



BOROONDARA SPORTS STRATEGY

Volume 2: Background Information

Adopted by Council on 16 October 2006

About this document

The Boroondara Sports Strategy has been prepared in two volumes. This is Volume 2 and it is a reference document. It contains supporting evidence including consultation outcomes, sports participation and demographic information as well as the outcome of the literature review.

Volume 1 describes the policy context that frames Council's role in sport as well identify actions to improve sport in the City of Boroondara.

Front Cover

Skateboarding	Junction Skate and BMX Park, Hawthorn East
Lawn Bowls	Camberwell Central Bowls Club, Camberwell
Hockey	Patterson Reserve, Hawthorn East
Cricket	Frog Hollow Reserve, Camberwell
Swimming	Unknown
Football	Unknown
Netball	Balwyn Leisure Centre

Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Trends in Sport	2
	<i>Sedentarianism</i>	2
	<i>Risk Awareness</i>	3
	<i>Social Change</i>	3
	<i>Ageing Population</i>	4
	<i>Participation & Facility Development Trends</i>	4
3.	Review of Existing Policy	7
4.	Sport in Boroondara	9
	<i>Participation in Sport in Boroondara</i>	9
	<i>Other stakeholders in sport</i>	15
	<i>Perceptions by Sporting Associations</i>	16
	<i>Perception by Schools</i>	18
	<i>Perception by Sporting Clubs</i>	20
5.	Where to From Here	24
	<i>Sports Principles</i>	24
	<i>Sports Planning Issues</i>	25
	<i>Resourcing Sport Facilities</i>	26
	<i>Promoting Sport</i>	27
Appendix A	Review of Relevant Policy	28
Appendix B	Spatial Distribution of Sporting	39
Appendix C	Survey Participants	40

□

1. Introduction

This document provides the supporting evidence and information that has contributed to the development of Council's Sports Strategy. Specifically, it includes the following information sources:

- Documentation relating to the trends in sport;
- A review of existing Council Policy, specifically identifying the impacts to sport in the City of Boroondara. A core component of the review was the review of Council's Sports Audit. Completed in 2005, this was a comprehensive assessment that describes sport participation in Boroondara, resourcing levels and the extent to which sport involves special populations, such as children, people with a disability and people aged over 60 years;
- The outcome of interviews with 11 sports associations relating to participation trends and resourcing issues in Boroondara (representing 46% of all sporting associations covering Boroondara);
- The outcome of interviews with 19 Boroondara schools in relation to participation trends, use of Council reserves and potential for community use of school reserves. The number of schools interviewed represents 51% of all schools in the City of Boroondara, and
- The outcome of interviews with 54 Boroondara sporting clubs, in addition to the outcome of 2 sports forums involving 26 clubs. 10 Clubs have also made further contributions by submitting written submissions to the project. All investigative tools have examined participation trends, perceptions relating to facility and amenity standards, as well as key needs for Boroondara sports clubs.

The purpose of Council's Sports Strategy is to provide a clear framework to guide Council's decision making relating to supporting and developing sport in the City of Boroondara.

Implicit to the project is that it:

- Position Council's role within the context of other contributors to sport in Boroondara;
- Acknowledge the multi-disciplinary nature of planning and supporting sport;
- Fit within the context of Council's policy and resourcing capacities;
- Provide clear direction for planning and operational decisions impacting sport, and
- Inform the community of Council's role and commitment to sport in the City of Boroondara.

2. Trends in Sport

Sport participation patterns are not static. Participation trends have been markedly influenced by social and technological change, as well as advances in the sporting industry. Participation patterns during the post war period, for example, are markedly different to the participation patterns of today.

This section briefly outlines some of trends and their consequences in relation to sport. By doing so, it aims to assist in positioning Council's Sports Strategy in relation to contemporary participation patterns and broader influences impacting sport. Having said this, it is not presented as an exclusive list, but rather as a snapshot into some of the influences to sport.

Sedentarianism

The Trend

- Time saving devices (such as remote controls) and pre prepared foods contribute to engineering a lifestyle that is more sedentary and unhealthy;
- Home entertainment such as computer games and pay-per-view television are influencing a shift to indoor-at home leisure time, and
- There is a rise of diseases that are linked to sedentary lifestyle, such as stroke, heart disease and arthritis.

Consequences

- Increased incidence of disease influenced by a sedentary lifestyle places pressure on the health system;
- As a result, there has been a strengthening of the connections between health and recreation sectors;
- Walking, swimming and cycling have increased in popularity, arguably because of their health benefits, and
- Local governments will be encouraged to provide shared pathways and supporting infrastructure to support participation in walking and cycling.

Risk Awareness

The Trend

- Globally, there is an increased tendency to litigate against organisations where personal injury is caused;
- We are more inclined to consider risk minimisation strategies in different domains of our lives, including sport and recreation, and
- Potential exposure to risk has markedly impacted the financial operation (through a rise in insurance premiums) and willingness of volunteers (through fear of litigation) in community sport and recreation organisations and events.

Consequences

- The public is more aware of health and safety issues and is more demanding of sport and recreation organisations to ensure health and safety;
- Increased costs (time & money) required to manage risk, and
- There has been a negative impact to particular sports which are considered to be more extreme and prone to risk, including equine, skating and extreme sports.

Social Change

The Trend

- Work patterns are more individualised, as demonstrated by a rise of part time work;
- Traditional leisure time over weekends has been eroded;
- There is less time for traditionally structured sports, particularly those that require a full day's commitment;
- In a family, children's sport and recreation takes precedent over parents', and
- Increased demands for flexibility in the timing and structure of sport and recreation opportunities.

Consequences

- Demand for programmed recreation activities (which can be booked, scheduled and slotted) will increase;
- People will be more willing to pay for a quality service where time is limited, rather than commit time for club administration and voluntary contributions to community organizations;
- The ability of physical recreation and sport organisations to utilise volunteer time will reduce further, and
- Sporting Clubs and Associations will need to take into account changing patterns in working hours and offer alternatives to traditional weekend activities.

Ageing Population

The Trend

- An increasing life expectancy, coupled with falling fertility has resulted in an ageing population. This is amplified by the post war baby boomers who are now approaching retirement age, and
- As a result, there will be a reduction of children aged from 0—14 years.

Consequences

- The over 60's are not a homogenous group in terms of sport and recreation needs. Indeed sporting clubs will to offer a mix of opportunities in order to meet multiple demands, and
- Interest in masters' sport is expected to grow.

Participation & Facility Development Trends

The Exercise, Recreation & Sport Survey (ERASS) is a joint initiative between the Australian Sports Commission and each State and Territory Department of Sport & Recreation. It provides comprehensive statistical information in relation to the level of participation in organised physical activity, the type of participation and trends in participation over time. Participation information however applies to people aged over 15 years. On this basis, information relative for children aged under 15 years has been sourced from ABS research¹.

ERASS and ABS information identifies that:

- 27% of Australians aged over 15 years participated in physical activity five or more times per week, 67% at least once per week, with 17.5% not participating in any form of activity;
- Approximately 62% of children participate in sport, outside of school hours, which has been organised by a school, club or association;
- For children aged less than 15 years, boys have a higher rate of participation in sport in comparison to girls, with 69% compared to 54%. Similarly, male participation in organised physical activity is higher in comparison to female participation, with 44.8% of males participating in comparison to 40.8% of females²;
- Participation falls with age, with 68% of all people aged over 65 years not participating in any physical activity;

□

¹ ABS, Children's Participation in Cultural & Leisure Activities, 4901.0, April 2003

² It is important to note the distinction between sport and organized physical activity. In the ABS information sport does not include activities such as aerobics and visiting gymnasiums, whereas these figures are included in the ERASS information.

- The capacity for sport to be undertaken outside of organised competition markedly impacts the overall rate of participation. Participation in tennis, aerobics, swimming & cycling each have much higher rates of participation, arguably because of the capacity for the activity to be undertaken over a broad range of timeslots, and
- Walking is the highest participatory physical activity with almost 38% of Australians aged over 15 years participating in this activity. 64.5% of all participants are women. Aerobics (16%) and swimming (15.3%) are the next highest participatory activity. Again, women are more likely to participate in these activities in comparison to men.

Participation rates for people aged over 15 years for selected sporting activities are shown in the following table.

Table 2 Participation in Selected Sporting Activities for People Aged Over 15 Years

Sport	Participation Rate (%)	Sport	Participation Rate (%)
Australian Rules Football	2.8	Baseball	0.4
Basketball	3.6	Cricket (outdoor)	3.3
Golf	8.2	Hockey (outdoor)	1.0
Lawn Bowls	2.3	Netball	3.9
Soccer (outdoor)	4.3	Tennis	9.0
Volleyball	1.3		

Table 3 Participation in Selected Sporting Activities for Children Aged Under 15 Years

Sport	Participation Rate (%)	Sport	Participation Rate (%)
Australian Rules Football	7.3	Netball	9.1
Basketball	7.7	Rugby League	2.9
Cricket (outdoor)	5.0	Skateboarding ³	22.8
Gymnastics	3.5	Soccer (outdoor)	13.4
Hockey	2.5	Swimming	16.6
Martial Arts	4.9	Tennis	8.6

□

³ Whilst skateboarding is not a formal sporting activity in the strictest sense, as participation is not confined to rules and competition, it has been included to highlight the differences between some physical activities and sport.

- Participation in sport for children aged less than 15 years has slightly increased from 2000 to 2003 by 1%. Activities that have experienced the most growth over this time period include swimming (2.2%), soccer (2%) and Australian Rules Football (1.1%). The following sports have experienced a decline over the same period: cricket (0.3%) and rugby league (0.7%).

More broadly, there has not been any significant increase in Victorian's overall sports participation over the past 10 years. There has, however, been involvement in a broader range of sport and recreation placing significant pressure on traditional options of sport and recreation. Other notable characteristics of participation include:

- Weekend sport participation is declining whilst weekday / evening participation is increasing;
- The most popular sports at present are those that can be undertaken at a time and place that suits the participant, eg walking, swimming, cycling and aerobics;
- Long periods of sport time are being replaced by short scheduled periods in order to suit the busy lifestyle;
- The use of improved synthetic materials which reduce maintenance costs both in time and financial resources. Improved synthetic surfaces have allowed for facility use to be extended and more frequent, and
- There is a trend for outdoor sport to be moving indoors.

3. Review of Existing Policy

Implicit with the development of Council's Sports Strategy is that it sits comfortably with existing policy. Appendix A provides a précis of relevant Council policy, together with identifying potential impacts to the project. A total of 15 relevant strategies and policies have been reviewed and include:

- City of Boroondara Council Plan 2005—2009
- Boroondara Sports Audit (2005)
- Boroondara Soccer Strategy (2005)
- Draft Municipal Skate & BMX Strategy, Vols 1 & 2, (2006)
- Community Grants Program 2005–2006 Guidelines and General Information
- Lawn Bowls Strategy (2003)
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2003-2006
- Boroondara Municipal Health Public Health Plan 2003-2006
- Development and Funding of Sportsground Pavilions Policy (2003)
- Council Property Leasing Policy (2000)
- Municipal Strategic Statement (1999)
- Community Participation Policy (1998)
- Leisure Facilities Strategic Plan (1997)
- Open Space Policy (1996)
- Leisure & Cultural Policy (1996)
- Capital Assistance for Sport & Recreation Facilities Policy (1996)

A number of consistent themes have emerged that are implicit with each document, all of which have the potential to influence this project. These are briefly outlined below.

- There is an important focus upon partnerships. Indeed Council's Community Plan, Community Grants, Public Health Plan and Community Participation Policy provide some examples where the much of the intent behind the policy is shaped by the need for Council to work in partnership with others (such as residents, community organisations and other levels of government. Implicit to the need to build partnerships is the requirement to support whole of community responses to strategic planning issues throughout the City of Boroondara;
- Much of the strategic planning documents identify that the City of Boroondara is not a homogenous community, but rather is comprised of diverse communities of interest with broad ranging needs and

issues. On this basis, a common theme in many of the documents was the need to support and acknowledge diversity;

- A number of documents highlighted the leadership and advocacy role of Council for its community. The Community Plan, Lawn Bowls Strategy and Disability Access & Inclusion Plan provide examples that reflect such roles of Council by way of advocating to peak bodies, for example, and leading planning processes that impact the City;
- Similarly, a number of documents have reiterated the asset management responsibilities that lie with both Council and users of Council owned assets. In particular, the Boroondara Sports Audit, Council's Capital Assistance for Sports Facilities and the Property Leasing Policy highlight the financial value of properties that are used for sporting clubs. Having said this, each reference identifies the community benefit that is inherent with community assets. Council's Property Leasing Policy, for example, draws linkages between the net community benefits that are derived from the property and the terms and conditions of lease agreements for such properties, and
- Previous comments have highlighted the range of benefits that come with participating in sport. Personal benefits (such as improved health and self esteem) are important outcomes of participation. Implicit to the Council Plan, Access & Inclusion Policy and Municipal Health Plan is the acknowledgement that there are disadvantaged communities, who because of the nature of their disadvantage, have limited access to sporting opportunities and therefore limited opportunity to derive the benefits of participation. As a result, a clear interpretation of each of the documents is that special effort is required to support disadvantaged groups in order to support equitable access for all.

Each theme as identified throughout existing policy has directly contributed to the scope and development of sports planning principles that are described later in this report.

4. Sport in Boroondara

Participation in Sport in Boroondara

Local participation information has been sourced from the Boroondara Sports Audit (2005). This is a rigorous and important planning process, which brings current information in relation to:

- Participation levels for different sports;
- Break up of participation in terms of demography;
- Distribution and quantity of facilities for different sports;
- Council capital and operational contributions for different sports, and
- Utilisation of facilities for different sports.

The health of sport is not measured by the number of facilities, or the extent of resources allocated to it but rather the number of people that are participating. This position reiterates the benefits approach which sees the benefits derived from participation as the end product, (such as health, economic and community benefits) as opposed to facilities and services being the outcome.

With this in mind, research suggests that Boroondara residents are regular participants in sport and recreation activity. Research completed by both Sport & Recreation Victoria and the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation identifies that the Inner Eastern Melbourne (incorporating the City of Boroondara) has the highest rate of participation in sport and recreation activity in comparison to any other region across Victoria. Table 4 identifies that the Inner Eastern region of Melbourne (referring to the Department of Human Services boundaries) has a participation rate⁴ of 83.7%, in comparison to a State wide average of 76%.

Table 4 Participation in Sport by DHS Region

Statistical Region	% of Population
Inner Eastern Melbourne (Metro)	83.7
Southern Melbourne (Metro)	81.5
Mornington Peninsula (Metro)	79.3
Inner Melbourne (Metro)	79.0
North Eastern Melbourne (Metro)	76.9
All Gippsland (Regional)	76.9
Outer Eastern Melbourne (Metro)	76.8

□

⁴ The participation rate refers to at least 30 minutes of continuous activity at least 3 times per week. This standard has been adopted on the basis that this level of participation will bring about health outcomes.

Statistical Region	% of Population
Lodden/Mallee (Regional)	75.5
Barwon/Western (Regional)	75.1
North Western Melbourne (Metro)	73.3
Goulburn/Ovens (Regional)	72.3
South Eastern Melbourne (Metro)	70.4
Outer Western Melbourne (Metro)	69.7
Central Highlands	66.4
VICTORIA	76.0

Information from the Sports Audit identifies that approximately 32,000 people are members of sporting clubs based in the City of Boroondara. Assuming that members generally reside within the City, this translates to approximately 17% of all residents being active members of sporting clubs across the City. It is important to note that the figures presented report Club members as opposed to people that play sport who are not a member of a Club. On this basis, comparisons between Boroondara and Victorian rates of participation cannot be made.

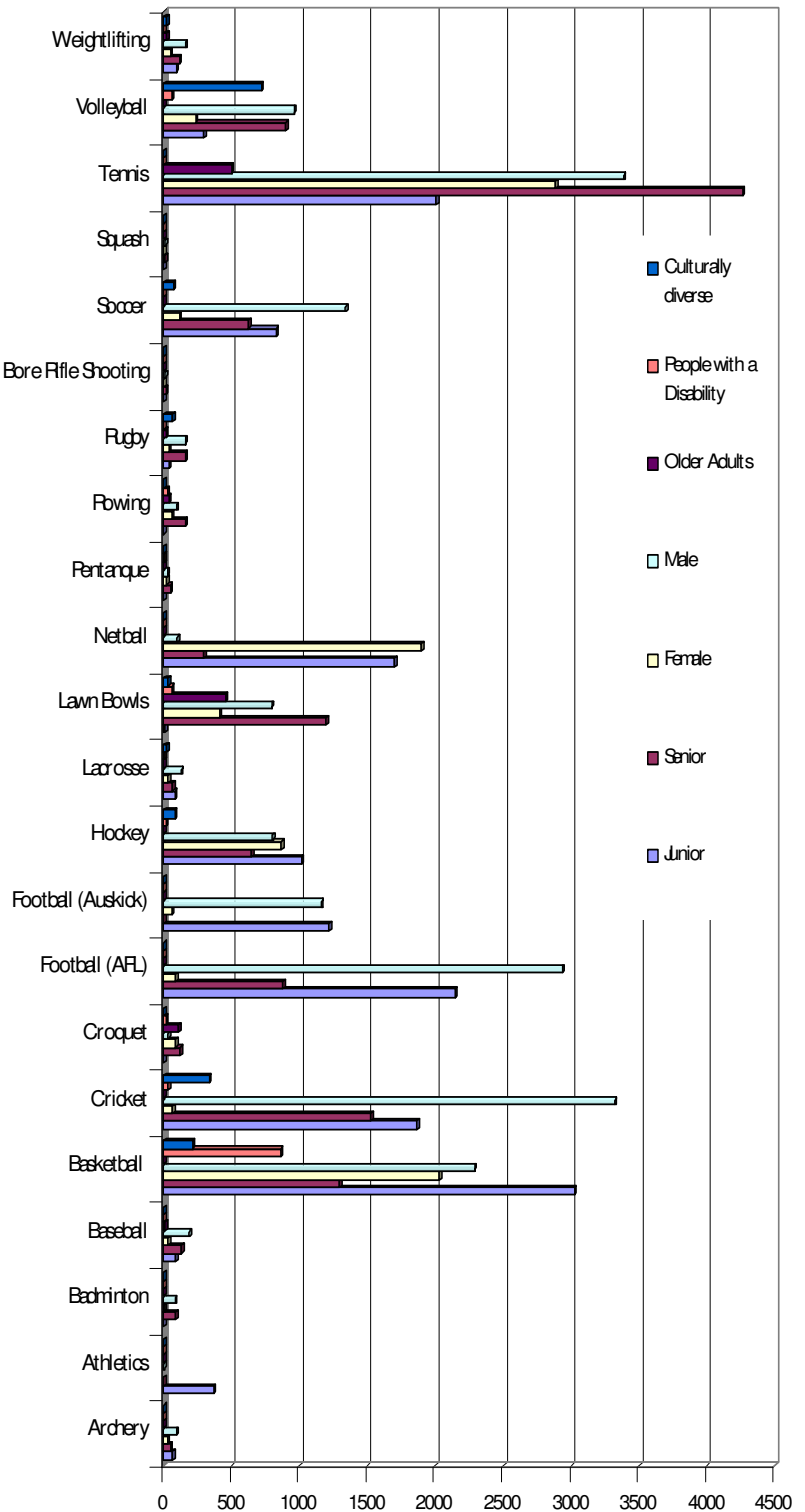
Further analysis of participation information identifies that:

- 55% of all members are junior players, with basketball, football and tennis providing sporting opportunities for 58% of all junior players;
- One third of all senior club members are members of tennis clubs, with over 4,200 senior members playing tennis. This is by far the highest rate of senior membership for a sport, with the next largest being cricket with 1,500 senior members, then basketball and bowls with approximately 1,200 senior members in Boroondara;
- Only one third of all club members are female. This is quite consistent with broader participatory trends, with women under represented in sporting activity, whilst well represented in broader recreation activity, such as aerobics and walking;
- Female membership in sport is generally limited to tennis, basketball and netball (with 32% of all female members playing tennis, 22% and 21% of all female members playing basketball and netball respectively), and
- AFL football, tennis and cricket have the highest number of male memberships across the City of Boroondara, being 24%, 18% and 17% of male participants respectively.

Graph 1 Sports Membership

A comparison of membership between different sports is show in Graph 1.

- Only 4% of sports members were aged over 60 years¹. This has particular relevance for Boroondara in terms of: one; the health benefits associated with regular physical activity for older adults, two; that people aged over 60 years currently represent 19%² of the total Boroondara population, and that three; that the proportion of people aged over 60 years is expected to rise to one quarter of the total population by 2031;
- Having said this however, tennis participation is again the most popular sport for members aged over 60 years (43% of all members in this age group), with bowls being the second most preferred sporting activity for members (39% of all members aged over 60%);
- Similarly, 4% of all club members were identified to have a disability. The health and social benefits associated with participation in sport are arguably no more profound than for people with a disability. Basketball demonstrates a capacity to support people with a disability with 78% of all members of clubs who have a disability, being members of a basketball club, and
- Finally, 6% of all membership in sport came from a culturally diverse background, with 14% of such members playing tennis, and 21% of members playing cricket.



¹

² This figure does not include members of Golf Clubs in the City. Membership information was not available for golf as part of the Sports Audit.

³ Department of Infrastructure, *Know Your Community, 2001 Census information*

Resourcing Sport

There is a diverse range of sporting facilities across the City of Boroondara. Table 4 provides a summary of the range of sporting facilities located in the municipality, as well as the total membership for each sport.

Table 5 Sports Facilities by Type & Participation

Sport	No. of Facilities	No. of Clubs	Membership	Notes / Comments
ARCHERY	1	1	121	
ATHLETICS	1	1	372	
BADMINTON	1	1	90	
BASEBALL	1	2	219	
*BASKETBALL	14	74	6,000	4 sites on Council land, 10 on private/school land
BOWLS	11	9	1,207	Includes 3 sites located on private land
CRICKET	40	33	3,389	
CROQUET	2	2	123	1 site located on private land
AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL	19	20	3,024	
FOOTBALL (AUSKICK)	14	12	1,793	
GOLF	4	2	n/a	1 on Council land, 2 private courses and 1 managed by Parks Victoria
HOCKEY	2	3	1,670	
LACROSSE	2	1	150	
*NETBALL	1	77	3,000	.Does not include school facilities
PETANQUE	1	1	53	
*ROWING	3	4	408	Includes all public and school facilities. 3 clubs are located on Council land. There are 3 private school-based clubs. Hawthorn Rowing Club is the only public club (membership 158)
RUGBY UNION	1	1	200	
SMALL BORE RIFLE SHOOTING	1	1	17	
SOCCER	18	14	1,457	
SQUASH	1	1	15	
SWIMMING	4	7	195	Does not include school facilities
TENNIS	23	36	6,272	20 clubs on Council managed land, remainder on private or church premises
VOLLEYBALL	1	150 teams	1,200	1 non- Council site located at the Kew High School
WEIGHTLIFTING	1	2	215	
TOTAL	167	305	32,390	

(Source: Boroondara Sports Audit, 2005)

* Updated April 2006

N.B. Some facilities include multiple playing areas

Table 5 identifies a clear causal relationship between the supply of facilities and membership. Whilst comparison cannot be made between membership and State participation trends⁷, it would be reasonable to assert that high numbers of tennis, football and cricket facilities contribute to high levels of participation in these sports in comparison to all other sports in the City. On the flip side, athletics may be an example where the lack of facilities has impacted participation at a local level. This is a reasonably high participatory sport (approximately 4% for children), and yet this extent of participation is not remotely reflected in local information.

Having said this however, basketball, netball and volleyball facilities are demonstrably more efficient in their capacity to accommodate more members per facility with high membership with significantly fewer facilities. The efficient use of court space is inherent in the nature of these sports.

Appendix B shows the spatial distribution of facilities across the municipality. In brief, it illustrates the broad distribution of facilities, with all residents having access to some form of sporting facility within a 1km radius across most areas of the City. It also identifies that most sports facilities are located as part of clusters where a number of sporting codes are collocated in the one precinct. Warner Sporting Reserve, Stradbroke Park, Myrtle Park and Hislop Park provide examples of where multiple codes are situated within immediate proximity of each other. Co-tenancy or collocation with multiple user groups has a number of positive benefits, such as building opportunities to secure economies of scale by Clubs sharing resources for common activities, (such as building maintenance, recruitment and volunteer initiatives or sponsorship efforts).

Table 5 also highlights that Council is owner of 90% of all sports facilities across the City. Implicit to ownership is the inherent capital and maintenance cost of the facility and the supporting infrastructure (such as pavilions, car parking, etc) that is required for sporting facilities. Indeed a specific focus of the Sports Audit has been to provide a breakdown of the capital and operational resources that have been allocated to sports facilities across the City, taking into account Council contributions and contributions from other sources. In brief, the Sports Audit identifies that:

- Based on 2003 costs it is estimated that Council's contribution to the capital value of facilities across the City total approximately 82.2M;
- Given the number of cricket facilities in comparison to other playing surfaces, coupled with the extensive infrastructure (sprinkler, drainage, clubrooms etc) and area required for the activity, the collective value of cricket facilities across the City equates to almost one third of the reported total value of all sports facilities;
- It is estimated that funding from other sources has contributed to approximately \$16.9M of the value of facilities, with 59% of this contribution coming from the tenant sporting clubs. It is important to

□

⁷ Membership information for Boroondara does not take into account residents who may be members of Clubs outside of the municipality. More importantly, ERASS, ABS participation data does not distinguish between participants who play sport as a member and those that play casually. Any comparisons would therefore be misleading and inaccurate.

remember that this scale of contribution has been made despite Club's who do not own the facilities and therefore have no capacity to obtain a return on investment through the sale of the asset;

- Club contributions are more significant with facilities that are available for the exclusive use of members. Facilities such as tennis courts, bowling greens and hockey pitches are generally not accessible to the public outside of Club use and therefore these clubs have been required to be the primary contributor to funding improvements to facilities; Council's recurrent, operational contribution to sporting facilities is primarily directed to turf – based playing surfaces, which account for 12 of the 15 different types of sports facilities that Council maintain. Implicit to the recurrent expenditure is the plant, labour and material costs associated with maintaining a natural grass surface, and
- The Audit identified approximately \$2.09M being allocated each year by Council for the maintenance of sporting facilities throughout the City. Comparatively, the audit identifies that over \$835,000 is collectively contributed each year by sporting clubs for the maintenance of sports facilities.

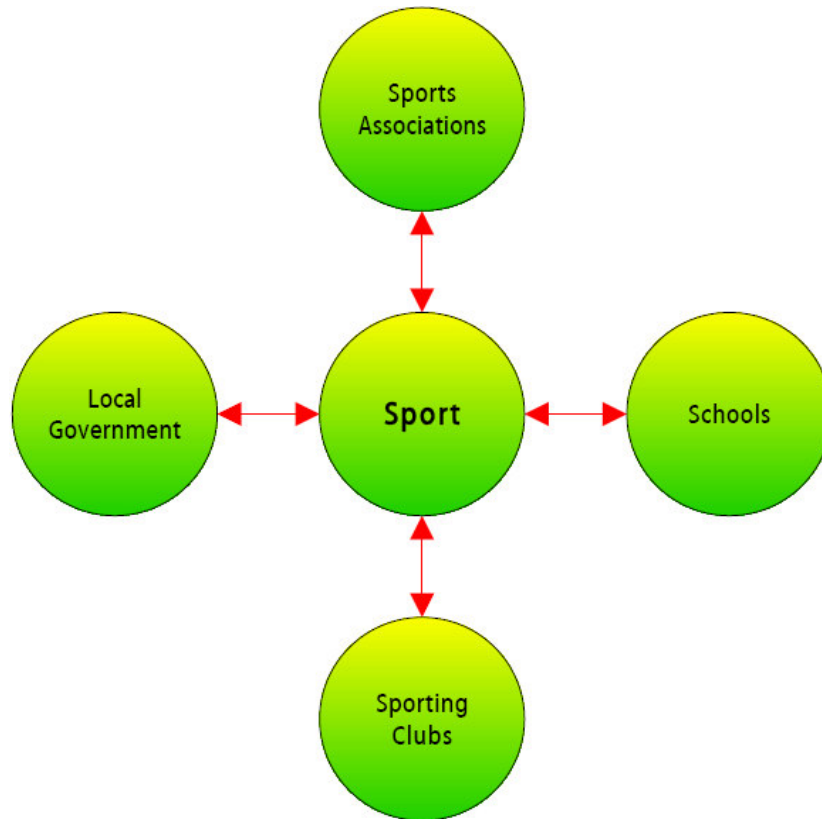
The audit has specifically focused upon the capital and operational contributions that are directed to sports facilities by Council and by doing so highlights the substantial financial contribution that Council makes towards sport in the City of Boroondara. With this in mind however, the extent of Council contribution should also consider:

- Staff associated with the planning and development for sport, such as preparing funding submissions, developing policy and liaison with sporting clubs and associations;
- Operational activities, such as management of grants programs, provision of training opportunities for sporting clubs and development of lease agreements, and
- Support initiatives such as advocacy functions and supporting access for disadvantaged groups and individuals.

Other stakeholders in sport

Council is not the only organisation that supports, develops and provides of sporting opportunities across the City. Rather, there are a range of stakeholders, each of which collectively influences the health of sport in the City of Boroondara. Diagram 1 describes the range of other organisations that influence sport. It aims to show the co-dependency between each organisation and the requirement to build an agreed direction for the Sports Strategy, and one that fits comfortably within the resourcing capacities of each organisation.

Diagram 1 Influencing Organisations in Sport



There is therefore an imperative to position the Sports Strategy within the context of all contributors to sport in Boroondara. By doing so, it will build an effective and whole of community response to the development of sport in City of Boroondara.

Perceptions by Sporting Associations

Sporting Associations are a lead player in the quality and support of sport. They specifically influence coaching, facility and competition standards, the pathways for players to develop to elite levels and provision of resources to support the professional development of sporting clubs.

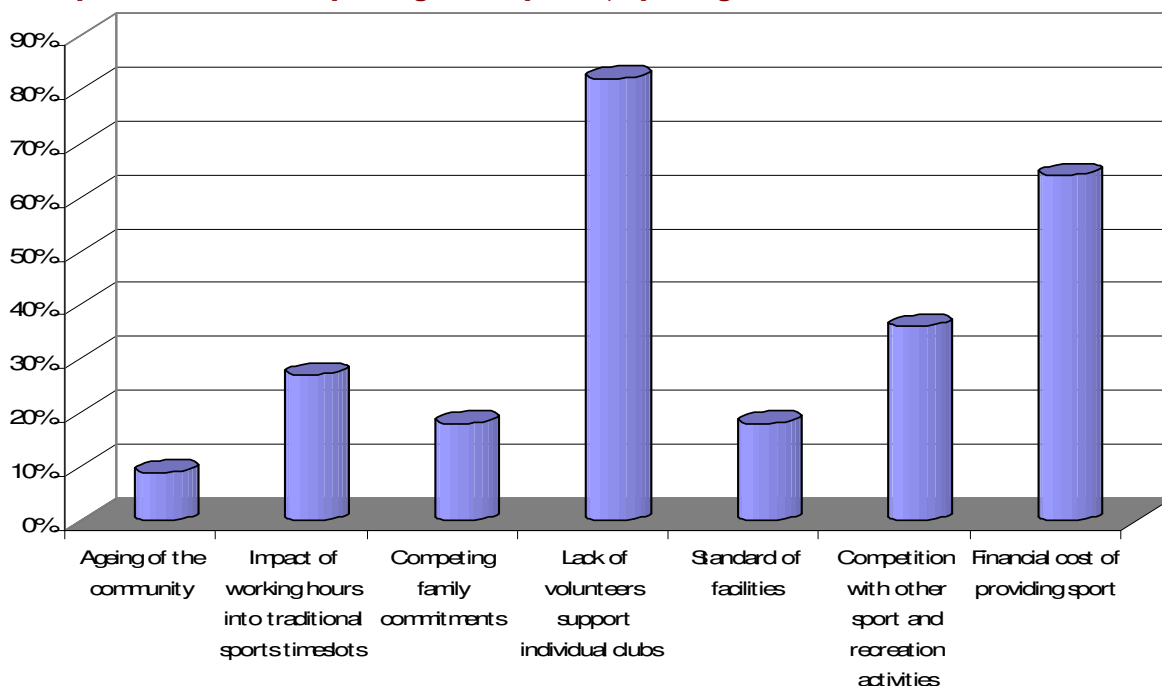
There are 23 Sporting Associations that auspice sporting clubs across the municipality. 11 Associations have contributed to a survey which examines participation trends and issues specifically for Boroondara, as well as identify Association satisfaction with services, systems and facilities within Boroondara. A list of the associations that have contributed to the survey is listed in Appendix C.

With a response rate of 46%, results of the results of the survey show that:

- 91% of Sports Associations identify that participation in their sport is increasing, with 45% stating that the current scope of facilities will not be able to accommodate the anticipated growth in the sport;
- Associations report that the capacity to secure volunteers is the single biggest issue impacting participation, with over 82% of all associations reporting this as a significant issue impacting their sport;
- The cost of operating sporting clubs (incorporating the rising costs of insurance) was also reported as a big issue for Club. Graph 2 shows the perceptions of Sports Association in relation to key issues impacting participation in their sport;

“Our League is encouraging Clubs to be aligned with Volunteers Australia to gain access to resources”

Graph 2 Issues Impacting Participation, Sporting Associations

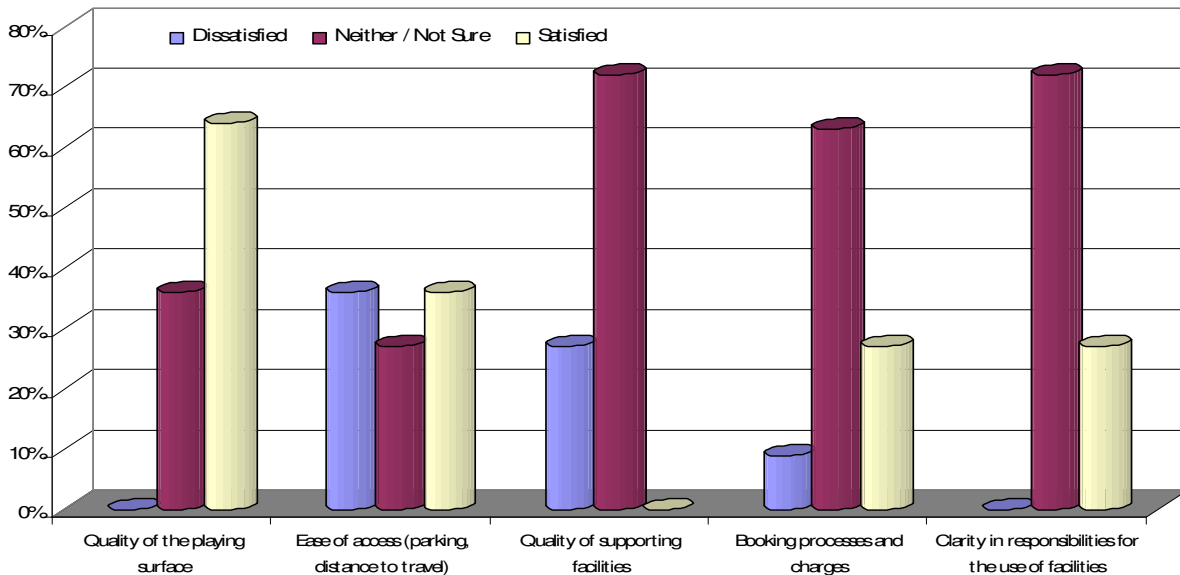


- Overall Sporting Associations are satisfied with sports facilities across the City and their capacity to accommodate current levels of participation. 45% of responses stated that they are satisfied, with 36% stating that they are neither satisfied or unsatisfied;
- More specifically, Sports Associations are satisfied with the playing surface, but were more likely to be dissatisfied with the access to facilities and the quality of supporting facilities. Graph 3 provides a breakdown of Sporting Association perceptions of each aspect of sporting facilities, and
- Sport Associations have all targeted the need to upgrade supporting facilities as areas for improvement. Associations have drawn a correlation between the quality of supporting facilities and the capacity of the clubs to attract members.

“Some facilities need to be upgraded so that we can encourage female participation”

“Looking at accessible facilities is not just about supporting someone in a wheelchair – we are all getting older”

□ **Graph 3 Satisfaction with Aspects of Sports Facilities, Sports Associations.**

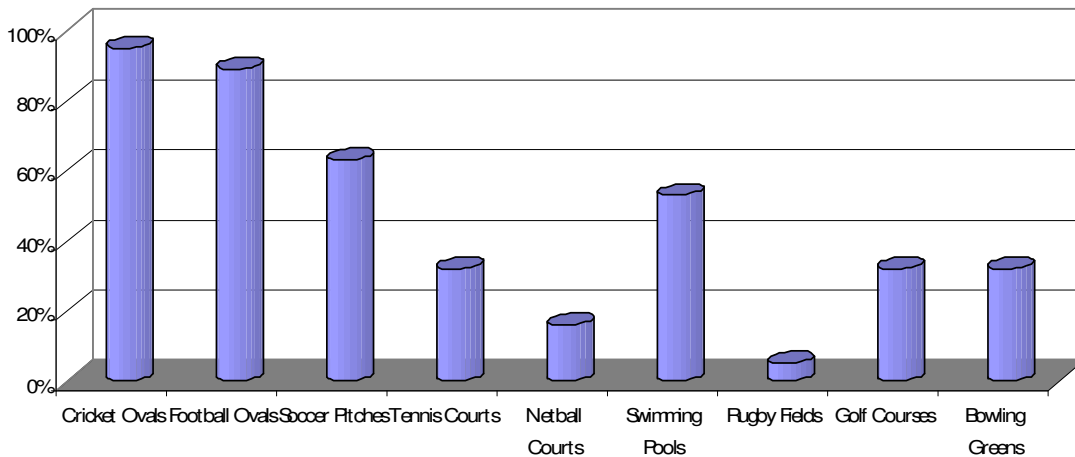


Perception by Schools

There are 37 school facilities located throughout the City of Boroondara, with 19 providing comment relating to their perceptions of sports facilities throughout the City (51% response rate). A list of participatory schools is provided in Appendix C.

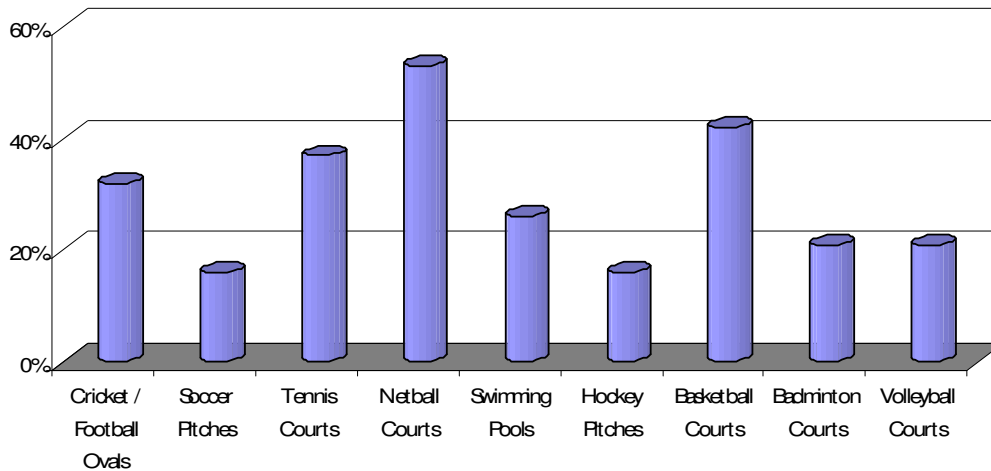
Schools influence sport in the City of Boroondara in two ways. Firstly, schools are major, regular users of Council – owned facilities. Indeed, surveys completed by 19 schools across the City (being a 51% response rate), identify that over 60% of all schools will utilize Boroondara Council facilities at least once per week. Almost all schools utilise cricket ovals, with a lesser extent using football grounds and soccer pitches. The following graph shows school usage of Council facilities.

□ **Graph 4 School Use of Council Owned Facilities**



Secondly, most Schools have sports facilities located within school grounds, and many have indicated that such facilities are available for community use outside of normal school hours. This is an important resource which has the capacity to reduce pressure off existing facilities during peak periods. This is particularly important given that schools also report that 40% of schools expect that demand for facilities will increase within the next 3 Years. The extent of school facilities available for community use is described in Graph 5.

□ **Graph 5 School Facilities available for Community Use**



Survey information from schools identify that athletic facilities are one of the few types of facilities that are accessed outside of the Boroondara, with 64% of respondents identifying that they access facilities outside of the City.

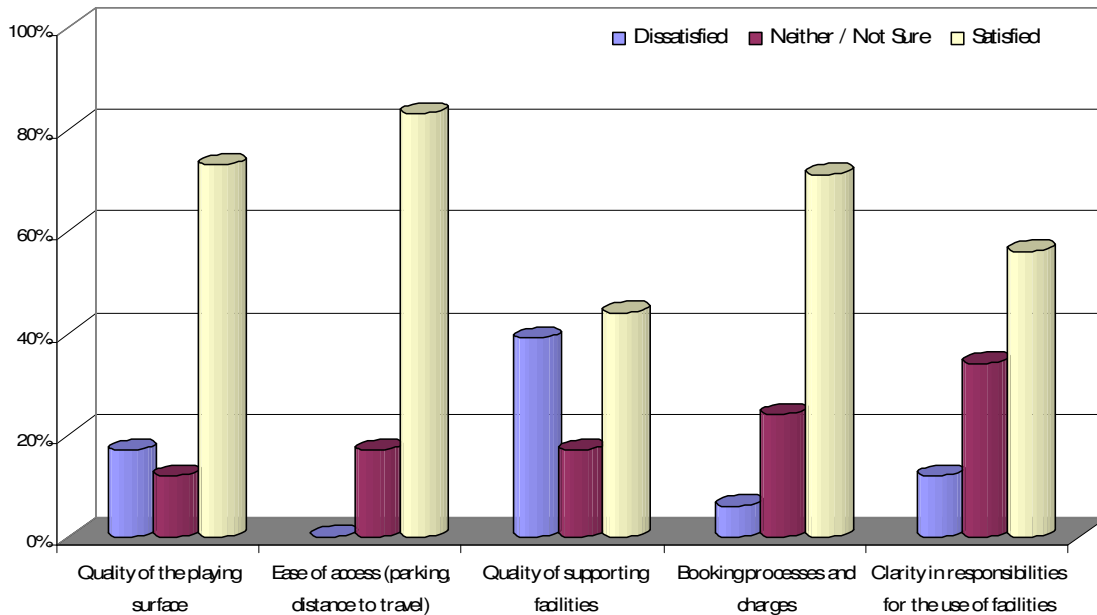
Overall schools report a positive level of satisfaction with the range and quality of sports facilities in the City of Boroondara with 78% of schools being either satisfied or very satisfied with existing conditions. More specifically, schools report that:

- Schools are generally satisfied with the quality of playing surfaces and supporting facilities, and the booking processes & charges associated with their use of grounds, and
- Similarly with Sporting Associations, Schools were more likely to be dissatisfied with the quality of supporting facilities, with almost 40% of schools being dissatisfied with supporting facilities.

“More drinking fountains and shaded areas for young spectators”

“The changerooms and toilets at the lower Highfield oval were disgusting”

□ **Graph 6 School Satisfaction with Sports Facilities**



Perception by Sporting Clubs

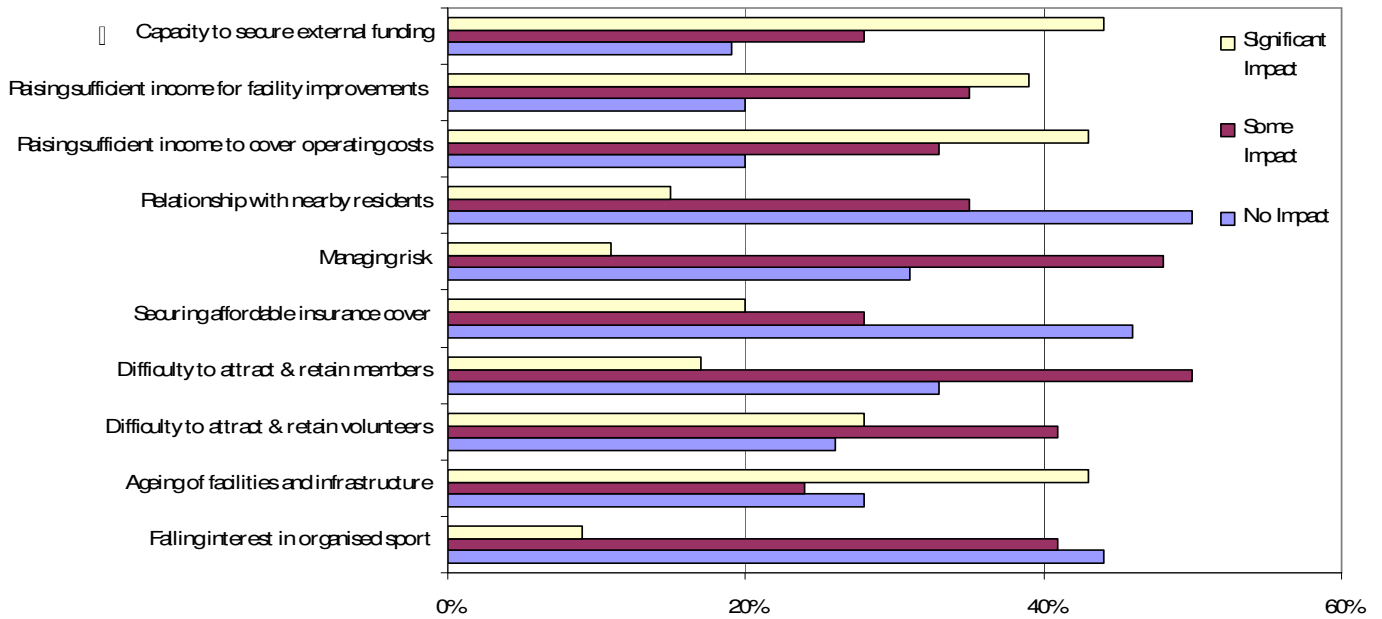
Feedback from sporting clubs is a critical component of the Sports Strategy. In addition to survey information supplied from sporting clubs, independent submissions and the outcome of two sports forums have also informed this section of the report.

There are 305 sporting clubs located in the City of Boroondara. Amongst these,

- 54 have completed a sports survey (18% response rate), to report on participation trends, issues and perceptions of sport in Boroondara;
- 26 have attended sports forums to discuss major issues impacting sport in Boroondara (9% of clubs), and
- 10 Clubs have forwarded further information via separate submissions (3% of all sports clubs).

Information from sporting clubs identifies that issues associated with raising sufficient revenue to cover operational and capital requirements are most significant for clubs. Indeed, each of these issues is reflected in survey information as shown in Graph 7. To a lesser extent, managing risk and retaining volunteers and membership also appear to have a considerable impact upon Clubs.

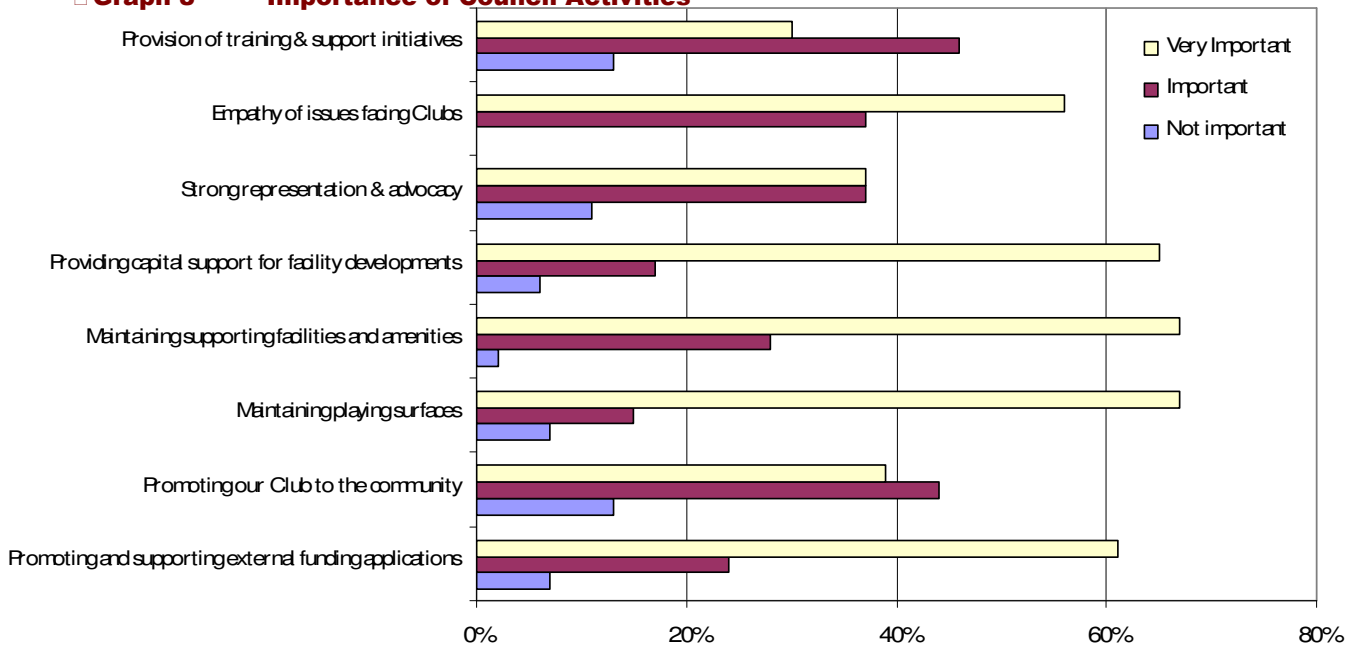
Graph 7 Key Issues Impacting Boroondara Sporting Clubs



Much of the interest with the Sports Strategy has focused upon the requirement to build a consistent and transparent decision making process to respond to competing requests for capital funding. Indeed, it is well recognised that community organisations will look to local government to support the development of community facilities through the provision of capital funding.

Whilst this is obviously an area of strong interest by sporting Clubs, it is not the exclusive interest. Rather, feedback from sporting clubs has also identified the importance of maintaining supporting facilities & amenities, empathy of issues impacting Clubs, promoting Clubs and supporting external funding applications.

Graph 8 Importance of Council Activities

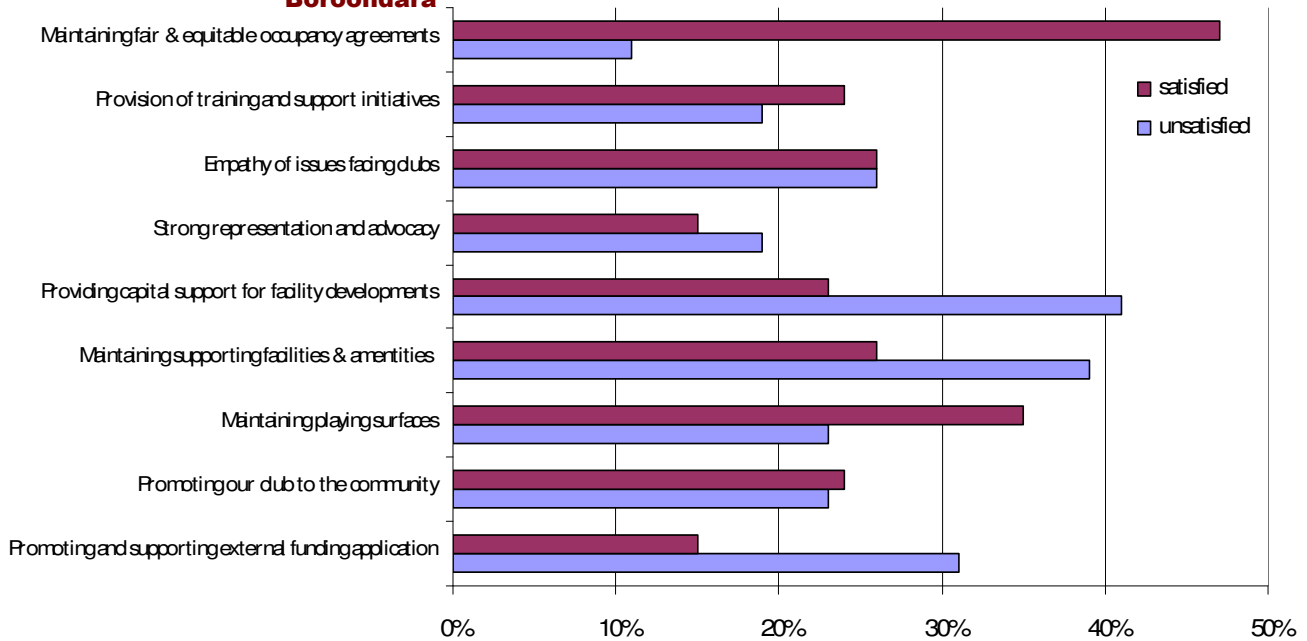


There are some clear correlations between feedback from schools, sports associations and feedback from sporting clubs. Each group has identified the requirement to maintain supporting facilities and amenities as a key function of Council and also as an area of need.

The majority of sporting clubs have expressed satisfaction with Council to support sport throughout the City. In brief, survey information has identified that 55% of Clubs are satisfied with the current performance. 16% of Clubs were dissatisfied with existing conditions.

Despite a generally positive level of satisfaction with existing conditions, Clubs report dissatisfaction with providing capital support for facility developments, maintaining supporting facilities, and promoting and supporting external funding, as shown in the following graph.

Graph 9 Satisfaction with Specific Aspects of Services Supporting Sport in Boroondara



Finally, and reiterating previous comments in relation to the importance of functions of Council, other than that of a capital funding source, has been the specific, unprompted opportunities for improvement that has been supplied from Boroondara Sporting Clubs. Clubs, through both the sports forums and surveys, have reported that the most important improvements to strengthen participation in sport are:

1. Develop improved supporting facilities (24 unprompted responses);
2. Promote sporting clubs and sporting opportunities in Boroondara (14 unprompted responses);
3. Improve the relationship and the level of empathy between Council and sporting clubs (13 unprompted responses);
4. Provide programmatic support which is focused at raising awareness and increasing participation in sport (12 unprompted responses);
5. Develop improved playing surfaces for sport (10 unprompted responses)
6. Maintain supporting facilities (8 unprompted responses), and
7. Improved tenancy agreements (relating to the length of tenure, charges and regulatory requirements) (8 unprompted responses).

5. Where to From Here

Consultation and research methods have identified a number of consistent themes and issues, all of which influence the quality and extent of participation in sport in the City of Boroondara.

Sports Principles

Sports principles are a useful way to articulate the range of issues and themes that are important to Council when considering sport. Collectively they aim to define a sports policy context for Council. They are consistent with the issues identified throughout the course of the project; the themes are implicit to existing Council policy and they are consistent with State and Federal Government policy which is reflected through its funding programs. The purpose of sports planning principles is to clearly define what is important about sport in Boroondara, and by doing so, focus Council efforts on this position. In brief, sports principles focus upon:

- The benefits that are derived from participating in sport;
- The capacity of sport to build and strengthen communities;
- The requirement for sport to be accessible to all people;
- The need to facilitate a diverse range of sporting opportunities in response to diverse needs within the community;
- The need to facilitate and support good governance within sporting clubs, recognising the primary role that they play in delivering quality sports opportunities to Boroondara residents;
- The need to develop flexible and multi purpose facilities in order to enable assets to evolve with the community, as community needs evolve over time;
- Equitable allocation of resources that are directed to sport across the municipality;
- Transparent and equitable allocation of sports grounds and associated amenities;
- The need to manage risk in sport, and
- The need to build and reflect sustainable resource management practices into sports – related decision making.

In order for planning principles to be effective and impact sport throughout the City of Boroondara, they must establish close links with, and influence policy and operational decision making. The extent to which broad principles translate to decision making is provided in Volume 1 of Council's Sports Strategy.

Sports Planning Issues

Previous comments have highlighted that participation trends in sport are not static. They have been, and will continue to be shaped by social and technological change as well as by the constant evolution of sport facilities and competition standards.

There are a number of specific planning issues that have emerged throughout the course of the project which include:

- The City of Boroondara is comprised of an ageing population. Indeed comparisons with the broader Melbourne Statistical Division (MSD) reflect that the average age in Boroondara is older than the MSD, with almost one third of people living in Boroondara aged over 50 years. The impact of an ageing population has the capacity to influence sport in the following ways:
 - Participation trends identify that up to 68% of people aged over 65 do not participate in any form of physical activity. It is therefore reasonable to expect that participation in sport will decline as the community continues to age;
 - Current membership information suggests that some sports (being tennis and bowls) are more popular with older age groups in comparison to others. The impact of an ageing population may therefore have a profound impact to some sports and marginal impact to others;
 - The capacity for sports facilities to be accessible for older adults will be an influencing factor into the capacity for sporting clubs and facilities to attract and retain older participants, and
 - Overall usage of sports assets will change as participation changes. With this issue in mind, further consideration to ongoing measurement of participation trends is required in order to manage specific issues that emanate from the changing participation levels.
- The need for improved athletics facilities was the only gap in sports facility identified. Comments received from Little Athletics Club representatives, schools and the Victorian Little Athletics Association have each suggested a need for improved athletics facilities in Boroondara. Having said this however, further investigation is required to specifically address latent demand for improved facilities and, subject to this outcome, assess the feasibility of an improved athletics facility in the City. On this basis, further investigation relating to the timing, resourcing and scope of further investigation targeting athletics in Boroondara is needed, and
- Improving synergies between Council departments to improve how it plan for, supports and manages sports issues is an opportunity for improvement. Indeed issues associated with sport cut across many areas of Council. On this basis, the intention is to foster a cohesive and whole of organisational response to sport.

Resourcing Sport Facilities

There are a number of principle understandings that highlight the climate of resourcing the maintenance and development of sports facilities.

- Funding the development and maintenance of facilities is not the sole responsibility of Council. Rather, it is reliant upon building sustainable partnerships with others such as sporting clubs, State Government and the broader community;
- Much of the municipality is characterised by its older and historical buildings and landmarks. Council therefore has the challenge of managing assets, of which many are approaching the end of their asset life;
- The climate for sporting clubs to make meaningful contributions to the capital development of facilities is becoming increasingly difficult. Factors such as rising operational costs (such as insurance premiums), a falling number of volunteers influence the capacity for many Clubs to make significant contributions to sports facilities;
- There is a limited capacity to accommodate all requests for capital assistance. Like Clubs, Council has a finite level of resources and therefore is required to ensure that its decision making is consistent, transparent and in response to demonstrable community need;
- Supporting facilities, such as toilets, change rooms and social areas, play a vital role in the health of a sporting club. They directly influence the capacity for Clubs to attract and retain membership, to build an environment that supports social interaction and community engagement and influences the capacity of Clubs to raise income through social events. Supporting facilities also influence the capacity to be used for other purposes, (such as community meetings, playgroup or local celebrations), and therefore influences the capacity to increase broader community benefit derived;
- Opportunities and incentives for seasonal Clubs to increase its financial contribution to maintenance and capital development should be explored. The maintenance of facilities for seasonal properties is part of Council's ongoing maintenance schedule. Because of the number of assets, coupled with finite resources available, there is understandably a gap between the time that maintenance work is identified and the time that the work is completed. With this in mind, there is opportunity to explore:
 - Potential risk management implications;
 - Possible incentives to promote Clubs to increase their financial contribution to facilities that they do not own, and
 - Opportunities that enable some contribution from Council, outside of its programmed maintenance program.
- Assessing the capacity for sports facilities to accommodate a range of interests (other than sport interests) as a means of promoting functional and flexible facilities. Implicit to this concept is the benefits of building facilities that connecting communities through shared and multi-use facilities. Similarly, facilities have an opportunity to span across sectors to promote whole of community facilities that are open to a broader range of uses and broader range of resourcing options.

Promoting Sport

Feedback from sporting Clubs has overwhelmingly identified a desire to increase the profile of sport in the City of Boroondara. There is opportunity to scope out and assess how to increase the profile and benefits of sport in Boroondara. The scope of this issue takes into account:

- Promoting the benefits of sport and the benefits of an active lifestyle to residents;
- Promoting the distribution and contact details of Boroondara sporting clubs as a means to increase interest;
- Showcasing innovation and best practice within sporting clubs;
- Consideration to the frequency and methods of new initiatives, and
- Considering resourcing implications and capacities.

Appendix A Review of Relevant Policy

A review of current Council policy has included the following:

- City of Boroondara Council Plan 2005—2009
- Boroondara Sports Audit (2005)
- Boroondara Soccer Strategy (2005)
- Soccer Strategy (2005)
- Draft Municipal Skate & BMX Strategy, Vols. 1 & 2, (2006)
- Community Grants Program 2005–2006 Guidelines and General Information
- Lawn Bowls Strategy (2003)
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2003-2006
- Boroondara Municipal Health Public Health Plan 2003-2006
- Development and Funding of Sportsground Pavilions Policy (2003)
- Council Property Leasing Policy (2000)
- Municipal Strategic Statement (1999)
- Community Participation Policy (1998)
- Leisure Facilities Strategic Plan (1997)
- Open Space Policy (1996)
- Leisure & Cultural Policy (1996)
- Capital Assistance for Sport & Recreation Facilities Policy (1996)

City of Boroondara Council Plan 2005—2009

Précis of the Plan

Under Section 153A of the Local Government Act, Council is required to prepare a three yearly corporate plan. The Boroondara Community Plan is Council's response to this statutory obligation and is the principle strategic planning document for Council. The Community Plan vision states that:

Our City will foster:

- Communities that respect differences, engage and communicate effectively, and value supportive relationships;
- Communities that are both caring and enterprising, sharing a lifestyle rich in choice;

- A safe and attractive city that looks after its built and natural assets, now and for future generations;
- An evolving city, proud of its diverse culture and committed to environmental, social and economic sustainability, - a city in which to live, learn and work, and
- A local government that engages with its community to provide leadership and responsive representation.

Impact to the Sports Strategy

There are a number of broad themes inherent with the Council Plan that will need to be reflected in the Sports Strategy, both in terms of its preparation and implementation. These include:

- Engaging the community in decision making;
- Providing for diversity of interests and needs;
- Maximise opportunities for environmental, social and economic benefits to the community, and
- Development of achievable and quality outcomes.

There are some specific references to sport in the Plan, all of which will directly link into the Strategy; these being:

- Develop strategies for the long term ongoing renewal of Council's physical assets (Strategy 3.1);
- Sustainably maintain Council's sports grounds (Strategy 3.3);
- Facilitate and support the community in the provision of development of leisure, culture & the arts (Strategy 4.4).

Boroondara Sports Audit, 2005

Précis of the Plan

This is the principle existing information source to guide the Sports Strategy. It details:

- An audit of all sporting clubs and the extent of organised participation throughout the municipality;
- An audit of all sports facilities, including utilisation levels and number of hectares utilised by different types of facilities;
- The capital and recurrent expenditure and income that is contributed by Council and Clubs for each asset, and
- Identifies the extent to which Clubs and sports are supporting traditionally disadvantaged population groups including people with a disability, people from culturally diverse backgrounds, women, older adults and juniors.

Impact to the Sports Strategy

Whilst further analysis of the Sports Audit is required and subject to further consultation and consideration as part of the development of the Strategy, some initial and critical findings of the Sports Strategy are as follows:

- With 305 sporting clubs within 23 different types of sport throughout the municipality, there are an estimated 32,000 people who are members of Boroondara sports clubs;
- Tennis is by a considerable margin the most popular participatory sporting activity, followed by basketball, cricket and football;
- There are more facilities used for cricket in comparison to any other sporting code;
- Council's capital contribution (taking into account historical contributions) has been the greatest for cricket, followed by tennis, football, soccer, bowls and basketball;
- It follows, in light of the number of facilities and the ongoing requirement for maintenance, that cricket also has the greatest recurrent contribution from Council. Having said this, it is important to acknowledge the broader range of casual users and passive recreation users of cricket ovals outside of competition and training schedules;
- Reflecting the exclusive use of tennis and bowls and hockey facilities, these clubs have naturally contributed the greatest amount of their own capital to club facilities, and
- Overall, hockey, tennis, basketball and croquet make the most efficient use of their facilities.

Boroondara Soccer Strategy, 2005

Précis of the Plan

The City of Boroondara conducted a situational analysis into participation and provision for the sport of soccer, to identify opportunities of best meeting the needs of the community where they exist. The review evolved from growth in soccer participation and the subsequent demands being made by some local soccer clubs for the use of facilities to enable the demand to be fully catered for.

Recommendations evolving from the analysis of soccer in Boroondara include:

- A feasibility study into the development of new sportsfields;
- Playing surface ground improvements
- Improved change room facilities to cater for female participation;
- Addressing issues through a working group and forums;
- Club development;
- Improved communication with clubs, and

- Strategic plans for future upgrades of sporting infrastructure.

Impact to the Sports Strategy

Of most significance to the Sports Strategy is the close alignment of the recommendations of both strategies and the principles upon which they are based. As contained in the Soccer Strategy, Council's commitment to improved planning, communication, training and resource development is consistent with the Sports Strategy's local grass roots approach to the provision of equitable sporting opportunities in Boroondara.

Draft Municipal Skate & BMX Strategy, 2006

Précis of the Plan

Prepared in 2004 and revised in 2006, the Strategy is backed by extensive research and consultation that is documented in a supporting technical document prepared in 2003. In brief, the strategy identifies growing demands for skate, inline & BMX facilities, with its existing three facilities experiencing difficulty in servicing demand.

Trends in skating are consistent with broader sports participation trends, and it has gained broad appeal due to the lack of formalised scheduling and time commitments. State research identifies that 91% of participants are boys aged between 10 to 16 years of age.

Key issues identified in the draft report include:

- Positioning Council's role in the development of facilities;
- Ensuring the appropriate mix and location of facilities;
- Impact on the community;
- Promotion & sports development, and
- Maintenance of facilities.

Impact to the Sports Strategy

Whilst the Sports Audit has not recognised skating or other related forms, Council has recently recognised that the sport should be considered with this context. On this basis, the Sports Strategy should strengthen links with the Draft Strategy through complementary planning principles.

Community Grants Program 2005-2006 Guidelines and General Information

Précis of the Policy

The community grants are funded by a joint partnership between Council and the Rotary Club of Balwyn through its Rotary Sunday Market and Boroondara residents. The policy describes its links with the Council Plan, funding guidelines and eligibility criteria.

Impact to the Sports Strategy

Salient features of the document to be considered for the Sports Strategy include:

- Promotion of strong community networks and mutual support; and contribution to the development and strengthening of local communities;
- Responding to emerging and identified needs of disadvantaged groups;
- Promotion of practices and behaviours that contribute to safe and happy environments;
- Promoting and supporting volunteers, and
- Improving participation of the community in social and recreation programs that promote physical activity and healthy living.

Lawn Bowls Strategy, 2003

Précis of the Plan

The strategy has been prepared in response to the progressive decline in bowls participation over the last decade. Specifically, the number of clubs has fallen from 25 to 13 over the period to 2003. At the time of the Sports Audit (2005) the number of bowls clubs had fallen further to 9 operating out of 11 venues.

Some of the pertinent issues identified in the review include:

- There is an oversupply of bowling greens, with an estimated green for every 11,500 residents. Research indicates that this is one of the greatest in the State;
- Clubs are experiencing a decline in membership, with many clubs unable to sustain membership, maintenance requirements and volunteer contributions;
- Broader sport participation trends, such as the impact of long time commitments and the increased number of choices available for leisure time is also having a detrimental impact upon the viability of Clubs, and
- The strategy identifies 13 bowling clubs, of which 9 are located on Council land (1 on Crown Land and the remaining 3 on private land). In 2002 structural assessment inspections were conducted and at the

time it was estimated that to bring the facilities in line with building requirements would cost in the order of \$2.5M.

Impact to the Sports Strategy

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the Strategy is the development of a number of key planning principals, which in turn have clearly positioned Council's role and guide subsequent recommendations. Principles refer to:

- Clubs providing valuable opportunities which are important for the physical, social, and emotional well-being of the community;
- Bowling Clubs being particularly important for older adults in strengthening social networks and implicit to positive ageing;
- Clubs providing a broad range of activities to maintain and increase membership;
- "Strategic mergers" of Clubs reflecting a more subtle approach by Council to potentially rationalise assets as opposed to forcing mergers, and
- Council's position in regard to assets which are considered to be surplus to demonstrable demand.

Disability Access & Inclusion Plan, 2003

Précis of the Plan

Council's Access & Inclusion Plan outlines the legislative context, Council's role and ultimately strategies to include people with a disability in all aspects of community life in Boroondara. It identifies that "People with a disability are one of the most disadvantaged groups in our community. In Australia, 26.7% of people with a disability live below the poverty line. People with a disability are more likely to be unemployed and to have health problems. (*Social Policy Research Centre, 2000*)

Impact to the Sports Strategy

There are a number of pertinent aspects of the Plan which influence the Sports Strategy, these include:

- The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1992, recognise the rights of people with a disability, making it unlawful to discriminate against people on the basis of their disability. This extends to assess to public assets, provision of goods, services and facilities and access to sport;
- The strategy identifies that many people with a disability are unable to participate in leisure activities of their choice for a range of reasons including lack of disposable income, awareness, transports and/or attendant care. Respite opportunities are also limited. The Strategy identifies that Council develop a universal concession across all facilities and work with mainstream leisure providers to promote inclusive practices and flexible services;
- Access to inclusive leisure and cultural opportunities is a core strategy of the plan. It incorporates specific strategies that influence sport which including:

- Supporting the development of disability action plans for sporting clubs
- Conducting forums for Clubs to promote the benefits of including people with a disability
- Giving preference to Clubs (through grants) who proactively improve opportunities for people with a disability
- Incorporating a requirement for inclusive clubs within tenancy agreements

Boroondara Municipal Public Health Plan, 2003 - 2006

Précis of the Plan

Council's Health Plan has been prepared to respond to three key areas, these being:

- Healthy Communities;
- Health Supporting Environments, and
- Healthy Lifestyles & Behaviours.

Each of these has strong connections with sporting activity and organisations. Indeed community engagement, participation in local community organisations and physical activity has been identified as part of the strategic response to each priority area. The plan identifies that Asthma is the leading cause of disease burden for children aged between 0 - 14 years. Similarly, cardiovascular disease accounted for 47% of all deaths in Boroondara.

Impact to the Sports Strategy

Underpinning the need to consider the Health Plan within the context of the Sports Strategy is the clear causal relationship between physical activity and physical health.

Development and Funding of Sportsground Pavilions Policy, 2003

Précis of the Plan

The focus of the policy is to assist Council decision making with respect to the development and redevelopment of pavilions located on Council's sports grounds. It does so by defining the mutual responsibilities of both Club and Councils, and defines basic minimum standards for acceptable sports pavilions. With this in mind, it is important to note that there are 43 pavilions servicing 37 sporting reserves.

The policy outlines a schedule which defines the maximum amount of Council funding available for different pavilion projects. By doing so, it identifies core and non core pavilion facilities as determined by the extent of available funding.

Impact to the Sports Strategy

Like other Council policy documents, the Sportsground Pavilions Policy identifies a number of planning and development principles—all of which will directly influence the Sports Strategy. They are:

- The capital cost of constructing a new pavilion or redeveloping an existing facility should be met through both Council and sporting club contributions;
- Council will only support the development of new or redeveloped pavilions for which there is an identified and substantiated need that is consistent with Council's assessment criteria;
- Sporting clubs at the pavilion being proposed for redevelopment must demonstrate their ability to fulfill their maintenance obligations and cover operational commitments;
- To ensure that resources are distributed equitably throughout the community, Council as a priority will support the sharing of facilities and encourage projects that allow joint development/redevelopment by Council and sporting clubs;
- Council will give a consideration to supporting, as a priority, projects that encourage maximum and multi-functional use of facilities;
- Council will play a direct role in encouraging clubs to make facilities available to other community groups by prioritizing Council capital funding to clubs that actively work towards this objective;
- Council will give priority to supporting the upgrading of existing facilities to achieve optimum use and development, before supporting development of similar new facilities;
- Council will give priority to facilities that are effectively and efficiently managed by sporting clubs;
- Council will work in partnership with sporting clubs to attract State Government funding for sporting facilities, and
- Council will consider entering into licence agreements to offer clubs security of tenure where financial contributions have been made to pavilion developments. Longer tenure is available to Clubs that contribute capital towards Council-owned facilities. The key issue for Council is around maintaining community access to all facilities and not establishing "private clubs" on Council land.

Council Property Leasing Policy, 2000

Précis of the Plan

This policy defines the way that Council leases out its assets, including sporting club assets which are currently, or have the capacity to be leased to sporting clubs.

The policy categorises different types of lessee, which in turn influence the nature of the agreement and the level of subsidy offered. Factors which influence the level of subsidy include the extent to which a lessee caters for a disadvantaged group, its capacity to generate income and the level of capital and maintenance contributions made to the asset.

Impact to the Sports Strategy

Relevant aspects of the policy include:

- Key outcomes support shared use of assets, maximising economic life of assets and increasing community use of assets;
- Terms and conditions of leases will take into account net community benefits, and
- Sports clubs operating to a lease with Council (including tennis and bowling clubs) are charged a lease rental that considers fixed-base land value, land area and replacement cost of improvement.

Note: The Leasing Policy is currently under review, with a revised version expected in 2006.

Community Participation Policy, 1998

Précis of the Plan

The principle focus of the Community Participation Policy is that it reflect a transparent planning and decision making process by Council by actively seeking community input and involvement.

Impact to the Sports Strategy

The Sports Strategy is required to ensure that local residents, clubs and other stakeholders have an opportunity to participate in the planning process and are also engaged throughout implementation.

Leisure Facilities Strategy Plan, 1997

Précis of the Plan

The Leisure Facilities Strategy Plan has provided the impetus for a range of subsequent Council policy. The focus of the Strategy was to:

- Assess leisure & cultural needs of residents, visitors & workers;
- Establish future directions, priorities and the role of Council in the provision of recreation and sporting facilities;
- Establish a profile of existing sport and recreation facilities, and
- To develop a strategic plan for facilities and related services for the next 3 to 5 years.

Impact to the Sports Strategy

The Strategy has provided the basis for capital contribution policies, lease agreements and planning principles which have already been included in the review. Interestingly, the Strategy responds to Leisure Facilities, and yet has not included any sporting pavilions in the document.

Leisure & Cultural Policy, 1996

Précis of the Plan

Underpinning the policy is that leisure and culture is a key contributor to enhancing community lifestyle through leisure and cultural services, supports and facilities. The policy positions Council's role to support community networks, fostering community development principles and advocacy with some service-delivery, as opposed to extensive service delivery initiatives (such as through recurrent programs).

Main issues identified by the policy include:

- Financial assistance particularly in relation to facilities;
- Developing partnerships;
- Use of open space;
- Facility development;
- Cost of services, and
- Accessibility.

Impact to the Sports Strategy

- The strategic objectives recognise the connection between Leisure & Culture with all other aspects of Council business. This will need to be considered within the scope and impact of the Sports Strategy.
- Similarly, strategies also reinforce a commitment to disadvantaged population groups, particularly in relation to people with a disability
- The policy has a significant emphasis upon facilities, as opposed to the benefits potentially derived from the facilities.

Capital Assistance for Sporting & Recreation Facilities Policy, 1996

Précis of the Plan

The Policy defines the context, conditions and extent of capital assistance that is available for the development of sport and recreation facilities. It does this by:

- Developing guidelines for loans and loan guarantees;
- Developing the Sportsground Improvement Program (single grants up to \$20,000), and
- Describing the requirements for major capital assistance (funding up to \$200,000).

Impact to the Sports Strategy

Whilst a number of the components of the strategy have been superseded by the Sports Pavilion Policy (2003), some pertinent attributes of the policy include

- A total of all outstanding loans and loan guarantees at any one time is to be no more than \$1,000,000 unless otherwise agreed by Council, and
- A limit of \$200,000 in Council provided loans are to apply to any one organisation, unless otherwise agreed by Council.

Appendix C Survey Participants

Sports Association

- Hockey Victoria
- Baseball Victoria
- Victorian Amateur Football Association
- Soccer Victoria
- Victoria Little Athletics Association
- Victorian Ladies Bowls Association
- Boroondara Netball Association
- Hawthorn Basketball Association
- Eastern Cricket Association
- Mercantile Cricket Association
- Southern Football Association
- Victorian Churches Soccer Association
- Eastern Region Tennis Association
- Basketball Victoria

Schools

- Ashburton Primary School
- Camberwell Primary School
- Canterbury Primary School
- Deepdene Primary School
- Glenferrie Primary School
- Greythorn Primary School
- Hartwell Primary School
- Kew Primary School
- Carey Grammar School
- Methodist Ladies College
- Presbyterian Ladies College
- Xavier College
- Scotch College
- Bialik College
- Balwyn Primary School
- Bellevue Primary School
- Boroondara Park Primary School

Sporting Clubs

- Kew Cricket Club
- Deepdene Bears Cricket Club
- Willison Park Tennis Club
- North Balwyn Tennis Club
- South Hawthorn Tennis Club
- Balwyn Bowls Club
- Sacred Heart Tennis Club
- North Balwyn Baseball Club
- Camberwell Central Bowls Club
- North Balwyn Bowls Club
- Balwyn Community Centre
- St Dominics Auskick
- Hawthorn Recreation Centre Squash Club
- Burwood District Bowls Club
- Ashburton Bowls Club
- Hawthorn Tennis Club
- Hawthorn CYC Badminton Club
- Victoria Park Tennis Club
- Old Camberwell Grammarians Football Club
- Grace Park Lawn Tennis Club
- Hawthorn Citizens Weightlifting Club
- Camberwell Magpies Cricket Club
- St Kevins Old Boys Soccer Club
- Melbourne Cricket Club Bowls Section
- Kew Tennis Club
- Kew Croquet Club
- Old Carey Football Club
- Salvo Hawks
- Hawthorn Small Bore Rifle Club
- South Camberwell Cricket Club
- Balwyn Junior Football Club
- Hawthorn Rowing Club
- Hawthorn Citizens
- Balwyn Park Tennis Club
- Camberwell United Tennis Club
- Ashburton Junior Soccer Club
- Ashburton Cricket Club
- Canterbury Football Club
- Boroondara Lions Soccer Club
- Chatham Auskick
- Step into Life (Hawthorn)
- Deepdene Uniting Cricket Club
- Carringbush Soccer Club
- Kew Deaf Soccer Club
- Camberwell Salvation Army Cricket Club
- Trinity Willison Cricket Club
- Greythorn Football Club
- Burwood District Cricket Club
- Ashburton United Junior Football Club - Auskick
- Wyclif Cricket Club
- Kew Junior Cricket Club
- Koonung Heights Cricket Club
- Old Scotch Soccer Club
- Swinburne University Amateur Football Club