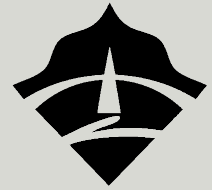


SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

Tennis Facilities Plan 2017



Disclaimer

The information contained in this report is intended for the specific use of South Gippsland Shire Council.

All recommendations by Hands on Community Solutions are based on information provided by or on behalf of the land managers, tennis clubs, Tennis Victoria and Council and we have relied upon such information being correct at the time this report has been prepared.

Readers should note this report might include implicit projections about the future which, by their nature, are uncertain and cannot be relied upon. They are dependent on potential events or technical assessments, which have not yet occurred.



2MH CONSULTING ARE THE OFFICIAL FACILITY ADVISORY SERVICE FOR TENNIS VICTORIA & NETBALL VICTORIA





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Executive Summary

This report provides an analysis and evaluation of the current and prospective viability of tennis facilities within the South Gippsland region. South Gippsland Shire Council received funding through Sport and Recreation Victoria's Community Facility Funding program – planning category for this study.

The report considers facilities that cater for competitive and/or social tennis participation opportunities, the condition of the facility, and propose a hierarchy for future planning, development, and investment.

Our investigation and consultation identified some key points which are:

- There are 38 tennis facilities within South Gippsland with a total of 99 courts.
- Half are either unused or in such poor condition they are not suitable for competition tennis.
- In 2016/17, there were 406 South Gippsland based tennis members affiliated with Tennis Victoria.
- Leongatha Tennis Club is the largest club with 11 courts and 124 members.
- There is one professional tennis coach operating across the region who is responsible for tennis development.

The report finds that the current participation in tennis does not warrant large scale investment for facility and infrastructure improvements. Investment is required to maintain existing facilities in a usable condition into the future.

The Tennis Facilities Plan identifies the future provision of tennis facilities based on a tiered hierarchy and recommends the following actions:

1. Implement the Tennis Facility Hierarchy / Classification to guide facility development in South Gippsland;
2. Provide support and matching capital contributions for major tennis infrastructure projects in key locations as identified by the Tennis Facilities Plan;
3. Support decommissioning the facilities identified as “poor” or “very poor” condition and little to no use;
4. Support the Leongatha Tennis Club, as the identified municipal facility, to develop a Strategic Plan, that will outline a clear vision and actions that will ensure a high quality compliant facility;



5. Conduct further investigation into the Korumburra Tennis Club facilities prior to the completion of initial lease term in 2020.
6. Develop and cost a maintenance program for (a) Council owned tennis facilities and (b) Remaining tennis facilities, and consider funding for a tennis court maintenance program during the 2018/19 budget process.
7. Develop and cost a renewal program for (a) Council owned tennis facilities and (b) Remaining tennis facilities and consider funding for a tennis court renewal program during the 2018/19 budget process.

This Tennis Facility Plan also identifies that there are a range of challenges that tennis as a sport is currently facing, and whilst not the focus of this report, it is recommended that key stakeholders work to address issues related to:

- Trends of decreasing participation; and
- Implementation of affiliated social participation programs.



Project Scope

The South Gippsland Tennis Facility Plan has been developed to identify the location and condition of all tennis facilities within the Shire. This is the first time that a project of this nature has been undertaken by South Gippsland Shire Council.

Key elements of the plan include:

- Identifying all current and former tennis court sites including site ownership;
- An audit of all sites including basic site inspection to identify facilities, current condition, site risks and opportunities for improvement;
- The different types of court surfaces available in the municipality and the broader region and the impact this may have on participation and player development;
- Develop a hierarchy of facilities that integrates with Tennis Australia's strategic facility hierarchy for Gippsland;
- Detail location and estimated costs to upgrade and maintain any facilities/playing surfaces; and

Context

South Gippsland Shire Council Plan 2017-21

The South Gippsland Shire Council Plan was adopted in June 2017 with the following vision:

“South Gippsland Shire will be a place where our quality of life and sense of community are balanced by sustainable and sensitive development, population and economic growth.”


Council’s objectives from the Council Plan include:



South Gippsland Shire Council Recreation Plan 2007

This plan identifies some key principles for guiding the development of recreation facilities and reserves in the region. Principles relevant to the Tennis Facilities Plan include:

- A diversity of opportunities for physical and social recreation are provided in every community.
- A hierarchy of facilities matches the range of needs, competition standards, available resources, willingness, and ability of the community to support these.
- The benefits of leisure participation and all available opportunities are widely promoted and acknowledged.
- The needs and aspirations of residents are monitored, and people with a disability, older adults, and adolescents are included alongside all others.

- 
- The contribution made by clubs, associations, and committees are acknowledged.
 - The necessary leadership and planning is provided to enhance social, economic, and environmental benefits of recreation and sports for local communities.
 - Land managers, clubs, committees and community organisations are engaged in recreation planning, provision and management processes.

Demographic Profile

South Gippsland Shire Council is just over an hour to the south east of Melbourne. Its major centres are Leongatha, Korumburra, Mirboo North and Foster, and other significant townships include Nyora, Toora, Venus Bay, Poowong, Port Welshpool, Loch, Dumbalk, Sandy Point, Welshpool, Meeniyah, Fish Creek and Tarwin Lower.

South Gippsland Shire was created in 1994 from the amalgamation of four previous municipalities, and has an area of 3,300 square kilometres.

Key population statistics include:

- 27,706 resident population (ABS 2015)
- 6,299 of the population is above the age of 50 (the main age group)
- 2.4 average people per household
- 44 is the median age of people residing in the Shire
- 4% of the population are from a non-English speaking background
- 32% of the population is 'couples without children'
- 26% of the population is 'couples with children'
- 26 Townships and Hamlets

Other research

Research and consultation was undertaken with Baw Baw Shire Council and Latrobe City Council who have completed similar projects to the South Gippsland Tennis Facilities Plan. Their input has been considered as part of the development of this plan.



South Gippsland Tennis Participation

Facility Locations

An extensive survey of tennis facilities was conducted across South Gippsland. In total 38 community facilities were identified in the region. **Appendix 3** provides a map of each location.



Land Ownership and Tennis Facility Management

One of the purposes of this report was to identify who the land owner and manager for each facility is. Some of the information was hard to source and we have had to rely on historical data provided by Council and club volunteers.

The matrix provided in **Appendix 4** shows land ownership type versus governance structure. The positive and negative implications of each facility have also been listed.

Appendix 5 lists each facility within South Gippsland with their corresponding land ownership and management structure.

South Gippsland Participation

Tennis participation across the South Gippsland region has been declining over the past 5 years. The following table shows the total number of Tennis Victoria affiliated members.



Clubs across the South Gippsland region have been experiencing fluctuating membership levels. **Appendix 2** shows the membership levels of all 16 South Gippsland clubs since the 2010/11 season.

It is possible that membership numbers does not provide a true reflection on the amount of participation at each club. There has been a reluctance by some clubs to sign participants up as Tennis Victoria affiliates due to the costs associated with the affiliations. This may be due to a misunderstanding by clubs as to how the affiliation structure works. Tennis Victoria have recently changed its affiliation structure, the current model requires clubs to pay an affiliation based on the number of courts within the facility rather than the number of members.

This presents an opportunity for Tennis Victoria to sell the benefits of being an affiliate and to explain their new affiliation model. If managed well, it also presents an opportunity for clubs to maximize participation at their facility with it having no impact on the affiliation costs the club would be required to pay.

Leongatha Tennis Club clearly has the highest rate of participation and as such consideration should be given to establishing this club as the regional centre for tennis in South Gippsland.



PORT FRANKLIN TENNIS COURT
PLAQUE

South Gippsland Association Structure

There are four tennis associations operating across South Gippsland.

- **Korinne & District Tennis Association**
A junior association that hosts competition across five sections.
- **Mirboo North & District Junior Tennis Association**
A junior association with 20 teams across two sections.
- **Allambee Mirboo & District Tennis Association (senior association)**
A senior association that hosts competitions across three sections. Competition is predominantly doubles matches.
- **South Gippsland Mid-Week Ladies**
Runs mid-week competitions throughout spring and autumn across four sections.

Considering the mega trends identified earlier in this report, the need to provide diverse participation opportunities is essential. Tennis has the capacity to provide a range of options, including but not limited to:

- informal social competition
- inter club
- intra club
- night/twilight competition
- shorter formats
- weekend play
- mid-week (during the day); nd
- elite competition.

Future work with Tennis Victoria developing new participation programs in the region should look to provide flexible options enabling the best chance at community uptake.

Social Tennis

A limitation of this report has been a lack of evidence related to how many people play informal social tennis at facilities across the region. Some clubs have reported social use of their courts, while few have a social program where participant numbers are able to be recorded.

Leongatha tennis club provided evidence of a number of social participation and competition formats:

- Winter Sunday social competition: Approx 20 participants;
- Mid-week night mixed social competition: Approx 40-50 participants
- Wednesday social competition for over 50s: Approx 40 participants.

Professional Tennis Coaching

In South Gippsland Shire there is one professional coaching business operating from a number of facilities. South Gippsland Tennis Coaching have a number of coaching staff and cater for all ages and all skill levels.

Professional coaching is undertaken on the following nights and venues:

LOCATION	COACHING TIMES
Leongatha	Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday for 25 coaching hours
Korumburra	Wednesday for three coaching hours
Foster	Coaching clinics have been run during summer with limited numbers

There are no schools in South Gippsland participating in the Tennis Australia National School Partnership programs.

Currently there is no community or club level coaching being provided at any facility.

Consultation Findings

Research conducted throughout the development of this plan identified a range of issues for tennis in South Gippsland. This list was developed as a result of conversations with volunteer

club administrators, recreation reserve committees of management, South Gippsland Shire staff, and Tennis Victoria.

- ***Very poor levels of Tennis Vic Affiliation in South Gippsland.***
- ***Tennis member / participation numbers are poor and may not be accurate.***
- ***Reliance on Single Professional Coach in region.***
- ***Coach is not affiliated with Tennis Victoria which impacts on programs available.***
- ***No school in South Gippsland participating in the National Schools Partnership program.***
- ***Limited support provided by Tennis Victoria due to staff resource availability/ affiliation.***
- ***Limited investment by Council in Tennis Facilities over recent years.***
- ***Association Competition model needs to be reviewed.***
- ***Facilities that have been identified as future tennis competition sites i.e. Leongatha, Mirboo North, Poowong are non-compliant.***
- ***The traditional model of sport/ tennis participation is less attractive and needs to be reviewed.***
- ***It is becoming harder for clubs to maintain courts to an acceptable standard.***
- ***The sport and facilities are being managed by a small number of dedicated people that require support.***
- ***There are many tennis facilities that are no longer required. Often then facilities and not located on Council managed land. They present a risk to the local community.***
- ***Work with GippSport (Regional Sports Assembly) to support tennis clubs.***
- ***Explore alternative usage types for tennis facilities to increase utilisation.***

Recommended actions have been discussed with all relevant stakeholders in the region, including but not limited to; clubs, Tennis Victoria, South Gippsland Shire Council, and GippSport – the Regional Sports Assembly for the region.

These actions have not been provided in this report due to its nature of being a facilities plan.



STONY CREEK
TENNIS COURT



DUMBALK EAST
TENNIS COURT



Structure of Tennis

Tennis Australia is the governing body of tennis within Australia. Tennis Australia has eight member associations who are state/territory-based governing bodies (State Sporting Associations (SSAs)) responsible for implementing Tennis Australia initiatives.

Tennis Victoria is the SSA and the representative body of all affiliated clubs, centre's, associations, and their members in Victoria. As the central administrative body of tennis in Victoria, it is Tennis Victoria's role to manage, co-ordinate, promote, and unify the diverse facets of the sport.

From a servicing point of view, Victoria has been divided into South West, North West, and East, with each area having a dedicated Community Tennis Officer. South Gippsland is positioned in the East section of the state for Tennis Victoria's services.

Tennis Victoria runs entry level program opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to get involved in tennis. These programs include:

ANZ Tennis Hot Shots;

- Cardio Tennis;
- Future Leaders;
- Club Open Days;
- Mum's Programs;
- 35+ Seniors' Social Programs;
- Disability Programs;
- Indigenous Programs; and,
- Multicultural Programs.



Tennis Victoria is in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan which was not yet available for review. Their 2010-2015 Strategic Plan identified 6 goal areas to support the development and governance of Tennis across the state:

1. To provide and promote innovative opportunities for increased involvement in tennis as a healthy and positive experience;
2. To grow the contributions of the tennis community to support and re-invest in the sport;
3. To promote and support inclusive, quality and sustainable tennis environments;
4. In partnership with our stakeholders, support and deliver progressive pathways for the development of champions at all levels;
5. To support and help deliver a range of competitive and relevant tennis events for all; and,
6. To drive a strong, active customer service culture.

Tennis Victoria staff have provided input into the development of this Tennis Facilities Plan.

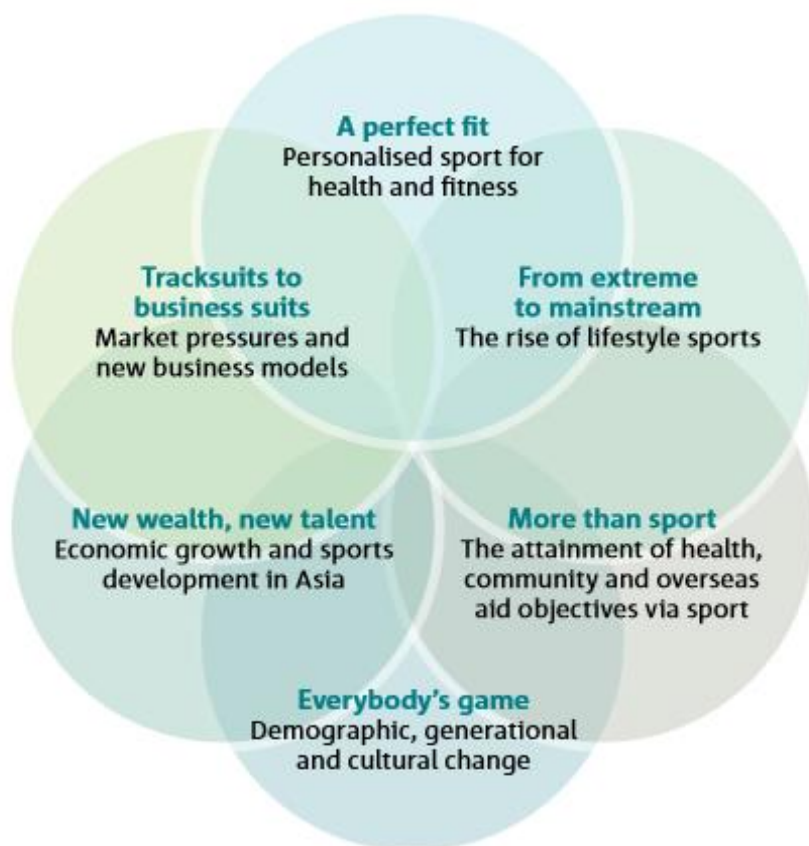
As discussed in the participation trends following, Tennis Victoria only have data available on the clubs who are affiliated members of Tennis Victoria and for the members that are actually registered through Tennis Victoria. Tennis Victoria continues to review its affiliation model and membership structure to try and best capture membership data. It is acknowledged by Tennis Victoria and Tennis Australia that there is a large number of social tennis players in programs at clubs and community facilities that are not captured by this current reporting system.

Tennis Participation

Megatrends in Sport

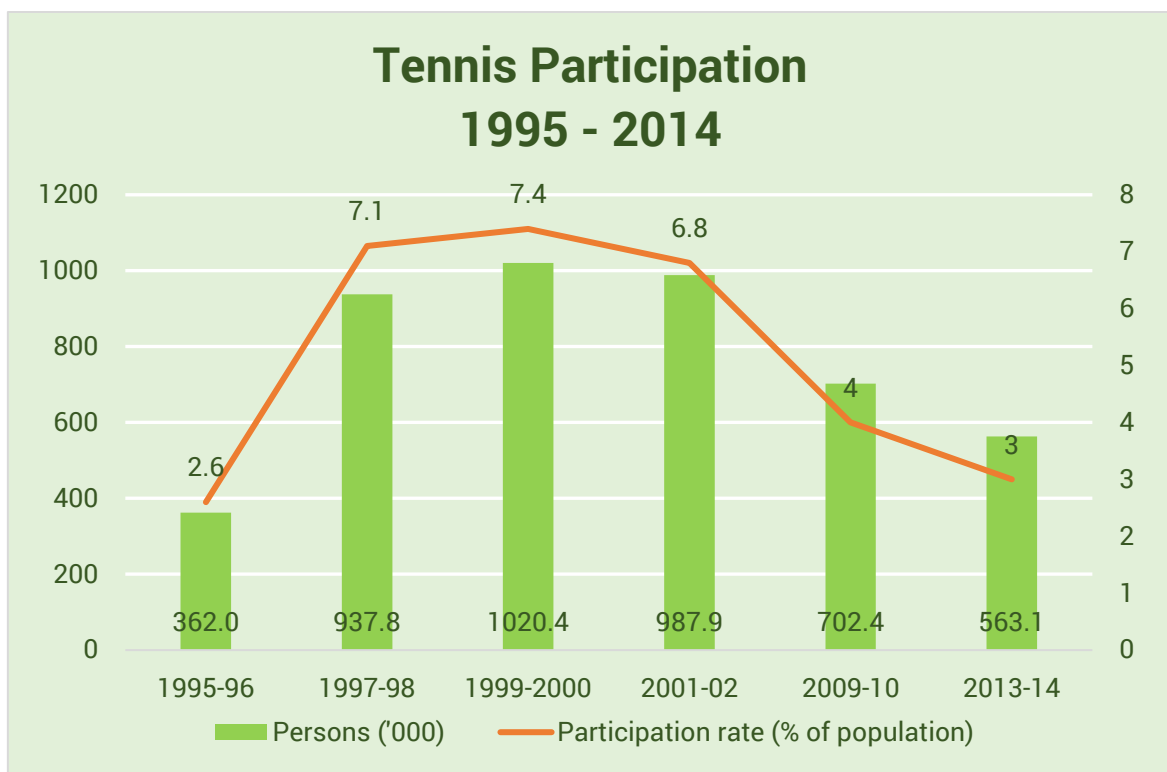
The sports played in Australia, as well as how and why we play them, are changing over time. The research findings from The Future of Australian Sport report will play an important role in shaping long-term policy, investment and strategic planning within government, the sport sector and broader community.

The report, developed by the CSIRO for the Australian Sports Commission, identifies six megatrends likely to shape the Australian sports sector over the next 30 years. These megatrends will become the basis upon which National Sports Organisations, of which Tennis Australia is one, develop their participation programs.



National Trends

The 1960s-70's is regarded as the 'Golden Age' of Australian Tennis. It is from this era that names like Laver, Emerson, Newcombe, Roche, Court, Goolagong Cawley, and others dominated the start of the Open era of tennis. The early successes of these individuals drove tennis participation at a grass roots level through this time (Australia.gov.au, 2013). The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) participation in sport data is only available from 1995 onwards. The following graph shows the national trend of participation since 1995.



Victorian Participation

The following graph shows the number of registered Tennis Victoria members and Regional members as provided by Tennis Victoria. It is acknowledged that their registered members does not give a true representation of people playing tennis across all facilities and programs. For example these figures do not include the Hot Shots or Cardio Tennis program numbers.

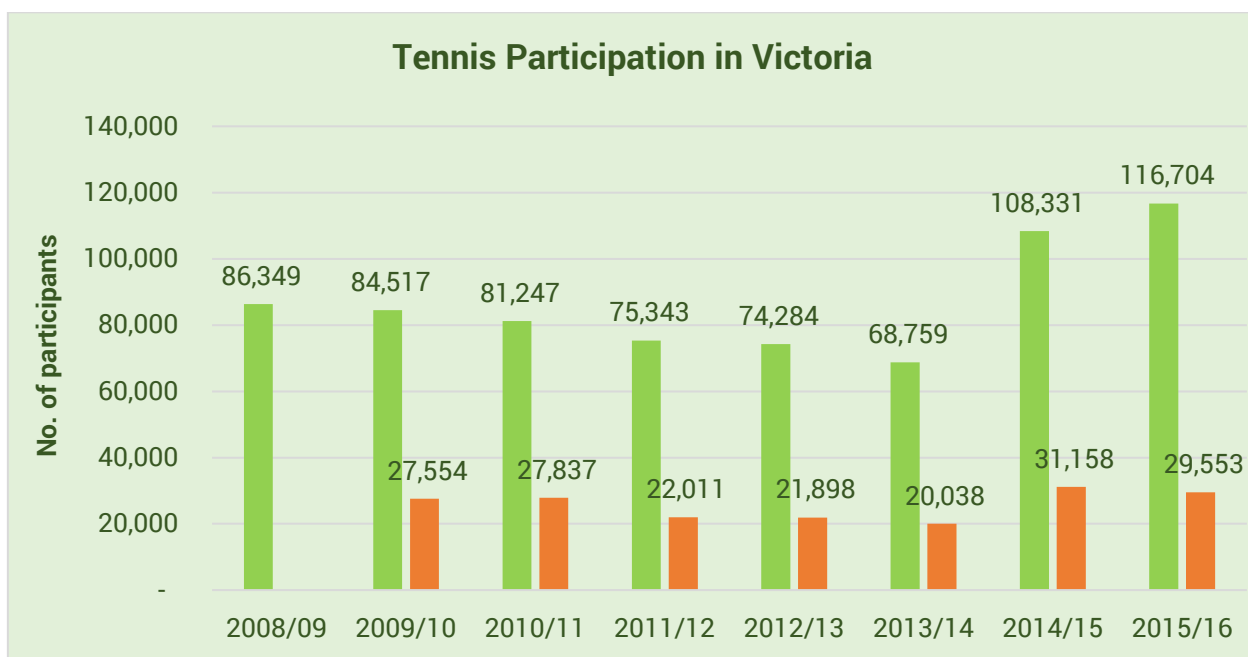
The significant increase in 2014/15 was as a result of changes to the affiliation model used by Tennis Victoria. The following section is taken from the Tennis Victoria 14/15 Annual Report explaining the change:

“Tennis Victoria, with full support and significant investment from Tennis Australia, was pleased to announce a new affiliation model in February 2014. This game changing new model replaced the onerous per member charge with one simple, annual fee, based on the number of tennis courts at the club. This new model attracted 98 new and returning tennis clubs back to the Tennis Victoria fold since the announcement, and specifically 72 in 2014/15.

In regard to registered club participants, our 2014/15 total was 108,331. This is a huge increase compared to the previous year total of 68,759. This pleasing reverse of consecutive decline was made possible due to the new affiliation model. This model now allows clubs to offer more flexible and innovative options, and encouragement to record all club participants.”

Anecdotal evidence attributes the significant increase in participants in the 2014/15 season to new participation programs and initiatives by tennis’ peak bodies. Whilst this number may not be a true reflection of numbers, Tennis Victoria attributes the increase to an increase in awareness of tennis through social participation in programs like Cardio tennis and Hot Shots.

Unfortunately these programs are not operational in South Gippsland and support to start them is not currently available under the current governance model, in order to address this it is recommended that professional coaches affiliate with Tennis Victoria and Tennis Australia so that the support available from these bodies is able to be used.





National Tennis Facility Planning & Development Guide

The National Tennis Facility Planning and Development Guide has been prepared by Tennis Australia, in partnership with Tennis Victoria and the Victorian Government (Sport and Recreation Victoria), to provide guidance for tennis club operators, organisations and local councils regarding tennis facility development projects.

The Guide provides information to assist with:

- New facility development;
- Court construction or redevelopment;
- Court resurfacing and surface conversion;
- Water and sustainability initiatives;
- Floodlighting installation;
- Fence replacement and; and,
- Clubhouse refurbishment or extension.

The information provided in the guide has been used as the basis for developing key recommendations in this report.

2MH Consulting, a partner in this project, developed an auditing system that measures against the key elements identified in the guide. These audit documents are separate to this report.

Surface Types

The following typical base construction techniques are currently listed as appropriate by Tennis Australia for the purpose of hard court and synthetic surfaces:

- Reinforced concrete;
- Asphalt; and,
- Compacted earth.

Natural grass, clay and red porous court construction requires more specialised and layered base preparation and do not require concrete, asphalt or compacted earth bases to be constructed.

Tennis Australia classifies court surfaces according to type, in the planning and development guide seven court surface types are listed as available. The following table provides a summary of characteristics of various court surfaces. The performance, aesthetics and longevity of surfaces are dependent on conducting an appropriate maintenance regime.

Court surface	Speed of court	Height of bounce	Trueness of bounce	Topspin	Slice	Footing – sliding/firm	Traction – Slip/non-slip	Shock absorption
Cushioned acrylic	Variable	Medium – high	Consistent	Yes	Yes	Firm	Non-slip	Medium
Non-cushioned acrylic	Variable	Medium – high	Consistent	Yes	Yes	Firm	Non-slip	Medium-hard
Clay	Slow	Medium – high	Almost consistent	Yes	Yes	Sliding	Non-slip	Soft
Natural grass	Fast	Low	Variable	Little	Yes	Firm with partial slide	Slip	Soft
Red porous	Slow	Medium	Almost consistent	Yes	Yes	Sliding	Non-slip	Soft
SFAG	Medium – fast	Medium	Consistent	Little	Yes	Firm with partial slide	Mainly non-slip	Medium
Synthetic clay	Medium – fast	Medium	Consistent	Little	Yes	Firm with partial slide	Mainly non-slip	Medium

Source: Tennis Australia

Source: National Tennis Facility Planning and Development Guide

Selecting a surface or surfaces that meet all member, player and stakeholder needs and objectives is difficult. Considerations that should be taken into account include:

- Member and user preferences;
- Intended use and level of play;
- Future club directions;
- Coaching requirements;
- Tournament requirements;
- Any requirement for similar surfaces or reasons to provide a mix of different surfaces;
- Site conditions;
- Cost of installation and replacement;
- Surface lifespan and warranty;
- Maintenance obligations and cost;
- Access to funding opportunities;
- Affordability and value for money;
- Environmental impacts; and
- Potential for vandalism.

In South Gippsland, many of the facilities are simply constructed from asphalt on concrete and in some instances they have been painted with non-acrylic paints. It should be noted that this surface type is not listed as an option by Tennis Australia.

There are four prevalent surface types in South Gippsland:

- Acrylic hard court;
- Clay/red porous;
- Natural grass; and,
- Other variations; including Sand Filled Artificial Grass (SFAG), carpet and synthetic clay.

The following table lists the number of facilities for each surface and base type across the region. It is important to note that five facilities had courts using different surface types.

BASE TYPE	SURFACE TYPE	NUMBER OF FACILITIES IN SOUTH GIPPSLAND
Concrete	Concrete	11
Concrete	Acrylic	8
Asphalt	Asphalt	21
Red Porous	Red Porous	2
Asphalt	SFAG	1

It should also be noted that the Municipal facility (as identified in the Facility Matrix as **Appendix 5**) at Leongatha has surface types which are suitable for a 'local level facility' (as defined by the Tennis Australia document 'Tennis 2020').

This report does not recommended a change of surface type for any of the existing facilities identified in this strategy given the cost involved in doing so. However, consideration should be given to the red porous surfaces at Leongatha and Korumburra and the longer term suitability or maintaining courts of this type.

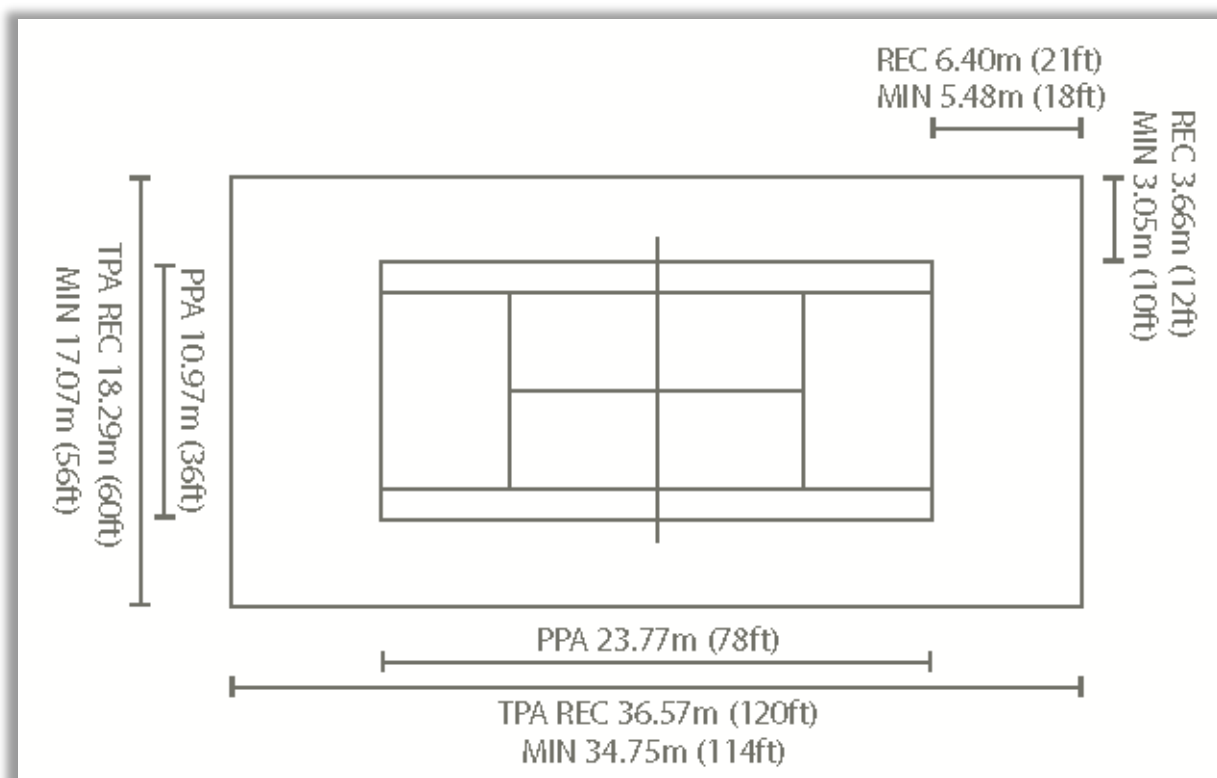
If any facilities were to be re-constructed or new facilities developed in the future, it is advised that the Tennis Australia Facility Planning and Development Guide be used and the list of considerations provided earlier in this document should be referred to, ensuring that an appropriate surface is selected based on the expected use of the facility and ensuring the greatest chance of sustainability.

Multi-purpose Courts

Multi-purpose courts are a practical solution to support a range of sports, including tennis, and are most commonly used in school and recreation reserve environments. These should be given consideration in South Gippsland for any redeveloped or new facilities especially when applying for funding and grant schemes where development of multi-use community facilities is looked upon favourably.

Compliance Information

The standard dimensions of a tennis court (Total Playing Area - TPA) are defined in the International Tennis Federation's Rules of Tennis. Although the game is best played on a full sized court enclosure (36.6m x 18.3m), the minimum recommended size (34.77m x 17.07m) can be suitable for social and club play.



Source: National Tennis Facility Planning and Development Guide

It is recommended that all new tennis courts be built to full size requirements. This will assist in ensuring current standards are being met and may also reduce the likelihood of player injury.

The optimum tennis court orientation is north-south. This is preferred to minimise the effects of sun glare during play.

Floodlighting

Floodlighting is an essential element to any tennis facility. Lighting has the ability to maximise court use, create diversity in club / centre activities and allow clubs/centres to implement the latest tennis participation trends.

There are 8 facilities with operational lighting in South Gippsland:

- Foster
- Korumburra
- Leongatha
- Mirboo North
- Sandy Point
- Poowong
- Toora
- Terril Park Fish Creek
- Loch Memorial Reserve
(not operational)

It is recommended that the lighting infrastructure be checked to ensure compliance with Tennis Australia’s recommended illuminance levels. The table below outlines the requirements for floodlighting.

Level of play	Minimum Horizontal Illuminance	
	PPA (Lux)	TPA (Lux)
Recreational	250	150
Club competition	350	250
International & National	1000	800

PPA – refers to the Principle Playing Area
TPA – refers to the Total Playing Area

Source: National Tennis Facility Planning and Development Guide

It is a recommendation of this strategy that competition standard lighting be supported at the top 4 facilities which are the Municipal and District level facilities as identified in the Facility Matrix in **Appendix 5**.

Maintenance

Different playing surface types require regular maintenance and often this needs to be provided by qualified and experienced contractor to ensure compliance with competition standards. Contractors with these skills are difficult to source in South Gippsland.

In general terms, low levels of maintenance has been conducted across the South Gippsland tennis facilities and common issues included, but was not limited to:

- Algae on playing surfaces;
- Weed growing in playing area;
- Damaged fences;
- Blocked drainage pits; and,
- Leaf litter and debris on playing surfaces.

The type of tasks listed above should be achievable for volunteers responsible for ongoing management of facilities. There may also be a role for Council to better support ongoing maintenance of facilities through the provision of maintenance grants. This may be challenging where courts that are being maintained purely for recreation benefit as there may not be a management structure in place.

The impact of not providing regular maintenance is that the lifespan of existing facilities will be significantly reduced and court condition will deteriorate impacting on player and participant safety.





Facility Rating Scale

A facility rating scale has been developed to grade the condition of facilities across South Gippsland. The scale has used information and guidelines provided by Tennis Australia's National Tennis Facility Planning and Development guide as the basis for this scale.

RATING	FACILITIES
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leongatha Tennis Club
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bena Tennis Club ● Dumbalk North Tennis Courts ● Foster Tennis Club ● Hallston Tennis Courts ● Koonwarra Recreation Reserve ● Korumburra Tennis Club ● Nyora Recreation Reserve ● Outtrim Recreation Reserve ● Poowong Recreation Reserve ● Sandy Point Tennis Club ● Tarwin Lower Tennis Courts ● Walter Tuck Recreation Reserve (Mirboo North)
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Terril Park (Fish Creek) ● Toora Tennis Courts ● Mardan Tennis Club ● Leongatha North Tennis Club ● Kongwak Tennis Club ● Mirboo Recreation Reserve
1 (Lowest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Allambee Tennis Courts ● Berrys Creek Tennis Courts ● Buffalo Tennis Courts ● Dumbalk East Tennis Courts ● Dumbalk Recreation Reserve ● Fish Creek Town Courts ● Loch Memorial Reserve ● Meeniyan Recreation Reserve ● Mt Best Tennis Court ● Nichols Road Tennis Courts (Mirboo) ● Port Franklin Tennis Courts ● Port Welshpool Tennis Courts ● Ruby Tennis Courts ● Stony Creek Tennis Courts ● Strzelecki Tennis Courts ● Trida Tennis Courts ● Turtons Creek Tennis Courts ● Welshpool Tennis Courts ● Yanakie Tennis Courts



Facility Hierarchy

The following documents provide background information that has informed the development of the Facility Matrix hierarchy (**Appendix 5**).

South Gippsland Recreation Plan

The South Gippsland Recreation plan provides definitions for local, district and regional facilities. These definitions aid in providing the framework for allocation of funding ensuring that the facilities that provide the most significant community benefit are adequately resourced.

Local Facilities

At the lowest level facilities should be more accessible, affordable, multi-purpose and lower quality.

District Level Facilities

District level facilities include more specialised surfaces and lighting, support facilities, multiple fields, some spectator provision, but will still be shared. At this level facilities will be used for club competition and will need to meet association standards for the sport.

Council will primarily support the provision and subsidisation of these two levels of facilities; local foundation and participation levels of sports development, and facilitation, rather than provision for the higher levels.

Regional Level Facilities

The third and highest level – will include more regional level

Tennis Australia – Facility Hierarchy

Tennis Australia's document 'Tennis 2020', outlines a facility development and management for Australian tennis. It articulates that a planned approach to tennis facility infrastructure development is essential and recommends an evidence based decision making.

The hierarchy proposed in this document outlines a number of criteria that need to be met for each classification level in areas of:

- Court requirements;
- Clubhouse and facility requirements;
- Other amenities;
- Management and administration requirements; and,
- Catchment population guide.

A summary of these criteria at achievable levels for South Gippsland is outlined following:

Regional Tennis Centres

- A minimum of 16 courts.
- At least 75% of courts based on ITF surface code A (acrylic), F (clay), and H (lawn).
- Each court floodlit to minimum ITF competition standards (500 lux).
- A show court that can provide capacity for regional tournaments and events.
- A clubhouse with change rooms and showers, café and or bar, on site management, meeting facilities, pro shop and onsite car parking.
- National and state based tournaments.
- Intra and Inter-club competition.
- High performance development centre.
- Coaching and pathway development.
- Resource for smaller clubs and associations.
- National 20+ International/national tournaments and events.
- High performance coaching and training centre.

Large Community Tennis Centres (Sub Regional)

- A minimum of 12 courts.
- 75% of courts based on ITF surface code A (acrylic), F (clay) and H (lawn).
- Each court floodlit to minimum ITF competition standard.
- A court with adequate seating for local tournaments and events.
- Intra and inter-club competition and tournaments.
- Coaching and pathway development.
- High performance training focus.
- Resource for smaller clubs and associations.

District Tennis Centres

- A minimum of 8 courts, at least 75% of ITF surface code A (acrylic), F (clay) and H (lawn).
- 50% of courts floodlit to minimum ITF competition standard.
- Inter-club competition and local tournaments.
- Coaching and pathway development.
- High performance training centre feeder.
- Resource for smaller clubs and associations.

Local Tennis Centres

- A minimum of 4 courts. 75% of courts based on ITF surface code A (acrylic), F (clay) and H (grass).
- 50% Inter-club and social competition.
- Coaching and pathway development.
- Feeder club to medium facility of courts floodlit to minimum ITF competition standards.



South Gippsland Housing & Settlement Strategy 2013

During consultation with South Gippsland Shire Council, it was identified that the *South Gippsland Housing & Settlement Strategy 2013* proposes a Settlement Hierarchy and Community Facilities Framework. A summarised version is provided in **Appendix 1**.

This framework provides clear definitions and criteria aiding in towns being classified to assist with future infrastructure development projects. It was determined that an amended version of this framework would be suitable to help make decisions about tennis facilities within South Gippsland.

A full copy of the *South Gippsland Housing & Settlement Strategy 2013* is available on Council's website:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au.



South Gippsland

Tennis Facility Classification

A facility classification / hierarchy has been developed for the grading of South Gippsland Tennis Facilities (**Appendix 5**). Factors that were considered in the allocation of classifications include:

- Locality
- Settlement Type
- Condition Ranking
- Lighting
- Land Ownership
- Management Structure
- Number of Tennis Victoria Members
- Competition tennis being played at venue

The following table outlines the description and associated required actions for each classification level:

CLASSIFICATION	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
Municipal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Primary facility for tennis in South Gippsland ▪ Quality playing surfaces for competition tennis ▪ Central location for coaching and development programs ▪ Provision of tennis court lighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support maintenance of facilities ▪ Support club development ▪ Support infrastructure projects that will improve compliance, access and tennis participation
District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secondary tennis facilities within South Gippsland ▪ Maintain competition standard ▪ Provision of tennis court lighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support maintenance of facilities ▪ Support club development ▪ Support infrastructure projects that will improve compliance, access and tennis participation
Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Competition tennis facilities within South Gippsland ▪ Maintain safety of facilities for tennis competition ▪ Tennis Court Lighting is not supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support maintenance of facilities ▪ Support club development ▪ Support infrastructure projects that will improve safety ▪ Reconsider classification if competition tennis is no longer played at venue
Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tennis Court facilities are still useful for community and recreational use that should not be limited to tennis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support maintenance of facilities ▪ Consider how the facilities can be managed and/or better utilised
Excess to Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ These facilities are no longer required for tennis or recreational purposes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider actions if safety concerns arise and/or alternate uses are identified for the site



Tennis Facility Funding Opportunities

National Court Rebate Scheme

The National Court Rebate Scheme is Tennis Australia's national funding program aimed at stimulating court growth and improving facilities around the country.

Affiliated clubs are eligible to submit applications via their Member Association for funding to develop or upgrade court surfaces and associated infrastructure, including base preparation and development, lighting, resurfacing, fencing, water saving initiatives and ancillary items.

Facility Loan Scheme

The Tennis Australia Facility Loan Scheme is available to financially assist affiliated clubs, centres and associations to upgrade, replace or improve their tennis facilities by providing low interest loans and more recently, to assist in supporting the appointment of a club/centre manager or administrator.

A club, centre or association will often embark on a project utilising grant monies from local and/or state government, as well as their own funds. The Tennis Australia Facility Loan Scheme is designed to assist with shortfalls that applicants may have in project funding after other funding avenues have been determined. Loans of up to \$80,000 are available.

Community Facility Funding Program

Sport & Recreation Victoria's Community facility funding program contributes to the provision of high quality and accessible community sport and recreation facilities across Victoria by:

- Increased sport and recreation participation;
- Better planning of sport & recreation facilities;
- Increased female and junior participation;
- Innovative sport and recreation facilities;
- Environmentally sustainable facilities;
- Universally designed facilities.

Previous rounds of this funding program have provided funding for major & minor capital works projects.

The Tennis Facility Infrastructure projects that have been identified within this Tennis Facilities Plan will meet the requirements of the funding opportunities listed in this section. Given the significant investment required for infrastructure projects, it is likely that Tennis Clubs will require matching financial contributions from Council to apply for these grants.



Recommendations & Conclusions

The South Gippsland Shire Council Tennis Facilities Plan has been developed to provide a strategy for the future provision of tennis facilities across South Gippsland. This report will guide the location, quality and development of tennis facilities over the next ten years.

The Tennis Facilities Plan identifies the future provision of tennis facilities based on a tiered hierarchy and recommends the following actions:

1	Implement the Tennis Facility Hierarchy / Classification to guide facility development in South Gippsland.
2	Provide support and matching capital contributions for major tennis infrastructure projects in key locations as identified by the Tennis Facilities Plan.
3	Support decommissioning the facilities identified as in poor or very poor condition and little to no use.
4	Support the Leongatha Tennis Club, as the identified municipal facility, to develop a Strategic Plan, that will outline a clear vision and actions that will ensure a high quality compliant facility.
5	Conduct further investigation into the Korumburra Tennis Club facilities prior to the completion of initial lease term in 2020.
6	Develop and cost a maintenance program for; a) Council owned tennis facilities b) Remaining tennis facilities and consider funding for a tennis court maintenance program during the 2018/19 budget process.
7	Develop and cost a renewal program for; a) Council owned tennis facilities b) Remaining tennis facilities and consider funding for a tennis court renewal program during the 2018/19 budget process.

This Tennis Facility Plan also identifies that there are a range of challenges that tennis as a sport is currently facing, and whilst not the focus of this report, it is recommended that key stakeholders work to address issues related to:

- Trends of decreasing participation; and
- Implementation of affiliated social participation programs.

These challenges make facility planning difficult as projections of future participation numbers will have a direct impact on the number and quality of facilities required across the region.

The South Gippsland Shire Council Tennis Facilities Plan has been developed to provide a strategy for the future provi

These recommendations provide a basis for long term tennis facility planning for the South Gippsland Community in accordance with Council's objective for the project. It should be emphasized that these recommendations are based on best practice approaches to leisure services management and may not, in their totality, be affordable in the short to medium term. These strategies should be viewed as long terms goals which are achievable for the community should the document be adopted by Council as the framework for future tennis facility and infrastructure development.



Acknowledgements

Hands on Community Solutions would like to acknowledge the contribution of Tennis Victoria, the local Tennis Clubs and Associations, and other key stakeholders who provided detailed input into the development of the plan.

To the South Gippsland Shire Council staff who provided background information and support for this Tennis Facilities Plan.

The *Tennis Facilities Plan* was funded through Sport and Recreation Victoria's 2014/2015 Community Facilities Funding Program – Planning Category and the South Gippsland Shire Council.





Appendices

- **Appendix 1** | South Gippsland Housing & Settlement Framework
- **Appendix 2** | South Gippsland Tennis Members by Club
- **Appendix 3** | South Gippsland Tennis Facility Map
- **Appendix 4** | Land Ownership & Governance Structure Matrix
- **Appendix 5** | South Gippsland Facility Matrix

Appendix 1

Housing & Settlement Strategy

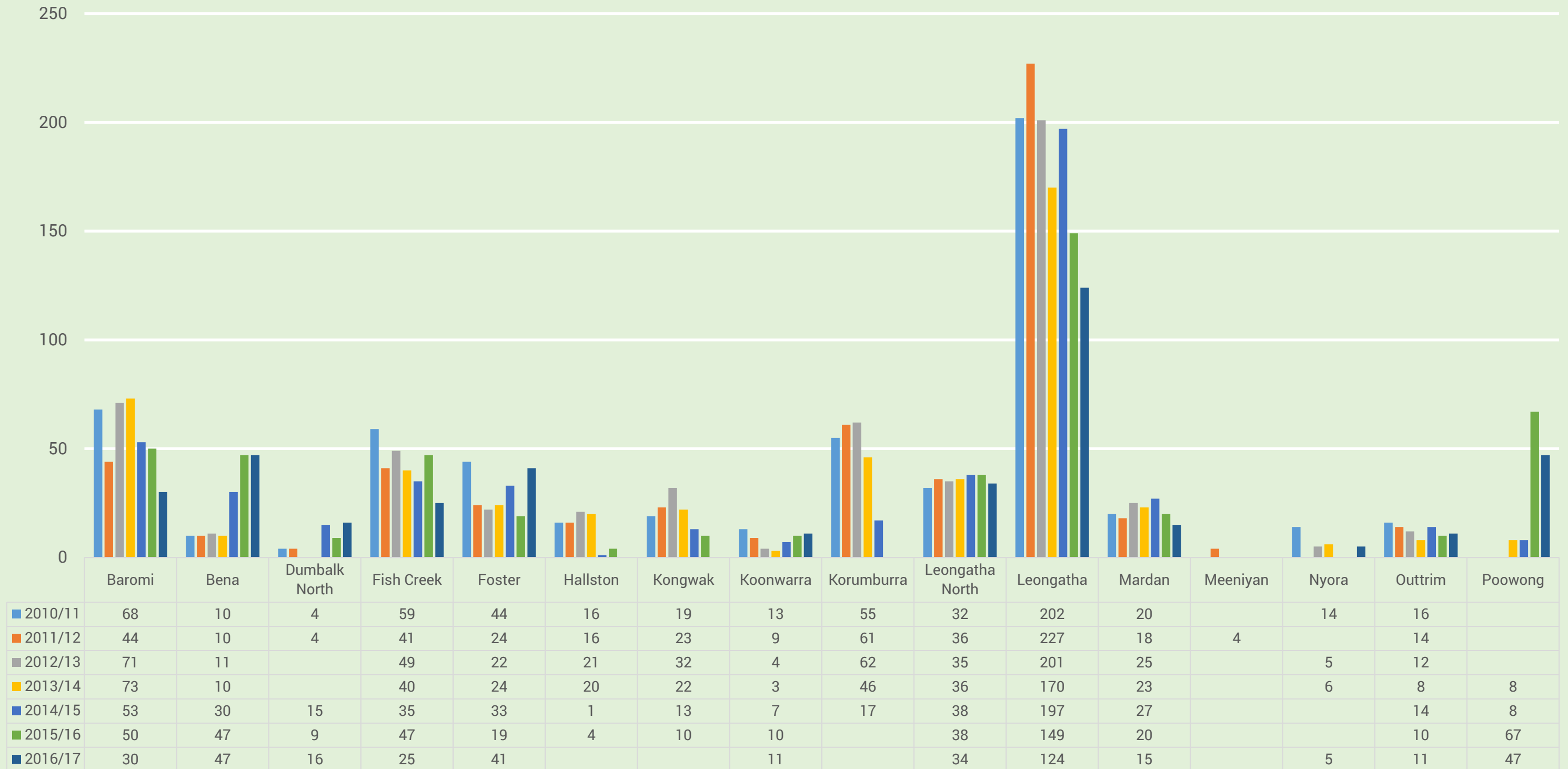
SETTLEMENT TYPE	SETTLEMENT NAME(S)	DEFINITIONS	FACILITY INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECTIONS
Municipal Centre	Leongatha	Dominant residential, commercial and retail node of the Shire. Leongatha is well connected to all utility services, well serviced by public transport, and has strong relationships with surrounding settlements. Home of the Shire corporate office.	Promote growth settlement which reflects Councils prioritized infrastructure investment. Highest level facilities and services commensurate with municipal catchment.
Large District Centre	Korumburra	Diverse population base, secondary residential, commercial and retail node within the Shire. Provides access to a range of services.	Promote growth settlement which reflects Council's prioritized infrastructure investment. Provides high level facilities and services commensurate with future growth.
District Town	Mirboo North Foster	Functions as a key retail and service centre for rural areas. Limited services with access to Municipal centre.	Promote growth and district level facilities and services commensurate with precinct catchment.
Small Town	Nyora Toora Meeniyah Poowong Loch Fish Creek	Provides access to a limited range of services and retail. Strong links with larger settlements nearby.	Support growth with limited local infrastructure investment. Enhance connections with larger towns / settlements.

SETTLEMENT TYPE	SETTLEMENT NAME(S)	DEFINITIONS	FACILITY INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECTIONS
Villages	Welshpool Port Welshpool Koonwarra	Support small populations and provide a focal point for the surrounding rural community.	Contain growth and local level facilities and services.
Coastal Villages	Venus Bay Sandy Point Tarwin Lower Waratah Bay Walkerville Yanakie	Perform a key tourist function and experience seasonal population fluctuations. They support small permanent populations and limited access to facilities and services.	Contain growth and local level facilities and services.
Hamlet	Bena Buffalo Dumbalk Kongwak Mirboo Port Franklin Ruby Stony Creek Jumbunna	Hamlets contain a small cluster of housing generally within the township zone. Limited services operate with settlement. Community halls and/or recreation reserves exist in most hamlets and localities	Contain growth within settlement boundary. Explore opportunities to optimize use of existing facilities. Enhance connections to larger centres.
Locality	Arawata Darlimurla Kardella Mt Best Nerrena Strzelecki	A locality comprises a cluster of housing located on smaller than average rural size allotments, usually no services are located within settlement. Community halls and/or recreation reserves exist in most hamlets and localities	Discourage growth. Explore opportunities to optimize use of existing facilities. Enhance connections to larger centres.

Appendix 2

South Gippsland Tennis Members by Club

South Gippsland Tennis Members by Club





Appendix 3

South Gippsland Tennis Facilities Map

SOUTH GIPPSLAND

Tennis Facilities Map



South Gippsland
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Appendix 4

Land Ownership & Governance Structure Matrix

*Items in **Green** have a positive implication, items in **Orange** have a negative implication

		GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE			
		CLUB MANAGED	RECREATION RESERVE COM	OTHER MANAGEMENT GROUP	NO MANAGEMENT
LAND OWNERSHIP TYPE	COUNCIL OWNED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Courts are being used Focus on the game of tennis Opportunity to increase participation Governance structure in place Risk management issues for council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Courts are being used Focus on tennis/recreation Opportunity to increase utilisation Governance structure in place Risk management issues for council 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited usage No or low maintenance levels Governance is not clear Risk management issues for council
	CROWN LAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Courts are being used Focus on the game of tennis Opportunity to increase participation Governance structure in place Risk management issues for State Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Courts are being used Focus on tennis/recreation Opportunity to increase utilisation Governance structure in place Risk management issues for State Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Courts not used or used for other purpose Opportunity to change the court use May have a Governance structure No or low maintenance levels Risk Management issues for State Government The focus isn't usually on tennis/recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited usage No or low maintenance levels Governance is not clear Risk Management issues for Council
	PRIVATE OWNED			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usage levels will vary Governance/responsibility may not be clear Limited role for Council or State Government Potential Risk Management Issues for volunteers Harder to attract external funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little usage Governance/responsibility unclear Limited role for Council or State Government Potential Risk Management Issues for volunteers Not suitable as a tennis facility

Appendix 5

South Gippsland Facility Matrix

TENNIS FACILITY	RANKING	COURTS	LIGHTING Y OR N	LAND OWNERSHIP	TENNIS CLUB / LAND MANAGER	NO OF MEMBERS TV 16/17	COMP PLAYED Y OR NO	CLASSIFICATION
Fish Creek Town Courts	1	2	No	Crown Land		0	No	Excess to Requirements
Loch Memorial Reserve	1	2	Yes	Freehold	Loch Reserve COM	0	No	Excess to Requirements
Welshpool Tennis Courts	1	2	No	Crown Land	Welshpool Hall Committee	0	No	Recreation
Port Welshpool Tennis Courts	1	2	No	Crown Land		0	No	Excess to Requirements
Ruby Tennis Courts	1	2	No	Freehold	Ruby Hall Committee	0	No	Excess to Requirements
Mirboo Recreation Reserve	2	2	No	Crown Land- COM	Recreation Reserve COM	0	Yes	Competition
Dumbalk Recreation Reserve	1	4	No	Crown Land- COM	Dumbalk Tennis Club	0	No	Excess to Requirements
Dumbalk East Tennis Courts	1	2	No	Council		0	No	Excess to Requirements
Port Franklin Tennis Courts	1	2	No	Freehold	Port Franklin Tennis Club	0	No	Recreation
Stony Creek Tennis Courts	1	2	No	Crown Land 1	Council	0	No	Excess to Requirements
Berry's Creek Tennis Courts	1	2	No	Freehold	Berry's Creek Tennis Club	0	No	Excess to Requirements
Strzelecki Tennis Courts	1	2	No	Freehold	Strzelecki Hall	0	No	Excess to Requirements
Trida Tennis Courts	1	2	No	Council		0	No	Excess to Requirements
Turtons Creek	1	2	No	Crown Land		0	No	Excess to Requirements
Nichols Road Tennis Courts	1	2	No	Crown Land- COM	Nichols Road Rec Reserve COM	0	No	Excess to Requirements
Allambee Tennis Courts	1	1	No	Council		0	No	Excess to Requirements
Mt Best Tennis Court	1	1	No	Freehold - Hall COM	Mt Best Hall Committee	0	No	Excess to Requirements
Terril Park (Fish Creek)	2	4	Yes	Council	Fish Creek Tennis Club	25	Yes	Competition
Meeniyan Recreation Reserve	1	2	No	Crown Land- COM	Meeniyan Tennis Club	0	No	Excess to Requirements

TENNIS FACILITY	RANKING	COURTS	LIGHTING Y OR N	LAND OWNERSHIP	TENNIS CLUB / LAND MANAGER	NO OF MEMBERS TV 16/17	COMP PLAYED Y OR NO	CLASSIFICATION
Yanakie Tennis Courts	1	2	No	Crown Land	Yanakie Hall COM	0	No	Excess to Requirements
Mardan Tennis Club	2	2	No	Council	Mardan Tennis Club	15	Yes	Recreation
Buffalo Tennis Courts	1	2	No	Crown Land	Buffalo Tennis Club	0	No	Excess to Requirements
Leongatha North Tennis Club	2	2	No	Freehold	Leongatha North Tennis Club	34	Yes	Competition
Kongwak Tennis Club	2	4	No	Council	Kongwak Tennis Club	0	Yes	Recreation
Foster Tennis Club	3	4	Yes	Crown Land	Foster Tennis Club	41	Yes	District
Korumburra Tennis Club	3	6	Yes	Council	Korumburra Tennis Club	0	Yes	District
Walter Tuck Rec Reserve (Mirboo North)	3	4	Yes	Crown Land- COM	Baromi Tennis Club	30	Yes	District
Poowong Recreation Reserve	3	4	Yes	Crown Land- COM	Poowong Tennis Club	47	Yes	Competition
Toora Tennis Courts	2	2	Yes	Council	Toora Tennis Club	0	No	Excess to Requirements
Koonwarra Recreation Reserve	3	2	No	Crown Land- COM	Koonwarra Swans Tennis Club	11	Yes	Competition
Tarwin Lower Tennis Courts	3	3	No	Crown Land	Tarwin Lower Tennis Club	0	No	Recreation
Sandy Point Tennis Club	3	2	Yes	Council	TP Taylor Reserve COM	0	No	Recreation
Dumbalk North Tennis Courts	3	2	No	Council	Dumbalk North Tennis Club	16	No	Recreation
Bena Tennis Club	3	2	No	Freehold	Bena Tennis Club	47	Yes	Competition
Nyora Recreation Reserve	3	2	No	Crown Land- COM	Nyora Tennis Club	5	Yes	Competition
Outtrim Recreation Reserve	3	2	No	Crown Land - COM	Outtrim Tennis Club	11	Yes	Competition
Hallston Tennis Courts	3	2	No	Council	Hallston Tennis Club	0	Yes	Competition
Leongatha Tennis Club	4	11	Yes	Crown Land – COM	Leongatha Tennis Club	124	Yes	Municipal



*South Gippsland
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SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL
Tennis Facilities Plan 2017
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