



South Gippsland Shire Council

SPORT & RECREATION

INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY 2020-2030

South Gippsland Shire Council

SPORT & RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY 2020-2030

A review of this document will occur in 2025.

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*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

Come for the beauty, Stay for the lifestyle

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sport and recreation (S&R) has had a long history of being passionately valued by the communities that make up the South Gippsland Shire. Generations of toil and commitment from dedicated volunteers have created a broad range of S&R facilities within the municipality. These facilities support the very high sports participation rate amongst our community.

The 2020-2030 Sport & Recreation Infrastructure Strategy (S&R Strategy) considers the broad range of facilities used by the community for sport and recreation. While Council is not directly responsible for most of this infrastructure, there is a community expectation for Council to continue to support sport and recreation facilities into the future.

The S&R Strategy considers our demographic profile and has been developed to provide data on the recreation service and its underlying asset portfolio. It aims to guide the future provision of recreation infrastructure.

The following actions are contained within this document:

ACTION 1

That Council gather participation data across major sports to guide future investment decisions.

ACTION 2

Future Council planning and budgeting should consider the full portfolio of S&R assets on public land rather than just those where Council has direct responsibility.

ACTION 3

Gather data on the variety, condition, compliance, functionality, service levels, anticipated lifespan, and value of S&R assets including associated infrastructure such as internal roads, car parking, utilites and storm water drainage.

ACTION 4

Further planning is required on the current condition, utilisation and future priorities for all reserves and stadiums across the municipality.

ACTION 5

Council to explore funding a rolling program of equipment replacement across all reserves.

ACTION 6

Develop a S&R infrastructure funding policy that details the facility components that Council will or will not fund.

ACTION 7

Develop a project development and evaluation process / policy.

INTRODUCTION

The 2020-2030 Sport & Recreation Infrastructure Strategy (S&R Strategy) seeks to identify the key issues affecting S&R and proposes principles, priorities, and actions to guide future decision making in S&R. The Active Victoria Strategy and Sport 2030 from Sport Australia assist in also providing important guidance on planning for the future provision of sport and recreation facilities.

DEFINITIONS

Sport – Active or organised sporting activities generally operated through clubs / associations/ leagues.



Recreation – Activities that can be just as active as sport but more likely to be informal or not part of a competition. Examples include walking, running, cycling, skating and surfing.



VISION FOR SPORT AND RECREATION IN SOUTH GIPPSLAND

That Council and the community support a range of facilities to continue the high participation in S&R within South Gippsland.

LINK TO COUNCIL PLAN

Strategic Objective 2 - Build Strong Partnerships, strengthen Arts & Culture, and Deliver Equitable Outcomes.

Successful Outcome - S&R facilities maintained and enhanced in partnership with the communities.

EXCLUSIONS

Actions addressing infrastructure such as aquatic facilities, open space, paths, and trails, including rail trails are not specifically addressed as part of this strategy. They are considered in other strategic documents adopted by Council e.g. Paths & Trails Strategy.

Recreation reserves that are no longer used by the community for sport are also not addressed as part of this strategy.

KEY PRINCIPLES

1. That the provision of S&R opportunities accurately reflects community needs and Council resource capacity.
2. Council will encourage and assist to maximize utilisation of S&R infrastructure from all sections of the community.
3. Council will endeavor to ensure that all S&R facilities are designed and maintained to a standard suitable with the nature and use of that facility.
4. Council will identify and allocate resources for the provision of S&R opportunities in an efficient and effective manner.
5. Council will support S&R facilities so they are managed in the most efficient and cost-effective manner that will enable the community to enjoy safe, well maintained, and managed infrastructure.
6. Council will focus on supporting S&R projects that encourage existing participation or increasing participation opportunities for our community.
7. Council acknowledges that expanding Council's S&R service will require more resources and capital funding; data collection and analysis will likely highlight the need for more funding.
8. Council will plan for the risk of volunteer burnout and facility decline and will continue its commitment to funding active recreation reserves' annual operations / maintenance grants in order to support volunteers in managing reserves for the benefit of the community.

BACKGROUND - 2007 RECREATION PLAN

The 2007 Recreation Plan was a significant planning exercise undertaken at the same time as the Public Open Space Plan. The plan included four volumes and approximately 245 pages of content.

The implementation plan established goals, strategy, policy direction, and short term actions.

- GOAL 1.** Enhance Council's influence on facility planning, provision process, and the quality of leisure experiences.
- GOAL 2.** Renew and upgrade the network of off-road cycle and walking trails throughout the shire and where feasible around each locality and key reserves.
- GOAL 3.** Encourage more people to play a sport of their choice.
- GOAL 4.** Provide a range of swimming opportunities to encourage increased participation.
- GOAL 5.** Introduce mechanisms to fund priority projects that are effective and equitable and assist with the implementation of financial and recreation planning objectives.

Many of the short-term actions identified in 2007 were subject to the availability of resources, therefore, not all actions have progressed or been completed.

KEY COMPLETED ACTIONS FROM 2007 RECREATION PLAN

- Adoption of Paths and Trails Strategy
- Master Plans for thirteen recreation reserves
- Extension of Great Southern Rail Trail and paths network
- Equestrian Facility Planning
- Aquatic Facility Planning
- Tennis Facilities Plan
- Soccer Facilities Plan
- Review pool management arrangements
- Water security and use projects at recreation reserves

The 2017/18 South Gippsland Shire Council Annual Report identifies approximately \$10M of projects across S&R that have been delivered in partnership with the community over the past decade.

LINKS TO OTHER STRATEGIES

The Recreation Strategy is one of a group of strategies that influence S&R within South Gippsland. Detailed below is the other documents related to S&R.

Public Open Space Strategy 2007 – Considers the current and future distribution, types, and usage of open space across the municipality. Active sport and passive recreation participants are often the primary users of many of these spaces.

Paths and Trails Strategy 2018 – Considers the current and future provision of paths and trails across the municipality. It identifies the importance of the provision of paths and trails in contributing to an active community such as the expansion of the Great Southern Rails Trail which is a Priority Project for Council.

Strategic Direction for Aquatic Facilities 2015-2020 – Establishes the direction for the future operation and renewal of aquatic facilities in the municipality. Aquatic facilities play an important role in active sport through swim clubs and school carnivals. Swimming continues to be one of the most popular recreation activities.

Social Infrastructure Blueprint 2015-2025 (revised 2019) – considers the utilisation of Council and other community managed and owned facilities in the Shire with the aim of providing support for socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable infrastructure into the future.

Parks, Gardens & Reserves Asset Management Plan (internal document) – Guides the whole of life management of park and garden assets and infrastructure. A similar plan is needed for community active S&R assets.

Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 – Considers the influences on the health of the community. Four priorities have been identified within the plan: Community Wellbeing, Lifestyle, Built and Natural Environment, and Health Protection.

Age Friendly South Gippsland 2017-2021 – Promotes active ageing by removing and preventing barriers that people encounter as they grow older. It ensures policies, services, and structures related to the physical and social environment are designed to support and enable residents to age actively.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The population of South Gippsland has experienced steady growth over a number of years. This is expected to increase even further in coming years, driven by residential growth in the west of the shire and a sea change / tree change exodus from Melbourne.

There are two clear items in the graphic on the following page that impact on S&R in South Gippsland.

South Gippsland Shire has a higher proportion of population in the 45+ age cohort than the average in regional Victoria.

South Gippsland Shire has a lower proportion of population in the 15-44 age cohort than the average in regional Victoria.

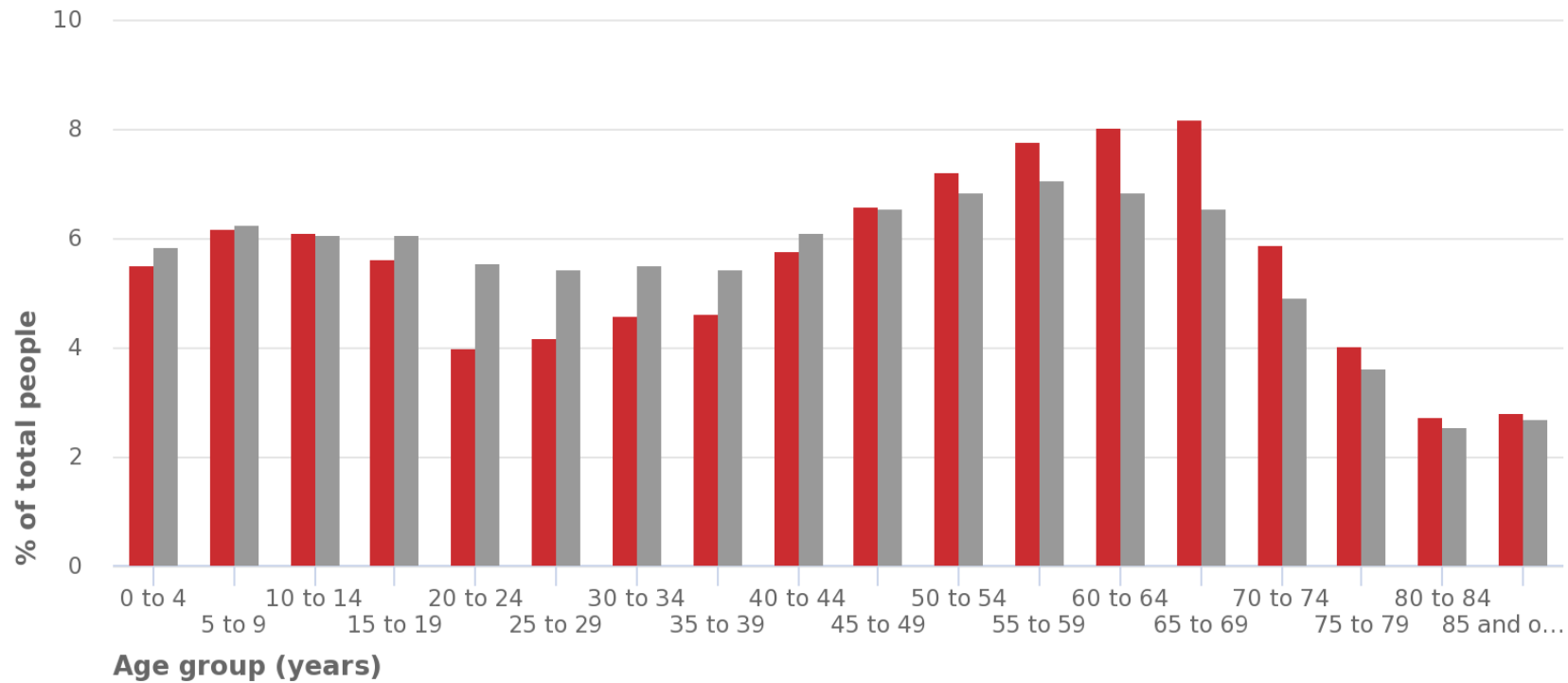
These figures mean there is likely to be increased demand for facilities to accommodate older participants. S&R activities such as bowls, croquet, golf, walking, cycling and fishing are likely to remain popular within the community. Council has recently appointed an active ageing officer to support this large portion of the community to remain active.

Conversely more active sports such as AFL, soccer, tennis and cricket may struggle to maintain previous levels of participation due to decreasing population in the 15-44 age bracket.

Age structure - five year age groups, 2016

Total persons

■ South Gippsland Shire ■ Regional VIC



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



IMPACTS OF VISITOR POPULATION

Many of the coastal communities within the municipality experience a population boom during holiday periods. While for the majority of the year the local population maybe in the 100s during summer, the population may increase into the 1000s+. This presents a challenge for the provision of S&R infrastructure. Providing facilities to accommodate the maximum population would result in facilities being under-utilised for the majority of the year.

Infrastructure in these communities is more likely to focus on more informal recreation facilities that complement the beach and water activities such as paths, playgrounds, and skate parks, rather than sports facilities.

CURRENT PARTICIPATION IN S&R

Sport remains incredibly popular within South Gippsland. Figures released by VicHealth and Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) in 2015¹ identifies that ***South Gippsland Shire has the second highest participation rate in sport in the State***. This data was based on the participation data from the following sports: AFL, Basketball, Bowls, Cricket, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Hockey, Netball, Sailing, and Tennis.

However many outdoor team sports are struggling to maintain participation in the mid-teens age cohort. This leads to challenges for clubs fielding teams in junior competitions, which with limited teams impacts on the competition and potentially the flow of players into senior competitions.

Maintaining participation amongst this age group is incredibly difficult with part time work, social activities, and school commitments all impacting. Sports may need to consider the structure and delivery of these competitions beyond what has traditionally been delivered to enable young people to continue to participate. Clubs and sports may potentially need to consider alternative competition models to continue participation in these age groups.

Any S&R activity participation figures always indicate that participation in recreation is much higher within the community compared to sport. Activities such as walking, running, cycling, aerobics, and gyms are consistently at the top of physical activities undertaken within the community. The flexible nature of these activities often makes it easier to fit activity around family, work, and other commitments.

¹ [Sports Participation Rates; Victoria 2015, Sport and Recreation Spatial October 2016](#)

SPORT / RECREATION	PARTICIPATION RATE (%)
Walking (Recreational)	46.6%
Fitness/Gym	36.0%
Athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running)	16.2%
Swimming	14.4%
Cycling	13.0%
Golf	5.6%
Yoga	5.6%
Bush walking	5.4%
Basketball	5.3%
Australian football League	4.7%
Tennis	4.5%
Pilates	4.3%
Football/soccer	4.2%
Cricket	3.4%
Netball	2.8%

AusPlay survey results January 2018 - December 2018 Participation by activity Vic - top 15 activities (adults)

ACTION 1

That Council gather participation data across major sports to guide future investment decisions.

S&R SERVICE PROVISION

WHAT IS THE SERVICE PROVIDED BY COUNCIL?

- Provide point of contact within Council for S&R stakeholders such as SRV, regional sporting groups, State Sporting Organisations (SSOs), committees, individual clubs, or users.
- Provide guidance and advice to clubs and reserve committees.
- Provide support and technical advice in planning for improvement and development of facilities and project management.
- Provide Service planning and policy development.
- Asset data collection and analysis.
- Seek and advocate for funding at a state and federal level.
- Participation in forums on S&R issues.
- Distributing annual reserve maintenance grants.
- Risk inspections of Council reserves.
- Monitor participation levels.
- Monitoring hot issues in sports.
- Volunteer support, training and recognition programs.
- Liaison with Council's Positive Ageing Officer to create opportunities for older members of the community to remain active or take up new recreation activities.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THIS SERVICE?

- No active role in the delivery or programming of S&R activities
- No governance or club development support – this is provided by bodies such as Gippsport or State Sporting Organisations (SSO) such as AFL, Football Victoria, Netball Victoria, and Tennis Victoria

S&R ASSET MANAGEMENT

There are a substantial number of facilities and infrastructure that are utilised for S&R within the community. The variety of ownership and management models creates challenges in effectively planning for the renewal of assets. These assets are often not directly the responsibility of Council. Yet the ongoing maintenance and renewal of these facilities will often rely on Council support.

A sample of these facilities includes:

- 6 indoor stadiums plus school facilities
- 5 outdoor pools
- 20 recreation reserves
- 10 bowls clubs
- 8 equestrian facilities
- 11 skate parks
- 2 croquet greens
- 7 golf clubs
- 1 racecourse
- 63 tennis courts for community use or competition

Based on this non-exhaustive list, the replacement value of these assets would likely be in excess of \$150 million.

Without a financial commitment from Council and support in attracting grant funds, the renewal or improvements to these assets will generally be beyond the capacity of local communities. This may lead to disparity in quality of facilities being provided across the municipality as Council facilities are renewed and Community managed facilities continue to age and decline.

To plan for adequate financial provisions to support S&R facilities into the future, Council needs to gather further data on the variety, condition, anticipated lifespan, and value of these assets. This data will assist future decision making regarding S&R assets within the municipality.

ACTION 2

Future Council planning and budgeting should consider the full portfolio of S&R assets on public land rather than just those where Council has direct responsibility.

ACTION 3

Gather data on the variety, condition, compliance, functionality, service levels, anticipated lifespan, and value of S&R assets including associated infrastructure such as internal roads, car parking, utilites and storm water drainage.

S&R INFRASTRUCTURE

The focus of this document tends to be on the infrastructure and facilities required for participation in sport. However participation figures indicate informal recreation activities are often undertaken much more frequently by the community.

The parkrun activities that have commenced recently at Koonwarra and Mirboo North, utilising the rails trails, are good examples of where recreation infrastructure has led to improved participation in physical activity.

Once asset data on other recreation infrastructure in public open space is collected and analysed it will assist future decision making on the management of these assets. It is likely to be beyond 2025 until the data and resources are available to effectively consider the implications of recreation infrastructure.

SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE OTHER THAN RECREATION RESERVES

While activities for some sports are primarily located on recreation reserves, other sports are conducted at various facilities on a mix of Council, Crown, and freehold land. This leads to some disparity in how these sports operate and are managed in comparison to others.



LAWN BOWLS

Of the ten lawns bowls clubs with in the municipality, eight are using synthetic surfaces. The remaining two grass greens are at very small clubs (Loch and Port Welshpool) that have been unable to provide adequate justification to secure grants to upgrade to a synthetic surface. As the use of synthetic surfaces has increased, securing grant funding towards installation or renewal has become more difficult. SRV will now not fund the renewal of surfaces as they believe clubs should have been planning and saving for the renewal from the time the surface was installed. Council has previously contributed to or supported funding applications from bowls clubs for synthetic surfaces. There is a perception that lawn bowls clubs have the capacity to raise and generate their own funds for these works. While not all clubs have this capacity, the most recent projects at Toora and Meeniyah were club funded as they were not prepared to continue to wait in the hope of securing external funding.

GOLF

Golf clubs are located on a mix of Crown Land and Freehold titles. Council has previously supported and contributed to grant funded projects at golf clubs. These projects have focussed on securing water and water efficiency / use projects. With the large areas of land required and the cost of maintaining courses in the desired condition, means there is some doubt on long term viability of seven clubs within the municipality. Council should consider supporting clubs seeking grant funding for projects that demonstrate strong justification. Clubs must be able to demonstrate their long term viability and how the project supports this, not how the project is necessary to ensure their long term viability.

SHOOTING

There are a number of gun clubs within the municipality across a number of shooting disciplines. Currently clubs are able to access grant funding for projects directly from SRV, without Council being the applicant. Continuation of this program will be subject to future State Budget allocations. Council should consider any request for support from gun clubs on the merit and benefits of each project.

MOTOR SPORTS (MOTOR CROSS AND SPEEDWAY)

There are a number of motor sports facilities across the municipality on Council, Crown and freehold land. Planning permit approval and conditions often present a challenge for motorsport clubs. Historically clubs have only accessed Council support in the form of community grants. In the future, Council should consider supporting clubs seeking grant funding for projects that demonstrate strong justification.

BMX / MOUNTAIN / TRACK AND ROAD CYCLING

The Leongatha Velodrome is a significant piece of infrastructure to support track cycling. During the 1980s, the track hosted significant cycling events that were one of the year's biggest events within the municipality. Since this time, the condition of the track has declined to the point that is no longer capable of delivering major cycling events. Participation in the local club has also undergone a major shift with the majority of members focussed on on-road cycling rather than track cycling. The future of the velodrome is likely to require further consideration during the lifespan of this strategy. Within the past two years, both BMX and Mountain Bike Clubs have started within the municipality. Both clubs have big plans and visions for the development of infrastructure at the sites they utilise. Support for future infrastructure projects should be based on participation levels and local community support, not the infrastructure aspirations of the clubs.

EQUESTRIAN / CAMP DRAFT

There are eight public equestrian and camp draft facilities plus private facilities within the municipality. All equestrian facilities are local level facilities that service the immediate surrounding area. Council has previously supported clubs with community and external grants to improve their facilities and equipment. This support should continue in the future, provided clubs can demonstrate their viability.

TENNIS

The 2017 Tennis Facilities Plan developed by Council highlighted the significant number of tennis courts within the municipality. The plan identified over one hundred tennis courts at thirty eight different sites. Condition assessments of the courts identified a large number of these court were in an unplayable condition. The adopted plan identified twenty sites that provide the best strategic opportunities to support tennis into the future. In 2018/19, Council provided a small budget allocation to support maintenance activities at these twenty sites to help maintain court condition for as long as possible. Many of these sites will require renewal, but at this stage funds have not been allocated for a renewal program in future capital budgets.

MANAGEMENT & OWNERSHIP OF RECREATION RESERVES

There are a variety of management and ownership arrangements in place throughout infrastructure utilised for S&R across the municipality. Land ownership includes Crown, Council, school and freehold land.

Due to the different types of land status/ownership models, the operation / management of the reserves and the responsibilities of Council varies.



	LAND STATUS / COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT (COM)			
	Crown Land Reserves with Crown Com	Crown Land Reserves with Council as Com	Council owned Land with Com appointed by Council	Community owned Reserves
Reserve Location	Dumbalk, Foster Recreation Reserve, Koonwarra, Leongatha, Meeniyan, Mirboo, Nyora, Outtrim, Poowong, Stony Creek, Tarwin Lower, Toora	Korumburra Recreation Reserve, Mirboo North (Walter Tuck)	Foster Showgrounds, Fish Creek, Nerrena	Korumburra Showgrounds, Welshpool, Loch
Maintenance Funding	Allocated Reserve Maintenance Grant from Council			
Maintenance Responsibility	No Council maintenance responsibility	Council responsible for maintenance and renewal via Section 86 Committee		No Council maintenance responsibility
Capital Works	Capital works generally require support and financial commitment from Council			
Public Liability Type	Crown Land Public Liability	Council Public Liability		Incorporated Association Public Liability

RECREATION RESERVE HIERARCHY

The facilities, infrastructure and demand vary greatly across the 20 active recreation reserves within the municipality. The following table identifies the hierarchy of reserves across the municipality based on participation, range of facilities and size of local community.

The hierarchy should be utilised to prioritise future investment decisions in conjunction with other evaluation criteria.

HIERARCHY	RESERVE	DESCRIPTION
Municipal	Leongatha Recreation Reserve	<p>Municipal facilities have a large catchment attracting participants from across the region.</p> <p>These facilities generally have a range of recreation facilities, large social and kitchen areas, and support infrastructure built to a high standard. Built to accommodate a large number of diverse users and activities.</p>
District	Foster Showgrounds, Korumburra Showgrounds, Mirboo North Walter Tuck Reserve	<p>District facilities generally attract people from within the Shire and neighbouring municipalities.</p> <p>Infrastructure built to accommodate large crowds that cannot be accommodated elsewhere in the district.</p>

HIERARCHY	RESERVE	DESCRIPTION
Local	Dumbalk, Foster Recreation Reserve, Koonwarra, Korumburra Recreation Reserve, Loch, Meeniyan, Nyora, Poowong, Stony Creek, Tarwin Lower, Terrill Park Fish Creek, Toora, Welshpool	Local facilities are generally built and maintained to provide for the sporting and recreation needs of the local community and township.
Hamlet	Mirboo, Nerrena, Outtrim	Hamlet facilities provide basic infrastructure to support participation in rural areas as higher level facilities are provided in reasonable proximity.

STADIUMS HIERARCHY

The following hierarchy has been developed for the public stadiums within the municipality. It recognised the dual court facilities as being at a district level with remaining stadiums being local level facilities.

HIERARCHY	LOCATION
District	SG SPLASH Leongatha, Korumburra
Local	Foster, Meeniyah, Poowong, Welshpool



Arthur Sutherland (Welshpool) Stadium Floor Replacement (2018)

CURRENT CONDITION OF S&R INFRASTRUCTURE

Over the past decade there has been significant investments made into S&R infrastructure. In particular, many projects have been completed improving netball court compliance, installing competition level lighting to sport fields, improving skate facilities, cricket net renewals, conversion of bowls clubs to synthetic surfaces, and providing off road walking and cycling paths.

However, many of the **buildings** necessary for the provision of S&R within the municipality are beginning to show their age. These facilities generally have poor accessibility, are not designed to accommodate female participation and lack adequate umpire facilities. Redeveloped facilities should address gender equity, accessibility, universal design and environmentally sustainable design during their planning. **Utilities and public toilets** are frequently need to be upgraded to support any developments or improvements to reserves.

Many of the **playing fields** lack appropriate drainage and irrigation infrastructure. This makes the work of volunteers who maintain the playing surface much more challenging and time consuming.

Trees provide significant amenity across all reserves, however, adequately maintaining and inspecting trees is often beyond the capacity of volunteer committees. While committees are capable of dealing with fallen trees and limbs after the event, there is little to no proactive tree management across recreation reserves.

The use of reserves by S&R participants generates frequent visitation to these facilities. This puts pressure on **roads, carparks, and drainage** infrastructure at the reserve. Road maintenance is frequently raised by committees as an item that requires significant time and resources to manage.

There are currently six public **Indoor Sports Stadiums**, excluding school venues, across the municipality. These facilities are strongly used and valued by their communities. Basketball in particular is enjoying very strong participation being assisted by a large number of Australian players participating at the highest level. Some of these facilities are in good condition whilst others

have challenges with court compliance, condition of change and kiosk facilities, and accessibility in and around the building. Addressing these concerns across all facilities should be a higher priority than providing additional indoor courts at existing stadiums.

Funding models are changing to reflect the government's interest in investing in existing school stadiums or new stadiums co-located in education precincts. Examples of school stadiums in the municipality are Leongatha Primary / Secondary College, Korumburra Secondary College, Mirboo North Primary / Secondary College, Foster Secondary College, Toora Primary School, Mary McKillop Regional College (Leongatha), and St. Laurence's Primary School (Leongatha).

The following pages provide a preliminary assessment and rating of the condition of S&R infrastructure at active recreation reserves and stadiums.

PRELIMINARY INFRASTRUCTURE CONDITION ASSESSMENT – To be confirmed by data collection process														
Recreation Reserve Name	Reserve Hierarchy	Locality	Changeroom Condition	Female Friendly Facilities	Public Toilets	Storage	Roads	Car Parking	Drainage	Sportsfield Lighting	Fencing	Trees Condition	Oval surface	Hard Courts
Leongatha Recreation Reserve	Municipal	Leongatha	●●	No	●	●	●●	●●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Foster Showgrounds	District	Foster	●	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Korumburra Showgrounds	District	Korumburra	●	No	●	●	●●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Walter Tuck Recreation Reserve	District	Mirboo North	●	No	●	●	●	●	●	●●	●	●	●●	●
Arthur Sutherland Recreation Reserve	Local	Welshpool	●	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	No	●	●	●	●
Dumbalk Recreation Reserve	Local	Dumbalk	●	No	●	●	●	●	●	No	●	●	●	●
Foster Recreation Reserve	Local	Foster	●	No	No	●	●	●	●	No	●	●	●	●
John Terrill Memorial Park Recreation Reserve	Local	Fish Creek	●	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Koonwarra Recreation Reserve	Local	Koonwarra	●	No	●	●	●	●	●	No	●	●	●	●
Korumburra Recreation Reserve	Local	Korumburra	●	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Not in use
Loch Memorial Reserve	Local	Loch	●	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Not in use
Meeniyan Recreation Reserve	Local	Meeniyan	●	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●●
Nyora Recreation Reserve	Local	Nyora	●	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Poowong Recreation Reserve	Local	Poowong	●	No	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Stony Creek Recreation Reserve	Local	Stony Creek	●	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve	Local	Tarwin Lower	●	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Toora Recreation Reserve	Local	Toora	●	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Mirboo Recreation Reserve	Hamlet	Mirboo	●	No	●	●	●	●	●	No	●	●	No	●
Nerrena Recreation Reserve	Hamlet	Nerrena	●	No	●	●	●	●	●	No	●	●	●	No
Outtrim Recreation Reserve	Hamlet	Outtrim	●	No	●	●	●	●	●	No	●	●	●	●

Exclusions: Social Rooms, shelters and other club infrastructure, single sporting purpose reserves and inactive sporting reserves. Note: All building refurbishment projects will trigger accessibility requirements.

● Adequate ● Basic ● Inadequate

These ratings are in no way intended to be critical of the efforts of volunteers in the development, maintenance, and operation of these facilities and the wonderful benefits they provide to their communities.

PRELIMINARY STADIUM ASSESSMENT				
STADIUM FACILITIES	COURT COMPLIANCE (*BASKETBALL)	AMENITIES	KIOSK	ACCESSIBILITY
SG SPLASH Leongatha	●	●	●	●
Korumburra	●	●	●	●
Poowong	●	●	●	●
Meeniyan	●	●	●	●
Foster	●	●	●	●
Welshpool	●	●	●	●

● Adequate ● Basic ● Inadequate

These ratings are in no way intended to be critical of the efforts of volunteers in the development, maintenance, and operation of these facilities and the wonderful benefits they provide to their communities.

ACTION 4

Further planning is required on the current condition, utilisation and future priorities for all reserves and stadiums across the municipality.

CURRENT ANNUAL INVESTMENT

Council currently invests in the maintenance and capital improvements to S&R infrastructure across the municipality. Council is generally not involved in the day to day operation and maintenance of recreation facilities and is reliant on volunteers to fulfil this role. A conservative estimate if council was to take over all maintenance activities currently undertaken by volunteers across recreation reserves would be \$1 million (\$50,000 per reserve). This is a significant risk to Council, should volunteers withdraw their considerable and invaluable efforts.

An annual allocation of capital works money used to support clubs to access external grants is approximately \$200,000. When combined with club and external grant funds, this allocation generally delivers in excess of \$800,000 worth of improvements to S&R facilities.

Developing modern, accessible, unisex, and multi-user facilities that comply to standards of state sporting organisations incurs a significant cost. In particular, the cost to renew or replace buildings at recreation reserves and indoor sports stadiums can easily range from \$1 million to \$4 million plus. While grant funding programs have increased dollar amounts available, it then requires a greater level of matching funds from the community and Council. It is anticipated that there will be increased pressure on Council to support building renewals and upgrades as existing facilities age.

Sporting clubs and recreation reserves also make up a significant portion of community grant allocations made each year which is managed by Council's Community Strengthening team. This is used to replace items of equipment, minor facilities upgrades, and planning for larger scale redevelopments and improvements.

**\$235,000 Annual Reserve
Maintenance Grants.**

**Public toilet cleaning at some
reserves and assistance with
preparation for major events such as
finals and The Great Victorian Bike
Ride.**

VOLUNTEERS DELIVERING S&R

The high participation rate in S&R in South Gippsland is a direct result the level of volunteer participation in the sector. Currently 29 per cent of our population are active volunteers compared to a state average of 18 per cent. One of the greatest risks to the future provision of S&R in the municipality is securing enough volunteer effort to enable participation to continue.

This is particularly challenging considering the following factors:-

- There appears to be declining rates of volunteer participation in younger age groups. They are less likely to have a formal role on committees due to the required time commitment and challenging nature of these roles.
- Long term volunteers are getting older and needing to wind back on commitments or are unable are to continue in previous roles.
- Obligations on volunteers are increasing with greater requirements from governing bodies, higher participant expectations, increasing professionalism of activities and sports clubs being used to achieve social change.

The task of volunteers is also often hampered by the equipment available to complete tasks. Old, second hand equipment that has to be fixed rather than replaced only adds to the challenges faced by committees.

ACTION 5

Council to explore funding a rolling program of equipment replacement across all reserves.

FUTURE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AT RECREATION RESERVES AND STADIUMS

Council needs to ensure that future investment is focussed on infrastructure that provides the greatest community benefit and supports S&R activity.

The tables below identifies draft core and optional components that will be utilised in the evaluation of future project proposals.

DRAFT CORE COMPONENTS - SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHAT IS SUPPORTED BY COUNCIL IF FUNDING IS AVAILABLE AND PROJECTS MEET EVALUATION CRITERIA	
Appropriate pavilion and amenities (multiuse where possible)	Safety/compliance and Risk Measures
Appropriate storage space	Public toilets to accommodate regular activities
Playing surfaces (grounds including drainage and irrigation, hard courts)	Training standard lighting
Building and surrounds accessibility	Water security
Functional signage	Fencing

DRAFT OPTIONAL COMPONENTS –SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHAT IS FUNDED BY THE CLUB / COMMUNITY	
Commercial / catering kitchen	Additional storage (in addition to core component)
Bar facilities	Bins
Meeting room(s)	Match standard lighting
Social rooms or costs associated with incorporating social rooms in pavilion refurbishment or construction	Sponsorship signage
Gymnasium	Event / camping infrastructure (power upgrades, dump points, event public toilets)

ACTION 6

Develop a S&R infrastructure funding policy that details the facility components that Council will or will not fund.

PROJECT PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION

Council Officers frequently work with clubs to plan and scope projects for improvements to facilities. This work generally occurs in distinct stages over many years. Any proposals that relate to upgrade, expansion or new recreation facilities will be assessed through Council's Social Infrastructure Blueprint (Blueprint) evaluation process.

The first stage is demonstrating the strategic support and evaluation against criteria and demand for the proposed improvement usually via a reserve master plan or similar strategic document followed by the Blueprint evaluation.

The second stage is defining the scope and proposed cost of the project through development of concept designs and initial cost estimates.

Once this information is available Council Officers consult with external funding bodies such as S&R Victoria to consider opportunities to secure funds for the delivery of the project.

The third stage is confirming the validity of the project via business case or feasibility assessment and if required further design to confirm project cost.

The fourth stage is a financial commitment from the club and seeking Council support to seek funding and provide a financial commitment to the project should a funding application be successful.

Projects are generally only considered for funding once all stages are completed. Experience has shown that projects that have not completed these stages are rarely successful in securing funding. As a result of this process, South Gippsland has an exceptional strike rate in securing grant funding for S&R projects.

The downside to this process is that the projects put forward may not be the most urgent, nor may they be the highest priority, or have the strongest strategic support. Some clubs are required to commit a large financial contribution to the project and undertake planning over many years. This can result in projects that are ready to put forward rather than projects that potentially have greater impact.

As greater information and data on the condition of S&R infrastructure becomes available, this may necessitate changes to how projects are identified and prioritised.

ACTION 7

Develop a project development and evaluation process / policy.

KEY FUTURE CHALLENGES IN S&R

- Volunteer burnout / drop off.
- Infrastructure condition decline.
- Impacts of an aging population on participation in S&R.
- Securing adequate resources internally and externally.
- Increasing community expectations.
- Broadening participation beyond traditional sports (AFL, Cricket, Tennis) requiring a greater range of facilities.
- Escalating cost of facility renewal projects driven by State Sporting Organisations (SSOs) infrastructure guidelines and compliance.
- Risk of having to actively manage recreation reserves and stadiums if volunteer efforts decline
- The condition of roads and vehicle entrances are an important issue for every reserve. While many reserves aspire to have completely sealed roads and parking areas, others would just like to see improvements to gravel surfaces. Road improvement projects have not been included in recreation reserve project lists as Council will need to consider how to deal with these issues in the future.

KEY PRIORITIES (NEXT 10 YEARS)

- Stadiums renewal planning.
- Tennis facility maintenance and renewal.
- Change facility and public toilet renewal at recreation reserves.
- Supporting committees implementing projects consistent with Reserve Master Plans, funding opportunities, and Council priorities.
- Future Planning for the Leongatha Recreation Reserve.
- Asset management data collection and planning for all recreation reserves.
- Help our volunteers keep our community active.

RECREATION RESERVE PRIORITIES

FUNDING HAS NOT BEEN ALLOCATED FOR THESE PROJECTS

MANAGEMENT: COUNCIL LAND – S86 COMMITTEE OR LEASE

RESERVE	PROJECT	EST. COST
Foster Showgrounds	Oval drainage / irrigation / resurface	\$350,000
	Stadium upgrades	\$2,500,000
	Playground future renewal and maintenance	TBC
	Tree maintenance	TBC
Terrill Park	Oval lighting	\$300,000
	Oval drainage / irrigation / resurface	\$350,000
	Tree maintenance	TBC
Nerrena	Heritage build maintenance	TBC
	Change facilities and equipment storage	TBC
	Playground renewal and maintenance	TBC
	TOTAL	\$3,500,000 +

MANAGEMENT: CROWN LAND - COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT – S86 COMMITTEE

RESERVE	PROJECT	EST. COST
Mirboo North	New Indoor Stadium	\$4,000,000
	New changerooms to accommodate users of both ovals or Existing changeroom refurbishment	\$1,500,000
	New soccer / cricket building	\$800,000
	Entrance Relocation	TBC
	Tree maintenance	TBC
	Main Oval Levelling	\$300,000
	Main oval lighting	\$300,000
Korumburra Recreation Reserve	Lights	\$300,000
	Ground reshape	\$200,000
	Cricket nets / synthetic futsal space	\$400,000
	Tree maintenance	TBC
	TOTAL	\$7,100,000 +

MANAGEMENT: CROWN LAND – LOCAL CROWN COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

RESERVE	PROJECT	EST. COST
Leongatha	Future Reserve Planning	\$40,000
	New ground to accommodate athletics	\$1,500,000
	Junior Football/ umpires/netball pavilion	\$1,500,000
	Tree maintenance	TBC
Meeniyan	Future of old tennis courts	TBC
	Tree maintenance	TBC
	Improve umpire rooms to accommodate females	TBC
	Oval Lights	\$300,000
Poowong	Change facilities renewal	\$800,000
	Social Rooms	TBC
	Netball / Tennis Court improvements	TBC
Tarwin Lower	Pavilion renewal	\$800,000
	Playground installation	TBC
	Bowls club surface replacement	TBC
Nyora	Change and social pavilion	\$2,000,000
	Public Toilet improvements	TBC
	Additional playing surface as town grows	TBC

RESERVE	PROJECT	EST. COST
Toora	Social rooms	\$800,000
	Change facilities renewal	\$800,000
	Netball changeroom	\$400,000
Outtrim	TBC	TBC
Stony Creek	Changeroom improvements	\$1,500,000
	Building maintenance	TBC
	Equestrian and Race Club improvements	TBC
Foster Recreation	Recycled Water irrigation for oval	\$100,000
	Tree maintenance	TBC
	Tennis Court Maintenance	\$5,000
Dumbalk	Oval drainage	\$50,000
	Tree maintenance	TBC
	Camp draft expansion	TBC
	Future of old tennis courts	TBC
Koonwarra	Toilets / Changeroom	\$300,000
	Tree maintenance	TBC
	Playground and passive space improvements	\$300,000
Mirboo	Tennis court Maintenance	\$2,000

RESERVE	PROJECT	EST. COST
	Public Toilet Renewal	TBC
	TOTAL	\$11,197,000 +

MANAGEMENT: FREEHOLD LAND

RESERVE	PROJECT	EST. COST
Korumburra Showgrounds	Female Changeroom	\$ 800,000
	Public Toilets	\$ 200,000
	Skate Park removal	TBC
Welshpool	Oval Surface	\$50,000
	Training lights	\$100,000
	Future of old tennis/ netball court	TBC
Loch	Ground Lighting	TBC
	Ground drainage and Irrigation	TBC
	TOTAL	\$1,150,000+
	TOTAL ALL RESERVES	\$22,947,000+

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
ACTION 1 - That Council gather participation data across major sports to guide future investment decisions.	Collect data		Collect data		Collect data
ACTION 2 - Future Council planning and budgeting should consider the full portfolio of sport and recreation assets on public land rather than just those where Council has direct responsibility.	No specific implementation plan action required	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor
ACTION 3 - Gather data on the variety, condition, compliance, functionality, service levels, anticipated lifespan and value of sport and recreation assets including associated infrastructure such as internal roads, car parking, utilities and storm water drainage.	Collect data Subject to resource availability	Collect data Subject to resource availability	Collect data Subject to resource availability	Collect data Subject to resource availability	Collect data Subject to resource availability

	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
ACTION 4 -Further planning is required on the current condition and future priorities for all reserves and stadiums across the municipality.	Basketball Facilities Plan	AFL / Netball Facilities Plan	Cricket Facilities Plan	Review Tennis and Soccer Facilities Plans	Golf and Bowls Facilities Plans
ACTION 5 - Council to explore funding a rolling program of equipment replacement across all reserves.	Subject to future budget consideration	Subject to future budget consideration	Subject to future budget consideration	Subject to future budget consideration	Subject to future budget consideration
ACTION 6 - Develop a Sport and Recreation infrastructure funding policy that details the facility components that Council will or will not fund.	Commence	Complete	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor
ACTION 7 - Develop a project development and evaluation process / policy.	To be based on Social Infrastructure Blueprint		Develop a prioritised projects list from initial reserve data and completed facility plans		

South Gippsland Shire Council

SPORT & RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY 2020-2030

A review of this document will occur in 2025.

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Adopted 24 June 2020



South Gippsland Shire Council

SPORT & RECREATION

INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY 2020-2030