

# Sports Facility Strategy

## Discussion Paper

June 2022

### Introduction

The City of Playford has 24 sportsgrounds measuring over 183 hectares in playing fields and courts and catering for approximately 80 clubs. To continue to plan for our rapidly growing community, Council is preparing a new City-Wide Sports Facility Strategy.

Much has been achieved since the last Strategy (2014) including the regional tennis and bowls centres, Eyre Sports Park, Elizabeth Oval Change Rooms and Angle Vale Community Sports Centre (see 2014 Strategy Report Card).

Our population, lifestyles, the way we play sport and participation have also changed significantly since 2014.

### Planning for sports facilities

'It is well established that regular physical activity improves physical and mental health, boosts brain activity and brings communities together. (Game On, 2020)'.

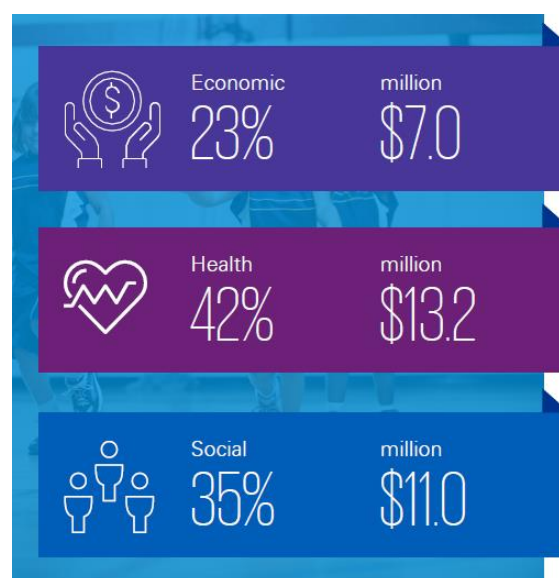
Sports facilities are places where people can experience these health benefits and build community connections.

Recent research shows the many benefits of investing in community sport facilities. Some of these benefits include:

- the reduced cost to the community of preventing disease
- the value of wellbeing
- savings to the health system
- the benefits associated with community building
- increased productivity through increased health.

A Queensland study found that for every dollar a Council invests in sports facilities (both indoor and outdoor) **\$1.28 of**

**benefit** is returned to the community in benefit. This does not include many benefits that cannot currently be measured in dollar terms (e.g. greening the community). The total annual value is estimated at \$31.2 Million, made up of:



City of Logan and KPMG 2021

### Recent changes and trends in sport

#### Lives

With changing patterns of work, including more casual jobs, people are experiencing pressures associated with managing time and finances. People are seeking flexible and individual activities to keep fit noting as an example the rapid increase of 24 hr. gyms over time. Walking, cycling aerobics and yoga are becoming people's go to physical activity due to convenience.

Time pressures have also led to decreased number of volunteers. Yet our sporting clubs remain strong in numbers and are growing with our growing community. We need flexible facilities to cater for a variety of structured and unstructured activities.

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### Sports

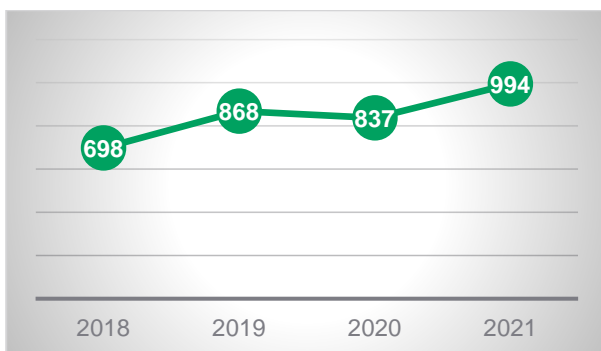
New sports at the 2021 Olympics included:

- Skateboarding
- Freestyle BMX
- Surfing
- Sport climbing
- 3 on 3 Basketball

These sports previously considered novelty, informal or extreme are quickly becoming mainstream and they need new and specific facilities for participants. Some of these facilities will be provided by Councils and some by the private sector. Council needs to explore strategies to address this.

### Female Participation

Female participation in sport is growing. Australia's national women's leagues for Soccer, AFL and Cricket are growing and increasing in popularity. This is also reflected through State and club participation data. In Playford, female participation in traditionally 'male sports' (AFL, Cricket, Soccer, Rugby League and Union) is also increasing and not at the expense of sports like softball and netball. Council is faced with the challenge of providing equitable access to playing fields and appropriate change rooms.



City of Playford female participation in traditional male sports

### Population growth

The City of Playford is the fastest growing Council in South Australia with the population expected to grow from 101,274 in 2022 to 149,443 in 2041 (48%).

Our population growth is also accompanied by increasing development not just in one area but on several fronts including Angle Vale, Virginia, Munno Para, Andrews Farm, Blakeview and Eyre.

### Ageing facilities

Our longstanding and valued sports facilities also need to be maintained and where appropriate updated to cater for our growth. Like most Councils many of our club and change rooms are 50- 60 plus years old and sporting standards have also changed significantly over this time.

A current trend to provide better facilities and shared experience is to provide shared and multi-use clubrooms.

### Regional facilities

In addition to providing for our local clubs, some facilities are planned at a regional level with other councils. For example, Playford has the regional Tennis Centre and the Aquadome, while the City of Salisbury has the regional synthetic athletics track and the home of district cricket in the north.

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### Climate change

Over the past 40 years there has been increases in average temperature, evapotranspiration, the number and frequency of very hot days and nights, and the number of extreme fire danger days. Our rainfall patterns have changed and there has been a sea level rise of approximately 18cm.

In order to keep people safe, cool and sheltered these changes will continue to effect where and when we play sport. Climate change will also affect the comfort of our spectators, the quality of our playing surfaces, our use of water and potentially costs to run facilities.

### Population characteristics

One in five residents in Playford were born overseas. The largest non-English speaking country of birth for the recent overseas arriving population in City of Playford in 2016 was Afghanistan, where 13.3% or 349 people were born; followed by Butan (10.1%), Nepal (7.6%) and Syria

(5.1%). These cultures bring skills and preferences for different sports.

Comparing 2016 to 2011 data, the proportion of younger people in Playford has grown:

- 0-10 years from 11.9% to 16.5%
- 10-20 years from 11.7% to 13.3%
- 20-30 years from 13.7% to 15.3%

These age groups are the ones most likely to participate in sport.

In our community there are 7.7% of people with a disability requiring assistance at home. Relative to other councils in metropolitan Adelaide, Playford also has a higher level of disadvantage.

**All of these community characteristics need to be considered when planning to provide access to a variety of sporting facilities in a growing community.**

### Discussion

- How can Council and clubs respond to changing trends in sport?
- How should Council prioritise which sport and recreation facilities to provide for and upgrade?
- How can we maximise the use of our existing facilities?

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