

# MOIRA SHIRE COUNCIL RECREATION STRATEGY 2016 – 2026



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- Recreation Strategy Steering Committee
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- Valley Sport
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 2.1 Vision

Moira Shire's vision is:

Moira on the Murray; with an environmentally, economically and socially sustainable community; the best place to be.

## 2.2 Participation

Recreation is a key factor in the over-all well-being and liveability of the Moira community.

Around 80% of the community are participating in some form of sport or recreation activity and there are over 150 active sport and recreation groups, using in excess of 120 parks, reserves, pools and sporting and recreation facilities.

## Investment

From the current operating budget (2015/16) of some \$52m Council invests some \$5.6m or 11% into sport and recreation. This is made up of:

- Sport and Recreation Services expenditure of some \$1.4m which includes the operation and maintenance of swimming pools in Yarrawonga, Cobram, Numurkah, Strathmerton and Nathalia, the waterslide and splash park on the Yarrawonga foreshore, the Nathalia Sports and Community Centre, the Cobram Sports Stadium and the Numurkah Aquatic and Fitness Centre along with the irrigation and mowing and general upkeep of Council's 19 recreation reserves and four showgrounds.
- Parks and Reserves, expenditure of around \$4.2m to maintain and upgrade Council's parks and gardens, recreation reserves, town entrances and open spaces including 80 parks and gardens (open spaces), 44 playgrounds, 31 public toilet blocks, public BBQs and irrigation systems. Council also makes contributions to capital projects for renewal and upgrade of existing facilities and development of new facilities.

In addition, hundreds of volunteers put in thousands of hours of work to present sport and recreation facilities and provide training and competition opportunities for our community.

## Challenges

The delivery of recreation across the municipality is resource intense, both through the program delivery and asset management. In an environment of rate capping and limited funding opportunities it is necessary to rigorously review planned expenditure to ensure best value and sustainability. In some instances this will require the establishment of multi-use facilities, rationalisation of existing facilities and service level reviews.

Council's long term financial plan will need to consider the future use of many of the existing recreational assets across the municipality.

This strategy seeks to make some key recommendations around these factors and provides background and guidance for the consideration of future investment in recreation opportunities.

## Key Priority Areas

Council has identified 35 recommendations to inform the direction of the delivery of sport and recreation in the municipality for the next 10 years.

From these recommendations, the following six key priority areas are identified:

### 1. Sustainable Provision of sports facilities and services

Moira Shire has a number of unique characteristics such as population distribution, geography, age profile and climate size that make the cost of providing recreational services higher than average.

Based on facility mapping there appears potential over supply of some types of facilities and an undersupply of others.

An informed program of rationalising under-utilised sports facilities, in particular those that have reached the end of their useful asset life, and investing in shared use and co-location in smaller towns and the development of quality, high use regional facilities in major townships will result in overall higher quality facilities for the community.

#### Recommendation 1

*Financial sustainability will be a critical factor in informing future deliberations in regard to direction linked to service delivery, infrastructure investment and asset management and accessibility to services. Council and the community will need to be innovative and realistic in relation to capacity to provide major infrastructure projects and services with limited users.*

## 2. Active Recreation and Activating Spaces

The health related benefits of physical activity are widely understood and while investment in sport is still an important direction for council, demographic and societal changes are leading to the need to provide more flexible opportunities to engage more people. Utilising existing space for new programs and activities are needed in order to maximise opportunities.

Providing an equitable split between investment in traditional sports and emerging activities and encouraging partnerships to facilitate the provision of these facilities and services will ensure Moira is well placed to support sustained high participation into the future.

### Recommendation 2

*Invest in the ongoing development of walking and cycling paths, active green spaces including outdoor fitness equipment and programs to activate these spaces.*

## 3. Parks and Playgrounds

There is (as a minimum) a park and playground located in every town in Moira Shire. This strategy refers to the provision of neighbourhood parks, town parks and regional parks/playground.

Moira does not have a significant regional playground facility. The development of this to the appropriate standard would attract regional and tourist visitation and on that basis should be located in one of the townships that supports higher tourist visitor numbers, most likely Yarrawonga.

### Recommendation 3

*Undertake a well planned park and playground strategy focused across the municipality to inform the direction of this area where Council has significant resources invested.*

## 4. Swimming and Public Pools

Council currently invests around \$800,000 per annum to provide aquatic facilities.

The availability, use and cost to provide seasonal swimming pools is a significant issue right across Victoria. There is currently no clear strategy or plan guiding the provision of services linked to the provision of community pools.

### Recommendation 4

*An aquatic strategy be developed to provide clear objectives and direction linked to asset management, cost of future provision and use.*

*The estimated annual operating cost of a new regional facility within current population levels and without significant population growth is not considered feasible.*

## 5. Sport and Recreation Tourism

Tourism contributes around \$95m and 580 jobs to the local economy. Walking and cycling trails, sporting events and conferences, development of the Murray River Adventure Canoe Trail and golf are identified as key product development opportunities. Sport and active recreation is well placed to capitalise on these.

### Recommendation 5

*Prioritise projects that support local participation and also facilitate tourism industry growth and development. This includes walking and cycling trail development and strengthening partnerships with active and passive recreation based tourism operators.*

## 6. Governance

Moira Shire has 35 Section 86 Special Committees of Council, which operate as committees of management.

Sports Clubs said that maintaining suitable numbers of volunteers is one of the most significant threats facing their capacity to function into the future. Section 86 Committee reviews highlight a number of issues including the amount of governance needed to comply with required standards and a number of small, single use facilities managed under this model that may be able to function under much simpler governance models.

### Recommendation 6

*Council work with Section 86 committees of management and provide support in a shift to more appropriate less cumbersome governance models.*

## Conclusion

Recreation is an important part of the liveability and well being of residents and visitors to the Moira Shire. The provision of recreational program delivery and asset management can be resource intense and it is necessary to take a smart and efficient approach to the future delivery in order to achieve best value.

This will involve working in partnerships, shared use facilities, rationalisation when needed and a strong working relationship with Section 86 Committees, user groups and the wider community.

Well informed planning will guide future delivery and difficult decisions will be needed in order to maintain a longer term sustainability, both from a financial and participation perspective.

# INTRODUCTION

Moira Shire Council's Recreation Strategy is developed through community consultation and with consideration of future finance and assets plans.

Within this strategy, the Sustainable Capacity Report is referenced. This is a key research document which identifies that the community's capacity to pay is comparatively low. The Recreation Strategy provides an analysis of the number of recreation facilities throughout the Shire and surrounding municipalities and also assesses current and future needs in accordance with demand.

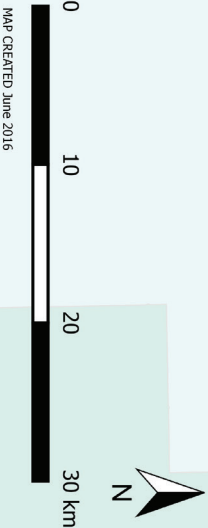
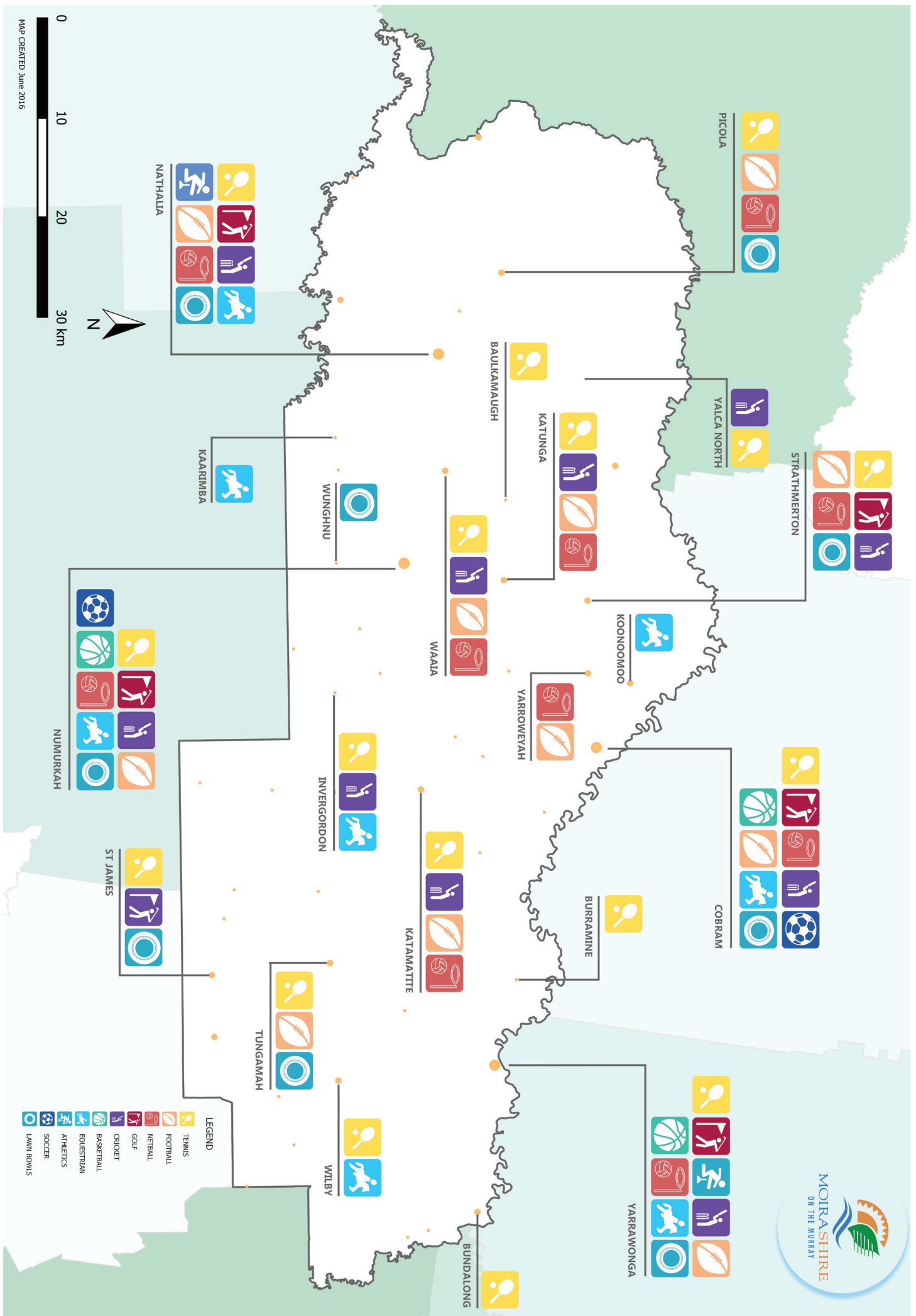
Planning of recreation facilities across the Shire will include consideration of the range of facilities and the community demand, along with caution around placing an even greater burden on people's capacity to pay. While Council's underlying financial position is stable, there is little buffer to address the financial pressures created through the introduction of rate capping and the continuing decline in Victorian and Commonwealth government grant funding. Further to this, Council faces the ongoing challenge of managing the financial demands of a large, aging mix of community assets

and a more expensive service delivery model relative to other Councils. Both challenges stem from Moira's large geographic area with multiple service locations and a relatively small, slower growing, dispersed and aging population.

In this environment it is necessary to have a robust assessment process in place for planning and delivering recreational facilities across the municipality. Moira Shire comprises multiple small towns and districts and this can multiply the cost burden and expectations when compared to other municipalities. As part of a larger region, with strong linkages through to surrounding regional centres, it is important to recognise the region's existing and planned facilities which can service our community.

Moira Shire Council has a generous history of providing assets and grants for recreational facilities. This Recreation Strategy is developed to provide smart service delivery and planning in order to meet community requirements in a balanced and responsible manner through the optimisation of existing built and natural assets.





- LEGEND**
- TENNIS
  - FOOTBALL
  - NETBALL
  - GOLF
  - CRICKET
  - BASKETBALL
  - EQUESTRIAN
  - ATHLETICS
  - SOCCER
  - LAWN BOWLS

# CORPORATE PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Moira Shire Recreation Strategy has been developed in consideration of Council's broader planning framework including the 2013 – 2017 Council Plan (see below).

A full description of relevant strategies within this framework is detailed in Appendix 3.

## Council Plan 2013-2017

Guiding the recommendations of this Recreation Strategy are the three strategic goals of the Council Plan:

1. Strong Regional Partnerships
2. Improve Moira's Liveability
3. Build on our economic strengths in agriculture, manufacturing and tourism.

Further, the enabling objectives of the Council Plan have been directly applied during the development of this Recreation Strategy and its recommendations. These objectives are:

1. Smarter delivery of existing services and programs
2. Delivering sound financial management
3. Rebalancing the Asset Mix
4. Involving and communicating with our community
5. Demonstrating good governance.

## Moira Shire – Corporate Planning Framework



## Literature Review

Key strategic documents and influences that directly or indirectly inform the provision of recreation services,

facilities and programs have been reviewed to inform this strategy. More detailed information is provided in Appendix 3 – Literature Review.



## Council Plan (Incorporating Strategic Resource Plan)

Municipal Strategic Statement	Municipal Health & Well-Being Plan	Plans, Strategies and Corporate Documents	External Strategies and Plans
<p>Employment opportunities driven by agriculture, industrial and tourism resources.</p> <p>Economic sustainability of primary production dependant on effective management of agriculture resources that adapt to change in market demand</p> <p>Economic growth based on natural assets, raw and value added agriculture, tourism, recreation, retirement and small business development.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Economic</b></p> <p>Moira's economy will be innovative and entrepreneurial. It will be the best place to live, work and invest</p>	<p>Business and Innovation Strategy 2014-2016</p> <p>Sustainable Capacity Report</p> <p>Regional Advocacy Plan</p> <p>RV Friendly Strategy</p> <p>Tourism and Events Strategy</p>	
<p>Attract and retain young people to the community and strengthen the mix of social and economic opportunities.</p> <p>Effective provision of all social, economic and community services and functions. Maximise the effective use of new and existing social and physical infrastructure.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Social</b></p> <p>Moira will be a shire where all its people and communities are happy, healthy and safe with the ability and the opportunity to participate, connect and contribute to their communities.</p>	<p>Youth Action Plan 2013-2016</p> <p>Multicultural Action Plan*</p> <p>Community Safety Strategy 2016 - 2019 (Draft)</p> <p>Arts and Culture Strategy</p> <p>Community Engagement Strategy</p>	<p>Moira Arts and Culture Inc. Strategic Action Plan 2013-2016</p>
<p>Increased demand for a range of living and working opportunities including a variety of housing choices in urban and rural settings.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Built</b></p> <p>Moira will be a desirable place to live, work and visit; this will be supported by its infrastructure, assets and facilities. It will seek to maintain &amp; develop council's assets and facilities to meet its community's current and future needs.</p>	<p>Walking and cycling Strategy 2005</p> <p>Potential Tracks/Trails Strategy 2013</p> <p>Asset Management Strategy</p> <p>Multipurpose Facility Feasibility Strategy 2007</p> <p>Recreation Reserves Master Plans</p> <p>Footpath Strategy</p>	
<p>Protect and enhance elements of historic, cultural and natural significance.</p> <p>Sustainable management of productive rural-land will consider effective environmental management and protection of land and water resources</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Natural</b></p> <p>Moira will responsibly manage its environment and ensure that our communities have the opportunity to enjoy, experience and contribute to that environment.</p>	<p>Environment Sustainability Strategy 2012</p> <p>Waste Management Business Plan</p>	
<p>The population of the Shire is ageing</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Healthy Behaviours</b></p> <p>Moira Shire will be a municipality where residents live happy &amp; active lives and have access to services and resources that support health and well-being. Moira will continue to plan for and deliver quality services to ensure they meet the needs of all current and future demographic groups.</p>	<p>Disability Action Plan 2013-2016*</p> <p>Active Ageing Strategy 2016-2019 (Draft)</p> <p>Recreation Strategy 2016-2026</p>	

The Strategic Framework above describes the range of plans and strategies that are in place within Moira Shire Council. The lead document is the Council Plan (within which is the Strategic Resource Plan). From this flows the Municipal Strategic Statement and the Municipal Health & Well Being Plan. Strategies and plans flow from these key documents. The Recreation Strategy is directly linked to the Healthy Behaviours component of the Municipal Health & Well Being Plan.

## VISION

Through the development of this strategy, the following vision for the delivery of sport and recreation services to the residents of Moira has been developed:

*"Moira will be a Shire where its people are happy, healthy and safe through provision of quality and accessible recreation opportunities that meet the needs of the community now and into the future."*

To achieve this vision Council has undertaken a detailed review of recreation in the municipality and considered where recreation sits in the broader operation and function of Council. Council has consulted widely, with the community, schools, sports clubs and the broader industry. Consideration has been given to the current environment and what may occur in to the future.

## KEY PRIORITY AREAS

Council has identified 35 recommendations to inform the direction of the delivery of sport and recreation in the municipality for the next 10 years.

From these recommendations, the following six themes are the top priority areas:

1. Sustainable Provision of sports facilities and services
2. Active Recreation and Activating Spaces
3. Parks and Playgrounds
4. Swimming and Public Pools
5. Sport and Recreation Tourism
6. Governance

## CURRENT SITUATION ASSESSMENT

A situation assessment examines the following key areas.

### Investment in Recreation

Council currently invests 11% (\$5.6m) of its budget into sport and recreation.

### Regional Participation

It is estimated that over 150 sport and recreation groups are active right across the Moira municipality using in excess of 80 parks, reserves and sporting and recreation facilities and that some 80% of the community participate in some form of sport or recreation activities. Netball, tennis AFL, basketball, golf and cricket are the highest level of participation sports. Recreational activities that are most popular include gym, group fitness and personal training, walking, swimming, cycling, running, fishing and playing in the park.

### Broader Participation Trends

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducted a nation-wide study on adult participation in sport and physical recreation in 2011. Overall, 65% of Australians aged 15 years and over participated in some form of sport and/or physical recreation during that year.

### Spoilt For Choice

There is now a greater range of formal sport and recreation activities than ever before. From a recreation and fitness perspective, a new wave of classes and circuit training opportunities appear to evolve every few years. These are largely provided for at regional centres or by private operators.

Sports offering a variation of a more traditional sport are beginning to grow in popularity. For instance, touch football is increasing in popularity. Sports once considered extreme (e.g. BMX, skateboarding and scootering) are becoming more mainstream – with BMX debuting at the 2008 Olympics.

## Expectation of Flexible Hours and Programming

With the amount of time available for recreation pursuits decreasing, participants are seeking flexible hours to undertake activities. Walking, running and cycling are likely to continue to be popular forms of activity as participants can be flexible in when, where and how long they undertake the activity.

For additional activities to retain or gain in popularity it is likely that they will need to be able to offer longer and more flexible operating hours (in the case of activities such as aerobics/fitness and pool swimming) or a more flexible approach to training and competition participation (in the case of more traditional team sports such as AFL).

There are examples of traditional sports in the Moira region already adapting to these challenges such as Friday evening junior and in some instances senior games being played. The length of the season is also something that sports have been and will need to consider into the future to support viability.

## Social Profile

With an average age of 44 years, Moira Shire residents are relatively older compared to State and National averages (both 37 years) and the community is ageing.

*"As a population ages, demand for passive and informal recreation activities increases. Access to playing fields and formal sport opportunities may not be as important, with older people generally seeking walking, cycling and other low impact physical activities."*

Despite the ageing population, just over a quarter (25.8%) of the community is aged under 20 years. A younger population is more likely to seek both structured and unstructured recreation and physical activity pursuits, such as competitive and social sporting competitions and quality walking/cycling paths. The significant proportion of people in these age cohorts will place pressure on Council to improve and maintain their sporting facilities, parks and playgrounds and provide affordable physical activity programs.

Programs that cater for young children and teenagers will also need to be developed, particularly over the school holidays, to keep young people active and entertained.

Moira Shire still prides itself as being a great destination to live with many lifestyle benefits for families. Approximately 69.5% of the households in the community are 'family household', of which 52% have children.

With a large number of families living in the Shire and the desire of younger people to participate in organised sport, recreation and/or physical activity (particularly young children and teenagers), some families may have to pay two or three membership fees, along with uniform costs. If membership costs continue to increase, sports may start to experience a decline in junior membership numbers as families cannot afford to pay the fees.

The average household has a lower weekly income (\$828) than the State average (\$1,216). This, combined with the high proportion of residents aged over 65 years, means any type of activity needs to be affordable to all to ensure equality and encourage lifestyles opportunities.

## Population Growth

Moira Shire is relatively self-contained in regard to employment, with approximately 80% of working residents doing so within the Shire. Subsequently, future population changes will be closely linked with employment increases or decreases.

Other sources contributing to population growth evident across the Shire are 'tree changers', employment growth in services, consolidation of agricultural industries and attraction of families to the area.

The projected annual growth rate over the next 10 years is 1.39%, with over 6,900 additional residents expected by 2026.

As a result of the overall projected growth of the Shire, it is expected that the proportion of people looking for flexible recreation will increase.

In addition to those who work outside the traditional work hours, retirees often seek programs at different times, not just the early morning and evenings.

### Community Survey

Broad consultation took place in the development of this strategy and that is detailed in Appendix 5. This includes specific information pertinent to each sport and reaction activity. This consultation included community survey, Local Government Community Satisfaction survey, local sporting clubs and associations, schools, state sporting associations and Council representatives.

## SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION

This section of the report consolidates the findings from the key priority areas, current situation including future projections and industry trends and consultation to provide a framework and recommendations for the strategy.

The Sustainable Capacity Report articulates the challenges facing Moira Shire to provide facilities and services across the municipality in a sustainable manner and this is followed through in the Council Plan via the enabling objectives.

### Enabling Objectives

1. Smarter delivery of existing services and programs
2. Delivering sound financial management
3. Rebalancing the Asset Mix
4. Involving and communicating with our community
5. Demonstrating good governance

While understanding and supporting the many activities people participate in, to be sustainable Council has capacity to focus primarily on those sport and active recreation activities that the majority of the population undertake, while still supporting others where possible.

For Sport this will be the top 10 activities which are all of those that had a significant participation rate in the community survey or there is strong provision of facilities across the municipality and for Active Recreation this will be those activities that around 20% or more of the population participate in. These are based on the combination of community consultation and survey outcomes and the correlation with State and National participation data. These are:

Sport	Active Recreation
Netball	Gym/Group Fitness/Personal Training
Tennis	Walking and Running
AFL	Swimming
Basketball	Cycling
Golf	Fishing
Cricket	Playing in the Park
Soccer	Canoeing and Kayaking
Athletics	
Equestrian	
Bowls	

## Key Priority Areas

Council has identified 35 recommendations to inform the direction of the delivery of sport and recreation in the municipality for the next 10 years.

From these recommendations, the following six key priority areas are identified:

### Sustainable Provision of sports facilities and services

Moira Shire has a number of unique characteristics such as population distribution, geography, age profile and climate size that make the cost of providing recreational services higher than average.

There are a significant number of sport and recreation facilities and assets across the municipality in both small and large towns. While many are located on Council owned or managed land, many others are located on other public or private land but remain accessible to the community.

Based on facility mapping there appears potential over supply of some types of facilities and an undersupply of others.

An informed program of rationalising under-utilised sports facilities, in particular those that have reached the end of their useful asset life, and investing in shared use and co-location in smaller towns and the development of quality, high use regional facilities in major townships will result in overall higher quality facilities for the community.

Working closely with neighbouring municipalities in the provision of facilities will reduce duplication and support fuller use of each and by saving or freeing up resources support better investment in other areas of need.

*Financial sustainability will be a critical factor in informing future deliberations in regard to direction linked to service delivery, infrastructure investment and asset management and accessibility to services. Council and the community will need to be innovative and realistic in relation to capacity to provide major infrastructure projects and services with limited users.*

## Active Recreation and Activating Spaces

The health related benefits of physical activity are widely understood and while investment in sport is still an important direction for council, demographic and societal changes are leading to the need to provide more flexible opportunities to engage more people.

Providing an equitable split between investment in traditional sports and emerging activities and encouraging partnerships to facilitate the provision of these facilities and services will ensure Moira is well placed to support sustained high participation into the future. This will include ongoing development of walking and cycling paths, active green spaces including outdoor fitness equipment and programs to activate these spaces.

### Parks and Playgrounds

There is (as a minimum) a park and playground located in every town in Moira Shire. This strategy refers to the provision of neighbourhood parks, town parks and regional parks/playground. The density of parks and playgrounds in the Cobram and Yarrawonga townships in particular suggest there may be an over-supply, which may have an impact on service standards and quality. Further to this, while Nathalia and Numurkah appear reasonably serviced, there may be scope for the creation of some additional higher quality play spaces, with Nathalia currently not having a town playground.

The rationalising of some Cobram and Yarrawonga parks and playgrounds, where they are located in close proximity may support the provision of higher quality spaces across the whole municipality.

*"The community survey supports the notion of the municipality being well, if not over-serviced for parks and playgrounds, with almost 70% of the respondents rating their quality as either good or very good."*

There has been media coverage and submissions to Council highlighting the desire for a significant regional playground facility that may have a high focus on all-ability access. Should such a facility proceed, it could be developed to a standard that would attract regional and tourist visitation and on that basis should be located in one of the townships that supports higher tourist visitor numbers, most likely Yarrawonga.

*"A well planned park and playground strategy focused across the municipality will be undertaken to inform the direction of this area where Council has significant resources invested."*

## Swimming and Public Pools

Council currently invests around \$800,000 per annum to provide aquatic facilities, such as indoor and outdoor pools and a splash park in the townships of Cobram, Nathalia, Numurkah, Yarrawonga and Strathmerton. The availability, use and cost to provide seasonal swimming pools is a significant issue right across Victoria.

Through the community engagement process young people highlighted swimming as a popular activity and Councillors identified a number of opportunities they felt could be explored to enhance the operation and visitation at pools. There is currently no clear strategy or plan guiding the provision of services linked to the provision of community pools.

Further to this, in response to interest in the development of an indoor pool at Yarrawonga, a Multi-Purpose Aquatic and Recreation Facility Feasibility Study was undertaken in 2007. The study estimates of the annual operational cost of the provision of a facility such as that recommended in townships with a population ranging from 5,000 to 15,000 people could be between \$200,000 and \$400,000 per annum.

*Based on the current provision and access to aquatic facilities including regional facilities in neighbouring municipalities, the estimated annual operating cost of a new facility within current population levels and in the context of the Council Plan and Sustainable Capacity Report, without significant population growth it is not considered feasible for Council to build and operate a regional facility at this time.*

*"In addition to this it is recommended an aquatic strategy be developed to provide clear objectives and direction linked to asset management, cost of future provision and use."*

## Sport and Recreation Tourism

Tourism is amongst the largest economic contributors to Moira Shire and contributes around \$95m and 580 jobs to the local economy. Walking and Cycling trails, sporting events and conferences, development of the Murray River Adventure Canoe Trail and golf are identified as key product development opportunities to support growth in regional tourism. Sport and active recreation is well placed to capitalise on these opportunities.

*Council give priority to projects that not only support local participation but also facilitate tourism industry growth and development. This will include walking and cycling trail development and strengthening partnerships with active and passive recreation based tourism operators.*

## Governance

Moira Shire has 35 Section 86 Special Committees of Council, which are in-effect committees of management. 25 of these share responsibility for the management of recreation and sporting facilities with Council. Each committee comprises representatives from each user group who use these facilities, community representatives and an appointed councillor.

Sports Clubs said that maintaining suitable numbers of volunteers is one of the most significant threats facing their capacity to function into the future.

*Section 86 Committee reviews that have been undertaken have highlighted a number of issues including the amount of governance needed to comply with required standards and a number of small, single use facilities managed under this model that may be able to function under much simpler governance models. Council will work with committees and support them to shift to more appropriate governance models.*

# RECOMMENDATIONS

Council has identified 35 recommendations to inform the direction of the delivery of sport and recreation in the municipality for the next 10 years.

## Priority scale

In each of the following tables the priority of projects have been categorised according to High, Medium or Low priority.

This scale also considers the work necessary to plan for and deliver major projects over the 10 year life of this strategy.

It is acknowledged that the delivery of a number of major projects is often dependent on external funding and uncertainty around the availability of these funds can contribute to these timeframes being bought forward or extending out.



# SPORTS RECREATION RESERVES

There are approximately 10 local sports grounds, nine district and four regional type facilities located within the Moira Shire. These reserves generally cater for the high participation sports of AFL, netball, cricket, athletics and soccer either all at the one venue or

as a mix. While they may not always host all of these activities, they may have capacity to do so if required.

## Level of Service

The Open Space Planning and Design Guide developed by Parks and Leisure Australia provided the basis for the hierarchy of sporting recreation reserves outlined below.

Hierarchy	Description	Example
Local Sports Ground	<p>Local grounds will have formal to semi-formal maintained sports ovals/fields for a mixture of winter and/or summer sports. The facilities would be of a good standard but may not have the required playing surface or ancillary infrastructure of a District level facility nor comply with State regulations for the sport.</p> <p>Informal recreation may be restricted to certain parts of the ground. Toilets, changing facilities and car parking are likely to be available and some reserves may have sports club facilities. Clubs (or Council) may have installed floodlights to enable evening training.</p> <p>Local sports grounds usually consist of one field, basic lighting and minimal amenities. The fields are often used more for training and social purposes than for competition.</p> <p>Local sports grounds generally service a local township and its surrounding localities/villages and are up to 10 hectares in size.</p>	Invergordon Recreation Reserve
District Sports Ground	<p>Are more than a sports ground, rather a facility. They have formally maintained sports field/ovals and courts for a mixture of winter and/or summer sports. The fields/ovals and courts comply and are maintained to State regulations for the sport codes using the grounds. District sports grounds generally include spectator seating, canteen buildings and multiple amenities buildings catering for the range of sports at the ground. Car parking will be extensive and the facility will be suitable to attract competition at a local and regional level and possibly state level.</p> <p>In the case of Moira Shire, and especially in the smaller towns, these facilities are often the hearts of communities, providing a range of sporting, recreation and social opportunities.</p>	Katunga Recreation Reserve  Tungamah Recreation Reserve
Regional Sports Precinct	<p>Similar to a District Sports Ground but with higher standard facilities and/or multiple fields that may suit multi-purpose use.</p>	Cobram Sports Precinct if combining Lawn Tennis and Bowls, Show Grounds and Apex Park.  Yarrawonga Showgrounds Victoria Park



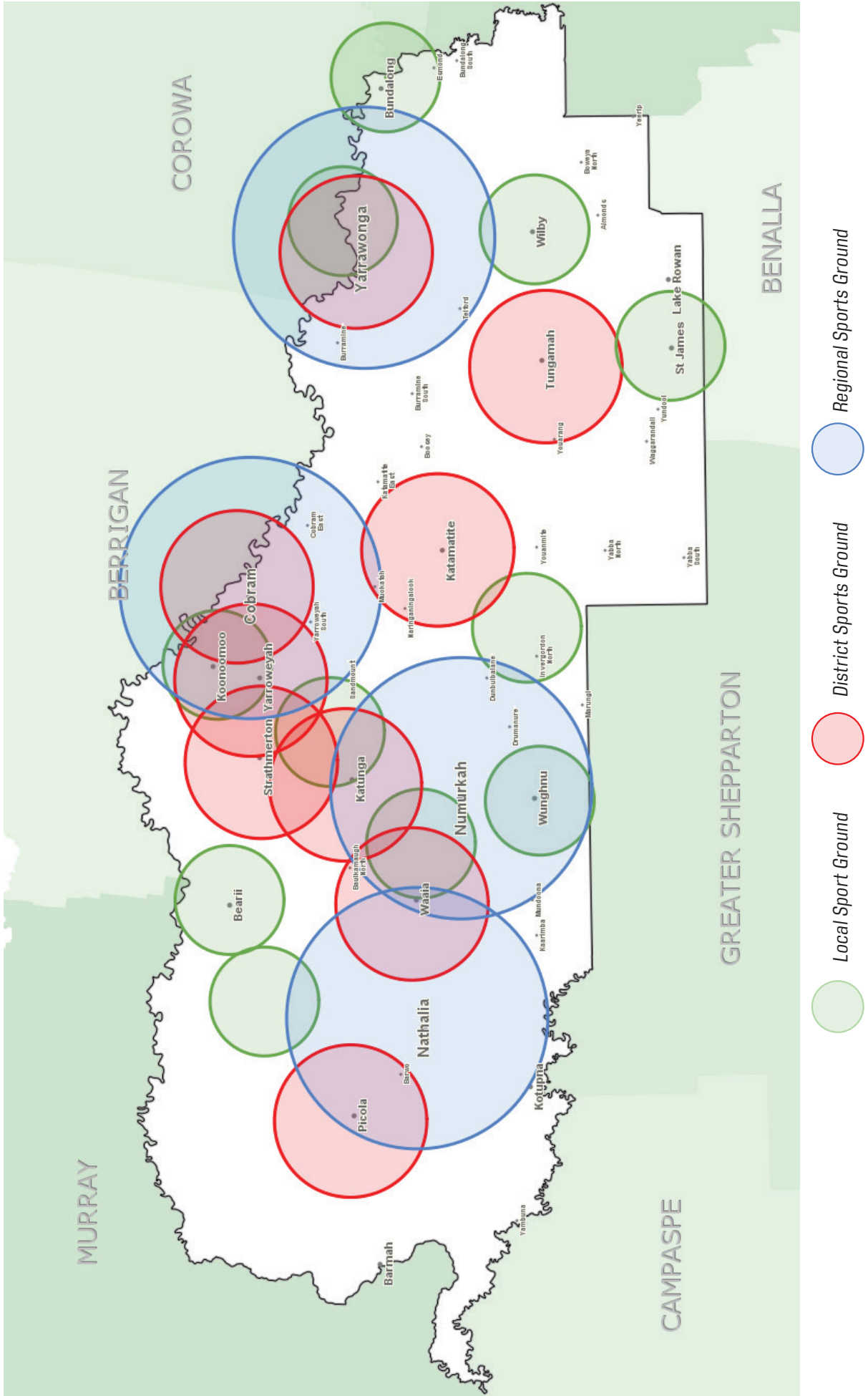
In defining a level of service that provides reasonable access and facilitates participation, but is financially sustainable it is proposed that:

- 70% of the population live within the district boundary (as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics) of a Local sports ground,
- 90% of the population live within 20kms of the town centre of a town with a District sports ground, and
- 90% of the population live within 40kms of a regional sports facility.

This allows for the highest density of population to be able to reasonably walk or ride a bike to a local sports ground, with those in outlying areas likely to have to drive to any destination. Ideally this drive would be in the vicinity of 15 to 20 minutes to a district sports ground and the majority being able to drive to a regional sports ground in approximately 30 minutes.



**Provision of Sports Grounds**  
**Sport and Recreation Reserves – Location based on facility type**



The Sport and Recreation Reserves – Location based on facility type highlights the provision of sporting recreation reserves across the municipality. Based on the distribution of facilities and population it is concluded that the target access to facilities is easily met.

This is supported by the response to the 2015 Community Satisfaction Survey that indicated that 67% of respondents travelled less than 5km to a recreation reserve or sports stadium and 95% travelled less than 20km.

*In addition to this AFL, netball, soccer and cricket provide guides to facility provision. The table below highlights base level recommended facility provision and Moira's current facility provision.*

Sport	Recommended Provision	Recommended Number in Moira – Based on population 28,833	Current Provision
AFL	1 field - 4,000 people	7 fields	22 fields
Cricket	1 field - 3,000-5,000 people	6-9 fields	23 fields
Netball	Courts at AFL/Netball Facilities with a second court where there are more than 60 players  Association Venues – 3 courts to every 10,000 people	Minimum 11 courts at recreation reserves – up to 22	43 courts
Soccer	2 full-sized fields per club		Potential for up to 46 on existing ovals plus additional at venues such as Apex Park in Cobram.
Athletics	No guide yet developed	No guide yet developed	Grass Roots and Junior Capacity at all 23 fields

Based on this information it appears Moira is well catered for in providing base level facilities for AFL, netball, soccer and cricket.

Importantly, one of the challenges for Moira Shire is the provision of these facilities across a wide area. This explains the current number of sports grounds which is well above the population based recommendation.



## Sports Recreation Reserves Strategic Direction and Recommendations

### 1. Sports Recreation Reserves

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High – 1-3 yrs Med – 3-5 yrs Low – 5-10 yrs
1.1	To ensure better connections and coordinated development of complimentary facilities at each site and to avoid unnecessary duplication – creating sporting precincts where possible.	Strategic Goal 2  Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	Strategically implement master plans for the following Sports Precincts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cobram Showgrounds/Apex Reserve</li> <li>• Scott Oval</li> <li>• Yarrawonga Showgrounds/ Victoria Park</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: These are Council adopted master plans however it would be prudent to review resources/ capacity and need based on findings within this strategy before proceeding. It may be that delivery of all these is not feasible and that consolidation of these plans is required. Before any major investment is made a level of service review should be undertaken. Alternate options should focus on shared use and renewal projects over new projects. Rationalising assets should form part of this approach where possible.</i></p>	Med - High
1.2	Ageing infrastructure and changes to demographics and activity potentially mean that there are council owned facilities that are either under-utilised or coming to the end of their useful life. As highlighted in the Asset Management Strategy where this is occurring, a review of that asset should occur and include alternative methods of provision.	Strategic Goal 2  Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3 & 4	Continue the implementation of master plans in smaller towns. In towns such as Katunga, Waaia, Strathmerton, Katamatite and Tungamah, one major venue should be considered the focus for community activities, recreation and other activities. Recreation Reserves generally offer space, amenities, a playground and commonly a major building (They also have the most significant and regular usage of facilities in these towns. As noted in 1.1 before proceeding with major investments a feasibility assessment should be undertaken.)	High
1.3	There appear to be a number of facilities where there are currently no formal lease or management arrangements in place.	Enabling Objectives 5	Undertake a review of all management and leasing arrangements to better understand the current situation and develop a plan to address any gaps.	High
1.4	The S86 Review highlighted that committees are undertaking or being considered for undertaking building asset inspections and several have suggested they do not have the necessary skills or qualifications for this. The Review recommends relevant Council staff undertake building asset inspections.	Enabling Objectives 5	Council maintain direct responsibility for the inspection, audit and reporting linked to building assets. In accordance with the review of S86 Committees that is underway at the time of finalising this strategy relevant Council staff undertake building asset inspections.	High

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High – 1-3 yrs Med – 3-5 yrs Low – 5-10 yrs
1.6	The MPHWP recommends the provision of water fountains in public places.	Strategic Goal 2  Enabling Objectives 5	Consider recreation reserves when implementing the recommendations related to the provision of drinking fountains in the MPHWP.	High - Ongoing
1.7	The Disability Action Plan recommends the development of a program for auditing all yet to be audited facilities and to manage action plans for those already audited.	Strategic Goal 2  Enabling Objectives 5	A program for the auditing of Recreation Reserves and implementation of existing audit action plans be developed and undertaken in consideration of available resources.	Med
1.8	The Asset Management Plan dictates that in order to be supported for capital investment all facilities require an assessment of the required level of service and alternate venues and for upgrade and expansion to work in conjunction with funding from the Federal and State governments and community groups.	Strategic Goal 1 & 2  Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	As stated in 1.1 feasibility needs to be assessed before investing takes place along with consideration of potential funding from the Federal and State governments and community groups.	High - Ongoing
1.11	The Murray River Events strategy notes the Moira region has no signature event and highlights significant assets that could be used to support further event visitation and includes Lake Mulwala and Yarrawonga. A number of strategies and Plans including the Murray Region Events Strategy state that facility development that provides opportunities for sports tourism should be prioritised.	Strategic Goal 3  Enabling Objectives 1 & 4	Facility development that provides opportunities for sports tourism should be identified and developed where possible. (These projects should be supported by a business case and should consider other funding options including private investment).	Med
1.12	Many Recreation Reserve sites are not easily visible.	Strategic Goal 2  Enabling Objective 1	Develop and install consistent and visible directional signage for all Council Recreation Reserves. This could be considered in the context of Council's overall Town Signage/Wayfinding strategy.	Med

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High – 1-3 yrs Med – 3-5 yrs Low – 5-10 yrs
1.13	While participation in many organised sports is relatively stable, soccer and women's participation in soccer and AFL are increasing significantly. This is placing pressure on facilities both with grass spaces but also in relation to the provision of appropriate change facilities.	Strategic Goal 2  Enabling Objectives 1, 3 & 4	When planning for development of sports and facilities, consider current and projected impact of key growth sports and changes to facility requirements. Where possible program appropriate venues and plan for facility upgrades to reflect these changes.	Low
1.14	Based on the recommendations in the State Sporting Association Strategic Plans for AFL, netball, cricket and soccer Moira appears to provide high levels of access to facilities. While this is overall positive in the context of sustainable service delivery and the Sustainable Capacity Report this high level supply combined with changing demographics, participation trends and ageing facilities suggests the opportunity to prioritise investment in strategically appropriate facilities and encourage shared and multi-use where appropriate.	Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	As the demographics of towns and districts change, along with participation trends, supply of sporting facilities will also need to change. Opportunities for shared use facilities, renewal projects over new and rationalising sporting assets will all be key requirements of this change.	Med - Ongoing



# TENNIS

Tennis was identified as the second most participated in activity by the respondents to the community survey, with around 40% saying they played. It is also in the top 10 sports nationally and at the time of the most recent ABS survey indicated that male and female participation was almost equal.

*"Tennis while a strong organised sport also provides opportunities for casual and unstructured participation, which correlates well with trends towards this type of activity."*

In Moira tennis is also one of the key sports with events that generate tourism. The Yarrawonga and Cobram tournaments both attract many visitors, with the Yarrawonga event in particular one of the regions primary sports based tourist events.

## Level of Service

The Tennis 2020 Strategy hierarchy of facilities provides a solid guide for establishing a hierarchy of facilities for Moira Shire.

Hierarchy Level	No. of Courts	Standard of Competition	Recommended Catchment within a 30km radius – Regional / Country
National Tennis Centre	20+	Inter/National	Not provided
Regional	16+	National/State Based	80,000 – 100,000
Large Centre (sub Regional)	12+	Inter/Intra Club Tournaments	40,000 – 50,000
District	8+	Interclub	5,000+
Local	4+	Interclub	5,000+
Public Access	1+	Tennis Engagement	Not provided

In defining a level of service that provides reasonable access and facilitates participation, but is financially sustainable it is proposed that:

- 70% of the population live within the district boundary (as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics) of a public access standard tennis court(s),
- 90% of the population live within 20kms of the town centre with local standard tennis courts, and

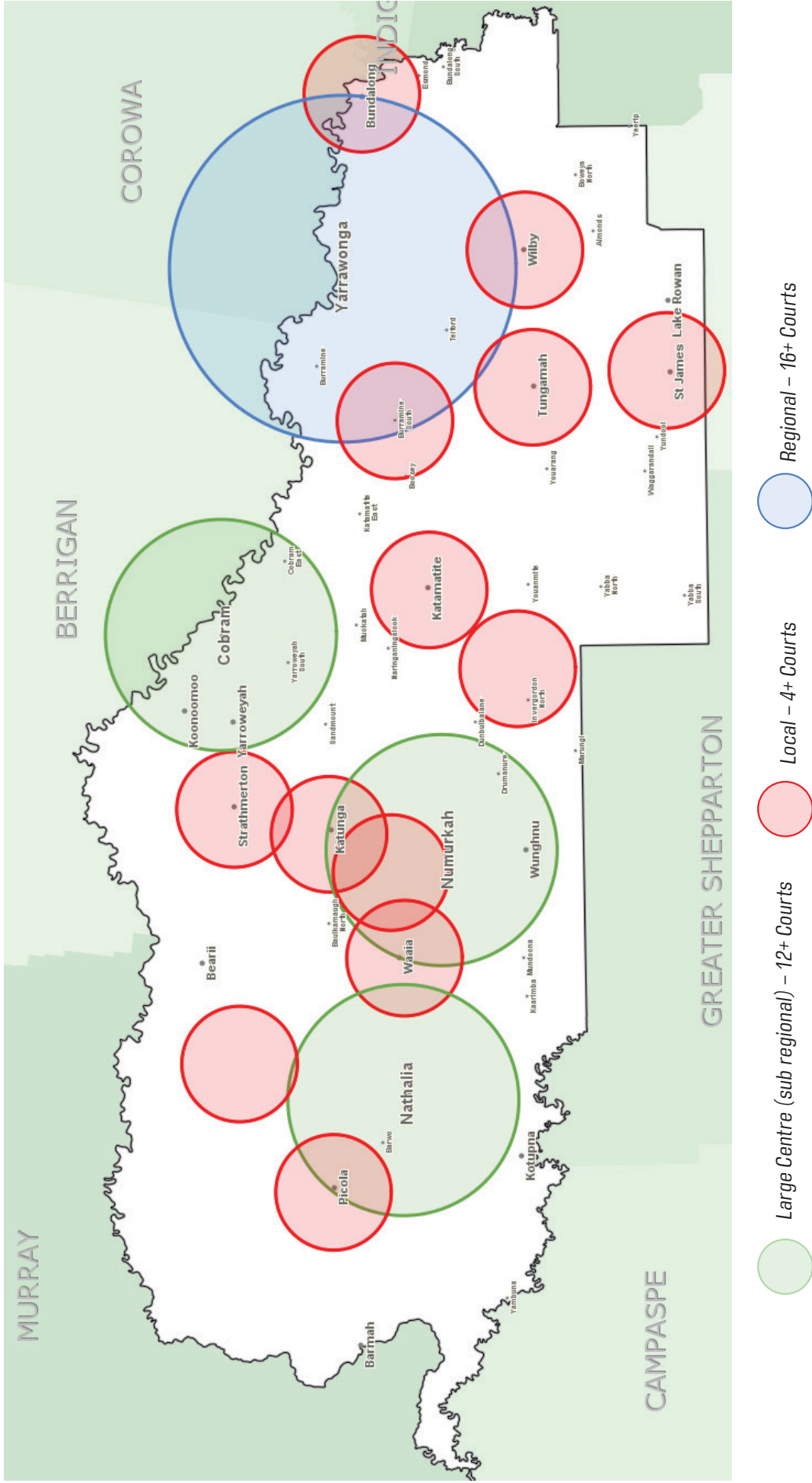
- 90% of the population live within 40kms of a large centre (sub regional) tennis facility.

This allows for the highest density of population to be able to reasonably walk or ride a bike to play tennis, with those in outlying areas likely to have to drive to any destination. Ideally this drive would be in the vicinity of 15 to 20 minutes to a local tennis facility and the majority being able to drive to a large centre (sub regional) facility in around 30 minutes.



**Provision of Tennis Facilities**

Tennis Facilities – Location based on facility type



Based on the 2020 strategy guidelines, for Moira's population of 28,833 a reasonable mix of facilities could be three or four local or district type facilities perhaps with one large centre interspersed with a number of public access courts. In providing 13 local, three large centres (sub regional) and a regional standard facility Moira appears to provide high quality access to tennis facilities.



## Tennis Strategic Direction and Recommendations

### 2. Tennis

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High – 1-3 yrs Med – 3-5 yrs Low – 5-10 yrs
2.1	Based on the Tennis Australia 2020 Strategy facility guidelines, Moira appears to provide high levels of access to facilities. While this is overall positive in the context of sustainable service delivery and the Sustainable Capacity Report this high level supply combined with changing demographics, participation trends and ageing facilities suggests the opportunity to prioritise investment in strategically appropriate facilities and encourage shared and multi-use where appropriate.	Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	As the demographics of towns and districts change, along with participation trends, supply of tennis facilities will also need to change. Opportunities for shared use facilities, renewal projects over new and rationalising courts and facilities will all be key requirements of this change.	Med - Ongoing
2.2	Events such as the Yarrowonga Easter tournament and the Cobram Labour Day Long Weekend Tournament are key sports based tourism events for the Shire. This is an important consideration in prioritising and facilitating appropriate facility developments.	Strategic Goal 2  Enabling Objectives 1 & 2	Consideration should be given to facility development at sites such as Yarrowonga and Cobram where it supports the continued growth of their key tourism based tournaments.	Low



# INDOOR SPORTS

Indoor sports provided for in purpose built stadiums often include activities such as basketball, netball, volleyball, badminton, table tennis as well as capacity for a range of other sports and games. Basketball

rated fourth in the most participated activities on the community survey and netball the highest, with netball also featuring in the top ten nationally.

The table below highlights the sports stadiums currently provided in Moira Shire including the number of courts in each:

Town	Number of courts	Ownership/Management
Nathalia – Community Centre	1 court	Council/External contractor
Numurkah – Secondary College	1 court	Education Department
Cobram	2 courts	Council/External contractor
Yarrowonga – ECA Centre	1 court	Education Department
Yarrowonga – Sacred Heart PS	1 court	Education Department

*Note indoor stadiums are also located within the regional catchments of people living in Moira Shire in Shepparton (4 courts), Wangaratta (3 courts) and Echuca (3 courts).*

## Level of Service

Both basketball and netball provided advice in relation to the provision of indoor facilities for their sports.

- 90% of the population live within 20kms of the town centre with an indoor sports stadium, and

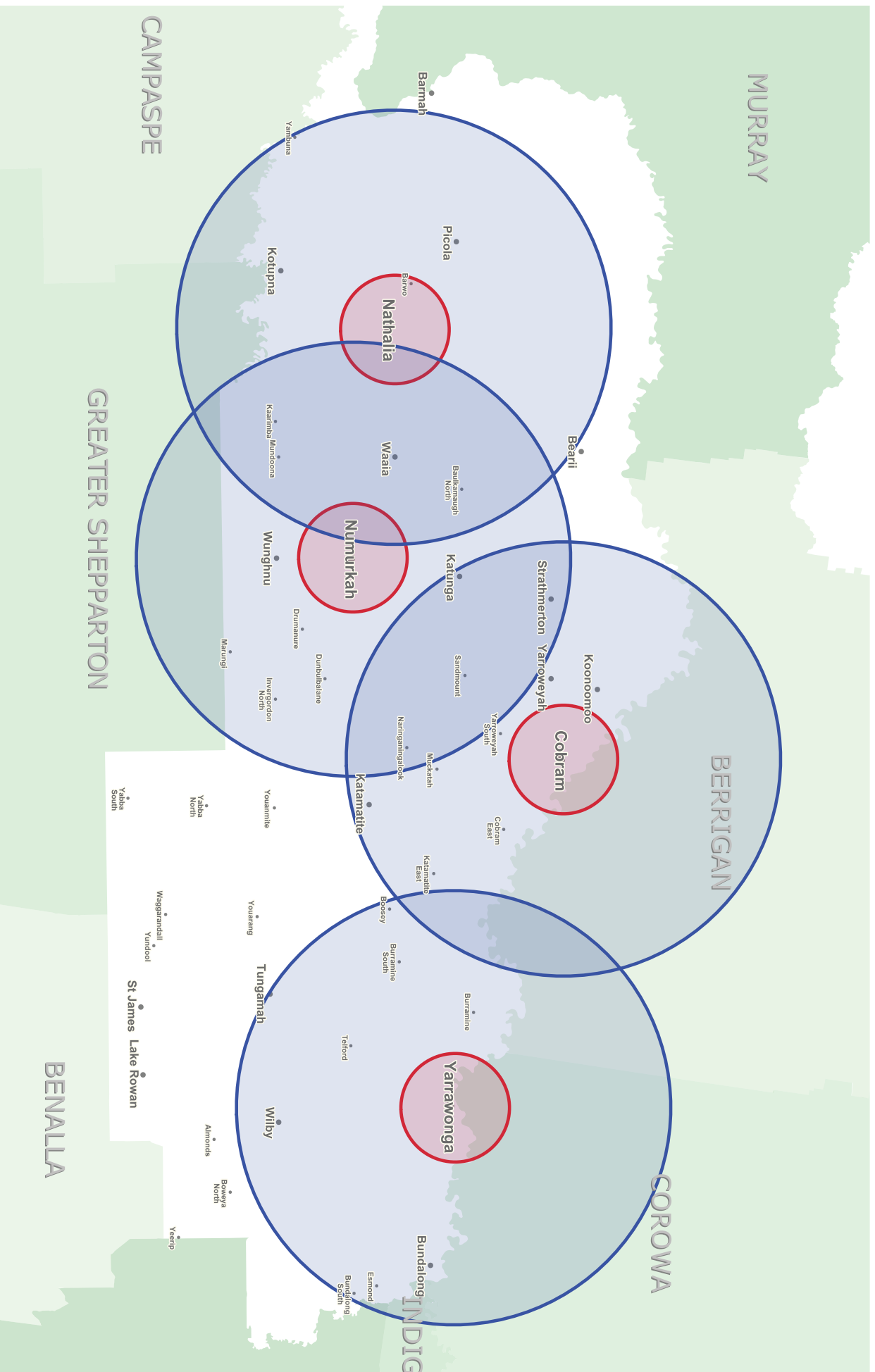
In defining a level of service that provides reasonable access and facilitates participation, but is financially sustainable it is proposed that:

- 70% of the population live within the district boundary (as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics) of an indoor sports stadium,

This allows for the highest density of population to be able to reasonably walk or ride a bike to an indoor sports centre, with those in outlying areas likely to have to drive to any destination. Ideally this drive would be in the vicinity of 15 to 20 minutes to an indoor sports centre.

Sport	Recommended Provision	Recommended Number in Moira – Based on population 28,833	Current Provision
Basketball	1 indoor court – every 300-500 players 4 indoor courts – 35,000 people	4 indoor courts	6 courts
Netball	1 indoor court – 10,000	4 indoor courts	6 courts

Provision of Indoor Sports 5km and 20km catchments



Based on the above assessment it appears the provision of courts meet the targeted level of service. Usage levels are described as some 300 participants for Yarrowonga Basketball Association. Nathalia Basketball currently operates under the programming of the YMCA and has relatively low numbers that fluctuate and at times are unable to operate due to low numbers in a particular season. Cobram Basketball Association has approximately 80 participants and this is growing with an increase in junior participation. Numurkah Basketball Association has approximately 30 participants.

Both Numurkah and Yarrowonga indicated access to facilities is a key threat to their competition. Generally, single court facilities limit the capacity of competition

development based on the numbers of players and games able to be played at any one time. Running competitions across a number of days/nights remains an opportunity to increase opportunities for participation and capacity.

Also, while traditionally played indoors, clubs could consider a mix of indoor and outdoor basketball utilising netball courts while growing participation to a point whereby expansion of indoor courts becomes more viable. Another option to improve capacity is for clubs to program activities on additional nights and not limit themselves to traditional days or nights of activity.

## Indoor Sports Strategic Direction and Recommendations

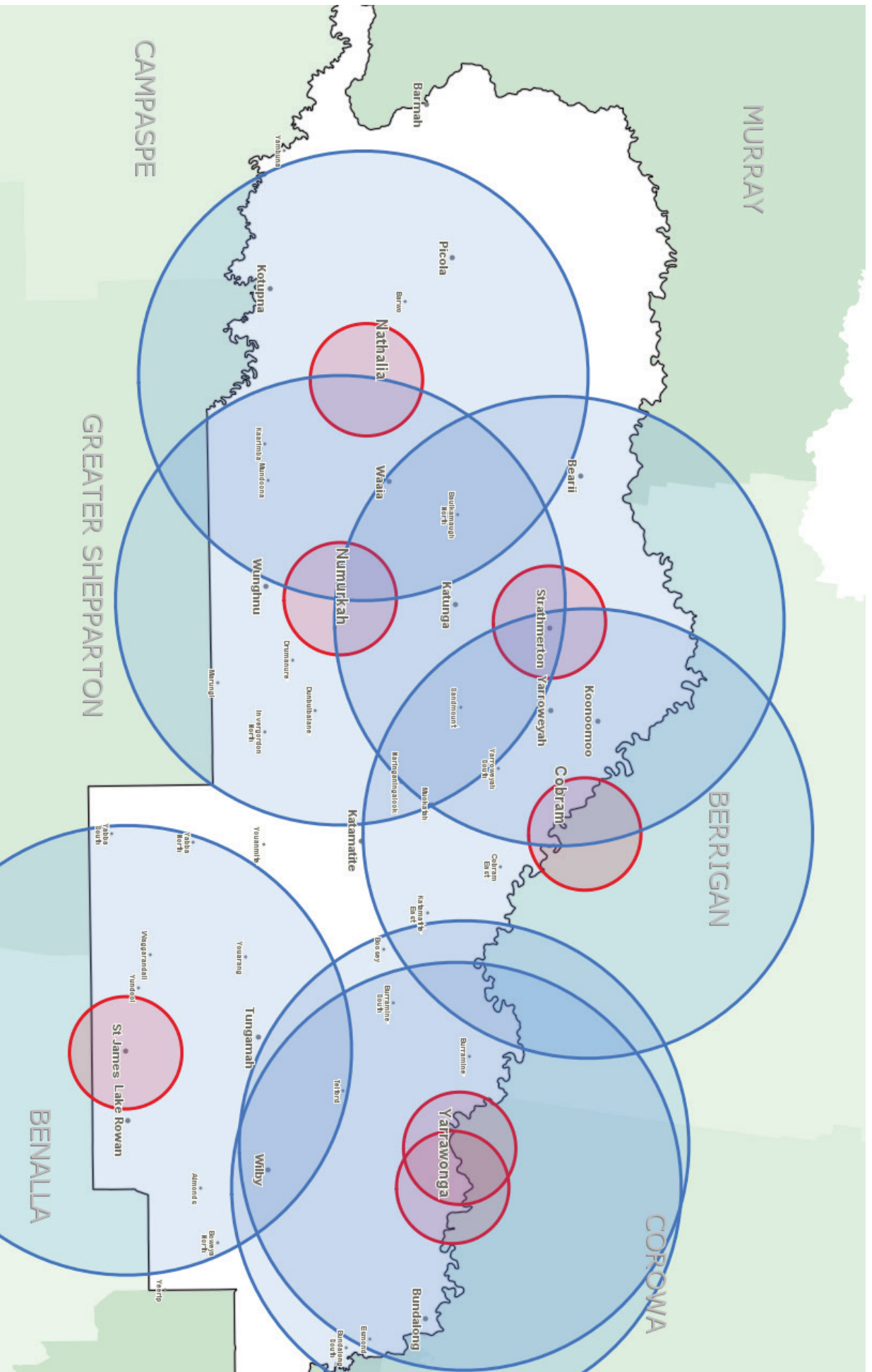
### 3. Indoor Sports

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/ Actions	Priority High – 1-3 yrs Med – 3-5 yrs Low – 5-10 yrs
3.1	Community survey respondents indicated a high level of desire for new/upgraded indoor sports centres. This has been reinforced through further submissions from interest groups indicating a need for indoor sport Stadium at Yarrowonga as the current facilities are non compliant and not always accessible. This is supported by basketball competitions in Numurkah and Yarrowonga both site access to facilities as a key threat to their capacity to grow.	Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	Continue to work with community and indoor sports competitions to find innovative solutions to court access to support activity growth until they reach a stage whereby provision of additional indoor court space is viable.	Med

## GOLF

Golf rated the fifth highest participation activity in the community survey and is in the top 10 nationally. While able to be undertaken as a sport and played as a team, golf also provides high levels of opportunity for unstructured participation.

Golf is traditionally provided for by private or public golf clubs, occasionally on public land with little local government involvement.



Moira residents appear well catered for with access to golf facilities with 70% of the population living within 5kms and 90% of the population living within 20kms of a golf course.

Golf is also an important tourism support activity, especially to those townships located on or near the

Murray River. The Australian Golf Industry Council, Value of Golf Tourism to Australia report says that golf tourism generates in excess of \$820m and 8.4m visitor nights annually with the Murray River, along with Queensland being the most frequently visited golf destinations by core golf tourists in Australia.

## Golf Strategic Direction and Recommendations

### 4. Golf

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High – 1-3 yrs Med – 3-5 yrs Low – 5-10 yrs
4.1	Golf is a key tourism product, especially for the townships located on or near the Murray River. Tourism stakeholders including Council should continue to leverage opportunities relating to golf.	Strategic Goal 2 & 3	Given the traditional management of public and private golf clubs in Moira and across the river in NSW council should remain in support of this industry without being a direct investor. Support should be limited to promotion as part of the Murray River Tourism Strategy.	High -Ongoing

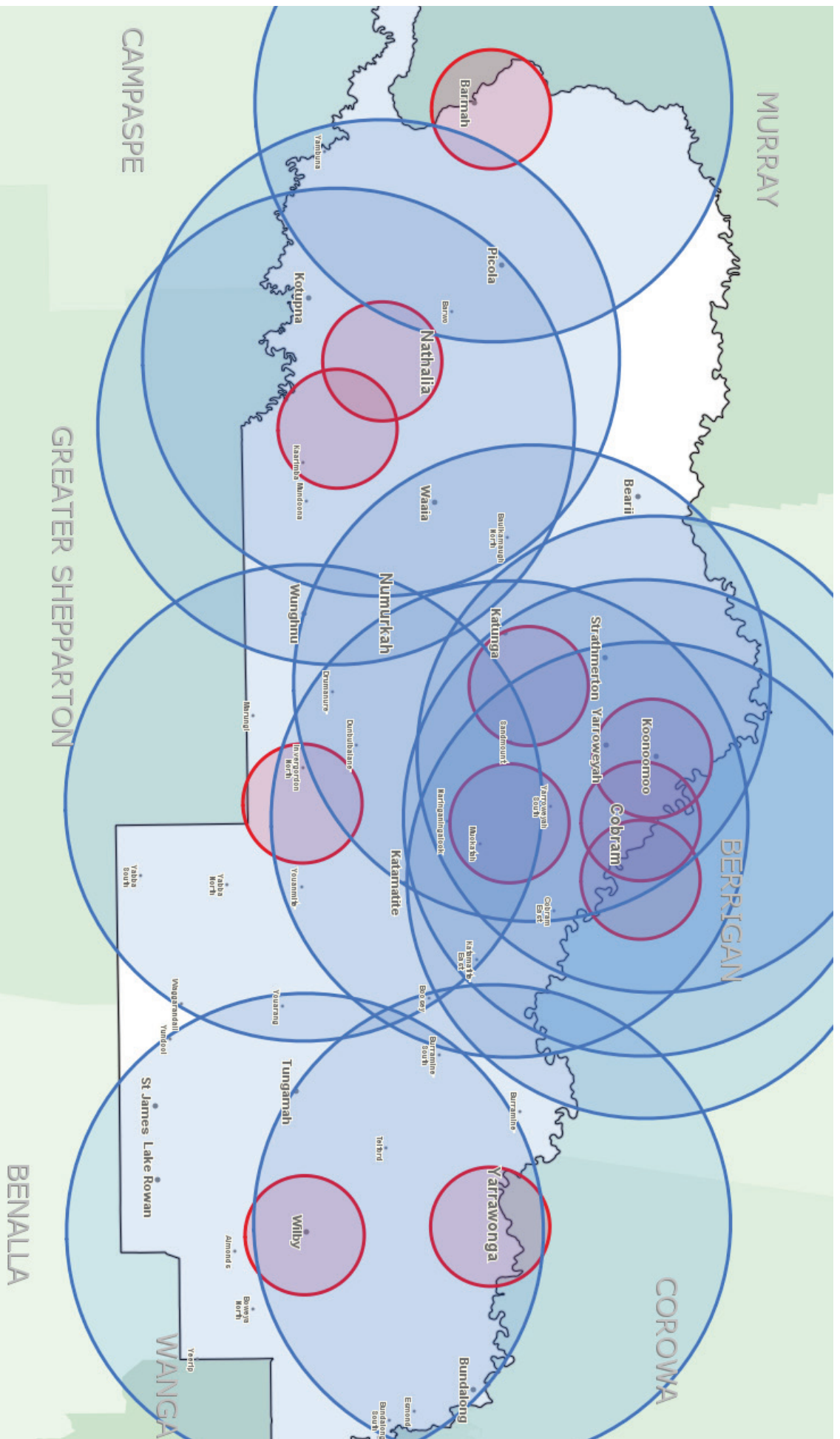
## EQUESTRIAN

Equestrian sports being the combination of a number of activities including endurance training, eventing, horse racing, show jumping, dressage and reining rated as the ninth most participated activity in the community

consultation survey. While these sports are not rated in the top ten at state or national level, the significant number of facilities located throughout the Moira Shire supports the notion of high levels of participation.



Provision of Equestrian Facilities 5km and 20km catchments



Whilst not specifying the nature of each type of facility, with 11 equestrian based facilities, Moira residents appear well catered for with access with 70% of the population easily living within 5kms and 90% of the population living within 20kms of an equestrian focused facility.

## Equestrian Strategic Direction and Recommendations

### 5. Equestrian

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High – 1-3 yrs Med – 3-5 yrs Low – 5-10 yrs
5.1	The Asset Management Plan dictates that in order to be supported for capital investment all facilities require an assessment of the required level of service and alternate venues and for upgrade and expansion to work in conjunction with funding from the Federal and State governments and community groups.	Strategic Goal 1 & 2  Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	Based on the current number of equestrian facilities located across the municipality, prior to any capital investment, undertake an assessment of the required level of service and alternate venues. Work in conjunction with funding from the Federal and State governments and community groups.	Low

## BOWLS

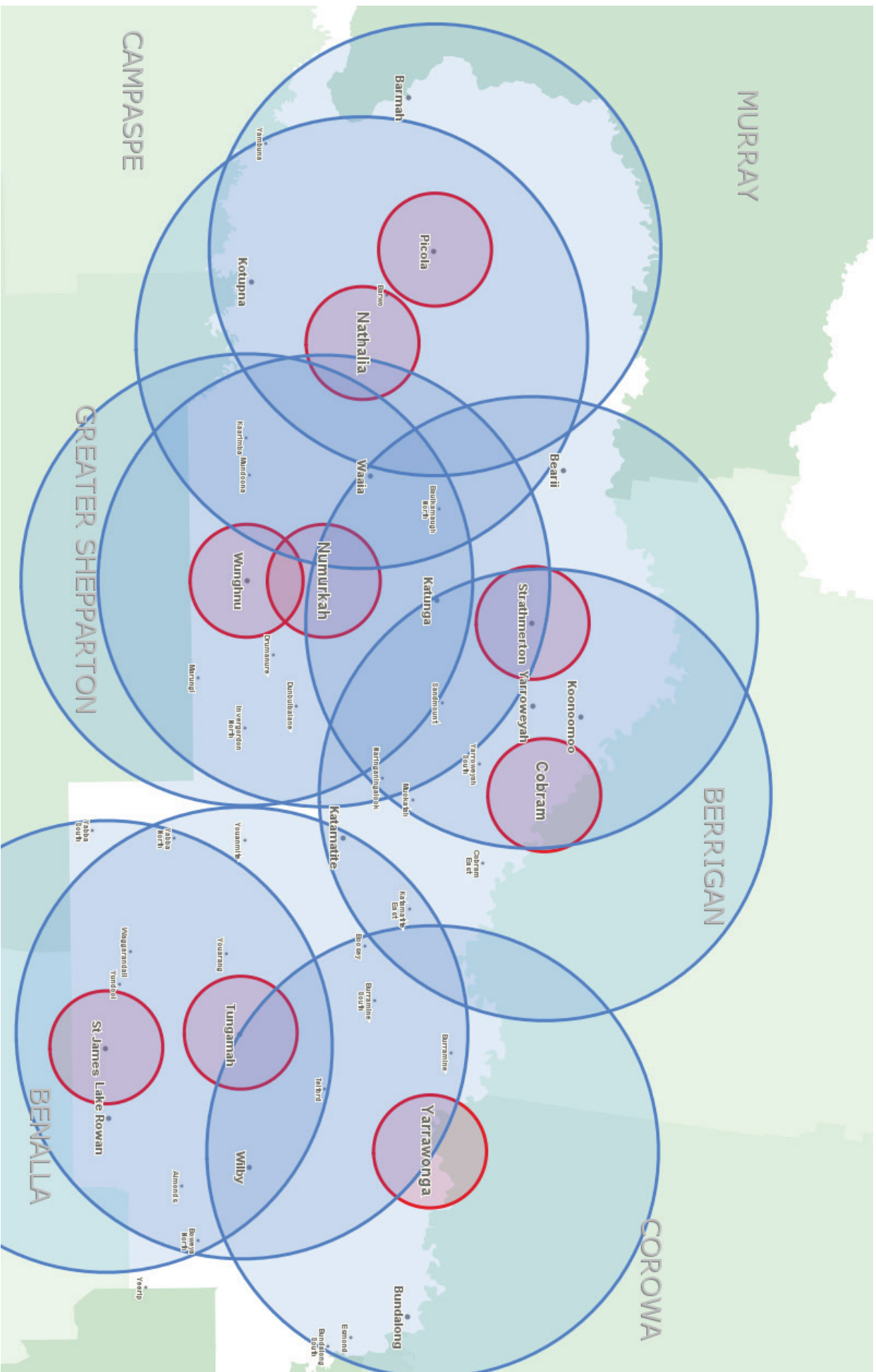
While bowls is not rated in the top 10 activities based on participation at state or national level, the significant

number of facilities located throughout the Moira Shire supports the notion of high levels of participation.





Provision of Bowling Clubs – 5km and 20km radius



Whilst not specifying the nature of each type of facility, with nine bowls facilities, Moira residents appear well catered for with access with 70% of the population easily living within 5kms and 90% of the population living within 20kms of a bowls focused facility. There are also closely located bowling clubs in Katandra West, Tallygaroopna, Barooga, Mulwala, Benalla and Tongala.

### Sustainable Sports Model – Bowls WA

Taken from the Bowls WA – Strategic Facilities Plan, developed in partnership with the Department of Sport and Recreation Western Australia the table below provides an indicative hierarchy and facility service level for bowls clubs.

Club Type	Competitions	Focus	Facilities
Regional Club	"premier League", Pennant Competition, Large community bowls competition, Inter and intra club competitions, Large open events and tournaments.	Large catchment area, competition focus, club hosts major events. Able to support other sports and activities. Regional training facility within a development pathway	4-6 Greens (grass and synthetic), Large clubhouse, carpark and spectator capacity, 280+ pennant bowlers, 360+ community bowlers.
Large Club	Pennant competition, Community competition, Inter and Intra club competition, Social bowlers.	Competition and community focus. Competitive teams and leagues. Club serves a larger catchment area. Multi-use and multi-sport facility.	4-5 greens, 200+ pennant bowlers, 160+ community bowlers.
Country: District and Small Club	Pennant competition. Community competition. Social Bowlers	Community and participation focus	1-3 greens, 30+ Pennant Bowlers, 20+ Community Bowlers

Based on the WA model, Moira also appears to provide a strong mix of Large Club and Country facilities to cater for a range of participation.

## Bowls Strategic Direction and Recommendations

### 6. Bowls

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High – 1-3 yrs Med – 3-5 yrs Low – 5-10 yrs
6.1	The Asset Management Plan dictates that in order to be supported for capital investment all facilities require an assessment of the required level of service and alternate venues and for upgrade and expansion to work in conjunction with funding from the Federal and State governments and community groups.	Strategic Goal 1 & 2  Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	Based on the current number of facilities located across and just outside the municipality, prior to any request for capital investment, undertake an assessment of the required level of service and alternate venues and for upgrade and expansion and work in conjunction with funding from the Federal and State governments and community groups.	Low

## Other Sports

It is acknowledged there is a range of other sports activities undertaken throughout Moira Shire, many on council owned and managed facilities and these are supported in a number of ways.

With demographic and societal changes, sports that currently sit outside the top 10 for participation may rise in popularity and vice-versa, an example being the growth in women's soccer over the last decade.

This strategy supports the notion of Council and the community being responsive and adaptive to these changes and providing appropriate levels of support to

both the high participation based activities and those that support variety and choice and are important to enhancing Moira's overall liveability.

## Active Recreation

- Gym/Group Fitness and Personal Training
- Walking, Jogging and Cycling
- Swimming
- Parks and Playgrounds
- Open Water Activities including fishing, canoeing, kayaking, sailing and water skiing



# GYM/GROUP FITNESS AND PERSONAL TRAINING

Gym, Group Fitness and Personal Training rate all as the most participated in active recreation activities across the municipality in the community survey. This correlates with state based participation, where it rates second behind walking and national data, where it is in the top 10. Anecdotally this type of activity has high rates of participation with both females and males, which is also reflected in the national participation data.

These activities are catered for in a number of ways. While regional type aquatic centres often have a 'Dry' area component incorporating many of these, the industry has gone through a paradigm shift with personal training, 24 hour and smaller niche or boutique type gyms, home equipment and web based apps all combining to provide more access to more people.

## Level of Service

The Community Consultation Survey, in which over 80% of respondents said they participate in gym/group fitness and personal training related activities and the fact it didn't appear in the top 15 of the identified 'desired sport and recreation projects' in the survey suggests Moira residents have appropriate levels of access, most likely provided via privately owned facilities in local townships, the regional facilities in Shepparton, Echuca and Wangaratta and Sporties Health & Fitness in Barooga, along with home equipment and the web based opportunities.

## Gym, Group Fitness and Personal Training Strategic Direction and Recommendations

### 7. Gym, Group Fitness and Personal Training

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High – 1-3 yrs Med – 3-5 yrs Low – 5-10 yrs
7.1	Consultation suggested opportunities to consider the provision of outdoor gyms along with a desire for the continued upgrade of areas around lakes, parks and the river. These could be combined to provide some level of outdoor gyms in high profile areas that may support casual use and use by personal trainers and groups.	Strategic Goal 2	Continue the installation of outdoor fitness equipment in the higher used open spaces, in particular along walking tracks in major towns.	High

# WALKING, JOGGING AND CYCLING

Walking and running feature highly in the most participated active recreation activities. Walking for exercise is the second highest ranked activity locally, which correlates well with Victoria where it rates number one and nationally it also rates the highest participated activity. Jogging, also in the top 10 locally, was rated fourth at a state level and in the top 10 nationally.

*"Cycling also features highly in the most participated active recreation activities. It is the fourth ranked activity locally, which correlates well with Victoria where it rates number three and nationally it also rates in the top 10 highest participated activities."*

The flexibility in being able to go for a walk, run or ride when it fits within a person's schedule, low cost, low impact and ability to continue the activity into older age are all attractive facets of these activities.

The provision of safe, well lit tracks with stopping and resting points supports participation.

## Level of Service

To ensure a number of options are available for people to walk or jog between 2.5km and up to 5km in loops, that can be repeated for those seeking greater distances.

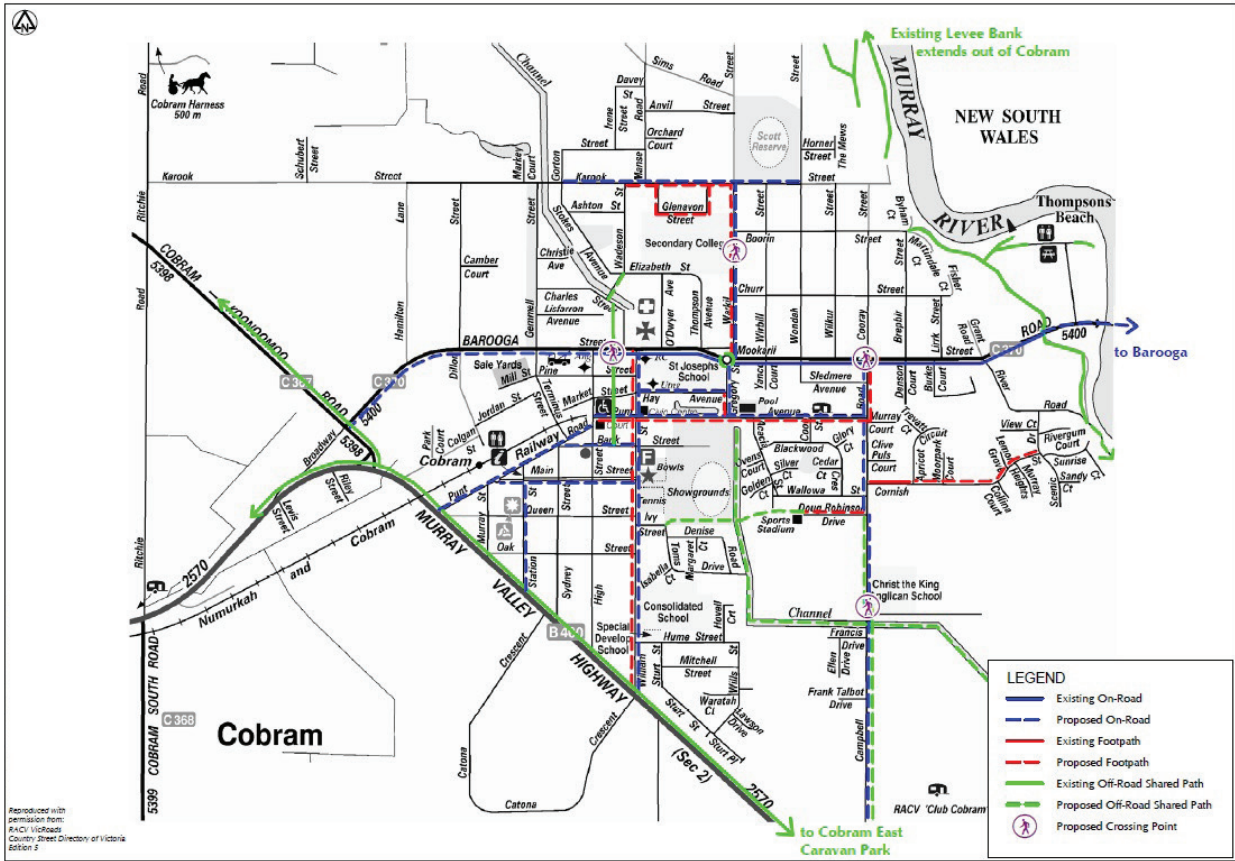
The recreation reserves and ovals in many towns provide an option for walking and running, and in many smaller towns knowledge of local conditions and quieter local streets and pathways on bigger roads provide sustainable infrastructure.

There are a number of informal cycling groups that ride in most townships using local roads for longer rides. A number of these higher use roads are signed to ensure vehicle drivers are aware cyclists may be present.

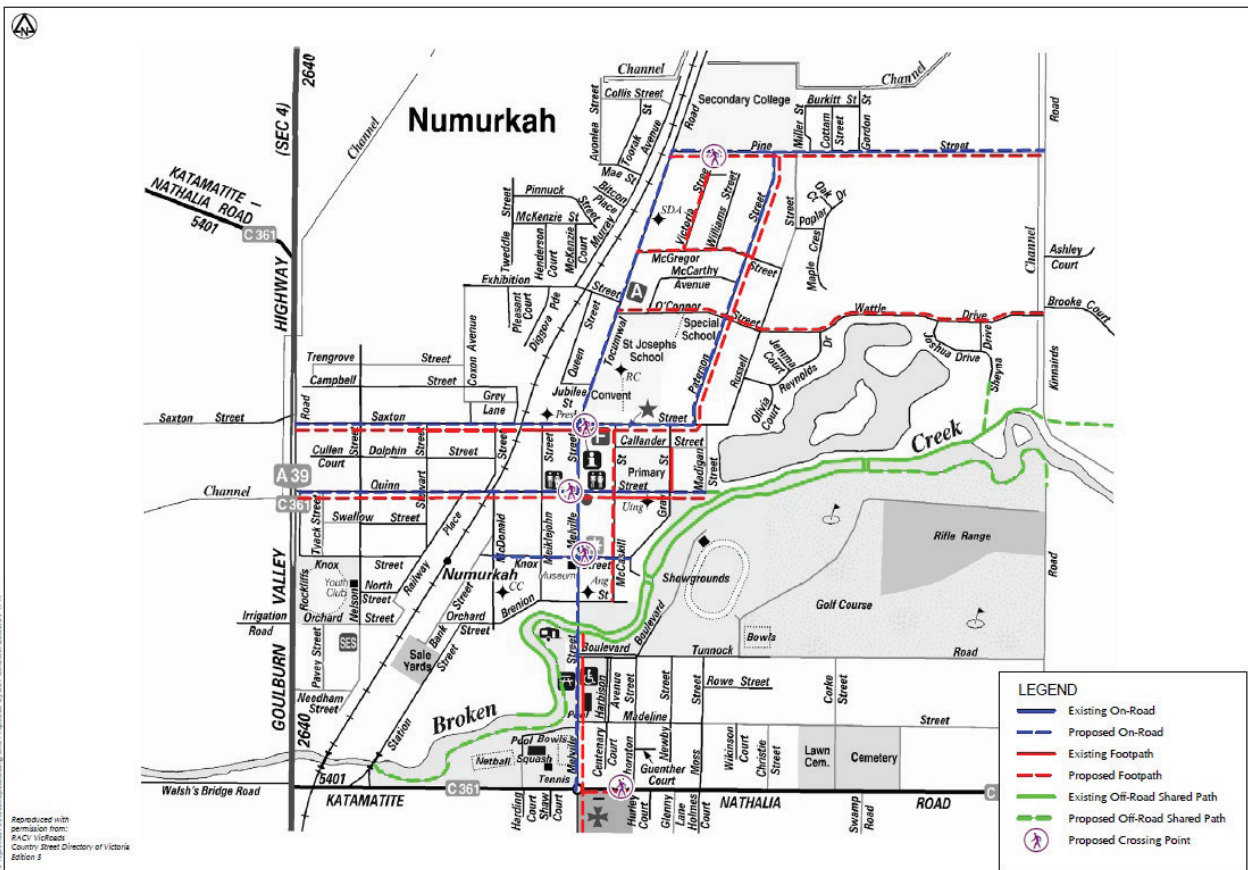
The Cycling and Walking Strategy 2005 provided a series of recommendations to develop in the townships of Nathalia, Numurkah, Cobram and Yarrawonga that provide infrastructure to the desired level of service.



## Walking, Jogging and Cycling Paths - Cobram



## Walking, Jogging and Cycling Paths - Numurkah



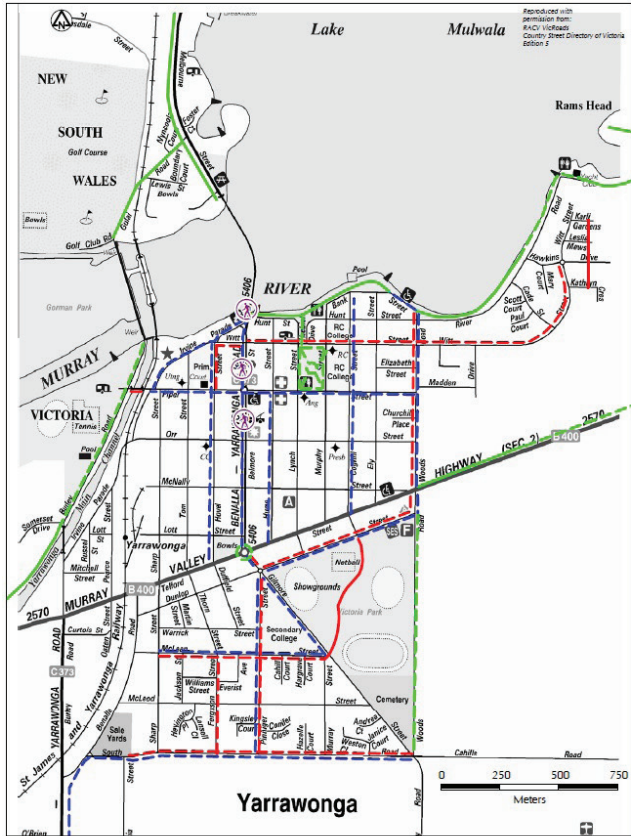
NUMURKAH  
Existing and Proposed  
Routes and Facilities



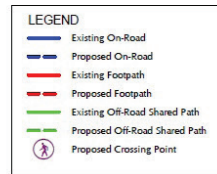
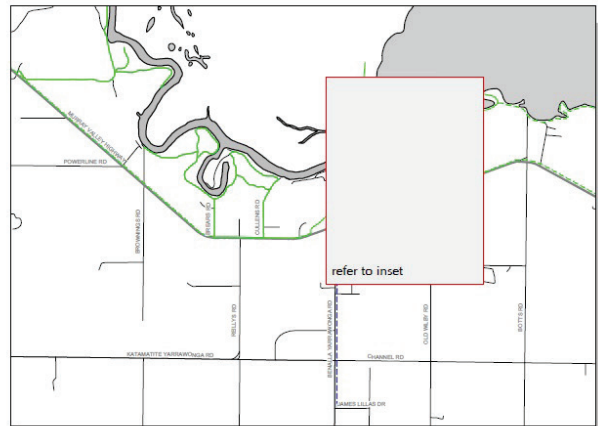
Moira Bicycle and  
Walking Study

ARUP

## Walking, Jogging and Cycling Paths - Yarrawonga

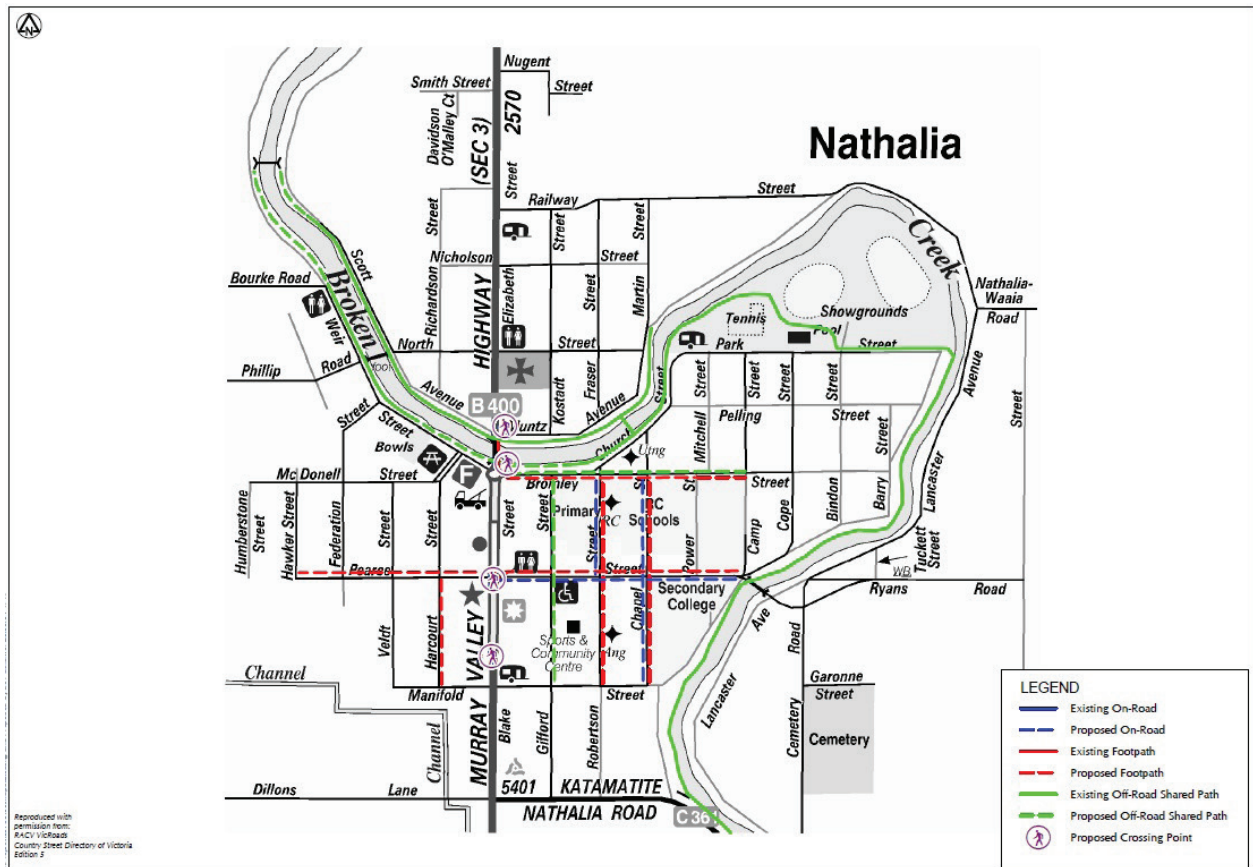


YARRAWONGA  
Existing and Proposed  
Routes and Facilities



Moira Bicycle and  
Walking Study  
**ARUP**

## Walking, Jogging and Cycling Paths - Nathalia

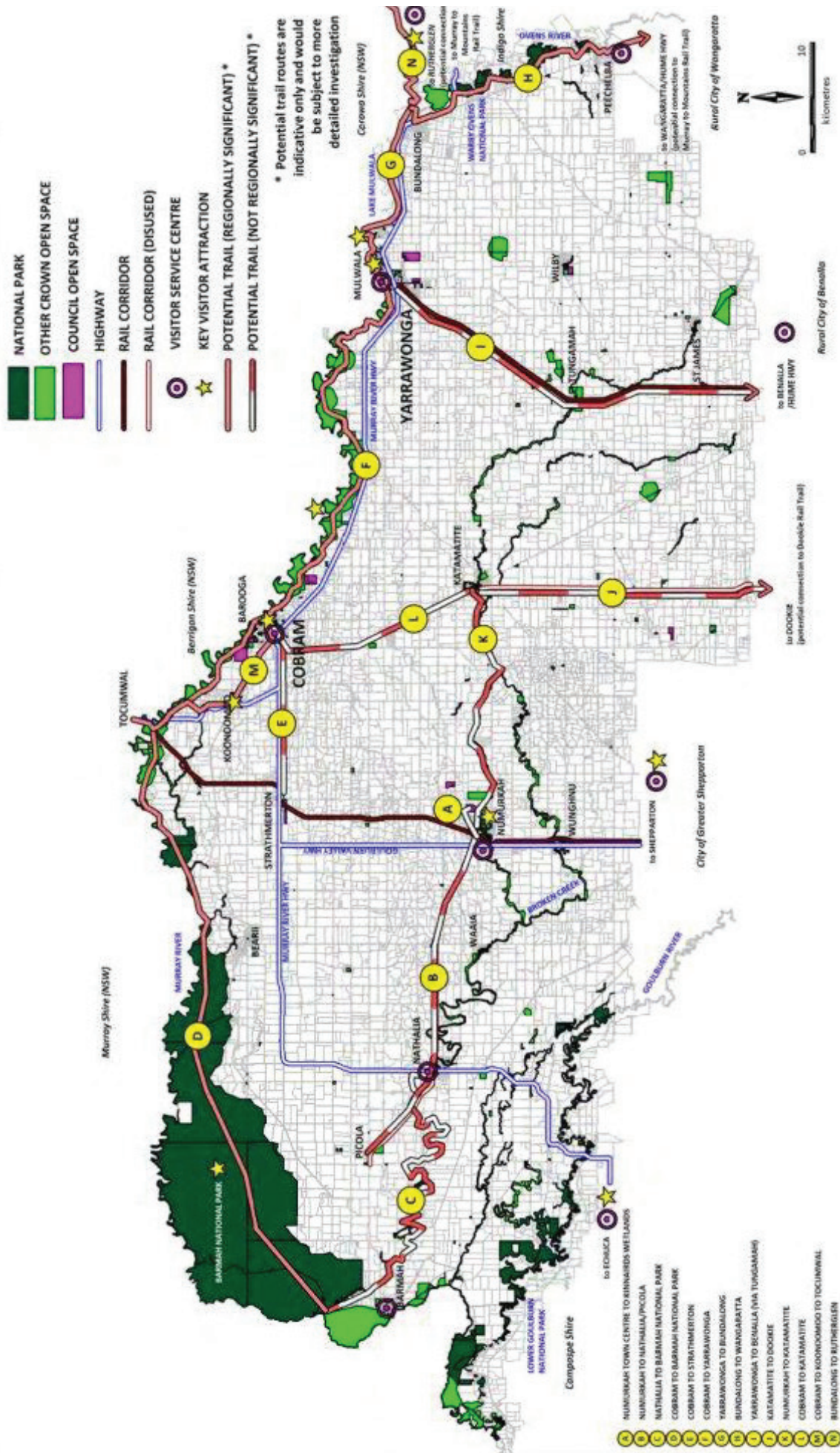


NATHALIA  
Existing and Proposed  
Routes and Facilities



Moira Bicycle and  
Walking Study

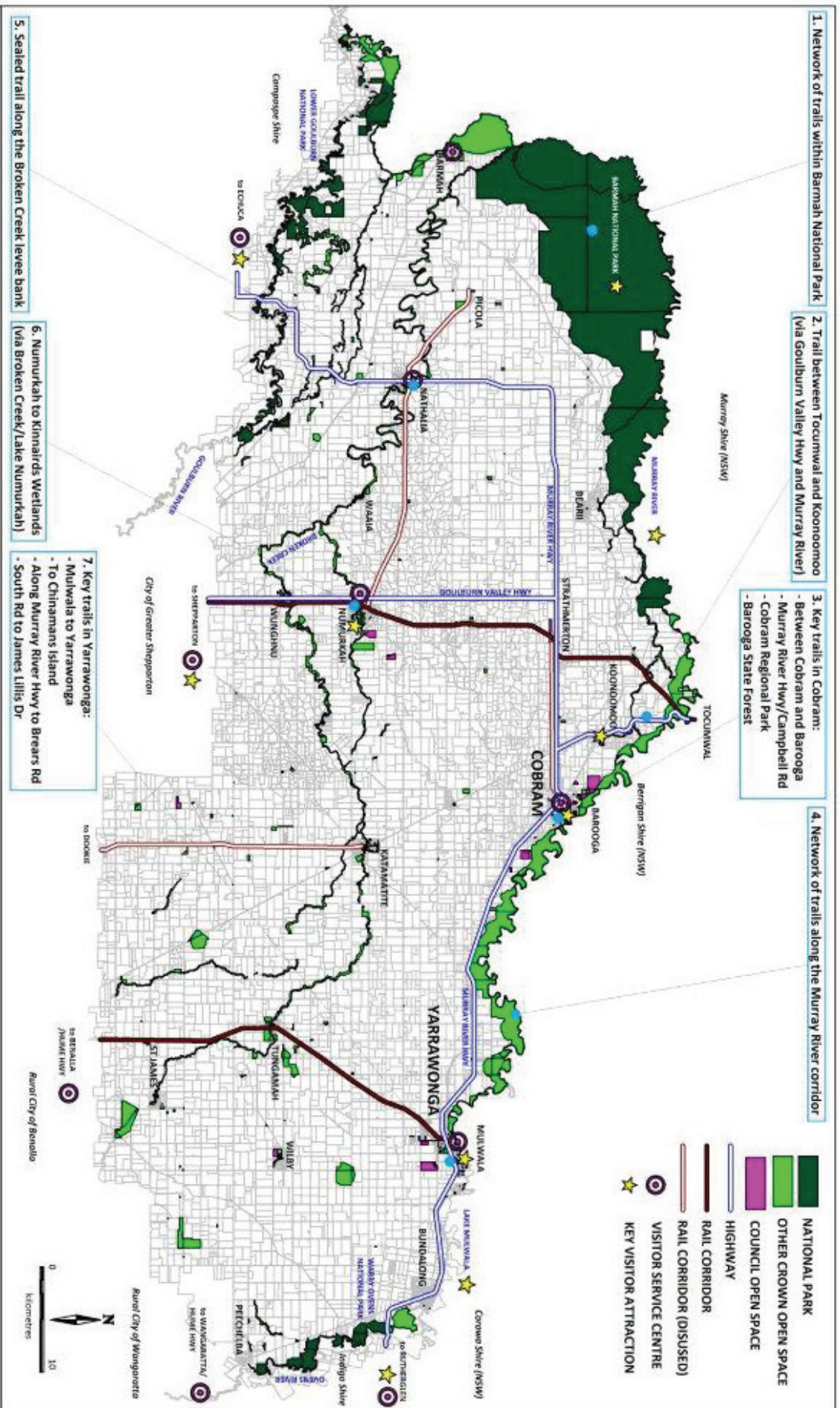
## Potential Trail Routes in Moira Shire



Further to this, the Potential Regional Cycling and Walking Trails in Moira Shire report provides advice in relation to longer walks and rides between townships. The report identifies existing and potential trails and linkages that will enhance opportunities for walking, running and cycling both for residents and visitors.



# Key Existing Trails in Moira Shire



## Walking, Jogging and Cycling Strategic Direction and Recommendations

### 8. Walking, Jogging and Cycling

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High – 1-3 yrs Med – 3-5 yrs Low – 5-10 yrs
8.1	The Moira Shire Council Cycling & Walking Strategy – 2005 provides a series of recommendations to support the development of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure that will enhance walking and cycling within the municipality.	Strategic Goal 2	The continued implementation of the Moira Shire Council Cycling & Walking Strategy recommendations including an audit of the current status and review of the strategy if required. Linking existing tracks should be a priority.	High
8.2	The Potential Cycling and Walking Trails in Moira Shire Report and the Murray River Adventure Trail Business Case 2014, provides a series of recommendations to support the development of trails that will enhance walking and riding within the municipality and support tourism visitation to the region. The Murray River Adventure Trail Business Case specifically identifies Yarrawonga as a 'Primary Destination' and Cobram as a 'Destination'.	Strategic Goal 1, 2 & 3  Enabling Objectives 1, 2 & 4	Implement and assess the potential cycling and walking trails in Moira as priorities and resources allow. Based on Murray River Adventure Trail Business Case priorities the Yarrawonga and Cobram linked sections due to their status as Primary Destination and a Destination.	Med
8.3	The Municipal Public Health & Well-Being Plan 2013-2017 specifically recommends the development of strategies and policies to upgrade walking tracks.	Enabling Objective 5	Review and prioritise walking and cycling track projects according to operational and capital fund availability including grants.	High
8.4	The Municipal Public Health & Well-Being Plan 2013-2017 and the Draft Positive Ageing Strategy 2015-2018 specifically recommends to support and collaborate with local community groups to establish additional walking tracks.	Strategic Goal 2  Enabling Objectives 1 & 4	Support and collaborate with local community groups to establish additional walking tracks.	High
8.5	The Municipal Public Health & Well-Being Plan 2013-2017 specifically recommends the investigation of options for cycle paths within close proximity to skate parks.	Strategic Goal 2	In conjunction with recommendation 8.3, investigate options for cycle paths within close proximity to skate parks.	High
8.6	The Draft Positive Ageing Strategy 2015-2018 recommends increasing the accessibility of the footpath network across the 4 main towns to promote 'walkability'	Strategic Goal 2	In conjunction with recommendation 8.3 incorporate the recommendation to increase accessibility of the footpath network across the four main towns.	Med



## SWIMMING

Swimming at over 50% rated the third highest participation activity based on the community survey. This correlates with state and national participation data which suggests it is in the top five activities at both levels. It has been highlighted as an important activity generally, however through the school consultations young people rated it as an activity that's important to them and it also is an activity that can be undertaken by older adults to assist them in remaining physically active.

In Moira Shire swimming is provided for via public swimming pools, open waterways including lakes and

rivers and via residential swimming pools. Council own and operates seasonal outdoor pools in Nathalia, Numurkah, Strathmerton, Cobram, Yarrawonga, and an indoor heated pool at Numurkah. There is also a pool in Tungamah located on the school grounds which is operated by a community committee.

### 2012-2015 Attendance and Subsidy Average

The following table highlights the average attendance, cost per visit and annual operating cost for the pools operated by Council

	Cobram	Nathalia	Numurkah	Strathmerton	Yarrawonga	Foreshore	Total
Average Attendance	6,996	7,960	9,277	1,780	15,491	12,026	<b>53,529</b>
Average Subsidy per head	\$9.52	\$8.96	\$7.60	\$29.12	\$3.80	\$2.87	<b>\$6.74</b>
Average Facility Subsidy	<b>\$65,625.67</b>	<b>\$71,615.88</b>	<b>\$67,795.89</b>	<b>\$50,415.64</b>	<b>\$57,830.26</b>	<b>\$32,146.17</b>	<b>\$345,429.51</b>

## Provision of Backyard Pools

One of the key societal shifts that the aquatic sector considers in the changing use of community pools is the growth in the provision of backyard pools. Since 2001 Moira Shire Council has approved 984 permits to build private pools in homes. With almost 10% of homes across the municipality having private pools built in the last 15 years, and assuming family and friends would visit and swim in those, it may be estimated up to half of the population may have access to a backyard pool in some capacity and this does not include those with pools built pre 2001. It must be remembered however that the provision of public facilities and services supports accessibility to those that may not have capacity to own or access to private pools.

## Level of Service

The following hierarchy has been established to assist in defining the types of facilities available to the community of Moira Shire:

- Local Pool  
A seasonal outdoor pool with or without heating.
- Regional Pool  
Being a year round facility incorporating indoor heated pools with capacity to cater for the sport of swimming via a minimum of a 25m metre lap pool.

In defining a level of service that provides reasonable access and facilitates participation, but is financially sustainable it is proposed that:

- 70% of the population live within 5kms of a local pool,
- 90% of the population live within 20kms of a local pool, and
- 90% of the population live within 40kms of a regional pool.

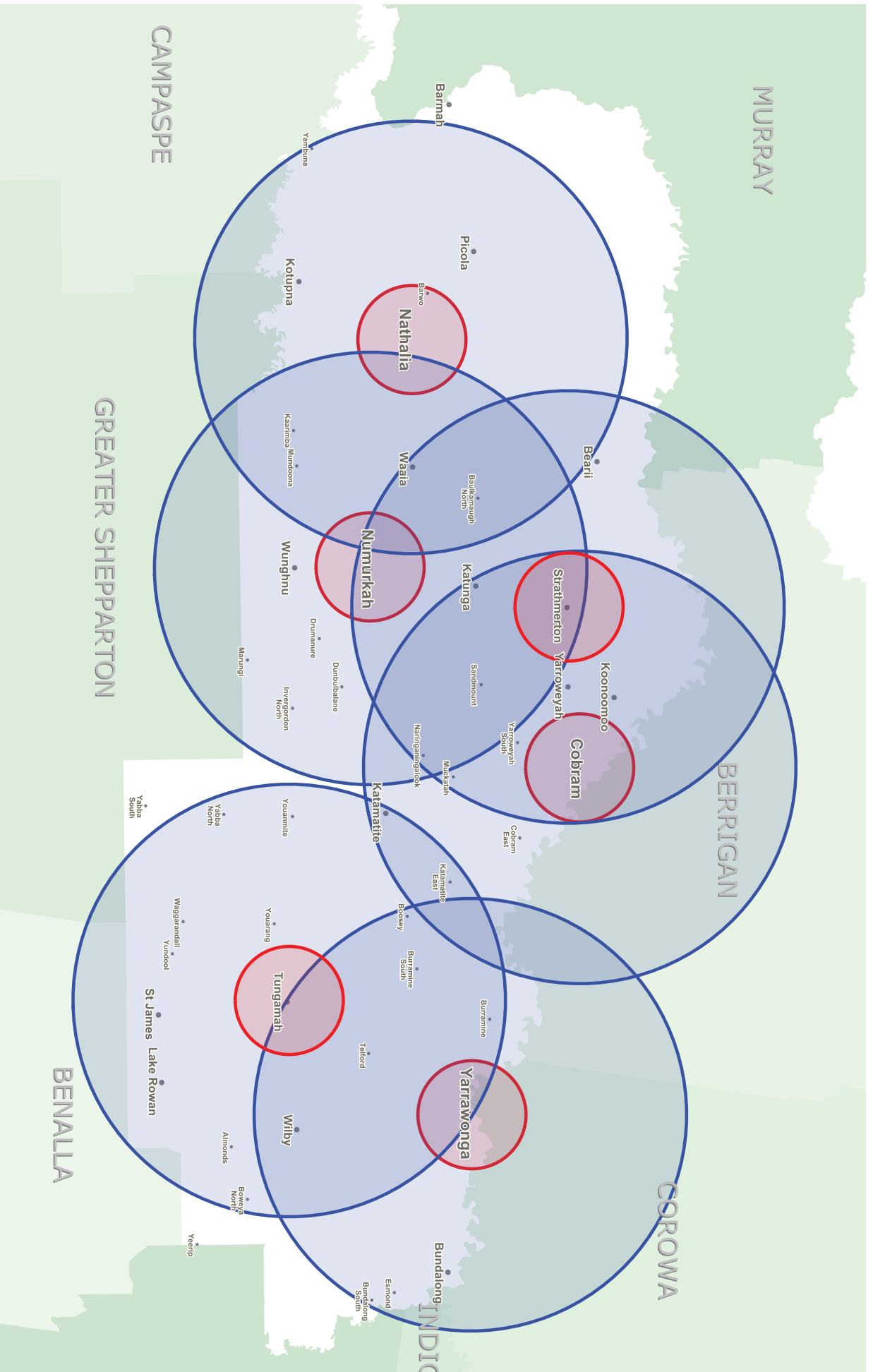
This allows for the highest density of population to be able to reasonably walk or ride a bike to a local pool, with those in outlying areas likely to have to drive to any destination. Ideally this drive would be in the vicinity of 15 to 20 minutes to a local pool and the majority being able to drive to a regional pool in around 30 minutes.

## Provision of Local Pools

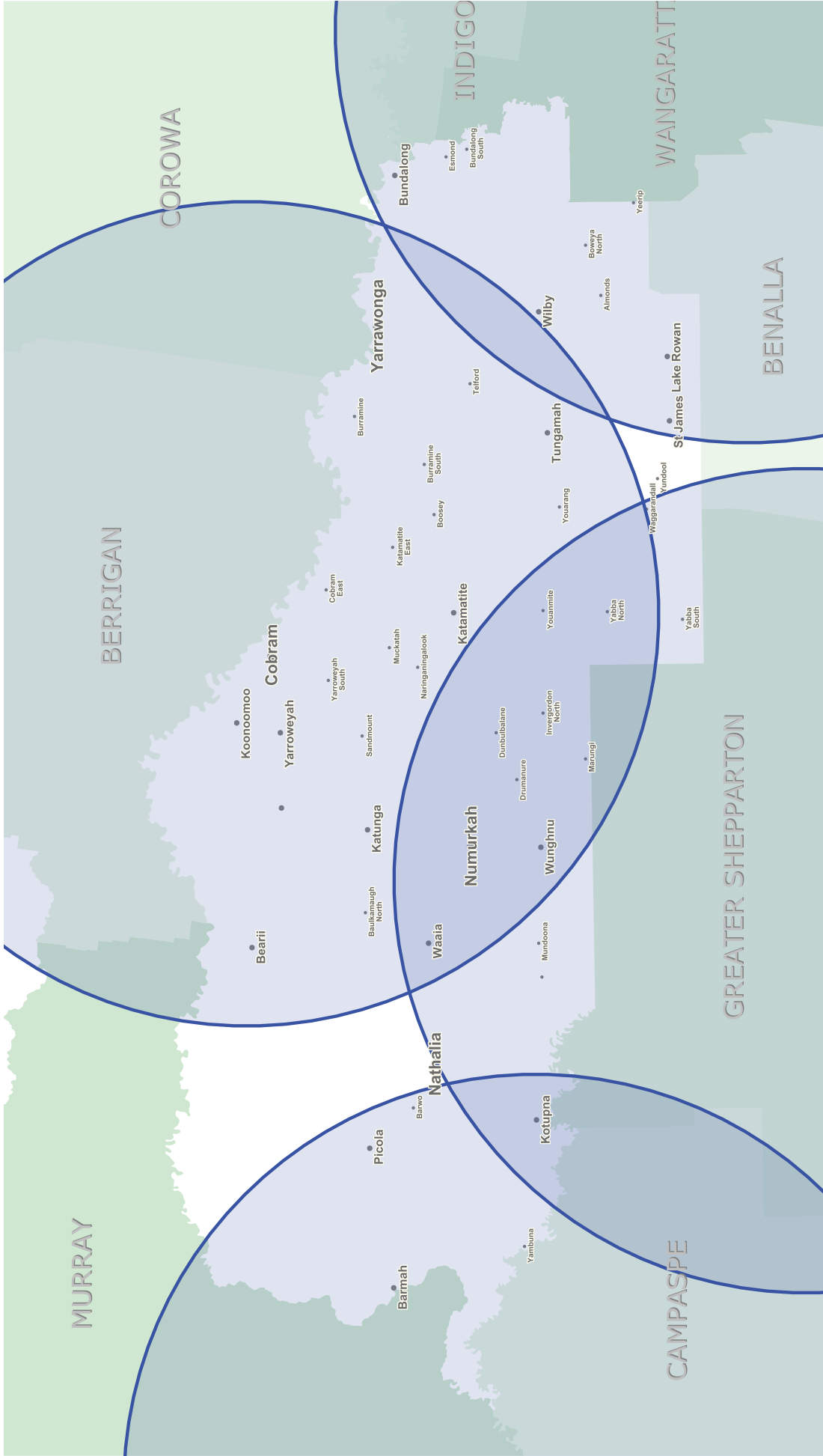
It is estimated currently that 70% of the population live within 5kms of a local pool (highlighted below with the red circle), 97% live within 20kms of a local pool (highlighted below with the blue circle) and 98% live within 40kms of a regional pool (highlighted on the Regional Map with the blue circle).

This data correlates with the outcomes of the 2015 Community Satisfaction Survey in which 57% of respondents said they travelled less than 5km and 90% said they travelled less than 20km to a swimming pool.





Provision of Regional Pools and 40km catchments



Regional pools are located in Barooga, Shepparton, Echuca and Wangaratta. As highlighted these overlap and meet the targeted service level of 90% of the population being able to drive to a year round, indoor heated pool within a 30 minute drive.

## Swimming Strategic Directions and Recommendations

### 9. Swimming

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High – 1-3 yrs Med – 3-5 yrs Low – 5-10 yrs
9.1	The availability, use and cost to provide seasonal swimming pools is a significant issue right across Victoria. Through the community engagement process young people highlighted swimming as a popular activity and Councillors identified a number of opportunities they felt could be explored to enhance the operation and visitation at pools. There is currently no clear strategy or plan guiding the provision of services linked to the provision of community pools.	Strategic Goal 2  Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	That an Aquatic Strategy be developed to provide clear objectives and direction linked to asset management, cost of provision and future use. Renewal projects that consider new innovation in aquatics need to be considered. Rationalising some pools should also form part of this renewal program.	High
9.2	The Multi Purpose Aquatic and Recreation Facility Feasibility Study – 2007 recommends supporting of further investigation into the development of a regional facility in Yarrawonga. It estimates the annual operational cost of the provision of such a facility recommended in townships with a population ranging from 5,000 to 15,000 people could be between \$200,000 and \$400,000.	Strategic Goal 1, 2 & 3  Enabling Objectives 1, 2 & 4	Based on the current provision and access to aquatic facilities including regional facilities in neighbouring municipalities, the estimated annual operating cost of a new facility within current population levels and in the context of the council Plan and Sustainable Capacity Report, without significant population growth it is not considered feasible for Council to build and operate a regional facility at this time.	
9.3	The visitation and cost per visit to Strathmerton pool is significantly different to the other pools that have much higher population catchments.	Strategic Goal 2  Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	Should the sustainability of providing the current levels of pools become an issue for Council further investigation of the impact of the closure of the Strathmerton pool and the impact on the overall level of service targets should be considered.	Med

# PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

The benefits to both adults and children of access to outdoor green spaces and play has been widely researched, documented and understood. The Beyond Blue to Green: The Health Benefits of Contact with Nature in a Park Context study found that:

*"For children, outdoor play has long-term benefits for physical, social, emotional and cognitive development and fosters a sense of identity, feelings of autonomy, psychological resilience and healthy behaviours."*

For young people with serious substance abuse issues and/or mental health disorders, horticulture therapy programs have a range of benefits including lower anxiety and depression levels, decreased illegal activity and drug-use and higher self esteem.

Older people are more likely to report a high or very high level of psychological distress than younger people. However, areas with natural landscaping, green neighbourhood meeting places, group nature

based activities such as walking, and shared gardens for the elderly can facilitate social contact, which has been shown to reduce the risk of developing chronic diseases such as depression and cardiovascular disease.

And generally, the range of psychological benefits for people who visit green open spaces is vast and includes improved mood, lower levels of anxiety, lower stress levels, lower levels of depression and increased physical activity.

In Moira, walking the dog, playing in the park and kick-about in the backyard or park are all amongst the most participated in active recreation activities.

There are currently 68 parks with playgrounds of various size and quality situated across the municipality, a full list is provided as Appendix 2 – Parks with Playgrounds – Location by Township.





To support planning, the four primary types of parks provided in Moira will be defined as:

- **Local Open Space**

An area of open space, with little or no infrastructure on site, usually smaller space, less than 0.5 hectares.

- **Neighbourhood Park**

A Local Open Space, with the additional provision of some playground equipment. May or may not have support infrastructure such as seats and BBQs.

- **Town Park**

Major open space with playground equipment, BBQ and toilets which services the town. Not of a scale to attract regional visitation but does serve the needs of families passing through on their travels.

- **Regional Park and Playground**

A bigger park, larger than 1 hectare with play equipment and support infrastructure such as toilets and BBQs. Has the potential, as a stand alone tourist attraction to attract visitation from the wider region.

## Level of Service

In defining a level of service that provides reasonable access and facilitates participation, but is financially sustainable it is proposed that:

- 90% of the population live within 500m of a local open space or neighbourhood park,
- 90% of the population live within 1km of a Town park with a playground, and
- 90% of the population live within 40km of a regional park.

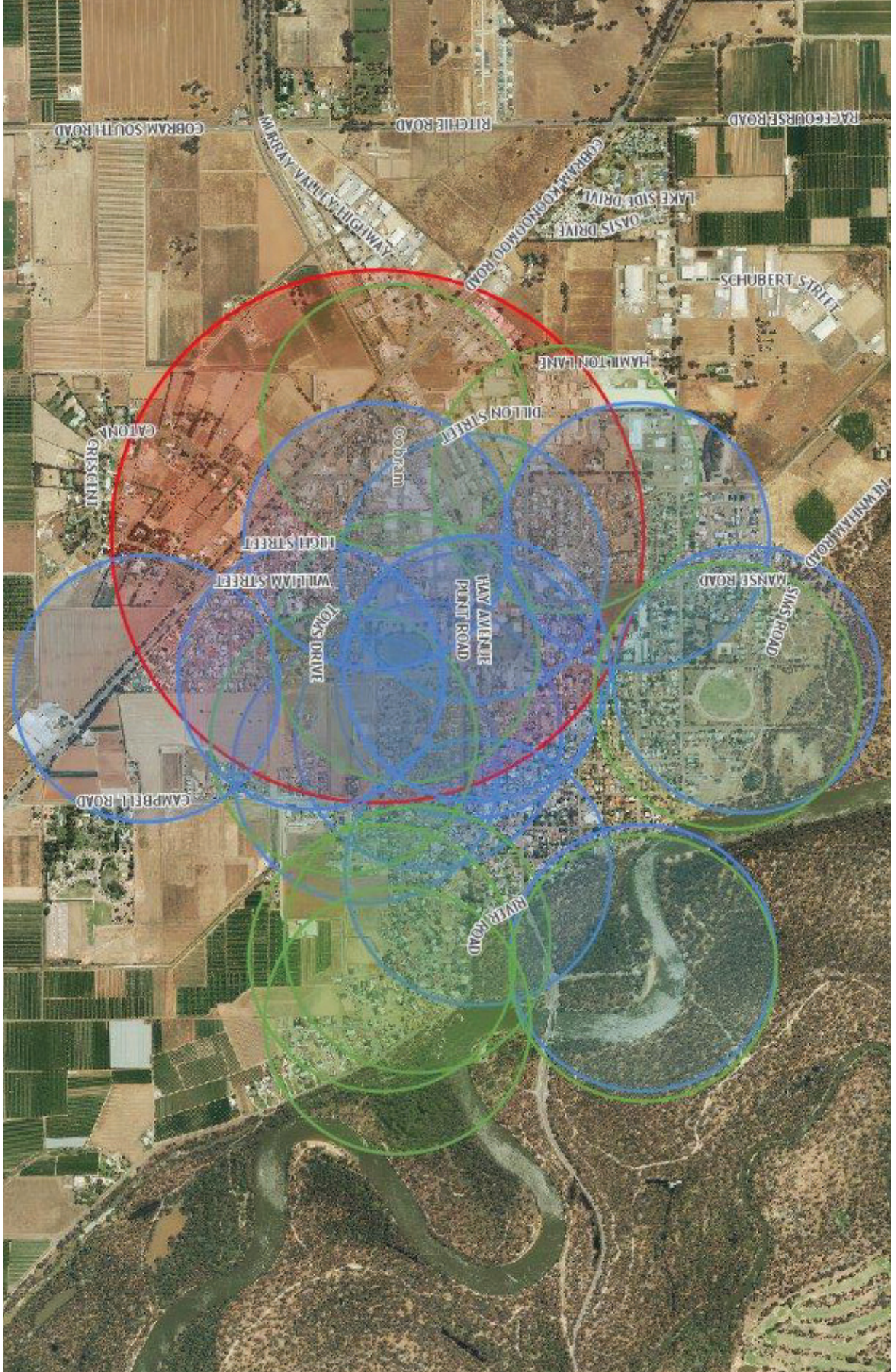
This allows for a large majority of the population to reasonably be able to walk or ride a bike to a local open space or park with a playground, and to be able to walk, ride or make a short drive to a town park. Provision of a larger regional park should remain a priority, most likely to be located in Yarrawonga and/or Cobram.

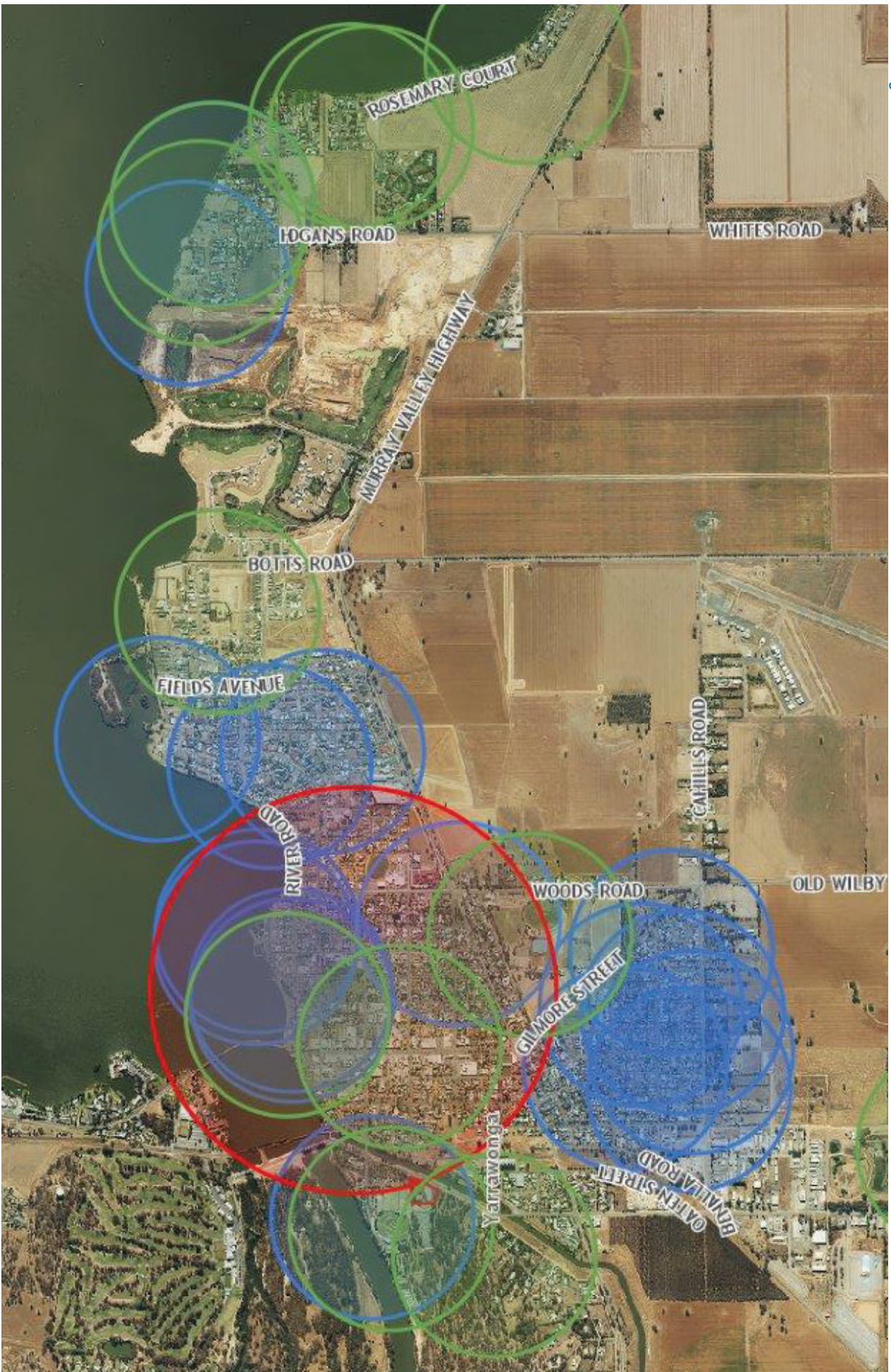
## Provision of Parks and Open Space

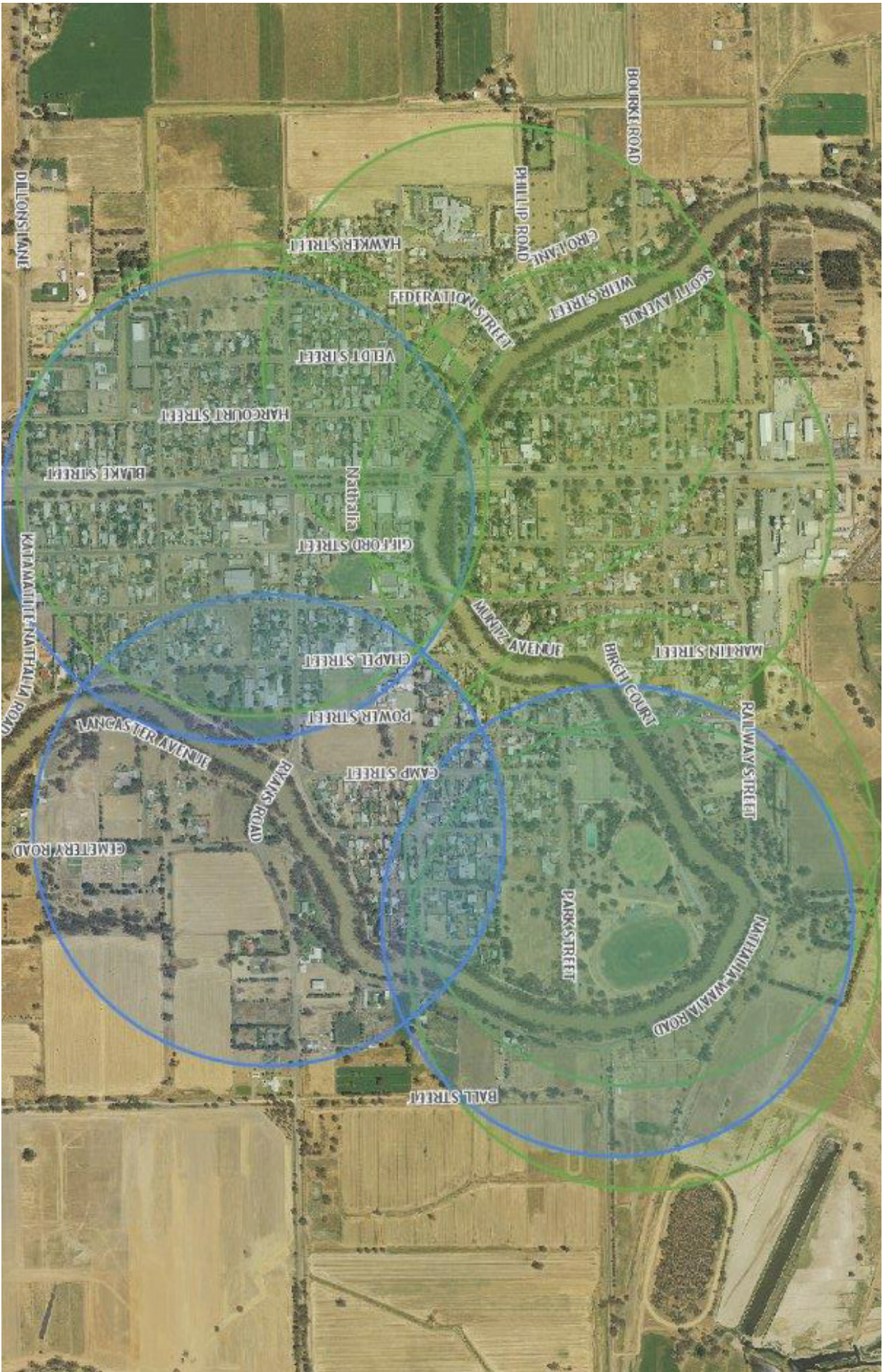
There is a park and playground located in every town in Moira Shire.

The mapping below highlights the provision within the 4 major townships. The green areas represent a 500m radius of a local open space, the blue areas 500m of a neighbourhood park with a playground and the red a 1km radius of a town park.

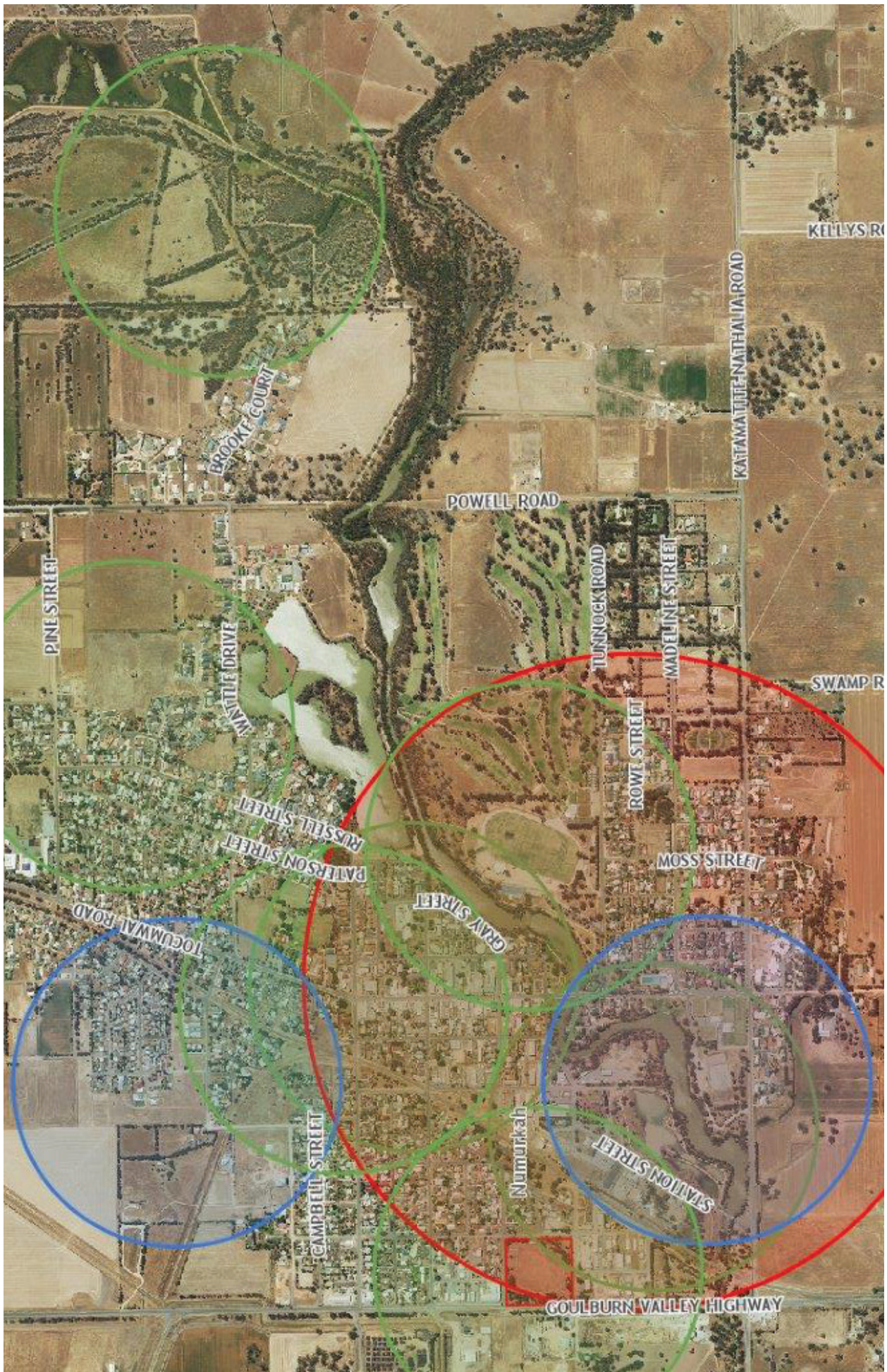








Nathalia



Numurkah



Moira is well catered for in provision of neighbourhood and town parks and playgrounds and appears to generally meet the targeted service levels. The density of parks and playgrounds in the Cobram and Yarrawonga townships in particular suggest there may be an over-supply, which may have an impact on service standards and quality. The rationalising of some Cobram and Yarrawonga parks and playgrounds where they are located in close proximity may support the provision of higher quality spaces across the whole municipality. This could include development of a Regional playground.

While Nathalia and Numurkah appear reasonably serviced, there may be scope for the creation of some additional higher quality play spaces, with Nathalia currently not having a town playground.

The community survey supports the notion of the municipality being well, if not over-serviced for parks

and playgrounds, with almost 70% of the respondents rating their quality as either good or very good.

There has been media coverage and submissions to Council highlighting the desire for a significant regional playground facility that may have a high focus on all-ability access. Should such a facility proceed it could be developed to a standard that would attract regional and tourist visitation and on that basis should be located in one of the townships that supports higher tourist visitor numbers, most likely Yarrawonga.

A well planned park and playground strategy focused across the municipality should be undertaken to inform the direction of this area where Council has significant resources invested.

*Note: accessibility is a key theme that should be considered when planning for any new or upgraded parks and or playgrounds.*



## Parks and Playgrounds Strategic Direction and Recommendations

### 10. Parks and Playgrounds

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High – 1-3 yrs Med – 3-5 yrs Low – 5-10 yrs
10.1	There appears to be a high concentration and possible over supply of parks and playgrounds in the townships of Cobram and Yarrawonga, while Numurkah and Nathalia, although well serviced may not have comparable quality services. Nathalia does not currently have a town playground. Rationalising parks where they are oversupplied may free up and provide additional resources that could support a higher standard of provision across the whole municipality.	Strategic Goal 2  Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3 & 4	A detailed audit and strategic plan for the municipal wide provision of town based parks and playgrounds be undertaken and incorporate the development of a hierarchy of facilities, condition and location assessments and 10 year prioritised development plan.	Med
10.2	There appears to be a desire for the construction of a significant regional type playground incorporating access for all abilities. Further investigation of this should occur as part of a broader playground review and strategy.	Strategic Goal 1  Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	That the strategy referred to in recommendation 10.1 include the investigation of the provision of a significant regional facility including consideration of its best location.	Med







## OPEN WATER ACTIVITIES INCLUDING FISHING, CANOEING, KAYAKING, SAILING AND WATER SKIING

Open water activities such as fishing, canoeing, kayaking and water skiing are hugely popular with locals and visitors and important to the Moira municipality. Its perfect location on the Murray River, Lake Mulwala and

Broken Creek provide access to some of the best areas for these activities in all of Australia.

The Murray River and Lake Mulwala based tourism is a major industry in the region with people visiting the area to water ski and fish.

Council does not provide any direct service provision relating to these activities via its recreation services, due to national parks, rivers and lakes being located on crown land. Many of the support services are supplied commercially via fishing, camping and boat shops.

### Open Water Activities Strategic Direction and Recommendations

#### 11. Open Water Activities

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High – 1-3 yrs Med – 3-5 yrs Low – 5-10 yrs
11.1	Open Water Activities is a key tourism product, especially for the townships located on or near the Murray River.	Strategic Goal 2 & 3	Encourage tourism stakeholders to continue to identify and leverage opportunities relating to open water based events and tourism.	High - Ongoing

# SPORTS AND ACTIVE RECREATION DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

The provision of infrastructure and facilities is only one component to supporting strong and viable active communities.

The sports club survey, while noting the importance of maintaining facilities, also strongly highlighted the major issues facing clubs linked to maintaining participation levels, keeping volunteers and raising funds.

## Programming and Activity

While the provision of public spaces is important, programming and activating them can be the real difference in connecting communities and encouraging active and healthy lifestyles. It's a given that when



a pool or leisure centre is built that it is staffed and programmed, however this is often not the case for many other public spaces.

The VicHealth Activation Program and Active in Parks Program are examples of this and by also supporting programs such as the Greater Shepparton City Council Activities in the Parks and Brimbank Council 'Pop Up Leisure Centre' will achieve the target of getting more people more active more often.

## Governance

The Section 86 Committee reviews that have been undertaken have highlighted a number of issues including the amount of governance needed to comply with required standards and a number of small, single use facilities managed under this model that may be able to function under much simpler governance models. There is scope via the on-going reviews to work with committees and support them to shift to more appropriate governance models.

## Club Support

The State Government, VicHealth and the Australian Drug Foundation fund the delivery of a range of support to sport and recreation organisations through programs such as the Supporting Victorian Sport and Recreation Program, VicHealth Regional Sport Program and Good Sports. These programs are delivered regionally by Valley Sport. Council works in collaboration with and supports Valley Sport and local clubs by promoting their programs throughout the municipality.

*"Council directly provides funding through a range of grants to support sports and active recreation development. The table below highlights the 2015-2016 Grants Program."*

Category	Grant Amount
Community Major Grants	Up to \$15,000
Community Event Grants	Up to \$500
Community Minor Grants	Up to \$2,500
Health Promotion Grants	Up to \$500
Tourism Events Grants	Up to \$5,000
Arts and Culture Small Grants	Up to \$2,000

## Sport and Active Recreation Development and Support Strategic Direction and Recommendations

### 12. Sport and Active Recreation Development and Support

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High – 1-3 yrs Med – 3-5 yrs Low – 5-10 yrs
12.1	While provision of public spaces is important, activating them is often the key ingredient in ensuring high levels of use and encouraging people to participate.	Strategic Goal 1 & 2  Enabling Objectives 1, 2 & 4	Work closely with community groups and other stakeholders in identifying alternate additional uses for open space. Activities and programs that encourage both active and passive participation should be encouraged. Examples include fishing, walking and art activities.	Med
12.2	Governance requirements linked to Section 86 Committees may place additional strain on volunteers and there may be scope to implement different governance models that are more supportive, especially in the instance of smaller, single use facilities.	Strategic Goal 2 & 3  Enabling Objectives 1, 4 & 5	Work with Section 86 Committees, especially those with small numbers of facility users to implement more appropriate governance models.	High
12.3	Clubs are highlighting development based issues such as participation, volunteers and fundraising as key issues threatening their futures.	Strategic Goal 1  Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	Work with organisations such as Valley Sport to ensure strong presence in the municipality and appropriate programs and support are provided for regional clubs and associations.	High



# TOURISM AND SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION

Tourism is amongst the largest economic contributors to Moira Shire and contributes around \$95m and 580 jobs to the local economy.

Events and conferences are identified as key tourism development opportunities. The Murray Region Events Strategy suggests that events visitation to Moira is relatively low when compared with other regions and notes the region lacks a signature event. It highlights significant assets that could be used to support further event visitation and includes Lake Mulwala, Yarrawonga and the quality parklands and sports facilities amongst these. Sports types events appear to make up around 36% of the total event visitation to the region.

A number of events such as tennis at Yarrawonga and Cobram and fishing at Lake Mulwala are examples of sporting and recreation based activities that have been successful in supporting regional tourism.

Sport and active recreation groups are well positioned to capitalise on these opportunities either by creating or hosting events or providing support services to others.

*"The Murray River Adventure Trail is identified as a key infrastructure development project to support regional tourism."*

Golf is also highlighted as an important tourism support activity, especially to those townships located on or near the Murray River. As previously noted, the Australian Golf Industry Council, Value of Golf Tourism to Australia report says that golf tourism generates in excess of \$820m and 8.4m visitor nights annually with the Murray River, along with Queensland being the most frequently visited golf destinations by core golf tourists in Australia.

## Tourism and Sport and Active Recreation Strategic Direction and Recommendations

### 13. Tourism and Sport and Active Recreation

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High – 1-3 yrs Med – 3-5 yrs Low – 5-10 yrs
13.1	Events and conferences, development of the Murray River Adventure Trail and golf are identified as key product development opportunities to support growth in regional tourism. Sport and active recreation is well placed to capitalise on these opportunities.	Strategic Goal 1, 2 & 3	Council should continue to support the endeavours of event organisers such as major aquatic, golf and tennis events in attracting visitors to our region through recreation events. Council's tourism events grant program is central for this support.	High - Ongoing



# APPENDIX 1

## SPORTS CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS – COMPLETING SURVEY OR ATTENDING FORUM

ID	Sport	Club	ID	Sport	Club
1	AFL	Katamatite	37	Tennis	Burramine
2	AFL	Tungamah	38	Tennis	Cobram Lawn
3	AFL	Yarrowonga	39	Tennis	Katunga
4	AFL	Katunga	40	Tennis	Numurkah
5	AFL	Cobram	41	Tennis	Tungamah
6	Basketball	Numurkah	42	Tennis	Waaia
7	Basketball	Yarrowonga	43	Tennis	Wilby
8	Bowls	Cobram	44	Tennis	Yalca
9	Bowls	Nathalia	45	Tennis	Yarrowonga
10	Bowls	Numurkah Golf			
11	Bowls	Numurkah			
12	Bowls	Strathmerton			
13	Bowls	Tungamah			
14	Bowls	Wunghnu			
15	Bowls	Yarrowonga			
16	Cricket	Cobram			
17	Cricket	Cobram Yarroweyah United			
18	Cricket	Nathalia			
19	Cricket	Strathmerton			
20	Cricket	Yarrowonga			
21	Equestrian	Numurkah pony club			
22	Golf	Numurkah			
23	Golf	St James			
24	Golf	Nathalia			
25	Little athletics	Nathalia			
26	Little athletics	Yarrowonga			
27	Netball	Tungamah			
28	Netball	Cobram Association			
29	Netball	Katamatite			
30	Netball	Numurkah			
31	Netball	Picola			
32	Netball	Yarrowonga Association			
33	Netball	Yarrowonga FNC			
34	Netball	Yarroweyah			
35	Soccer	Cobram Junior			
36	Soccer	Cobram Roar			

## APPENDIX 2

### PARKS WITH PLAYGROUNDS – LOCATION BY TOWNSHIP

Site	Location	Town
Jack Edwards Park	Barmah Lakes Road	Barmah
Barmah Pre School	Schier Street	Barmah
Bearii Recreation Reserve	Williams Street	Bearii
Dan Cronin Recreation Reserve	Pyke Street	Bundalong
Burramine Hall	Cnr Katamatite-Yarrowonga & Lawless Roads	Burramine South
Kennedy Park (Thompsons Beach)	Rockarama Road	Cobram
Sturt Street Park	Sturt Street	Cobram
Levings Park	Cnr High & Queen Streets	Cobram
Cox Park	Toms Drive	Cobram
Mivo Park	Hay Avenue	Cobram
Cobram Memorial Pool	Punt Road	Cobram
H.H. Farrel Park	Punt Road	Cobram
Blackwood Park	Blackwood Crescent	Cobram
Cobram Child Care Centre	Punt Road	Cobram
Punt Road Kindergarten	Punt Road	Cobram
Eileen Taylor Kindergarten	Hay Avenue	Cobram
Cobram Maternal & Child Care Centre	Hay Street	Cobram
Pioneer Park	Stokes Avenue	Cobram
Scott Reserve	Warkil Street	Cobram
Parker Reserve	Burke Court	Cobram
Apex Park/Cobram Sports Stadium	Doug Robinson Drive	Cobram
Gayfer Reserve	Batey Road	Invergordon
Katamatite Recreation Reserve	Moore Street	Katamatite
C.R. Wood Park	Beek Street	Katamatite
Katamatite Museum Park	Beek Street	Katamatite
Katunga Recreation Reserve	Carter Street	Katunga
Kotupna Recreation Reserve	Kotupna - Barmah Road	Kotupna
Uncle Bobs Club Park	Ryans Road	Nathalia
Nathalia Pre School	Pearce Street	Nathalia
Nathalia Apex Park	Weir Street	Nathalia
Nathalia Showgrounds	Park Street	Nathalia
McNamara Drive Reserve	McNamara Drive	Numurkah
Numurkah Park	Tunnock Road	Numurkah
Numurkah Pre School	Quinn Street	Numurkah
Bridie Knight Child Care Centre	Quinn Street	Numurkah
Tweddle Street Reserve East	Tweddle Street	Numurkah
Tweddle Street Reserve West	Tweddle Street	Numurkah

Site	Location	Town
Picola Recreation Reserve	Picola Road North	Picola
J.F. Kelly Reserve	Devenish Road	St James
Strathmerton RSL Park	Patrick Street	Strathmerton
Strathmerton Recreation Reserve	Numurkah Road	Strathmerton
Strathmerton Lions Park	Murray Valley Highway	Strathmerton
Strathmerton Pre School	Butt Street	Strathmerton
Tungamah Recreation Reserve	Devenish Road	Tungamah
Tungamah Tennis Reserve	Bailey Street	Tungamah
Tungamah Park East	Boyd Street	Tungamah
Tungamah Park West	Bailey Street	Tungamah
Boyd Street Reserve	Boyd Street	Tungamah
Tungamah Pre School	Middleton Street	Tungamah
Waaia Recreation Reserve	McDonald Street	Waaia
Wilby Recreation Reserve	Tungamah Peechelba Road	Wilby
Wunghnu Recreation Reserve	Goulburn Valley Highway	Wunghnu
George Graham Park	Goulburn Valley Highway	Wunghnu
Lions Park	Lansell Close	Yarrowonga
Ferguson Street Park	Ferguson Street	Yarrowonga
Conifer Close Park	Conifer Close	Yarrowonga
Hargrave Park	McLeod Street	Yarrowonga
Yarrowonga Mulwala Swimming Pool Complex	Burley Road	Yarrowonga
J.C. Lowe Oval	G. Oakley Drive	Yarrowonga
Yarrowonga Pre School	Orr Street	Yarrowonga
Lynch Street Park	Lynch Street	Yarrowonga
Frank Keenan Reserve	Hunt Street	Yarrowonga
Yarrowonga Foreshore Reserve	Bank Street	Yarrowonga
Hammon Park	McNally Street	Yarrowonga
Yarrowonga Early Childhood Centre	Orr Street	Yarrowonga
Linthorpe Drive Park	Linthorpe Drive	Yarrowonga
Yarroweyah Recreation Reserve	Kenny Road	Yarroweyah
Yarroweyah Public Hall	Murray Valley Highway	Yarroweyah



# APPENDIX 3

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Local

#### The Sustainable Capacity Report – 2014

In 2014 Council commissioned a report (the Sustainable Capacity Report) to gain a greater understanding of Moira Shire Council's financial position and performance.

The report reveals that the Moira Shire Council has inherently higher costs than average by virtue of such factors as population distribution, geography, age profile and climate. The report also suggests that the communities capacity to pay, linked to things such as discretionary and family income, tourism and shopping expenditure ranks 65th out of the 79 Victorian Council's and is the second lowest of the eight large rural shires with which Moira is officially grouped for comparison purposes.

Based on this combination, the report found that Moira Shire is significantly handicapped by the way it is made up and carries relative and distinct disadvantage

relating to its capacity to be sustainable. The conclusion drawn from the report is that Moira Shire is costing its ratepayers less than it should for a Council, but also that it has very little room to move.

These factors are critical in informing future deliberations in regard to financial sustainability for Council including direction linked to service delivery, infrastructure investment and asset management and accessibility to services.

#### Moira Shire Council – Cycling and Walking Strategy – April 2005

The Moira Shire Council – Cycling and Walking Strategy – April 2005 was prepared as a 10 year strategy aiming to improve cycling and walking in the Shire. While it was focused on the towns of Yarrowonga, Cobram, Numurkah and Nathalia, it also considers provision for the smaller towns in the Shire and the routes between the towns.

The Plan highlights a detailed strategy and Action Plan including a number of proposed developments.

A number of the identified projects have been undertaken, however the plan is now due for review.



## Potential Regional Cycling and Walking Trails in Moira Shire – 2013

The Potential Regional Cycling and Walking Trails Report aims to determine the potential for cycling and walking trails in Moira Shire that can enhance the visitor experience to the Shire and provide additional activities for local residents.

The Project:

- Undertook a comprehensive audit of the existing and potential regional trails within Moira Shire including those that intersect other Shire boundaries
- Provides comprehensive mapping of these trails
- Classifies the existing and potential trails throughout the Shire
- Prioritises potential trail tourism, economic and social values
- Considers the implications of regional trails passing through private land
- Provides indicative costs to develop trails

The Report highlights six Priority Regional Trail developments, being:

1. Cobram to Yarrawonga
2. Yarrawonga to Bundalong
3. Cobram to Barmah/Barmah National Park (Dharnya Interpretation Centre) via Tocumwal/Murray River
4. Cobram to Koonoomoo to Tocumwal
5. Bundalong to Rutherglen
6. Bundalong to Wangaratta

The Plan includes a detailed Action Plan incorporating policy and capital works as well high level indicative probable cost estimations.

## Municipal Public Health and Well-Being Plan 2013-2017

The Moira Shire Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) reflects Council's commitment to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents and visitors and to assist in the co-ordination of a range of services within the municipal district.

Specifically the MPHWP identifies Council's commitment to improving public health via:

- Development of strategies and policies to upgrade walking/cycling tracks, local pools and playgrounds.
- Funding grants to promote cohesion and cultural awareness ranging from community cars to improve access to services or reduce isolation, neighbourhood renewal projects to improve community identity and pride and giving service providers opportunities to up-skill in culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) issues.
- Promoting physical activity by maintaining recreation reserves at a high level, while forming agreements with organisations such as the YMCA to encourage participation in physical activity.
- Monitoring and planning for the effects of our changing climate. Documents such as the Environment Sustainability Strategy and Planning for Reduced Water Availability and Climate outline Council's position and inform policy and decisions.

Under the 'Healthy Behaviours' section of the Plan, in addition to highlighting the things Council currently does, it also highlights what it will do to work towards achieving our directions, these include:

- Ensure the provision of drinking water fountains in public spaces
- Ensure all public playgrounds are fitted with 'smoke free' signage
- Support and collaborate with local community groups to establish additional cycling and walking tracks
- Investigate options for cycle paths within close proximity of skate parks.

## Multi-Purpose Aquatic and Recreation Facility Feasibility Study - 2007

The Multi-Purpose Aquatic and Recreation Facility Feasibility Study aimed to determine the feasibility of providing an indoor aquatic centre in the township of Yarrawonga.

The Report Recommends:

1. In the short-term Council observe and support community access to private developments as they are progressed.
2. If Outcome One cannot be achieved, then Council upgrade/expand an existing aquatic facility which would include a program/hydrotherapy pool, an indoor heated pool, an indoor leisure pool primarily for toddlers (inclusive of moving water features), a spa/sauna and a café/kiosk.

3. If Outcomes One and Two cannot be achieved, then Council develop a new multi-purpose aquatic and recreation facility which would include a program/hydrotherapy pool, an indoor heated eight lane x 25m pool (with capacity for start blocks and a minimum lane width of 2.2m), an indoor leisure pool primarily for toddlers (inclusive of moving water features), a spa/sauna and a café/kiosk.

The report provides an estimate of the annual operational cost of the provision of a facility such as that recommended in townships with a population ranging from 5,000 to 15,000 people. The report suggests the annual cost required to be subsidised via rates could be between \$200,000 and \$400,000.



## Moira Shire Early Years Planning

Council is currently in the process of developing an Early Years Plan to continue on from the current plan which targeted 2011 to 2014.

The plan acknowledged the importance of recreation and physical activity in the lives of families and children and specifically highlighted the following objectives, strategies and actions:

Objectives	Strategies	Actions
To support family engagement in appropriate levels of physical activity in the community	Promote initiatives that highlight the importance of appropriate levels of physical activity	Assist in the promotion of the importance of active play
		Support Shire initiatives in developing cost effective recreation activities and facilities
		Assist in the promotion of Shire facilities for physical activities
To support the community in developing programs and infrastructure to improve community safety	Provide facilities that reduce sun/heat exposure in public areas	Continue to seek funding to provide facilities that reduce sun/heat exposure

### Youth Action Plan 2013-2016

The Youth Action Plan reflects Council's commitment to enhancing the quality of life of young people aged 12-25 who live, work and study within the Shire. The Plan links to the Moira Shire Council Plan and Moira Shire Youth Development and Support Policy, with the purpose of "encouraging young people to actively participate in decision making and being recognised as valued members of their community".

The Plan identifies Recreation and Culture as a key area and has a goal to "Provide a range of inclusive social and cultural activities for young people in Moira Shire".

It highlights the following Strategies, Actions and Outcomes linked to Recreation:

Strategy	Action	Outcome
Develop and promote initiatives to increase the involvement of youth and multi-cultural communities	Provide FReeZA, National Youth Week, Refugee and Harmony Week activities to young people within the Moira Shire	Youth and multicultural community actively participate in relevant activities
Provide opportunities for Youth to actively participate in decision making ideas for potential future capital projects	Provide specific opportunities for youth and cultural leaders to become part of the decision making process regarding both events and capital projects.	Youth and cultural leaders directly contribute to community events and ideas.

### Draft Active Ageing Strategy – 2016-2019

The Moira Shire Council Draft Active Ageing Strategy reflects Council's commitment to addressing the needs of the older residents and visitors.

Active Ageing in Moira is defined in the Strategy as: "...growing older whilst remaining active in one's community, enjoying good physical health through exercising, staying mobile and fit. It is recognised that to maintain a high standard of quality of life it is

important to maintain social connections to ensure good mental health and well-being."

Feedback from older people in the development of the Plan indicated that physical activity and walking is very important to them to remain healthy and active in the community and that they would like more information regarding activities that promote physical activity and more places to rest in the business and shopping precincts in each town and along walking tracks.

The actions included in the strategy are directed at achieving the following:

- Working towards becoming an Age-Friendly Community in line with the WHO Age Friendly Framework,
- Developing a long term plan to improve footpath connectivity and walkability across the Shire,
- Increasing levels of social connection and participation of older people in community programs and events,
- Ensuring communication and information is accessible and available in a variety of methods.



## Moira Shire Disability Action Plan 2013-2016

Moira Shire Council's Disability Action Plan has been developed to drive change and highlight the challenges and issues people living with disabilities face.

The Plan identifies the following objectives, goals and actions that are linked to recreation:

- Objective 1 – Reducing barriers to persons with a disability accessing goods, services and facilities;

Goal	Action	Time-Frame	Responsibility
All facilities owned by Moira Shire Council are accessible and inclusive of people with disabilities	Conduct access audits of Council venues	Access audits to be arranged and carried out by December 2013 in all Council facilities	Moira Shire Council – Community Development, Community Services Officer
	Develop an action plan to address audit findings in accordance with Council process and budget requirements	At completion of audit process	Moira Shire Council – Community Development, Community Services Officer
To encourage businesses and community organisations across shire to make accessibility of their business a priority	Offer training on Access to Premises Standards to businesses across the Shire	Training to be offered in four major towns by December 2013	Moira Shire Council – Community Development, Community Services Officer

- Objective 3 – Promoting inclusion and participation in the community of persons with a disability

Goal	Action	Time-Frame	Responsibility
Increase participation and inclusion in Moira Shire Council operated and funded community events by ensuring events are held in accessible venues	Ensure all public funded events funded or sponsored by Moira Shire Council are inclusive and accessible	Ongoing	Moira Shire Council – Events Development Officer, Economic Development, Community Development
	Event venues to be selected for their suitability for all abilities	Ongoing	Moira Shire Council – Events Development Officer, Economic Development, Community Development
	Review event funding and sponsorship form to ensure accessibility requirements are met	Form reviewed by July 2013	Moira Shire Council – Events Development Officer, Economic Development, Community Development
All Moira Shire plans and projects are accessible and inclusive to all members of our community	All Draft policies and plans are presented to the DAC and plans for redevelopment or new buildings are advertised on the Council's website in an accessible manner.	Ongoing	Moira Shire Council – Infrastructure and Planning, Governance, Community Development and DAC.



## Moira Shire Asset Management Plan

The Asset Management Plan provides direction relating to the sustainable provision of Assets within the municipality.

The Plan articulates Council's commitment to maintaining to the current level of service a broad range of buildings which provides a large variety of functions to the community.

The Plan states that studies of the levels of service to be carried out are to be undertaken for groups of public buildings including public halls and clubrooms and sporting complexes.

The Plan also states that Capital funds will only be allocated to buildings after an assessment has been made of the required level of service and alternative venues, and for upgrade and expansion works in conjunction with funding from Federal and State government and community groups.

## Moira Shire Council – S86 Committees of Management Review – June 2012

At the time of the Review Moira Shire had 39 section 86 Special Committees of Council, which are in-effect committees of management. Each committee comprises representatives from each user group who use these facilities, community representatives and an appointed councillor.

***"The comprehensive review took at critical look at what works well and what causes frustration to committees with the aim of further improving the relationship between committees and council where improvement is measured by community benefit."***

The review states the contribution that the community committee members make to the success of the current system is significant with the number of annual individual volunteering hours annually ranging from 6-120+.

Following the review, Council endorsed the following 16 recommendations:

1. Council consider including asset management programs into the annual funding model.

2. Council provide an obvious linkage between the proposed funding criteria and the reporting requirements to ensure transparency and accountability of public monies.
3. Council actively promote annual grant information sessions to committees including the evaluation process undertaken in determining successful applications.
4. Council update the Committee of Management – Operations and Risk Management Manual to include a step by step guide to notifying the community about meetings and why it is important to meet statutory requirements.
5. Council update the Committee of Management - Operations and Risk Management Manual to include the recommendations of this report.
6. Council update the Committee of Management - Operations and Risk Management Manual to expand the opportunity to use Council's trade list when procuring goods and services.
7. Council update the Committee of Management - Operations and Risk Management Manual to require (read only) access to bank accounts.
8. Council provide a Special Committees of Council page on its website to advertise meetings, publish agenda and minutes as required by the Local Government Act 1989.
9. Councillors are appointed to the Community Facility S86 Committees of Management.
10. Councillors be invited to chair the Annual General meetings of Councils Community Facility S86 Committees.
11. A "who to contact first" communicate be developed and provided to Committees to ensure that the Community Development team are the first point of contact for committees.
12. Suitably qualified Council officers undertake building inspections and septic tank inspections on a regular basis.
13. Suitably qualified Council officers undertake playground inspections on a regular basis.
14. Council officers actively promote the opportunity to undertake a facilitated strategic planning session with each committee.
15. Cobram Apex Reserve and Cobram Showgrounds amalgamate as recommended in the master plan. Additionally, this change will require more frequent meetings.



16. Undertake the following two stage process in relation to Councils two saleyards:
- A) Consider ways to streamline the operation of both saleyards in the short term (up to three years). This consideration should include efficiencies of operation and internal reporting structures.
- B) Consider seeking expressions of interest from parties / organisations to discuss with Council how the two saleyards could continue to operate.

### Section 86 Committees – 2015 Review

Significant review of the operation and function of Section 86 Committees has commenced in 2015. Among some of the preliminary findings are:

- 161 different community, sport and recreational groups utilise 28 different precincts, halls and recreation reserves. These areas comprise around 288 different assets valued at around \$34.8m
- In 2014/15 Council provided \$383,748 in funding support (\$306,388 operational and \$77,360 in grants) to Section 86 committees, this is reflective of previous years.
- Approximately 2,660 hours at an estimated cost of around \$90,000 of council staff time is invested each year in administering and providing support to section 86 committees.
- Overall this investment equates to around 1% of the total Council 2014/15 operating budget of \$51.595m.

- The committees themselves generate a similar amount of income to that provided by Council. In 2014/15 they generated \$334,214 in income.
- In an exercise breaking down operational funding to committees it was estimated that in 2014/15 around \$70,000 should have been spent on building maintenance. End of years reports from committees suggest that actual expenditure in this area of around \$20,000 which is less than 30% of the estimated allocation.
- At the end of 2014/15 the Section 86 committees had a combined bank balance of \$535,471. These funds may support future facility development or major maintenance.

### Recreation Reserve Master Plans

A number of Recreation Reserve Master Plans have been undertaken. These include:

Numurkah Show Grounds	- July 2006
Katamatite Recreation Reserve	- July 2008
Yarrowonga Showgrounds Victoria Park	- November 2009
Cobram Showgrounds and Apex Reserve	- September 2011
Strathmerton Recreation Reserve	- March 2013
Scott Reserve Cobram	- July 2013

Based on timing and programming the implementation of these Master Plans is at a range of stages.



## Regional

### Murray Region Events Strategy – August 2015

Murray River Tourism undertook to develop a regional events strategy for the Murray region. The strategy draws on thorough research and consultation into the events sector and provides directions for further development and growth of events in the Murray region.

***"Tourism in the Murray Region generates more than \$1 billion per year and employs an estimated 15,500 people."***

Moira is located in the Mid-East sub region. The report suggests that events visitation is relatively low when compared with other regions and notes the region lacks a signature event. It highlights significant assets that could be used to support further event visitation and includes Lake Mulwala, Yarrawonga and the quality parklands and sports facilities amongst these. Sports types events appear to make up around 36% of the total event visitation to the region.

### Murray River Adventure Trail Business Case – April 2014

The Murray River Adventure Trail is a priority project identified in the Murray Region Destination Management Plan prepared by Urban Enterprise in 2012.

The Business Plan identifies the key benefits, tasks and costings associated with the rollout of the development of the Trail.

The Plan identifies Yarrawonga as a 'Primary Destination' on the Trail and Cobram as a 'Destination'. The Mid-Eastern sub region is expected to attract around 20% of the overall estimated Trail visitation of 105,500 and estimates around 22,000 visitors to the region to utilise the Trails each year, generating around \$2.3m in regional expenditure and creating around 14 regional jobs.

In relation to the Local Government areas that the Trail passes through, it recommends the following:

- Council's general role is to advocate on behalf of the communities to achieve common goals and more strongly represent regional issues for each of the Councils. In this role, it can provide assistance to the Murray River Adventure Trail Management Committee in implementing the trail by supporting, lobbying and promoting the project to its members and to other audiences.
- Provide an active representative member of the Murray River Adventure Trail Management Committee.
- Advocate the trail to other Local Governments through which the trail travels but who are not part of Murray Region Tourism Board.
- That Council play a key role in implementation of parts of the trail as relevant to their planning intentions (e.g. Mildura's Trails Strategy envisages connecting all the existing trails along the river in its jurisdiction).

### Valley Sport

Valley Sport is a not-for profit community organisation that operates across the Goulburn Valley, incorporating the Moira Shire area that aims to develop healthy, active and connected communities through sport and recreation.

Valley Sport is a vehicle for a number of government funded programs aimed at supporting the operations of local sport and recreation groups. These include programs such as the Supporting Victorian Sport and Recreation Program, VicHealth Regional Sport Program and Good Sports.



## State

### Victoria's Trails Strategy 2014-24

Victoria's Trails Strategy 2014-2024 proposes to provide a whole-of-government approach and clear vision regarding planning, management and promotion of trails in Victoria.

The Strategy presents a set of key initiatives to improve the quality of trail experiences, increase awareness and visitation, support complementary tourism and retail businesses and seek improved understanding of trail user markets, their motivations and influences.

The report identifies the Murray River Adventure Trail that moves through the Moira Shire as a State Significant Trail.

### Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) – Strategic Direction Framework 2013-2015

The SRV Strategic Direction Framework aims to support the delivery of a range of projects and programs to help maximise the health, economic and social benefits provided to all Victorians by the sport and active recreation sector.

The Strategy states that participation in sport and active recreation offers numerous benefits to individuals and community by improving health and well being, increasing social inclusion and shaping

community identity. Sport and recreation also provides opportunities for life-long participation and the development of life skills such as leadership, team work, self confidence and self worth. Making participation fun, safe and accessible will maximise opportunities for all Victorians to gain the benefits of sport and active recreation.

The directions for SRV are:

- Participation
- National/International Performance Systems
- Meeting Broader Objectives of Government
- System Sustainability
- Research and Information Provision

Strategic Directions linked to Participation and System Sustainability in particular are of relevance to Local Government and provide opportunities for Moira to source resources, funding and support from State Government in relation to the provision of sporting and active recreation facilities and programs.

## National

### Open Space Planning and Design Guide – Parks and Leisure Australia – June 2013

The Open Space Planning and Design Guide was developed by Parks and Leisure Australia to assist in the planning and development of a range of sustainable open spaces that meet the sport, leisure and recreation needs of diverse communities across Victoria.



The table below is the Guides sample open space planning hierarchy based on a variety of open space documents that can be used by Councils as a tool in determining their own open space hierarchy.

Description	Catchment	Size	Example
Local	Local – up to 300m depending on population density and presence of barriers	Less than 0.5 hectare	Parks, gardens and civic spaces
Neighbourhood	Around 400m	Between 1 and 2 hectares	Parklands and Gardens
Sub-District	3 neighbourhoods* - around 10,500 people	5-6 hectares	Several nodes offering a range of sporting and recreational opportunities. Passive recreation provision is important in either the primary open space provision or in complementing a sporting use.
District	Around 6 neighbourhoods – 15,000 to 25,000 people	Up to 10 hectares	Generally a wide range of recreational activities including facilities for organised sport.
Township	Typically used in rural areas to describe open space that services a local township area and its surrounding localities and villages	Up to 10 hectares	Likely to be home to the towns outdoor sporting and recreation facilities such as playing fields, outdoor courts, pavilion/hall and parkland. Will usually be central in a township and accessible by car for the surrounding community.
Municipal	Open space providing for the needs of the whole municipality. Not necessarily needing to be in safe walking distance therefore would need to provide car parking capability.	Minimum 3 hectares	May be specialised for specific sporting infrastructure.
Regional	Including and beyond the municipality, including neighbouring municipalities.	Generally 10-30 hectares	Also includes significant sites of local or state historic, cultural and/or environmental significance.
State	Intra or Inter State catchment	Usually associated with site specific environmental, landscape or cultural values	Usually managed by state agencies, often in partnership with Council, such as National Parks, State Forests, Forest Parks.

*The guidelines estimate a neighbourhood at around 3,500 people.*

# APPENDIX 4

## CURRENT SITUATION ASSESSMENT

A situation assessment examines the following key areas:

### Investment in Recreation

Council currently invests 11% (\$5.6m) of its budget into sport and recreation.

From the 2015/16 budget of approximately \$52m Council invests around \$5.6m or 11% into sport and recreation. This is made up of:

- Sport and Recreation Services, expenditure of around \$1.4m and includes things like the operation and maintenance of the five swimming pools located in Yarrawonga, Cobram, Numurkah, Strathmerton and Nathalia, the waterslide and splash park on the Yarrawonga foreshore, the Nathalia Sports and Community Centre, the Cobram Sports Stadium and the Numurkah Aquatic and Fitness Centre along with the irrigation and mowing, general upkeep of council's 19 recreation reserves and four showgrounds. This also includes the strategic reviews of services to identify and plan for future requirements.

- Parks and Reserves, expenditure of around \$4.2m to maintain and upgrade Council's parks and gardens, recreation reserves, town entrances and open spaces including 80 parks and gardens (open spaces), 44 playgrounds, 31 public toilet blocks, public BBQs and irrigation systems.

Further to this Council makes contributions to Capital projects to renewal and upgrade of existing facilities and development of new facilities.

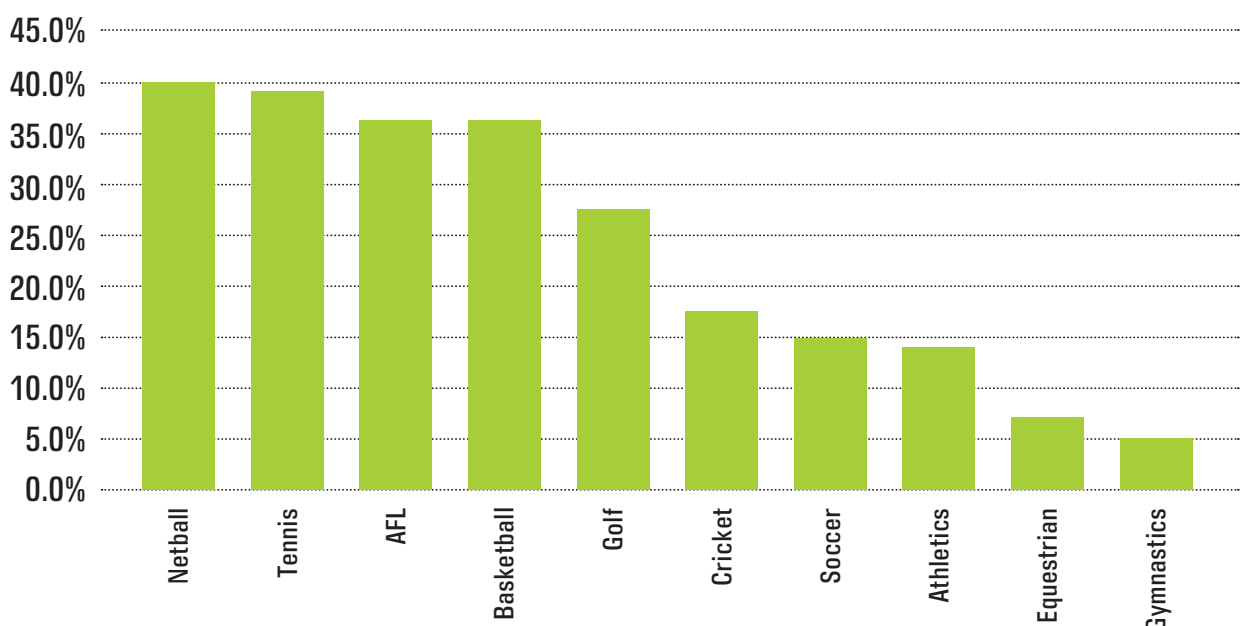
### Regional Participation

Following an audit of facilities and groups, it is estimated that over 150 sport and recreation groups are active right across the Moira municipality using in excess of 80 parks, reserves and sporting and recreation facilities.

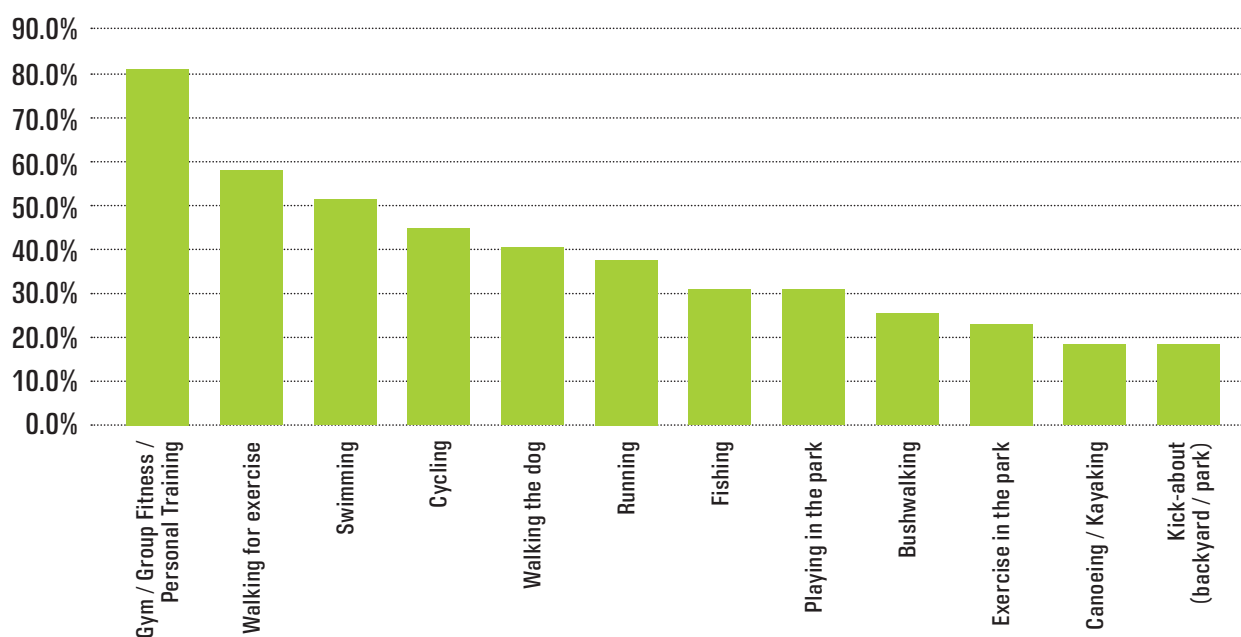
Further to this, based on the results of the community survey indicate that over 80% of the respondents participate in some form of sport or recreation activities.

The graph's below highlight the activities with the highest rates of participation.

Community Survey Response – Top 10 Sports by Participation



Community Survey Response – Top Active Recreation Activities by Participation



## BROADER PARTICIPATION TRENDS

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducted a nation-wide study on adult participation in sport and physical recreation in 2011. Overall, 65% of Australians aged 15 years and over participated in some form of sport and/or physical recreation during that year. Understanding participation trends at a national and state level can provide councils with a general overview of how and what types of activities people are choosing to participate in, which can assist in the future planning of programs and facilities.

## Types of activities

Walking remains the most popular activity at both a state and national level, with 23.6% of Victorian respondents participating in the activity between 2011 and 2012. Ranking second, fitness/gym experienced the most growth in participation rates between 2005-06 to 2011-12 at 3.4%.

A decrease in participation rates was observed in approximately a third of the activities. On a State level, golf had the greatest decline at -1.3%, however, it is still ranked in the top 10 activities.

Victoria's top 5 activities participated in between 2011-2012 and 2005-2006 by those aged over 15 years old

Rank		Activity	2011-2012	2005-2006	Change (%)
VIC	Aust				
1	1	Walking for exercise	24.3%	24.1%	0.2%
2	2	Fitness/Gym	17.6%	11.8%	5.8%
3	5	Cycling/BMXing	8.8%	6.4%	2.4%
4	4	Jogging/Running	7.8%	4.2%	1.3%
5	3	Swimming/Diving	7.7%	8.0%	- 0.3%

Australian Bureau of Statistics data indicates that at both a national and state level people prefer to participate in non-organised sport and/or physical recreation activities. Women are more likely to participate in 'organised only' activities than men, however, men are more likely to participate in a combination of 'both organised and non-organised' activities.

Overall the results from the community consultation surveys, while only a sample of the broader population correlate and reflect those key participation trends both linked to participation rates and by activity at State and National levels and provide a solid foundation for planning.

## Spoilt For Choice

There is now a greater range of formal sport and recreation activities than ever before.

From a recreation and fitness perspective, a new wave of classes and circuit training opportunities appear to evolve every few years. These are largely provided for at Regional centres or by private operators.

Similarly, sports offering a variation of a more traditional sport are beginning to grow in popularity. For instance, touch football is increasing in popularity. Finally, sports once considered extreme (e.g. BMX, skateboarding and scootering) are becoming more mainstream – with BMX debuting at the 2008 Olympics.

Common to the availability of each of these opportunities is a community group or club who form to deliver these activities.

While participation data for many of these newer activities has yet to be collected at a wide level, there is some potential that participants may choose to participate in only one or two activities each year, spreading thinner the number of participants across each sport.

### Expectation of Flexible Hours and Programming

With the amount of time available for recreation pursuits decreasing, participants are seeking flexible hours to undertake activities. Walking, running and

cycling are likely to continue to be popular forms of activity as participants can be flexible in when, where and how long they undertake the activity.

For additional activities to retain or gain in popularity it is likely that they will need to be able to offer longer and more flexible operating hours (in the case of activities such as aerobics/fitness and pool swimming) or a more flexible approach to training and competition participation (in the case of more traditional team sports such as AFL).

There are examples of traditional sports in the Moira region already adapting to these challenges such as Friday evening junior and in some instances senior games being played. The length of the season is also something that sports have been and will need to consider into the future to support viability.

## SOCIAL PROFILE

The way in which a community uses the surrounding open space and participates in recreation and sport activities is largely influenced by age. Understanding the spatial and demographic variations in communities, such as concentrations of older residents or youth, is fundamental to responding to, and planning for, the future provision of recreation and sports facilities and programs.

With an average age of 44 years, Moira Shire residents are relatively older compared to State and National averages (both 37 years). Further, consistent with State trends, the community is ageing.

As a population ages, demand for passive and informal recreation activities increases. Access to playing fields and formal sport opportunities may not be as important, with older people generally seeking walking, cycling and other low impact physical activities.

Despite the ageing population, just over a quarter (25.8%) of the community is aged under 20 years. A younger population is more likely to seek both structured and unstructured recreation and physical activity pursuits, such as competitive and social sporting competitions and quality walking/cycling



paths. The significant proportion of people in these age cohorts will place pressure on Council to improve and maintain their sporting facilities, parks and playgrounds and provide affordable physical activity programs.

Programs that cater for young children and teenagers will also need to be developed, particularly over the school holidays, to keep young people active and entertained.

Moira Shire still prides itself as being a great destination to live with many lifestyle benefits for families. Approximately 69.5% of the households in the community are 'family household', of which 52% have children.

With a large number of families living in the Shire and the desire of younger people to participate in organised sport, recreation and/or physical activity (particularly young children and teenagers), some families may have to pay two or three membership fees, along with uniform costs. If membership costs continue to increase, sports may start to experience a decline in junior membership numbers as families cannot afford to pay the fees.

It is important to note that the average household in the Shire has a significantly lower weekly income (\$828) than the State average (\$1,216). This, combined with the high proportion of residents aged over 65 years, means that any type of activity needs to be affordable to all to ensure equality and encourage opportunities to improve quality of life.

## Population Growth

Moira Shire is relatively self-contained in regard to employment, with approximately 80% of working residents doing so within the Shire. Subsequently, future population changes will be closely linked with employment increases or decreases. The population has grown over the last 30 years, most significantly in Yarrawonga. The Shire, particularly Cobram and Yarrawonga, has the benefits of the natural beauty of the Murray River and good access to services within the towns.

Other sources contributing to population growth evident across the Shire are 'tree changers' (particularly

empty-nesters and retirees) looking for a more relaxed lifestyle and:

- employment growth in services, especially tourism-based industries, retail trade, health and education,
- consolidation of agricultural industries, and
- attraction of families to the area, based on the amenity and beauty.

It should be noted that areas in Moira Shire that are more rural in nature are likely to remain relatively stable in population, as minor residential development should compensate for potential decline due to the overall size of farms becoming larger.

The projected annual growth rate of the Shire over the next 10 years is 1.39%, with over 6,900 additional residents expected by 2026.

As a result of the overall projected growth of the Shire, it is expected that the proportion of people looking for flexible recreation will increase.

In addition to those who work outside the traditional work hours, retirees often seek programs at different times, not just the early morning and evenings.

## APPENDIX 5

### CONSULTATION

#### Community Survey

Residents within the Shire were encouraged to complete a community survey where they were asked about the types of sport, recreation and physical activities they participated in, where they participated in the activities, what they would like to participate in, ways to help them participate in desired activities and general questions about Council's programs.

Residents were able to complete the survey online and/or in hard copy at various locations across the Shire. A total of 319 responses were received from the online survey with a further 45 hard copy surveys returned, resulting in a total of 364 responses from the community. Based on 'The National Statistical Service'

(the community of government agencies, led by the Australian Bureau of Statistics) this sample provides around a 95% confidence level in the level of certainty with which an estimate of the true population value is based.

The high percentages of respondents that participate in a wide range of sports indicate that Moira residents participate more than the average Victorian/Australian in such activities. The sports of tennis, netball, AFL and basketball are particularly high, all with over 30% participation rates.

As for participation on organised sports, responses for this question indicate higher than average participation rates in a range of recreation, exercise and/or physical activity. Walking for exercise, swimming, gardening, cycling and walking the dog all have participation rates of over 30%.

A major advantage of these types of activities is that they are generally available at no cost (apart from swimming) to the participant and can be done at any time and place that suits them.

Consistent with the high participation rates for sport and the attractive natural areas available within the Shire, residents demonstrate a high rate of use of many of the facilities available to them. Along the river, sports grounds, local footpaths and swimming pools all enjoy participation rates of over 30% of respondents.

Consistent with national trends, the three main reasons given for not participating in sport and recreation were:

1. "There are no suitable facilities nearby" - this is a common response and consideration should be given to the fact that people's expectations usually far exceed Council's ability to deliver an all-encompassing range of facilities that will be popular with all residents,
2. "Nothing/I already do enough" - a response that Council is very limited in its ability to address, and
3. "I haven't got the time" - an issue which can be addressed by Council and sports providers (clubs and private providers) through the development of activities that do not require high levels of time commitment. A higher focus on social sport/recreation that does not

require training commitments is an example of how this issue can be addressed. Further, the growing popularity of 24 hour gyms across Australia is evidence that this is a real issue for many people.

A total of 53% respondents felt there is an inadequate supply of sporting facilities within the shire, with 31% saying there was adequate and 16% unsure. The negative responses may seem high, it should be noted that this is almost a 'natural' response, in the hope of being provided additional facilities. Observations during the development of this Strategy indicate that there is not a lack of sporting facilities within the Shire.

Another 50% of respondents indicated either a Very Good or Good response in regard to the quality of sporting facilities across the Shire. This indicates a high acceptance rate and reflects the observed high quality of facilities available to Moira residents.

A further 50% of respondents indicated that there are adequate numbers of parks across the Shire. The quality of existing parks in Moira is viewed favorably by residents with over two thirds of respondents (67%) indicating either a very good or good level of quality. This high quality of parks across the Shire has been reinforced by observations made during the development of this Strategy.

Asked to nominate their top three recreation, sport and/or parks related projects that they would fund over the next 10 years, respondents indicated a high level of desire for new/upgraded indoor sports centres and swimming pools. This has been reinforced through further submissions from interest groups indicating a need for an Indoor Aquatic Centre and an indoor sport Stadium at Yarrawonga and a gymnastics centre at Numurkah.

## Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey – Moira Shire 2015

Each year Local Government Victoria coordinates and auspices a state wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey throughout the local government areas. The main objective of the survey is to assess the performance of Council across a range of measures and to seek insight into ways to provide improved or

more effective service delivery. In addition to the core areas covered in the survey, Council has included some specific areas of interest linked directly to the provision of sport and recreation.

Moira respondents rated 'recreation facilities' as an important responsibility of Council with almost three quarters (73%) of respondents rating it as important or very important, just above the statewide score of 72%. Yarrowonga, women and 18-34 year old respondents rated it higher at 77%, 76% and 77% respectively.

Recreation facilities are highly utilized with respondents indicating that over the last 12 months either they or a member of their household:

- Around 100% have used a park or garden
- Around 80% have used a recreation reserve or stadium
- Around 68% have used walking tracks
- Around 41% have used a swimming pool
- Around 17% have used a skate park\*

*\* Note in regards to skate parks 85% suggest they haven't or can't say if them or a member of their family has used a skate park and this score may be effected by the demographic of survey respondents unlikely to include those under 15 years of age.*

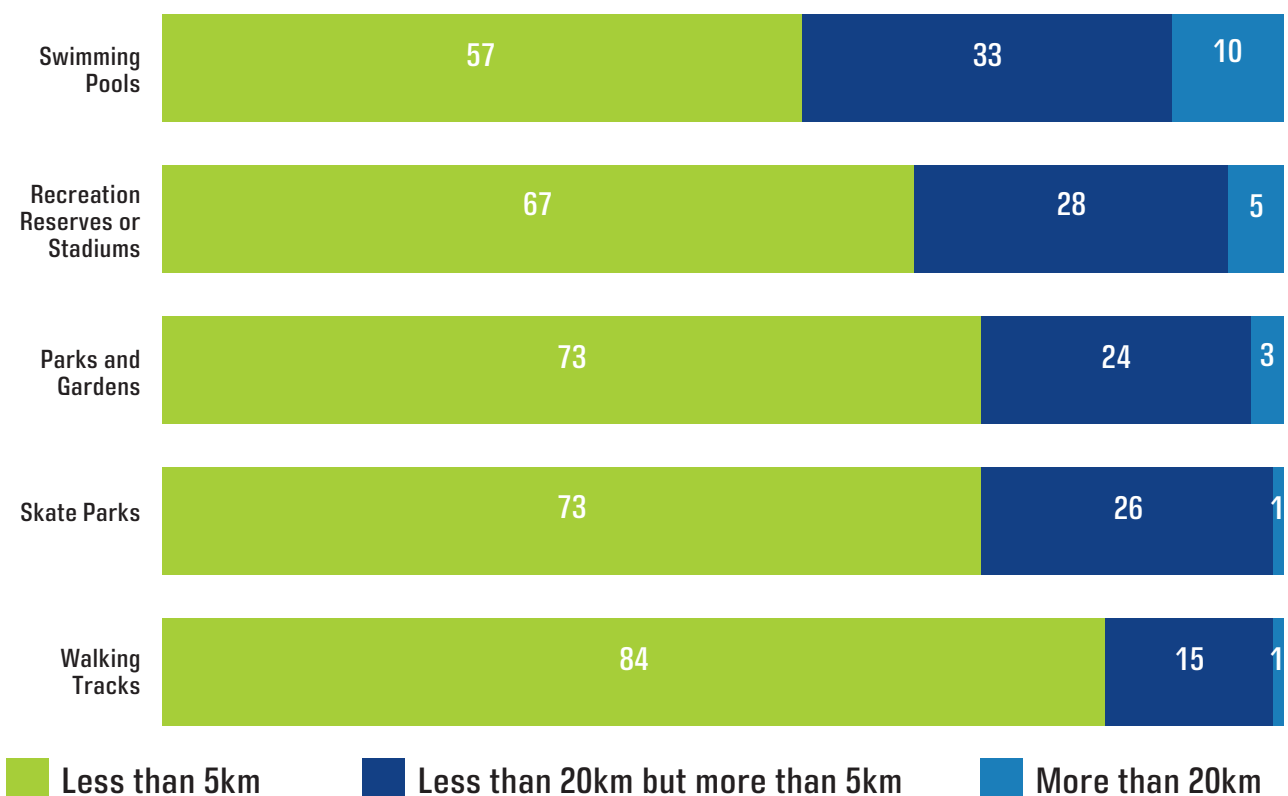
## Local Sporting and Recreation Clubs and Associations

Local sporting clubs within the Shire were invited to provide their issues, opportunities and suggestions regarding the future of their club and current facility via a survey and/or attendance at a workshop held across the shire. Overall 45 different sporting clubs and associations provided input into the strategy. A full list of those that provided input is provided as Appendix 1 - Sports Club and Associations – Completing Survey or Attending Forum.

The key themes to come out of the consultation included:

- A total of 60% of the respondents operate on section 86 managed recreation reserves, mostly being those sports that use ovals or larger green spaces such as AFL, cricket, soccer, little athletics and equestrian, while 25% operate on private land, these consisting mainly of a mix of bowls, golf and tennis clubs.
- In relation to senior participation, over a quarter (27%) have experienced a decrease in participation, while 15% have increased participation and 58% have remained stable.

The chart below highlights the estimated distance travelled to access facilities or services:



All clubs that experienced an increase were in the major townships of Cobram, Nathalia, Numurkah and Yarrawonga while those with a decrease were mixed between the smaller and larger towns, with bowls in particular showing a decrease in senior participation with four of the eight clubs that responded indicating a decline in participation.

- Over half (54%) of those that have junior programs have experienced growth in participation, however of those 11 of the 13 are located in the major townships of Cobram, Nathalia, Numurkah and Yarrawonga. The increases however have been across all sporting activities. Only four of the 24 clubs with junior programs have experienced a decline in participation, with the other seven reporting stability in levels of participation.
- Over 90% of the clubs said that they made contributions to the management and maintenance of their facilities either through in-kind support or provision of cash to facility development and maintenance.
- When asked if they had reasonable access to support services through council or other organizations such as Valley Sport, 41% of respondents said their experiences were good, while 46% rated them fair and 13% were not satisfied.

The three biggest threats identified by the clubs were:

- Maintaining participation (84%). Only three of 40 respondents however indicated an overall current decrease in participation, with most remaining stable or if having a decrease at one level (seniors) may have had an increase at another (juniors).
- Volunteers (68%). While almost 70% indicated that their volunteer numbers remained stable, the comments suggested many were the same volunteers going year after year because they could not recruit new volunteers or they were ageing with no new volunteers coming through. 30% indicated they have been suffering a decline in volunteers, while only two of the 39 respondents indicated an increase in volunteers.
- The cost of operating and maintaining facilities and ability to raise funds (25%).

Junior soccer indicated its biggest issue was space for growth and access to fields and the two basketball competitions both indicated facility access as their biggest threat.

## Schools

161 students from four regional schools, Yarrawonga College, St Mary of the Angels Nathalia, Cobram Primary School and St Joseph's Primary School Numurkah from years 5-10 participated in workshops at the schools. The students generally participated in a broad range of sport and recreation activities with the most participation being in AFL, soccer, cricket, netball, basketball, swimming and tennis.

The students had a range of things they liked linked to recreation, however there was a trend across all to swimming, using skate parks and the river for a range of activities.

Asked what they'd like to see developed from a sport and recreation perspective the answers were varied, however the main priorities appeared linked to swimming, skate and BMX facilities. These were identified at class level rather than individual level so any decisions relating to facility or activity development based on this would certainly need more thorough investigation.

## State Sporting Associations

Thirteen State Sporting Associations were either consulted with directly or their strategic planning reviewed. Planning relating to those activities that rate highest for participation in Moira include:

## Netball

Netball Victoria are currently developing a Regional Facility Strategy (2016-2025) to update the existing facility hierarchy and preferred facility requirements guide. Preferred facility distribution is;

- netball only indoor: one court:10,000 residents,
- multi lined facilities: three court:10,000 residents, and
- country football/netball to have a second court when there are more than 60 players in a club.

## Tennis

Tennis Australia has developed Tennis 2020 (facility development and management framework), Places to Play State Facility Strategy is currently being developed. The Tennis 2020 Strategy provides the following hierarchy of facilities to guide planning and development:

Hierarchy Level	No. of Courts	Standard of Competition	Recommended Catchment within a 30km radius – Regional/Country
National Tennis Centre	20+	Inter/National	Not provided
Regional	16+	National/State Based	80,000 – 100,000
Large Centre (sub Regional)	12+	Inter/Intra Club Tournaments	40,000 – 50,000
District	8+	Interclub	5,000+
Local	4+	Interclub	5,000+
Public Access	1+	Tennis Engagement	Not provided

## Basketball

Facilities Master Plan leads planning and development. It includes a facility hierarchy, provision models and preferred provision rates. Preferred provision rates are one indoor court per 300-500 players and four indoor courts per 35,000 residents.

## Cricket

Common Ground (A Unified Plan for Victorian Cricket Facilities Development) notes the importance of planning for future facilities. State wide facilities guidelines are currently under construction. Preferred provision rate of one field to every 3,000 to 5,000 residents (depending on age profile and demographics).

## Soccer

Currently developing a 15 year State Facilities Strategy. Preferred club size is a maximum of 220 players with at least two full-size fields lit. Keen to see additional synthetic pitches. Prefer cricket and soccer to share field space with wickets designed between soccer fields.

## Athletics

Yet to develop any facility planning documents. Desire for at least one synthetic facility within each metropolitan council.

## AFL

Growing the Heartland (AFL Facilities Development Strategy) leads facility development. The preferred facilities guidelines provides for a facility hierarchy with a preferred provision ratio of 1:4,000 residents.

## Swimming

Swimming Victoria has released a strategic plan for 2014-2017 focused on performance, participation and partnerships. The plan highlights the high participation rates and strong well-being outcomes related to swimming and while it does not provide any guidance or direction linked to the provision of facilities it highlights its need to work collaboratively with stakeholders in the provision and management of facilities.

## Councillors

A workshop and interviews were held with Elected Members to discuss recreation issues and opportunities in the Moira Shire. Councillors highlighted challenges facing organisations relating to volunteers, opportunities to encourage informal and social activities and participation, the importance of the relationship with neighbouring council's in the provision of facilities, the importance of on-going planning linked to the future use and development of facilities and public spaces and the opportunity to review services linked to public pools that may improve attendances.

## Council Staff

A number of interviews were undertaken with the Manager Community Development and the Community Facilities and Recreation Team. Staff highlighted issues and opportunities linked to the structure of staffing and service provision, maintenance and development of facilities and public spaces and programming.





