



Small Town Sports Sustainability Strategy

2025-2035



Acknowledgement of Country

Moira Shire Council acknowledges Yorta Yorta Nation as the Traditional Owners of this land. We recognize the deep spiritual connection to land, waterways and community of the eight clan groups of Yorta Yorta Nation.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Acknowledgements

Moira Shire Council recognises the community groups and organisations that contributed to the development of this strategy including; local Sports Clubs and User Groups, Community Asset Committees, Valley Sport and Sport and Recreation Victoria



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Strathmerton
Football Netball Club

Executive Summary

Moira Shire Small Town Sports Sustainability Strategy (the Strategy) underpins Council's commitment to ensuring sport and active recreation continues and thrives in all Shire communities. It acknowledges the importance of ensuring long-term local access to sport, and community sporting facilities, for the ongoing social, economic and physical health of all residents in our smaller communities.

This strategy involves two parts:

1. Acknowledging the six key drivers of small town sport sustainability and outlining actions for supporting sustainability
2. The assessment of facilities and the provision of Master Plans for each small-town Reserve.

Background

Moira Shire is located on the Murray River in Northern Victoria and comprises the major centres of Cobram, Nathalia, Numurkah and Yarrawonga, as well as 18 smaller towns and communities.

The population of Moira Shire in 2021 was 30,351. The median age is 48 years, compared to all of Regional Victoria at 38 years. It has a higher proportion of people aged over 60 years (34.0%) compared to all of Regional Victoria (29.4%). Moira Shire's population is projected to grow by an estimated 4,323 people to 2041, or an increase of 14.2% from its 2021 population.

Moira Shire's working population is mostly employed across five industries which include: agriculture, healthcare & social assistance, manufacturing, construction and retail trade.

Moira Shire Council was formed in 1994 from the amalgamation of the Shire of Cobram, Shire of Nathalia, Shire of Numurkah, and parts of the shire of Tungamah and Shire of Yarrawonga. This amalgamation has resulted in a large number of Recreation assets being vested in the Shire to maintain and develop, across a vast geographic area with a relatively small population. Council's Recreation Strategy identified that there is an oversupply of some sporting facilities throughout the Shire.

Sport, in particular football and netball, is synonymous with the towns of Moira Shire. For decades, residents have connected socially through participation in club sport and to this day it remains the fabric of the community. However, due to the changes in population and demographics over time, smaller town clubs have had to adapt the way they attract and retain players and volunteers.

Future Sustainability

The future sustainability of small town sports will be dependent on strong partnerships between clubs, committees, sporting associations, local and state government.

This strategy focuses on ways that all stakeholders can work to drive increased local participation and work towards the ongoing viability of sports clubs within our small communities.

Related Reports, Strategies and Plans

State Plans

- Active Victoria 2022-2026, Sport and Recreation Victoria
- Netball Victoria Statewide Facilities Strategy
- AFL Preferred Community Facility Guidelines 2024
- Tennis Victoria - Facilities Framework 2024
- Cricket Australia Community Cricket Facility Guidelines 2023
- The Value of Community Sport Infrastructure 2018 (National)

Council Reports, Strategies and Plans

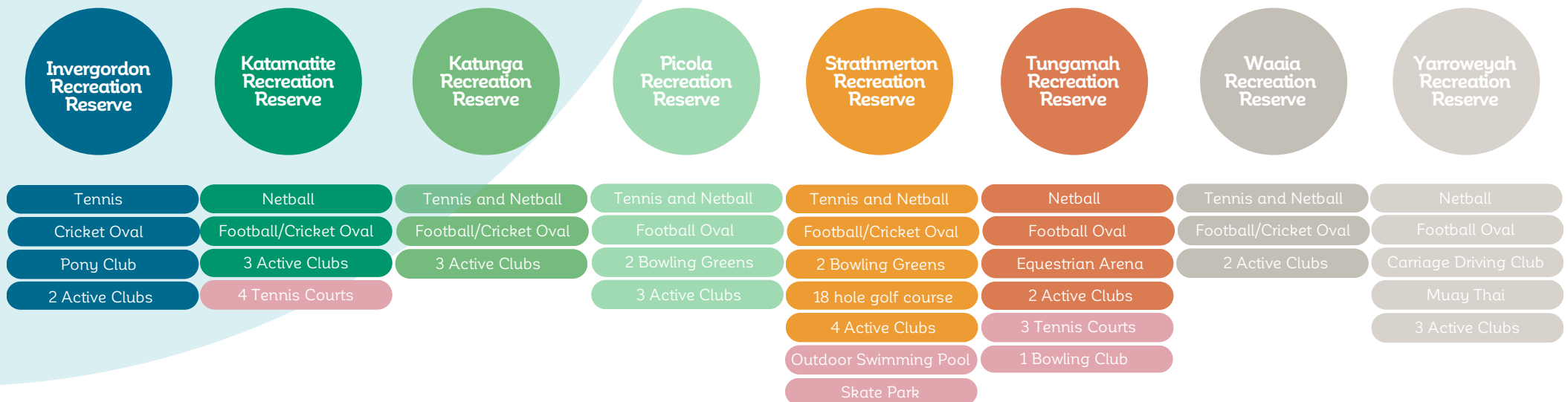
- Council Plan 2025-2029
- Wellbeing for All Ages Strategy 2021-2025
- Moira 2045 Community Vision
- Play Strategy (2023)
- Small Towns and Settlement Strategy Plan (2013)
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2017-2021
- Recreation Strategy 2016-2026
- Moira Shire Asset Management Plan
- Cricket Review and Analysis (2021)
- Moira Shire Community Plans (Strathmerton, Waaia, Tungamah, Katamatite)
- Community Asset Committee Operations Manual
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2017-2021
- Jubilee Park Tungamah Recreation Reserve and Community Centre Strategic and Master Plan (2017)
- Katamatite Recreation Reserve Master Plan (2008)
- Katunga Recreation Reserve and Community Centre Strategic and Master Plan (2018)
- Strathmerton Recreation Reserve Master Plan (2013)

Purpose

The purpose of this strategy is to provide clear aspirations that are aimed at enhancing the sustainability of sport in our smaller townships including how relevant partners can work to ensure the equity of sports facility provision and opportunities for club and association development with the ultimate goal of increasing sports participation at a local level proportionate to the population.

Scope

The Small Town Sports Sustainability Strategy focuses on the following eight small town recreation reserves and their respective users.



These small towns have populations of between 500-1000 people. It is acknowledged that recreation reserves exist and prosper in smaller localities, however they do not require master planning in this context.

Other notable facilities (not located at Small Town Recreation Reserves)

The importance of small town sport

What happens when the community sport leaves a small town?

The impacts can be felt through:

- Reduced community connectedness, particularly for those employed/involved in agricultural work.
- Poorer physical health outcomes
- Poorer mental health outcomes
- Increased costs/travel time for those who continue to participate further from home.

What becomes of the facilities when a club merges or folds? They don't disappear. Council must, at significant cost, maintain these facilities to a safe standard regardless of how often they are used. Often the land is Crown-owned, and therefore selling, divesting or reclassifying the land can be a lengthy and difficult process.

Re-establishing user groups at the reserves is possible, however, it is extremely difficult once the community is disengaged or committed to participating elsewhere.

It is paramount the future infrastructure investment is guided where long term viability of sports is highly probable, and where necessary, discussions around mergers / transition is supported appropriately if this will enhance the sustainability of small town sports.

The role of Community Asset Committees

All of the Reserves are located on Crown land and managed by Moira Shire Council, who in turn under the provision of Section 65 of the Local Government Act 2020 have appointed volunteer "Community Asset Committee's" (C.A.C's.) to oversee its day to day operations as well as support any future developments (except for Invergordon which is managed as a 'Friends of Group').

Moira Shire C.A.C.'s have some flexibility relating to their composition, however the Moira Shire Council Community Asset Committee Operations Manual 2020 recommends a mix of user group and/or community representatives, limiting any single user group to two representatives.



The site of the former
Wunghnu Football Netball Club

Small towns club membership trend

Sports Club/Community Group	Stable	Increased	Declined	Ceased
Katunga Football Netball Club		◆		
Yarrowonga Mulwala Adult Riding Club*			◆	
Invergordon Cricket Club	◆			
Katamatite Football Netball Club			◆	
Katamatite Cricket Club	◆			
Yarroweyah Football Netball Club			◆	
Tungamah Football Netball Club	◆			
Katunga Cricket Club	◆			
Katunga Tennis Club	◆			
Strathmerton Football Netball Club	◆			
Strathmerton Cricket Club			◆	
Strathmerton Bowling Club			◆	
Strathmerton Golf Club	◆			
Picola United Football Netball Club	◆			
Picola Tennis Club			◆	
Picola Bowls Club	◆			
Waaia Football Netball Club	◆			
Waaia Cricket Club	◆			
Waaia Indoor Bowls	◆			
Invergordon Football Netball Club				1987
Yarroweyah Tennis Club				1999
Yarroweyah Cricket Club				2003
Picola Cricket Club				2008
Wunghnu Football Netball Club				2011
Tungamah Cricket Club				2015
Invergordon Indoor Bowls				2018
Waaia Tennis Club				2021
Strathmerton Tennis Club				2022
Invergordon Tennis Club				-

These trends are based on club membership from 2020 to 2024.
*operate from the Tungamah Recreation Reserve



Issues and trends

“Community sport plays a vital role in the Australian way of life. It has the power to enhance lives, greatly improve physical and mental health, and bring people together in a way that few other endeavours can”.

Source: Clubs Under Pressure, Australian Sports Foundation

The Australian Sports Foundation’s (ASF) research conducted in early 2023 identified the following five overall challenges faced by clubs:

1. Almost one in four small clubs (1-199 members) are considering closing their doors.
2. Rising costs are impacting participation and pushing many clubs toward insolvency.
3. Teenagers are continuing to disengage with community sport.
4. Clubs are struggling with less volunteers and more administration.
5. Clubs want facilities, participation and volunteer support ahead of 2032.

‘Small town’ sports clubs face further challenges. The most significant being:

- Insufficient number of volunteers.
- Obtaining funds (fundraising, sponsorships, grants etc).
- Administration / administration load.
- Getting new memberships / registrations.
- Obtaining funding to upgrade / renew / maintain facilities.

Decreasing player / volunteer numbers

Some of the challenges for small towns clubs in attracting players / volunteers include:

- Many small towns do not have the local population to sustain the required number of teams, and as such rely on players from larger towns, outside the Shire, or even Melbourne.
- There are more choices of available sporting and recreation activities in large towns.
- For tennis and bowls, there has been a general trend of decline in participation in club-based pennant competitions.
- The general trend towards unstructured recreation activities.
- The rising cost of participating in sport is an issue for families, particularly in light of the rising cost of living. Families are looking for low-cost/ free alternatives for physical activity, such as walking and bike riding.
- The increasing workload and responsibility burden placed on sports club volunteers is a deterrent.
- The trend for young adults and families to participate in physical activity on weekdays to enable their weekends to be free for socialising and/or family time has made traditional weekend sporting involvement less attractive.

Sustaining competition

Provision of facilities

There are more than 100 active sports clubs within Moira, located across over 20 recreation reserves. Moira has a large geographic area and a relatively low residential population. This equates to one recreation reserve per 1686 people.

Moira Shire's Recreation Strategy found that when compared to industry benchmarks and facility mapping there is a potential oversupply of football ovals, cricket ovals and netball courts, and a satisfactory supply and distribution of tennis courts and bowling greens.

It is not financially sustainable for all facilities to be upgraded in the short to medium term, and users and Council should be open to and facilitate conversations around targeted investment into infrastructure with a view to facility sharing between clubs and associations or the possibility of longer term mergers.

The quality of the sporting infrastructure in small town reserves is varied in all criteria, including condition, whether they are fit for purpose, functionality, and levels of compliance with building codes and accessibility.

Facilities that are not female friendly and facilities that are not accessible can have a negative impact on participation.

Some of the constraints for Council and clubs to source the capital costs required to develop facilities include:

- Rising costs in the building industry for facility developments and upgrades, compounded in rural and regional locations.
- Grant funding levels of historic State Government funding programs not increasing at the same rate of construction industry costs.
- Reduced number and value of Federal and State Government grants.
- Greater competition for sponsorship funds.
- Increasing complexity of grants process and requests for information which are becoming more difficult for clubs and volunteers to respond to.
- Lack of affiliation with sporting associations and peak bodies.



Tungamah Equestrian Arena



Residual impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic

The Australian Sports Commission released a report in 2021 describing the impacts of the COVID 19 restrictions on organised sport. It found:

- An estimated 9000 clubs around Australia are at risk of collapse. Many more clubs simultaneously face reduced revenue and increased running costs, threatening financial stability.
- 43% of clubs reported reduced participation, most prominent among younger Australians. Both keeping members engaged and finding new members were significant challenges.
- 42% of clubs lost volunteers due to increased pressures and workload related to implementing COVID-19 protocols.
- 40% of clubs reported a decline in participation among teens (aged 11-18 years). Young Australians form the lifeblood of community sport and their withdrawal from it is likely to continue to negatively impact clubs in the future.







It shows that there was a significant decrease in children's participation in organised sport, largely due to the restrictions placed on community gatherings.

Ongoing border closures and travel restrictions throughout 2020 and 2021 further impacted Moira clubs as footballers and netballers were unable to compete regularly for almost two years, which may have affected their motivation to return to playing once competition resumed.

Strategic drivers for “sustainable” sport in Moira

Sustainable sports provision in small towns means that local participation (player and volunteer numbers) remain stable or increase, and for participation to be inclusive of all ages, genders, abilities and cultural backgrounds.

The 6 drivers of small town sport sustainability are:

-  Family / Community Centred Focus
-  Opportunities for women and girls
-  Healthy Clubs
-  Flourishing Competition
-  Increased involvement of State Sporting Associations and Regional Sports Assemblies
-  Equitable standard of facilities





Family centred focus

Factors that can positively influence sports participation include:

- parental and family support
- peer interaction
- positive environment
- venue accessibility

Factors that can negatively influence sports participation include:

- the cost and time burden of travel
- the expense of training and competition
- inconvenient training times

Given that Moira is such a broad geographic area, and most sports participants will regularly travel for over an hour to compete in sport, it is a financial advantage where all family members can participate at the same venue.

It is important that families are not further pressured by having to transport multiple children to different venues, and that parents and children are able to forge strong community connections by being involved with and competing for the same club.

Clubs can strategically seek to provide opportunities for all members of a family to be involved, through social events, competitive participation, coaching, volunteering or officiating.



Recommended Action 1:

Partner with Valley Sport to introduce a training program that specifically addresses the “participation for whole of life” approach to club planning and programming.

Recommended Timeframe:

2 years



Recommended Action 2:

Valley Sport to introduce a ‘place based’ action plan for each small town that focuses on junior participation in sport.

Recommended Timeframe:

2 years



Opportunities for women and girls

Traditionally, women and girls have had a strong connection to sport in Moira, most predominantly through the sports of netball, bowls and tennis. However, Moira lags behind other Victorian LGA's when it comes to female participation in Australian Rules Football, soccer, and cricket.

Female participation in cricket in Moira is low, in comparison to state-wide figures. Currently, females are able to compete in junior cricket up to the age of 16, when the competitions become male-only. For females who are older than 16 and want to continue to compete, the closest available female competition is the Goulburn Murray Cricket Competition.

As of 2025, Nathalia and Katamatite are the only Moira clubs to field senior women's cricket, while Nathalia offers senior women and youth girls football, and Cobram offers senior women and junior soccer teams. Further participation outside of these opportunities would require travel outside of Moira Shire.

While it is clear that some females are playing junior cricket, football and soccer, they are largely not transitioning to senior competition. Barriers may include:

- No available competition, or appropriate competition
- Lack of skill development/ pathways
- Friends are playing other sports/ competing interests
- Gendered norms (e.g. a sport for boys, girls play netball)
- Cost
- Time
- The importance of childcare.
- Unwelcoming/ unfriendly environments



If female participation was to grow to a point where clubs were fielding female football and cricket teams, competition structures would need to accommodate additional games. This can only be achieved through innovative scheduling of training and competition, including mid-week hosting of games for female competitions, where ground usage capacity is available.

Moira Shires Fair Access Policy (Community Sport) acknowledges that some individuals and groups within the community are disadvantaged in terms of being able to access sport and recreation opportunities to participate. Women and girls have equal rights to participate, however in some settings, there are traditional barriers that limit participation. The removal of these barriers will be the focus of the policy and accompanying action plan.

Female friendly facilities' are facilities that cater for the needs of both males and females, and can include private showers, hand basins with bench space and power points to enable personal grooming following sports participation, and baby change facilities. They do not include urinals in player change room amenity areas, and open showers.

Many sporting pavilions do not have female change rooms, are not accessible to women and girls, or are only available at inconvenient times. This was reinforced by the Victorian Government's "Safe and Strong, A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy 2016" which found that one of the factors impacting female participation rates in sport and recreation was a "lack of access to appropriate facilities".



Recommended Action 3:

Implement the Moira Shire Sport and Recreation Fair Access Policy Action Plan across small town reserves, with particular focus on:

- Women and girls having equitable access to, and use of infrastructure that:
 - Is of the highest quality and convenience
 - Is available at the best and most popular competitions, training times and locations
 - Support existing and new participation opportunities, and a variety of sports.
- Encouraging and supporting all user groups who access and use community sport infrastructure to understand, adopt and implement gender equitable access and use practices.
- Prioritising access, use and support to all user groups who demonstrate an on going commitment to gender equitable access and use of allocated community sport infrastructure.

Recommended Timeframe:

1-4 years

Healthy clubs

Community sports clubs can—and do—play a pivotal role in both broader health promotion and reinforcing community values, particularly in rural communities. Healthy and thriving sporting environments extend beyond the playing field. They are welcoming, family-friendly and inclusive of all in the community. They promote and reinforce healthy and respectful attitudes and foster a culture that supports health and wellbeing.

What does a Healthy Club look like?

- Club is well governed, and all finances are managed responsibly.
- Alcohol is served responsibly.
- Injury prevention and management is part of the club's safety plan.
- People from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds are provided with safe, supportive and meaningful opportunities to participate.
- Costs to participate and spectate are not prohibitive.
- Women can participate in safe environments free from the fear of violence.
- Aboriginal and culturally diverse community members participate in environments that value diversity and are free from discrimination.
- Clubs has a welcoming, family-friendly image, making them better placed to recruit and retain members, and attract more spectators at games and people at social events.

Creating a healthier culture can also add value to sports clubs, with the potential benefits ranging from getting more players on the field to increased sponsorship opportunities.

According to a recent “club health” check by Valley Sport, in which clubs were surveyed in relation to club governance and planning, it was found that clubs within Moira tend to need the most assistance with things like financial reporting, marketing, running Annual General Meetings, producing future (5 and 10 year) plans, succession planning, and retaining volunteers.



Recommended Action 4:

Valley Sport to conduct Club Health checks for small town clubs annually to ensure support is targeted to areas of greatest need.

Recommended Timeframe:

2 years



Recommended Action 5:

Valley Sport to continue to work with reserve committees and tenant sporting clubs to activate small town recreation reserves and provide appropriate knowledge and support to clubs and organisation's using reserves.

Recommended Timeframe:

2 years



Recommended Action 6:

Promote a program to connect disengaged residents in small towns who could potentially benefit by becoming actively involved with a sporting club as a volunteer assisting with tasks, such as canteen and bar serving, collecting gate takings, cleaning facilities, organising events, etc., or simply become a match day supporter.

Recommended Timeframe:

2 years





Flourishing competition

Netball

Netball participation in Moira is strong. All clubs field four senior and four junior netball teams in the PDNFL.

In relation to player development and pathways for young people, six of the seven clubs conduct Net Set Go, (an introductory netball program for primary aged girls). Junior participation coming out of the introductory program into the younger age groups is solid, with each club fielding U11s, U13s, U15s, and U17s netball teams. There is robust competition for court time for the junior players, and team selection is very competitive. This has a bottleneck effect, which may lead some girls to seek opportunities playing association netball in larger towns, switch to other sports or cease participation altogether.

Netball Victoria are concerned that if a club is unable to field the required number of football teams and goes into recess, that the netball section would also discontinue. It is in the interest of netball that football participation likewise remains strong and sustainable.

Cricket

Five of the eight small towns have cricket clubs. Three are affiliated with the Murray Valley Cricket Association (Katamatite, Strathmerton and Katunga) and two affiliated with Cricket Shepparton (Invergordon and Waaia).

Four of the clubs conduct a Cricket Blast program (the introductory cricket program for children up to 10 years), which is important for the ongoing future of clubs as it encourages children to progress into junior cricket teams. Whilst clubs are responsible for running the Cricket Blast program, Cricket Victoria provides coaching and administration support, session curriculums, and all the necessary cricket equipment.

Cricket Victoria organises and delivers clinics at local primary schools and always encourages the local cricket clubs to be involved in these clinics, ideally by sending a club member to assist in the delivery of the clinics. This provides a direct link between the club and the children and their parents. Cricket Victoria also encourages clubs to conduct clinics and emphasises the importance of these relationships between schools and clubs.

Cricket Victoria indicated that the lack of female friendly change rooms is a major barrier for attracting girls and women to the game in the small towns.

Tennis

The Numurkah and District Hardcourt Tennis Association (NDHTA) ceased following the 2021/22 season, which has had a flow-on effect to its affiliate clubs by reducing the competition offerings that clubs provide their members. The Association historically ran a traditional Saturday afternoon tennis competition, and included Katunga, Strathmerton, Picola, Waaia and Katamatite tennis clubs.

Tennis Victoria has advised that the NDHTA is considering the viability of re-forming, however this is dependent on the capacity of the volunteers. It believes that to improve the likelihood of success, the NDHTA should re-form as a mid-week night tennis competition and not a Saturday afternoon competition. Night tennis competitions have proved to be very successful in rural and metropolitan areas for many years.

Irrespective of whether the NDHTA does re-form it is important that there continues to be a tennis opportunity available at all recreation reserves with tennis courts. Council can help support this by working with Tennis Victoria to deliver social/ recreational offerings such as night social competitions, junior programs (e.g., Tennis Victoria's 'Tennis Hot Shots Community Play') and ensuring that the courts are available to the community for casual and social play.

Lawn Bowls

There are lawn bowls clubs located at Strathmerton and Picola Recreation Reserves. Both clubs have a declining membership and currently a low percentage of female members. Bowls Victoria is the governing body for bowls and they have indicated that they currently do not have the resources to provide tailored support to these clubs to assist with growing membership and increasing activation.

Throughout Victoria there has been a general reduction in participation in pennant bowls but an increase in participation in social bowling, such as barefoot bowls and corporate bowls, and in junior bowling and schools programs. There is a need for innovative strategies to activate bowling greens and grow membership in small towns.



Football

All of the football-netball clubs located in small towns compete in the Picola and District Football Netball League (PDFNL).

All PDNFL clubs are facing the challenge of a limited pool of players from which to recruit from. As agriculture is the main industry in these towns, the impact of small farms gradually being consolidated into larger farm enterprises has seen a depletion in the population cohort of young males between the ages of 18 and 30 who could be recruited to senior football. Clubs have to look to participants from larger towns, or outside the Shire. The clubs are further challenged by the Murray Football League and Ovens and Murray Football League, which operate out of the same catchment. As these leagues are considered a higher standard, many talented junior players choose to compete in these leagues.

The PDNFL has for several reasons opted not to affiliate with AFL Victoria, with the main reason cited being the perception of the PDNFL and the clubs that they receive little direct benefit from AFL Victoria.

At the end of the 2022 season the PDFNL were presented with a non-negotiable affiliation proposal which contained overarching requirements that required additional administration from clubs and involved higher restrictions.

The proposal also required that the league retract notice it had provided to AFLGM regarding legal obligations bestowed on all incorporate bodies.

Attempts to discuss and negotiate were rejected and the PDFNL was advised that as it had not agreed to the ultimatum provided by AFLGM, it would not be affiliated .

Available resources from AFL Goulburn Murray that PDFNL clubs do not presently have access to include regional club development staff, Auskick support, coach accreditation courses, training and development programs for volunteers, and junior players are ineligible to participate in football pathway programs, such as the TAC Cup.

Council does not play a role in league structure or governance, however actions in this strategy are aimed to assist with the overall strength and sustainability of all clubs, on and off field, which may by extension support league sustainability.



**Recommended Action 7:**

Work with the Numurkah and District Hardcourt Tennis Association (NDHTA) for it to re-form as a mid-week night tennis competition.

Recommended Timeframe:

2-3 years

**Recommended Action 10:**

CAC's to ensure that tennis courts are easily and readily accessible for community members to play casual social tennis by setting up the courts in their tennis configuration immediately following the winter netball season.

Recommended Timeframe:

1 year

**Recommended Action 8:**

Partner with Tennis Victoria to offer 'Tennis Hot Shots Community Play' which is designed specifically for regional locations and for delivery by club volunteers (as opposed to tennis coaches). This program is all about providing a fun first tennis experience to young people without the need for a qualified tennis coach.

Recommended Timeframe:

2 years

**Recommended Action 11:**

Council to develop an engagement strategy with a focus on increasing participation within existing small-town sports clubs.

Recommended Timeframe:

1 year

**Recommended Action 9:**

Facilitate conversations between small town Tennis Clubs to initiate the support of a tennis coach or member from one of the larger clubs in Cobram, Yarrawonga, Nathalia or Numurkah to provide one-off tennis coaching / 'come and try' clinics for children and adults.

Recommended Timeframe:

3-4 years



Increased involvement of State Sporting Associations and Regional Sports Assemblies

Dedicating Council resources to initiatives that increase participation will have a direct effect on club sustainability. There are opportunities for greater collaboration between Council departments to engage tenant clubs, reserve committees and State Sporting Organisations to promote and deliver sports activation programs at each reserve.

It is important that the sports clubs based at the small-town recreation reserves, and the activities and events they facilitate, continue to operate and optimise their involvement and connection with their local communities. With limited resources available, Council, reserve committees and sporting clubs must collectively ensure that future investments at recreation reserves will further enhance sustainable sporting outcomes and will result in stabilising or increasing sports participation (playing or volunteering), particularly in underrepresented cohorts, including females, people with a disability and people from diverse backgrounds.



Recommended Action 12:

Facilitate conversations with Bowls Victoria and Picola Bowls Club and Strathmerton Bowls Club to develop a Schools Program – targeted to primary age school children (called ‘Rookie Rollers’). This program is delivered in partnership with the local primary school and provides clubs with the opportunity to connect to children and their families.

Recommended Timeframe:

2-3 years



Recommended Action 13:

Facilitate conversations between Bowls Victoria and Picola Bowls Club and Strathmerton Bowls Club to develop a ‘competitive’ barefoot bowls program between the clubs, and also promote involvement to local residents. A Barefoot Bowls program (called ‘Jack Attack’) typically comprises a 2 hour session each week for a 6 week season twice a year (October/ November and February/ March).

Recommended Timeframe:

2-3 years



Recommended Action 14:

Valley Sport actively partner with sporting clubs, associations and peak bodies to develop initiatives and programs that provide fun-based participation opportunities for all age groups and abilities, including social tennis, social and corporate bowls, social netball, and other health & fitness activities.

Recommended Timeframe:

1-5 years



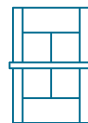
Recommended Action 15:

Partner with sports clubs to advocate to relevant State Sporting Organisations (and their local affiliates) to conduct come and try sessions and other activities and events at small town recreation reserves to stimulate participation and activation of sporting facilities, including working with local schools.

Recommended Timeframe:

1-5 years





Equitable standard of facilities

Future investment into facility improvements needs to result in sustainable sporting outcomes. That is, an increase in, or maintaining participation numbers.

This can be achieved by prioritising investment in projects that:

- Support the core facility needs of clubs (i.e. projects that are needed for the sport to be able to be undertaken. For example, oval lighting, change rooms)
- Result in equitable provision of facilities (i.e. prioritise projects that bring all facilities to a similar standard over projects that result in further gaps in standards of facilities)
- Are multi-use or can be used by many user groups or the wider community, as opposed to just one user group. (For example, tennis and netball court development be dual use for each sport, with the courts set up for tennis during summer and for netball during the winter)
- Support facility sharing or club mergers

Further, Council should ensure sporting facilities and associated infrastructure at small town reserves (including pavilions and clubrooms) is available for local communities to use for informal sporting and recreational activities and events.

Tennis courts should be provided to accommodate social and recreational tennis and coaching within the 'hub and spoke' model of provision in Moira Shire. (Whereby the tennis centres in the four large towns continue to offer the full range of tennis pathway activities and the small-town courts offer local recreational play).

Small town reserve masterplanning

Master Planning Principles:

Future investment into facility improvements needs to result in sustainable sporting outcomes. This can be achieved by:

- Prioritising projects that have genuine impacts on participation, for example, prioritising lighting projects over scoreboards
- Ensuring where possible, that there is equitable provision across all reserves
- Ensuring that facilities are designed for an appropriate level of competition and not over and above core needs
- Ensuring there is equity of access for all community members; and
- Supporting the development of facilities that are multipurpose or designed to support facility sharing

Any potential facility developments or improvements may be considered for funding in accordance with Moira Shire's Community Infrastructure Contribution Policy.

Through the development of this strategy, sporting clubs, user groups, Community Asset Committees, relevant Council departments, and other stakeholders were engaged to identify and prioritise projects outlined in these masterplans. Stakeholders and community were also invited to provide feedback on the strategy.





Project prioritisation

The order of implementation of projects included in each master plan will be subject to a number of factors and criteria before proceeding, including:

- Availability of funding.
- Current and future priorities of Council and reserve user groups, and the broader needs of towns.
- Further investigation, feasibility, research and consultation.

The project prioritisation of H (High), M (Medium) and L (Low) is an indication of the relative importance of a project compared to other projects for that master plan and should not be interpreted or aligned to any specific timeframe or years to be implemented.

The directions contained in the master plans do not commit Council, reserve user groups, or other organisations to a responsibility for funding.

Desired standards for reserve upgrades

Asset Provision Standards

Item	Relevant Standard	Desired Standard
Football Player change rooms	AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines “Local” standard	2x 45m ² – 55m ² 3x lockable showers cubicles per amenity area 3x pan toilet cubicles per amenity area To be shared between all football and cricket user groups
Football Umpires Facilities	AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines “Local” standard	10m ² Timekeepers/ scorers box 2x lockable ensuite cubicles Wet area 20-25m ²
Social facilities (football, netball, tennis, cricket)	AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines “Local” standard	To be shared between all reserve user groups 100m ² social space 20m ² kitchen/ kiosk Public toilets (Male 10m ² , female 10m ² , accessible 5m ²) External covered viewing area 50m ²
Ancillary Spaces	AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines “Local” standard	Administration room 15m ² Cleaners store 5m ² Internal storage 20m ² External storage 15m ²
Scoreboards	Relevant Building code requirements	None- user groups are responsible to fund
Car parking / Internal roads	Relevant Council road maintenance standards	All internal roads will be unsealed and car parks unmarked
Football / Cricket Oval	AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines “Local” standard	1 x grassed oval with adequate drainage and irrigation system
Behind-Goal netting	AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines “Local” standard	None - user groups are responsible to fund
Players Interchange Shelters (football and netball)	AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines “Local” standard	None - user groups are responsible to fund

Asset Provision Standards

Item	Relevant Standard	Desired Standard
Cricket Pitch (oval)	Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2028	None - user groups are responsible to fund
Synthetic cricket nets	Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2028	2 lanes, enclosed on three sides with compliant concrete run-ups
Spectator Seating	AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines "Local" standard	None - user groups are responsible to fund
Netball Change rooms	Netball Victoria Statewide Facilities Strategy	Min 2 rooms, min 20m2 each room based on 14 players using a room at one time
Netball Courts	Netball Victoria/Picola District Football Netball League	2 x synthetic hard courts, line marked for netball/tennis where appropriate. Lighting to 100 lux
Netball Warm-up courts	n/a	None
Gymnasiums	n/a	None
Tennis Courts	Tennis Victoria - Facilities Framework 2024	2 x synthetic hard courts, line marked for netball/tennis where appropriate
Bowling Greens	Bowls Victoria 2020-2030 Strategic Facilities Plan	'Local' level provision. 1 x green with basic clubhouse and amenities

It is acknowledged that some existing facilities may already be over and above the standard provision. Where this applies to buildings, they will continue to be maintained to the current standard. All other assets, including disused sporting facilities such as surplus netball/ tennis courts will not be maintained and Council will seek to remove these facilities as part of the Capital Works Programme. Refurbishment of existing pavilions will be subject to the constraints of the current pavilion footprint.

Invergordon

Demographic Characteristics

The relevant demographic characteristics of Invergordon are:

- The population of Invergordon was 605 in 2021.
- Invergordon has an 'younger' demographic profile compared to all of Moira Shire, evidenced by:
 - Higher proportion of 0–9 year old's (13.9%) compared to the Shire (10.6%)
 - Higher proportion of 10–39 year old's (35.9%) compared to the Shire (31.2%)
 - Lower proportion of people aged over 60 (25.1%) compared to the Shire (34.0%).
- Invergordon is less culturally diverse compared to all of Moira Shire and Regional Victoria: 88.7% of residents were Australian born, compared to all of Regional Victoria (81.0%) and all of Moira Shire (81.7%).

Sporting Snapshot

The Invergordon Recreation Reserve is the hub of the Invergordon Community, encompassing the community hall, sports clubs and all of the towns recreational facilities.

The Invergordon football club folded in 1987 due to population decline in the district. However, the cricket club remains, and has one senior team competing in the Shepparton Cricket Association competition.

Sports Participation

Tenant Groups	No. of Teams			
	Senior	Junior	Entry Program	Total
Invergordon Cricket Club	1	0	0	1
Invergordon Pony Club (Katandra)	-	-	-	30 Members
TOTAL	1	0	0	1

Master Plan Prioritisation - Invergordon

No.	Project	Priority
1	Renew the oval irrigation system and reinstate surface	High
2	Extend and upgrade the playground (Local Level), add soft fall and perimeter fence extension	High
3	Formalise gravel walking path around the reserve to create a 'wellness walk'	Medium
4	Develop the 2 Eastern Courts in include line marking for tennis, pickleball and basketball	Medium
5	Install new reserve entry signage	Medium
6	Prune trees across the reserve to allow for easier ongoing maintenance	Medium
7	Replace the surface on the southern cricket practice net and renew the chain-mesh	Low
8	Remove the northern cricket practice net	Low
9	Remove the three western tennis courts and associated infrastructure, and install a new side fence to the eastern court	Low



Invergordon Recreation Reserve Master Plan

Improvement Project

- 1 Renew oval irrigation system and reinstate surface
- 2 Extend and upgrade the playground (Local Level), add soft fall and perimeter fence extension
- 3 Formalise a gravel walking path around the reserve to create a 'wellness walk'
- 4 Develop the 2 Eastern Courts to include line marking for tennis, basketball and pickleball
- 5 Install new reserve entry signage
- 6 Prune trees across the reserve to allow for easier ongoing maintenance
- 7 Replace the surface on the souther cricket practice net and renew the chain-mesh
- 8 Remove the northern cricket practice net
- 9 Remove the three western courts and associated infrastructure and install new side fence to the eastern court

Legend

-  Existing Tree
-  Property Boundary

Priority

-  High
-  Medium
-  Low

Katamatite

Demographic Characteristics

The relevant demographic characteristics of Katamatite are:

- The population of Katamatite was 440 in 2021.
- Katamatite has a 'younger' demographic profile compared to all of Moira Shire, evidenced by:
 - Higher proportion of 0–9 year old's (11.1%) compared to the Shire (10.6%)
 - Higher proportion of 10–39 year old's (34.1%) compared to the Shire (31.2%)
 - Lower proportion of people aged over 60 (29.6%) compared to the Shire (34.0%).
- Katamatite is more culturally diverse compared to all of Moira Shire and Regional Victoria: 75.3% of residents were Australian born, compared to all of Regional Victoria (81.0%) and all of Moira Shire (81.7%).

Sporting Snapshot

The Katamatite Football Club and Katamatite Cricket Club both offer introductory football and cricket programs, which will assist with player pathway development and strong participation can be seen in football and cricket.

Katamatite Netball Club are stand alone and separate from the football club.

The Katamatite Football Club has seen participation levels remain relatively steady in recent years. However, the club see attracting quality talent as the biggest challenge and focus which will in turn see the club have continued on field success.

Sports Participation

Tenant Groups	No. of Teams			
	Senior	Junior	Entry Program	Total
Katamatite Football Club	2	3	1	6
Katamatite Netball Club	4	4	1	9
Katamatite Cricket Club	4	4	1	7
TOTAL	9	11	3	22

Master Plan Prioritisation - Katamatite

No.	Project	Priority
1	Renew oval irrigation system	High
2	Install cubicles in all open shower areas	High
3	Install new septic system to replace inadequate current system	High
4	Remove the spectator shelter	Medium
5	Remove existing cricket practice nets and construct new fully enclosed nets (2 lanes), install power bollard and demolish the existing cricket practice nets, and reinstate to grass	Medium
6	Install behind goal netting	Medium
7	Relocate the playground (Local Level), add a shade structure and install a new fence. Reinstate existing site to gravel	Medium
8	Install new reserve entry signage	Medium
9	Upgrade lighting to 100 lux	Medium
10	Extend the pavilion verandah to cover the seats in front of the pavilion	Low
11	Install bollards to improve traffic flow and designate appropriate parking	Low
12	Install bollards to create a vehicle turn around to improve traffic management	Low

Katamatite Recreation Reserve Master Plan

Improvement Project

- 1 Renew the oval irrigation system
- 2 Install cubicles in all open shower areas
- 3 Install new septic system to replace inadequate current system
- 4 Remove the spectator shelter
- 5 Remove the existing cricket practice nets and construct new fully enclosed nets (2 lanes)
- 6 Install behind goal netting
- 7 Relocate the playground and add a shade structure
- 8 Install new reserve signage
- 9 Upgrade oval lighting to 100 lux
- 10 Extend the pavilion verandah to increase the undercover spectator seating
- 11 Install bollards where the reserve road narrows to prevent nose to fence parking
- 12 Install bollards to create a vehicle turn around to improve traffic

Legend

- Proposed Structure
- LED Lighting
- Existing Tree
- Property Boundary
- Bollards
- Cricket practice nets

Priority

- High
- Medium
- Low



Katunga

Demographic Characteristics

The relevant demographic characteristics of Katunga are:

- The population of Katunga was 1,025 in 2021.
- Katunga has a 'younger' demographic profile compared to all of Moira Shire, evidenced by:
- Higher proportion of 0–9 year old's (10.8%) compared to the Shire (10.6%)
- Higher proportion of 10–39 year old's (41.8%) compared to the Shire (31.2%)
- Lower proportion of people aged over 60 (19.8%) compared to the Shire (34.0%).
- Katunga is more culturally diverse compared to all of Moira Shire and Regional Victoria: 76.6% of residents were Australian born, compared to all of Regional Victoria (81.0%) and all of Moira Shire (81.7%).

Sporting Snapshot

The Katunga Football Netball Club competes in the Picola & District Football League. Katunga Football Club joined the PDFL in 1951 and has called the league its home ever since. The club has recently enjoyed success across all grades in both football and netball, and remains financially strong.

The social room space at the Reserve is a hub for many community activities.

Sports Participation

Tenant Groups	No. of Teams			
	Senior	Junior	Entry Program	Total
Katunga Football Netball Club (football)	2	3	1	6
Katunga Football Netball Club (netball)	4	4	1	9
Katunga Cricket Club	1	3	1	5
Katunga Tennis Club	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	7	10	3	20

Master Plan Prioritisation - Katunga




No.	Project	Priority
1	Install a verandah to the ticket box (project to be undertaken internally by the reserve committee/club)	High
2	Renovate the community /social room pavilion and changerooms including roof replacement	High
3	Upgrade the septic system	High
4	Upgrade the playground. Allow supply and installation of (Local Level) playground equipment, refresh of softfall	Medium
5	Install behind goal netting	Medium
6	Install new reserve entry signage	Medium
7	Remove the three southern courts, install chain mesh fence along southern side of the northern three courts. Reinststate the site to grass	Low
8	Upgrade the public toilets. Allowance for supply and installation of new fixtures and fittings	Low
9	Plant avenues of trees (30 semi-mature trees) to define parking areas	Low

Katunga Recreation Reserve Master Plan

Improvement Project

- 1 Install a verandah to the ticket box
- 2 Renovate the community/social room pavilion and changerooms including roof replacement
- 3 Upgrade septic system
- 4 Upgrade the playground (Local Level)
- 5 Install behind goal netting
- 6 Install new reserve entry signage
- 7 Remove the three southern courts, reinstate site to grass
- 8 Upgrade the public toilets
- 9 Overflow car parking defined by avenues of trees

Legend

-  Proposed Structure
-  Existing Tree
-  Property Boundary

Priority

-  High
-  Medium
-  Low



Demographic Characteristics

The relevant demographic characteristics of Picola and District are:

- The population of Picola and District was 449 in 2021.
- Picola and District has an 'older' demographic profile compared to all of Moira Shire, evidenced by:
 - Lower proportion of 0–9 year old's (7.0%) compared to the Shire (10.6%)
 - Lower proportion of 10–39 year old's (22.0%) compared to the Shire (31.2%)
 - Higher proportion of people aged over 60 (41.0%) compared to the Shire (34.0%).
- Picola and District is less culturally diverse compared to all of Moira Shire and Regional Victoria: 84.0% of residents were Australian born, compared to all of Regional Victoria (81.0%) and all of Moira Shire (81.7%).

Sporting Snapshot

The Picola United Football Netball Club are managing to stay competitive and maintain consistent participation numbers despite the small population.

In order to continue to attract players, it is important that facilities are provided and maintained to a standard that is in line with other clubs in the competition.

The Picola Bowls Club is also strong with fielding 3 teams in a small population. The greens are in excellent condition.

The Picola Tennis Club has 1 senior team, competing in a mid-week competition.

Sports Participation

Tenant Groups	No. of Teams			
	Senior	Junior	Entry Program	Total
Picola United Football Netball Club (football)	2	3	0	5
Picola United Football Netball Club (netball)	4	4	1	9
Picola Bowls Club	3	0	0	3
Picola Tennis Club	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	10	7	1	18

Master Plan Prioritisation - Picola

No.	Project	Priority
1	New LED oval floodlights to meet AFL VIC training standards	High
2	Renovate kitchen/canteen to maximise efficiencies and use of available space	High
3	Install cubicles in all open shower areas	High
4	Resurface netball/tennis courts	High
5	Install two netball player shelters to the west of the courts	Medium
6	Formalise the northern reserve entrance to accommodate 2 lanes including new separate reserve signage	Medium
7	Secure the southern portion of the netball shelter to become a new netball and tennis store	Medium
8	Install behind goal netting on oval	Medium
9	Provide an accessible toilet for bowls club, external to the pavilion	Medium
10	Replace light globes on the bowling green	Medium
11	Upgrade oval irrigation	Medium
12	Upgrade the playground with new playground equipment (Local Level) and refresh softfall	Low
13	Establish boundary plantings (35 semi-mature trees)	Low
14	Pave the area under the umpires room / beer booth building verandah on a concrete base	Low
15	Remove oleander trees around the bowls green	Low
16	Establish an ephemeral wetland to trap stormwater from the east. Allowance for design, earthworks, swales and reed plantings	Low



Picola Recreation Reserve Master Plan

Improvement Project

- 1 New oval floodlights to meet AFL VIC training standards
- 2 Renovate kitchen / canteen to maximise efficiencies and use of available space
- 3 Install cubicles in all open shower areas
- 4 Resurface netball/tennis courts
- 5 Install Netball Player Shelters to the west of the courts
- 6 Formalise the northern reserve entrance to accommodate 2 lanes including new separate reserve signage
- 7 Secure the southern portion of the netball shelter to become a new netball and tennis store
- 8 Install behind goal netting
- 9 Provide an accessible toilet for bowls club, external to the pavilion
- 10 Replace light globes on the bowling green
- 11 Irrigation upgrade
- 12 Upgrade the playground with new playground equipment (Local Level) and refresh softfall
- 13 Establish boundary plantings (35 semi-mature trees)
- 14 Pave the area under the umpires room / beer booth building verandah on a concrete base
- 15 Remove oleander trees around the bowls green
- 16 Establish an ephemeral wetland to trap stormwater from the east

Legend

- New Floodlights
- Proposed Structure
- Proposed Tree
- Existing Tree
- Property Boundary

Priority

- High
- Medium
- Low

Strathmerton

Demographic Characteristics

The relevant demographic characteristics of Strathmerton are:

- The population of Strathmerton was 1,063 in 2021.
- Strathmerton has a 'younger' demographic profile compared to all of Moira Shire, evidenced by:
 - Higher proportion of 0–9 year old's (13.6%) compared to the Shire (10.6%)
 - Higher proportion of 10–39 year old's (38.3%) compared to the Shire (31.2%)
 - Lower proportion of people aged over 60 (21.5%) compared to the Shire (34.0%).
- Strathmerton is slightly more culturally diverse compared to all of Moira Shire and Regional Victoria: 80.6% of residents were Australian born, compared to all of Regional Victoria (81.0%) and all of Moira Shire (81.7%).

Sporting Snapshot

The Strathmerton Recreation reserve caters for a number of sports including golf, bowls, football and netball. The tennis club is currently not competing. The recreation reserve also caters for passive recreation, with the recently constructed walking track proving popular with residents.

The Strathmerton Football Netball Club has been affiliated with the Picola & District Football League since 1994. The club has recently enjoyed success across all grades in both football and netball, and remains strong.

Sports Participation

Tenant Groups	No. of Teams			
	Senior	Junior	Entry Program	Total
Strathmerton Football Netball Club (football)	2	3	1	6
Strathmerton Football Netball Club (netball)	4	3	1	8
Strathmerton Cricket Club	1	1	1	3
Strathmerton Bowling Club (outdoor bowls)	1	-	-	1
Strathmerton Bowling Club (indoor bowls)	-	-	-	8 members
Strathmerton Golf Club	-	-	-	30 members
TOTAL	8	7	3	18

Master Plan Prioritisation - Strathmerton

No.	Project	Priority
1	Renew the oval and irrigation and drainage systems	High
2	Install 3.5m high chain mesh fence (for tennis use)	High
3	Construct a new integrated pavilion to accommodate all user groups except the bowls club	Medium
4	Remove the former tennis-netball courts and associated infrastructure, and return to grass	Medium
5	Demolish the public toilets when the new pavilion is built and return to gravel	Medium
6	Install synthetic surfaces across the exposed concrete inside the cricket practice net	Medium
7	Renew the above-ground sprinkler system for both greens	Medium
8	Install new reserve entry signage	Medium
9	Prepare a drainage plan for the golf course	Medium
10	Replace the floodlighting for the eastern green. New LED floodlights to competition standard (100 lux), corner lighting system	Low



Strathmerton Recreation Reserve Master Plan

Improvement Project

- 1 Renew the oval irrigation and drainage systems
- 2 Install 3.5m high chain mesh fence (for tennis use)
- 3 Construct a new integrated pavilion to accommodate all user groups except the bowls club
- 4 Remove the former tennis-netball courts and associated infrastructure and return to grass
- 5 Demolish the public toilets when the new pavilion is built
- 6 Install synthetic surfaces across the exposed concrete inside the cricket practice nets
- 7 Renew the above ground sprinkler system for both greens
- 8 Install new reserve entry signage
- 9 Prepare a drainage plan for the golf course
- 10 New oval floodlights to meet AFL VIC training standards & new floodlighting to Bowls Eastern Green

Legend

- New Floodlights
- Proposed Structure
- Chain Mesh Fence
- Existing Tree

Priority

- High
- Medium
- Low

Tungamah

Demographic Characteristics

The relevant demographic characteristics of Tungamah and District are:

- The population of Tungamah was 448 in 2021.
- Tungamah has a 'younger' demographic profile compared to all of Moira Shire evidenced by:
 - Higher proportion of 0–9 year old's (15.2%) compared to the Shire (10.6%)
 - Lower proportion of 10–39 year old's (28.7%) compared to the Shire (31.2%)
 - Lower proportion of people aged over 60 (28.7%) compared to the Shire (34.0%)
- Tungamah is less culturally diverse compared to all of Moira Shire and Regional Victoria: 88.5% of residents were Australian born, compared to all of Regional Victoria (81.0%) and all of Moira Shire (81.7%).

Sporting Snapshot

The cricket club is no longer operating, having folded in 2015.

The Tungamah Football Netball Club are very strong and competitive in the Picola Football Netball League.

The Police Citizens Youth Club membership is made up of 12 single memberships and 13 family memberships.

Sports Participation

Tenant Groups	No. of Teams			
	Senior	Junior	Entry Program	Total
Tungamah Football Netball Club (football)	2	3	0	5
Tungamah Football Netball Club (netball)	4	5	0	9
Police Citizens Youth Club	-	-	-	25 members
Yarrawonga Mulwala Adult Riding Club	-	-	-	20 members
TOTAL	6	8	0	14

The Yarrawonga Mulwala Adult Riding Club had a membership of between 30 – 40 members prior to its former facility in Yarrawonga becoming unavailable.

Master Plan Prioritisation - Tungamah

No.	Project	Priority
1	Upgrade oval light fittings to achieve AFL VIC minimum lighting standards	High
2	Resolve the sub-surface drainage issue at northern end of oval	High
3	Relocate the playground and picnic shelter and install a new fence and shade covering. Reinstate existing site to grass.	High
4	Renovate kitchen/canteen to maximise efficiencies and use of available space	Medium
5	Install new reserve entry signage	Medium
6	Replace boundary fencing	Medium
7	Upgrade water line under the pedestrian bridge allowing for redirecting and connecting to the existing water pipe to the underside of the bridge	Low

Tungamah Recreation Reserve - Jubilee Park Master Plan

Improvement Project

- 1 New oval floodlights to meet AFL VIC training standards
- 2 Resolve the sub surface issue at northern end of oval
- 3 Relocate the playground and picnic shelter
- 4 Renovate kitchen/canteen to maximise efficiencies and use of available space
- 5 Install new reserve entry signage
- 6 Replace boundary fencing
- 7 Upgrade water line under the pedestrian bridge

Legend

-  New Floodlights
-  Proposed Structure
-  Existing Tree
-  Property Boundary

Priority

-  High
-  Medium
-  Low

Waaia

Demographic Characteristics

The relevant demographic characteristics of Waaia are:

- The population of Waaia was 419 in 2021.
- Waaia has a 'younger' demographic profile compared to all of Moira Shire, evidenced by:
- Higher proportion of 0–9 year old's (18.2%) compared to the Shire (10.6%)
- Higher proportion of 10–39 year old's (35.4%) compared to the Shire (31.2%)
- Lower proportion of people aged over 60 (22.4%) compared to the Shire (34.0%).
- Waaia is less culturally diverse compared to all of Moira Shire and Regional Victoria: 87.6% of residents were Australian born, compared to all of Regional Victoria (81.0%) and all of Moira Shire (81.7%).

Sporting Snapshot

Waaia Football Club has a proud history, having established in 1894. In 1935, the club commenced an involvement in the Picola and District competition that continues to this day. The club has recently enjoyed success across all grades in both football and netball, despite a population of less than 450 people. The club is strong from a governance perspective, as highlighted by their efforts to fundraise towards large capital projects.

The Waaia Cricket Club is also consistently successful, competing in the Cricket Shepparton League since 2018. Waaia has 3 senior grades and 2 junior grades. The club has recently upgraded their cricket storage and spectator facilities.

Sports Participation

Tenant Groups	No. of Teams			
	Senior	Junior	Entry Program	Total
Waaia Football Netball Club (football)	2	3	1	6
Waaia Football Netball Club (netball)	4	4	1	9
Waaia Cricket Club	3	3	1	7
Waaia Indoor Bowls	-	-	-	14 members
TOTAL	9	10	3	22

Master Plan Prioritisation - Waaia

No.	Project	Priority
1	Demolish the eastern toilet block and reinstate to gravel	High
2	Construct new netball floodlights (100 lux)	High
3	Upgrade the two eastern courts to provide 2 compliant netball-tennis courts with fencing	High
4	Renew the oval irrigation and drainage systems (sub-surface irrigation)	High
5	New LED floodlights to minimum AFL VIC training standard	High
6	Install cubicles in all open shower areas of main pavilion	High
7	Install new player and scorer's shelters for both courts	High
8	Address drainage issues at rear of clubrooms	High
9	Upgrade playground to a Town Level standard as per the Moira Shire Play Strategy	Medium
10	Relocate the netball-tennis store	Medium
11	Install new reserve entry signage	Medium
12	Replace northern reserve boundary fence	Low
13	Renovate/reconfigure kitchen to allow safer movement	Low
14	Install behind goal netting	Low
15	Construct netball change room building adjacent to new toilet block	Low



Waaia Recreation Reserve Master Plan

Improvement Project

- 1 Demolish the eastern toilet block and reinstate to gravel
- 2 New netball floodlights to 100 lux
- 3 Upgrade the two eastern courts to provide 2 compliant netball/tennis courts with fencing and remove the 2 western courts
- 4 Renew the oval irrigation and drainage systems
- 5 New oval floodlights to meet AFL VIC training standards
- 6 Install cubicles in all open shower areas of main pavilion
- 7 Install new player and scorer's shelters for both courts
- 8 Address drainage issues at rear of clubrooms
- 9 Upgrade the playground to a Town Playground Level, as per the Moira Shire Play Strategy
- 10 Relocate the netball-tennis store
- 11 Install new reserve entry signage
- 12 Replace northern reserve boundary fence
- 13 Renovate kitchen/reconfigure kitchen to allow safer movement
- 14 Install behind goal netting
- 15 Construct netball change room building adjacent to the new toilet block

Legend

- New Floodlights
- Proposed Structure
- Existing Tree
- Property Boundary
- Behind Goal Netting

Priority

- High
- Medium
- Low

Yarroweyah

Demographic Characteristics

The demographic characteristics of Yarroweyah are:

- The population of Yarroweyah was 531 in 2021.
- Yarroweyah has a 'younger' demographic profile compared to all of Moira Shire, evidenced by:
 - Higher proportion of 0–9 year old's (13.4%) compared to the Shire (10.6%)
 - Higher proportion of 10–39 year old's (32.0%) compared to the Shire (31.2%)
 - Lower proportion of people aged over 60 (28.7%) compared to the Shire (34.0%).
- Yarroweyah is slightly more culturally diverse compared to all of Moira Shire and Regional Victoria: 80.0% of residents were Australian born, compared to all of Regional Victoria (81.0%) and all of Moira Shire (81.7%).

Sporting Snapshot

In recent years, the Yarroweyah Football Netball Club has struggled to recruit and retain players to consistently field teams and be competitive in the Picola and District Football Netball League.

In 2024 there were 2 senior football teams and three junior football teams. There were three senior netball teams, 5 junior netball teams and one netball entry program.

Unfortunately, the club is in recess for the 2025 season while it works on rebuilding.

In 2025, the Northern Country Carriage Driving Club has relocated to the Yarroweyah Recreation Reserve, utilising the club rooms and land to the north of the oval for club activity.

From July 2025, Lion Muay Thai has relocated to Yarroweyah Recreation Reserve, utilising the club rooms two evenings per week for junior and senior programming.

Facility Plans for the future will likely need to be reassessed within the coming years pending the future of football and netball at this site.

Sports Participation 2025

Tenant Groups	No. of Teams			
	Senior	Junior	Entry Program	Total
Yarroweyah Football Netball Club (football) (in recess)	0	0	0	0
Yarroweyah Football Netball Club (netball) (in recess)	0	0	0	0
Northern Country Carriage Driving Club	-	-	-	10 members
Lion Muay Thai	-	-	-	50 members
TOTAL	0	0	0	0

Master Plan Prioritisation - Yarroweyah

No.	Project	Priority
1	Upgrade reserve power supply	High
2	Upgrade oval lighting to minimum AFL VIC training standards	High
3	Install bollards to create a vehicle-free area south of the social room and away change building	High
4	Renew the sub-surface irrigation system across the oval	Medium
5	Upgrade cubicles in the open shower areas of pavilion	Medium
6	Pave the surface in front of the social room	Medium
7	Construct a sealed path to the new Accessible Toilet and to the home change room building	Medium
8	Install new reserve entry signage	Medium
9	Install behind goal netting	Low
10	Replace netball lighting with LED fittings	Low
11	Relocate BBQ and shelter	Low
12	Install a new electronic scoreboard onto the face of the existing scoreboard	Low
13	Replace the oval player shelters	Low
14	Establish boundary plantings (40 semi-mature trees)	Low



Yarroweyah Recreation Reserve Master Plan

Improvement Project

- 1 Upgrade the reserve power supply
- 2 New oval floodlights to meet AFL VIC training standards
- 3 Install bollards to create a vehicle-free area south of the Social Room and Away Change building
- 4 Renew the oval sub-surface irrigation system
- 5 Make the player and public amenities compliant, including installing cubicles in the open shower areas
- 6 Pave the surface in front of the social room
- 7 Construct a sealed path to the new Accessible Toilet, and to the Netball and Home Change building
- 8 Install new reserve entry signage
- 9 Install behind goal netting
- 10 Upgrade netball floodlights to 100 lux
- 11 Relocate the BBQ and Shelter
- 12 Install a new electronic scoreboard onto the face of the existing scoreboard (subject to engineering assessment)
- 13 Replace the oval player shelters
- 14 Establish boundary plantings

Legend

- New Floodlights
- Proposed Structure
- Proposed Tree
- Existing Tree
- Property Boundary
- Bollards

Priority

- High
- Medium
- Low



Phone (03) 5871 9222

RS 133 677

Fax (03) 5872 1567

Email info@moira.vic.gov.au

Mail PO Box 578, Cobram VIC 3643

Main Administration Centre

44 Station Street, Cobram

Service Centre

100 Belmore Street, Yarrawonga

moira.vic.gov.au

