



Supported by funding from the  
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# Hindmarsh Shire Sport and Recreation Strategy

Hindmarsh Shire Council

Final Report

May 2016

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## Report statement

The Hindmarsh Shire Sport and Recreation Strategy has been prepared for Hindmarsh Shire Council as the client. The Strategy represents information correct and complete at the time of writing. The information contained in this document has been gained from desktop evidence, targeted stakeholder engagement and research and has been prepared in good faith. Neither SED, nor its servants, consultants, agents or staff shall be responsible in any way whatsoever to any person or organisation or entity in respect to the Strategy, including errors or omissions therein, however caused.

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## Executive summary

The Hindmarsh Shire Sport and Recreation Strategy (HSSR) has been developed to inform and support sustainable sport and recreation provision across the Shire. The HSSR details the role and nature of sport and recreation activity and seeks to address primary challenges and opportunities associated with community participation, asset planning and governance. The report has been developed from:

- ▶ Background strategy and data analysis;
- ▶ Community and stakeholder consultation;
- ▶ Community and association surveys;
- ▶ Discussion with Hindmarsh Shire Councillors and personnel; and
- ▶ Review of current and future projects and development plans.

## Context

Hindmarsh Shire is situated in the heart of the Wimmera Southern Mallee region of north-west Victoria. Home to 5,700 residents, the main population centres are Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow. The economy primarily comprises of agricultural production and processing, manufacturing, health, education and retail services.

The community has a strong and proud tradition of sporting endeavour and over recent years, has invested in both sport and recreation assets and facilities. Like many rural communities, Hindmarsh has to address fiscal and population challenges and priority setting for asset management and investment. The community has played a significant part in working with Council and other agencies on developing and funding sport and recreation activity and this will undoubtedly have to continue.

Not only will decisions have to be made on the scale and priorities for investment, but also on the nature and type of sport and recreation that should be provided to meet the needs of a changing demographic.

A generally ageing population and a shift towards informal recreation activities have altered participation patterns. In addition, settlement trends towards larger rural and regional centres and the capacity for longer term provision of sporting and recreation assets is a key part of the HSSR.

Recognising that as the population and communities change, then planning and provision of sport and recreation assets and services must also change, the HSSR sets out a framework for Shire-wide and locality specific projects and action plans to provide for a sustainable and equitable approach to future sport and recreation as part of community life.

## Opportunities and actions

The HSSR has been structured around key themes and opportunities that link to the vision and the principles that guide sport and recreation.

## Vision

*To ensure recreation facilities, programs and services reflect community needs and enable residents of all ages and interests' to access and have opportunity to participate in a range of sport, recreation and leisure activities.*

*These will be developed, operated, managed and financed through shared responsibilities and equitable partnerships between the Shire, other levels of government, regional and local organisations, reserve committees, clubs, community groups and users as appropriate.*

## Principles

### Equity of access

- All residents should have access to appropriate sport and recreation opportunities regardless of their socio-economic status, ethnicity, age, gender or ability. The range of sport and recreation opportunities will be guided by community priorities and demonstrated demand.
- Council seeks to act equitably across the whole Shire, geographically and regardless of land ownership (i.e. Council or DELWP/other government agency) and will be guided by community led priorities.

### Diversity and choice

- Communities and individuals will be encouraged and supported to participate in a variety of sport and recreation options throughout the Shire that enable people to make choices.

### Lifelong involvement

- It is recognised that whilst organised activities may be structured around age groups, opportunities for lifelong participation in physical activities should not be limited by age.

### Hierarchical approach

- Application and timely review of a hierarchical approach that recognises different facility standards may be required to support different levels of participation and/or catchments (i.e. reflecting the role and capacity of individual settlements).

### Research and planning

- Support will be given for appropriate research and planning that identifies current and future recreation.

### Sustainability

- Council will encourage and support effective cross-partnerships with community groups, funding bodies and other levels of government in order to support the long-term sustainability of assets, facilities and participation opportunities. This will be in line with available resources and capacity of stakeholders and communities to manage assets and facilities.
- The development and management of sport and recreation facilities will consider opportunities to maximise environmental and operational sustainability, including impact on community volunteers.

## Shire-wide strategic recommendations

### Changing community needs

1. Support development and enhancement of facilities that promote informal recreation including walking, cycling and gardening etc. within townships and informal use of the region's water bodies and natural features.
2. Encourage clubs to develop initiatives and programs that provide participation opportunities for all age groups, including formal sports and non-sporting activities (e.g. Men's Shed, community garden, community gym, community activities, special events, health & fitness classes, etc.).
3. Liaise with relevant peak sporting bodies to encourage and support local clubs and associations to trial alternative / modified game, competition or tournament formats to encourage increased participation (e.g. relevant peak associations with modified or alternative game formats including AFL, Cricket, Netball, Tennis, Soccer and Lawn Bowls).
4. Ensure local sport and recreation provision reflects local community priorities, participation preferences and cultural relevance.

**Governance and sustainability**

1. Facilitate a series of sport-specific regional planning forums with relevant State sporting bodies, WRA, regional associations and local clubs and neighbouring Shires, targeting club development and support needs; competition structures and participation planning; governance and succession planning.
2. Ensure HSC's Community Development team continues to provide clubs and community groups with access to information and support in relation to external funding programs or opportunities available. Levels of support can and will vary across clubs / groups.
3. In consultation with the communities of Dimboola, Jeparit and Rainbow explore opportunities to consolidate the number of separate club governance committees within each township in order to reduce the burden on volunteers and establish a single *Sports Club* model as developed in Nhill.

**Asset management and renewal**

1. Liaise with reserve committees and groups to tailor asset maintenance and support services to the *priority* or critical needs of each individual group. For example this may include planning / development advice, funding applications, project management or direct maintenance support.
2. Provide ongoing service assistance and developing skill or addressing capacity gaps of individual clubs or groups. For example some clubs may require assistance with grass mowing / turf management, where as others may require assistance with building maintenance or fundraising.
3. Support the development and implementation of strategic master plans for key recreation reserves and facilities (Dimboola and Nhill) in order to provide realistic, staged options for asset renewal, redevelopment or refurbishment in line with demonstrated community needs and priorities and develop sustainable and co-operative management structures.
4. Develop and implement *Asset Management Plans* in accordance with Local Government best practice to incorporate all classes of assets found in public parks, open space and recreation reserves. Ensure that local groups and associations also complete strategic asset management plans for their infrastructure and facilities. Work with the community and sporting groups to understand future service needs and determine service levels that will inform future planning and resource allocation." to help inform future planning and resource allocation.
5. Implement sport and recreation related asset and infrastructure improvement priorities from community plans and strategies, including walking paths / trails and community facilities.

### Locality specific strategic recommendations

#### Dimboola

1. Develop a comprehensive Master Plan to guide the future use, development and management of the Dimboola Recreation Reserve. The Master Plan will need to consider and determine upon:
  - ▶ Options for consolidating buildings and the feasibility of establishing a new shared use community function / recreation facility.
  - ▶ Development of a facility concept design and cost estimate, including options for female change rooms, netball facilities and redevelopment of the Les Howland Oval.
  - ▶ Operational models such as a consolidated Reserve wide Committee of Management and ongoing financial implications for both the Reserve and assets and facilities within it.
  - ▶ Documentation of a Business Case to support possible future funding applications for Recreation Reserve projects and initiatives.
  - ▶ Upgrade of the skate park at the existing or alternative location within the Reserve.
  - ▶ Options to continue to improve recreational facilities along the river including walking paths, fishing platforms, seating, shelters, rowing, swimming and boating infrastructure.
2. Support community initiatives to increase the use of the Dimboola Health and Fitness Centre and effective asset management planning to support long-term renewal and replacement by as required.
3. Encourage/support seasonal programming and activation initiatives associated with the Dimboola swimming pool.
4. Continue to work with users, stakeholders and river authorities to appropriately manage impacts from boating activities, including bank erosion, noise and conflict with other uses.

#### Jeparit

1. Continued development of the Wimmera River Precinct including the Caravan Park, tennis courts, picnic areas, play facilities and boat ramp/jetty. The development of the Wimmera River precinct should encompass Four Mile Beach at Lake Hindmarsh.
2. Improve walking tracks and trails including connection to the proposed Hindmarsh Trail. Improvements to include directional and interpretative signage and promotion of the walking tracks.
3. Support the establishment of an annual community event for the town which capitalises on existing recreational assets, promotes participation and social interaction.
4. Support existing clubs to improve sustainability and member participation / retention. This should include consideration of an overarching Jeparit Sport and Recreation committee that amalgamates the primary sporting and recreation codes. Also refer to *Overarching Governance and Sustainability* recommendations for specific actions. Improvements in communication between the community and sporting groups will also aid promotion, increased participation levels and sustainability.
5. Help resolve management issues associated with the community gym so that it can open to the public.
6. Encourage/support seasonal programming and activation initiatives associated with the Jeparit swimming pool.
7. Continue to work with users, stakeholders and river authorities to appropriately manage impacts from boating activities, including bank erosion, noise and conflicting uses.



**Nhill**

1. Develop a Master Plan for Davis Park to guide options for future improvements, priorities and use of current available space. The Master Plan will need to consider options to accommodate the following facilities:
  - ▶ Establish a senior soccer pitch through shared use of existing oval.
  - ▶ Establish a permanent Chinlone (Cane Ball) court and spectator area (a site adjacent to the existing junior oval/pitch could be established in the short-term).
  - ▶ Consider options to relocate the Tennis Club to Davis Park and share club room facilities. Four permanent hard courts with lighting could be developed, potentially shared with netball, and the junior oval/pitch used to establish grass courts when required for special tournaments. Initial improvements to the turf surface may be required.
  - ▶ Review all car parking, internal roads and fencing in order to maximise space available for community recreation.
  - ▶ Consolidate buildings or establish new community club rooms.
  - ▶ Improve access and seating within Davis Park.
2. In partnership with the Karen community and cultural development agencies, identify opportunities for Nhill to showcase Chinlone as a sport through hosting visiting teams and events.
3. Continue to support the operation of the Nhill swimming pool (seasonal) and community access to the Lowan Sports Centre.
4. Advocate for community access to the proposed West Wimmera Health Service hydrotherapy pool and gymnasium.
5. Further development and enhancement of recreation options around Nhill Lake to include low impact recreation assets for all ages and improvements to the boat ramp and picnic areas.
6. Continue to support Community Garden initiatives in Park Street.
7. Identify options for a relocated and updated skate park.

**Rainbow**

1. Work with the community and key stakeholders to refine the scope of the proposed Stage 2 redevelopment of the Recreation Reserve change-rooms to a level that is financially achievable.
2. Support upgrade of the Recreation Reserve oval lighting.
3. Work with the community to relocate the community gym either within the recreation reserve, or to a vacant premise in the main street or primary school.
4. Relocate and upgrade the skate park facilities to the recreation reserve and explore options to establish a youth centre/drop-in utilising the existing Scout facility.
5. Support community driven initiatives to establish a Men's Shed and other community activities at the vacated Primary School site. Continue to lobby the State Government on use and access to the facility.
6. Continue to lobby Parks Victoria on planning and advocating for improved facilities at the key destinations associated with the regional Parks and Lakes and position Rainbow as a key gateway to these attractions.

## 1. Introduction

The Hindmarsh Shire Sport and Recreation Strategy (HSSR) has been developed to guide and inform the provision of sport and recreation services and assess the assets that will support and sustain ongoing and future participation for residents and visitors. Sport and recreation is a major part of the community, social and economic fabric of the Shire and is facing a number of changes and challenges. The Strategy identifies opportunities to support local communities and respond to the changing sport and recreation needs of residents.

Australia has a strong tradition of sport participation. The profile of Australia in the international sphere of sport given its relative population, is significant. A nation of sport devotees, the national psyche is highly tuned to sport on a national and regional scale. Grass roots sporting activity continues to be a major part of community life, and for rural populations, can be one of the most important aspects of social life.

For many rural communities, declining and ageing populations are presenting significant challenges in terms of participation rates, memberships, volunteerism, the nature of sport and recreation activities and the availability of financial resources to manage assets, facilities and services. The demographic trends and transition from more traditional organised sports to participation in unstructured recreation has to some degree, shifted the emphasis and local priorities for assets and services.

The HSSR recognises that these changes require a pragmatic review of how services are delivered and what sport and recreation may look like in the future. It aims to address a number of governance, planning and management issues for HSC, local associations, clubs and communities whilst understanding the aspirations of communities to retain and sustain their sporting and recreation assets.



## 1.1 Definition

What do we mean by sport and recreation? VicHealth defines these activities as follows:

*Sport can be defined as physical activities that are competitive, organised, involve observation of rules and may be participated in either individually or as a team. This definition refers primarily to those participating in sports as amateurs.*

*Active recreation is generally unstructured activity that individuals freely pursue in their uncommitted time (leisure time) for a personal sense of enjoyment that also benefits their physical, social or emotional wellbeing.*

This definition of sport and recreation has been used as the basis for analysis and development of the HSSR.

## 1.2 Methodology

The HSSR has been developed through a program of background research, analysis, community surveys, workshops and interviews with associations and community groups. Further evidence and information has been taken from reviews of relevant policy, strategy, social data and statistics.

### 1.2.1 Community engagement

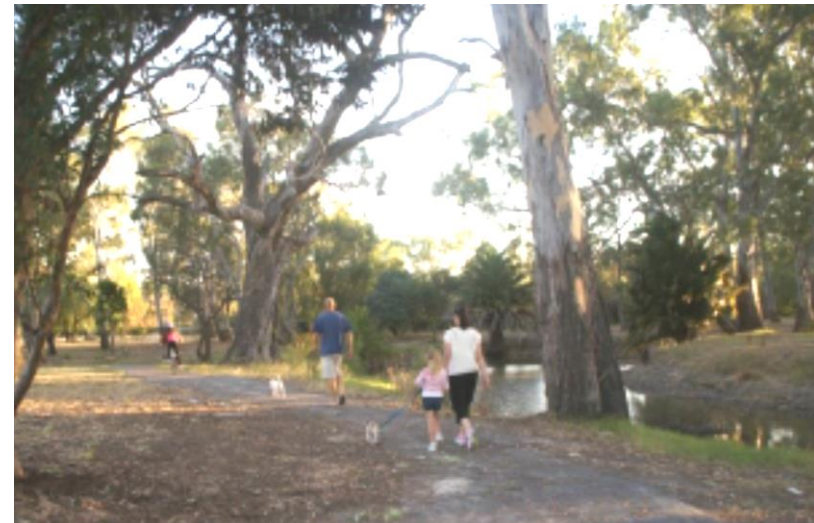
Community engagement included distribution of online and hard copy surveys, HSC newsletter updates and workshops with the community. Public submissions were also invited on this draft plan which were considered before finalising the strategy. Briefings were also held with HSC personnel and Councillors. A number of site visits were also undertaken with observations and assessments made of community assets, features and functions.

## 2. Strategic context

HSC has an important role in the maintenance and management of primary assets and facilities. The organisation also partners and/or delegates a range of authority and decision-making powers to committees of management and associations. Local and regional education and health institutions also have a significant role in the provision of and access to sporting and recreation facilities and assets together with other agencies such as Parks Victoria, Catchment

Management authorities and non-government representative groups and associations.

Therefore there is a degree of complexity to the governance and oversight of sport and recreation across the municipality, including integration of strategic directions and maximisation of available resources. For HSC the primary policy framework for sport and recreation aside from this Strategy are the Council Plan, the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP), community action plans and state government sport and recreation policy, strategy and funding. The following section provides a summary of this framework.



## 2.1 Hindmarsh Shire Council Plan 2013 - 2017

The Hindmarsh Shire Council Plan is a statutory requirement of the Local Government Act which outlines the objectives of Council, the strategies for achieving the objectives over a minimum of four years and includes a range of actions and indicators for monitoring the implementation of objectives.

The current plan, covering the period 2013 - 2017 has an objective for sport and recreation under the key result area of Community Liveability namely - a *community that is physically active with access to a wide range of leisure, sporting and recreation facilities.*

The majority of Council's forecast budget allocation on infrastructure shows a high proportion of spending will be on existing infrastructure renewal primarily roads, drainage, plant and machinery and there is limited funding for new assets or asset upgrades. Council's annual recurrent expenditure on recreation, community facilities, parks and gardens exceeds \$1.6m, compared to a total Council Budget of approximately \$17m. This clearly highlights the fiscal constraints HSC as a small rural council has to contend with and its limited capacity to spend on community assets such as sport and recreation infrastructure. Therefore the HSSR has a responsibility to ensure that:

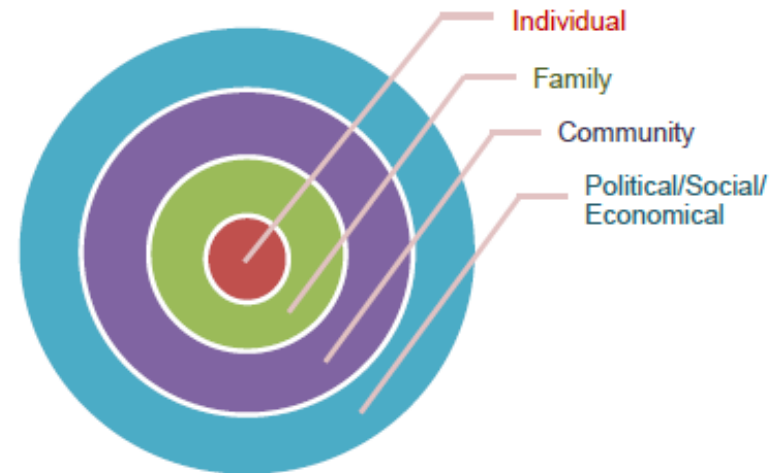
- ▶ Expenditure is targeted where it will provide the greatest community benefit;
- ▶ Where external infrastructure funding is sourced, it will be based on demonstrable evidence of community need and strategic alignment;
- ▶ Communities of interest work together on what is both sustainable and the best outcome for their communities; and
- ▶ Expectations on what can be achieved are reasonable and pragmatic.

The impact of State Government rate capping due to come in to force June 2016 and the freezing of local government support funding from the Federal Government at CPI for the next three years will further impact on HSC capacity to fund a range of infrastructure projects and the provision of a range of community services.

## 2.2 Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017

The MPHWP outlines the framework for improving the health and wellbeing of the community. The Plan adopts an approach that recognises the role of HSC

and other agencies in achieving this objective through a number of primary goals based on a social model of health.



**Figure 1 - Social model of health (Source - HSC)**

The MPHWP has a specific goal of increasing physical activity levels within the Shire including:

- ▶ Promoting physical activities offered within the Shire through the use of Council's newsletter and social media;
- ▶ Developing and improving new and existing recreational facilities and programs; and
- ▶ Creating environments that encourage people to be physically active.

The objectives and recommendations outlined in this Strategy directly align to and support the MPHWP objectives with improved community health and wellbeing as primary drivers.

## 2.3 2005 Sport and Recreation Strategy

A review and audit of the HSC's 2005 Sport and Recreation Strategy was completed to assess the progress that has been made in each community and to help identify any outstanding items that may need to be considered as part of this HSSR. Key projects that have been delivered or are ongoing are summarised in the following sections.

### 2.3.1 Dimboola

- ▶ The Dimboola Health and Fitness Centre has been established at the Dimboola Secondary College. The Centre incorporates a synthetic hockey field, 12 tennis courts, community gym, multi-use rooms, change rooms and kitchen.
- ▶ A sprinkler system has been installed on the main oval at the Recreation Reserve with water supply from a number of sources including rain water catchment within the reserve, the river and a bore. The availability of water has improved the surface of the main oval with a new drainage system installed early in 2015.
- ▶ The roof of the Rowing Club has been replaced with grant funding and the boat launching ramp was replaced following the 2011 flood.
- ▶ The tennis club has relocated to the synthetic surface at the Dimboola Health and Fitness Centre. The availability of quality lighting has enabled the club to play competition matches at night which has improved participation rates.
- ▶ More than 5km of walking / cycling paths have been established in and around Dimboola.

### 2.3.2 Jeparit

- ▶ Water storage facilities have been established at the Jeparit Recreation Reserve with water being drawn from the Wimmera River, town supply and from a bore when conditions are appropriate.
- ▶ The availability of water has improved the playing surface of the oval during the summer. However, the quality / standard of the cricket practice pitches / nets remain an issue.
- ▶ A new skate part was established in Jeparit.

- ▶ A new netball court has been constructed at the Jeparit Recreation Reserve along with new shelters for players and officials. Improved spectator seating may still be required.
- ▶ The original community gym has not been operational for some time, however it is now housed in a new community shed and there is a renewed desire to re-establish the community gym. Council is working with various stakeholders to identify the right management process and structure to enable the community gym to reopen.

### 2.3.3 Nhill

- ▶ Discussions relating to the future of Davis Park are ongoing. Development of a site master plan is recommended as part of this Strategy.
- ▶ The quality and standard of facilities at the Nhill Tennis Club remain an issue, including lighting, playing surfaces and club rooms.
- ▶ The roof at the Lowan Sports Centre was recently replaced, however the majority of issues identified in the 2005 report remain unresolved including improvements to the overall amenity, safety and access for all, as well as a desire to redevelop the squash courts.
- ▶ Two synthetic greens have been installed at the Nhill Bowling Club and the club has identified a roof over one green as a priority.
- ▶ An automatic watering system has been installed on all 18 fairways by the Golf Club.
- ▶ The Pony Club has received small grant funding through Council.

### 2.3.4 Rainbow

- ▶ New netball and tennis courts have been constructed and lighting also installed.
- ▶ The Rainbow Pavilion at the Recreation Reserve is about to undergo significant redevelopment. New football/netball change rooms and gym will be constructed as stage 2 of this project.
- ▶ Funding was received from Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) to install a new synthetic bowling green which is completed.

- ▶ New synthetic tees have been installed at the golf club with funding support from SRV.
- ▶ The community gym is currently located at the Recreation Reserve, however, a temporary location may be required during proposed works to the pavilion facility.
- ▶ A funding application has been submitted to SRV for a new skate part at the Recreation Reserve.

## 2.4 State Government

SRV is part of the Department of Health and Human Services and is the peak body responsible for management and delivery of sport and recreation policy for the Victorian State Government.

SRV objectives are to maximise the economic and social benefits provided to all Victorians by the sport and recreation sector through:

- ▶ Ensuring greater access and opportunities for participation in sport and recreation by all Victorians;
- ▶ Maintaining Victoria's reputation as Australia's leading state for sporting and major events;
- ▶ Improving the quality of community sport and recreation facilities;
- ▶ Strengthening the capacity of sport and recreation organisations;
  
- ▶ Continuing a robust evidence base for activities in the sport and active recreation system; and
- ▶ Reinforcing the enriching role that sport and recreation plays in people's lives.

SRV also administers a range of funding programs to support participation in active recreation and sport through grants for infrastructure, facilities, events and sector and community capacity building. These programs are listed in more detail in section 11 of this report.

## 2.5 Other agencies

A number of other agencies have an interest in community participation in sport and recreation activities. These include VicHealth, State sporting associations and community health service providers.

The primary aim of these organisations is to encourage and support participation in sport and active living and recreation. They advocate for and support programs that build partnerships to connect communities and individuals with physical and social activity and to ensure that sport and recreation remain at the heart of community life. Many of their policies and programs take a line of sight approach from early years through to school and later life programs to address health issues such as diabetes, obesity, mental health and sedentary lifestyles. Part of their focus is also around planning and responding to changes in participation patterns in social sport and recreation and to encourage specific groups such as women and older people to become more active.

### 3. Sport and recreation in the Shire

At least 70 clubs and associations fall under the definition of sport and recreation within the Shire covering sports from athletics, badminton, bowling, cricket, golf, equestrian, football, hockey, rowing, swimming, netball, basketball, water-skiing and tennis. Recreation groups and activities include angling, walking, cycling, dance, guides and scouts, photography, skate boarding, personal fitness and the arts.

The number of sporting and recreation assets and facilities in the Shire include:

- ▶ Multi-purpose Recreation Reserves;
- ▶ Specific sport facilities and courts;
- ▶ Walking and cycling tracks;
- ▶ Waterways, lakes and open space; and
- ▶ Community halls and meeting places.

#### 3.1 Why is providing for Sport and Recreation important?

HSC currently provides and / or facilitates access to a range of sport, recreation and leisure opportunities across the municipality. These add to the culture, lifestyle and character of the region as well as enhance the liveability of the Shire and are therefore recognised as an important part of a well-balanced lifestyle.

The benefits associated with participating in sport and physical activity include personal enjoyment, social interaction, physical and mental health, personal achievement, community involvement ('social capital'), community resilience and opportunities for expression of community pride.

The health benefits of participation in regular physical activity have been well documented and are summarised in Figure 2.



**Figure 2 - Benefits of active recreation**

Evidence also suggests that club based participation can assist in reducing destructive behaviour and negative social activity, build understanding between diverse cultures and reduce isolation, loneliness and alienation.

Participation in a broad range of leisure activities has the potential to improve physiological and mental health, contribute to personal development, improve well-being and assist in social learning (e.g. tolerance, respect, cooperation, leadership etc.). Participation may also assist in the improvement of educational performance and promote a sense of community belonging.

Quality parks and recreation opportunities also provide safe developmental opportunities for children and young people, build social skills and stimulate

participation in community life. Recreation facilities are recognised as important physical assets that contribute to providing a social focus and influencing people's perception of their community.

Quality facilities encourage broad community use, events, tourism and contribute to overall economic sustainability of the communities in which they exist. Therefore sport and recreation facilities contribute to physical health, mental health, community connectedness, general wellbeing and economic sustainability and are an integral part of community life. For rural communities, this importance is generally magnified given the more limited options for social and cultural interaction and participation and is therefore elevated in importance as a local service and asset that is highly valued.

### 3.2 Our sport and recreation profile

A survey was distributed to residents and key sporting and recreation associations via letterbox drop and online. The surveys also incorporated questions associated with separate Dimboola and Nhill Community Precinct Plan projects and the Jeparit and Rainbow Community Plans.

The surveys took a *place based approach* to sport and recreation needs and participation. This not only integrated with the Precinct Plan project, but also enabled the analysis of issues and opportunities for the four primary settlements of Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow. Given their different community profiles and their relative geographic isolation from each other, this helped to determine the individual community need and aspirations for sport and recreation by residents in each respective township.

The primary findings from these surveys are summarised in the following section. General Shire wide issues are also provided.

#### 3.2.1 Common observations and outcomes

Some primary and escalating issues common to local clubs and communities in relation to sport and recreation provision included:

- ▶ Lack of succession planning for administrators / club managers;
- ▶ Volunteer attraction/retention;

- ▶ Club / community capacity to raise funds and sustainable financial management; and
- ▶ Capacity to upgrade and maintain existing assets were primary and escalating issues.

The impact of the ageing population on sustainability is also a key issue across the Shire with limited capacity to attract /engage young people.

Communities generally express a preference for investment to focus on existing assets and facilities with few exceptions for investment in new facilities. This reflects an understanding of the constrained financial and funding environment that exists both locally and through government programs and assistance.

A desire for redevelopment and upgrades to major community assets are common across all communities, however there is also a desire to see investment in facilities and programs associated with informal recreation activities and facilities that support community gatherings and social activities.

Lack of time was cited as a major reason for non-participation in sport and recreation activities. Cost of participation and a perceived lack of facilities were also common issues. This creates a particular dilemma for clubs and associations who need to drive revenues from dwindling sources and yet still attract members. The lack of facilities in some communities may reflect a low interest level for a particular activity rather than a lack of facilities per se. Dimboola and Nhill are generally well serviced for assets and facilities although the condition of some would be impacting on their usability.

Table 1 summarises the key findings from the surveys.



**Table 1 - Summary of community survey**

Theme	Dimboola		Jeparit		Nhill		Rainbow	
Current pursuits	Gardening Walking/hiking Fishing Swimming Photography	Local history Lawn bowls Cycling Music/singing	Gardening; Walking Tennis Photography	Swimming Fishing Art/social activities Motorsports	Gardening Walking Fitness/wellbeing Local history Hockey	Photography Running/jogging Swimming Tennis Fishing	Fitness and gym work Australian Rules football Dance, art and photography	Gardening Netball Swimming Tennis Walking.
Reasons for lack of participation	Participation time. Distance to travel. Health constraints. Availability of facilities and age.		Participation time. Distance to travel. Cost of membership and/or equipment. Availability of facilities. Need for childcare.		Participation time. Cost of membership and/or equipment. Availability of facilities. Age – too young/too old.		Health constraints. Cost of membership. Public transport/travel distance. Participation time.	
Community priorities	Refurbishment of the facilities at the Recreation Reserve. Improved skate park facilities and children’s playground area. Further development of walking and cycling trails. Heated pool facilities for recreation and health related activities. Wellness/ fitness programs/facilities Sustainable River management.		Upgrades to the tennis courts. Upgrade to recreation reserve. Floating jetty/boat access on River and camp kitchen by the River. Improved walking tracks and establish a walking group. Exercise classes, yoga and social recreation activities. Community garden.		Upgrades to sporting facilities including multi-purpose facilities – Davis Park Community gym Walking and cycling trails Development of facilities associated with the Lake Heated swimming pool facilities for recreation and wellness programs		Refurbishment of the facilities at the Recreation Reserve Pavilion Synthetic bowling green surface Development of walking and cycling trails A new and relocated skate park Improved and permanent community gym Heated pool facilities for recreation and health related activities. Recreational water supplies for the Lake.	
Club sustainability issues	Insufficient stakeholder/community co-ordination and integration of recreation management. Age of participants. Number of volunteers. Declining membership. Age and condition of facilities.		Availability of funds. Number of members. Age and condition of facilities.		Level of interest/participation. Number of volunteers. Age and condition of facilities. Lack of funds.		Availability of funds. Number of members. Aged population and little or no youth involvement. Age and condition of facilities.	
Preferred investment approach	Focus for development of facilities that allow for organised and non-organised activities.		Focus on development of new assets for organised and non-organised recreation including walking and bike trails, fishing and club rooms.		Focus on improvement of existing community assets and community services and development of assets for organised recreation.		Focus on existing community assets and services.	

### 3.3 Community profile

Hindmarsh Shire is located in the north west of Victoria, some 350km from Melbourne and has a proud history as one of the nation's primary grains and agricultural production districts. The Hindmarsh Shire Council (HSC) was created in January 1995 as part of a state-wide local government reform program. Hindmarsh Shire consists of the former Shire of Dimboola (created 1885) and the Shire of Lowan (created 1875). Forming part of the wider Wimmera Southern Mallee (WSM) region, the shire covers an area of over 7,500km<sup>2</sup> and is home to an estimated 5,800 residents.

The four main settlements of Nhill, Dimboola, Rainbow and Jeparit provide a range of sub-regional and local employment, business, community and recreation services. Horsham, which is within a 30 to 60 minute commute for the majority of Hindmarsh residents, provides extended services which are accessed by residents. There are also a number of rural settlement areas containing small populations, as well as the dispersed farming and rural community.

The 2011 Census shows that Hindmarsh was home to approximately 5,800 residents with a median age of 47 years. Seventy five per cent of residents live in the four main population centres. The more rural population has declined at a faster rate than those living in these centres (Table 2). Population estimates for 2014 released by the ABS show a total estimated population of 5,644 residents, a decline of nearly 10% 2001 to 2014.

**Table 2 – Hindmarsh Shire population trend (Source: ABS Census)**

Hindmarsh population trends 2001-11				
Year	2001	2006	2011	% change 2001-11
Urban	4,345	4,279	4,180	↓3.8%
Rural	1,915	1,760	1,618	↓15.5%
Total	6,260	6,039	5,798	↓7.4%

The population is also showing an ageing profile, with 46% of the population aged over 50 years. This is having an impact on range of services including

sport and recreation provision and the level and nature of participation. Club memberships, volunteer supply and trends towards non-traditional sporting activities are being felt in all communities.

Hindmarsh has however, shown very positive and at times a highly innovative approach to meeting its challenges and for cultivating opportunities for business and residents.

The successful attraction, settlement and integration of the Karen migrant community to support local industry, strong advocacy for major economic infrastructure like the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline and the partnerships of Council and communities provides a strong and positive basis upon which to build social and community activity.

These social and economic adjustments have served to demonstrate the high levels of resilience and positive community and social aspirations of the residents and organisations of the Shire. Residents are proud of their history and heritage and work together to achieve prosperity and social opportunities. The continuance of community sport and recreation under at times very testing circumstances and social change provide a strong foundation for the HSSR.

## 4. Defining HSC's role

HSC's role in sport and recreation provision will vary depending on the issue/s being addressed. HSC has historically had a strong focus on supporting a core suite of recreation facilities and infrastructure in each major township and settlement. A key challenge (for HSC and individual communities) continues to be effective and sustainable asset maintenance and renewal.

Communities are increasingly being asked to prioritise their preferences for asset maintenance and renewal to service local needs and to guide overall resource allocation. Whilst the demand for new sport facilities across the Shire is likely to remain relatively low, the focus will be on maintaining, sustaining and improving existing high-use assets.

Notwithstanding the challenge associated with ongoing asset maintenance and renewal, HSC will need to continually review emerging and changing participation trends, organised or non-organised sport and recreation activities, and consider appropriate responses.

There is an opportunity for HSC to broaden its role in facilitating community wellbeing through the promotion of active, healthy lifestyles in order to help address wider health objectives and National trends (i.e. obesity, diabetes, heart disease, etc.).

To help address these wider health issues and to reflect the changing participation needs of an ageing population, there will be an increasing need for HSC to facilitate physical activity participation opportunities through activation of facilities and public spaces that moves beyond more traditional infrastructure provision. Options to improve HSC's focus, initiatives and resourcing to support physical activity facilitation may need to be considered in order to prioritise physical activity (whether provided directly by HSC or through partnerships with other groups). Different management approaches and initiatives may be required across the Shire, i.e. based on partnerships with local communities to support tailored participation opportunities.

While Council will need to consider emerging trends and changes in sport and recreation participation, and

In general, Council's role will fall into one of the following four categories (Figure 3).

### Plan

- Facilitate planning, development and renewal of recreation facilities, services and opportunities to address identified (current and future) community needs

### Provide

- Support the provision of recreation facilities, services and programs to meet the needs of the current and future community.

### Partner

- Work in partnership with other levels of government, schools, clubs and community groups to ensure that recreation facilities, programs and services meet the needs of the community.
- Support communities to help themselves by assisting capacity building and community driven initiatives.

### Advocate and inform

- Advocate to other levels of government and relevant stakeholders regarding issues and opportunities that are likely to impact on sport, recreation and leisure facilities or services in Hindmarsh Shire
- Provide information to the community regarding the range of sport, recreation and leisure opportunities available to residents, including promotion of the health and wellbeing benefits of physical activity participation.

#### Figure 3 - HSC's roles in sport and recreation

These roles (and the roles of other stakeholders) are reflected in the implementation / action plan in section 10 of this report.

## 5. Vision

Sport and recreation play an integral part of community life in Hindmarsh Shire. Individual townships and communities have a long and proud history of facilitating participation opportunities through local clubs, community groups, events and activities. Community groups and clubs also play a vital role in supporting the sustainability, maintenance and development of community sport and recreation assets through the dedicated efforts of committees of management and volunteers.

HSC places a high value on these partnerships and will continue to support collaboration opportunities with a range of government and non-government agencies, community groups, organisations, clubs and (where appropriate) individuals to assist in the delivery of a range of recreation opportunities for Shire residents.

An evident ethos of self-help exists, which is supported and encouraged by HSC through the development of Community Plans for each major settlement so that individual communities can and do play a lead role in identifying priorities and self-determination. Common characteristics of the visioning to emerge from the consultation and research activities included:

- ▶ Vibrant and sustainable sports clubs and community groups.
- ▶ Sustainable provision and distribution of facilities and opportunities.
- ▶ Recognise the importance of social connection via sport and recreation.
- ▶ Support opportunities for physical activity participation being more than just formal sport.
- ▶ Support community driven initiatives.
- ▶ Reflect the changing needs of the community including recreation activities and opportunities for all age groups and residents.
- ▶ Contribute to community health and wellbeing.
- ▶ Accessible to all.

Having regard to the above characteristics, the following vision has been identified to guide HSC's recreation services and priorities in Hindmarsh Shire:

*To ensure recreation facilities, programs and services reflect community needs and enable residents of all ages and interests' to access and have opportunity to participate in a range of sport, recreation and leisure activities.*

*These will be developed, operated, managed and financed through shared responsibilities and equitable partnerships between the Shire, other levels of government, regional and local organisations, reserve committees, clubs, community groups and users as appropriate.*

## 6. Objectives

HSC's involvement in sport and recreation over the next ten years will be driven by the following core objectives:

1. Provide and / or facilitate community access to an appropriate range of places, settings and built facilities that support the sport and recreation needs and priorities of individual communities as well as across the Shire as a whole.
2. Effective partnerships with clubs, groups and committees to deliver sustainable asset management and participation outcomes.
3. A focus on increasing participation in physical activities and recreation in Hindmarsh Shire in recognition of the health and wellbeing benefits this provides.
4. Provide recreational facilities that meet the changing needs of residents, particularly having regard to the needs of an ageing population profile and growing cultural diversity.
5. Continue to tailor responses to the specific needs of the individual townships.
6. Work in partnership with State and Federal government agencies to attract funding and resources to recreation projects that meet the needs of residents and visitors to the Shire.

## 7. Principles

Having regard to Council's and the community's financial and resource capacity, the following guiding principles underpin HSC's approach to and involvement in sport and recreation provision:

### Equity of access

- All residents should have access to appropriate sport and recreation opportunities regardless of their socio-economic status, ethnicity, age, gender or ability. The range of sport and recreation opportunities will be guided by community priorities and demonstrated demand.
- Council seeks to act equitably across the whole Shire, geographically and regardless of land ownership (i.e. Council or DELWP/other government agency) and will be guided by community led priorities.

### Diversity and choice

- Communities and individuals will be encouraged and supported to participate in a variety of sport and recreation options throughout the Shire that enable people to make choices.

### Lifelong involvement

- It is recognised that whilst organised activities may be structured around age groups, opportunities for lifelong participation in physical activities should not be limited by age.

### Hierarchical approach

- Applications and timely review of a hierarchical approach recognises different facility standards may be required to support different levels of participation and/or catchments (i.e. reflecting the role and capacity of individual settlements).

### Research and planning

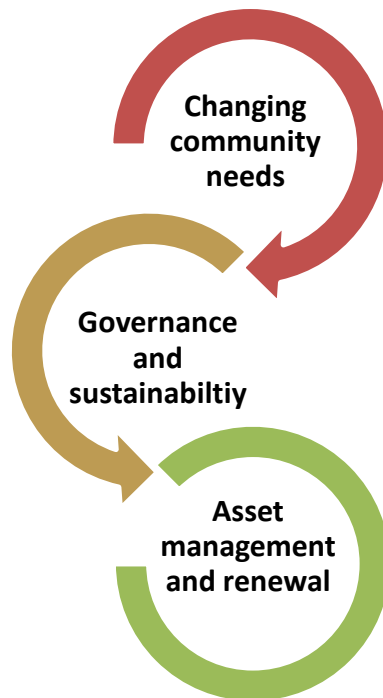
- Support will be given for appropriate research and planning that identifies current and future recreation needs and informs sound decision making.

### Sustainability

- Council will encourage and support effective cross-partnerships with community groups, funding bodies and other levels of government in order to support the long-term sustainability of assets, facilities and participation opportunities. This will be in line with available resources and capacity of stakeholders and communities to manage assets and facilities.
- The development and management of sport and recreation facilities will consider opportunities to maximise environmental and operational sustainability, including impact on community volunteers.

## 8. Overarching issues and recommendations

The following section provides an overview of three key issues that are influencing sport and recreation across the entire Shire. Recommendations are provided to guide responses and initiatives over the life of this strategy (i.e. 10 years). The issues are:



### 8.1 Changing community needs

There are two key factors influencing a gradual change in the sport and recreation needs of the community. Specifically these are:

- ▶ Changes in physical activity participation trends; and
- ▶ Changing demographic profile of the community, in particular an increasing proportion of people in older age groups and an increasing proportion of residents from culturally diverse backgrounds.

Although the scale of these changes is relatively small, over the long-term, including the ten-year life of this plan, it can be expected that the impact of these gradual changes will begin to take effect and therefore require consideration in shaping future directions and priorities.

There is growing recognition of the health benefits of regular participation in physical activities within the community, including acceptance of the individual and community wellbeing benefits of belonging to sports clubs.

However there is also growing demand for access to informal participation opportunities with activities accessible on a casual basis in preference or in addition to formal club-based or organised activities. This has increased demand for greater diversity in recreation participation opportunities, both in terms of activities and times available.

Associated with an emerging preference for participation in informal activities is a rising uptake of local, low cost participation opportunities, including increased use of the natural environment as a setting for informal recreational activities such as walking, cycling, trail riding/driving, camping and associated water based activities.

Broader trends also reflect emerging changes in sports products and programming, for example 20:20 cricket, mid-week night tennis competitions, veterans/masters competitions, Women’s AFL, AFL 9’s, etc. These changes reflect growth in social sports participation, often combining skill levels in recognition of preferences for social outcomes.

With the exception of Jeparit, other areas within the Shire are experiencing an ageing trend profile of the community, specifically increases in the number of residents aged over 55 years. The percentage of people aged over 55 years in Jeparit declined between 2001 (49%) and 2011 (44%), however this remains the second highest figure behind Rainbow for this age group. Residents within

Jeparit do not appear to be engaging with existing sports clubs as participation levels remain critically low for the majority of groups.

These changes point to a need to ensure investment priorities reflect the participation habits and preferences of all age groups across the Shire, with a balance between formal sports and informal physical activity and recreation activities.

Approximately 180 Karen refugees have resettled in Nhill since early 2010. The Karen community now comprises approximately 10% of the Nhill population, including significant numbers of working age adults and families with young children. In 2014, there were around 30 Karen children enrolled in local schools and a small number of other pre-school aged children who attend playgroups with their mothers.<sup>1</sup> It is believed that to date, 10 families have bought their own houses.



It is anticipated that many of the Karen community will settle as long term residents of Nhill. This is a significant change to the cultural profile of the community and requires that the HSSR considers appropriate recreation opportunities to ensure a sense of belonging, connection and wellbeing. Specific recommendations for Nhill are provided in the Township Specific section of this report.

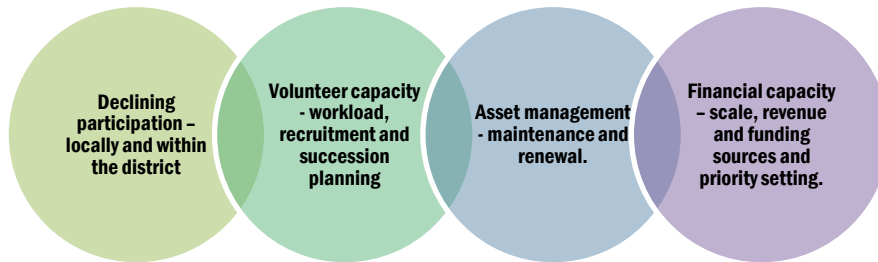
#### 8.1.1 Recommendations

1. Support development and enhancement of facilities that promote informal recreation including walking, cycling and gardening etc. within townships and informal use of the region's water bodies and natural features.
2. Encourage clubs to develop initiatives and programs that provide participation opportunities for all age groups, including formal sports and non-sporting activities (e.g. Men's Shed, community garden, community gym, community activities, special events, health & fitness classes, etc.).
3. Liaise with relevant peak sporting bodies to encourage and support local clubs and associations to trial alternative / modified game, competition or tournament formats to encourage increased participation (e.g. relevant peak associations with modified or alternative game formats including AFL, Cricket, Netball, Tennis, Soccer and Lawn Bowls).
4. Ensure local sport and recreation provision reflects local community priorities, participation preferences and cultural relevance.

<sup>1</sup> Small towns Big returns: Economic and social impact of the Karen resettlement in Nhill, AMES and Deloitte Access Economics, 2014.

## 8.2 Governance and sustainability

The sustainability of a large number of existing sporting clubs, groups, competitions and facilities is being challenged by a range of interlinking factors.



Declining and ageing population rates are being caused as much by the number of younger people leaving the Shire as it is to the ageing of residents.

This issue was identified in the Shire's previous *Recreation Strategy (2005)* and remains just as relevant today. The previous strategy noted that the "...system (of governance and club management) is facing serious fracture across Hindmarsh Shire, as less people are less willing to volunteer time and energy. Lack of volunteers combined with the increased complexity of club management duties has resulted in a smaller pool of willing volunteers.....in addition many of the same people are serving on a range of club committees, having no succession planning with club closure and eventual loss of sport and recreation opportunity being the result."

Whilst some of these challenges may be outside HSC's direct area of influence, they nevertheless have a significant role regarding sport and recreation opportunities and planning throughout the Shire.

Therefore HSC's role should be to support the sustainability of clubs and groups through a combination of advocacy, facilitation of support services provided by others and / or direct service provision where appropriate. This will call for effective partnerships and collaboration with individual clubs, peak bodies, and associations including the Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly (WRSA) to increase delivery of services and planning in the region.

### 8.2.1 Recommendations:

1. Facilitate a series of sport-specific regional planning forums with relevant State sporting bodies, WRA, regional associations and local clubs and

neighbouring Shires, targeting club development and support needs; competition structures and participation planning; governance and succession planning.

2. Ensure HSC's Community Development team continues to provide clubs and community groups with access to information and support in relation to external funding programs or opportunities available. Levels of support can and will vary across clubs//groups.
3. In consultation with the communities of Dimboola, Jeparit and Rainbow explore opportunities to consolidate the number of separate club governance committees within each township in order to reduce the burden on volunteers and establish a single *Sports Club* model as developed in Nhill.





### 8.3 Asset management and renewal

Sports clubs and reserve committees face significant challenges in maintaining existing playing fields and assets within available volunteer and financial resources. Whilst HSC continues to encourage an ethos of self-determination and accountability within individual communities, supporting the capacity of these groups will be required.

The core focus of clubs and reserve committees should be on facilitating participation for the community and therefore strong partnerships with HSC and other stakeholders to facilitate sustainable asset maintenance will need to be considered.

In an environment of local government rate capping it is acknowledged that the financial capacity of HSC is constrained. More than ever before perhaps, resource allocation needs to closely align with community needs and local priorities in order to maximise outcomes from available funding. Initial investment (financial and time) in strategic planning and engagement will ensure community needs and priorities are understood and strategic direction and agreement will more likely be achieved.

Asset management is becoming more strategic and policy focused. However future planning needs to consider opportunities for asset renewal beyond basic maintenance requirements, particularly in response to community led improvement initiatives. Asset management planning will need to extend beyond core infrastructure (such as pavilions, change rooms and toilet blocks) to encompass a broader suite of asset classes that are provided at recreation reserves including turf playing surfaces, park furniture, seating, shade, fencing, car parking, lighting infrastructure. Asset management planning and renewal is a responsibility not only of HSC but also clubs and associations who have leases or formal responsibilities for the assets that they use.

Resource allocation from both HSC and other sources may also need to provide a greater emphasis on informal physical activity participation opportunities,

particularly a focus on walking, cycling and more passive recreation in each major town through enhancement of footpaths, trails, community facilities and physical and social connections.

#### 8.3.1 Recommendations:

1. Liaise with reserve committees and groups to tailor asset maintenance and support services to the *priority* or critical needs of each individual group. For example this may include planning/development advice, funding applications, project management or direct maintenance support.
2. Provide ongoing service assistance and developing skill or addressing capacity gaps of individual clubs or groups. For example some clubs may require assistance with grass mowing/turf management, where as other may require assistance with building maintenance or fundraising.
3. Support the development and implementation of strategic master plans for key recreation reserves and facilities (Dimboola and Nhill) in order to provide realistic, staged options for asset renewal, redevelopment or refurbishment in line with demonstrated community needs and priorities and develop sustainable and co-operative management structures.
4. Develop and implement *Asset Management Plans* in accordance with Local Government best practice to incorporate all classes of assets found in public parks, open space and recreation reserves. Ensure that local groups and associations also complete strategic asset management plans for their infrastructure and facilities. Work with the community and sporting groups to understand future service needs and determine service levels that will inform future planning and resource allocation." to help inform future planning and resource allocation.
5. Implement sport and recreation related asset and infrastructure improvement priorities from community plans and strategies, including walking paths / trails and community facilities.

## 9. Township specific issues and recommendations

The following section provides an overview of the key issues, priorities and recommendations for each of the four main townships of Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow.

### 9.1 Dimboola

#### 9.1.1 Research and consultation themes

- ▶ Dimboola is serviced by an extensive range of recreation facilities and opportunities primarily provided at either the Recreation Reserve or Dimboola Health and Fitness Centre. Effective asset maintenance, upgrade and renewal remain a significant challenge for all groups.
- ▶ A number of existing built facilities in the Recreation Reserve require upgrading or replacement including the rowing club, football/netball club and indoor court facilities.
- ▶ Dimboola, the gateway to the Little Desert National Park, provides a range of informal recreation, leisure and camping opportunities for residents and visitors. Provision of active recreation is therefore an important part of planning and management for the community.



#### 9.1.2 Common issues and requests

- ▶ Establishment of a significant new multi-use community function / recreation venue in the Recreation Reserve to service a range of community needs including football/netball club, rowing club, community events, caravan park and visitor and other reserve users.
- ▶ Replace existing skate park facilities with a new facility.
- ▶ Upgrade swimming pool amenities including hot showers and recreational options such as inflatable equipment and programming.
- ▶ Support appropriate recreational use of the River environs including fishing, walking, cycling and sensitive use for boating activities.



### 9.1.3 Strategic directions

- ▶ Resources should focus on improvements at the recreation reserve in order to reinforce its role as a hub for community recreation, events, community gathering and tourism.
- ▶ Ongoing active partnerships between the community and the Secondary College will be required in order to support the management, programming and longer-term asset renewal of the Dimboola Health and Fitness Centre to ensure the asset remains capable of servicing important recreational needs of the community.
- ▶ Opportunities for social and informal recreation will form part of asset planning and management to allow opportunities for a wider range of participation by residents.



### 9.1.4 Recommendations

1. Develop a comprehensive Master Plan to guide the future use, development and management of the Dimboola Recreation Reserve. The Master Plan will need to consider:
  - ▶ Options for consolidating buildings and the feasibility of establishing a new shared use community function / recreation facility.
  - ▶ Development of a facility concept design and cost estimate.
2. Support community initiative to increase the use of the Dimboola Health and Fitness Centre and effective asset management planning to support long-term renewal and asset replacement as required.
3. Encourage/support seasonal programming and activation initiatives associated with the Dimboola swimming pool
4. Continue to work with users, stakeholders and river authorities to appropriately manage impacts from boating activities, including bank erosion, noise and conflict with other users.

- ▶ Operational models such as a consolidated Reserve wide Committee of Management and ongoing financial implications for both the Reserve and assets and facilities within it.
- ▶ Documentation of a Business Case to support possible future funding applications for Recreation Reserve project and initiatives.
- ▶ Upgrade of the skate park at the existing or alternative location within the Reserve.
- ▶ Options to continue to improve recreational facilities along the river including walking paths, fishing platforms, seating, shelters, rowing, swimming and boating infrastructure.



## 9.2 Jeparit

### 9.2.1 Research and consultation themes

- ▶ The population has increased marginally in recent years which has helped stabilise the ageing profile with a modest increase in number of people aged under 14 and 55 years.
- ▶ Existing clubs are struggling to attract new members or active involvement from the community. The sustainability of existing clubs is being challenged, particularly the Gun Club, Bowls Club, Golf Club and Cricket Club.
- ▶ Community priorities reflect a focus towards more informal recreation activities.



### 9.2.2 Common issues and requests

- ▶ Encouraging community participation and assistance with member attraction/retention.
- ▶ Support greater tourism and recreational use of the River.
- ▶ Resolve management issues associated with the community gym so that it can open to the public.
- ▶ Improve walking tracks and trails, including connection to the proposed Hindmarsh Trail.
- ▶ Support establishment of a community event for the town.
- ▶ Upgrade the recreation reserve lighting.

### 9.2.3 Strategic directions

- ▶ Resources should concentrate on opportunities that support informal recreation activities, community building initiatives and retention of a core suite of recreation assets in order to address community needs.
- ▶ The core recreation assets for the community include the recreation reserve, bowls club, community gym, skate-park, swimming pool, tennis courts, Men's Shed, River and open space.
- ▶ Sustainability of community clubs and the volunteer base will need to be addressed for future maintenance and planning of sport and recreation.

### 9.2.4 Recommendations

1. Continued development of the Wimmera River Precinct including the Caravan Park, tennis courts, picnic areas, play facilities and boat ramp/jetty.



2. Improve walking tracks and trails including connection to the proposed Hindmarsh Trail.
3. Support the establishment of an annual community event for the town which capitalises on existing recreational assets, promotes participation and social interaction.
4. Support existing clubs to improve sustainability and member/participation retention. This should include consideration of an overarching Jeparit Sport and Recreation committee that amalgamates the primary sporting and recreation codes. Also refer to Overarching *Governance and Sustainability* recommendations for specific actions.
5. Help resolve management issues associated with the community gym so that it can open to the public.



### 9.3 Nhill

#### 9.3.1 Research and consultation themes

- ▶ Whilst the population declined by approximately 100 residents between 2001 and 2011, since 2010 Nhill has become home to new migrants from the Karen community of Myanmar (Burma). An estimated 180 Karen residents are now living in and around Nhill.
- ▶ Despite the younger age profile of Karen residents, the overall profile of the community is ageing with an increasing proportion of people aged over 54 years.
- ▶ Time, cost, lack of facilities and age were nominated as reasons for not participating from community surveys.
- ▶ Community priorities reflect the importance of the Nhill Sporting Club and associated facilities at Davis Park, as well as the importance of access to informal recreation opportunities that can contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents.



#### 9.3.2 Common issues and requests:

- ▶ Upgrade and expansion/diversification of facilities at Davis Park.
- ▶ Desire for access to a community gym and hydrotherapy pool.
- ▶ Ongoing support for operation of the Nhill swimming pool and Lowan Sports Centre as vital recreation assets servicing the community.
- ▶ Further development and enhancement of recreation options around Nhill Lake and environs.
- ▶ Relocation and upgrade of the skate park.
- ▶ Facilities and activities that will appeal and resonate with the Karen community and provide new and unique participation options and profile for Nhill.



#### 9.3.3 Strategic directions

- ▶ Council resources should continue to reinforce Davis Park as an integrated community hub for formal sport and recreation in Nhill in order to maximise resource efficiencies, sharing of facilities and sustainable community governance.
- ▶ A balance is required in resource allocation to ensure adequate consideration of informal sport, recreation and leisure participation options for the community.
- ▶ Effective partnerships with other providers (e.g. West Wimmera Health Services and Nhill Secondary College) will support options for community

health and recreation options in the town, particularly access to the Lowan Sports Centre and proposed hydrotherapy pool at the hospital.

- ▶ Sympathetic development of natural assets and open space in Nhill that will further enhance the recreation offer for residents and visitors.

#### 9.3.4 Recommendations

1. Develop a Master Plan for Davis Park to guide options for future improvements, priorities and use of current available space. The Master Plan will need to consider options to accommodate the following facilities:
  - ▶ Establish a senior soccer pitch through shared use of existing oval.
  - ▶ Establish a permanent Chinlone (Cane Ball) court and spectator area (a site adjacent to the existing junior oval/pitch could be established in the short-term).
  - ▶ Consider options to relocate the Tennis Club to Davis Park and share club room facilities. Four permanent hard courts with lighting could be developed, potentially shared with netball, and the junior oval/pitch used to establish grass courts when required for special tournaments. Initial improvements to the turf surface may be required.
  - ▶ Review all car parking and internal roads in order to maximise space available for community recreation.
2. In partnership with the Karen community and cultural development agencies, identify opportunities for Nhill to showcase Chinlone as a sport through hosting visiting teams and events.



3. Continue to support the operation of the Nhill swimming pool (seasonal) and community access to the Lowan Sports Centre.
4. Advocate for community access to the proposed West Wimmera Health Service hydrotherapy pool and gymnasium.
5. Further development and enhancement of recreation options around Nhill Lake to include low impact recreation assets for all ages and improvements to the boat ramp and picnic areas.
6. Continue to support Community Garden initiatives in Park Street.
7. Identify options for a relocated and updated skate park.



## 9.4 Rainbow

### 9.4.1 Research and consultation themes

- ▶ Population numbers are relatively stable although there is an ageing profile including a loss of young people from the town.
- ▶ Health, cost, transport and time have been identified as reasons for not participating from community surveys.
- ▶ Community priorities relate to completion of the Recreation Reserve upgrade and supporting existing community activities and clubs.

### 9.4.2 Common issues and requests:

- ▶ Support completion of Stage 2 redevelopment of the Recreation Reserve.
- ▶ Upgrade recreation reserve oval lighting.
- ▶ Relocate the community gym.
- ▶ Lobby for access to permanent water in Ross Lake for recreational use.
- ▶ Relocate the skate park and establish a youth centre/drop-in at the Recreation Reserve.
- ▶ Formulate options for re-use of the former Primary School site (e.g. Men's Shed, Community Garden, Youth facility).
- ▶ Lobby Parks Victoria to provide affordable camping and recreational facilities at key locations associated with Lake Hindmarsh, Lake Albacutya and The Big Dessert National Park.
- ▶ Link 4WD tracks to the proposed Hindmarsh Trail.

### 9.4.3 Strategic directions

- ▶ Resources should concentrate on supporting existing key recreation assets, community priorities and outcomes that will improve health and

age-appropriate participation opportunities for residents. The key recreation assets for the community including the Recreation Reserve, bowls club and swimming pool.

- ▶ Improve youth based assets and services to help retain families in the community and improve social options for younger people.
- ▶ Build on the location of Rainbow and its accessibility to the region's natural features.

### 9.4.4 Recommendations

1. Work with the community and key stakeholders to refine the scope of the proposed Stage 2 redevelopment of the Recreation Reserve change-rooms to a level that is financially achievable.
2. Support upgrade of the Recreation Reserve oval lighting.
3. Work with the community to relocate the community gym either within the recreation reserve, or to a vacant premise in the main street or primary school site.
4. Relocate and upgrade the skate park facilities to the recreation reserve and explore options to establish a youth centre/drop-in utilising the existing Scout facility.
5. Support community driven initiatives to establish a Men's Shed and other community activities at the vacated Primary School site. Continue to lobby the State Government on use and access to the facility.
6. Continue to lobby Parks Victoria on planning and advocating for improved facilities at the key destinations associated with the regional Parks and Lakes and position Rainbow as a key gateway to these attractions.



## 10. Implementation framework

The following section presents a summary of the recommendations within a prioritised implementation framework.

Whilst an indicative priority rating for implementation has been applied (i.e. Short, Medium, Long-Term or Ongoing) to guide operations, actual timing of implementation will be subject to HSC, stakeholder and community capacity, timing and nature of external funding and/or other partnership opportunities. Individual actions will be considered on an annual basis as part of HSCs overall Council Plan, budget preparations, Precinct Plans, Community Plans and Town Committee initiatives.

An assessment of HSC's capacity to implement these recommendations within existing staff resources may also need to be considered. The action plan lists the priority and timeframes for actions as follows:

- ▶ Priority: H (High). M (Medium). L (Low).
- ▶ Timing: S (Short 1-2 years). M (Medium 2-5 years). L (Long 5+ years)

### 10.1 Roles and responsibilities

A key success factor for the management and implementation of the HSSR is understanding the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders. It is not envisaged that this responsibility sits solely with HSC, although it will have a significant part to play. Rather, the document recognises that the resources, skills and expertise of governments, business, communities and agencies all have an opportunity under the Strategy to support economic and social change and be part of a collaborative and flexible effort.

#### **Leadership**

HSC has the primary function of providing strategic leadership as the local governing authority. This includes ensuring that there is broad awareness and understanding of the Plan, its objectives and actions, as well as having open dialogue with partner stakeholders and communities on mutual and 'individual' responsibilities.

There will be strategic areas of the Plan where other agencies or communities of interest will have a leadership role; in these cases, HSC or other parties can provide advocacy or support.

#### **Advocacy**

Advocacy is where an organisation or collective work together under a common cause or purpose that is of importance to individuals or communities. This may be around local or regional policy, government strategy, funding or promotion of the region within key markets. It is built on partnerships, collaboration and bipartisanship.

#### **Support**

This is where organisations and communities support the actions and direction of a project or agency that is not directly their responsibility and which may be being undertaken by other entities or groups. The nature and level of support will vary depending on the initiative in place and the contribution it makes to the Plan and overall community good.

#### **Facilitation**

Facilitation is where groups and individuals have a major part in the overall planning, establishment and management of activity or action. It implies a level of responsibility and provision of resources but should still build collaboration and support with other partners.

#### **Implementation**

Implementation is applied when an organisation or group has a clear and direct role in delivering actions and resources. This can include planning, management and delivery of projects, developing policy and making decisions for and on behalf of (but in partnership with) stakeholders and communities.

**Table 3 - Implementation framework**

Rec #	Recommendations	Priority and timing	Partners	Lead	HSC role
<b>Shire-wide recommendations – Changing community needs</b>					
1.	Support development and enhancement of facilities that promote informal recreation including walking, cycling and gardening etc. within townships and informal use of the region's water bodies and natural features.	Ongoing	HSC Communities Management authorities Government agencies	HSC	Leadership Advocacy Support Implementation
2.	Support community driven initiatives that provide participation opportunities for older age groups, including formal sports and non-sporting activities (e.g. Men's Shed, community garden, community gym, community activities, special events, health & fitness classes, etc.)	Ongoing	HSC Community Service agencies State government	Community	Leadership Advocacy Support Implementation
3.	Liaise with relevant peak sporting bodies to encourage and support local clubs and associations to trial alternative / modified game, competition or tournament formats to encourage increased participation (e.g. relevant peak associations with modified or alternative game formats include AFL, Cricket, Netball, Tennis, Soccer and Lawn Bowls).	H M	HSC Sporting associations Community	HSC	Leadership Support
4.	Ensure local sport and recreation provision reflects local community priorities, participation preferences and cultural relevance.	Ongoing	HSC Community Special interest groups	Community	Leadership Support Facilitation

Rec #	Recommendations	Priority and timing	Partners	Lead	HSC role
<b>Shire-wide recommendations – Governance and sustainability</b>					
1.	Explore opportunities to facilitate a series of sport-specific regional planning forums with relevant State sporting bodies, WRSA, regional associations and local clubs and neighbouring Shires, targeting club development and support needs; competition structures and participation planning; governance and succession planning.	H S	HSC Sporting bodies Neighbouring Shire Key sporting clubs State Government	HSC	Leadership Advocacy Facilitation
2.	Ensure HSC's Community Development team continues to provide clubs and community groups with access to information and support in relation to external funding programs or opportunities available. Levels of support required can and will vary across clubs/groups however which may require a specific hands-on role by Council officers.	Ongoing	HSC Community	HSC	Support Facilitation Implementation
3.	In consultation with each local community (i.e. Dimboola, Jeparit and Rainbow), explore opportunities to consolidate the number of separate club governance committees within each township in order to reduce the burden on volunteers and establish a single <i>Sports Club</i> model as developed in Nhill.	H S	HSC Community	HSC	Leadership Support Facilitation

Rec #	Recommendations	Priority and timing	Partners	Lead	HSC role
<b>Shire-wide recommendations – Asset management and renewal</b>					
1.	Liaise with reserve committees and groups to tailor asset maintenance and support services to the <i>priority</i> or critical needs of each individual group. For example this may include planning/development advice, funding applications, project management or direct maintenance support	H M	HSC Sporting groups	HSC	Support Facilitation
2.	Provide ongoing service assistant and development skills or addressing capacity gaps of individual clubs or groups. For example some clubs may require assistance with grass mowing/turf management, whereas others may require assistance with building maintenance or fundraising. In effect, provide a tailored service response.	Ongoing	HSC Sporting groups	HSC	Support Facilitation Implementation
3.	Support the development and implementation of strategic Master Plans for key recreation reserves and facilities (Dimboola and Nhill) in order to provide realistic, staged options for asset renewal, redevelopment or refurbishment in line with demonstrated community needs and priorities and develop sustainable and co-operative management structures.	H M	HSC Sporting groups Community	HSC	Advocacy Support Facilitation
4.	Develop and implement Asset Management Plans in accordance with Local Government best practice to incorporate all classes of assets found in public parks, open space and recreation reserves. Ensure that local groups and associations also complete strategic asset management plans for their infrastructure and facilities. Work with the community and sporting groups to understand future service needs and determine service levels that will inform future planning and resource allocation.	M M	HSC Committees of management Communities of interest	HSC for Council Assets	Facilitation Implementation
5.	Implement and support sport and recreation related asset and infrastructure improvement priorities from previously endorsed community plans and strategies, including walking paths / trails and community facilities.	Ongoing	HSC Sporting groups Community	Community	Advocacy Support Facilitation

Rec #	Recommendations	Priority and timing	Partners	Lead	HSC role
<b>Dimboola recommendations</b>					
1.	<p>Develop a comprehensive Master Plan to guide the future use, development and management of the Dimboola Recreation Reserve. The Master Plan will need to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Options for consolidating buildings and the feasibility of establishing a new shared use community function / recreation facility.</li> <li>▶ Development of a facility concept design and cost estimate including options for female change rooms, netball facilities and redevelopment of the Les Howland oval.</li> <li>▶ Operational models, management and financial implications for both the Reserve and assets and facilities within it.</li> <li>▶ Documentation of a Business Case to support possible future funding applications for Recreation Reserve project and initiatives.</li> <li>▶ Upgrade of the skate park at the existing or alternative location within the Reserve.</li> <li>▶ Options to continue to improve recreational facilities along the river including walking paths, fishing platforms, seating, shelters, rowing, swimming and boating infrastructure.</li> </ul>	H M	HSC Sporting groups Community	HSC	Advocacy Support Facilitation
2.	Support community initiatives to increase the use of the Dimboola Health and Fitness Centre and effective asset management planning to support long-term renewal and replacement as required.	M M	HSC Dimboola Memorial Secondary College User groups Service providers State Government	Dimboola Memorial Secondary College	Advocacy Support
3.	Encourage / support seasonal programming and activation initiatives associated with the Dimboola swimming pool.	H S	HSC Community	HSC	Facilitation Implementation
4.	Continue to work with users, stakeholders and river authorities to appropriately manage impacts from boating activities, including bank erosion, noise and conflict with other users.	Ongoing	HSC Relevant authorities User groups Community	HSC	Leadership Facilitation

Rec #	Recommendations	Priority and timing	Partners	Lead	HSC role
<b>Jeparit recommendations</b>					
1.	Continued development of the Wimmera River Precinct including the Caravan Park, tennis courts, picnic areas, play facilities and boat ramp / jetty. Development of the Wimmera River precinct should encompass Four Mile Beach at Lake Hindmarsh.	M M	HSC Community Relevant authorities State Government	HSC	Advocacy Facilitation
2.	Ensure effective path / trail connections and signage from the town with the proposed Hindmarsh Trail. Improvements to include directional and interpretative signage and promotion of the walking tracks.	M M	HSC Community Relevant authorities	HSC	Facilitation Implementation
3.	Support initiatives to establish an annual community event for the town which capitalises on existing recreational assets, promotes participation and social interaction.	M M	HSC Community	Community	Advocacy Support Facilitation
4.	Support existing clubs to improve sustainability and member / participation retention. This should include consideration of a Jeparit Sport and Recreation committee that amalgamates the primary sporting and recreation codes. Also refer to Overarching <i>Governance and Sustainability</i> recommendations for specific actions. Improvements in communication between the community and sporting groups will also aid promotion, increased participation levels and sustainability.	H S	HSC Sporting groups Community	Sporting groups	Advocacy Support Facilitation
5.	Help resolve management issues associated with the community gym so that it can open to the public.	H S	HSC Community	Community	Support
6.	Encourage / support seasonal programming and activation initiatives associated with the Jeparit swimming pool.	H S	HSC Community	HSC	Facilitation Implementation
7.	Continue to work with users, stakeholders and river authorities to appropriately manage impacts from boating activities, including bank erosion, noise and conflict with other users.	Ongoing	HSC Relevant authorities User groups Community	HSC	Leadership Facilitation

Rec #	Recommendations	Priority and timing	Partners	Lead	HSC role
<b>Nhill recommendations</b>					
1.	<p>Develop a Master Plan and Development Plan for Davis Park to guide options for future improvements, priorities and use of current available space. The Master Plan will need to consider options to accommodate the following facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Establish a senior soccer pitch through shared use of the existing oval.</li> <li>▶ Establish a permanent Chinlone (Cane Ball) court and spectator area (a site adjacent to the existing junior oval/pitch could be established in the short-term).</li> <li>▶ In partnership with the Karen community and cultural development agencies, identify opportunities for Nhill to host visiting teams and become a centre for the development of Chinlone as sport.</li> <li>▶ Consider options to relocate the Tennis Club to Davis Park and share club room facilities. Four permanent hard courts with lighting could be developed, potentially shared with netball, and the junior oval/pitch used to establish grass courts when required for special tournaments. Initial improvements to the turf surface may be required.</li> <li>▶ Review all car parking, internal roads and fencing in order to maximise space available for community recreation.</li> <li>▶ Options to consolidate buildings or establish new community club rooms.</li> <li>▶ Improved access and seating within Davis Park.</li> </ul>	H M	HSC Sporting groups Community	HSC	Advocacy Support Facilitation
2.	Continue to support the operation of the Nhill swimming pool (seasonal) and community access to the Lowan Sports Centre.	Ongoing	HSC Sporting Groups Nhill P12 College	HSC	Advocacy Support
3.	Advocate for community access to the proposed West Wimmera Health Service hydrotherapy pool and gymnasium.	H S	West Wimmera Health Services HSC Community	HSC	Advocacy Support

Rec #	Recommendations	Priority and timing	Partners	Lead	HSC role
<b>Nhill recommendations continued</b>					
4.	Further development and enhancement of recreation options around Nhill Lake low impact recreation assets for all ages and improvements to the boat ramp and picnic areas	Ongoing	HSC Communities of interest Relevant authorities Community	Nhill Lake Committee	Advocacy Support Facilitation
5.	Continue to support Community Garden initiatives in Park Street and the maintenance of Goldsworthy Park as an important community and visitor asset.	Ongoing	Community HSC	Community	Facilitation
6.	Identify options for a relocated and updated skate park	H S	HSC Community	HSC	Support Facilitation



Rec #	Recommendations	Priority and timing	Partners	Lead	HSC role
<b>Rainbow recommendations</b>					
1.	Work with the community and key stakeholders to refine the scope of the proposed Stage 2 redevelopment of the Recreation Reserve change rooms to a level that is financially and funding achievable	H S	HSC Sporting groups State Government Community	Rainbow Recreation Reserve Committee of Management	Leadership Advocacy Facilitation
2.	Support upgrade of the Recreation Reserve oval lighting.	H S	HSC Sporting groups State Government Community	HSC and sporting groups	Leadership Advocacy Facilitation
3.	Work with the community to relocate the community gym (either within the recreation reserve, or to a vacant premise in the main street or primary school).	H S	HSC Community	Community	Advocacy Support Facilitation
4.	Relocate and upgrade the skate park facilities to the recreation reserve and explore options to establish a youth centre/drop-in utilising the Scout facility.	H M	HSC Community	Community	Advocacy Support Facilitation
5.	Support community driven initiatives to establish a Men's Shed and other community activities at the vacated Primary School site. Continue to advocate with the State Government on use and access to the facility.	Ongoing	HSC Community State Government	Community	Advocacy Support Facilitation
6.	Continue to lobby Parks Victoria on planning and advocating for improved facilities at the key destinations associated with the regional Parks and Lakes and position Rainbow as a key gateway to these attractions.	Ongoing	Parks Victoria HSC Relevant authorities Community	Parks Victoria	Advocacy Support Facilitation

## 11. Funding streams

The implementation of the HSSR will have a reliance on sourcing support funding and investment, primarily from community, government and agency sources. It is recognised that both HSC and the community will have constrained financial resources to put towards many of the projects but will be able to contribute time and a range of in-kind support to initiatives in addition to some funding.

The attraction of funding can be highly competitive particularly for small town sport and recreation projects that may not always have significant economic or employment outcomes, but which are still vital to small communities to retain and improve their liveability and services and to attract residents and visitors. This attraction of residents and visitors in itself can be economically and socially significant for rural towns and therefore sport and recreation projects can attract funding support.

The primary funding will be from State Government through programs administered through SRV. There are also other sources of both Federal and State funding programs to support planning, design, feasibility and implementation of projects including large central funds and departmental and project specific initiatives.. Although these can be subject to political and budgetary cycles, it is envisaged that governments will remain committed to support local government and communities with funding for key projects and works.

There are also a range of philanthropic trusts and funds that can support community initiatives that align to fund objectives and guidelines and there are also opportunities to attract corporate and organisational sponsorship and funding support. Community groups as well as councils can be eligible to apply for funding with detailed application information provided within individual program guidelines. There are occasionally opportunities to link and advocate for community projects to other organisations and their strategic plans.

The following table provides an overview of the key government funding streams, noting that they may be subject to funding rounds, contribution variances and budget/project allocations and is therefore provided as a guide.

A summary listing of SRV funding programs is provided in Appendix 1.

Fund	Objectives	Criteria	Contribution
<p>Visitor Economy (Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund – State)</p>	<p>Create new, or redevelop existing tourism and cultural assets that demonstrate a significant impact on the visitor economy. Projects must attract increased visitors to the region and deliver an improved experience for those who visit and reside in regional Victoria.</p> <p>Fund website  <a href="http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/programs-and-grants/visitor-economy">http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/programs-and-grants/visitor-economy</a></p>	<p>Visitor Economy Stream:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Projects that showcase nature-based experiences</li> <li>▶ Multi-use and single use trails</li> <li>▶ New adventure of experiential tourism</li> <li>▶ Enhance existing tourism experiences or remove barriers to growth</li> <li>▶ Support regional Victoria as a year-round destination</li> </ul>	<p>No direct contribution required although higher levels of co-contribution by the applicant will be more favoured.</p>
<p>Rural Development Program (Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund – State)</p>	<p>Assisting rural Victoria’s businesses and communities by investing in local infrastructure, creating opportunities for economic growth and enhancing the appeal and liveability of rural towns and surrounding areas. Supports projects that have the potential to stimulate economic activity in rural towns. Projects can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Multi-purpose infrastructure such as business hubs, co-working spaces, community and event facilities</li> <li>▶ Infrastructure links that promote recreation activity such as trails and tracks</li> <li>▶ Heritage and cultural initiatives such as renewal of historic buildings and sites, arts and cultural or resource centres</li> <li>▶ Civic renewal to enhance liveability and improve business opportunities such as township entrances, streetscaping, signage and upgrading of open space</li> </ul> <p>Fund website  <a href="http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/programs-and-grants/rural-development/guidelines">http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/programs-and-grants/rural-development/guidelines</a></p>	<p>Will need to demonstrate how projects will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Improve economic performance</li> <li>▶ Harness key regional strengths</li> <li>▶ Improve the liveability and attractiveness of rural towns</li> <li>▶ Enhance the resilience and competitiveness of the location</li> </ul>	<p>Infrastructure fund capped at \$500,000 and project planning at \$50,000.</p> <p>Fund to applicant ratio:                      &lt;\$300,000 total cost \$3:\$1                      \$300,000 – \$500,000 total cost \$2:\$1                      \$2:\$1 up to \$50,000 for project and strategic planning.</p>
<p>Stronger Regional Communities Plan (Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund – State)</p>	<p>Invest in community led initiatives and partnerships that create or enhance the conditions for economic growth and build resilient, diversified and sustainable communities. Will support initiatives under two program streams: Community Capacity Building and Population Attraction.</p> <p>Fund website:  <a href="http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/regional-jobs-and-infrastructure-fund/stronger-regional-communities/srccp-guidelines">http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/regional-jobs-and-infrastructure-fund/stronger-regional-communities/srccp-guidelines</a></p>	<p>Community Capacity Building:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Encourage and provide opportunities for local community participation in the design and delivery of projects, processes and planning</li> <li>▶ Address economic development challenges through locally-led partnerships</li> <li>▶ Build the skills of people to participate in projects, processes and planning.</li> </ul>	<p>Up to \$50,000 available                      \$3:\$1 Fund to applicant ratio</p>

Fund	Objectives	Criteria	Contribution
<p>National Stronger Regions Fund – (Federal. Rounds 1 and 2 closed. Round 3 closed March 2016).</p>	<p>The desired outcomes of the programme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Improved level of economic activity in regions;</li> <li>▶ Increased productivity in the regions;</li> <li>▶ Increased employment and a more skilled workforce in regions;</li> <li>▶ Increased capacity and improved capability of regions to deliver major projects, and to secure and manage investment funding;</li> <li>▶ Improved partnerships between local, state and territory governments, the private sector and community groups; and</li> <li>▶ More stable and viable communities, where people choose to live.</li> </ul> <p>Fund website: <a href="http://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/funding/NSRF/">http://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/funding/NSRF/</a></p>	<p>Provided for capital projects which involve the construction of new infrastructure, or the upgrade or an extension of existing infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <u>Assessment Criterion 1</u>: The extent to which the project contributes to economic growth in the region;</li> <li>▶ <u>Assessment Criterion 2</u>: The extent to which the project supports or addresses disadvantage in the region;</li> <li>▶ <u>Assessment Criterion 3</u>: The extent to which the project increases investment and builds partnerships in the region; and</li> <li>▶ <u>Assessment Criterion 4</u>: The extent to which the project and proponent are viable and sustainable.</li> </ul>	<p>Matched cash funding \$4\$</p>
<p>2016-17 Community Sports Infrastructure Fund (Dept Health and Human Services – State).</p>	<p>Helps to provide high-quality, accessible community sport and recreation facilities by encouraging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Increased sport and recreation participation including female and junior participation</li> <li>▶ Increased accessed to sport and recreation opportunities</li> <li>▶ Better planning of sport and recreation facilities</li> <li>▶ Innovative, environmentally and universally designed facilities</li> </ul> <p>Fund website: <a href="http://www.sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/community-sports-infrastructure-fund">http://www.sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/community-sports-infrastructure-fund</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Increase or maintain participation</li> <li>▶ Improve community health and wellbeing</li> <li>▶ Encourage the development of multi-use, shared and co-located facilities</li> <li>▶ Collaborates with schools and community groups</li> <li>▶ Collaborates with state sporting associations or relevant peak bodies</li> </ul> <p>Priority will be given to communities in areas of need such as bushfires, flood or drought or communities experiencing strong population growth.</p>	<p>Major Facilities – up to \$650,000 to develop or upgrade major district and regional sport and recreation facilities (total project cost &gt;\$500,000). Funding ratio \$1:\$1.</p> <p>Small Aquatic Projects – up to \$200,000 to improve or upgrade aquatic facilities, seasonal pools and new water play spaces. Funding ratio \$2:\$1.</p> <p>Minor Facilities, Cricket Facilities and Female Friendly Facilities – up to \$100,000 x 3 (project total &lt;\$1m) available for community sport and recreation groups working with local council on development and upgrades to community sport and recreation facilities. Funding ratio \$2:\$1.</p> <p>Planning - up to \$30,000 for projects focussing on recreation planning or facility feasibility in one municipality. Funding ratio \$2:\$1.</p>
<p>Country Football and Netball Program - State</p>	<p>Provides funding to assist grassroots country football and netball clubs, associations and umpiring organisations to develop facilities in rural, regional and outer metropolitan locations.</p> <p>Fund website <a href="http://www.sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/country-football-netball-program">http://www.sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/country-football-netball-program</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Modifying existing football and netball facilities</li> <li>▶ Development or upgrading football and netball playing surfaces and/or lighting</li> </ul>	<p>Up to \$100,000 per financial year. Funding ratio \$2:\$1.</p>
<p>Active Club Grants – VicHealth -</p>	<p>Range of funding programs to assist sporting clubs, associations and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Range of criteria and programs announced throughout the year.</li> </ul>	<p>Depending on the fund.</p>

Fund	Objectives	Criteria	Contribution
State	other groups on initiatives, programs and purchase of equipment to support participation in sport and recreation.  <a href="https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/funding">https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/funding</a>		
Men's Shed – 2015 funding closed – State.	Priority will be given to grant applications that demonstrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ High level of need for the men's shed in the community due to social and economic disadvantage or lack of community infrastructure</li> <li>▶ Plan to attract community participants, create a positive environment and address issues of social isolation and disadvantage</li> <li>▶ Significant partnerships and/or support from relevant community groups such as the local council, neighbourhood house or adult-learning providers</li> <li>▶ Involvement of participants in the men's shed development and delivery phases</li> <li>▶ Strategic plan to sustain the ongoing operation of the shed.</li> </ul> Fund website: <a href="http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-business-and-community/community-involvement/men-in-the-community/mens-sheds">http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-business-and-community/community-involvement/men-in-the-community/mens-sheds</a>	Funds can be used to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Construct a new men's shed</li> <li>▶ Redevelop an existing building into a men's shed or</li> <li>▶ Co-locate a men's shed into a multifunction community facility or hub.</li> </ul> Each grant application must demonstrate proof of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Land availability</li> <li>▶ Community consultation including local men and a need for the men's shed in their community</li> <li>▶ Detailed design plans and an understanding of building permit and planning requirements</li> <li>▶ Support from key community partners.</li> </ul>	Up to \$60,000 available in 2015 round. Fund to applicant ratio \$2:\$1.

## Appendix 1 – Overview of SRV Funding Programs

### Grants and programs

vic.gov.au

#### Community Sports Infrastructure Fund

The [Community Sports Infrastructure Fund](#) contributes to the provision of high-quality and accessible community sport and recreation facilities across Victoria.

#### Defibrillators for Sporting Clubs and Facilities Program

The [Defibrillators for Sporting Clubs and Facilities Program](#) provides Victorian sporting clubs with the opportunity to acquire an automatic external defibrillator (also known as an 'AED') for their club or sports facility.

#### Significant Sporting Events Program

The [Significant Sporting Events Program](#) provides one-off Event Support Grants of up to \$50,000 to support operational requirements for events, and Event Initiative Fund grants of up to \$300,000 to support existing or new events seeking enhancements to boost the profile and legacy of the event.

#### Country Football and Netball Program

The [Country Football and Netball Program](#) provides funding to assist country football and netball clubs to develop facilities through rural, regional and outer metropolitan councils.

#### Sporting Club Grants Program

The [Sporting Club Grants Program](#) provides grants to assist in the purchase of sports uniforms and equipment and to improve the capacity and accessibility of Victorian clubs and other community sport and recreation organisations and increase the skills of their coaches, officials and managers.

#### Athlete Pathway Travel Grants Program

The [Athlete Pathway Travel Grants Program](#) provides grants to improve Victorian athlete development pathways from community to national representation level.

#### Access for All Abilities Program

The [Access for All Abilities](#) (AAA) program develops and supports a diverse range of sport and recreation environments that are inclusive of and accessible to people with disabilities.

#### Indigenous Sports Development program

The [Indigenous Sports Development program](#) aims to:

- increase access to sport and recreation opportunities for Indigenous communities
- create sustainable partnerships with state and regional sporting associations
- increase awareness within the sport and recreation industry of how to be more inclusive of Indigenous communities

#### Regional Sport and Recreation Program

<http://sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs>

The [Regional Sport and Recreation program](#) strengthens the capacity of rural and regional communities to respond to sport and active issues which impact at the grassroots level.

#### Emergency grants: Sports Equipment

The [Emergency grants](#) provides assistance to local sport and active recreation clubs to replace essential sporting or first aid equipment that has been lost or destroyed as a consequence of fire, theft or flood.

#### Shooting Sports Facilities Program

The [Shooting Sports Facilities Program](#) is a Victorian Government initiative that provides funding support for projects that improve the quality and safety of shooting facilities and activities across the state. Grants of up to \$100,000 are available to successful applicants.

#### Supporting Victorian Sport and Recreation Program

[Supporting Victorian Sport and Recreation Program](#) is a new Victorian Government program that provides grants to assist state sporting associations and state sport and recreation bodies to deliver initiatives that increase and broaden participation in sport and active recreation.



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