a solution to these challenges.

Historically used only for hockey in Australia, synthetic surfaces are becoming more popular among many LGAs to support a variety of sport and recreation activities. A number of factors need to be considered in developing a synthetic surface:

- The cost of developing synthetic fields is relatively high for one playing field
- Regular cleaning and preventive maintenance is required to protect the integrity of the synthetic surface.
- Similar to any playing field/ court the standard of playing field is directly related to the quality of the base underneath the carpet (including road base and shock pad).
- The life of the surface is not unlimited and generally requires replacement every 7-10 years within a playing environment.



Facility Management

A number of facility management trends are emerging. These include:

- There has been considerable improvement in the management of leisure facilities, with increased expectations of managers to provide better financial outcomes and generate higher attendance.
- With ongoing economic constraints and limited capital and operational budgets, new sports facilities may need to consider joint venture arrangements between private and public sectors.
- Managers of publicly owned/ managed sporting facilities have increased responsibilities and need higher skill levels, access to training and professional networks, and suitable financial reporting systems.
- While many local governments continue with traditional models of external management of facilities such as pools or indoor sporting centres, many Councils are managing facilities 'in-house' either as part of normal operations, or dedicated business units, or a wholly owned company limited by guarantee. The latter two arrangements permit more flexible staffing and commercial management practices.
- Many facility managers pursue non-sporting uses (e.g. events, displays, functions etc.) to maximise the viability of aquatic, sport and recreation facilities.

Megatrends¹²

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) has collaborated with the Australian Sports Commission to identify six megatrends likely to shape the Australian sports sector over the next 30 years. A megatrend represents an important pattern of social, economic or environmental change. Megatrends occur at the intersection of multiple trends and hold potential implications for policy and investment choices being made by community groups, industry and government. The six megatrends in sport are likely to be:

- A perfect fit - Individualised sport and fitness activities are on the rise. People are fitting sport into their increasingly busy and time-fragmented lifestyles to achieve personal health objectives.
- From extreme to mainstream - This megatrend captures the rise of lifestyle, adventure and alternative sports which are particularly popular with younger generations. These sports typically involve complex, advanced skills and have some element of inherent danger and/or thrill-seeking.
- More than sport - The broader benefits of sport are being increasingly recognised by governments, business and communities. Sport can help achieve mental and physical health, crime prevention, social development and international cooperation objectives.
- Everybody's game - Australia and other countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) face an ageing population. This will change the types of sports we play and how we play them.
- New wealth, new talent - Population and income growth throughout Asia will create tougher competition and new opportunities for Australia both on the sports field and in the sports business environment.
- Tracksuits to business suits - Market forces are likely to exert greater pressure on sport in the future. Loosely organised community sports associations are likely to be replaced by organisations with corporate structures and more formal governance systems in light of market pressures. The cost of participating in sport is also rising and this is a participation barrier for many people.

¹² Sourced from the Clearinghouse for Sport, Australian Sports Commission



1.2.7 Challenges and Implications

A summary of the key challenges related to the provision of sportsgrounds in the NSROC area is presented below.

Future Population Impacts

- NSROC's current estimated population (592,550) is similar to the size of the Hunter Region in NSW, the Gold Coast Region in Queensland and the entire state of Tasmania
- From 2016 to 2036, the population of the NSROC region will grow by 160,000 (or 27%) to 752,600
- OPG studies in the area have found that existing sportsgrounds (already over capacity) will not be able to cater additional population growth and participation numbers
 - Forecasts have shown that Councils will need to increase the capacity of sportsgrounds by over 40% (through a range of initiatives and new facilities) to cope with existing and future demands
- Increased housing density will intensify the need for access to open space and sportsgrounds
- Demographic changes will continue to diversify the population and their sporting needs creating greater 'competition' between sporting codes for access to space
- The availability and access to quality land (large and level land) for sportsgrounds becomes rarer as development takes place
 - This reduces the effectiveness and efficiency of resulting facilities and increases the relative cost to develop and manage the land

Possible impacts without effective change

- A lack of space/access will lead to increasing numbers of participants being turned away from sport
 - Increasing physical in-activity, sedentary leisure behaviour and related health and disease impacts
 - Reducing benefits brought about by participation in sport and physical activity
- Access to sport may become based on the capacity to pay and which may create a greater barrier to participation for lower income households
- Increased costs to participate and accessibility of facilities (distribution/time¹³) will create inequity in participants and associated benefits

Implications of Trends for Facility Planning

- Local government will have an increasingly important role in improving health outcomes by enabling residents to be more physically active
- There is increased demand for "self-directed exercise related recreation". This means that Local Government will need to respond to increasing need for running, walking and cycling networks as well as demand for public spaces to accommodate fitness and exercise activities with demand occurring before during and after work hours
- People will want to be able to access recreation opportunities easily from where they live especially in areas where density is increasing. Local and regional linkages via cycle/ walkways will grow in importance
- Maximum flexibility in design to accommodate varying community needs and forms of use should be a prerequisite. Multi-use sport and recreation precincts may need to consider incorporating opportunities for traditional and non-traditional activities
- Future facilities and activities will need to be safe, easily accessible, with few barriers to entry, and cater for formal and informal forms of participation. Provision of safe facilities and safe access-ways is of particular importance where participation by females is concerned

¹³ Ausplay: For adults up to middle-age, time pressure is by far the main barrier to participating in sport or physical activity. For children, time pressure is the largest factor after age related limitations.



- Lighting of playing fields and parks for safety and/ or to extend their usage and functionality will be increasingly important. Evening competitions are likely to continue to grow
- Lighting of playing fields should use contemporary technology to maximise operating viability and minimise impacts on neighbouring residents
- Facility design should maximise opportunities for generating increased revenue and utilisation and/ or to reduce operating costs
- Sustainable facility design is essential, including:
 - Maximising financial viability of a facility in an environment with reducing funding
 - CPTED design principles to prolong the life of assets and protect users
 - ESD solutions to reduce a facility's carbon footprint and reduce energy costs
 - Linkages with sustainable transport solutions aimed at reducing the sole reliance on motor vehicles to access community facilities
- Synthetic playing surfaces may need to be considered in areas where limited provision opportunities, high use of existing facilities, and/ or an inability to adequately maintain grass fields to suitable standards are evident
- Increasing demands within limited budgets may necessitate the need for regional scale planning of higher level facilities to ensure that facilities are economically and socially viable
- Partnerships with schools, tertiary sector, or associations/ clubs should be considered in the provision of new/ upgraded sporting infrastructure
- Facility design will need to remain flexible so as to enable opportunities for informal/ non-organised activities not just organised sport
- Facilities should support the ability to host a variety of activities, including beyond their primary intended use (e.g. community, cultural and entertainment events)



2. Consultation

This section outlines consultation undertaken with Council officers, state sporting organisations and other key stakeholders.

2.1 NSROC Sports Professional Officers Group

Consultation with relevant NSROC Council officers occurred via the following means:

- Project workshops
 - Project Inception (see meeting notes - Appendix 1)
 - Data and key directions review (see presentation - Appendix 2)
 - Draft report review
- One on one meetings to outline data requirements and identify specific issues to each LGA
- Electronic data collection and feedback

Data and feedback provided by each Council included:

- Facility inventory
- Utilisation/allocation schedules
- Feedback on current strategy principles and actions
- Review of potential capacity increasing initiatives

2.2 Stakeholder Workshop

To ensure this strategy was informed by and connected to other relevant planning initiatives, a workshop was held with the NSROC Sports POG, Greater Sydney Commission, Office of Sport, Northern Beaches Council, Department of Education and Sport NSW. Meeting notes are shown in Appendix 3 with key points reproduced below.

Greater Sydney Commission

- Draft North District Plan - exhibition completed (along with 5 other districts)
 - Liveability is a key theme of the draft district plans and sport is seen as an important part of creating healthy communities
 - Open space in general is seen as a major issue in regard to providing for population growth
- Key discussion points for consideration
 - This type of planning (i.e. this project) early in the process (up front) is important
 - Especially in priority precincts (and other areas of high growth)
 - Connection and access to spaces is paramount
 - Public transport
 - Walkability
 - Emphasise and facilitate collaboration between stakeholders and agencies to share, discuss and strategise
 - Need to consider how indoor sport be considered in planning
 - Outdoor sport focuses on one market segment
 - More effective sharing of all public assets needs to be considered with more innovative ideas
 - Office of Sport are to prepare a district sport and recreation plan



Office of Sport

- Due to officially commence preparation of district sport and (active) recreation plans towards the end of the year
- Sporting needs survey has commenced to help inform the planning process (top 20 priorities)
 - Councils
 - SSO's
- Data from NSROC study will be useful for preparation of the north district sport and recreation plan
- One major trend to be addressed is female participation
 - Key point of discussion with SSO's
- Conducting a benchmarking exercise with Northern Suburbs FA
- Developed a facility hierarchy that will assist with informing an investment model

Department of Education

- Department has prepared a draft policy to encourage and facilitate the establishment of joint use projects
 - It is anticipated that many of these will involve sports facilities
- Specific projects in the NSROC area include
 - Willoughby City Council
 - Chatswood HS - synthetic sportsfield
 - Ku-ring-gai Council
 - Lindfield Learning Village -performing arts centre, outdoor synthetic playing field and indoor sporting centre.
 - St Ives High School - four court indoor sporting and community centre.
 - Ku-Ring-Gai High School - two court indoor sports centre, synthetic sports field and a specialist water based hockey field.
- NSROC area is identified as high priority for re-development of education assets

Northern Beaches Council

- Currently preparing sportsground strategy¹⁴
 - Analysis has shown current shortfall in playing space of approximately 24Ha which could grow to 41.4Ha without action (this excludes additional ancillary space, approximately and additional 70%)
 - Options include increasing the capacity of existing fields, synthetics, school facility use and potentially the conversion of golf course land

Sport NSW

- Raised the issue of 'minor' outdoor sports gaining access to facilities
 - These sports don't have the resources of the major sport to ensure they are represented in discussions
- Encourage innovation and collaboration
 - Trying to link sports with local government (new membership category) to facilitate this
- Need to ensure that immediate needs are addressed where possible
 - Long term planning is pragmatic, but if some improvement is not made in the short term, then there will be issues for participation (some already evident). Therefore, there is a need for some short-term outcomes that fit with long term planning

¹⁴ The strategy has subsequently been finalised and adopted by Council



2.3 State Sporting Organisation Questionnaire

To assist in the preparation of this strategy, State Sporting Organisations (SSO's) were contacted and provided with an opportunity to complete a questionnaire. The questionnaire sought information in relation to:

- Current and recent participation trends in the NSROC area
- Feedback on issues, barriers, needs and opportunities relating to facilities
- Initiatives being implemented by sports to help address future demand and use of grounds

The questionnaire was completed by 11 sports including:

- AFL
- Cricket
- Football
- Athletics
- Softball
- Touch Football
- Baseball
- Rugby League
- Rugby Union
- Netball
- Hockey

The completed questionnaires are shown in Appendix 4. A summary of key feedback points is shown below whilst participation data is presented in section 3.2.

Issues and Barriers

- Population growth and participation growth
- Available facilities are at or over capacity
- Lack of sufficient facilities to cope with demand and growth
 - Quality and quantity of fields
 - Support facilities need upgrading (e.g. amenities, carparks)
- Quality of facilities can impact on safety
- Field availability year round for alternative game formats
- 'Block' booking by some sports when facilities are not always used
- Wet weather leading to cancelled competition rounds
- Lack of volunteers
- Increased growth of female participation

Identified needs and opportunities

- Key needs
 - Greater access to fields
 - More fields
 - Synthetic surfaces
 - Increased capacity for grass fields
 - Increased training facilities
 - Upgrade of support facilities including facilities for increasing female participants
 - Increased and higher quality lighting
- Opportunities



- Increased use of school facilities
- Multi-use facilities
- Conversion of other open space (e.g. golf courses)
- Increase 'yield' from existing facilities

Importance of the NSROC Area

- NSROC area rates highly due to
 - Current high participation rates
 - Future population increase
 - Lack of available land for new fields
 - Includes proportionally large membership bases for many sports
 - 'Mature' market

Sport based initiatives

- Promoting use of synthetic fields
- Strategic planning
- Creating and leveraging funding sources
- Resources to facilitate planning and communication/coordination
- Education of members and stakeholders
- Modified formats to enable more participation in the same space
- Modified competition programs to move games to weekdays
- Encouraging car-pooling/ride-sharing
- Sharing facilities with other sports and users



3. Situation Analysis

This section of the report provides an overview of NSROC sportsgrounds, sporting groups and their current utilisation.

3.1 Sportsground Inventory

NSROC's inventory of sportsgrounds¹⁵ is distributed across 229 areas/sites supplying a total playing area of 239.3Ha (actual field space) within a total land area of approximately 406.81Ha. The difference between these two areas (167.51Ha) 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.

In a 'winter configuration', these facilities provide approximately:

- 154 x full size rectangle fields
- 57 x mod or junior rectangle fields
- 60 x full sized ovals
- 5 x junior ovals
- 17 x baseball fields
- 9 x softball fields
- 120 x netball courts

These sites are made up of a combination of Council owned facilities, education sites and other community/government providers¹⁶.

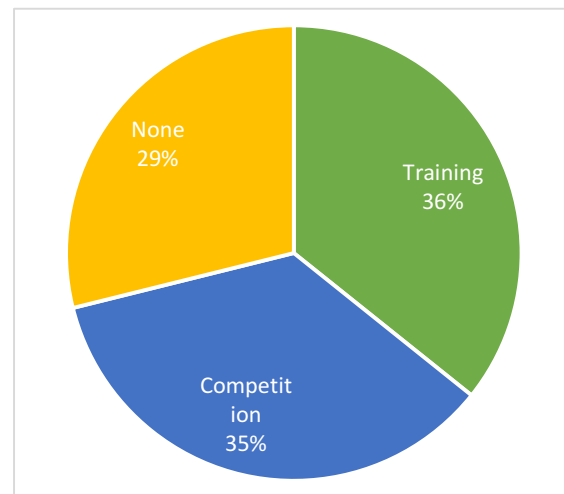
The vast majority (188 or 82%) are managed by Council in some form.

Of the Council venues, 149 have some form of lighting for either training and/or competition, covering 159 Ha of playing space.

Thirteen sites have a synthetic sports surface installed including a mix of multipurpose and hockey specific fields.

In summer, many areas are reconfigured to cater for other field sports including softball, touch, oztag, small sided football, AFL 9's and cricket.

Figure 7 - Proportion of Area Covered by Sports Lighting



3.1.1 General Sportsground Observations

The number of grounds tends to influence the range of sports played in each LGA and across the region. The tendency is for each Council to cater to the high participation sports, and those that have been traditionally played at a given site. This may impact on the diversity of opportunities available in terms of different sports, and different types of teams i.e. masters, females, and people with a disability.

¹⁵ An extract of the sportsground inventory is shown in Appendix 5

¹⁶ Sites were included if they were regularly used by community based sport organisations for training and/or competition



The region has relatively limited available flat land due to topography and established urban development. Several playing fields are single grounds with playgrounds, shared paths and recreation facilities on the boundary lines. The average playing area at each sportsground is just over one hectare (1.04Ha) with around 27% having a playing area smaller than a ‘standard field’ (circa 7,000m²).

Sportsgrounds in the region commonly contain bushland or native vegetation, spectacular physical features such as sand stone rock formations, and views of water. These characteristics provide a high level of amenity as well as an opportunity to screen sports lights and noise from adjacent residents. At the same time, these bushland and physical features provide challenges for sportsground design and maintenance activities, and provision of support facilities. In some cases, topography has been used effectively to enhance a sportsground, for example providing a natural amphitheatre for spectators. In other cases, bushland compromises field size, traffic management and expansion opportunities.

The region has high rainfall compared to the rest of Sydney. This impacts on drainage and the ability of grounds to withstand winter use and potentially assists turf growth in other seasons. It is common practice in the region to returf goalmouths at the end of every winter season.

3.1.2 Inventory Breakdown and Benchmarking

It is difficult 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’¹⁷ needs to be compared. This level of data is not typically reported by most Councils, however, OPG recently conducted a similar study for Northern Beaches Council which is available for comparative purposes. Table 3 shows the comparison between NSROC and the Northern Beaches LGA.

Table 3: Benchmark Supply Comparison

Area	Population	Playing Space (Ha)	Population/ Hectare	Hectare/ 1000 Population
NSROC	592,550	239.3	2,476	0.40
Northern Beaches	263,700	116.5	2,264	0.44

This indicates a similar, but overall lower level of provision in the NSROC area compared to the Northern Beaches LGA on hectare to population basis. Table 4 presents a breakdown of population and playing space of the NSROC area by LGA.

Table 4: Breakdown of Supply by LGA

Area	Population	% of NSROC Pop.	Playing Area Count	Playing Space (Ha)	% of NSROC Playing Space	Average Site Area (Ha)	Pop/Ha	Ha/1000 Pop
Hornsby	149,650	25%	44	59.5	25%	1.35	2,516	0.40
Hunters Hill	14,500	2%	10	6.5	3%	0.65	2,238	0.45
Ku-ring-gai	123,500	21%	63	63.6	27%	1.01	1,943	0.51
Lane Cove	37,350	6%	7	9.3	4%	1.33	4,016	0.25
North Sydney	72,150	12%	13	10.1	4%	0.77	7,179	0.14
Ryde	119,950	20%	73	61.9	26%	0.85	1,936	0.52
Willoughby	75,450	13%	19	28.5	12%	1.50	2,651	0.38
Total	592,550	100%	229	239.3	100%	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

¹⁷ This relates to useable sports surfaces (e.g. competition/training areas) and immediate surrounds. The analysis in this report focuses predominately on this figure.



- 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 under the NSROC average
- 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

It is important to note that although most LGAs have a proportion of space provided by other entities, Ryde has a comparatively high proportion of the reported space provided by others that could be considered to be at higher risk of 'loss' due to lack of long term tenure. These include Macquarie University, Holy Cross College, Eastwood Rugby and North Ryde RSL. Combined, these areas represent approximately 19% of the area supplied in the Ryde LGA.

3.2 Overview of Selected Sports

As part of the questionnaire sent to SSO's, data on current and recent participation in sport was requested for the NSROC area. The key participation figures for juniors (5-14) and seniors (15+) are shown in Table 5 below, details for each sport are shown in Appendix 4.

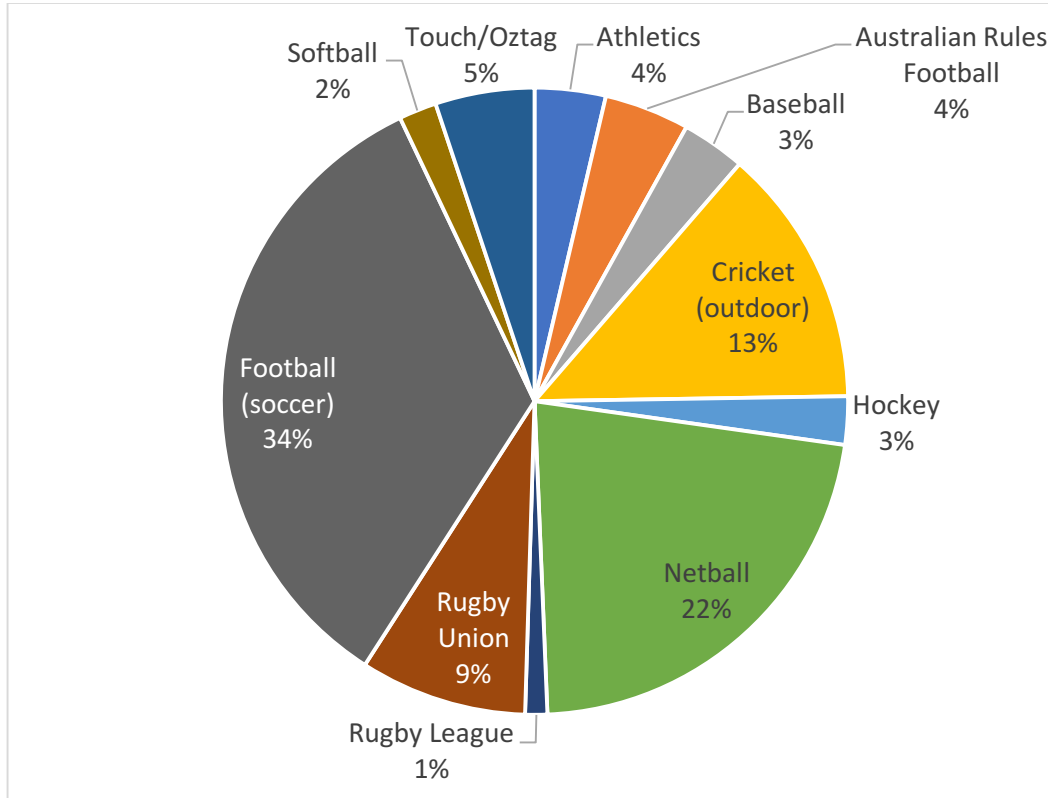
Table 5: Reported Sport Participation

Sport	Juniors	Seniors	Total
Athletics	2,241	589	2,830
Australian Rules Football	2,260	1,135	3,395
Baseball	898	1,646	2,544
Cricket	5,670	4,687	10,357
Hockey	845	1,077	1,922
Netball	11,877	5,211	17,088
Rugby League	763	117	880
Rugby Union	4,401	2,260	6,661
Football (soccer)	16,014	10,144	26,158
Softball	543	959	1,502
Touch/Oztag	1,590	2,360	3,950

This demonstrates that the largest sports (junior and senior) are football (soccer), netball and cricket. Figure 8 below presents a breakdown by proportion of total participation in each sport.



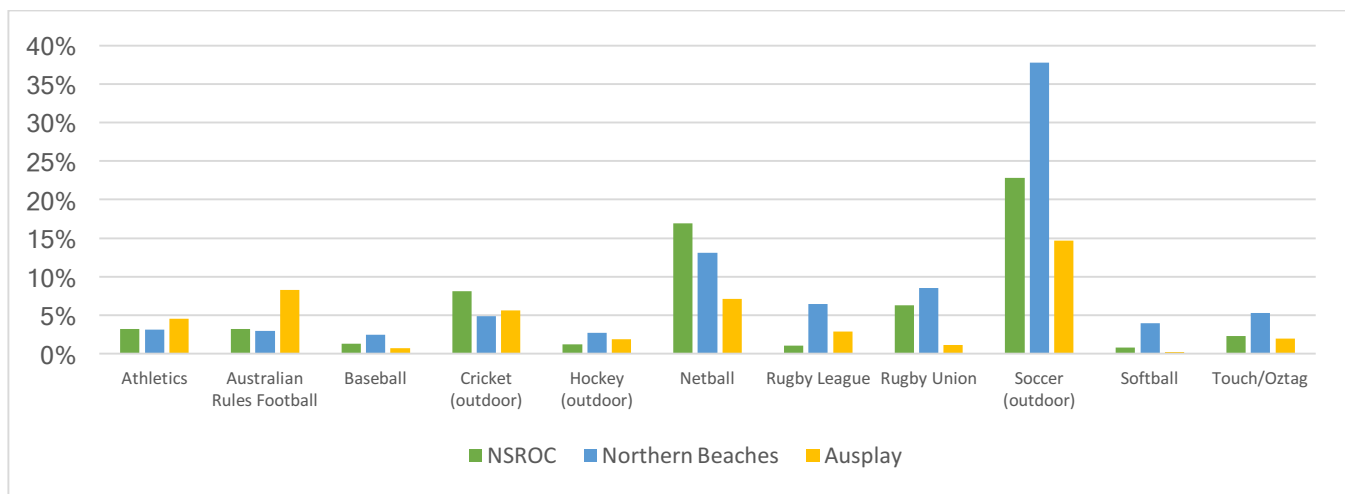
Figure 8 - Proportion of Total Selected Sport Participants



3.2.1 Participation Benchmarks

The best comparison for sport participation figures is with data collected by OPG for the Northern Beaches Council study as it was collected using a similar methodology. Figure 9 presents a comparison of ‘junior’ participation rates for NSROC, Northern Beaches area and Ausplay data¹⁸.

Figure 9 - Participation Rate Comparison - Juniors

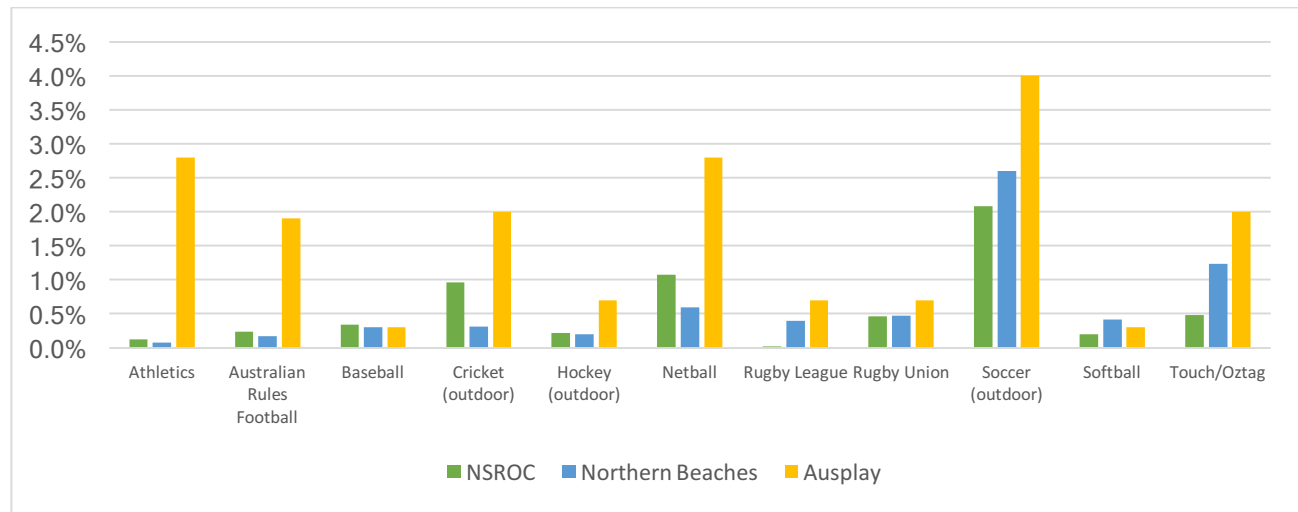


¹⁸ AusPlay survey results January 2016 - December 2016 - Sport Data Tables (National) - Organised participation by activity (children)



Figure 10 presents a comparison of ‘senior’ participation rates for NSROC, Northern Beaches area and Ausplay data¹⁹.

Figure 10 - Participation Rate Comparison - Seniors



These show that in general, the NSROC area has higher participation in cricket and netball than Northern Beaches and lower participation in rugby league, football (soccer), softball and touch/oztag.

3.3 Analysis of Sportsground Use

This section examines the current booking and usage patterns of NSROC sportsgrounds. This has been developed by utilising sportsground booking data provided by each Council. 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.

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 noted that 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.

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 managed facilities - only facilities where NSROC Councils manage and record 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

¹⁹ AusPlay survey results January 2016 - December 2016 - Sport Data Tables (National) - Organisation/venue use by activity (adults)



- 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 each Council
- Excluded facilities - some facilities are excluded because they are not used by any one of the selected sports (i.e. that 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 Councils, 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 section 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'; likewise, 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 site by its available playing surface area. Regarding demand, this means multiplying the number of hours a site is booked by the size of its playing surface. The results of supply and demand calculations can then be compared.

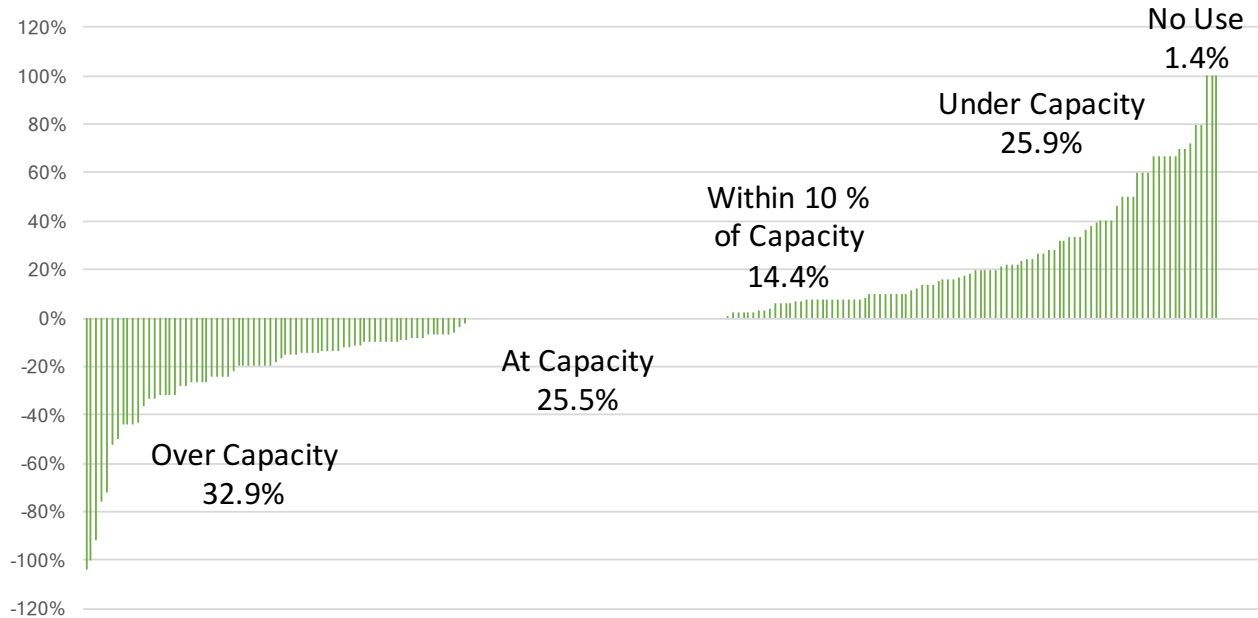
3.3.1 Winter Season - Field Allocation Analysis

Using the assumptions outlined above, the current allocations provided by Councils (winter 2017) were compared to the practical capacity benchmarks assigned to each 'bookable' field/area to identify current usage levels. For the purpose of this analysis, this included 216 individual areas.

Figure 11 presents a summary of this comparison by showing the results of each 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.



Figure 11 - Individual Facility Allocations to Practical Capacity Benchmark



This shows that 72.7% of fields/areas are either over, at or within 10% of their identified practical capacity benchmark. Pragmatically speaking, only 26% have some spare capacity and a small number (1.4%) did not accommodate any use this winter. Table 6 shows an overall summary of allocations compared to capacity.

Table 6: Summary of Winter Utilisation to Practical Capacity Benchmark (Hectare Hours)

Item	Sites	Capacity	Allocation	Difference	% Difference
Sub-total of Sites Allocated Over Benchmark	71	2,196	2,725	-529	-24.1%
Sub-total of Sites Allocated At or Within 10% of Benchmark	86	2,132	2,079	53	2.5%
Sub-total of Sites Allocated Under Benchmark ²⁰	56	1,075	765	310	28.8%
Sites with no Allocations	3	13	0	13	100%

For the winter season, NSROC Councils allocate a combined total of approximately 5,568 ‘hectare hours’ of sports field use per week compared to a theoretical capacity of 5,415. 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 sites being ‘over allocated’ whilst others are ‘under allocated’. Sites that are over allocated are, on average, 24% over their combined capacity. As a proportion of the total supply capacity, this is approximately 9.8%. 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 more than double if it was factored into the equation.

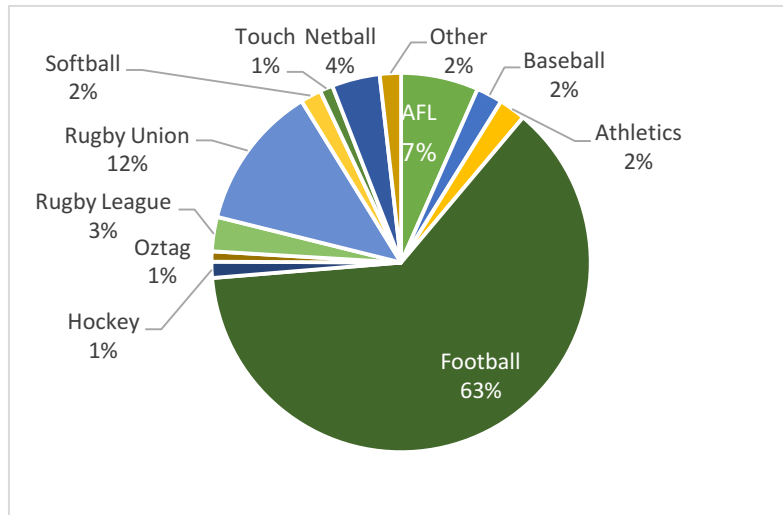
3.3.2 Winter Season - User Analysis

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.

²⁰ Sites under allocated by more than 10%



Figure 12 - Proportion of Winter Sportsground Use



This demonstrates that football (soccer) is by far the largest user of sportsgrounds in the area, utilising 63% (or 3,484 hectare hours) of the space allocated to sporting groups. This is followed by Rugby Union (12% or 687 hectare hours) and (7% or 368 hectare hours).

3.3.3 Summer Season

As noted above, the winter season is acknowledged as the peak demand period and the period when the capacity of sportsgrounds is at its lowest (i.e. turf fields). 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. However, specific requirements for each summer sport need to be considered in relation to the type, shape and size of facilities available (particularly for cricket).



4. Future Supply and Demand Analysis

This section presents models to estimate future demand and supply in order to define the gap, identify and quantify possible methods to address the shortfall and provide direction for future actions.

4.1 Current and Future Demand

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 the NSROC region. 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 NSROC area. Calculations are focused on the playing space required. As noted previously, typically an additional allowance of 70% is needed for ancillary facilities.

4.1.1 Participation Based Demand 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 SSOs. 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 2036 period. The current supply of sport land has been provided by NSROC Councils.
- 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 and 2036 against the current area supplied by NSROC Councils.

Table 7: Projected Requirements based on Participation Demand Analysis Model (Ha)

	Current	2026 Analysis	2036 Analysis
Calculated Demand	266.6	303.4	337.9
Existing Supply	239.3	239.3	239.3
Surplus (Deficit)	(27.3)	(64.1)	(98.6)

This suggests that, based on population projections and maintaining similar sport participation rates, there would be an undersupply of playing space of 64Ha in 2026 and almost 100Ha by 2036. In addition to playing space area, an allowance for ancillary facilities would need to be made meaning the total future shortfall would be in the order of 109Ha in 2026 and 168Ha in 2036.

4.1.2 Allocation Demand Model

The second method employed OPG to assess the current needs for the provision of sportsgrounds in the NSROC Region is a utilisation or allocation based demand model. This model utilises data from section 3.3 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 3.3.2 revealed that the cumulative over allocation of fields used above their benchmark was 529 'hectare hours'. As a percentage of total supply (5,415 hectare hours), this is 9.8%. If the current playing space (239.3 Ha) is multiplied by this proportion, the additional playing space needed to meet current demand would be approximately 23.4 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 262.7Ha 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.



Table 8: Projected Requirements based on Allocation Demand Analysis Model (Ha)

	Current	2026 Analysis	2036 Analysis
Calculated Demand	262.7	298.9	332.9
Existing Supply	239.3	239.3	239.3
Surplus (Deficit)	(23.4)	(59.6)	(93.6)

4.1.3 Gap Summary

The modelling presented above indicates that with no change to the current supply, the current gap in provision will increase by 2026 and 2036. The participation model represents the ‘ideal’ level of supply whilst the allocation del 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 9 below which presents the estimated gap of forecast demand to the current supply.

Table 9: Playing Space Gap Summary (Ha)

	2016	2026	2036
Participation Model Estimate	27.3	64.1	98.6
Mid-Range Estimate	25.3	61.9	96.1
Allocation Model Estimate	23.4	59.6	93.6

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 outlined in section 0, 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 10 presents the results of this conversion.

Table 10: Gap Summary (Hectare Hours)

	2016	2026	2036
Participation Model Estimate	683	1,602	2,464
Mid-Range Estimate	634	1,546	2,402
Allocation Model Estimate	585	1,491	2,340

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 0 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 26% to 2026 and 40% by 2036.

4.1.4 Potential Changes in Demand

The forecast demand produced by these models will be effected 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. Proactively ‘managing demand’ will assist in reducing the identified gap.



4.2 Future Supply Options

This section seeks to outline possible strategies and actions to address the identified gap between demand and supply.

4.2.1 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 original NSROC Sportsground Strategy and through discussions with Council staff.

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

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

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).

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

- 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.

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
- Councils need to establish ratios for active open space requirements and then implement them with new developments.

Acquiring or securing other spaces

- Could include consideration of Crown land or land currently used for other purposes
- Consider options in non-traditional sites e.g. roof top of car parks, multi-use courts on commercial/residential building roof tops
- Increasing existing open spaces through strategic acquisitions to develop new fields or to allow a parks layout to be optimised

Converting existing open space to playing fields



- This is likely to displace other informal and/or formal users
- Modify existing spaces to incorporate sport with existing uses (e.g. golf courses)

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 involve the conversion of John Purchase into a synthetic field

New Technology

- This could include consideration of emerging portable synthetic cricket pitch technology

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

4.2.1.1 Planned Improvements

Each Council was asked to identify known or possible plans to increase the supply and/or capacity of their sportsgrounds. The potential increase 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. A summary table is shown below with the full model shown in Appendix 6.

Table 11: Summary of Potential Capacity Increases by LGA

LGA	Estimated Hectare Hour Yield	Equivalent Playing Space (Ha)	Proportion of Increase
Hornsby	457.10	18.28	49%
Hunters Hill	0.00	0.00	0%
Ku-ring-gai	51.12	2.04	5%
Lane Cove	0.00	0.00	0%
North Sydney	34.32	1.37	4%
Ryde	201.97	8.08	22%
Willoughby	189.71	7.59	20%
Total	934.22	37.37	100%

This model assumes that all existing areas and new/upgraded areas are used to their functional capacity. Therefore, it may be viewed as optimistic.



The model suggests that the equivalent of 37 hectares can be gained through the identified initiatives. Much of this (49%) is sourced from within the Hornsby LGA and a significant proportion of this gain is from several new sites that have been identified for potential development as sportsgrounds including:

- Westleigh Park
- Hornsby Park (former quarry)
- Vacant Site - Cowan
- Schofield Parade - Pennant Hills

Combined, the Ryde and Willoughby LGAs could contribute around 40% of the increase through a combination of lighting and synthetic field developments. Minimal increases are planned in the North Sydney and Ku-ring-gai LGAs.

4.2.1.2 Preliminary Joint Use Review

In partnership with the Department of Education, a preliminary review of 88 school sites in the NSROC region 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 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 29 potential fields (10 full size and 19 three quarter size) that could be considered for shared use. A summary of options by LGA is shown in the table below with a full list of potential sites shown in Appendix 7.

Table 12: Summary of Potential School Fields by LGA

LGA	3/4 Fields	Full Size Fields	Estimated Hectare Hour Yield	Equivalent Playing Space (Ha)	Proportion of Increase
Hornsby	10	5	193.92	7.76	53%
Hunters Hill	0	1	20.54	0.82	6%
Ku-ring-gai	5	3	91.05	3.64	25%
Lane Cove	0	0	0.00	0.00	0%
North Sydney	0	0	0.00	0.00	0%
Ryde	4	1	56.99	2.28	16%
Willoughby	0	0	0.00	0.00	0%
Total	19	10	362.50	14.50	100%

This suggests that the equivalent of 14.5 hectares could be gained through the use of existing school facilities (not currently being used). The main opportunities appear to be in the Hornsby LGA followed by Ku-ring-gai and Ryde. 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. By the same token, the majority of space is made up of three quarter fields which provide a low level of functionality and capacity. Therefore, many of which, may be seen as unsuitable for sport use and not able to add to capacity.



4.2.2 Potential Additional Supply Summary

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

Table 13: Summary of Total Potential Capacity Increase by LGA

LGA	Estimated Hectare Hour Yield	Equivalent Playing Space (Ha)	Proportion of Increase
Hornsby	212.2	26.04	50%
Hunters Hill	20.54	0.82	2%
Ku-ring-gai	93.09	5.68	11%
Lane Cove	0	0	0%
North Sydney	1.37	1.37	3%
Ryde	65.07	10.36	20%
Willoughby	7.59	7.59	15%
Total	399.86	51.86	100%

This equates to an increase in capacity of approximately 22% and shows that 50% of all potential increases are located within the Hornsby LGA and 20% in the Ryde LGA.

However, as noted previously, these estimates are likely to be optimistic and the actual capacity increase delivered is expected to be lower. A more conservative and reliable assumed increase would be in the range of 18-20%.

4.3 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:

- 26% to 2026 (1,546 hectare hours, equivalent to 62Ha of playing space)
- 40% to 2036 (2,402 hectare hours, equivalent to 96Ha 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 22% (yield the equivalent of 52Ha of playing space). This is considered a very optimistic outcome and, despite this, it is still short of the two targets (equivalent of being 10Ha short in 2026 and 44Ha short in 2036). A more conservative approach would provide an estimate of increased capacity at 18% -20% would see a playing space shortfall of 15-20Ha to 2026 and a 50-60Ha shortfall by 2036.

Another issue is that this assumes that demand and use can be distributed evenly across all areas, but given that the majority of opportunities are present in the Hornsby LGA, which is on the outer edge of the NSROC area, this is highly unlikely. That is, the location of potential increases does not match the location of highest population growth.

4.3.1 Potential Distribution - 2026

Looking at the current level and nature of sportsground provision, future population growth and housing changes, it would be reasonable to say that the Ryde LGA is at the centre of the demand 'storm'. The Ryde LGA will experience the highest overall population increase and it is immediately adjacent to LGAs with little potential for capacity increases. This will place even greater pressure on the provision of facilities. In addition,



there are a higher proportion of current spaces which are not managed by a public entity and could potentially be at risk.

Looking at potential future supply of sportsgrounds, it appears that Hornsby LGA provides the strongest opportunities to assist in meeting demand in the NSROC area. However, its location on the edge of the NSROC area limits its accessibility by much of the current and future populations.

Considering the findings of this study to date and assuming all initiatives could be implemented, a summary of potential changes in supply relative to population can be developed. This is presented in the table below.

Table 14: Potential Future Provision by LGA (2026)

	Current (2016)			Change		2026		
	Share of Population	Share of Capacity	Ratio	Population Increase	Capacity Increase	Share of Population	Share of Capacity	Ratio
Hornsby	25%	25%	1.0	10%	44%	24%	30%	1.2
Hunters Hill	2%	3%	1.3	2%	13%	2%	3%	1.3
Ku-ring-gai	21%	27%	1.3	12%	9%	21%	24%	1.2
Lane Cove	6%	6%	0.9	17%	0%	7%	5%	0.7
North Sydney	12%	4%	0.3	13%	14%	12%	3%	0.3
Ryde	20%	23%	1.1	24%	17%	22%	22%	1.0
Willoughby	13%	13%	1.0	7%	27%	12%	13%	1.1
Total	100%	100%		13.5%	22%	100%	100%	

Based on the modelling, this demonstrates that Hornsby and Willoughby LGAs could increase capacity proportionally higher than population growth and thereby increase their current ratio of population to capacity and helping to 'close the gap'. North Sydney and Hunters Hill could maintain their current ratios, although North Sydney's ratio is far lower than other LGAs. Whilst Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove and Ryde would decrease.

This outcome would increase the existing disparity in population versus sportsground supply between 'inner' LGAs (North Sydney, Willoughby, Lane Cove and Hunters Hill) and 'outer' LGAs (Ryde, Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby). This is demonstrated in Table 15.

Table 15: Potential Future Provision by Areas (2026)

	Current			2026		
	Share of Population	Share of Capacity	Ratio	Share of Population	Share of Capacity	Ratio
'Outer' Councils	66%	74%	1.12	67%	76%	1.13
'Inner' Councils	34%	26%	0.76	33%	24%	0.73

These findings illustrate the issues and opportunities present in the Region with regard to population growth and the distribution of future sportsground capacity. It also suggests the roles that can be played within each LGA to provide a holistic approach to addressing a region wide issue rather than focusing only on the demand within each LGA boundary.

Because opportunities for increased capacity tends to be present in 'outer' areas, these need to be grasped and maximised for the benefit of the LGA and the whole region. However, to maximise these opportunities and to gain cost and operational efficiencies, synthetic surfaces should be included in initial planning rather than as a future option.

Without doubt, given there are few obvious opportunities for access to 'new' facilities, 'inner' LGAs will need to maximise the capacity of all available grounds in any way possible. Unconventional options for the provision of sports facilities will also need to be acted on where possible (e.g. use of roof tops, car parks etc.) along with supporting and facilitating the provision of indoor facilities in an attempt to manage demand. Further, serious



consideration will need to be given to the use of other existing open space where possible (e.g. conversion of golf courses).

4.3.2 Beyond 2026

As noted above, the demand and supply analysis suggest that the shortage in supply cannot be met by 2026 even if all identified opportunities are successfully employed. Beyond this, effective and viable opportunities to increase capacity will be scarce. Therefore, the ability to address the residual shortfall in 2026 and then the additional shortfall created by further population growth to 2036 is limited. This requires serious consideration and action through long term planning to create opportunities to meet future demand.

This report provides a basis for quantifying that demand and the relative provision across each LGA. Subsequently, this enables NSROC Councils to individually and collectively define the scope of need and to identify and evaluate longer term options in association with other key planning stakeholders including the GSC and Office of Sport.

From a planning perspective, one of the main issues with sportsgrounds and open space in general, is that we only get 'one chance'. That is, once space is developed for hard infrastructure, it's consumed for good. That is why, it is critical to get the provision of sportsgrounds and open space 'right' through planning to maintain the ability to meet contemporary needs. To assist in this, NSROC should be advocating for the following key outcomes from state government agencies, plans and initiatives:

- Leadership and coordination in the acquisition and/or embellishment of facilities to cope with the increased demand brought about by population increases stimulated by planning policies
- Clear and quantifiable statements of the need to provide for new and/or upgraded sport and recreation facilities to meet demand brought about by development
- Clear and pragmatic guidelines for how sport is incorporated into active healthy living and 'liveability' measures
 - Sport, physical activity and open space should be provided for as essential infrastructure (like roads etc.) and not as an 'after thought'
 - Planning needs to go beyond words and ensure delivery of practical/suitable spaces that are not compromised by other outcomes
- Meaningful leadership and support to provide facilities through planning, funding and policies including:
 - Facilitating the security and acquisition of land
 - Facilitating funding and development opportunities
 - Improved coordination of sport planning and facility provision
 - Support for local government to affect change without creating inequity

Some indicative examples for leading and facilitating initiatives are provided below:

- Securing current sportsfields at risk of loss - e.g:
 - TG Millner Field - acquisition of existing sportsfield land proposed to be sold to relocate Eastwood Rugby Club. This land is considered to be part of the current supply and its potential loss would have detrimental impacts on supply capacity
- Facilitating funding of high cost infrastructure in lieu of land - e.g:
 - Christie Park - construction of synthetic sportsfield on a suspended slab over car parking and additional 5-aside fields (effectively providing the equivalent of 3-4ha of land). This is adjacent to Macquarie Park where additional land is needed (but not readily available) to meet sport needs
- Facilitating planning and development of sports areas in high density zones - e.g:
 - Chatswood CBD - facilitate development of roof top sportsfields on large commercial buildings. The central location would service resident and worker needs supported by existing infrastructure (i.e. transport, car parking etc.)



- Funding ‘regionally significant’ project/programs
 - Westleigh Park - facilitate funding for the development and potentially increased scope of a new facility in the Pennant Hills area. This one of the few opportunities in the NSROC area for a new multi-field complex which will significantly boost supply



5. Implementation

This study has confirmed the gap between demand and supply of sportsgrounds in the NSRPOC area. The future gap between demand and supply has been estimated in view of future population growth and potential increases in sportsground capacity.

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, a gap is still likely to be evident in 2026 which will only 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.

Use of school fields represent the ‘long hanging fruit’ that can be acted on in the short term whilst areas where new grounds can be established may be longer term. However, these initiatives can be further augmented (i.e. additional capacity potential) through consideration of synthetic sports surfaces where possible.

The following subsections outline a suggested approach to the development and management of sportsgrounds to assist with addressing the identified issues. The first part of this is defining the role of Councils in the provision of sportsground services. This is followed by strategic principles and recommendations; and an initial action plan to facilitate implementation.

5.1 Defining Roles

This section outlines a framework for the approach and roles for Councils in service provision. This is focused on facility management and facility development issues.

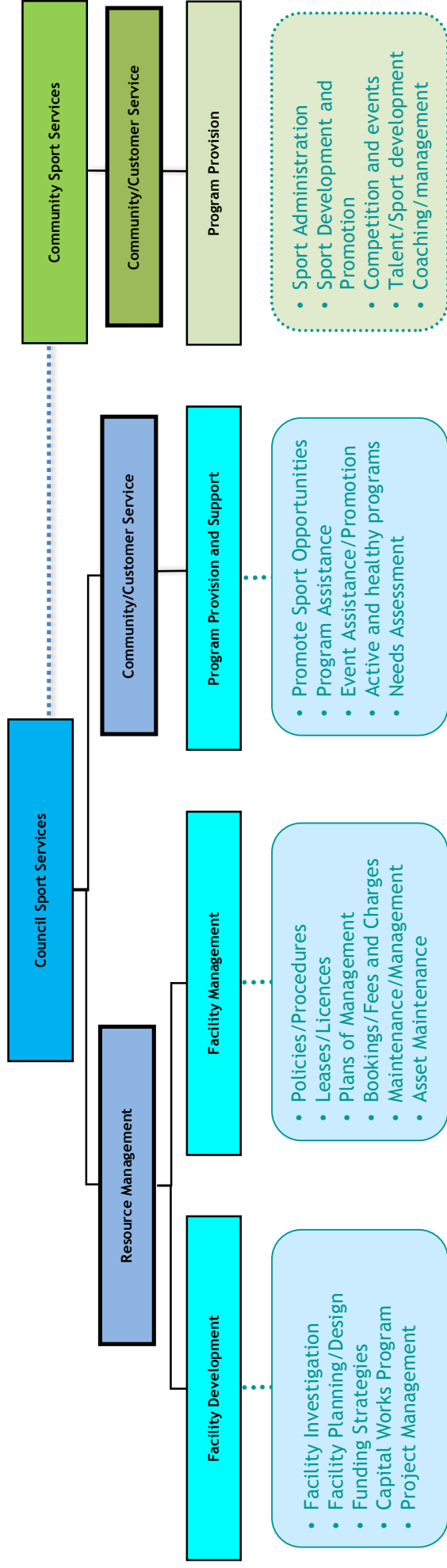
It is commonly accepted that Council has a significant role to play in the provision of services related to sport. Other sectors which have significant roles in providing services are the commercial sector and the state and federal government sectors. However, perhaps the most crucial sector is the community sector which consists of the thousands of volunteers that run and organise local sport, without which most sports would perish.

At a local level, the community and local government sectors typically ‘fill the void’ by providing programs (community) and facilities (local government and community) for sports not economically viable/sustainable without some support. Therefore, this usually leads to a closer liaison or relationship with ‘community’ sporting bodies that use Council facilities. Indeed, Council principles for service provision revolve around partnerships with various sporting bodies which its facilities.

A typical dichotomy of how local sport service provision is structured is shown in Figure 13 below. This structure is generally consistent with the observed provision of services by the NSROC Councils. However, variations naturally occur from Council to Council including resource levels, management systems, staff structures and priorities levels against competing services.

Under this structure, Council tends to focus on resource management (that is, the development and management of facilities) whilst community sporting bodies tend to focus on providing direct services to the community/customers/members (that is, competitions, coaching etc.).

Figure 13 - Model for Sport Services





The following points aim to expand on Council and partner roles in facility management and facility development noted in Figure 13.

5.1.1 Facility Development

With respect to facility development, Councils currently offer a range of services from investigation through to implementation. These services are provided at varying levels depending on the project, the location of the project and the type of sporting group involved. They are based on facility development project stages and their descriptions are shown below.

Table 16: Facility Development Stage Descriptions

Service/Role	Tasks/Issues
Facility investigation / feasibility studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> investigation of possible locations, concept designs, master plans etc.
Facility planning & design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> detailed planning and design of final facility
Funding strategies/submissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifying and targeting funding sources (Council, state and federal funding and private sector) preparation or assistance with preparing funding applications/submissions
Capital expenditure funding/programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> capital expenditure program which prioritises projects being considered for full or part funding by Council
Project management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> coordination of construction/implementation works etc.

Sporting bodies contribute to development of facilities through:

- Identifying needs and functional requirements
- Engaging regional and/or state sport association project support
- Lobbying and supporting action to secure funding
- Providing partner funding

5.1.2 Facility Management

With regard to facility management Councils typically provide three main services:

- Maintenance/Assets - developing and implementing maintenance and asset management programs
- Administrator - developing policies and procedures for the use of the land (e.g. bookings, fees etc.)
- Promoter - promoting use of facilities by user groups

All of these are also supplemented by user groups of the facility or delegated in the case of leased facilities. Under these roles, issues that are considered include:

- cost recovery levels (fees and charges),
- booking/allocations
- policy/procedures,
- access to facilities (types and conditions of land tenure),
- policy issues (prohibitions etc.); and
- maintenance and asset management issues

Sporting groups contribute to the management of facilities through:

- Complying with and implementing
 - Policies of Council
 - User/booking agreements
 - Management practices
- Monitoring and reporting



- Inappropriate use
- Facility condition and safety
- Maintenance needs

5.1.3 General Approach

In addition to defining the overall role Councils play in the provision of services, it is suggested that Councils can state the specific role it will perform in a given project. In the table below, a description four broad roles a Council could play in each stage of a project is provided along with a guide to the circumstances under which, each is likely to be played. Each role indicates the level of resources Council will aim to allocate (i.e. Provider most - facilitator least) and indicates a certain level of sustained commitment, as compared to one off advice.

Table 17: Project Role Descriptions

Role Category	Role Parameters
Provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description - Council has or assumes the main responsibility for managing the project • Resources - Council has bulk of resources and interest invested in project in terms of finance and assets etc. • Outcomes/impacts - high level of community interest, significant outcomes for the community, generally seen as a Council’s civic responsibility
Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description - Council shares responsibility of managing the project • Resources - Council has significant amount of resources and interest invested in the project in terms of finance and assets etc. • Outcomes/impacts - high level of community interest, significant outcomes for the community, responsibility is shared by another group(s)
Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description - Council coordinates responsibility for managing the project • Resources - Council has a mid-lower level of resources invested in project in terms of finance or assets • Outcomes/impacts - significant interest in terms of outcomes, general community interest, seen as a civic responsibility and is requested to play this role through demonstrated need or direct community request
Collaborator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description - Council plays specific role within a group coordinating responsibility for managing the project • Resources - Council has a lower level of resources invested in the project in terms of finance or assets • Outcomes/impacts - maintains an interest in terms of outcomes for the community, general community interest, civic responsibility
Facilitator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description - Council provides input, advice and information on how to manage a project • Resources - Council has little or no level of resources invested in the project in terms of finance or assets • Outcomes/impacts - has an interest in the outcomes for the group(s) involved and its implications on the broader community

As facility development needs are assessed in this step, one of the above roles should be assigned at each development stage. This will clearly communicate to stakeholders Council’s intended role in each stage of the project. A sample project table is shown below.

	Facility Investigation	Plan & Design	Funding Strategy	Capital Expenditure	Project Management
Project 1	Provider				
Project 2	Partner				
Project 3	Collaborator				
Project 4	Facilitator				
Project 5	No Role				



5.2 Strategic Principles and General Recommendations

As part of the strategy review, the principles recommended by the 2011 strategy have been revised and updated to reflect the current study findings and guide the ongoing approach to sportsground management. These are presented below.

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 a 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

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

5.3 Action Plan

The following action plan is divided into two parts. The first outlines key actions identified as a result of this study and the second presents a revised version of the remaining 2011 actions based on alignment with this review and feedback from Council officers. Priorities allocated are as follows:

1. = Very High
2. = High
3. = Medium
4. = Low

5.3.1 Key Actions

The following are key actions recommended by this review.

ACTION		Lead role	Partners	Priority
PLANNING AND MANAGING INFRASTRUCTURE AND CARRYING CAPACITY OF GROUNDS				
1.	Adapt and maintain the regional facility inventory developed for this project	Sports POG	NSROC	1
2.	Adapt (refine facility capacities based on a consistent approach) and maintain (progressively update) details of sportsground capacities	Sports POG	NSROC	1
3.	Adapt and monitor seasonal utilisation based on methods established for this project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each council to report seasonal allocations in consistent format 	Sports POG + Each Council	NSROC	1
4.	Monitor sport participation rates and trends against utilisation/allocations	Sports POG	SSO's	1
5.	Obtain security of tenure (directly or indirectly) of any sportsgrounds that form part of the overall supply that are not owned by Council to ensure there is no loss of grounds or capacity	Each Council	Sports	1
6.	Undertake identified initiatives to increase the capacity of sportsgrounds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initially as detailed in Appendix 6 and refined as additional opportunities are identified and assessed Consider installation of synthetic fields at new development sites for efficiency and effectiveness Implement and update the Synthetic Sportsfield Strategy 	Each Council	Office of Sport, Sports POG	1
7.	Investigate and develop opportunities for joint use of school sportsgrounds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initially as detailed in Appendix 7 and refined as additional opportunities are identified and assessed Consider installation of synthetic surfaces if viable (especially at High School sites) Identify opportunities and initiate discussions with non-government schools as appropriate 	Each Council	Education, Sports POG	1

ACTION	Lead role	Partners	Priority
<p>8. 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</p>	Sports POG		1
<p>9. Actively engage with state government agencies to pragmatically plan and implement long term solutions to address the supply gap to 2026 and beyond including advocating for the key outcomes from state government plans and initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear and quantifiable statements of the need to provide for new and/or upgraded sport and recreation facilities to meet demand brought about by development • Clear and pragmatic guidelines for how sport is incorporated into active healthy living and ‘liveability’ measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sport, physical activity and open space should be provided for as essential infrastructure (like roads etc.) and not as an ‘after thought’ ○ Planning needs to go beyond words and ensure delivery of practical/suitable spaces that are not compromised by other outcomes • Meaningful leadership and support to provide facilities through planning, funding and policies including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facilitating the securing/acquiring of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land zoned recreation (public and private) ▪ Areas already developed as sportsground/ recreation areas ▪ Other government land that could be used for sports facilities ○ Facilitate funding and development opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding of capacity increasing projects in-lieu of land ▪ Funding ‘regionally significant’ projects/ programs ▪ Planning and development of sports areas in high density commercial zones • Support for local government to affect change without creating inequity • Improved coordination of sport planning and facility provision 	NSROC + Sports POG	Office of Sport, GSC, SSOs + Sport NSW	1
<p>10. 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)</p>	Each Council	Sports	2

ACTION		Lead role	Partners	Priority
MANAGING FLUCTUATIONS IN DEMAND				
11. Liaise with sports to identify and implement initiatives to manage demand, this may include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customer research to develop alternative service offerings for specific customer profiles (e.g. more alternative formats, targeted training and competition schedules, geographic spread of competition structures) Alternative program delivery (e.g. locations and times) Coordination with SSO's when they recommend training requirements which place additional pressure on ground demand 	NSROC + Sports POG	SSOs + Sport NSW	2	
12. Assist sports codes with strategic planning at a regional level		Office of Sport + NSROC	SSO's + Each Council	2
13. NSROC Councils should at the end of every season monitor the range of sports, and the number of clubs and players across the region and consider adjustments in future allocations to reflect contemporary needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim being to establish a balance between all sports to ensure there is a range available to the community. This may require a limit to the amount of allocation for 1 sport 	Sports POG + Each Council	Sports	2	
14. NSROC Councils should facilitate regular communication with schools (including private schools) regarding participation in sport and the development of sporting infrastructure		Each Council	DET and private schools	3
15. Prepare an indoor sports strategy (to, amongst other things, help manage demand for outdoor sportsgrounds)		NSROC + Sports POG	SSO's + Office of Sport	2

5.3.2 Revised 2011 Actions

The following are additional revised actions from the 2011 strategy recommended by this review.

ACTION				
	Lead role	Partners	Priority	
COUNCILS' ROLE IN SPORT				
1. NSROC Councils agree to a common regional view about the role Councils play and approach to community sport as per principles noted in Section 5.2	NSROC, Councils + Office of Sport	SSO's + Sports	2	
2. NSROC Councils agree that NSROC lead regional co-operation and initiatives, and monitor the implementation of this Regional Sportsground Management Strategy	NSROC	Councils, Office of Sport, SSO's + Sports	2	
MANAGING FLUCTUATIONS IN DEMAND				
ACTION				
3. NSROC Councils should adopt a "priority of use" policy when there is competition to use playing fields, based on the principles provided	NSROC	Sports	3	
4. NSROC Councils should encourage clubs to develop off-field training schedules	Each Council	SSO's + Sports	2	
5. NSROC Councils' individual policies should protect a diversity of all sports in the region and promote the range of opportunities available	Each Council		3	
6. NSROC Councils should, in partnership with peak bodies, monitor sports facilities and clubs "health" in providing for local competition needs, player pathways and social participation opportunities	Each Council	SSO's	4	
7. NSROC should facilitate the development of transport plans for regional facilities to minimise the number of trips by private car (sport miles), and encourage multimode transport through cycleway connections, public transport, park and ride and / or shuttle service	NSROC	NSW Dept Transport, SSO's + Sports	3	

ACTION			
	Lead role	Partners	Priority
PLANNING AND MANAGING INFRASTRUCTURE AND CARRYING CAPACITY OF GROUNDS			
8.	NSROC + each Council	Community, and sports	3
NSROC Councils should undertake joint capital works planning for sportsgrounds including the:			
a.	NSROC + each Council	Community, and sports	3
planning and design of new and regional sportsground complexes			
b.	NSROC + each Council	Community, and sports	3
assessment of the feasibility of specific sites for synthetic field developments			
9.	NSROC + each Council	Community, and sports	3
NSROC Councils should individually:			
c.	Each Council	Community, and Sports	3
revise sportsground management plans and develop new facilities utilising the principles outlined above to enhance functionality, ground capacity and club viability			
d.	Each Council	Community, and Sports	2
incrementally reconstruct turf grounds adding lights and non-potable water supplies as funds become available			
e.	Each Council	Community, and Sports	3
seek additional use of netball courts in the off-season, and for programs, training, wheelchair / roller sports			
f.	Each Council	Community, and Sports	2
review options to improve use and minimise damage to turf surfaces, by making sure sharing is between compatible sports			
10.	NSROC and each Council	Community, and sports	3
NSROC Councils should collectively consider identifying and developing district / regional facilities across the region for each sport. This should include consideration/recognition of large multi-code regional facilities			
11.	Each Council	Sports	2
NSROC Councils should continue to develop and update sports code specific plans for the region			

ACTION			
	Lead role	Partners	Priority
PRICING AND OCCUPANCY OF FACILITIES			
12.	Each Council	Sports	3
NSROC Councils should seek to maintain and improve consistency in allocation, pricing and occupancy arrangements for sportsgrounds across the region, as per strategy principles			
13.	Each Council	Sports	3
NSROC should assist member Councils to prepare a succinct set of standard conditions of hire for sportsgrounds			

ACTION			
	Lead role	Partners	Priority
14. NSROC Councils should adopt standardised season dates and rest periods between seasons (of two weeks) and region-wide polices on wet weather closures, pre-season and off field training	Each Council	Sports	2
15. NSROC Councils should ensure that all users have a current occupancy agreement for use of sportsgrounds, and supply usage data at the end of every season	Each Council	Sports	3
16. NSROC Councils should maintain a consistent approach to charging for synthetic and turf sportsgrounds, based on the cost of ownership	Each Council	Sports	2
17. NSROC Councils should monitor and report sportsgrounds maintenance costs and the proportion of costs recouped in user fees	Each Council	Sports	3
18. NSROC Councils should encourage one-off capital contributions by users on the basis that facilities remain in Council ownership, that in return for the contribution a rental rebate, rent free period or extended tenure is provided and such an agreement is for a finite period	Each Council	Sports	2
19. NSROC should assist Councils to develop a region wide sportsgrounds booking and allocation system, to include invoicing and web entry for sportsground bookings, allocation applications etc. and assist in recording demand for grounds	NSROC	Each Council + Sports	4

ACTION			
	Lead role	Partners	Priority
FUNDING CAPITAL WORKS PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT			
20. NSROC assist Councils to cost, develop and implement regional projects	NSROC	All stakeholders	2
21. NSROC support member Councils to negotiate funding packages with clubs and other bodies	NSROC	Sports	2
22. NSROC lead the development of regional partnerships with other government agencies, schools, and state and peak sporting bodies to implement elements of this plan	NSROC	All stakeholders	1
23. NSROC to examine opportunities for new regional funding approaches such as a Regional Sports Foundation and other coordinated regional funding mechanisms	NSROC	All stakeholders	2



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.



Appendix 2 - Data and Key Directions Review Presentation




OTIUM
Planning group
SPORT + LEISURE


NSROC Sportsground Analysis

Presentation July 18 2017

+ **Presentation Outline**

- Current Situation Analysis
- Demand Assessment and Gap Analysis
- Strategies to Address Demand

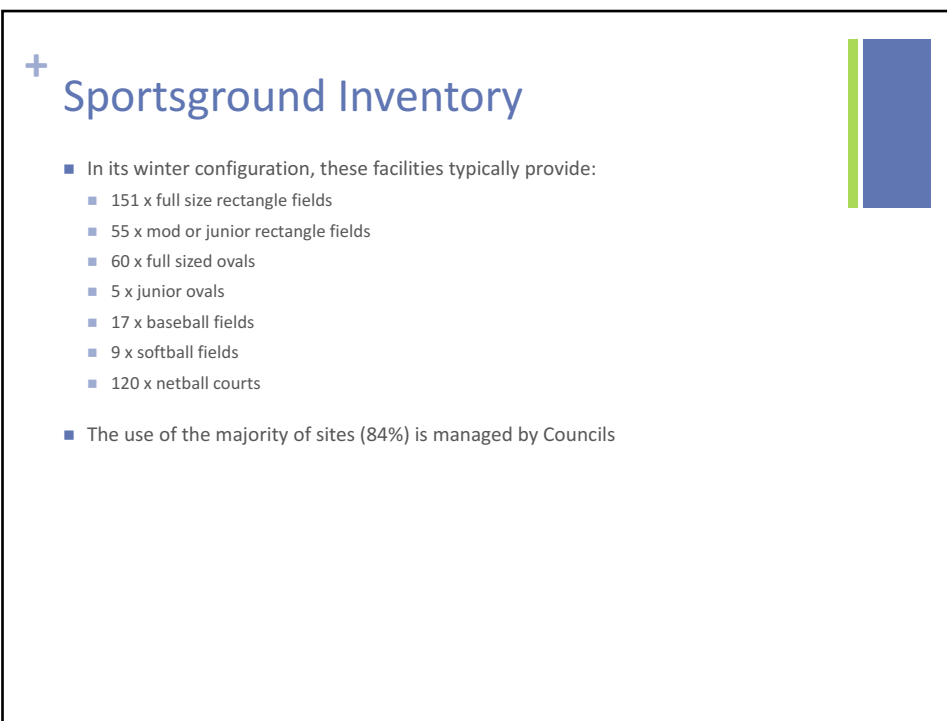
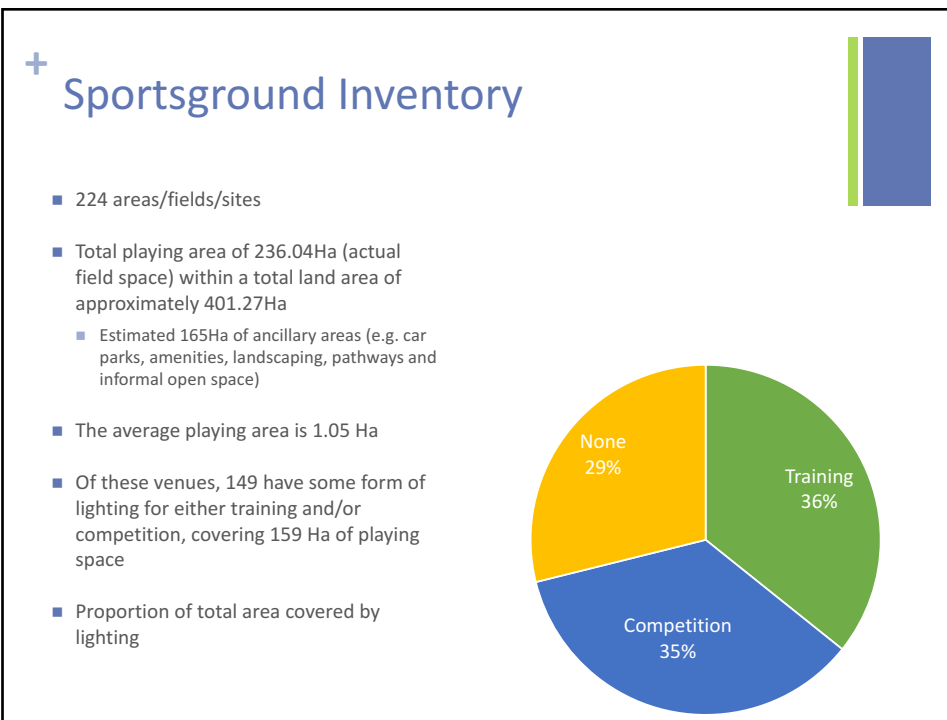




+ Current Situation Analysis

+ Population

Area	2016 Population
Hornsby	149,650
Hunters Hill	14,500
Ku-ring-gai	123,500
Lane Cove	37,350
North Sydney	72,150
Ryde	119,950
Willoughby	75,450
Total	592,550



+ Inventory Benchmark

Area	Population	Playing Space	Pop/Ha	Ha/1000 Pop
NSROC	592,550	236.0	2,510	0.40
Northern Beaches	263,700	116.5	2,264	0.44

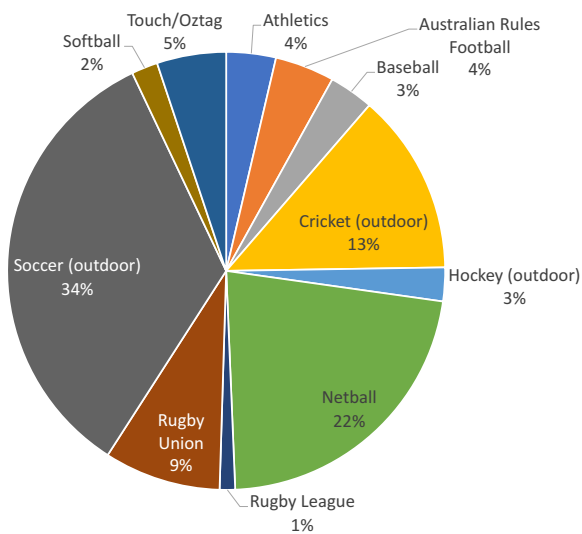
+ Inventory Breakdown

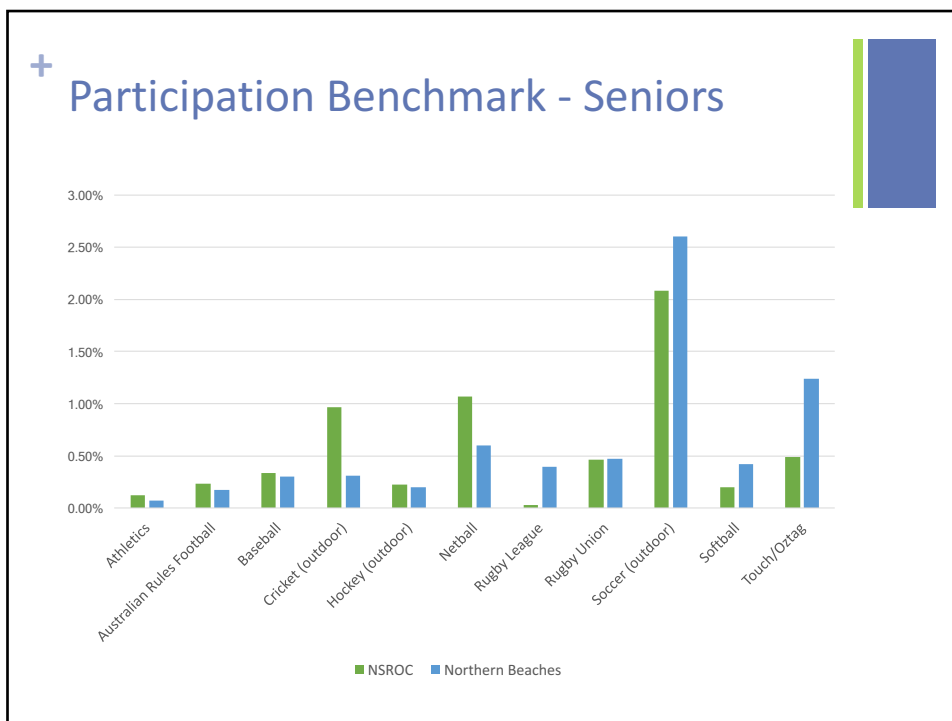
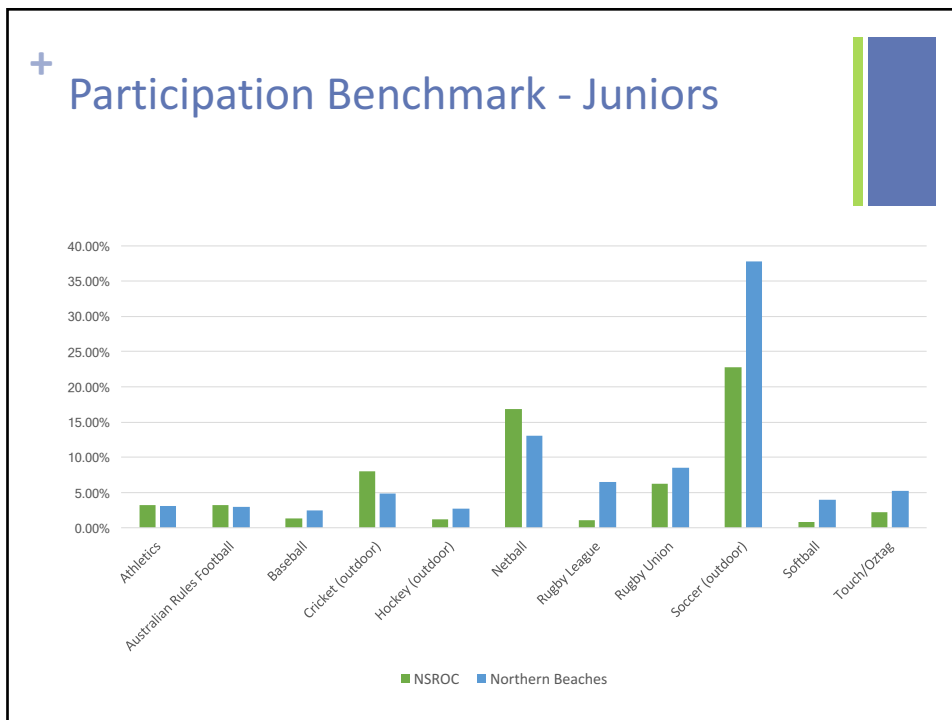
Area	Population	Playing Area Count	Playing Space	Average	Pop/Ha	Ha/1000 Pop
Hornsby	149,650	43	59.0	1.37	2,535	0.39
Hunters Hill	14,500	10	6.5	0.65	2,238	0.45
Ku-ring-gai	123,500	59	60.8	1.03	2,033	0.49
Lane Cove	37,350	7	9.3	1.33	4,016	0.25
North Sydney	72,150	13	10.1	0.77	7,179	0.14
Ryde	119,950	73	61.9	0.85	1,936	0.52
Willoughby	75,450	19	28.5	1.50	2,651	0.38
Total	592,550	224	236.0	1.05	2,510	0.40

+ Estimated Sport Participation

Sport	Juniors	Seniors	Total
Athletics	2,241	589	2,830
Australian Rules Football	2260	1135	3,395
Baseball	898	1646	2,544
Cricket (outdoor)	5,670	4,687	10,357
Hockey (outdoor)	845	1,077	1,922
Netball	11,877	5,211	17,088
Rugby League	763	117	880
Rugby Union	4401	2260	6,661
Soccer (outdoor)	16,014	10,144	26,158
Softball	543	959	1,502
Touch/Oztag	1590	2360	3,950

+ Estimated Sport Participation - as a proportion of select sport participants





+ Sportsground Use Benchmarks

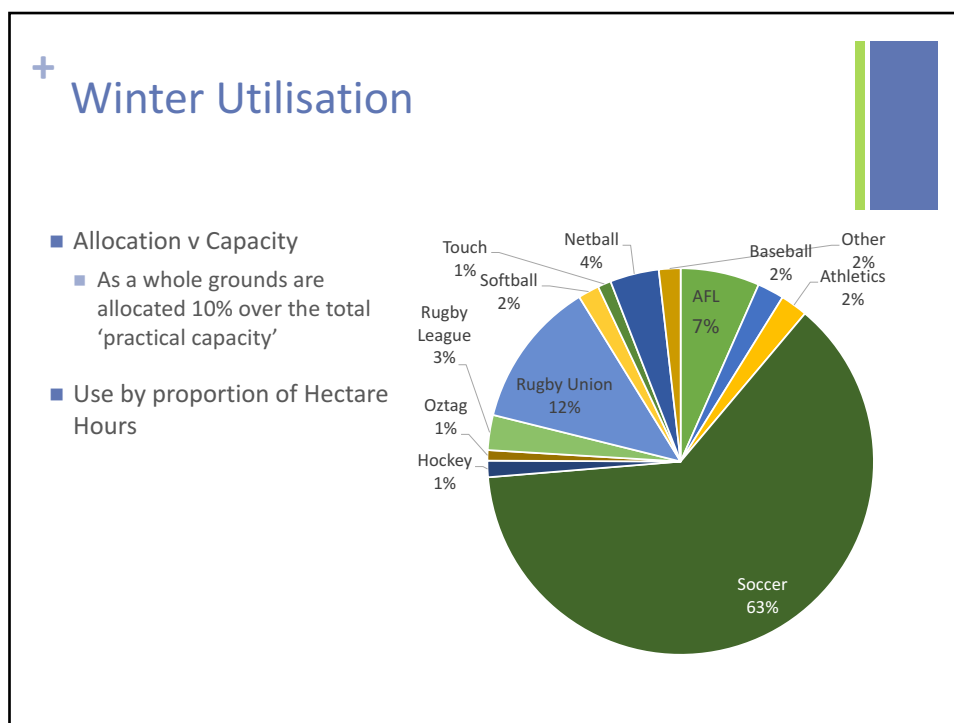
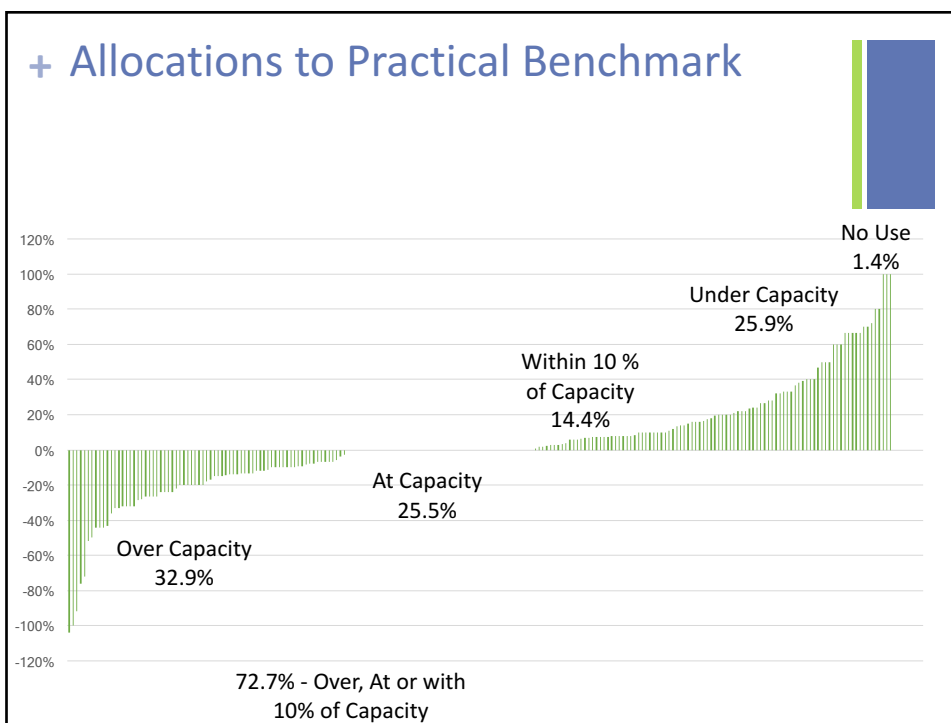



- Winter use focus
- Weekly use benchmarks
 - Standard
 - Natural turf with lights 25 hours
 - Synthetic surfaces 54 hours
 - Practical
 - Based on limitations including location, size, no lighting, specialised facilities/type of use etc.
 - Maximum
 - Maximum peak hour capacity identified by Council's
- Excluded Facilities

+ Sportsground Use Benchmarks



- 'Hectare Hour'
 - Combines the time of use (in hours) and the size of the space (in hectares).
 - Utilised regarding both supply (capacity) and demand (allocation/use).
 - E.g. a 2Ha ground used for 1 hour would equate to 2 'Hectare Hours'; likewise, a 1Ha ground used for 2 hours would also equal 2 'hectare hours'.
 - For supply/capacity this means multiplying the adopted hours of use benchmark for each site by its available playing surface area.
 - For demand this means multiplying the number of hours a site is booked by the size of its playing surface





Demand Assessment and
+ Gap Analysis

+ Demand Assessment

- Participation based model
 - 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.
- Allocation based model
 - Utilisation analysis
 - Population data
- Mid Range Estimate
- 2016, 2026 and 2036 Assessment

+ Demand and Gap Assessment

	2016	2026	2036
Population	592,550	672,450	752,600
Current Supply (Ha)	236	236	236
Participation Model Demand	266.21	302.98	337.45
Gap to Current	30.21	66.98	101.45
Utilisation Model Demand	257.59	293.17	326.52
Gap to Current	21.59	57.17	90.52
Mid Range Demand Estimate	261.90	298.07	331.99
Gap to Current	25.90	62.07	95.99



Strategies to Address + Demand

+ Data and Information Gaps

- Mapping
- New or planned Facilities
 - Future grounds
 - Lighting projects
 - Synthetic fields
- Risks
 - Potential for loss of area
 - Supply by other bodies
- Hierarchy

+ Addressing Demand

- Options
 - 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
 - Effectively balance maximising use with equity of access
- Issues
 - Change in participation, formats and trends



OTIUM
Planning group

SPORT + LEISURE

NSROC Sportsground Analysis

Presentation July 18 2017



Appendix 5 - Facility Inventory

LGA	Facility/Site Name	Owner	Management	Playing Surface Area	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
Ku-ring-gai	WA Bert Oldfield/Killara Park	Crown	Council	1.21	Soccer	Cricket	Turf			1						2 Yes
Ku-ring-gai	Warrimoo Avenue Sportsground	Council	Council	1.20	Soccer	Cricket	Turf	1								2 Yes
Ku-ring-gai	Wellington Road Sportsground/East Lindf	Council	Council	1.04	Soccer	Cricket	Turf	1								2 Yes
Ku-ring-gai	Westbrook Sportsground/Claude Camero	Council	Council	0.64	NA	Cricket	Turf			1						Yes
Ku-ring-gai	William Cowan Sportsground	Council	Council	2.00	Softball	Softball/Cricket	Turf							1		2 Yes
Ku-ring-gai	Ku-ring-gai High - oval	Education	Education	0.77	Soccer		Turf	1								2 Yes
Ku-ring-gai	St Ives Park PS Oval	Education	Education	0.45	Soccer		Turf		1							
Ku-ring-gai	West Pymble PS Oval	Education	Education	0.95	Soccer		Turf	1								
Lane Cove	Blackman Park 1 & 2	Council	Council	2.5	Soccer, Afl, Rugby	Cricket	Synthetic	2		1						2 Yes
Lane Cove	Blackman Park 3 & 4	Council	Council	1.8	Soccer, Afl	Cricket	Turf			9	1					2 Yes
Lane Cove	Bob Campbell Oval	Council	Council	0.8	Soccer	Cricket	Turf	1								2 Yes
Lane Cove	Burns Bay Reserve	Council	Council	0.8	Soccer	Cricket	Turf			3						2 Yes
Lane Cove	Kinsford Smith Oval	Council	Council	0.9	Soccer	Cricket	Turf	1								2 Yes
Lane Cove	Pottery Green	Council	Council	1	Soccer	Cricket	Turf	1								2 Yes
Lane Cove	Tantallon Oval	Council	Council	1.5	Rugby	Cricket	Turf	1								2 Yes
North Sydney	Cammeray Oval	Council	Council	0.64	Soccer	Soccer	Synthetic	1			0					2 Yes
North Sydney	Anderson Park	Council	Council	0.48	Soccer	Cricket	Turf	1			1					2 Yes
North Sydney	Bon Andrews Oval	Council	Council	1.26	Rugby/Rugby League	Cricket	Turf	1			1					2 Yes
North Sydney	Forsyth Park 1	Council	Council	0.45	Hockey, Touch	Cricket, Touch	Turf	1			1					1 Yes
North Sydney	Forsyth Park 2	Council	Council	0.5	Hockey, Touch	Cricket, Touch	Turf	1			1					1 Yes
North Sydney	North Sydney oval	Council	Council	1.31	Rugby/Rugby League	Cricket	Turf	1			1					2 Yes
North Sydney	Primrose Park 1	Council	Council	0.75	Soccer, Rugby/Rug	Cricket	Turf	1			1					1 Yes
North Sydney	Primrose Park 2	Council	Council	0.65	Soccer, Rugby/Rug	Cricket	Turf	1			1					1 Yes
North Sydney	Primrose Park 3	Council	Council	0.48	Soccer	Cricket	Turf	1			1					1 Yes
North Sydney	Tunks Park 1	Council	Council	1.52	Soccer mini games	Cricket	Turf	0			1					1 Yes
North Sydney	Tunks Park 2	Council	Council	0.75	Rugby/Rugby League	Cricket	Turf	1			1					1 Yes
North Sydney	Tunks Park 3	Council	Council	0.84	Soccer	Cricket	Turf	1			1					1 Yes
North Sydney	Waverton Oval	Council	Council	0.42	Soccer	Cricket	Turf	1			1					1 Yes
Ryde	Bill Mitchell Park - 1	Council	Council	0.7	Soccer	Cricket	Grass	1								Yes
Ryde	Bill Mitchell Park - 2	Council	Council	0.3	Soccer	Cricket	Grass		1							Yes
Ryde	Bremner Park	Council	Council	0.8	Soccer	Cricket	Grass	1								2 Yes
Ryde	Brush Farm Park - Oval	Council	Council	1.1	netball	cricket	Grass			1		12				Yes
Ryde	Cleves Park	Council	Council	0.3		Cricket	Grass				1					No
Ryde	Darvall Park	Council	Council	0.5	Soccer	Cricket	Grass				1					Yes
Ryde	Dunbar Park	Council	Council	1.6	School Use	athletics	Grass			1						Yes
Ryde	Eastwood Park - Lower	Council	Council	0.6	Soccer	School Use	Grass	1								2 Yes
Ryde	Eastwood Park - Upper	Council	Council	1.1	Soccer	Cricket	Grass			1						2 Yes
Ryde	ELS Hall Park - 2	Council	Council	1.3	Baseball	Baseball	Grass	1					4			2 Yes
Ryde	ELS Hall Park - 3	Council	Council	1.3	AFL	Cricket	Grass			1						2 Yes
Ryde	Fontenoy Park	Council	Council	0.8	Soccer		Grass			4						2 Yes
Ryde	Gannan Park	Council	Council	1.9	Baseball	Cricket	Grass	1					1			2 Yes
Ryde	Magdala Park - 1	Council	Council	1.4	Soccer	Baseball	Grass	1								2 Yes
Ryde	Magdala Park - 2 (mini)	Council	Council	0.5	Soccer	Soccer	Grass		1				2			Yes
Ryde	Marsfield Park - 1	Council	Council	0.8	Rugby Union	Cricket	Grass	1								2 Yes
Ryde	Marsfield Park - 2	Council	Council	1.0	Rugby Union	Cricket	Grass	1								Yes
Ryde	Meadowbank Park - 2	Council	Council	1.0	Soccer	School Use	Grass	1								Yes
Ryde	Meadowbank Park - 3	Council	Council	0.9	Soccer	AusTag	Grass	1								2 Yes
Ryde	Meadowbank Park - 4	Council	Council	0.9	Soccer	AusTag	Grass			1						Yes
Ryde	Meadowbank Park - 5 (mini)	Council	Council	0.5	Soccer	School Use	Grass			1						Yes
Ryde	Meadowbank Park - 6 (mini)	Council	Council	0.6	Soccer	School Use	Grass			1						Yes
Ryde	Meadowbank Park - 7	Council	Council	0.8	Soccer	Cricket	Grass	1								Yes
Ryde	Meadowbank Park - 8	Council	Council	0.7	Soccer	Cricket	Grass	1								Yes
Ryde	Meadowbank Park - 9	Council	Council	0.9	Soccer	Cricket	Grass	1								Yes
Ryde	Meadowbank Park - 10 + wicket	Council	Council	1.0	Soccer	School Use	Grass	1								Yes
Ryde	Meadowbank Park - 12	Council	Council	0.7	School Use	Cricket	Grass	1								2 Yes
Ryde	Meadowbank Park - 13	Council	Council	0.6	Hockey		Grass									Yes
Ryde	Meadowbank Park - LH Waud	Council	Council	1.1	Soccer	cricket	Grass	1								Yes
Ryde	Monash Park	Council	Council	1.0	Soccer	School Use	Grass			1						Yes
Ryde	Morrison Bay Park - 1	Council	Council	0.4	soccer	Cricket	Grass			1						
Ryde	Morrison Bay Park - 2 + wicket	Council	Council	0.8	soccer	soccer	Grass	1								
Ryde	Morrison Bay Park - 3	Council	Council	0.8	soccer	soccer	Grass	1								
Ryde	Morrison Bay Park - 4	Council	Council	0.7	soccer	Cricket	Grass	1								2 Yes
Ryde	Morrison Bay Park - 5 (mini field)	Council	Council	0.4	soccer	cricket	Grass			1						
Ryde	Morrison Bay Park - 6	Council	Council	0.8	soccer	cricket	Grass	1								
Ryde	North Ryde Park	Council	Council	0.9	soccer	cricket	Grass				1					2 Yes
Ryde	Peel Park	Council	Council	0.7	soccer		Grass	1								2 Yes
Ryde	Pidding Park - 1 main	Council	Council	1.1	soccer	cricket	Grass	1								2 Yes
Ryde	Pidding Park - 2 mini field	Council	Council	0.3	soccer	soccer	Grass			1						
Ryde	Pioneer Park	Council	Council	1.1	baseball	baseball	Grass						4			Yes
Ryde	Ryde Park - 1	Council	Council	1.3	Rugby Union	cricket	Grass			1						2 Yes
Ryde	Ryde Park - 3	Council	Council	0.7	Rugby Union		Grass			2						2 Yes
Ryde	Santa Rosa Park - 1	Council	Council	0.8	soccer	cricket	Grass	1								
Ryde	Santa Rosa Park - 2	Council	Council	0.5	soccer	cricket	Grass			1						
Ryde	Smalls Road School - Upper	Education	Council	0.8	soccer	School Use	Grass	1								
Ryde	Smalls Road School - Lower	Education	Council	0.7	soccer	cricket	Grass			1						Yes
Ryde	Tuckwell Park	Council	Council	0.8	soccer	cricket	Grass				1					2 Yes
Ryde	Tyagarah Park	Council	Council	0.6	soccer	cricket	Grass			1						Yes
Ryde	Waterloo Park	Council	Council	1.1	Soccer	Baseball	Grass	1								2 Yes
Ryde	Westminster Park	Council	Council	0.6	Soccer	Cricket	Grass	1								Yes
Ryde	TG Milner - 1	Eastwood Rugby	Eastwood Rugby	0.80	Rugby Union		Grass			1						
Ryde	TG Milner - 2	Eastwood Rugby	Eastwood Rugby	0.76	Rugby Union		Grass	1								
Ryde	TG Milner - 3	Eastwood Rugby	Eastwood Rugby	0.70	Rugby Union		Grass				2					
Ryde	Macquarie Park Hockey Field	Office of Sport	Office of Sport	0.51	Hockey	Hockey	Synthetic	1								
Ryde	Holy Cross - 1	Holy Cross Scho	Holy Cross Sch	0.79	Rugby League		Grass				1					
Ryde	Holy Cross - 2	Holy Cross Scho	Holy Cross Sch	0.63	Soccer		Grass	1								
Ryde	Holy Cross - 3	Holy Cross Scho	Holy Cross Sch	0.75	Rugby League		Grass	1								
Ryde	Holy Cross - 4	Holy Cross Scho	Holy Cross Sch	0.58	Soccer	Cricket	Grass			3						
Ryde	Macquarie University - 1	Macquarie Univ	Macquarie Uni	0.84	Rugby Union		Grass	1								
Ryde	Macquarie University - 2	Macquarie Univ	Macquarie Uni	1.09	Soccer	Cricket	Grass				1					
Ryde	Macquarie University - 3	Macquarie Univ	Macquarie Uni	1.40	AFL	Cricket	Grass				1					
Ryde	Macquarie University - 4	Macquarie Univ	Macquarie Uni	0.72	Soccer	Soccer	Grass	1								
Ryde	Macquarie University - 5	Macquarie Univ	Macquarie Uni	1.78	AFL	Cricket	Grass			1						
Ryde	Epping Boys High School - 1	Education	Dept Edu	0.76	Soccer	Cricket	Grass	1								
Ryde	Epping Boys High School - 2	Education	Dept Edu	0.69	Soccer		Grass	1								
Ryde	North Ryde RSL - 1	North Ryde RSL	North Ryde RS	0.93	Soccer	Baseball	Grass			1						
Ryde	Marsden High School	Education	Dept Edu	0.55	Soccer	Cricket	Grass	1								
Ryde	Brush Farm Park - Netball	Council	Council	0.3	netball		Hardcourt						4			Yes
Ryde	Meadowbank Park - 28 Netball Courts	Council	Council	1.9	Netball	Netball	Hardcourt						28			2 Yes
Ryde	Christie Park - 1	Council	Council	0.9	Soccer	soccer	Synthetic	1								2 Yes
Ryde	Christie Park - 2	Council	Council	1.1	Soccer	soccer	Synthetic	1								Yes
Ryde	ELS Hall Park - 1	Council	Council	1.3	Soccer	Cricket	Synthetic			1						2 Yes
Willoughby	Bicentennial - netball	Council	Council	1.24	netball	netball	Hardcourts						17			2 Yes
Willoughby	Northbridge Oval	Crown	Council	1.24	soccer	cricket	Synthetic				1					2 Yes
Willoughby	Thomson Park	Council	Council	0.94	soccer	cricket	Synthetic			1						Yes
Willoughby	Chatswood High School Oval	Education	Council	1.13	soccer	cricket	Synthetic in 20	1								2 Yes
Willoughby	Artamon Reserve	Crown	Council	2.21	touch football	touch football	Turf	2								2 Yes
Willoughby	Bales Park	Council	Council	1.53	SSG soccer	cricket	Turf	1								Yes
Willoughby	Beauchamp Park	Crown	Council	1.67	rugby union	cricket	Turf			1						2 Yes
Willoughby	Bicentennial Reserve	Council	Council	1.69	soccer	baseball	Turf	1								Yes
Willoughby	Bicentennial - baseball	Council	Council	1.22	baseball	baseball	Turf						1			Yes
Willoughby	Castle Cove Oval	Council	Council	1.81	soccer	cricket	Turf	2								2 Yes
Willoughby	Chatswood Oval	Crown	Council	1.63	rugby union	cricket	Turf	1								2 Yes
Willoughby	Chatswood Rotary War Memorial Athletic Field	Council	Council	2.28	athletics	athletics	Turf				1					2 Yes

Facility Inventory

LGA	Facility/Site Name	Owner	Management	Playing Surface Area	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
Willoughby	Greville St Reserve	Council	Council	0.31	soccer		Turf		1							
Willoughby	Naremburn Park	Crown	Council	2.41	soccer	cricket	Turf	2				2				2 yes
Willoughby	O H Reid Reserve	Council	Council	1.29	soccer	cricket	Turf	1								2 yes
Willoughby	Willoughby Park-inc Alan Hyslop Oval	Crown	Council	2.48	league/ soccer	cricket	Turf		1	1						2 yes
Willoughby	Mowbray Public School Oval	Education	Council	0.85	soccer	cricket	Turf	1								yes
Willoughby	Willoughby Girls High Oval	Education	Council	0.41	soccer		Turf		1							
Willoughby	Gore Hill Oval	Crown	Council	2.12	AFL	cricket	Turf(synthetic in 2018)			1						2 yes



Appendix 6 - Potential Increases to Sportsground Capacity

Council	Category	Location	Project Description	Playing Area (Ha)	Additional Capacity Hours	Yield in Hectare Hours
Hornsby	New Development	Westleigh Park	New sports complex with approx 7.5Ha of Playing surface	7.5	25	187.50
Hornsby	New Development	Hornsby Quarry	New field with approx 1.5Ha playing surface	1.5	25	37.50
Hornsby	New Development	Schofield Parade - Pennant Hills	New field with approx 1.5Ha playing surface	1.5	25	37.50
Hornsby	New Development	Vacant Site - Cowan	New field with approx 1.4 Ha playing surface	1.4	25	35.00
Hornsby	Synthetic Surface	TBA	Install full size football pitch	0.9	29	26.10
Hornsby	Increase Current Use	Old Dairy	Full utilisation	0.95	25	23.75
Hornsby	Synthetic Surface	John Purchase	Install full size football pitch	0.75	29	21.75
Hornsby	Convert Space	Epping Athletics	Reconfigure field for shared use	0.77	25	19.25
Hornsby	Capacity Increase	Arcadia Park	Lighting	0.94	15	14.10
Hornsby	Capacity Increase	James Henty	Lighting	0.7	17	11.90
Hornsby	Capacity Increase	Pennant Hills Archery	Lighting	0.4	25	10.00
Hornsby	Capacity Increase	Galstone Rec Reserve	Lighting	0.48	20	9.60
Hornsby	Capacity Increase	Cowan Park	Lighting	0.55	15	8.25
Hornsby	Increase Current Use	Pennant Hills No.3	Full utilisation with weekend seasonal night competition	0.68	8.5	5.78
Hornsby	Capacity Increase	Glenorie	Lighting	0.56	10	5.60
Hornsby	Capacity Increase	Booth Park	Lighting	0.32	11	3.52
Ku-ring-gai	Synthetic Surface	Norman Griffiths Sportsground	Installation of a full size multi-use field	0.93	24	22.32
Ku-ring-gai	Synthetic Surface	Warrimoo Sportsground	Installation of a full size multi-use field	1.2	24	28.80
North Sydney	Capacity Increase	Waverton Oval	Lighting, Drainage, Irrigation and resurfacing	0.42	5	2.10
North Sydney	Capacity Increase	Tunks Park #2	lighting	0.75	10	7.50
North Sydney	Capacity Increase	Tunks Park #3	lighting	0.84	10	8.40
North Sydney	Synthetic Surface	Anderson Park	Installation of multi-use field	0.48	34	16.32
Ryde	Capacity Increase	Meadowbank Park 10	Lighting	1	12	12.00
Ryde	Capacity Increase	Gannan Park 1	Lighting	0.96	15	14.40
Ryde	Capacity Increase	Gannan Park 2	Lighting	0.96	15	14.40
Ryde	Capacity Increase	Meadowbank Park LH Waud	Lighting	1.12	12	13.44
Ryde	Capacity Increase	Tuckwell Park	Lighting	0.77	10	7.70
Ryde	Capacity Increase	Smalls Rd 1	Lighting	0.67	20	13.40
Ryde	Capacity Increase	Smalls Rd 2	Lighting	0.77	12	9.24
Ryde	Optimisation of fields	Gannan Park	Optimisation of land to develop new rectangular field	1	30	30.00
Ryde	Optimisation of fields	Magdala Park	Optimisation of land to develop new rectangular field	0.9	30	27.00
Ryde	Optimisation of fields	Christie Park 3	Synthetic	0.9	54	48.60
Ryde	Increase Current Use	ELS Hall	Full utilisation with weekend seasonal night competition	1.31	9	11.79
Willoughby	Synthetic Surface	Chatswood High School Oval	Install full size football field	1.13	29	32.77
Willoughby	Synthetic Surface	Gore Hill Oval	Install full size AFL/ cricket ground	2.12	29	61.48
Willoughby	Synthetic Surface	Willoughby Girls High School Oval	Install full size football field	0.75	50	37.50

Council	Category	Location	Project Description	Playing Area (Ha)	Additional Capacity Hours	Yield in Hectare Hours
Willoughby	Capacity increase	Mowbray Public School Oval	Install floodlighting	0.85	6	5.10
Willoughby	Capacity increase	Bicentennial Oval	Install floodlighting	1.69	6	10.14
Willoughby	Capacity increase	Bales Park Oval	Install floodlighting	1.53	10	15.30
Willoughby	Capacity increase	O H Reid Oval	Install floodlighting	1.29	10	12.90
Willoughby	Capacity increase	Greville St Oval	Install floodlighting	0.31	15	4.65
Willoughby	Increase Current Use	Thomson Oval	Full utilisation with weekend seasonal night competition	0.94	10.5	9.87
	Total					934.22



Appendix 7 - Potential Department of Education Sportsground Sites

School Analysis

Site	School Type	Area Type	LGA	3/4 Option	Full Option
Asquith Girls High School	High	SPORT/OVAL	Hornsby	Y	-
Cheltenham Girls High School	High	SPORT/OVAL	Hornsby	Y	-
Cherrybrook Public School	Public	SPORT/OVAL	Hornsby		Y
Epping North Public School	Public	SPORT/OVAL	Hornsby	Y	-
Galston High School	High	SPORT/OVAL	Hornsby	Y	-
Galston High School	High	SPORT/OVAL	Hornsby		Y
Glenorie Public School	Public	SPORT/OVAL	Hornsby	Y	-
Hornsby Girls High School	High	SPORT/OVAL	Hornsby	Y	-
Hornsby Heights Public School	Public	SPORT/OVAL	Hornsby	Y	-
Mount Colah Public School	Public	SPORT/OVAL	Hornsby	Y	-
Normanhurst Boys High School	High	SPORT/OVAL	Hornsby		Y
Normanhurst West Public School	Public	SPORT/OVAL	Hornsby	Y	-
Pennant Hills High School	High	SPORT/OVAL	Hornsby		Y
Pennant Hills High School	High	SPORT/OVAL	Hornsby		Y
West Pennant Hills Public School	Public	SPORT/OVAL	Hornsby	Y	-
Hunters Hill High School	High	SPORT/OVAL	Hunters Hill		Y
Gordon East Public School	Public	SPORT/OVAL	Ku-Ring-Gai	Y	-
St Ives High School	High	SPORT/OVAL	Ku-Ring-Gai		Y
St Ives High School	High	SPORT/OVAL	Ku-Ring-Gai	Y	-
St Ives Park Public School	Public	SPORT/OVAL	Ku-Ring-Gai		Y
St Ives Public School	Public	SPORT/OVAL	Ku-Ring-Gai	Y	-
Turrumurra High School	High	SPORT/OVAL	Ku-Ring-Gai		Y
Turrumurra North Public School	Public	SPORT/OVAL	Ku-Ring-Gai	Y	-
Turrumurra Public School	Public	SPORT/OVAL	Ku-Ring-Gai	Y	-
Eastwood Heights Public School	Public	SPORT/OVAL	Ryde	Y	-
Ermington Public School	Public	SPORT/OVAL	Ryde	Y	-
Gladesville Public School	Public	SPORT/OVAL	Ryde	Y	-
Ryde East Public School	Public	SPORT/OVAL	Ryde		Y
Ryde Public School	Public	SPORT/OVAL	Ryde	Y	-