

### 3 Presentation of officer reports

#### 3.3 Boroondara Netball Association proposal for additional courts at Macleay Park

##### Abstract

Myrtle and Macleay Parks (MMP) are one of the most popular outdoor locations in Balwyn North, providing a location for a number of sports facilities, unstructured recreation facilities and informal use of sports fields. The structured sports codes include soccer, netball, cricket, baseball and lawn bowls. Broader uses include schools, scouts, personal trainers, public events and passive recreation. An aerial overview of the MMP area is shown in **Attachment 1**. The netball facility at the MMP (Boroondara Netball Centre) provides eight outdoor netball courts (three lit courts) and a pavilion. This facility opened in 2005 and since its opening has been utilised by the Boroondara Netball Association (BNA), who are allocated the eight courts and associated pavilion through a licence agreement with Council. The licence agreement with the BNA was recently extended for an additional five years, which enables the BNA to occupy the facility until at least 2025.

The BNA is managed by volunteers and is committed to providing the opportunity for participants to achieve their personal best whether that be as a player, coach, umpire or administrator. Their program provides significant benefits to the community by promoting increased participation in physical activity and encouraging a sense of 'community spirit' through volunteer involvement. The BNA website states they support five community clubs and seven school clubs with a membership base of 3,800.

The purpose of this report is to present community consultation feedback on the BNA's proposal to add four courts adjacent to the existing eight netball courts at MMP and review key issues in order to inform a Council decision as the land owner to permit the construction of the four courts. The BNA has secured Australian Government funding of \$1.2 million to build these courts, however, the BNA did not seek Council's endorsement as the land owner as part of their application. The funding from the Australian Government did not specify a location for the 4 additional courts. However, the BNA is strongly advocating for Council to construct the four additional courts at MMP. This would have a significant impact on other users of the site, as well as local residents and these impacts are explored in detail in the report. It is noted Council has and will continue to explore other opportunities to support netball participation within the municipality, which includes Council funding and building a new 2 court stadium at the Kew Recreation Centre.

The Boroondara Sport and Recreation Strategy (2016) identified netball as experiencing high growth in demand and requiring additional access to facilities in the future. In regards to outdoor netball facilities, the Boroondara Sport and Recreation Strategy identified outdoor netball facilities being at capacity on Saturdays. The BNA indicates they have over 3,800 active members and new teams are currently being refused due to capacity issues.

Community consultation regarding the BNA's proposal for construction of 4 new courts at MMP commenced on May 25, 2021 and closed June 8, 2021.

This consultation sought community feedback on the following options to co-locate the courts with the current eight courts:

- Option 1 - Installation of four courts and lighting on Macleay oval 5
- Option 2 - Installation of four courts and lighting on Macleay oval 3

As part of this consultation, Council was also interested in understanding community feedback on two other opportunities which could increase court time for the BNA. One opportunity is lighting five of the eight courts which are currently unlit. The installation of new lights would ensure the lighting on all eight netball courts is up to competition standard and could result in the provision of additional games and training within the BNA's current licenced hours. In addition, another opportunity could be for the BNA to use the existing courts more on a Sunday which could occur within BNA's current licenced hours.

According to an indicative schedule of use provided by the BNA, should four additional courts be constructed adjacent to the existing courts, they would program another 67 hours of netball per week. Consideration should also be given to the increased capacity that would come from upgraded lighting and Sunday use as a way to provide more netball opportunities. Lighting improvements would create an additional 69 hours per week of possible use and Sunday programming, if it was scheduled between 9am and 1pm, would provide an additional 32 hours per week. This scenario would provide a total of 101 hours per week without the need to build four additional courts and would meet the additional use forecast by BNA.

It should be noted that the BNA does not support additional Sunday use due to:

- Impact on local residents and other users, including congestion
- Inter-association tournaments which are held on Sundays
- Coach and umpire development programs held on Sundays
- Clashes for participants with other sporting codes
- Life balance of players, team personnel, administrators and volunteers

While the BNA does support the lighting of all the current courts, they have made it clear this would only be in addition to the inclusion of four new courts.

Community consultation involved:

- A letter and information sheet delivered to over 800 homes in Boroondara within approximately a 400m radius of MMP
- Online survey
- 10 posters displayed around MMP to inform park users of the consultation
- Direct engagement meetings with committee members from impacted clubs, along with a specific survey for each tenant user group of MMP

A total of 789 community survey responses were received along with 26 email submissions. In addition to this, seven organisations/sporting clubs based at MMP submitted representative consultation responses.

A detailed analysis of these results is provided within the report, but in summary

- 96% of people associated with netball support the addition of courts (329 people).
- 76% of regular park users were not supportive of additional courts (264 people).
- Most other user groups were not supportive of additional courts.

- Key concerns raised were traffic and parking, loss of open space (displacement of use and environmental impact) and other amenity impacts.
- There was a reasonable level of support for both additional lighting and programming changes to include more use on Sundays.

An analysis was conducted of those responses received from residents who live closest to MMP, including the following streets: Buchanan, Morris, Hilda, Elliot, Belmore, Kendari, Hunt, Severn, Moody, Sylvan, Bemborough, Monash, Metung, Nugemer, Nargo and Hood. Of these responses:

- 9% (6 people) were supportive of additional courts and 91% (61 people) were not supportive.
- 70% (46 people) were supportive of additional lighting to the existing courts and 30% (20 people) were not supportive.
- 46% (31 people) were supportive of Sunday use and 54% (36 people) were not supportive.

This analysis indicates of those residents most impacted by any changes to MMP, there is strong support for additional lighting to the existing courts, there is moderate support for Sunday use and low levels of support for additional courts.

Along with the community consultation on the various options and opportunities, a number of other factors were also considered in the preparation of this report including participation benefits of each option, traffic and parking, impacts of altering open space and other amenity impacts.

The BNA is a well organised and committed Association which provides a pathway program for young netballers. However, the results of traffic and parking analysis, community consultation, analysis of the current court use and consideration of other park users does not support the addition of four new courts at MMP. While the BNA has presented information (detailed later in this report) outlining why they do not believe additional lighting or Sunday usage will provide a solution, the current asset (eight courts) has capacity to be used outside of Saturdays to meet some of the demand unable to be accommodated on Saturdays. Given the addition of 4 courts would result in a number of negative impacts, including additional traffic, pressure on available parking, loss of open space, the environmental impact of placing a hard surface on grassed areas, displacement of other users and impact on resident amenity, it is considered imperative everything is done to better utilise the current courts including spreading the usage for competition across the week rather than just Saturdays.

Given the outcomes of the community consultation and the consideration of other issues which would negatively impact the MMP, local residents and the users regarding the 4 additional courts, there is merit in lighting the existing 5 unlit courts, upgrading lighting on the 3 lit courts and for the BNA to consider Sunday usage. In addition, parking and traffic improvements could be constructed to ease the increase of use by the BNA of the existing courts which would flow from enhanced lighting and Sunday usage. The funding provided by the Australian Government could be used to install lighting for the 5 unlit courts and upgrade the 3 lit courts and construct improvements in the MMP to relieve traffic congestion and parking pressure within MMP. Should the Australian Government agree, the desired outcome for the BNA to offer court time to new clubs would still be met, which is consistent with the objective of the funding.

Whilst the BNA's proposal for the construction of 4 additional courts is considered to be unsupportable due to the number of negative impacts on MMP, Council is committed to continue to work with the BNA and Netball Victoria to consider future opportunities to increase the provision of netball within Boroondara.

## **Officers' recommendation**

It is recommended Council resolves to:

1. Not approve the BNA's proposal to construct four additional courts in the MMP, but instead request the BNA to seek a variation of outcome from the Australian Government to reallocate grant funding for additional lighting to the 5 existing unlit courts, upgrade the 3 currently lit courts and utilise the remaining funds for improvements to MMP traffic and parking, pending design and costings.
2. Recommend the BNA consider how they can program additional Sunday morning use, within their currently approved licenced hours.
3. Work with all MMP Stakeholders (including tenant sporting clubs and local residents) to develop a MMP Masterplan, pending the approval of funding in Council's 2022-23 budget.
4. Work with the BNA and Netball Victoria to consider opportunities to utilise additional satellite locations within Boroondara to support participation growth.

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**Responsible director:** Carolyn McClean, Director Community Support

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## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present an analysis of the results of a community consultation regarding the BNA's proposal to add four courts adjacent to the existing eight netball courts at Myrtle and Macleay Park (MMP), as well as 2 identified opportunities to increase the amount of court time for the BNA. This analysis and a review of key issues is provided to inform Council's decision in response to the BNA's proposal to construct four additional courts, funded by a \$1.2 million grant awarded to the BNA by the Australian Government.

## 2. Policy implications and relevance to community plan and council plan

The Boroondara Community Plan (BCP) consultation identified what is important to the Boroondara community. The information has been analysed and collated to produce seven priority themes. "Your community services and facilities" is the theme which is most closely aligned to this report, with responses valuing sport and recreation facilities.

Specific strategies which are particularly relevant include:

Strategy 1.1: Plan, maintain and renew multipurpose facilities and sports precincts to meet broad, intergenerational needs of the community now and into the future.

Strategy 1.3: Deliver, facilitate and advocate for services and programs that promote health, wellbeing, safety and a sense of community.

### *Sport and Recreation Strategy and Participation Analysis*

The Boroondara Sport and Recreation Strategy (2016) outlines a number of principles to provide a framework for decision making in the context of finite resources. One such relevant principle is:

*Amenity - Council will support sport and recreational clubs, community groups and their neighbours to achieve a balance between sport and recreational participation requirements of the community, while minimising the impact on open space and public amenity. Council's open space design and management guidelines are critical to ensuring due consideration is given to maximise the diversity and character of open space for a range of community uses.*

In 2016, the Boroondara Sport and Recreation Strategy identified netball being the tenth most participated sport across all age groups with a total of 7,450 participants in Boroondara. The Boroondara Sport and Recreation Strategy detailed netball as a sport experiencing high growth in demand and noted the requirement of additional access to facilities in the future. In regards to outdoor netball facilities, the Boroondara Sport and Recreation Strategy identified outdoor netball facilities being at capacity on Saturdays.

The BNA has indicated they have approximately 3,800 active members and new teams are currently being refused due to capacity issues on Saturdays. A number of modifications have been made to their games to try and help meet demand and these are explored later in the report.

A gender analysis of the 2016 Sport and Recreation Strategy data found females aged 5 to 14 years old preferred activities such as netball (25.1%), swimming (53%) and basketball (29.7%). As identified by the Netball Victoria Statewide Facilities Strategy, netball remains the most popular team sport for girls and women in Australia and participation numbers continue to rise. At the same time, female participation in sport also continues to grow in other codes such as soccer, Australian rules football and cricket. For example, Cricket Victoria reported girl's and women's cricket teams increasing in Boroondara from 2 in 2015/16 to 17 in 2019/20. The Victorian Amateur Football Association (VAFA) (Australian rules football) identified Boroondara Women's teams have increased from 7 in 2017 to 14 in 2021. The Yarra Junior Football League (Australian rules football) identified Boroondara female participation increasing from 174 participants in 2015 to 686 participants in 2019, demonstrating an average annual participation growth of 44% between 2015-2019. Football Victoria (soccer) Boroondara club registration and team data identified 567 female (junior and senior) participants and 40 teams in 2021.

In terms of female participation across tenant clubs at MMP, Boroondara Eagles Football (soccer) Club have 13 female teams (based on 2021 Football Victoria figures) and North Balwyn Cricket Club had one female team in 2019-20 (based on Cricket Victoria figures). Boroondara Cricket Club utilise one of the ovals at MMP for junior female matches. North Balwyn Baseball Club also have a senior women's team (based on 2021 Baseball Victoria figures).

Council has and will continue to support and advocate for female participation across all sporting codes and is undertaking a number of projects in this space, including the Inclusive Clubs Program in partnership with Access Health and Community which builds the capacity of clubs to be inclusive to all. Further, Council has invested \$9 million in the Diversity, Inclusion & Participation Program for the development of sporting infrastructure across Boroondara to ensure facilities are female friendly and accessible for everyone in our community.

### *Boroondara Open Space Strategy*

The Boroondara Open Space Strategy (2013) identified the MMP area as one of the most popular sporting precincts in Balwyn North, providing a location for sport, unstructured recreation facilities and informal use of sports fields. The Boroondara Open Space Strategy identified the need for a concept master plan for MMP to investigate improvements for access to the MMP for the current and existing population as well as balancing this access with structured sporting use.

### *Myrtle and Macleay Park Management Plan*

The Myrtle and Macleay Park Management Plan (2018) sets out how Council manages the active sporting field assets at MMP and outlines usage levels and usage types for active sport within the precinct, while acknowledging the diversity of interests from other park users and nearby residents. Key usage parameters outlined in the MMP Management Plan include clear allocation times for seasonal clubs, casual bookings, group training, dog off leash and passive park use. The plan also highlights the need to achieve the right balance between active sporting use and residential amenity in the park and surrounds, being particularly mindful of lights, noise and traffic. Should funding be approved in Councils' 2022-23 budget, the Myrtle and Macleay Park Management Plan would be superseded by a new Masterplan developed in consultation with all stakeholders.

### **3. Background**

Myrtle and Macleay Parks (MMP) are one of the most popular outdoor locations in Balwyn North, providing facilities for sport, unstructured recreation and informal use of sports fields. Park users include many different sporting codes such as soccer, netball, cricket, baseball and lawn bowls, in addition to broader uses including schools, scouts, personal trainers, public events and passive recreation. An aerial overview of the MMP site is shown in **Attachment 1**. The netball facility at the MMP (Boroondara Netball Centre) provides eight outdoor netball courts (three which are lit) and a pavilion. This facility opened in 2005 and since the opening of this facility it has been utilised by the Boroondara Netball Association (BNA), who are allocated the eight courts and associated pavilion in-line with a licence agreement with Council. The licence agreement with the BNA was recently extended for an additional five years, which enables the BNA to occupy the facility until at least 2025.

In 2019, the Australian Government announced \$1.2 million of funding to the BNA for the construction of four additional outdoor netball courts. It is understood the Australian Government's funding requirements does not include the location of where the four courts could be built. The BNA is advocating for this funding to deliver four additional courts at MMP. This funding was secured by the BNA without Council endorsement as the land owners. The BNA has also presented a petition with 808 signatures to Council on March 29, 2021 calling for four additional courts to be built at the MMP site.

### 3.1 User groups

The MMP site is utilised by a number of other sporting seasonal licensees. These licensees and their allocated use are outlined in **Table 1** below.

**Table 1. Myrtle and Macleay Park Licensee or Booking Use**

Location (see Attachment 1)	Organisation	Use
Oval 1	Boroondara Eagles	Winter Seasonal Allocation
	North Balwyn Cricket Club	Summer Seasonal Allocation
	School Bookings	Year Round Bookings
Oval 2	Boroondara Eagles	Winter Seasonal Allocation
	North Balwyn Cricket Club	Summer Seasonal Allocation
	School Bookings	Year Round Bookings
Oval 3	Boroondara Eagles	Winter Seasonal Allocation
	North Balwyn Cricket Club	Summer Seasonal allocation
	Boroondara Cricket Club	Summer Seasonal Allocation
	School Bookings	Year Round Bookings
Location 4	Boroondara Netball Association	Year Round
Oval 5	Boroondara Eagles	Winter Seasonal Allocation (partial use)
	Personal Training	Year Round
	School Bookings	Year Round Bookings
Oval 6	North Balwyn Baseball Club	Winter Seasonal Allocation
	North Balwyn Cricket Club	Summer Seasonal Allocation
	Deepdene Uniting Cricket Club	Summer Seasonal Allocation
	Balwyn Saints Cricket Club	Summer Seasonal Allocation
	Melbourne Baseball Club	Summer Seasonal Allocation
Oval 7	North Balwyn Baseball Club	Winter Seasonal Allocation
	Balwyn Saints Cricket Club	Summer Seasonal Allocation

In addition to the above, there is a significant amount of use across all ovals on the MMP site from the general public for a number of purposes including casual recreation, dog walking and playing sport informally. This is particularly true of oval 5 given it is the least used oval for organised sport and there are limited other green spaces located in the vicinity which are not heavily used by organised sport. Oval 5 also hosts the annual 'Carols in the Park' event.

Adjacent to the MMP site on Buchanan Ave is the North Balwyn Bowls Club (NBBC) and North Balwyn Tennis Club. The North Balwyn Bowls Club has a total of 364 members at last count with its main competition occurring on a Saturday afternoon. The North Balwyn Tennis Club has a total of 230 members at last count with its main competition also occurring on a Saturday afternoon. Both of these clubs are located close to the MMP site, with the NBBC in particular essentially within the park.

As shown above, there are multiple groups who utilise the MMP area and as a result of this, users have differing opinions on improvements and how best the ovals/fields should be used. A very recent example of this is the Boroondara Eagles Football Club (BEFC) funding, completing and submitting a Masterplan to Council. This Masterplan is not the subject of this report, however broadly speaking it proposes changes to Macleay Oval 3, displacing cricket and adding up to 4 netball courts. Council and many other MMP tenants have not been involved in the development of this plan.



It is understood the BNA do not support the suggestions in the submission by the BEFC. Officers will analyse this proposal as part of the development of a Concept Masterplan for MMP, should funding be approved.

### **3.2 Parking and traffic**

Traffic congestion parking within the MMP area is already a significant issue and this needs to be considered as part of any proposed increases in the use of the MMP.

Public off-street car parking for MMP consists in the order of 254 unrestricted spaces including an unsealed overflow area. The parking numbers vary in the unsealed overflow area depending on the nature of the parking activity. These car parks are intended for visitors to the area, including park users, and are known to operate at or beyond capacity during busy sporting days (e.g. Saturdays throughout winter). At times on a Saturday the current parking demand can be over double the capacity noted above.

Additionally, there are a number of unrestricted kerbside parking spaces along local roads within a short walking distance to MMP. When the MMP off-street parking area is operating at capacity, park users utilise the kerbside parking in the surrounding streets. This spill over parking is concentrated on Belmore Road and Buchanan Avenue and can also extend to the residential street network. For some residential streets, Saturday resident permit parking restrictions have been established in several areas to discourage this activity and maintain amenity for local residents. The parking issues are more pronounced during crossover periods, that is, the periods where teams arrive prior to their game start, whilst a game is already in operation, and then remain for a short period afterwards at the conclusion of their game.

A traffic and parking study was considered for MMP in 2011 where a number of recommendations were implemented to manage parking and traffic including a raised zebra crossing, construction of a small roundabout in the access road at the pavilion and parking restrictions on Belmore Road and some of the surrounding streets. Council at its meeting of 15 December 2011 resolved to:

- Not proceed with a recommendation to remove the Gildan Street closure and to replace it with a gate to allow for exiting movements from MMP between 8am to 12 noon Saturdays.
- Not proceed with the recommendations to seal and formalise the overflow car park and to provide an additional exit onto Belmore Road (from the overflow car park). This was dependent on further investigation of nearby car parks at the North Balwyn Bowling Club and/or Balwyn High School.

Consultants have been engaged to analyse the parking and traffic impacts of an additional 4 netball courts in MMP and other scenarios.

Notwithstanding any changes to the number of courts or setup at MMP, officers consider there is merit in revisiting the parking and traffic issues and consider constructing improvements in the MMP area to relieve traffic congestion and parking pressure within MMP. This would be the subject of additional investigative and design work if Council decided to proceed and could potentially be funded using part of the \$1.2 million Federal grant, pending their approval as well as agreement from the BNA.

### 3.3 Netball in Boroondara

In 2016, the Boroondara Sport and Recreation Strategy identified netball as being the tenth most participated sport and recreation activity across all age groups with approximately 7,450 (4.4%) participants throughout the municipality. The top three participated sport and recreation activities for all age groups are walking, swimming and cycling. Netball was identified as a sport experiencing high growth in demand and requiring additional access to facilities in the future. Key areas of capacity and demand include netball requiring highball stadium access for training, and outdoor netball facilities being at capacity on Saturdays.

Netball Victoria's strategic documents outline there are 5,371 Boroondara residents who participate in netball and of these participants, 4,193 are considered juniors. It is also reported more than 50% of the overall Boroondara netball participants travel outside of the LGA to engage in additional netball programming. As there is only one netball site in Boroondara, it is likely some of this participation outside of the LGA stems from participants travelling to netball facilities within a closer proximity to their home. An example of this is Ashburton and Camberwell Netball Clubs travelling to Ashwood or Oakleigh to participate in the Waverly District Netball Association competitions. Nearby netball associations also offer mid-week indoor competitions, which is in contrast to the BNA who prefer to only utilise Saturdays for competition. Conversely, given the netball facility at MMP is considered a regional facility by Netball Victoria's Facility Hierarchy, there will be non Boroondara residents who travel and play within the BNA competition.

### 3.4 Boroondara Netball Association

The Boroondara Netball Association (BNA) is managed by volunteers and is committed to providing the opportunity for participants to achieve their personal best whether that be as a player, coach, umpire or administrator. Their program continues to provide significant benefits to the local community by promoting increased participation in physical activity and encouraging a sense of 'community spirit' through volunteer involvement. The BNA note they support five community clubs and seven school clubs with a membership base of over 3,800.

The BNA's main competition is held on Saturdays, with some junior grades playing on Fridays in the late afternoon and evening to reduce pressure on the Saturday competition.

Four clubs in the BNA use the courts at Boroondara Netball Centre to train (Kew District, Ruyton, Mont Albert and Canterbury). The remaining BNA teams have access to other sites, including schools and other facilities including:

- Camberwell South Primary School, 14 teams training on two courts (130+ players)
- Fintona, 11 teams training on one court at Fintona (100+ Players)
- Genazzano, 44 teams training on four courts (400+ players)
- Koonung, 18 teams training on two courts (170+ players)
- MLC, 25 teams training on two courts (230+ players)

The BNA is based at the Boroondara Netball Centre at the MMP site, and also has access to Council's Boroondara Sports Complex indoor courts two nights per week under a hire agreement with the YMCA. This usage accommodates Victorian Netball League training requirements for their higher-level teams. Council is building two new indoor multi-use courts as part of the Kew Recreation Centre redevelopment; the BNA will likely be offered some use of these two new courts as part of an Expression of Interest process with all other interested parties.

The BNA has long indicated their desire to expand the existing site to meet the growing demand for netball, in addition to undertaking a number of initiatives to help meet demand such as reducing game times and adding bye rounds to allow for additional scheduling.

The BNA has indicated the lack of available courts has resulted in their inability to cater for social and non-traditional netball participation such as Rock Up Netball, Walking Netball, Men's and Mixed Netball.

The BNA's current training and competition scheduling for all eight netball courts identifies use from private schools, public schools and community netball clubs. Clubs participating in the BNA competition include seven schools (Genazzano, Ruyton, Melbourne Girls Grammar, Camberwell Girls Grammar, MLC Stars, Strathcona and Fintona) and five community netball clubs (Camberwell South, Mont Albert, Koonung Heights, Kew District and Canterbury Netball Club) and a number of independent teams. The BNA has advised Fintona and Camberwell Girls Grammar School have teams in the Open section competition which cater for ex-students. It is understood Ruyton also accepts community registrations whereas the other schools' teams are only comprised of players from their students, precluding membership from the general community.

An analysis of MMP netball use between Monday and Thursday for training purposes identified courts being utilised approximately 58 hours per week. Of the 58 hours a week, private school use from Carey (19.5 hours) and Ruyton (8 hours) equates to a total of 27.5 hours of use per week (47% of total use), noting Carey do not participate as one of the Saturday competition clubs although a number of Carey students play together in community clubs. This indicates a high percentage of private school usage of the facility.

### **3.5 Consultation**

Community consultation commenced on May 25, 2021 and closed June 8, 2021, with community feedback sought on two options to locate four additional courts at MMP and two other opportunities which could increase court time for the BNA (additional lighting and Sunday usage).

The results and further details regarding the consultation are explored later in the report.

#### 4. Outline of key issues/options

Research and statistics demonstrate strong demand for netball and the BNA has noted there is no capacity for further use on Saturdays. There are two ways to meet this demand; increase the number of courts or maximise the capacity of the current courts. The following section outlines a number of options and opportunities.

##### 4.1 Options 1 and 2 - Installation of four courts with lighting on MMP (oval 5 or 3) and community consultation analysis

The construction of four (lit) additional netball courts on MMP would cost approximately \$1.2 million. This would be fully funded by the Australian Government grant. Both location options would result in a 12 court netball hub which would increase netball participation for training and matches.

The BNA has highlighted the importance of Saturday netball so they are able to provide a full pathway program and offer participants the opportunity to be involved across a range of areas including coaching, umpiring and administration. The BNA also outlines benefits to participation all being at one venue, including progression and professional development for players and having a hub to foster the environment of inclusion, participation, belonging and friendship across differing ages, abilities and communities.

The additional courts would also be utilised for passive recreation such as rollerblading and bike riding when formal netball activities are not taking place.

If the additional courts were installed, an updated licence agreement would be required to operate the four additional courts. It is not expected the times of use in this updated licence agreement would be any different to the current times of use. The number of games and training sessions scheduled throughout the week would increase, in line with an indicative schedule provided by the BNA.

As part of the review of this option an analysis was undertaken of the parking and traffic impacts of building additional courts. This assessment identifies that the addition of four courts with similar fixturing to the current courts, would increase the maximum car parking demand on Saturday from 526 spaces to 631 spaces (an additional 105 spaces). There are 254 formal car parking spaces provided in the on-site car parking supply indicating an overspill of 377 car parking spaces during the peak event, noting that the demand for parking tends to be fairly consistent across the day.

Even with the implementation of potential management mechanisms to reduce the impacts of parking demand (such as staggered scheduling of matches, sealing the overflow area and reviewing access options) there will still be a large deficit of parking spaces to meet expected demand.

##### ***Option 1 - Oval 5***

The BNA has indicated their preference is for the additional 4 courts to be built on oval 5 (**Attachment 2**).

Given oval 5 is currently utilised by a variety of users, the repurposing of this oval would result in displacing some existing use from this site. Current user groups for this site include:

- Boroondara Eagles Football (Soccer) Club currently utilise oval 5 for junior Mini Roos Under 11 programs on a Saturday morning 9am – 11.30am during winter (approximately every other weekend).
- Personal training is also scheduled on oval 5 for a total of 28 hours per week (outside the scheduled hours for the BNA). While there would still be adequate space for this use to continue with the courts, a submission from the current personal trainer highlights concerns with the proposed new courts relating to a reduction in space available.
- Schools utilise oval 5 during the week (140 hours of use in 2019).
- Community events such as Carols in the Park.
- Unstructured recreation (active and passive), including dog walkers. This is particularly important as other open spaces in the vicinity of MMP are heavily used by organised sport and so less readily available for casual use by the community.

The MMMP outlines the use of oval 5 for 'active recreation' and overflow for both soccer and cricket use (noting there is no current allocation to a cricket club in the summer and the ground is only suitable for under 10s).

While the use of oval 5 by organised sport is not as significant as other ovals in MMP, re-allocating current organised sport use of oval 5 would be extremely difficult, given the lack of capacity at nearby grounds and the fact current ovals in MMP have already reached their carrying capacity, meaning additional use would make them unplayable at times. In addition to organised sport, the partial use of oval 5 for netball courts would also have an impact on passive park users (especially given oval 5 is the only part of the park not heavily used by organised sport), dog walkers, personal training and events such as 'Carols in the Park'.

### **Option 2 - Oval 3**

While BNA's preference is for the additional courts to be placed on Macleay Oval 5, the BNA has also discussed a proposal which would see courts constructed immediately adjacent to the current facility, on oval 3 (**Attachment 3**).

Oval 3 is currently utilised by seasonal clubs, school groups and passive recreation. The replacement of this oval with netball courts, including the removal of a synthetic cricket pitch, would displace existing tenants and result in sportsground allocation challenges. Such a change would transfer pressure to other venues.

Current seasonal user groups allocated to oval 3 include:

#### **Winter**

- Boroondara Eagles Football (Soccer) Club (Junior matches all day Saturday and Sunday). Fixtures obtained from Football Victoria for the 2019 season indicate this oval is utilised and line marked for two soccer fields (an east and west pitch) with games scheduled on each. It's estimated 200 junior participants (25% female juniors) utilise the oval at this time.
- Preseason usage - in 2020 this site was allocated for juniors 10 hours a week (3 nights a week) for approximately 368 participants.

### Summer

- Boroondara Cricket Club (Junior girls matches Wednesday nights and senior men's matches Saturdays, this equates to total of approximately 44 participants).
- North Balwyn Cricket Club (Junior U14/16 Friday nights, Junior U10 Saturday morning every second weekend, Juniors Sunday morning and Veterans Sunday afternoon every second weekend, this equates to a total of approximately 66 participants).

Reallocating the above usage to other ovals either at the MMP area or alternative sites will create major allocation and surface condition challenges, particularly in winter.

In addition to seasonal use, oval 3 is also booked by school groups throughout the year. The total oval 3 school booking usage throughout 2019 equated to 119 hours.

### *Consultation regarding additional courts*

The consultation results regarding additional courts can be summarised as follows:

- The BNA committee identified their support and preference for additional courts, with oval 5 their preferred location.
- Three of the seven MMP user groups who responded to the survey (BNA, North Balwyn Baseball Club and Boroondara Cricket Club) identified support for additional courts on oval 5.
- The other five user groups who provided feedback (Boroondara Eagles Soccer Club, Miss Spartan Fitness, North Balwyn Cricket Club, the 1<sup>st</sup> Balwyn Scouts and North Balwyn Bowls Club) were not supportive of additional courts.
- Issues identified by user groups regarding additional courts include the loss of oval and passive recreation space, hazardous traffic conditions, congestion and lack of parking spaces.

Community consultation in relation to additional courts provided the following results:

- Of respondents who are involved in netball, 96% (329 people) were supportive of additional netball courts, with 13 respondents not supportive and one not sure.
- Of respondents who primarily use the park for recreation, 23% (81 people) were supportive of new courts, 76% (264 people) were not supportive, and three were unsure.
- Of residents surrounding MMP (Buchanan, Morris, Hilda, Elliot, Belmore, Kendari, Hunt, Severn, Moody, Sylvan, Bemborough, Monash, Metung, Nugemer, Nargo, Hood roads), 9% (6 people) were supportive of new courts and 91% (61 people) were not supportive.
- Of the respondents who provided a preference on location of new courts, 65% (187 people) of netballers preferred oval 5.
- Support for new netball courts was lowest in Balwyn and Balwyn North residents.

## 4.2 Other opportunities to increase court use by BNA which do not require court construction and analysis of community consultation

The MMP eight court outdoor netball facility currently has three lit courts out of a total of eight courts. Given this facility also has limited use on Sundays, there is scope to meet some additional demand through increased lighting and fixture alterations increasing use of the courts on a Sunday without building supplementary facilities.

It should be noted the BNA has been consulted regarding both the lighting of additional courts and additional Sunday fixturing. While the BNA has acknowledged some ability to fixture additional evening fixtures and training with lights, they have also highlighted a number of challenges in regards to both these options. These challenges are explored later in this report and further discussions would be required with the BNA should they seek a variation to their funding from the Australian Government to use the funds to proceed with lighting the 5 existing courts and an upgrade of the 3 current lit courts.

### Additional Lighting

The upgrade and provision of additional lighting, therefore enabling an increase in evening court use in line with licensed hours would provide approximately 69 hours of potential additional use per week.

Given early investigations indicate a need for a power upgrade at this site, the installation of lighting across all eight courts including power upgrades would cost in excess of \$300,000. Although the Australian Government funding of \$1.2 million was provided on the basis of building four new courts (location unspecified), the outcome sought by the BNA was to increase capacity to cater for new, unmet demand. Should Council support this option, the BNA would need to seek an amendment from the Australian Government for it to proceed. The BNA would need to seek a variation of outcome from the Australian Government to reallocate grant funding for additional lighting to the 5 existing unlit courts, upgrade the 3 currently lit courts and utilise the remaining funds for improvements to MMP traffic and parking, pending design and costings.

This option would see a total of 12 light poles at the Boroondara Netball Centre. Of these poles, eight would be 18 metres high and four would be 12 metres high. The 12 metre high poles would illuminate the middle two courts, while the 18 metre high poles would illuminate the outer courts (**Attachment 4**). The approximate LUX level of these lights would be 200 lux. This meets Netball Victoria Facilities Standards for competition. The lighting would be installed to direct light spill towards the courts and not residential houses (**Attachment 5**).

As part of the BNA's licence with Council, they are able to use the Boroondara Netball Centre at Myrtle and Macleay Park on weekdays 7:30am to 7:30pm, Saturdays 7:30am to 6:00pm and Sundays 9:00am to 5:30pm. As shown in **Attachment 6**, the current three lit netball courts are utilised on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evening up until 6.30pm. This is in addition to a small number of junior matches scheduled on Friday night up until 6.30pm. Lighting these additional courts (5 current unlit courts) could provide an additional 69 hours of use per week.

If Friday night usage was scheduled similar to a Saturday, the peak parking demand would be 256 spaces noting that the MMP has 254 unrestricted spaces, including an unsealed overflow area. Unlike Saturday usage, this Friday night parking demand is not exacerbated by other sporting group users with no usage currently scheduled on the various ovals at MMP on Friday nights.

The parking and traffic situation would also be improved if the remaining funds from the grant (after lighting the current courts) were put towards parking improvements.

While the option of lighting all of the current courts does not lead to the same amount of additional use as four new courts, it would go some way to meeting demand, particularly if innovative fixturing was explored. As noted above, lighting all courts would provide approximately 69 additional hours per week of available court time.

### *Consultation on lighting*

- The BNA identified support for the installation of lighting on the existing courts at MMP to enable evening matches and training to occur during current licenced hours (although not at the expense of additional courts).
- Six of the seven MMP user groups who provided feedback (including the BNA) identified support for the upgrade and installation of additional netball lighting.
- The only user group which did not support additional lighting was the 1<sup>st</sup> Balwyn Scouts.
- Issues identified by user groups regarding additional lighting included the potential of heightening traffic and parking issues, although it was highlighted lighting may provide an opportunity to spread use throughout the week, potentially easing congestion and parking issues.

In terms of community responses to additional lighting, the following was established:

- Of respondents who are involved in netball 99% (340 people) were supportive of lighting additional netball courts.
- Of respondents who primarily use the park for recreation or are residents, 76% (276 people) were supportive of lighting.
- Of residents surrounding MMP (Buchanan, Morris, Hilda, Elliot, Belmore, Kendari, Hunt, Severn, Moody, Sylvan, Bemborough, Monash, Metung, Nugemer, Nargo, Hood roads), 70% (46 people) were supportive of additional lighting and 30% (20 people) were not supportive.



## Sunday Scheduling

In addition to upgrading and increasing the provision of lighting, an opportunity exists to review and enhance the current scheduling of matches and training throughout the week along with the inclusion of some Sunday matches. As noted above, this additional Sunday usage can be undertaken within the existing licence arrangement with Council. Sundays are however a popular time for bike riding and scootering by families who utilise the courts. Careful programming could provide a reasonable balance that would benefit netballers while allowing for other users to access the space. Sunday scheduling from 9am to 1pm to allow for passive recreation use would provide approximately an additional 32 hours of use per week. However, the BNA may wish to use the courts after 1pm, potentially on alternate Sundays, in catering for programs which meet the diverse community's needs as identified by the BNA for social and non-traditional netball participation such as Rock Up Netball, Walking Netball, Men's and Mixed Netball. This would provide an additional 36 hours of use per week and provide new opportunities for local residents to participate in this sport. This would boost the number of additional hours per week by 68.

In recent times, many sports across the municipality have moved away from traditional fixturing (Saturday only) to accommodate demand and sport surface availability. Discussions with the Eastern Cricket Association as an example, have recognised the need for Sunday scheduling for juniors and seniors given the finite grounds available during peak usage on Saturdays. A further example is Basketball Hawthorn who operate competitions and training throughout the week and utilise 16 venues in Boroondara and 10 outside of Boroondara.

The inclusion of Sunday netball use, scheduled similarly to a Saturday, would bring the parking demand to above 500. The inclusion of netball on a Sunday would therefore create a similar demand for parking as a Saturday, however it is possible to offset some of the parking issues by using the remaining funds from the grant (after lighting the current courts) for parking and traffic improvements, pending support from the Federal Government and BNA.

### *Consultation on Sunday scheduling*

The BNA has previously been consulted regarding additional use on Sundays. In their survey response to Council (**Attachment 7**) and in previous communications, the BNA outline key reasons they do not believe this opportunity will enable demand to be met and these reasons include:

- Negative impact on local residents and other users, including congestion.
- Inter-association tournaments which are held on Sundays meaning less availability of participants.
- Coach and umpire development programs held on Sundays, meaning less availability of coaches, umpires and other support volunteers.
- Clashes for participants with other sporting codes.
- Life balance of players, team personnel, administrators and volunteers.

In addition to the above:

- Five of the seven MMP user groups who provided feedback identified support for additional netball use on Sundays.
- The only user groups that didn't support additional use on Sundays were the 1<sup>st</sup> Balwyn Scouts and the BNA.

- Issues identified by user groups regarding Sunday use include addressing current parking and traffic issues.

In terms of community responses to additional use on Sundays, the following was established:

- Of respondents who are involved in netball 88% (302 people) were supportive of additional Sunday use of the netball courts, with 41 respondents not supportive.
- Of respondents who primarily use the park for recreation or are residents, 57% (207 people) were supportive of additional Sunday use of the netball courts, 43% (156 people) were not supportive.
- Of residents surrounding MMP (Buchanan, Morris, Hilda, Elliot, Belmore, Kendari, Hunt, Severn, Moody, Sylvan, Bemborough, Monash, Metung, Nugemer, Nargo, Hood roads), 46% (31 people) were supportive of Sunday use and 54% (36 people) were not supportive.

### 4.3 Options Summary

Netball is a popular sport in Boroondara, particularly for females and there is clear evidence the current demand is unable to be met by just relying on games played on Saturday. It is also clear the BNA is a well organised and committed Association which provides a pathway program for young netballers. The two opportunities presented by lighting the 5 unlit existing courts and use of the facility on Sundays will address demand to a significant degree (a total of 101 additional hours if games are played only up to 1pm on a Sunday) and are able to facilitate the additional use provided by the BNA in their indicative schedule for four new courts (67 hours per week), if the BNA is willing to consider changes to how they currently operate. While the BNA has presented information outlining why they do not believe additional lighting or Sunday usage will provide a solution, the current asset (eight courts) has capacity to be used outside of Saturdays to meet some of the demand unable to be accommodated on Saturdays. Given the addition of 4 courts would result in a number of impacts, including additional traffic and parking, environmental impacts, displacement of other users and impact on resident amenity, it is imperative that everything is done to better utilise the current courts, including spreading the usage across the week better. Analysis of community feedback from people not connected to netball supports lighting the unlit courts and Sunday court time.

It should however be noted while additional lighting and use of the courts on a Sunday morning does support the additional use highlighted by the BNA in their indicative schedule for 4 new courts (with significant changes to fixturing), it does not enable the same future growth opportunities that four new courts would provide.

A summary of options and opportunities and levels of support is provided in **Attachment 8**.

## 5. Consultation/communication

### 5.1 Community Consultation Process

Community consultation commenced on May 25, 2021 and closed on June 8, 2021. Feedback was sought from residents and MMP user groups on the following options to co-locate the courts with the current eight courts:

- Option 1 - Installation of four courts and lighting on Macleay oval 5
- Option 2 - Installation of four courts and lighting on Macleay oval 3

As part of this consultation, Council was also interested in understanding community feedback on two other opportunities (provision of additional and upgrade of existing lighting and/or increase Sunday use within BNA's current licenced hours). Should the BNA wish to take up either of these opportunities, officers will work closely with them to deliver the best possible outcome for netballers in Boroondara.

A total of 789 community survey responses were received in addition to 26 emails/other responses.

In addition to this, six organisations/sporting clubs based at MMP also submitted feedback (**Attachment 9**).

An analysis of community and MMP organised sport consultation feedback was completed by an external consultant (**Attachment 9 & 10**).

## 5.2 Community Consultation Findings

**Table 2. MMP committee user group consultation results**

MMP Licencee or User Group	Option 1 - Support for the development of four netball courts at Oval 5	Option 2 - Support for the development of four netball courts at Oval 3	Opportunity 1 - Support for lighting installation on existing courts	Opportunity 2 - Support for additional use of current courts on a Sunday	Additional comments
<b>Boroondara Netball Association</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	- Survey Comments summarised below
<b>Boroondara Cricket Club</b>	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support Option 1, noting unavoidable traffic and parking issues</li> <li>- Oppose Option 2 due to the loss of a cricket oval</li> <li>- Preference is to increase use of existing courts through the installation of lighting and/or increase use on a Sunday</li> </ul>
<b>North Balwyn Scout Group</b>	No	No (but preferred if proposal proceeds)	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Option 1 and 2 would limit access to Scout Hall users. Increase traffic, parking provisions and traffic management is already inadequate and Option 2 preferred should proposal proceed</li> <li>- Additional lighting/Sunday use issues include increased use of MMP which would increase vehicle traffic and availability of parking</li> <li>- Sunday use impact would be less given the Scout Hall is used less frequently on Sundays</li> <li>- Other locations should be considered for new netball facilities in Boroondara or the current traffic management and parking issues are addressed urgently</li> </ul>
<b>Boroondara Eagles Football Club</b>	No	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current traffic issues are significant</li> <li>- Option 1 and 2 render oval 5 &amp; 3 useless for other stakeholders</li> <li>- Lighting allows wider facility use and takes pressure off site peak times</li> <li>- Sunday use - traffic continues to be significant issue and this needs to be addressed to ensure no additional stress is places on the facility</li> </ul>
<b>North Balwyn Cricket Club</b>	No	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preference 1 - Lighting</li> <li>- Preference 2 - Sunday use</li> <li>- Option 1 and 2 - traffic is already a major concern (congestion) and a lack of parking spaces</li> </ul>
<b>Personal Training Group - Miss Spartan Fitness</b>	No	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Option 1 and Option 2 - traffic and parking is currently an issue, only supportive if there was a significant increase in parking</li> <li>- Option 1 highly impacts this business (potentially no area for outdoor training use)</li> <li>- Lighting - if this results in games being spread over the week this would be ideal to ease congestion</li> <li>- Sunday use - likely minimal impact, however given other clubs using the area it's likely congestion issues similar to those on a Saturday may arise</li> </ul>

<b>North Balwyn Baseball</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	- Option 1 preferable
<b>North Balwyn Bowls Club</b>	No	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- BNA already has enough space and shouldn't get four new courts to use one day</li><li>- Climate impacts of replacing green space with concrete</li><li>- Parking and traffic issues</li></ul>

### *BNA Feedback*

The BNA committee indicated they prefer the four additional courts to be developed on Macleay oval 5, noting any development on oval 3 would have a significant impact on other codes and the environment. The BNA has indicated they would be happy for the four new courts to be multi-lined thereby creating opportunities for other sporting codes e.g. futsal. They believe any court development on oval 5 will still allow for ample grass / green space for passive recreation.

Further benefits identified for four additional courts included the facilities use for bike riders, skateboarders, scooters and other uses. A hard surface near the play ground (near Macleay oval 5) would enable parents to watch their children in the playground and on their bikes at the same time.

In terms of the other opportunities presented, the BNA were supportive of the installation of lighting, however did not show support for Sunday usage.

The BNA also note they would be happy to have a 12 court complex situated at another location in Boroondara if expansion at MMP was not an option.

The BNA committee survey is shown in **Attachment 7**.

### *Community Feedback Summary*

Council received 789 community survey responses between May 25 and June 8, along with 26 email responses. The community feedback summary report is shown in **Attachment 10**.

A profile of respondents is provided in **Table 3** below.

**Table 3. MMP use profile of feedback submitters**

<b>Use Profile of Respondents</b>	<b>Portion of Survey Respondents</b>
Recreation	57.4%
Netball	30.1%
Cricket	4.1%
Soccer	2.7%
Other	2.5%
Local residents	1.8%
Personal training	1.1%
Baseball	0.2%

A summary of the community consultation results for each of the options is provided earlier in the report and in **Table 4** below.

**Table 4. MMP park users options/opportunities support summary**

Use Profile	Support for the development of four netball courts at Macleay Park (Option 1 or 2)	Opportunity 1 - Support for lighting installation on existing courts	Opportunity 2 - Support for additional use of current courts on a Sunday
Recreation	21% (81 people)	77% (265)	57% (196)
Netball	96% (329)	99% (340)	88% (302)
Cricket	20% (5)	92% (23)	92% (23)
Soccer	29% (5)	94% (16)	88% (15)
Other	43% (10)	83% (19)	77% (17)
Local residents	44% (8)	61% (11)	61% (11)
Personal training	29% (2)	86% (6)	57% (4)
Baseball	100% (3)	100% (3)	100% (3)
Neighbouring residents (respondents who nominated a street name that surrounds MMP)	9% (6)	70% (46)	46% (31)

In addition to the information provided in the 'Issues and Options' section of this report, a number of qualitative responses were received from the community.

In terms of support for additional netball courts, a number of themes emerged. This included:

- The courts having a positive impact on the health and wellbeing on girls, particularly with sport participation tending to drop off in teenage years.
- Providing greater opportunities for girls to play but also leadership opportunities associated with the sport.
- Netball having less facilities in square metres and overall facility provision numbers when compared to other sports.
- Additional opportunities for the broader community with scooting and learning to ride.

The top five reasons for not supporting additional courts include preserving green/open space, traffic, parking, MMP being at or over capacity and limiting the potential uses of the space.

When asked why they don't support the courts respondents stated a desire to preserve open space, green space, grass, multi-purpose land, or parkland. Some respondents offered specific benefits and uses of the current open space, including walking, picnics, family time, safe space for children to run and play, dog walking, non-competitive sport, and being in nature. A number of respondents noted a perceived shortage of grassed areas and cricket ovals in the region.

Other concerns raised included parking, traffic and limiting the use of the space.

Further details on all the themes are included in the consultation report (**Attachment 10**).

As noted above, along with the survey results there were also 26 emails received in relation to the consultation. These emails were not included as part of the percentages outlined above, given the high likelihood that most of these people would have completed a survey in addition to their email. It is however important to note that all 26 emails were from local residents and raised concerns with the proposal to add new netball courts in MMP.

## 6. Financial and resource implications

The financial contribution required by Council for the options discussed can be summarised as follows:

**Option 1** - Installation of four courts and lighting on Macleay oval 5: fully funded by Australian Government grant

**Option 2** - Installation of four courts and lighting on Macleay oval 3: fully funded by Australian Government grant

### **Opportunities to increase court use by BNA which do not require court construction**

- **Opportunity 1** - Provision of additional and upgrade of existing lighting. Pending discussions with the BNA and Australian Government, this option may be able to be funded by the Australian Government grant.
- **Opportunity 2** - Sunday use: no financial implications.

Irrespective of the options or opportunities selected by Council, there is a requirement to review the traffic and parking within MMP. This will require some funding, but it can be sourced from existing operational budgets.

MMP is a busy precinct with a number of key stakeholders including tenant clubs, casual users and local residents. It is clear from the information provided by the BNA and other user groups via the consultation process the park is currently struggling to meet demand across a range of sports. A positive next step would be to develop a Masterplan for the future use of MMP, with input from all of the groups listed above. Should this proceed it will require funding from Council, unless funding is secured from State or the Australian Government.

## 7. Governance issues

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

The officers responsible for this report have no direct or indirect interests requiring disclosure.

## 8. Social and environmental issues

The development of a hard surface on either oval 5 or oval 3 will replace natural grass. It will also reduce the square metre space for dog walking and other passive recreation uses on grass. Oval 5 in particular provides a key parcel of green space in MMP for local residents which has less structured sport activities than the other ovals in the vicinity.



This means oval 5 supports and encourages passive uses. This is in contrast to oval 3 which is heavily used for structured sport.

A hard surface on either oval would provide space for bike riding and similar activities, although this is fairly well catered for by the current netball facility.

The opportunities to enhance the capacity of existing assets in the first instance (lights and Sunday usage) preserves the grassy open space in the MMP area. The focus on enhancing existing capacity in the first instance also alleviates the need for additional development.

## 9. Conclusion

The BNA wish to use the funding they secured from the Australian Government for the construction of four additional courts at the MMP site to create a 12 court netball hub. There is no doubt netball is popular in Boroondara and demand for this sport is growing. However, the BNA's preferred option presents an escalation of the current traffic and parking issues, impacting negatively on resident amenity, a less than desirable environmental impact of removing green space and the displacement of current formal and informal use by the community. Based on these significant concerns, it is considered the use of the current facility should be maximised through lighting and exploring court time on a Sunday.

According to an indicative schedule of use provided by the BNA, should four additional courts be constructed adjacent to the existing courts, they would program another 67 hours of netball per week. Lighting improvements would create an additional 69 hours per week of possible use and Sunday programming, if it was scheduled between 9am and 1pm, would provide an additional 32 hours per week. This scenario would provide a total of 101 hours per week without the need to build four additional courts and would meet the additional use forecast by BNA.

Council has funded the provision of two new indoor stadium courts in the redeveloped Kew Recreation Centre for multiple sports, including netball. In addition to this, Council will consider the possibility of installing netball courts at other locations across Boroondara, and will work closely with the BNA and Netball Victoria should opportunities present themselves in the future. This is especially the case if courts could be created in the south and/or west of the municipality to reduce travel time for people living in these parts of Boroondara. It is also important to note there is a shortage of open space in Boroondara and as the population grows it is unrealistic to expect demand for any sport to be met by large hubs located at one venue. While the BNA does not currently support the development of satellite sites, the reality is in the future the development of this type of facility will be inevitable. A greater spread of courts across Boroondara may even help grow the game by appealing to those who would be interested but don't live near MMP.

**Manager:** Andrew McHugh, Manager Health and Wellbeing Services

**Report officer:** Sam Taylor, Senior Coordinator Sport and Recreation



	Park	Description		Park	Description
1	Macleay Park	No. 1 / D.S. Bull Oval	5	Macleay Park	No. 5 Oval
2	Macleay Park	No.2 Oval	6	Myrtle Park	East Oval
3	Macleay Park	No. 3 Oval	7	Myrtle Park	West Oval
4	Macleay Park	Boroondara Netball Centre			



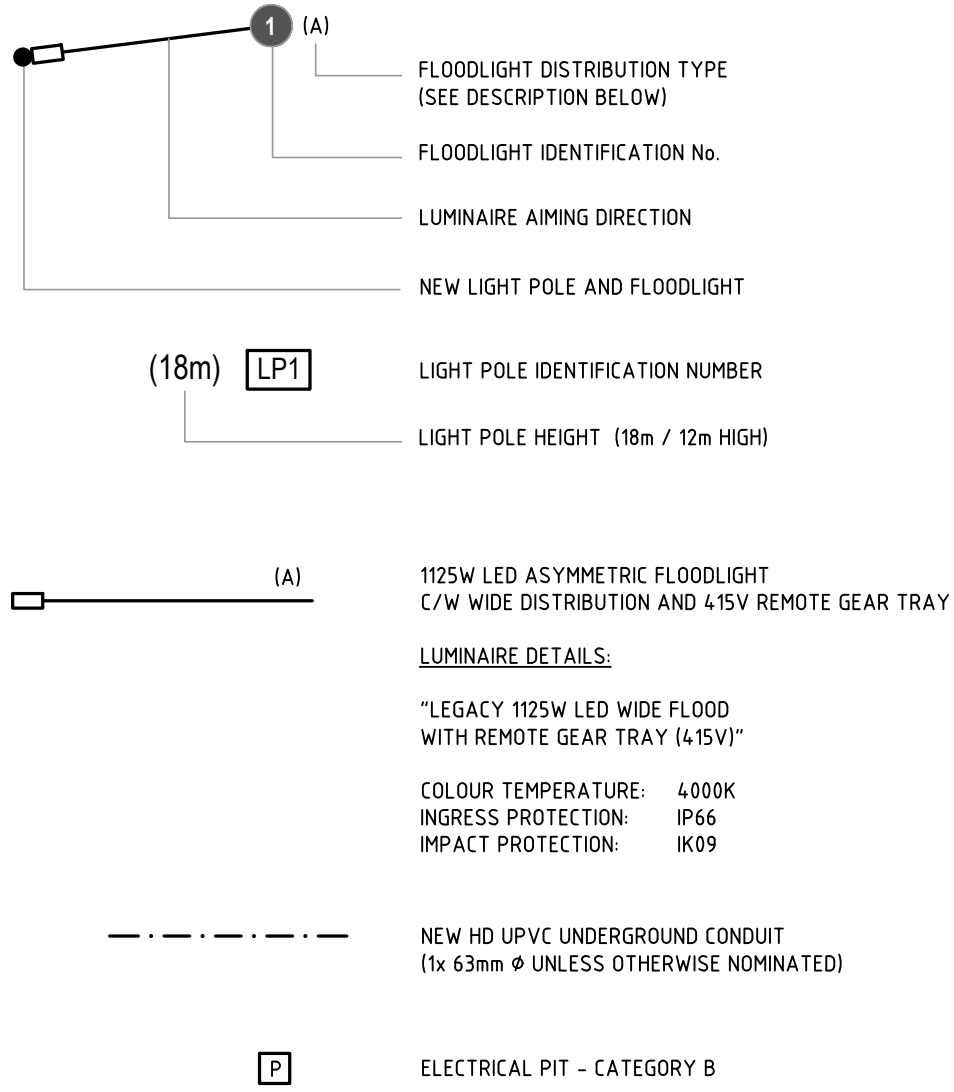




Drawing Schedule

H433J - EL-01	LIGHTING PLAN
H433J - LC-01	ILLUMINANCE CALCULATION

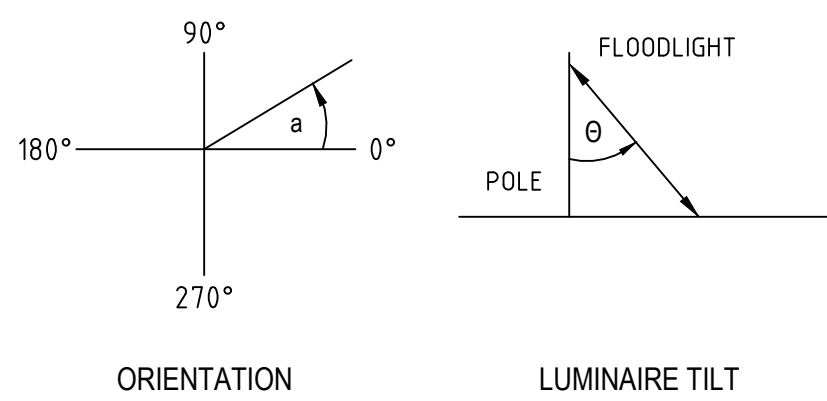
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Luminaire Schedule

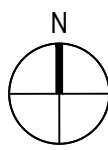
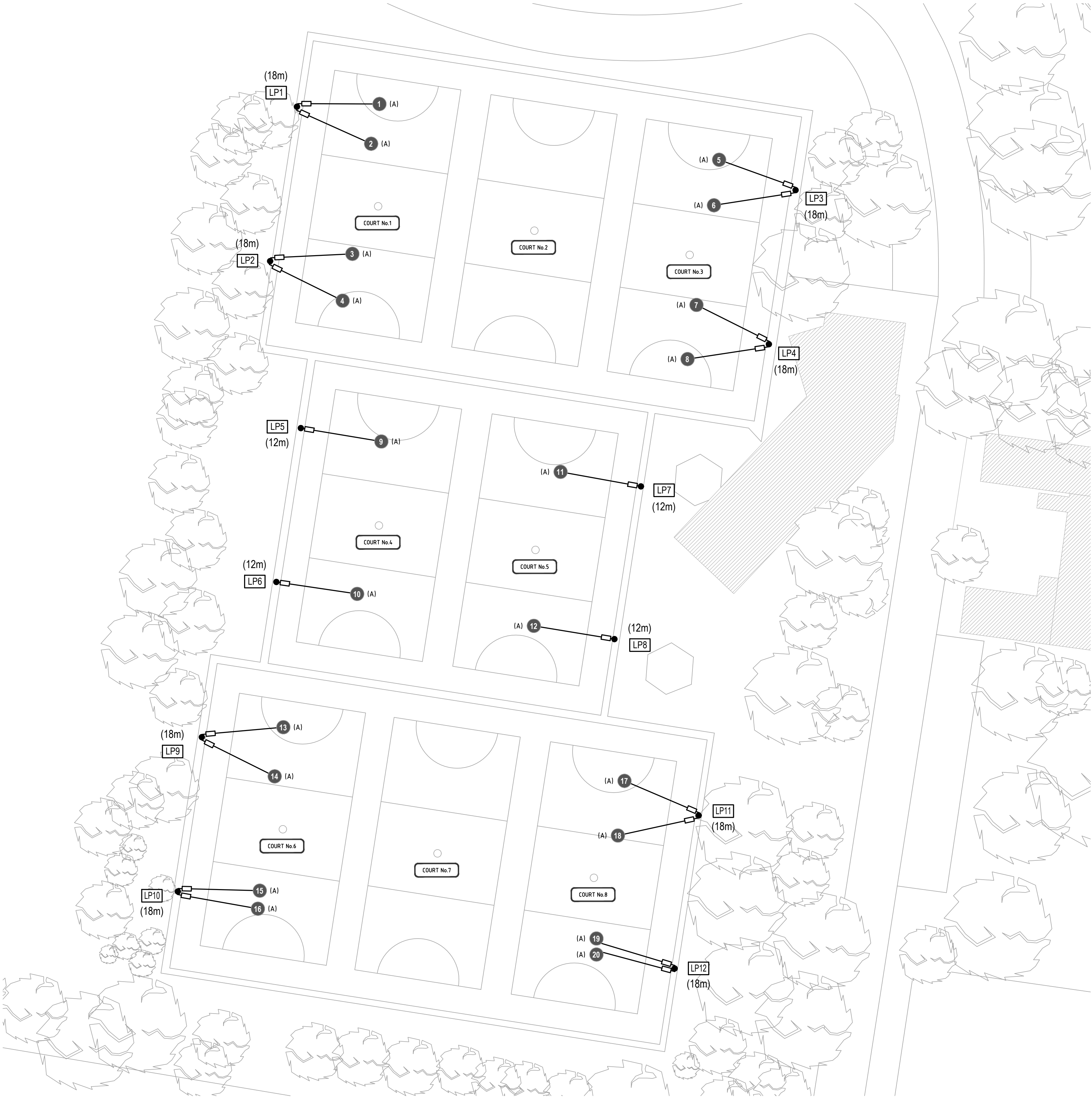
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2	LP1	(A)	7°
3	LP2	(A)	7°
4	LP2	(A)	10°
5	LP3	(A)	5°
6	LP3	(A)	7°
7	LP4	(A)	7°
8	LP4	(A)	10°
9	LP5	(A)	6°
10	LP6	(A)	6°
11	LP7	(A)	6°
12	LP8	(A)	6°
13	LP9	(A)	11°
14	LP9	(A)	9°
15	LP10	(A)	7°
16	LP10	(A)	5°
17	LP11	(A)	11°
18	LP11	(A)	9°
19	LP12	(A)	7°
20	LP12	(A)	5°

Luminaire Aiming Coordinates



MACLEAY PARK NETBALL

BALWYN NORTH • VIC 3104



Notes:

- DO NOT SCALE OFF DRAWING.
- THE TENDERER SHALL VISIT SITE TO DETERMINE EXISTING CONDITIONS.
- UPON COMPLETION OF WORKS, PROVIDE A CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRICAL SAFETY.



ABOVE: LEGACY LED FLOODLIGHT

02	CONCEPT	15.03.21	P.M.	R.H.
01	CONCEPT	11.03.21	P.M.	R.H.

ISSUE REVISION DATE REVIEW APPROVED



CONSULTING ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS LIGHTING CONSULTANTS TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANTS

WEBB AUSTRALIA GROUP (VIC) PTY LIMITED ACN 61 073 585 305  
LEVEL 9, 128 EXHIBITION STREET MELBOURNE VIC 3000 AUSTRALIA  
TELEPHONE (03) 9652 0333 FACSIMILE (03) 9652 0300 EMAIL melbourne@webbaustralia.com.au

CLIENT

CITY OF BOROONDARA



PROJECT

MACLEAY PARK NETBALL  
BALWYN NORTH VIC 3104

DRAWING

ELECTRICAL SERVICES  
LIGHTING PLAN

DATE	SCALE	D	R	A
15.03.21	1:250 [A1]	A.P.	P.M.	R.H.

PROJECT	DWG NO	REVISION	NO IN SET
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H433J EL-01 02 -

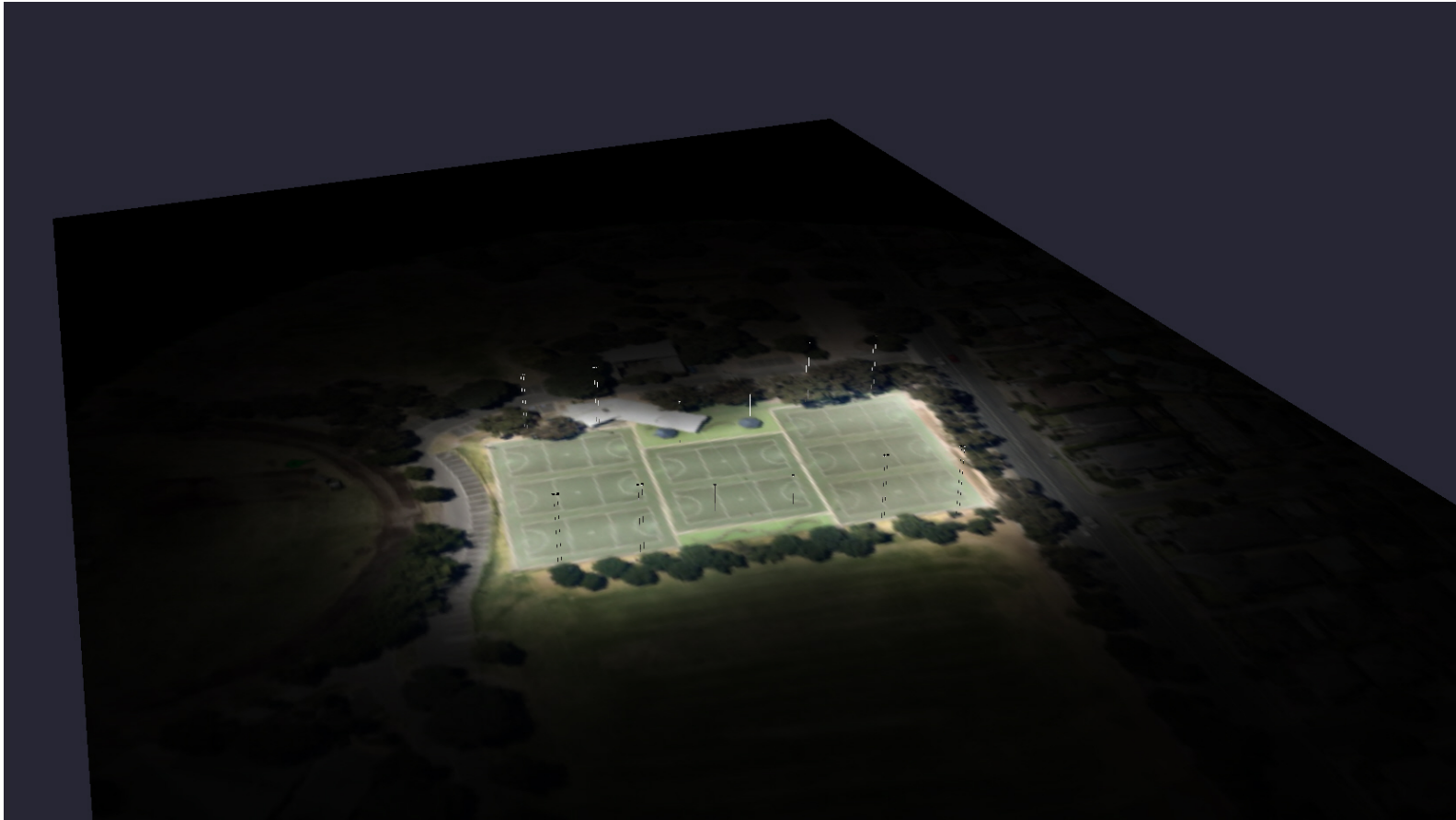
STATUS

CONCEPT

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COURT	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1		Ruyton 4 – 6pm	Carey 3.30 – 5.00	Carey 3.30 – 5.00	Carey 3.30 – 5.00	JuniorNet 1,2 3, 4	Competition
2		Ruyton 4 – 6pm	MANC 4 – 6.30	Canterbury 4 – 6.30	Carey 3.30 – 5.00	JuniorNet 1,2 3, 4	Competition
3 GOAL POSTS / LIGHTS	11U POWER 9.30 – 11.00	Ruyton 4 – 6pm Balwyn East 6 – 8pm	MANC 4 – 6.30	Canterbury 4 – 6.30	Carey 3.30 – 5.00	JuniorNet 1,2 3, 4	Competition
4 LIGHTS		Ruyton 4 – 6pm	MANC 4 – 6.30	Canterbury 4 – 6.30	Carey 3.30 – 5.00	JuniorNet 1,2 3, 4	Competition
5 GOAL POSTS / LIGHTS	Ness FNL 10.30 From Jan 24	KDNC 4.00 – 5.30 15U (3) POWER 6 – 7.30	MANC 4 – 6.30	Canterbury 4 – 6.30	Carey 3.30 – 5.00	JuniorNet 1,2 3, 4	Competition
6		KDNC 4.00 – 5.30	Carey 3.30 – 5.00	Carey 3.30 – 5.00	Alex Ball 6.30 – 7.30 From Feb 4	JuniorNet 1,2 3, 4	Competition
7		KDNC 4.00 – 5.30	Carey 3.30 – 5.00	Carey 3.30 – 5.00		JuniorNet 1,2 3, 4	Competition
8		KDNC 4.00 – 5.30	Carey 3.30 – 5.00	Carey 3.30 – 5.00		JuniorNet 1,2 3, 4	Competition



## Boroondara Netball Association funding – BNA Committee survey questions

This survey relates to the \$1.2 million funding you received from the Federal Government to develop four additional outdoor netball courts at the Boroondara Netball Centre.

In making a decision about the BNA proposal, Council will be required to deal with a number of impacts upon other community members/sporting clubs. Most decisions place Council in the position of having to resolve conflicting and competing demands. It will be helpful for Council to understand how you view some of the impacts associated with your proposal.

The following questions are therefore directed to assisting Council in making its decision.

We are seeking feedback from the BNA committee on the implementation and likely impacts of this funding on the users of the Myrtle and Macleay Park including BNA, other sporting clubs, users of open space and surrounding residents.

Your proposal will be considered by Council on 28 June 2021, with further information available online closer to the time. We respectfully encourage the BNA to nominate a maximum of 3 speakers to represent your views at this meeting.

The following survey should be completed after reading the [Information Sheet](#) > *Please note our document outlining mis-representation of the facts in the Council Information Sheet.*

- Do you support the development of four new netball courts in Myrtle and Macleay Park in Balwyn North to be used within the current licenced hours? Note: current licenced hours can be found on the Information Sheet.
  - ☒ Yes
  - ☐ No
  - ☐ Not sure
- Do you have a preference for courts to be built on Oval 3 or Oval 5 in Myrtle and Macleay Park?
  - ☐ Oval 3
  - ☒ Oval 5
- Do you support the installation of lighting on the existing netball courts at Myrtle and Macleays Park to enable evening matches and training to be used within the current licenced hours? Note: current licenced hours can be found on the Information Sheet.
  - ☒ Yes
  - ☐ No
- Do you support additional use of the current courts on a Sunday?
  - ☐ Yes
  - ☒ No

*Why do you not support the additional use of current courts on Sundays?*

The Association has always worked towards the best outcomes of its members and local community in planning and programming at the centre. The local community have been using the centre on Sundays for other recreational activities which has created a good synergy between the Association and general use for the community.

Association "Competition" is held on a Saturday supporting a full Netball Victoria pathway program that is accredited, delivered, and managed by an experienced BNA netball workforce. Some of the staff and players are involved in other Netball leadership commitments, other sports, and other competitions on a Sunday. A Competition Day is not split over two days.

Other programs can run evenings and on Sundays (as per other Associations), such as social netball or walking netball, if there is a community demand for it. We understand that this is not desirable at this site for a number of reasons:

- 1) Impact on local residents & other users > Saturday and Sunday traffic, parking, noise
- 2) Macleay Park is heavily used on Sundays by soccer > congestion ++
- 3) Most inter-association tournaments are on Sundays
- 4) Most Netball Victoria coach & umpire development programs are scheduled on Sundays
- 5) Clashes for participants with other sporting codes ie) soccer, AFL, cricket
- 6) Life balance of players, team personnel, club administrators, volunteers

*The construction of four new netball courts will displace other sporting codes for whom it will be difficult to provide alternative accommodation. Can you please advise why you consider this to be an acceptable outcome?*

- The Association has been working with Council officers and understands that the overall park has many site constraints. BNA welcomes the opportunity to look at all options that are presented.
- In the options provided by Council, Oval 3 would have a significant impact on other codes and the environment and is therefore not our preferred site. This option does have opportunities with regard to traffic management (traffic redirection past courts and to Belmore Road) and additional parking opportunities. If placed outside of tree zone, court remediation works may not be as costly as other alternatives. Unfortunately, as indicated it does impact on other precinct users and sports.
- BNA would be very happy for the 4 new courts to be multi-lined – with appropriate sports (acrylic surface) - thereby providing opportunities for other sporting codes eg) futsal, basketball hoops on t boundaries.
- Council's Macleay Myrtle Park Management Plan advises that Oval 5 is not a sanctioned size or space for any other sporting code – it is only suitable for junior cricket and soccer "overflow" and is notably rarely used.
- The area required is approximately 54% of Oval 5 so there will still be ample grass / green space for passive recreation.
- Other sporting codes enjoy significantly more overall space in the municipality than netball – we are requesting the equivalent of 1.5 ovals only

*Additional netball courts will increase traffic volumes and parking demand in the local area impacting upon the amenity of the local community. Can you please advise why you consider this to be an acceptable outcome?*

- Traffic Management and parking issues have been a concern at the park for some time. Council were looking at options outside of this process. Regardless of the outcome, the traffic and parking issue needs to be addressed now as there are currently significant safety issues. We hope that this project provides Council with an opportunity to look at this concurrently.

- We have proposed a number of potential solutions in particular:
  - Council must amend access and exits to allow for the flow of traffic out the northern end of the park. Currently due to bollards near the soccer pavilion, there is only 1 entry and exit point on Belmore Rd creating unsafe conditions and significant congestion.
  - This option has in the past been opposed by local residents but may be accepted as “access only on Saturdays / weekends”.
- Additional courts and longer match times will allow for greater time between games which will assist both parking & traffic. Currently, to fit games in we need to run our rounds back-to-back every 40 minutes. It would be preferable for our participants to be able to have a break, also enabling clearance of the venue between rounds.

*The construction of four hard surface courts suitable for netball will replace existing permeable, grassed open space. Can you please advise why you consider this to be an acceptable outcome?*

- There are thousands of young residents who cannot play a full game of netball, a significant number of those players will need to play outside of the municipality. We need council to consider the lack provision for Association Netball and the overall support that is required.
- The area required is approximately 54% of Oval 5 so there will still be ample grass / green space for passive recreation, particularly considering there are another 5 ovals in this Park alone.
- Re-planting the surrounds of the oval will also create more valuable grassed areas and we are more than happy to make this a community netball activity.

*The use of four hard surface courts suitable for netball may change the way the community is able to use the open space for passive recreation. Do you consider this to be the case and, if so, why do you consider this to be an acceptable outcome?*

- The netball courts do not reduce the amount of OPEN space available and will in fact INCREASE the use of available open space. Having hard and grassy areas available **DIVERSIFIES** the open space allowing multiple different activities to be enjoyed by all.
- Our netball courts are currently used as open space for many passive recreational activities by the community – more so than the ample grassy areas in this area. These include bike riders, skateboarders, scooters, remote controlled toy cars, dancing, boxing, casual netball.
- A hard surface near the playground will enable parents to watch their children in the playground and on their bikes etc at the same time.
- As mentioned above, there is an opportunity to look at multi-lining the courts for casual activation and recreation.

*BNA has been offered the possibility of other locations for four courts as alternatives to expansion at Myrtle and Macleay Park and has rejected these offers. It is understood the primary reason for rejection is the difficulty of managing the competition across two separate locations. Can you please provide an explanation for this decision? In providing a response, it would be helpful to understand what is different about netball as a sporting code which results in netball being unable to be managed across multiple locations when other sporting codes are able to do so?*

- We have always said that we would be very happy to have a 12 court complex situated at another location in Boroondara if expansion of Macleay Park was not an option.
- Just to clarify, we have NOT been offered the possibility of other “locationS”. We inadvertently found out via an email trail (refer CEO) that Council was proposing 4 courts at Fritsch Holzer Park. This option was never discussed with us. We need to understand if a project is a long-term viable proposition for an Association. The LGA absolutely needs to look at overall provision to support its clubs and improve its overall provision. Holistic views such as this should be discussed with Netball Victoria.
- We are an Association, not a club. There is an important distinction here – a complex organisation with specialist disciplines and workforces. We currently cater for 21 Saturday clubs, 2 Representative team clubs (Power & Express), a Junior development program (not club based) and coach & umpire development programs.
- As such, we are a PATHWAY Association, providing multiple opportunities for participants to become involved in all aspects of sport such as coaching, umpiring, administration - not just physically playing netball on the court. This means that there is continual movement between age groups, divisions, accreditations – week to week. There is a reason why netball has some of the best retention rates for its members over any other sport. We continually monitor, mentor, support and improve individual members.
- Whilst a netball match is approximately 45 – 60 minutes (ours have to be only 36 minutes), participants engage in multiple roles throughout the day. One person (aged from 14 – 15 yrs) on one Saturday may
  - 1) coach a couple of junior teams for their club,
  - 2) umpire 3 or 4 matches,
  - 3) mentor new trainee umpires (am) or umpires training for a badge (pm),
  - 4) do a shift in the kiosk and
  - 5) play their match.

This would be impossible for the participant, their parents and the individual club administrators to manage across multiple sites.

- There are many ad-hoc netball social competitions which do indeed play across multiple locations but do not provide other development opportunities.
- This is not a Football Netball League or Competition that runs a Home/Away system where multiple competitions are running on two or three courts. These are Clubs playing in League.
- Other sporting codes have completely different programs eg) basketball requires indoor venues; football require an area of space for one match which can fit 10 – 12 netball courts.
- We are currently utilising Indoor Courts at the Boroondara Sports Complex for Representative Netball, so we do manage our workforce across venues con-currently, where it is viable. As we also participate in the VNL league we also manage participation at other Venues that support this state level competition.

Association based competitions are the back-bone - and most successful outputs- of netball in Victoria. The opportunities that are given to players, umpires and coaches in an association setting in one location are second to none. The development across differing levels of competition for improvement; progression and professional development would not be possible if split across venues. Having a hub, and specific home for netball is what unique about the sport, and it fosters the environment of inclusion, participation, belonging and friendship across differing ages, abilities, and communities - it should be nurtured rather than dismissed.

Examples of other Associations that split venues include:

- Casey Netball Association: Primary Venue (**10 Indoor** Court Venue) Casey Stadium, Secondary Venue (**10 Outdoor Competition Fully Compliant Lit Courts**)
- Waverley District: Primary Venue (**12 Outdoor Courts**) Ashwood Netball, Secondary Venue (**5 Indoor Courts**)

*How does your committee intend to communicate and connect with all stakeholders regarding the implementation of your chosen opportunities (should they proceed), especially considering a scenario where not all stakeholders will be comfortable with outcomes due to them being negatively impacted. Has the committee contemplated the development of a community and stakeholder engagement plan should your chosen opportunities take place?*

- BNA has worked with Council officers and engaged in various Project Working Groups over the past five years. One of the goals of the PWG was to undertake community and stakeholder engagement, which we never progressed to. We would be more than happy to engage with other stakeholders in a practical and proactive way.
- We do not accept that we are “negatively impacting” on any other stakeholders.
- All of the extensive data which we and Netball Victoria have provided to Council over the past 5 years is & has been publicly available on our website.

*Based on the understanding only school students of specific school netball clubs playing with BNA are able to join those clubs (except for one school), if BNA were to prioritise community club use over private school use, e.g. reduce the number of private schools involved in the Saturday competition, would that help meet community demand? Community demand being defined as clubs open to all girls and women in the community.*

- Most importantly, participants who attend “private schools” and their families ARE valued members of our local community.
- Boroondara Netball Association is a community based netball association which some schools, both private and public, have chosen to join. They enter knowingly into a community competition where there are pathway opportunities offered. They must abide by our by-laws including all-female schools playing within a modified mixed competition.
- If these school did not enter as a club, their members would simply join a community club – as a group of school friends and as many do - making absolutely no difference to our situation.
- There are many school based teams – private and public – playing within the competition. For example, Canterbury Netball Club have a team called Canterbury St Bede’s comprising a group of children from St Bedes; Carey is not one of our Saturday netball clubs but many Carey students play together in community clubs; we have school based teams from a long list of local primary and secondary schools which we can provide to you if required.
- Incidentally the comment “except one school” is false. Both CGGS and Fintona also have teams in the Open section catering for their ex-students and many of the independent teams are groups of school friends wanting to continue playing.
- Many players from these “private” schools DO choose to play with a community club. Families make their individual decisions based on many factors such as friendship groups, cost, quality of coaching, training venues etc. Examples are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of netball program: MLC whereby some players left their community club for their school club due to the appointment of a new netball administrator &amp; ex-Diamond netballer Sharni Norder (Layton).</li> <li>• Training venues: due to the lack of adequate lighting on our courts, community clubs do not have access to appropriate training times and facilities as players need to engage after school. The school clubs generally train at school before or during lunch hours which may be easier for parents.</li> <li>• Cost: sometimes school clubs charge a higher fee to their members to cover their costs of employing administrators &amp; coaches; whereas community clubs are less costly due to significant volunteer input.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our Junior Development program, JuniorNet, is purposefully made up primarily of school based groups as we try to group children together with their friends.</li> <li>• Private and State schools have their own specific school programs such as GSV, APS, SSV. They are very different competitions to BNA with different purposes and structure.</li> <li>• Please note “<i>definition of community demand</i>” that our clubs are open, not just to girls &amp; women as stated above, but also to boys and men. This is one of the reasons we need more courts – to provide other competition pathways such as All Abilities and Male competitions.</li> <li>• It is also important to note, that general community netball court provision that usually provides the roots that create the club are not available in Boroondara. So the clubs that you might normally see developing at local reserves, churches or primary schools are not necessarily able to be created in Boroondara as the netball court provision in the municipality is poor.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Do the private school teams pay a fee to BNA to participate and is that fee the same as community clubs?</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All teams pay the same entry fee and court fee based on school year level &amp; provision of umpires.</li> <li>• Our fees are very reasonable, particularly compared to other sports. For an 18 week season costs for each team are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entry fee per team: \$110</li> <li>• Court fee per team: \$420 for year 4 teams who must provide their own umpires \$580 for year 5 – 9 teams where we provide and pay all umpires \$520 for senior teams who must provide an umpire every alternate week.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The only difference between community clubs and school clubs are their governance structure. All clubs <u>regardless of where they are from</u> set their own club fees, training schedules, coaching and umpiring commitments &amp; participate in our pathway programs.</li> </ul>
<p><i>If Council rejects the proposal at Myrtle and Macleay Park but is able to provide an alternative location for four netball courts, will BNA make all or part of the funding available for the provision of additional netball courts in Boroondara? It is understood BNA may not wish to manage this facility but it would seem additional courts have to be to the benefit of netball in Boroondara? Would you support reallocation of the funds to a different location in Boroondara?</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The investment by the Federal Government was to improve outcomes for the <u>Association</u>. BNA is a well recognised organisation within the netball community and this is precisely why we – and not other organisations - have been granted this money.</li> <li>• BNA has worked very hard to create, manage and build an Association for it's members</li> </ul>

- The ultimate allocation of funding is with the Federal Government and was for a specific purpose being “to enable the BNA to expand its services and facilities to help meet the ever-growing demand for netball in our local community” refer Josh Frydenberg Media Release 2019.
- If Council is looking at increasing it’s overall provision within the Municipality, it should engage with Netball Victoria who have proven results in working with Councils and looking at long, medium and short term strategies in providing a holistic view of the LGA, and can provide the advocacy for these Netball projects

*If BNA were to schedule games over multiple venues, how many additional volunteers would be required and what types of roles?*

- Unless the secondary venue was a municipal level venue (8 courts), as stated above and for the reasons above, BNA would not schedule games over multiple venues.
- Management would have to be replicated over each venue. This includes administrators, coach & umpire mentors / trainers, first aid & kiosk personnel, court supervisors, court setup and pack up personnel
- At club level, management would also have to be replicated for each club along with coaches, umpires, team managers. Clubs would need to increase fees to cover additional personnel.
- Unless the secondary venue is a municipal level venue, this may also threaten our membership base as our clubs have made it quite clear to us that this would be unacceptable.

*If additional volunteers were able to be secured, would scheduling games over multiple venues help meet demand?*

- It is not just the scheduling of games; it is the entire infrastructure that would need to be duplicated - admin rooms, kiosk, first aid, storage, change rooms, audio, electronic, lights, umpire facilities, parking.
- BNA has already invested over \$400,000 of it’s own funds into the current site, the Boroondara Netball Centre.

*Is there any other feedback you would like to provide?*

At the end of the day, our combined prime purpose is to improve both the physical and mental health and wellbeing of people – men and women / old and young – in the Boroondara local community.

We have created a “community hub” which is a 2<sup>nd</sup> home to many, providing leadership opportunities, mentorship & support, camaraderie and fun. Participants can contribute in many different ways – not just on the netball court.

We value our members and want to provide the outcomes that best service their needs.

We appreciate the time & effort that Council are currently putting into this proposal and thank them for their consideration. We look forward to a successful outcome.

Option	Option Benefits	Option Concerns	BNA Support	Other support summary
<b>Four additional courts in MMP - Option 1 (oval 5) or 2 (oval 3)</b>	<p>Construction of a 12 court netball hub.</p> <p>Assists in meeting netball demand on Saturdays</p> <p>Increased capacity for netball training and competition.</p> <p>Participants, coaches, umpires and volunteers are located at the one site.</p> <p>Provide an additional 138 hours</p>	<p>Displaces existing users with flow on impacts to other ovals. This is particularly true as oval 5 provides the key part of green space in MMP for local residents and has some structured use, while oval 3 is heavily used by structured recreation.</p> <p>By converting the space to a hard surface it will lessen the usability for other groups such as dog walkers, although it will still be utilised for activities such as bike riding when not used by the BNA (the indicative schedule from the BNA states four new courts would be used in a similar way to the existing courts throughout the week, including Saturday competition)</p> <p>Increased usage will create further traffic congestion and unmet parking demand on site, which will be likely to result in increased traffic and negative amenity outcomes for local residents</p> <p>Removal/reduction of a dog off leash site.</p>	Supportive	<p>Two of the six MMP user groups (excluding BNA) who responded to the survey identified support for additional courts.</p> <p>Of respondents who are involved in netball 96% (329 people) were supportive of additional netball courts</p> <p>Of respondents who primarily use the park for recreation or are residents, 24% (89 people) were supportive of new courts</p> <p>Of residents surrounding MMP (Buchanan, Morris, Hilda, Elliot, Belmore, Kendari, Hunt, Severn, Moody, Sylvan, Bemborough, Monash, Metung, Nugemer, Nargo, Hood roads), 9% (6 people) were supportive of new courts and 91% (61 people) were not supportive</p> <p>Support for new netball courts was lowest in Balwyn and Balwyn North.</p>
<b>Additional court lighting</b>	<p>Assists in meeting netball demand.</p> <p>Increased capacity for netball training and competition.</p> <p>Participants, coaches, umpires and volunteers</p>	<p>Intensification of use at an already busy Myrtle and Macleay Park area.</p> <p>Additional Friday night usage may cause resident concern with noise and traffic, given this was consistently raised during the consultation as an issue with the current courts. -</p> <p>BNA's ability of volunteer support for Friday night competitions.</p>	BNA supportive (but not without additional courts being built)	<p>Five of the six MMP user groups who provided feedback (excluding the BNA) identified support for the upgrade and installation of additional netball lighting.</p> <p>Of respondents who are involved in netball 99% (340 people) were supportive of lighting additional netball courts.</p>



	<p>are located at the one site.</p> <p>Increased lighting enhances the capacity of existing assets.</p> <p>Friday night fixtures will release more parking availability for BNA as there are less user groups at the Myrtle and Macleay Park area on a Friday.</p> <p>Could also allow for fixturing on other evenings</p> <p>Provide an additional 69 hours of use per week</p>			<p>Of respondents who primarily use the park for recreation or are residents, 76% (276 people) were supportive of lighting.</p> <p>Of residents surrounding MMP (Buchanan, Morris, Hilda, Elliot, Belmore, Kendari, Hunt, Severn, Moody, Sylvan, Bemborough, Monash, Metung, Nugemer, Nargo, Hood roads), 70% (46 people) were supportive of additional lighting and 30% (20 people) were not supportive.</p>
<b>Increased Sunday usage</b>	<p>Would increase court time for netball</p> <p>Provides additional capacity without building more infrastructure</p> <p>Lower cost (no replacement costs)</p> <p>Can be done within current licenced hours</p> <p>Provide an additional 32 hours of use per week</p>	<p>Would increase traffic and parking issues on Sundays. The parking demand at MMP on a regular Sunday is already at 295 spaces with netball programming expected to bring an additional cars at peak demand during cross over of games.</p> <p>Limits use of courts by other casual users</p> <p>Not supported by the BNA for a variety of reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impact on local residents and other users, including congestion</li> <li>- Inter-association tournaments which are held on Sundays</li> <li>- Coach and umpire development programs held on Sundays</li> <li>- Clashes for participants with other sporting codes</li> </ul>	Unsupportive	<p>All six MMP user groups who provided feedback (excluding the BNA) identified support for additional netball use on Sundays.</p> <p>Of respondents who are involved in netball 302 (88%) were supportive of additional Sunday use of the netball courts</p> <p>Of respondents who primarily use the park for recreation or are residents, 57% (207 people) were supportive of additional Sunday use of the netball courts, 43% (156 people) were not supportive.</p> <p>Of residents surrounding MMP (Buchanan, Morris, Hilda, Elliot, Belmore, Kendari, Hunt, Severn, Moody, Sylvan, Bemborough, Monash, Metung, Nugemer, Nargo, Hood</p>

		- Life balance of players, team personnel, administrators and volunteers		roads), 46% (31 people) were supportive of Sunday use and 54% (36 people) were not supportive.
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## **Boroondara Netball Association Funding Club Survey Responses 2021**

Final Report

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## Respondents

### Summary

Six responses to the survey were received from six clubs:

- Boroondara Cricket Club
- Boroondara Eagles Football Club
- Miss Spartan Group Fitness
- North Balwyn Baseball Club
- North Balwyn Cricket Club
- Scouts Victoria, 1<sup>st</sup> North Balwyn

Overall:

- two clubs are supportive of new courts, four are not supportive
- five out of six clubs are supportive of additional lighting
- five out of six clubs are supportive of Sunday use of existing courts

Club support	New courts	New lights	Sunday use
Boroondara Cricket Club	Yes	Yes	Yes
Boroondara Eagles Football Club	No	Yes	Yes
Miss Spartan Group Fitness	No	Yes	Yes
North Balwyn Baseball Club	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Balwyn Cricket Club	No	Yes	Yes
1st North Balwyn Scout Group	No	No	No
<b>Total supportive</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>

### Boroondara Eagles Football Club

The club does not support additional netball courts:

- support upgrade and modernisation of the facility
- does not support the proposed layout due to reduced access for the club
- proposed layout renders the ovals 'useless for other stakeholders'
- alternative layout has been provided by the club

*"BEFC objects to the proposal in its current form. BEFC supports the upgrade and modernization of the facility however we do not support the current layout as it reduce our access to our existing tenancies. We have provided an alternate layout which we would be supportive of."*

The club supports new lighting and Sunday use of existing courts. because:

- allows wider use of existing facilities
- takes pressure off the site at peak times
- interested in future opportunities to light Oval 3

Other comments:

- traffic is a significant issue

### North Balwyn Baseball Club

The club does support additional courts and prefers Oval 5 as a location for court development.

The club does support additional lighting. The club indicated that Sunday use of the existing courts would not impact them.

### Boroondara Cricket Club

The club supports the netball club expanding its capacity. The installation of new lights and extension of playing times to Sunday are the first preference, but the club also supports the construction of netball courts (at Oval 5 only) if it is required. Oval 3 is critical to the club, as they use it on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons, and occasionally Sunday mornings. Their activities include girls, boys, seniors and veterans teams.

*“...we do not want to see the Netball Association miss out on the opportunity for 3 or 4 new courts if preferably it doesn't affect current sporting clubs & facilities.”*

The club supports additional lighting because:

- it may reduce the need to build additional courts (preferable)
- it would not negatively impact the club
- this option has the lowest impact to other park users
- biggest impact in winter when days are shorter
- it would reduce the need to extend the netball competition to Sunday

*“One of our Club's thoughts were that after close inspection of the whole precinct & without taking away any future sporting viability that Macleay 5 could hold, there is adequate space to run 3 netball courts (court direction running north to south direction, same as other courts) beside each other; starting from the west end point which would be past the trees that are behind the Scout Hall the 3 courts run east for say 60 metres towards Buchanan Avenue. This would mean only one large tree would need to be removed, maybe a 2nd tree, but in all reality there are plenty of trees at Macleay Park!*

*The courts would run beside each other and along their southern end the courts would be from say 5m ...away from the north end of the existing playground, which by the way is an excellent playground for children. A long wire fence could run along the border to stop stray netballs from rolling away. If the courts do start close to the playground boundary then the length of the netball courts would NOT see Macleay Park 5 being encroached on & leaves this oval/ parkland available for any other future sporting works that may end up being important in 10, 20 or 30 years time. A nice walkway could be built to take players from the current netball courts location over to these 3 additional netball courts. Where the current car parking is located on the south side of the existing playground that could be extended by taking a further bay around along the east side of the playground. It would mean that parking area is also very close to the 3 new netball courts.”*

Potential impacts of building additional courts:

- loss of green space
- loss of cricket grounds
- increase in traffic and parking problems on Saturdays

Other comments:

- open to extending playing time until 8pm
- suggest all high powered lighting to be switched off at 8.30pm to minimise impact on residents
- as Federal Government has committed funding, project should be supported as long as impact on other sports is minimised

#### Miss Spartan Group Fitness

The club does not support additional netball courts, because:

- the space is used at full capacity for cricket and soccer
- there is a shortage of cricket grounds in the area, so they need to be preserved
- the club would lose outdoor training space
- the club services local families (around 115)
- it would remove green parklands that are used by locals
- the business may need to close due to lack of training space

*"If Macleay 5 was built on, my business would potentially not have an area to use for outdoor training, which is our fundamental draw card. We have 115 local families that come to Miss Spartan and are all mostly residents of Boroondara. This would highly impact...their usage of a family friendly fitness facility."*

The club supports additional lighting.

- spreading games out across the week is positive
- it would ease congestion

Sunday use of existing courts would have a minimal impact on the club. It may increase congestion on Sundays, which could impact other clubs.

#### North Balwyn Cricket Club

The club does not support additional netball courts, due to:

- we rely on those ovals for junior cricket
- parking is already full to overloading on Saturdays without increasing the number of attendees
- traffic and parking already issues
- reduction in ground access
- there is a shortage of cricket grounds in the city, and they need to be preserved

*"With a shortage of cricket grounds in the City, we cannot afford to lose another ground."*

The club supports additional lighting as their first preference for development, and additional Sunday use as their second preference.

### 1<sup>st</sup> North Balwyn Scout Group

The club does not support additional courts, because:

- extra netball courts will limit access to the Scout Hall
- additional traffic is dangerous, especially to children
- current parking and traffic management is inadequate
- additional parking will be required if additional courts are built
- increased traffic use may make the Scout Hall an unattractive hire venue, reducing club funding and therefore the activities they can offer local young people

*"In addition to regular meetings (four per week), and irregular family days, other community engagement activities that will be adversely affected, if Macleay Oval 5 were removed, include the selling of Christmas trees to the local community every year, Christmas Carols in the Park, Suburban Adventure Racing (orienteering/geocache) and the French Car Festival. These provide vital opportunities for our Scout Group to engage with, and serve, the community."*

The club notes that if the proposal is to proceed, they would prefer Oval 3 to be used.

- the club uses Oval 5 extensively
- COVID-19 necessitated outdoor meetings, for which the oval was critical
- green space is required for Scouting activities

*"Access to the Scout Hall is limited when members can't easily access the Scout Hall due to significant number of cars accessing Macleay Park on netball days."*

*"It's almost impossible for parents and other users of our hall to park anywhere close by. This impacts us tremendously when running weekend activities like our 75th Anniversary celebration with 150+ people attending, Group Family Activities like Pinewood Derby with 100+ attendees, Special Award Ceremonies (the last one had almost 200 in attendance), Group Open Days and more."*

Specifically relating to traffic and parking:

- parents struggle to drop children (5-11 years) off at the park entrance on Belmore Road
- it's dangerous for children to walk from the park entrance to the Scout Hall due to traffic
- there is inadequate parking for parents to use, to then walk their children to the hall
- the Scout Hall courtyard is often blocked by cars, parked or idling
- parking is inadequate for the number of players currently using the park
- the club proposes that, on netball days, the entrance to Macleay Park is made one way, and the exit reopened at Gildan Street so that cars can leave via Macassar, Hunt, Lawson and Severn Streets
- the club proposes that additional parking spaces be created in Macleay Park

*"...we also hire out the Scout Hall to the local community most days of the week, for a mixture of recreational and small business use. This hall hire accounts for a significant portion of our income, which we put directly back in to providing leadership development and adventure activities for young people in the Boroondara community. We fear that making the hall more inaccessible will*



*reduce the attractiveness and ease of using our facility, resulting in significant lost income."*

The club does not support new lighting: not because of the lighting, but because it would increase the days and times that courts are used, which has impacts on the club. Scouts meet on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings. Increased traffic would pose the above risks at those times. The club is also concerned about crowding, which reduces their ability to use green space in the park. The club also raises concerns about the availability of public facilities to cater to increased numbers of park users:

*"...currently there are no publicly available toilets in the immediate vicinity of the netball courts and playground. Although there is a public toilet near the Soccer Club, the proximity of this from the playground, and the poorly signposted nature of this facility means that members of the public who use the courts for passive recreation often seek entry to the Scout Hall in order to use the Scout Hall's toilets.*

*This presents risks, both from a COVID/contact tracing perspective but also from a child welfare perspective (letting members of the public into the Scout Hall without supervision). Refusal often offends. This problem will become a significant one for our young people if night-time passive recreational use increases. The Macleay Park public toilets are only open during daylight hours, and there is no toileting facility available to the public outside of this."*

The club does not support Sunday use of existing courts, for the above reasons relating to traffic and use of open space. The club notes that they use the park less frequently on Sundays, however an impact would be felt in December during fundraising activities.



## **Boroondara Netball Association Funding Community Survey Responses 2021**

Final Report

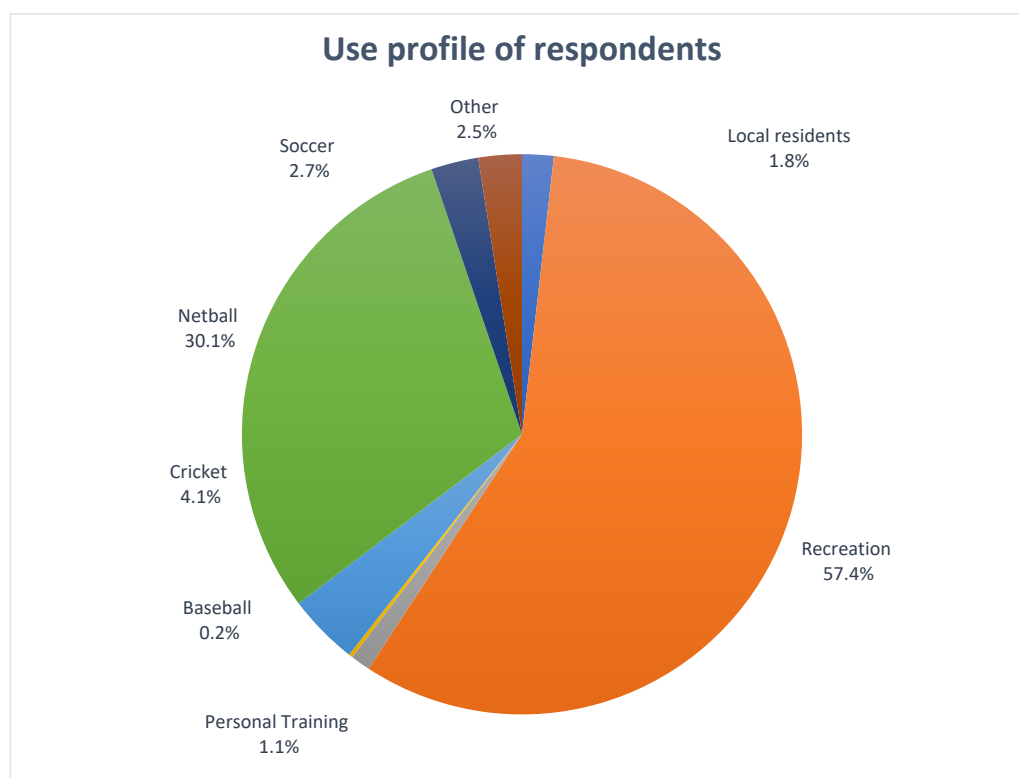
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## Respondents

### Community respondents

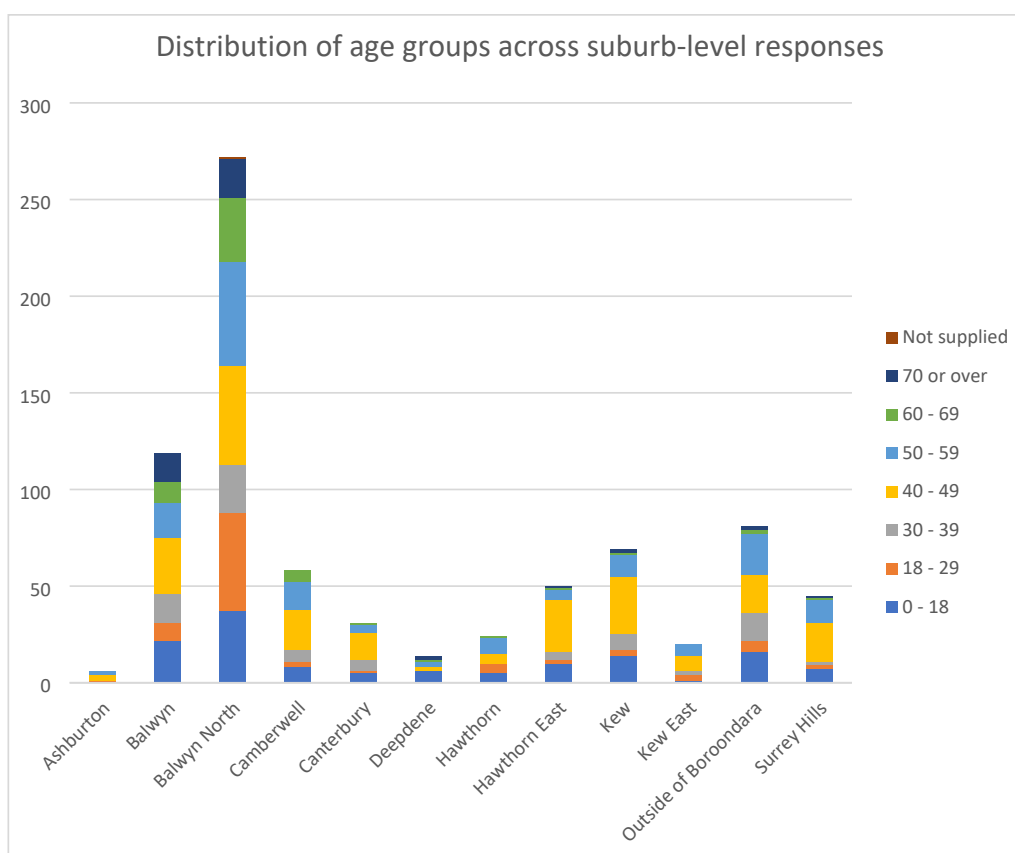
There were 789 respondents by close of survey, 67 of which lived in the streets surrounding the park. The majority of respondents (57.4 percent, n=252) primarily used Macleay Park for recreation, including walking, cycling, family activities and enjoying green space. Thirty percent of respondents (n=132) were associated with netball, 4 percent (n=18) with cricket, and 4 percent (n=18) were associated with baseball, soccer or personal training. Eleven respondents (2.5 percent) wrote in responses which included organising events that use the park, and previous association with a sporting club. Only 1.8 percent of respondents (n=8) identified as local residents who did not use the space (labelled as 'local residents' in this report): most neighbouring residents appeared to use the park for recreation, and are captured under that group.



One respondent did not supply age information and is not included in the analysis below. The majority (n=391, 50%) of respondents were from Balwyn or Balwyn North. Most respondents were from the 40-49 (n=230, 29 percent) or 50-59 (n=158, 20 percent) age group. Seventeen percent (n=131) of responses were from young people (aged under 18 years). Respondents from Balwyn, Balwyn North, Hawthorne East, Kew, Outside of Boroondara and Surrey Hills represented all age groups.

Number of respondents per suburb and age group

Suburb	Age							Total (n)	Total (%)
	0-18	18 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 - 69	70+		
Ashburton		1		3	2			6	1%
Balwyn	22	9	15	29	18	11	15	119	15%
Balwyn North	37	51	25	51	54	33	20	272	34%
Camberwell	8	3	6	21	14	6		58	7%
Canterbury	5	1	6	14	4	1		31	4%
Deepdene	6			2	3	1	2	14	2%
Hawthorn	5	5		5	8	1		24	3%
Hawthorn East	10	2	4	27	5	1	1	50	6%
Kew	14	3	8	30	11	1	2	69	9%
Kew East	1	3	2	8	6			20	3%
Outside of Boroondara									10%
Boroondara	16	6	14	20	21	2	2	81	
Surrey Hills	7	2	2	20	12	1	1	45	6%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>788</b>	
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>5%</b>		

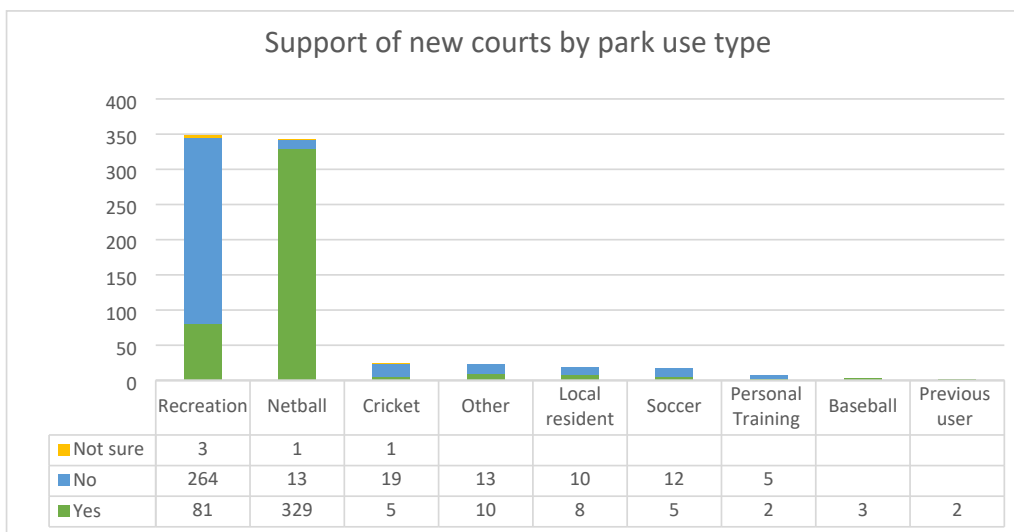


## Responses

### Park use type

One hundred percent of baseball players (n=3), and previous users (n=2) of Macleay Park were supportive of new netball courts. Ninety six percent (n=329) of netballers were supportive, with 13 respondents (4 percent) not supportive and one not sure (<0 percent). Cricketers (20 percent, n=5), soccer players (29 percent, n=5) and personal trainers (29%, n=2) were sporting codes least likely to be supportive.

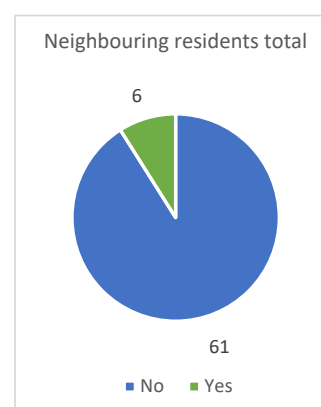
Of respondents who primarily use the park for recreation, 23 percent were supportive of new courts (n=81), 76 percent (n=264) were not supportive, and one (1 percent) were unsure.

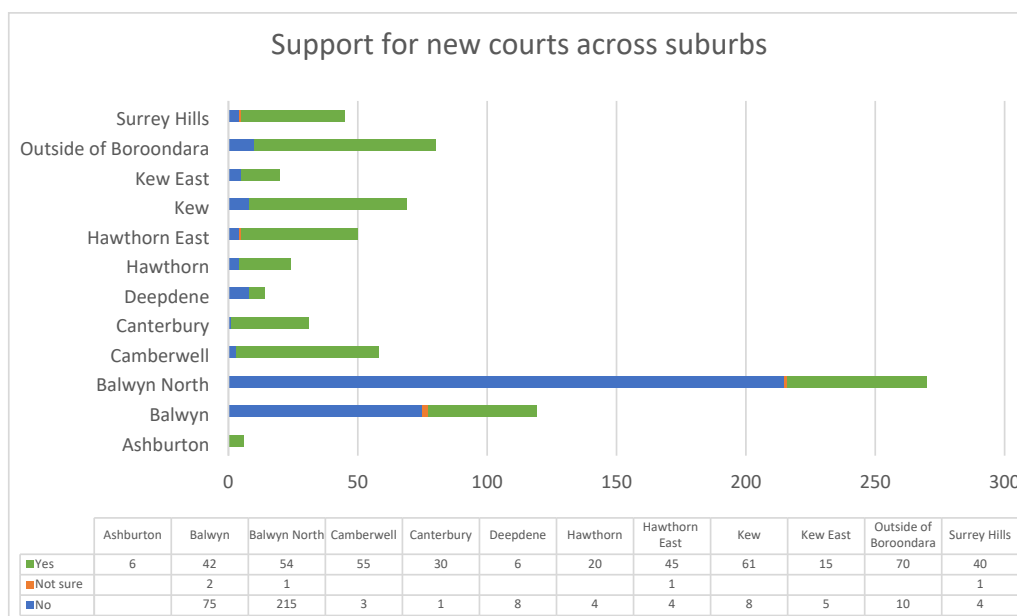
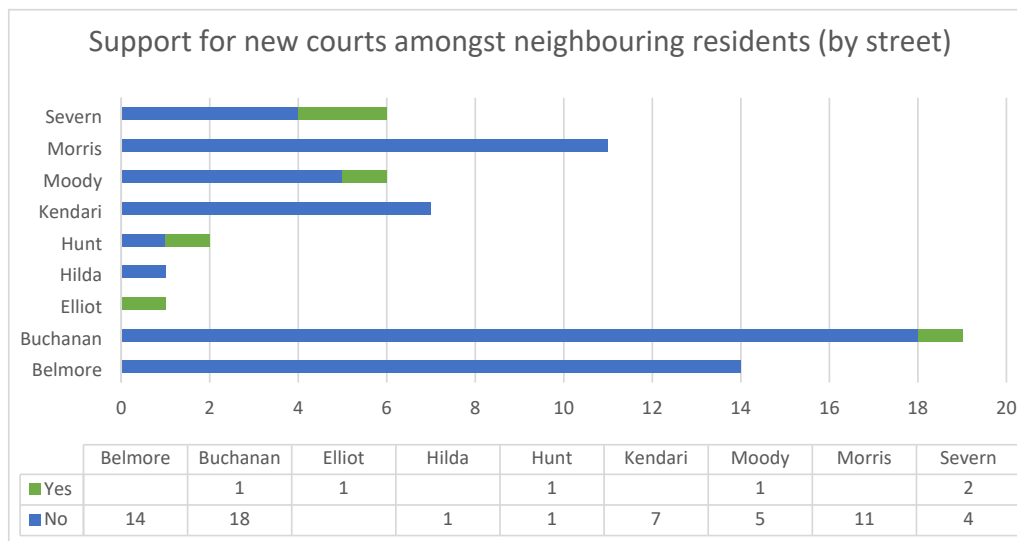


### Place of residence

Neighbouring residents were defined as respondents who nominated a street name that surrounds Macleay Park (Buchanan, Morris, Hilda, Elliot, Belmore, Kendari, Hunt, Severn, Moody, Sylvan, Bemborough, Monash, Metung, Nugemer, Nargo, Hood). Nine percent (n=6) of neighbouring residents supported the construction of new courts, and 91 percent (n=61) did not support new courts. The breakdown by specific street can be seen on the next page.

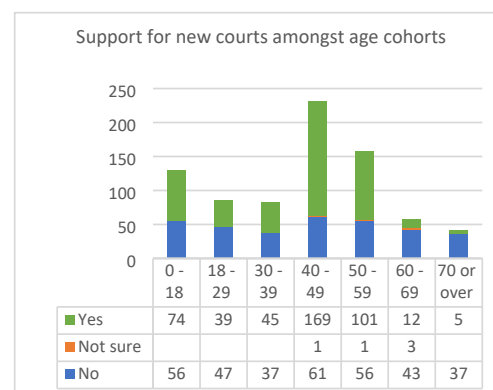
Support for new netball courts is lower in Balwyn (35 percent, n=54) and Balwyn North (20 percent, n=42) residents compared to all other suburbs (88 percent, n=348) (graph on next page).





### Age groups

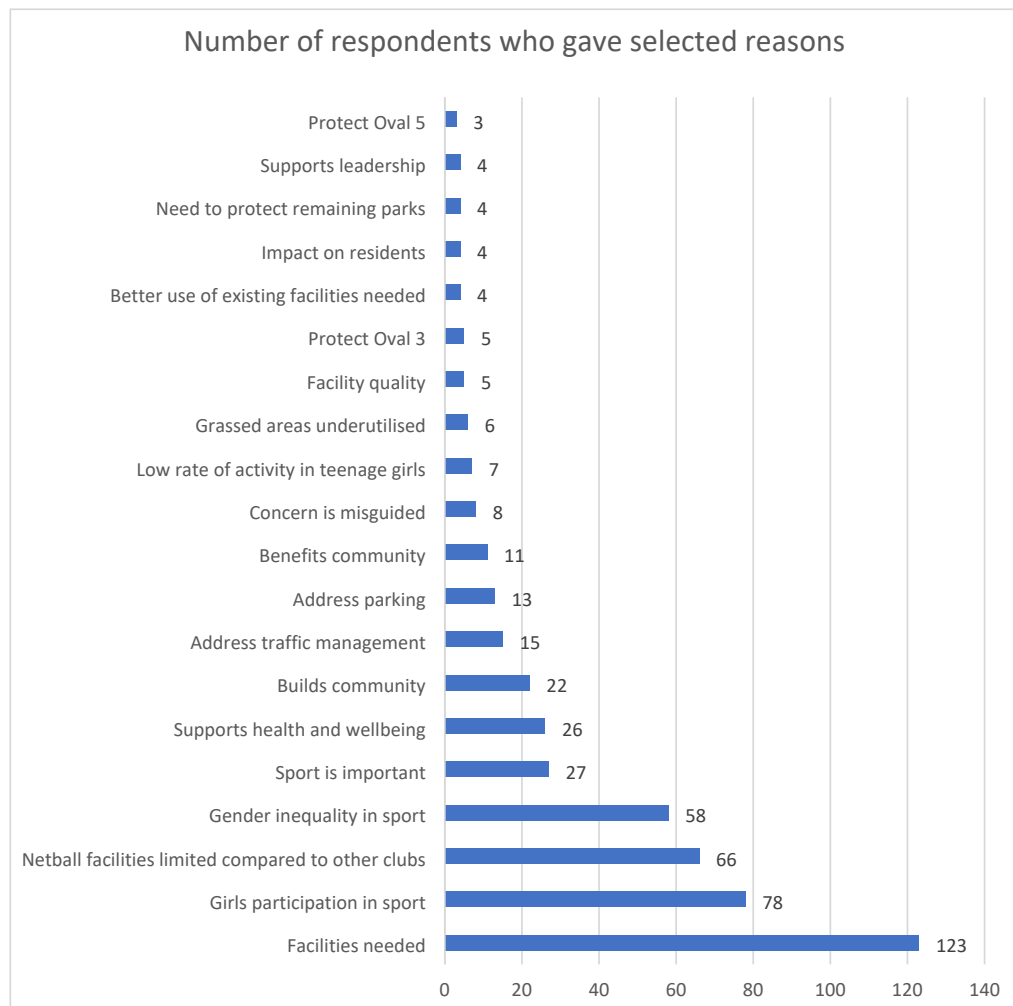
Fifty seven percent (n=74) of respondents aged under 18 years of age, 45 percent (n=39) of respondents aged 19-29, 55 percent (n=45) of respondents aged 30-39 years and 73 percent (n=169) of respondents aged 40-49 years were supportive of new netball courts being built. Support declined in older age groups, with 64 percent (n=101) of 50-59 year olds, 21 percent (n=12) of 60-69 year olds, and 12 percent (n=5) of 70+ year olds supportive of new courts.





### Reasons for supporting new courts

Of people who were supportive of new courts, 233 people provided 506 themed reasons. The strongest themes were gender inequality in sport, health and wellbeing, the necessity of upgrades, and benefits to the wider community as outlined below.



Feedback relating to **gender inequality in sport** included:

- netball specifically, and female-dominated sport generally, experiencing under-investment in their sporting codes and facilities
- less space being allocated to netball (both in terms of square metres and number of ovals)
- lower quality infrastructure being provided, including lighting that is not match-standard
- lower priority being put on the re-development of netball facilities
- community resentment and animosity towards netball clubs that is not experienced by other codes
- less opportunities for girls and women to play sport, both recreationally and professionally
- netball facing additional barriers to transitioning local players into elite competitions, due to facilities, match time and funding

*"For too long women's sport has had to play second fiddle to men's sport. This is a modest proposal that is fully funded for a netball association that provides a vital recreational activity to hundreds of local girls (and now boys). The association is extremely well run and the pathway it provides for players from the earliest stages of the playing career through to elite level is outstanding... Council has an excellent record in building and maintaining sporting infrastructure but this is only netball centre in the entire Boroondara Municipality.... if Council does not show leadership in relation to women's sport, who will?"*

*"Access to facilities for girls sport is crucial. It is a health and well-being for girls who drop out of sport as teenagers and functional facilities are the starting point for inclusion and access."*

Feedback related to **health and wellbeing** included:

- girls' physical activity and sporting participation drops off in teenage years
- sport has a positive impact on individual communities
- netball provides leadership opportunities for girls and women
- netball provides a sense of community for club members

*"My daughter has been involved and played at the Macleay park for about 10 years. She has made friends, kept fit, learned to support younger players through coaching and developed a life-long love of team sports."*

*"I am a coach of one of the teams that use the current netball facilities on a Tuesday night to train and on Saturdays for games. Sport is a very important part of not only health and well-being, but it assists in the development of confidence, independence and resilience. I've been lucky enough to watch my team grow from Grade 5 girls to now Year 7 young women. Although the players personalities are vastly different, when they play together as a team they are much better than the sum of the parts. A couple of the players are now taking the next step into umpiring as well, they are engaged and involved in the netball community. Having more netball courts will allow growth in the sport which in turn will allow more people to be involved, receiving the benefits from all the aspects of local club sport."*

*"Council should be encouraging the participation of young people in sporting activities."*

Feedback related to **the necessity of facility upgrades** included:

- opportunities for all genders and adult women will be expanded with more facilities
- underinvestment (see above) leading to inadequate quality/number of facilities
- play is curtailed due to current facility limitations (including shorter games, less training, less diversity of competition)

*"Boroondara Netball has nothing but the best interest of the participants playing, and by building these additional facilities it will provide greater opportunities for growth for both players, league and council."*

*“The teams currently have nowhere to warm up - would provide a designated court for warm ups followed by game. More competitions / tournaments to encourage more participation in boys’ netball competition. More courts would also help with traffic congestion - more time between games to allow for people to leave and then parking spaces for the next game are free. Very limited opportunities for netball in the local area, compared to ovals that provide for cricket/ soccer etc... Also difficult at the weekends to find anywhere to practice netball skills - when netball competitions are not being held the hard surface at Macleay park is often full of younger children learning to practice riding their bikes, scooters. Hard to practice with young children running under the rings. You are often competing with people trying to use the hoops as basketball rings too.”*

*“BNA needs additional courts to maintain and further develop the already established pathway through to the elite level of netball in Victoria.”*

Feedback relating to **benefits to the wider community** included:

- sport generally and netball specifically build community around the clubs and facilities
- more courts can result in spaced out play, which reduces traffic issues for neighbouring residents
- netball has a higher density of people per square metre than football or cricket, so the same space when used for netball courts caters to more people from the community

*“BNA is a well-run, community-minded organisation. My daughter’s involvement in the club has facilitated me making many community linkages. Supporting the game of netball in the community is also incredibly important as a means to encourage and support women’s team sport which brings with it a host of benefits.”*

*“Boys team sports have multiple facilities and outlets - in the city of Boroondara, there are 60 ovals for other sporting codes and only one for netball. The additional courts equate to 1.5 ovals. Whilst there may be some members of the local community who oppose the courts, the courts would benefit a significant cross-section of the Boroondara community.”*

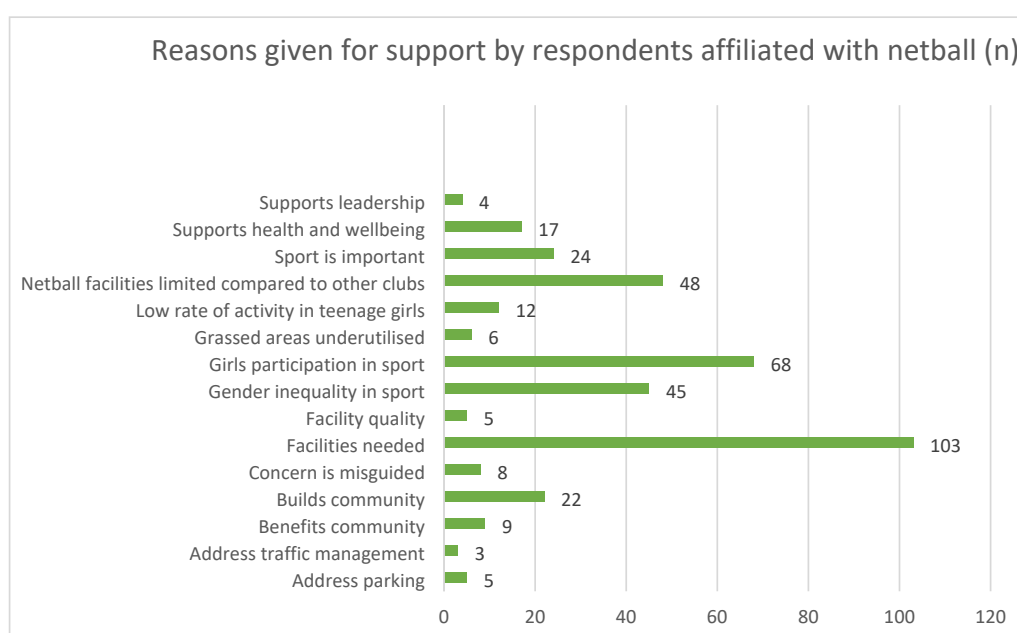
*“Unlike grass playing fields, Netball courts require minimal maintenance and the number of players able to utilise the space over the course of a week far outstrips other playing fields because of the high turnover of games and training sessions. Further, the courts are not fenced off from public access. The crowd behaviour at Netball in my experience is excellent and the children playing not only enjoy their own games and training sessions but love seeing their friends and siblings play at the same venue too.”*

Other feedback included specific suggestions about court orientation and location, trees, bee hives, and dog faeces. There were also suggestions for an indoor netball arena, and additional supporting facilities such as spectator shelters and public toilets.

*“What should be occurring is that Boroondara Council commit to building an indoor netball centre. In the meantime more courts and lighting are essential. Most football grounds have lights installed routinely. Why is netball excluded?”*

#### Park use type

Respondents affiliated with **netball**, who made up the largest respondent group (n=329), were most likely to cite the necessity of facility upgrades (n=103), gender inequality in sport (n=45), the need to support girls’ participation in sport (n=68), and that netball facilities are relatively limited compared to other clubs (n=48). There were strong themes around previous under-investment and lack of support for netball and female-dominated codes, which limits the growth of both players and the club. Netballers highlighted what they saw to be double standards around both Council investment and community support for the provision of facilities.

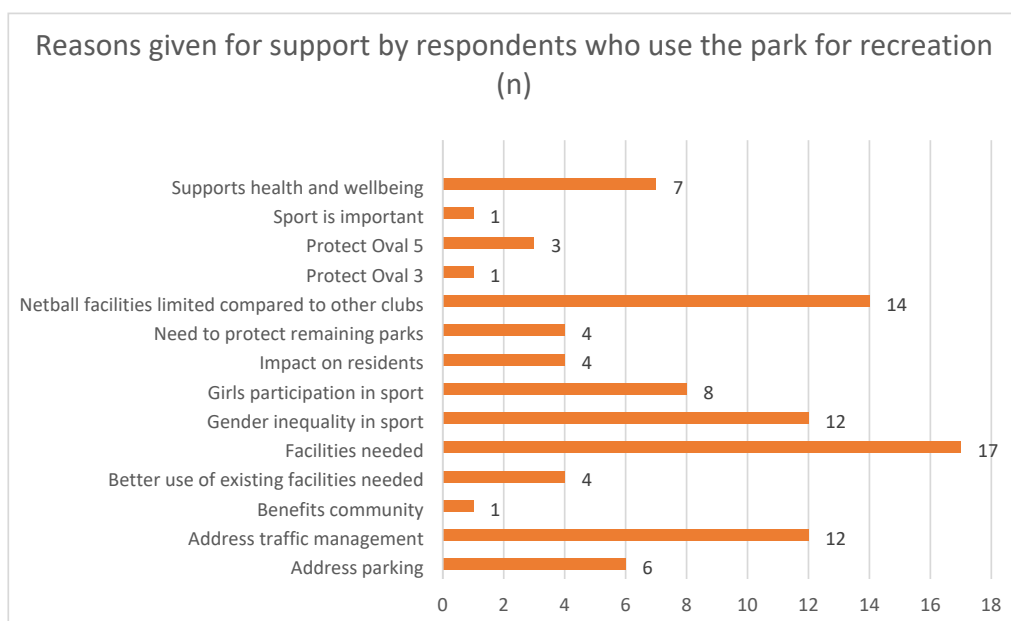


*“Equality for a female dominated sport is really important. It is very frustrating to see the difference in the proportion of public sporting space the council allocates for male dominated sports at Macleay park versus space for female dominated sport. It shows a gender bias. If the decision makers for this decision were more representative, I think common sense would prevail and the additional netball courts would be approved.”*

*“I grew up playing netball in country Victoria. It would be amazing for my daughter to have that same opportunity. Playing shortened quarters so they can fit all the games in hardly seems fair. Why is it that my older children can play full games of soccer each week at Macleay but my daughter can’t play full games of netball? How is that my children that play soccer there, can train under lights but my daughter who plays netball cannot. As the government has already provided the grant, why aren’t the extra courts and extra lights being built.”*

*"Being part of the Boroondara Netball Association is more than just a netball competition. I have learnt so many skills whilst supplementing my own fitness. Boroondara Netball is a community that thrives on our shared interest in playing and being involved with this great game. For over 10 years, I have played JuniorNet, right through to developing my skills as a senior umpire and coach whilst still playing each Saturday. I still recognise the faces of some of the girls I played JuniorNet against, and now playing against them 10 years later is something that I look back on and think about how grateful I am to be a part of this amazing community. Extra facilities would mean that more people would be privy to the great experiences I had, one that has kept my interest in sports as well as developed my friendships from such a young age."*

Respondents who used Macleay Park for **recreation** (n=81) gave a wide variety of reasons for the support. They were most likely to cite that the facilities were needed (n=17), that netball facilities are limited compared to other clubs (n=14), and that gender inequality impacted both previous investment in the sport and the need to support it now (n=12). Also noted was the need to address traffic management systems, such as through traffic lights or changing entries and exits to the park.

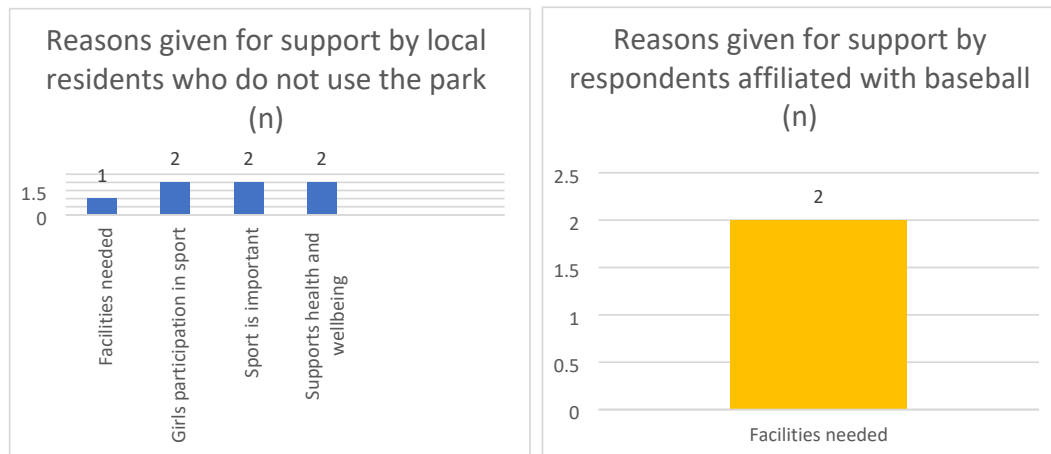


*"Our family use Macleay Park for recreation e.g. dog walking and bike riding. However we also support the installation of additional netball facilities. To be honest, too much funding is directed towards male dominated sports and not enough sports led by females. Boroondara council needs to recognise this gender bias and start supporting female led sports."*

*"I have two kids, one boy and one girl. Without any doubt, my son has far more opportunities to play sport than my daughter. Girls' seem to be relegated to the pile of "not credible" sport. I admit that I thought netball was a bit lame, but there's not many girl-only, team sports for my daughter to participate in. She also*

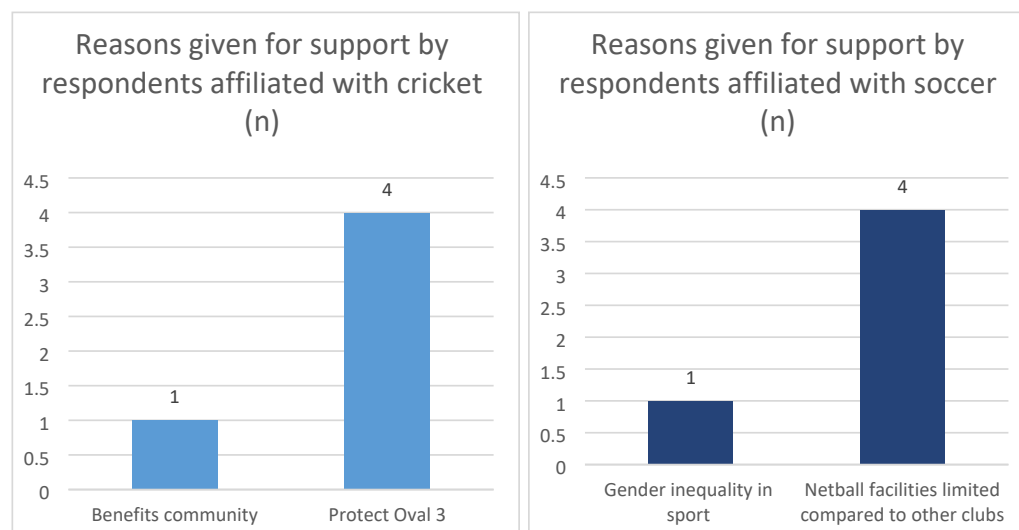
*likes it. I see many informal groups of men playing soccer and cricket on our local ovals, yet our local girls have nowhere to go. I think it is discriminatory to NOT build additional courts and install lights."*

**Local residents** who do not use the park (n=8) were most likely to cite the importance of sport (n=2), health and wellbeing (n=2), and promoting girls participation in sport (n=2). People affiliated with **baseball** stated that the facilities were needed (n=2).



*"I am more than happy to support additional infrastructure that encourages physical activity in young girls, a very important cause!"*

Respondents affiliated with **cricket** who were supportive (n=5) saw community benefits as long as Oval 3 was protected for use by their club (n=4). Respondents affiliated with **soccer** (n=5) were most likely to note that netball facilities were limited compared to other sports (n=4), and that gender inequality was visible in the relative support for different sporting codes (n=1).



Multiple respondents commented that they supported children at multiple clubs that used Macleay Park, and that they noticed a discrepancy between facilities offered to netball and other codes.

*“As a parent with a son and daughter I have used Macleay Park for football (BEFC) and cricket (ECA) as well as netball. The courts and facilities that BNA have are very limited in comparison to the football club and cricket facilities. The expansion plans for the additional courts and lighting will give much required facilities for netball and enable the girls to play netball without impacting on the facilities for the other sports that use Macleay Park.”*

*“Sport is important for girls and teenagers, and netball is a popular sport. I also have sons who play soccer and football and have noticed that there are so many ovals in Boroondara yet so few netball courts. The netball courts at Macleay Park are an important part of the local Boroondara amenities. It’s actually very efficient to have so many courts in one place - whereas with ovals that are all spread out each oval needs its own club rooms, maintenance program etc. The Boroondara Netball Association does a great job providing programs for local girls (and some boys who play too) - it is a volunteer association and I ask Council to work with the BNA volunteers to help make netball more accessible for more players.”*

#### Reasons for not supporting new courts

Three hundred and two respondents offered reasons for not supporting the construction of new netball courts. Responses were themed, with up to five themes available for each response. This resulted in 746 total themed responses (average 2.5 themes per respondent).

#### Park use type

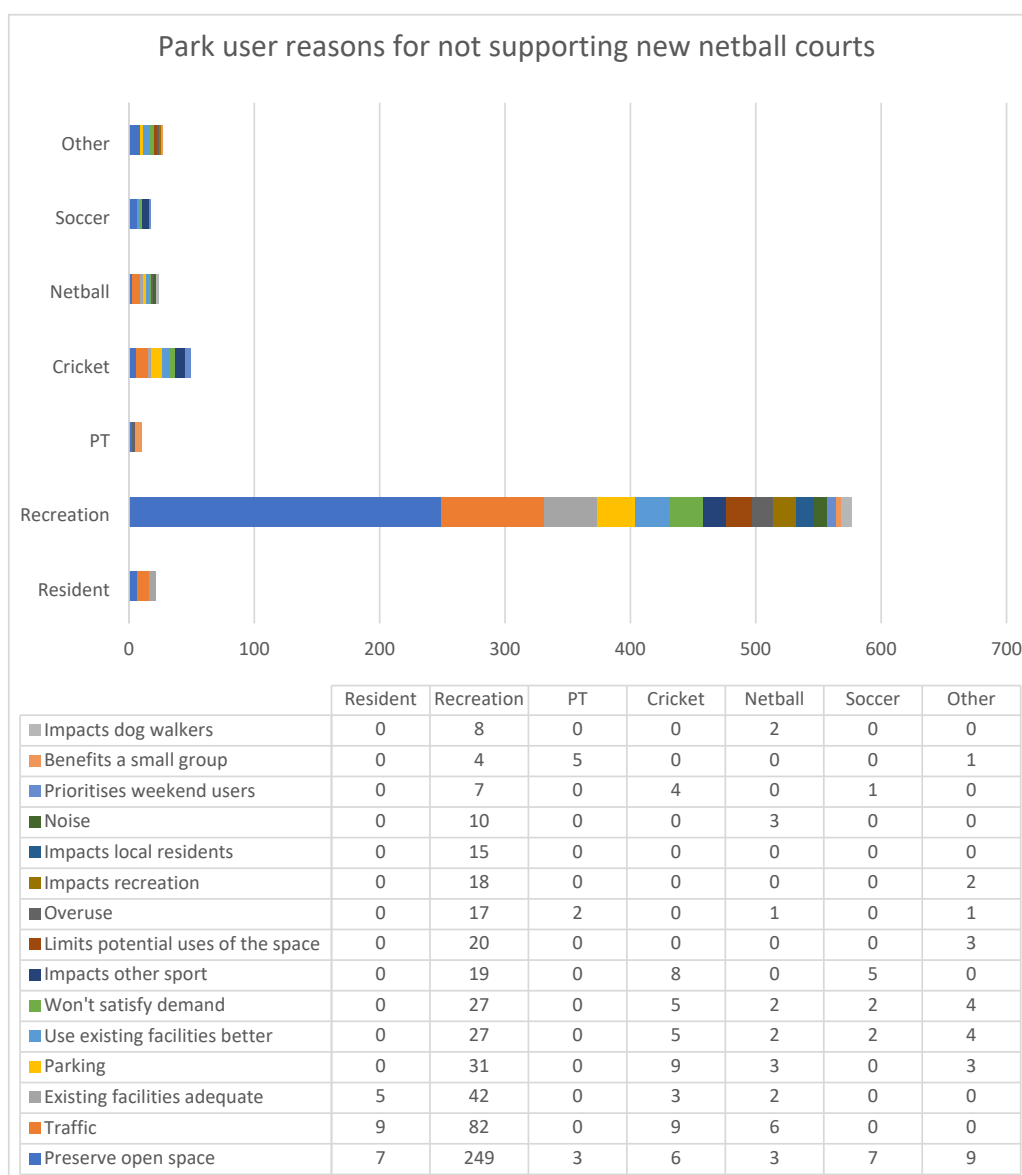
When responses are broken up by user groups, **residents** and people who used the park primarily for **recreation** were primarily concerned with preserving open space (n=257) and traffic issues (n=91). Over half of respondents to this question, including 249 people who used the park primarily for recreation, stated a desire to preserve open space, green space, grass, multi-purpose land, or parkland. Some respondents offered specific benefits and uses of the current open space, including walking, picnics, family time, safe space for children to run and play, dog walking, non-competitive sport, and being in nature. Natural surroundings offered mental health, fitness, and social benefits for some respondents, some of whom highlighted their particular reliance on the park during COVID-19 travel restrictions. Other respondents expressed a desire to avoid concreted spaces, particularly as housing density increases and backyard size decreases.

*“Green space must not be reduced to maintain physical and mental wellbeing. [The] area is for the public’s use, not any specific club. Traffic/parking is already a nightmare – more courts will make it worse.”*

Parking (n=69) and traffic (n=99) were highlighted as particular concerns by many local residents, who cited parking across private driveways, safety issues, high pedestrian and car movement, difficulty navigating residential streets, and inability to host friends and family during playing times. Respondents used terms like ‘busy’, ‘chaotic’, and ‘dangerous’ to describe car use during playing times. Relating to the provision of parking, but also other general amenities, the use of Macleay Park was reported to be at or over capacity on weekends (n=60). Neighbouring residents were particularly concerned.

*“Traffic and parking chaos on Saturdays. [It] will attract many more cars to add to the traffic jam and parking problems in my street.”*

A number of respondents who used the park for recreation cited concerns relating to the potential for grassed ovals to be used for many purposes, where concrete netball courts could not. Forty nine respondents cited concerns about limiting potential use for space in the park, commonly referring to family time, unstructured recreation activities (n=43), reducing the variety of sport that could be played (n=41), dog walking (n=11), and school sport (n=5). There were a number of comments that shared a sentiment that building additional netball courts would amount to converting community space used by neighbouring residents most days of the week to a space that benefits a small group (n=19), prioritises sport over recreation (n=13), and weekend users (n=11).





*"[I] disagree with construction of new courts when the existing courts are underutilised. Existing green space in the parks is precious and use by many throughout the entire week."*

*"It would reduce the amount of green space and family activities and events like Carols by the Park in those spaces."*

Thirty one respondents felt that the proposal would disadvantage local residents and ratepayers, for reasons outlined above and also due to the additional noise (n=19).

Respondents associated with the **cricket** and **soccer** clubs were most likely to be concerned about the impact on other sporting codes (n=8 and n=5 respectively). Cricketers offered a range of objections that included concerns about increasing usage of the park, such as parking (n=9) and traffic (n=9).

*"Netball want to subsume an area of the park for their own use which is used by junior football and soccer and cricket on Saturdays and soccer including young women's soccer players on Sundays."*

A number of respondents affiliated with cricket and who used the park primarily for recreation noted a perceived shortage of grassed areas and cricket ovals in the region.

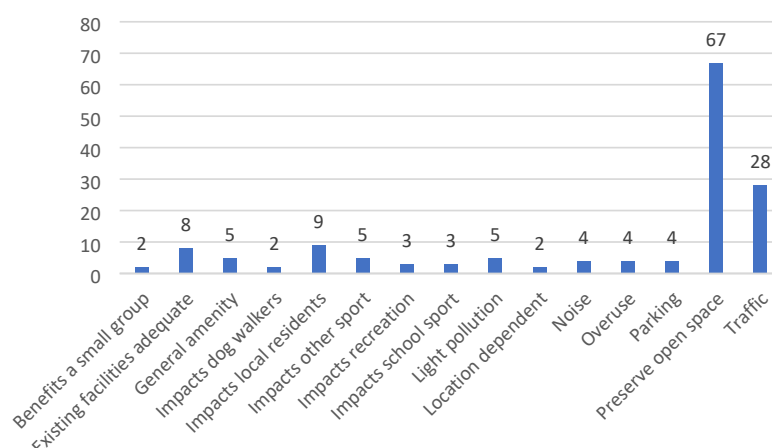
*"Less hard court space should be kept in the park for all to enjoy. The proposed sites are beautiful green spaces with must be kept that way. The green spaces are also used by the junior soccer clubs."*

#### Place of residence

When responses were broken down by location of the respondent, **Balwyn and Balwyn North residents** were most likely to be concerned with general overuse of the park (n=21), the removal of green space (n=273), and a need for multi-purpose community spaces (n=25). Balwyn North residents in particular cited traffic and parking concerns more frequently (n=112). A need to preserve open space (n=27) and limit negative impacts on other sports (n=13) were cited most frequently across suburbs outside of Balwyn and Balwyn North.

Neighbouring residents who were not supportive of the construction of additional courts were most likely to cite the need to preserve open and green space (n=67) and traffic concerns (n=28) as reasons why.

Neighbouring residents' reasons for not supporting new courts (n)



### Location of new courts

Half (50 percent) of respondents answered this question. Of respondents who provided a preference, 66 percent (n=258) opted for Oval 5, and 34 percent (n=131) preferred Oval 3.

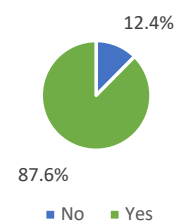
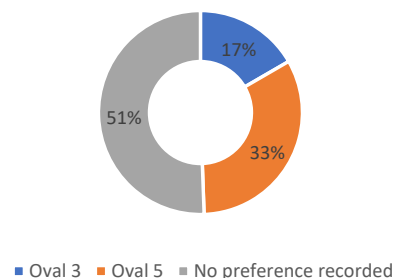
Of respondents who provided a preference, all user groups preferred that new courts be placed on Oval 5. This included 65 percent of netballers (n=187) and 68 percent of people who used the park for recreation (n=50), who made up the largest respondent groups.

### Support for lighting

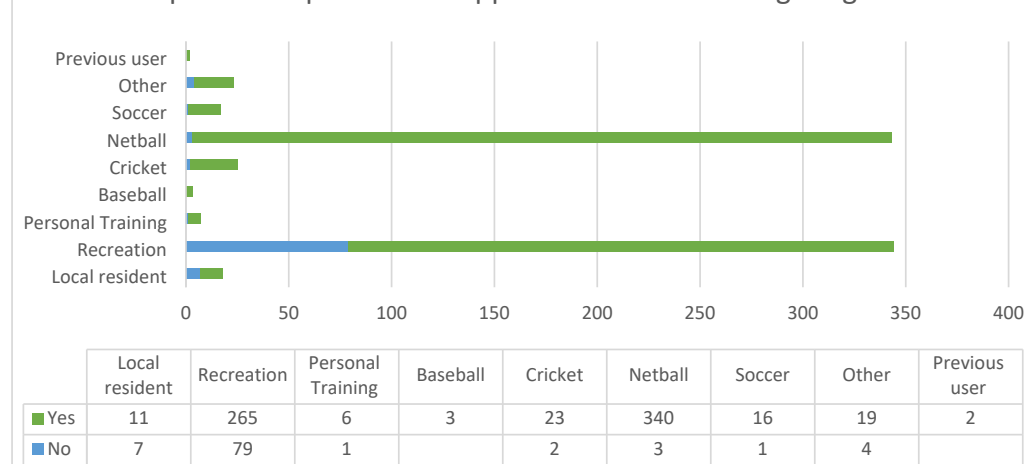
#### Park use type

Residents and people who use the park for recreation were proportionally less likely to support new lighting (76 percent, n=265) than other park users (97 percent, n=420), but still overwhelmingly supportive.

Preferred location of new courts



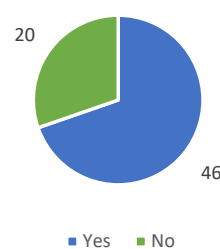
Proportion of park users supportive of additional lighting



#### Place of residence

Seventy percent (n=46) of neighbouring residents were supportive of the addition of lights to existing netball courts. Thirty percent (n=20) were not supportive.

Neighbouring residents' support of new lights (n)



### Reasons for supporting lighting

Much of the open-ended responses provided in support of lighting were related to the potential to expand the netball club's offerings, including training sessions, and boys' and adults' competitions.

*"To develop and build more courts, increases opportunities for more players to play and the construction of more lights will allow for more adult/ mixed competitions. These two proposals will give other young people opportunities to participate, develop life long skills beyond playing netball."*

Respondents wrote about the challenges of hosting evening training sessions during winter.

*"Sport for girls seems to always takes a back seat and this is to our young women's detriment on many levels. Netball is a popular and growing sport and needs to be supported. Netball so often takes a back seat to other sports particularly basketball which has a monopoly on inside court access. Netball is an efficient use of space and has a fast game turn around compared to other sports, particularly cricket. The number of girls and young women that would benefit from this proposal is immense. Providing lighting will make sure the use of existing facilities is maximised, critical in winter when light is insufficient at as early as 5:15pm."*

A number of respondents compared the provision of lighting for netball to that of other local sporting codes.

*"Lighting for the existing 8 courts seems absolutely reasonable especially given the surrounding football ovals have lighting and the grant would also cover the construction of 4 extra courts. Would a grant for football or basketball be overlooked in this manner? I highly doubt it. How many ovals are allocated for other sporting codes in Boroondara? I understand that Macleay Park takes up the equivalent of 1.5 ovals."*

*"Residents complaining about lights for netball but allowing lights for football is very, very sad. I am embarrassed to be represented by a group that demonstrates sporting code bias and gender bias."*

Respondents wrote about general benefits for the netball club, and also the wider community.

*"I...walk my dog at Macleay park and exercise there. I have a daughter and son who both play netball. I think more courts with better lighting would be good for the netball community."*

*"Both my girls have grown up playing netball at Macleay Park. It is a huge community draw card to the Balwyn area for younger girls to older teens of both club teams & the large private schools that reside in the area. There are no other netball courts in the near vicinity to allow such a large netball competition to play. We are hoping that with the extension of the courts and night- time lighting they will be able to support an older age group to still participate (rather than stopping at age 18)."*

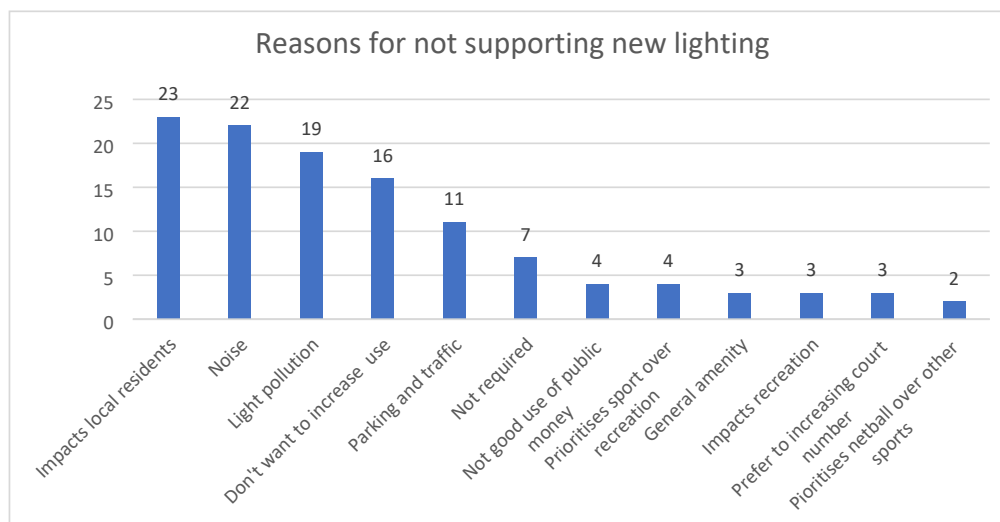
### Reasons for not supporting lighting

Of the 99 people who did not support additional lighting, 117 themed responses were given.

#### Park use type

People who used the park for **recreation** provided the most responses to this question (78 percent).

Twenty percent of respondents (n=23) cited the impact of lighting and extended playing hours on



local residents. Nineteen percent (n=22) cited noise, 16 percent (n=19) light pollution, 9 percent (n=11) parking or traffic, and 14 percent (n=16) increased playing hours.

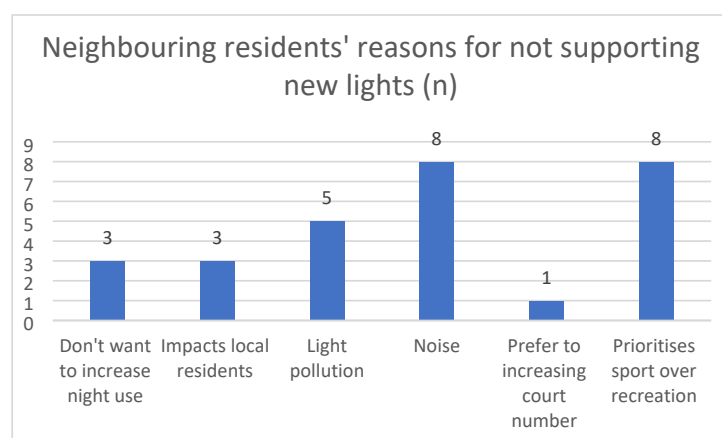
*"I feel like it ruins the nature of the park and really converts it more for sports and not for general use. Not everyone uses the park for netball or sports."*

*"Too close to existing residences. Increased noise in [the] evenings will disturb residents' enjoyment of their homes."*

Of respondents not affiliated with netball, the most frequent responses were related to traffic, parking and concerns about prioritising netball over other sports. Ninety percent of responses (n=110) to this question came from residents in Balwyn (n=44) and Balwyn North (n=66).

#### Place of residence

Neighbouring residents who were not supportive of additional lights were most likely to cite concerns about extended noise in evenings (n=8), and sentiments that additional lights showed a prioritisation of sporting park users over people who used the park for recreation (n=8), as reasons.

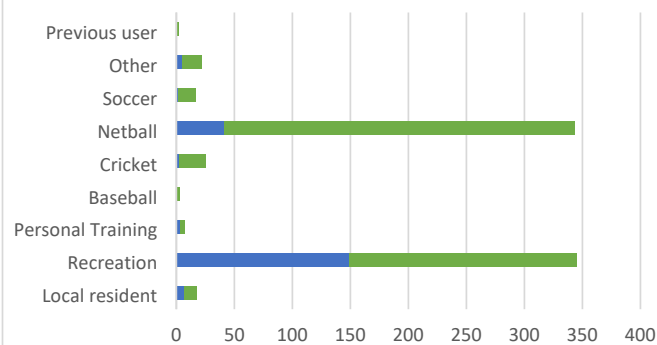


### Sunday use of existing courts

#### Park use type

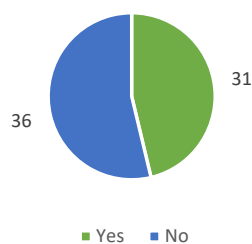
Eighty eight percent (n=302) of people affiliated with netball, 57 percent of people who use the park for recreation n=196, and 61 percent of people who live nearby (n=11) support Sunday use. People affiliated with cricket (92 percent, n=23), soccer (88 percent, n=15) and baseball (100 percent, n=3) were mostly supportive.

### Proportion of park users supportive of Sunday court use



	Local resident	Recreation	Personal Training	Baseball	Cricket	Netball	Soccer	Other	Previous user
Yes	11	196	4	3	23	302	15	17	2
No	7	149	3		2	41	2	5	

### Neighbouring residents' support for Sunday use of courts (n)



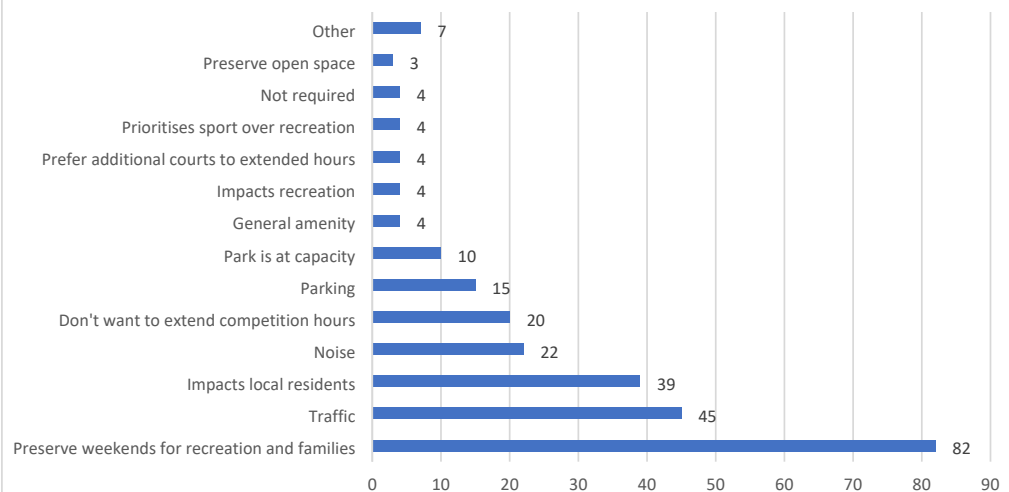
### Place of residence

Forty six percent (n=31) of neighbouring residents support extending the netball competition to Sundays, while 54 percent (n=36) do not.

### Reasons for not supporting Sunday court use

The 177 respondents to this question offered 263 themed reasons for opposing the extension of the netball competition to Sundays.

### Reasons for not supporting court use on Sundays



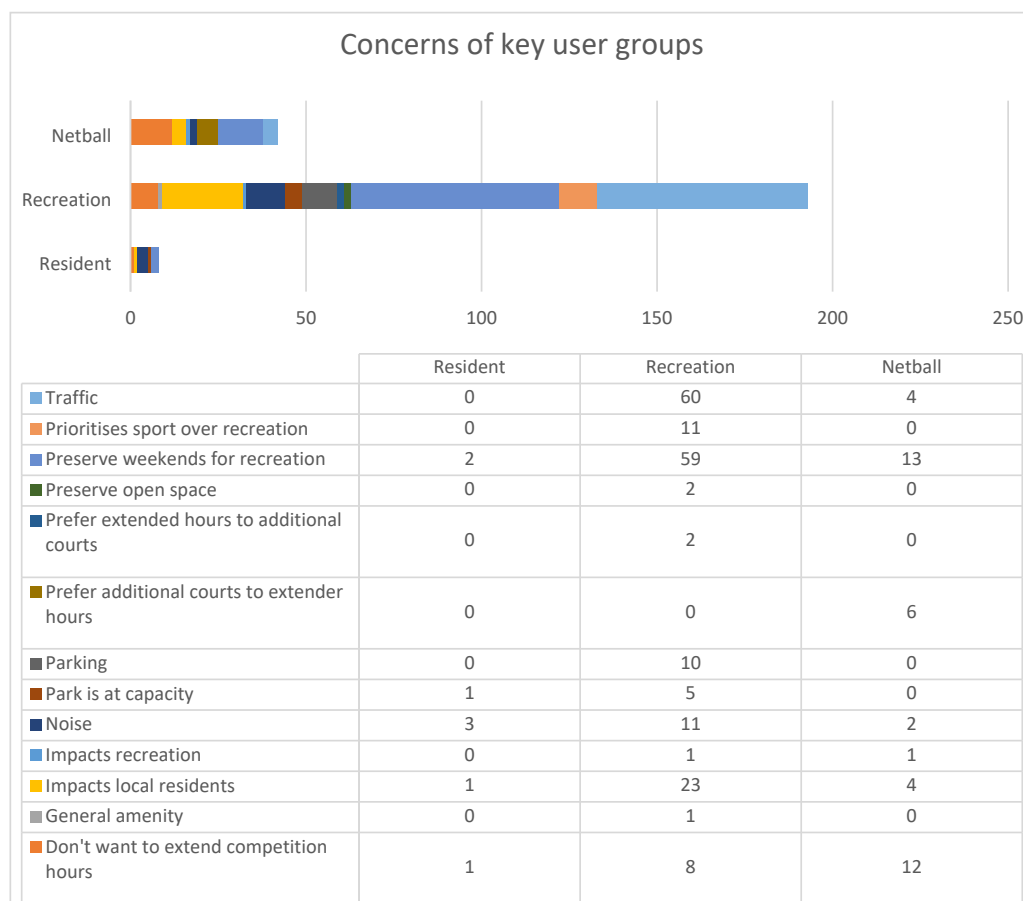
### Park use type

The user groups who gave the highest number of responses to this question were people who use the park for recreation (n=124), netballers (n=36), and residents (n=6).

A focus of feedback from **residents who used the park for recreation** was the impact that extending the busiest period of the weekend would have on locals who use the park and surrounding streets for other purposes. The most common response (n=82) was that it was important for families to have time available to use the park for play, spending time together, and unstructured recreation.

*"My house on Buchanan Avenue is a very busy area for parking on netball Saturday... Sunday is the only quiet day."*

Responses included that some weekend time should be set aside for non-sporting use of the park, that sporting competitions were busy and noisy and so local residents needed time for quiet enjoyment on weekends, and that community sport is traditionally played on a Saturday. Traffic (25 percent, n=45), general impact on local residents (22 percent, n=39), noise (12 percent, n=22), and parking issues (8 percent, n=15) were cited as issues that would extend to Sundays alongside the competition, and impact residents in both their homes and when using the park.



*"It is one of the few places in Boroondara where families can play."*

*"It's a park. It's busy enough on a Saturday when matches are held. Park users cannot use the park when matches are held. Traffic is dangerous too with so many cars."*

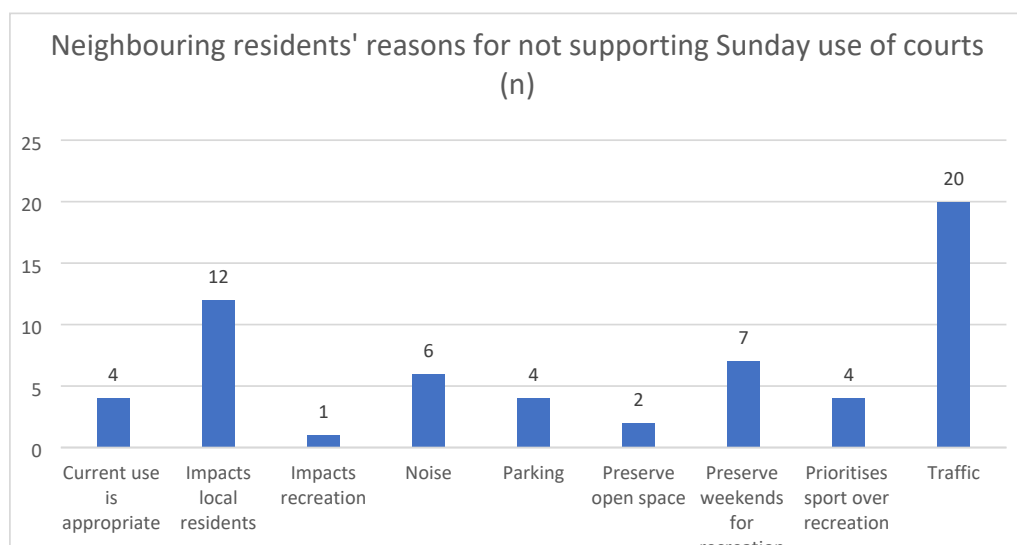
Primary concerns of people affiliated with **netball** were a need to preserve weekend time for non-sport activity, and not wanting to extend competition hours. In total, twenty respondents stated that they did not want competition hours extended. This included netballers who cited the impact of extended competition hours on club volunteers and players.

Other responses included a preference for extended playing time over additional courts if it was between the two, the need to keep Sundays sport-free for religious reasons, and that the netball club should use courts more within already agreed hours.

#### Place of residence

Eighty one percent of responses to this question were from Balwyn and Balwyn North residents, whose responses are largely captured under the 'recreation' and 'local resident' cohorts. Respondents from outside of these suburbs were most likely to cite not wanting to extend competition hours, and wanting to preserve weekends for recreation and other non-sport activities as reasons for not supporting Sunday court use.

Neighbouring residents who did not support the extension of the netball competition to Sundays were most likely to cite traffic concerns (n=20) and impacts on local residents (n=12). Related to the impact on local residents was a sentiment that Sundays should be protected for people who wish to use the park for recreation (n=7), as the crowds present for sport on Saturday limited park access for other users.



## Appendix: Methodology

All survey responses are included in this report. Duplicate responses were not removed and account for less than two percent of responses. An estimated four survey respondents also provided written submissions.

Open-ended responses were themed using emerging categories (i.e. the themes were not pre-determined before analysis began). Similar comments were grouped together under themes detailed in **Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference..**

Total response numbers may vary between questions, as not every respondent answered every question.

All percentages in tables and text have been rounded to the nearest whole number, therefore the sum of percentage breakdowns may not equal 100.

Survey respondents who were supportive of the proposals provided open-ended responses in one question only (i.e. for courts, lights and Sunday competition at the same time). Therefore, percentages have not been utilised in these sections.

Identifying information has not been listed with quotes to protect anonymity, however all quotes are associated with the user group, age group or locality relevant to the section in which they are featured. Punctuation and spelling has been edited in quotes to maintain consistency throughout the document, however no other changes were made.



## Appendix: Survey response coding

Terminology in this report	Corresponding survey response
Recreation	I use Myrtle and Macleay Parks for activities such as walking, running, dog walking, bike riding etc
Local resident / resident	I don't use the park but live nearby
Personal Training (PT)	I use Myrtle and Macleay Parks for personal training
Baseball	I'm involved in baseball at Myrtle and Macleay Parks
Cricket	I'm involved in cricket at Myrtle and Macleay Parks
Netball	I'm involved in netball at the Boroondara Netball Centre
Soccer	I'm involved in soccer at Myrtle and Macleay Parks
Other	Other (free text responses including previous user, event organiser)

### New court themes

Aesthetics (including beauty of natural environment)	Location dependent (including 'only if on Oval x')
Benefits a small group (including private group, small number of users)	Noise (including whistles, sirens, crowds)
Develop facilities elsewhere (including nearby indoor stadium)	Not good use of public money (including the perception that Council money is being used for non-ratepayers)
Existing facilities adequate	Other sport should be prioritised (tennis, basketball)
General amenity	Overuse (including will promote overuse, already overused, facilities are inadequate, general busyness of park, insufficient amenities available)
Gendered nature of netball (facilities just for girls)	Parking (including availability, safety)
Impacts dog walkers	Preserve open space (including green space, parkland, meeting space, nature, grass, issue with concrete)
Impacts local residents	Prioritises sport over recreation (including need to maintain space for unstructured recreation)
Impacts other sport	Prioritises weekend users (includes park used for 6 days, sporting facilities used for 1 day per week)
Impacts recreation (includes walking, playing, family use, non-competitive sport, community use)	Privacy (of local residents)
Impacts school sport	Traffic (including safety, amount, management)
Limits potential uses of the space (including multi-purpose nature of grassed areas compared to concrete courts)	Use existing facilities better (including extending competition hours/days)
Lack of proper planning (including planning, consultation timeframe)	Won't satisfy demand (including 'slippery slope', stadium required)

**New lights themes**

Don't want to increase use (including not wanting night use, not wanting to extend disruption to local residents)	Not required (including lighting adequate, not required if additional courts are added)
General amenity (of the park)	Parking (including availability, safety)
Impacts local residents	Prefer to increasing court number
Light pollution (including concerns for residents, drivers, other park users)	Prioritises netball over other sports (including that other sports should be prioritised for additional lighting)
Noise	Prioritises sport over recreation (including park being treated as sporting ground rather than recreation park for locals)
Not good use of public money (includes perceptions that Council money is being used for the benefit of non-ratepayers)	Traffic (including safety, amount, management)

**Sunday use themes**

Current use is appropriate	Parking (including availability, safety)
Don't want to extend competition hours (non specific)	Prefer additional courts to extended hours
General amenity (of the park)	Prefer extended hours to additional courts
Impacts local residents (including extending disruption, noise, traffic)	Preserve open space (including green space, parkland, meeting space, nature, grass, issue with concrete)
Impacts recreation (including Sunday being the only time residents can use the courts)	Preserve weekends for recreation (including Sunday being the only time residents can use the wider park with minimal disruption from sport)
It depends what the effect is on the netball competition (including pressure on volunteers, whether it prevents night use)	Prioritises sport over recreation (including that it puts the needs of sports people and non-ratepayers above those of locals)
Noise (whistles, umpires, crowds)	Sabbath/Church (on Sundays)
Not required (including if courts and lights provided, Sunday games may not be needed)	Sunday afternoon is fine (including minimising disruption to locals and other sports)
Park is at capacity (including not wanting to add sporting games to Sundays, concerns about access)	Traffic (including safety, amount, management)

**Other feedback themes**

Address parking

Address traffic management

Benefits community

Better use of existing facilities needed

Builds community

Concern is misguided

Facilities needed

Facility quality

Gender inequality in sport

Girls' participation in sport

Grassed areas underutilised

Impact on residents

Low rate of activity in teenage girls

Need to protect remaining parks

Netball facilities limited compared to other clubs

Protect Oval 3

Protect Oval 5

Sport is important

Supports health and wellbeing

Supports leadership

